



# Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics Newsletter

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## Alumnus donates \$1 million to Department

Charles J. Zwick '50, '51, has donated \$1 million to the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics to conduct agricultural policy studies and to rename The Food Marketing Policy Center to The Charles J. Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy.

Zwick is a graduate of the Department and worked as both a professor at Harvard University and as Director of the United States Office of Management and Budget under the Johnson administration.

Dr. Zwick's generous gift will allow the Center to greatly expand its economic research to food systems, natural resources, as well as food and agricultural markets.

The Food Marketing Policy Center is a world leader in policy analysis, and has been directed

by Professor Ronald Cotterill, who has recently retired. The Center in its expanded capacity will be led in the meantime by Professor and Department Head Rigoberto Lopez. Lopez said, "This gift will allow us to take the Department's mission to the next level. We all know how important to have science-based studies be the voice for policy direction, and this gift will facilitate exactly that goal."



Charles J. Zwick '50, '51, left, with his UConn roommate from 60 years ago, Bernard Dzielinski '50, '52, at the UConn Foundation to mark Zwick's \$1 million gift. Photo credit: UConn Foundation

## Professor Stephen Swallow Joins ARE Faculty



Stephen K. Swallow has joined the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics as full Professor, beginning in January 1, 2011.

His appointment includes a one-third allocation of his time for multi-disciplinary research with UConn's Cen-

ter for Environmental Sciences and Engineering (CESE).

Dr. Swallow has worked as a professor at the University of Rhode Island's Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics. He holds both a Ph.D. and M.S. in Resource Economics from Duke University, and a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Natural Resources from Cornell University.

His research areas include the economics of environmental resource management involving multiple resources or user groups, regulation of recreational harvesting, multiple use forestry, watershed management planning, siting noxious facilities, valuation

of environmental qualities, open space preservation and development, land use change, and ecosystem management.

Dr Swallow says "I have been happy at the University of Rhode Island for about twenty-two years, and I'll continue to have many friends and respected colleagues there. But moving to the University of Connecticut brings many fresh, new opportunities, including collaborations with some faculty I've known since I first arrived in southern New England and partnerships between UConn's Agricultural and Resource Economics, Economics, as well as the natural sciences through CESE."



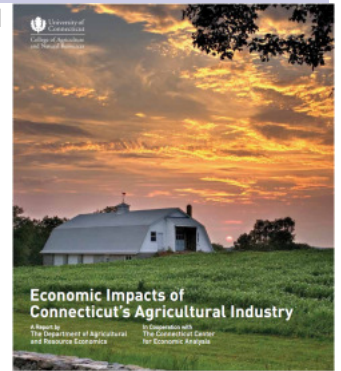
A cow grazes in a field near the Yellow Barn along Route 195.

Photo credit:

UConn Media Share

## Agriculture in Connecticut: A \$3.5 billion industry

Rigoberto Lopez led a study of agriculture in Connecticut and found that the industry contributes \$3.5 billion per year in statewide sales, an output that translates to \$1000 per Connecticut resident. This study estimated the importance of agriculture and related industries to Connecticut's economy, including crop and livestock production, forest products, and the processing of the state's agricultural production. Using three economic models (IMPLAN, RIMS II, and REMI), Lopez estimated agriculture's total impact on the value of statewide output (sales) and jobs. The industry generates 20,000 jobs statewide, two-thirds of which are from farming alone. For more information and to view the full report, visit <http://are.uconn.edu/pages/docs/EconomicImpacts.pdf>



**Congratulations,  
August 2010  
Graduates!**

**B.S.**  
Samantha Beyer  
Tiffany Good  
Michele Merenda  
William Shedrawy  
Andrew Veilleux

**M.S.**  
Damiana Serafini

**Ph.D.**  
Tammy Warner

## News Flash!

Assistant Professor in Residence **Michael Cohen** was the winner of the 2009 Food Distribution Research Society's 2009 William Applebaum Memorial Scholarship Awards for his Ph.D. dissertation "Differentiated Product Demand Analysis with a Structured Covariance Probit: A Bayesian Econometric Approach."

Ph.D. student **Jason Patalinghug** presented a paper, "Estimation of a Production Function for Phillipine Retail Stores" at the Philadelphia conference of the Eastern Economics Association.

**Ronald Cotterill**, Director of the Food Marketing Policy Center, retired in October from the Department after twenty-nine years as a Professor.

**Joshua Berning** has joined the Department as Assistant Professor. Dr. Berning holds a B.A. in Economics from Valparaiso University, an M.S. in Forest Resources with an emphasis in forest economics from University of Idaho, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Washington State University.

Open position: the Department is conducting a search for an **Assistant Professor in Industrial Organization and Applied Econometrics** with a focus on food and agricultural issues, starting August, 2011.



The Department welcomes two USDA fellows for the Watershed Management Master's program: Catherine de Ronde, above left, and Justin Grimm-Greenblatt, right

## Historical Photo: The Crop of 1990

This 1990 photo depicts new faculty members from left: Maureen Mulroy (HDFS), Dean Kirvin Knox (CANR) Molly McGrane (NUSC), Glenn Warner (NRME), name unknown, Rigoberto Lopez (ARE), Harrison Yang (NRME), and Farhed Shah (ARE).



# Student News



**Above:** The Resource Economics Club, headed by RE majors Ty Wagner, center, and Amanda Ampie, right, hosted graduate student Catherine de Ronde, left, at their October meeting to talk about graduate opportunities in Resource Economics at UConn.

**Undergraduate students** are participating in exciting internships and independent study projects in Spring 2011. **Stephen Heindel** will be studying global economics of sustainability. **Rebecca Smith** will work with Dr. Joglekar on a comprehensive business plan, as well as a project that will investigate managing and restructuring a CSA farm. **Anthony Miele** will study profitability analysis of New England dairy farms. **Kendall Erskine** will work with Dr. Lopez to update the report "Community Food Security in Connecticut Towns." **Connor Sullivan** will work at Environmental Systems Corporation in the Energy Solutions Group, and will participate in developing an energy solutions project.

## Students and Alumni:

Please send your news to

[ResourceEconomics@uconn.edu](mailto:ResourceEconomics@uconn.edu)

# Faculty News

**Boris Bravo-Ureta** is working on a grant with USAID, "Senegal Capacity Building for Agricultural Education and Research" with Virginia Tech. His article "The impact of

MARENA's Investments on Sustainable Agricultural Systems in Honduras" will be published in 2011 in *Journal of Agricultural Economics*.



**Above:** Joshua Berning, left, and Charles Rhodes, right, at the Technische Universität München in September.

**Joshua Berning** and graduate student Charles Rhodes presented at the 1st Joint EAAE/AEA Seminar, "The Economics of Food, Food Choice and Health" in Freising, Germany, in September. Dr. Berning presented "Voluntary Restrictions on Television Advertising for Carbonated Soft Drinks: The Impact on Consumer Demand." Charles Rhodes presented "Demographic Variability in U.S. Consumer Responsiveness to Carbonated Soft Drink Marketing Practices."

**Rigoberto Lopez** was awarded the outstanding journal article in *Agribusiness* for 2009 for "Demand for Differentiated Milk Products: Implications for Price Competition" with Elena Lopez, University of Alcalá de Henares. He served as an expert panelist at a December 8, 2010 joint conference of the USDA and the U.S. Department of Justice on margins in the dairy industry.

**Michael Cohen** and Marc Rysman, an Associate Professor of Economics at Boston University and Boston Federal Reserve Visiting Scholar, are collaborating on a research project that investigates consumer method of payment choice. This empirical study analyzes A.C. Nielsen home-scan data that records method of payment choices for food product purchases. The study promises to provide insight on consumer payment and credit card usage for a wide range of shopping behavior. Dr. Cohen was invited to lecture at the Food Distribution Research Society meeting in October in Sandestin, Florida.

**Deepak Joglekar** and **Farhed Shah** have received a grant from the 2010 Provost's Online Course Grant Initiative. Dr. Joglekar will be creating and teaching the online version of ARE 1150, "Principles of Agricultural and Resource Economics." Dr. Shah will develop online material for ARE 1110, "Population, Food, and the Environment."



**Above:** Boris Bravo-Ureta, center in plaid shirt, and Dan Civco (NRE), far left, are shown with participants in a May 2010 workshop in Soroti, Uganda, "Principles and Practices of Geographic Information Systems."



**Above:** Rigoberto Lopez and Elena Lopez won the outstanding journal article for *Agribusiness* for 2009.

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## Alumni News

*Do you have news for the Alumni section?  
Send to [ResourceEconomics@uconn.edu](mailto:ResourceEconomics@uconn.edu)*

**Minjuan Zhao (Ph.D. '09)** has recently been promoted to Associate Dean of the College of Economics and Management at Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in Yangling, China.

**Yoon Lee (Ph.D. '09)** is now a research fellow in the Global Green Strategy Research Center at the Korea Environment Institute in Seoul.

**Alex de Almeida (Ph.D. '10)** and current Ph.D. student Deep Mukherjee visited Taiwan in August for a conference on productivity. They visited with **Yu-Chen Yang (Ph.D. '07)**, now Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at National Chung Hsing University in Taiwan.

**Yin Liu (M.S. '10)** has been hired by AXA in Beijing, China, as an analyst.

**Damiana Serafini (M.S. '10)** is president of Biocombustibles Sustentables Argentina SA a company dedicated to the sustainable production of second-generation biofuels made from camelina oil. Its newest five-year project involves the planting and harvesting of 350,000 hectares of the oil with the corresponding construction of a crushing facility and a processing and refining plant for the production of second-generation biofuels.

**Melanie Murphy (M.S. '07)** joined Hancock Agricultural Investment Group, based in Boston, this past summer as a senior investment analyst with responsibility for client reporting, portfolio monitoring and investment analysis.

**Jessica Kukielka Puz (B.S. '06., M.S. '08)** is working in Customer and Market Analysis at Siemens Energy, Inc.



*Photos Top left, dockwise: Alex DeAlmeida, Yu-Chen Yang, Deep Mukherjee, and Boris Bravo-Ureta share a med in Taiwan, Summer 2010. Bottom left, Damiana Serafini, president of Biocombustibles Sustentables Argentina SA.*



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