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Department of
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“Excellence in
Agricultural and
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Education and
Research”

1376 Storrs Road
WB Young Building
Storrs, Connecticut
06269-4021

Visit us online:

www.are.uconn.edu

Faculty Moves Back to W.B. Young

The department transitions back into newly renovated offices

Faculty, staff and students alike were excited to move back into the recently updated classrooms and offices on the third floor of the Wilfred B. Young building. Graduate students are enjoying a modernized graduate study area (photo, at right) to complete research and academic studies. Built in 1950, renovations on the 64 year old building commenced in June 2012 and were completed just before the new academic year in August 2013.



At left, updated ARE graduate student computer lab and third floor hallway. Below, new conference room.



Much needed building updates for the 68,000 square foot building includes open and bright interior design, new office and meeting areas, new heating and cooling systems, new windows, and floor plan adjustments to take advantage of lack of space for the ever growing five departments that are housed in W.B. Young. The department had to relocate to Bio4 on Horsebarn Hill during the renovations but the wait has proved to be worth it!



Faculty and Staff News

Professor **Stephen Swallow** has been nominated for, and accepted, a three year appointment on the U.S. Science Advisory Board's Environmental Economics Advisory Committee.

Dr. Swallow, along with graduate student **Pengfei Liu** and Chris Elphick and Robin Chazdon were awarded a USDA/NIFA grant for "Credit Stacking in Environmental Markets: Farmers' Participation Incentives, Social Efficiency and Potential Environmental Consequences." Dr. Swallow notes that the success of this grant reflects Pengfei Liu's writing and leadership skills, facilitated by support from the Delfavero Faculty Fellowship and a UConn Large Faculty Grant.

Professor **Farhed Shah** and 2013 Ph.D. graduate **Tsvetan Tsvetanov** published "The economic Value of Delaying Adaptation to Sea-Level Rise: An Application to Coastal Properties in Connecticut," in the widely known journal, *Climatic Change*. The paper develops an economic framework to decide on appropriate timing of coastal protection measures in the face of rising sea-levels expected from climate change. This framework is applied to a portion of Connecticut's coastline using a risk assessment software called HAZUS that was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Our results provide local policy makers guidance on where and when to initiate protective structures like sea-walls and how much to raise these structures in the future.

The ARE department conducted an eight year self-study at the bequest of the Provost's Office. This internal review focused on faculty research, grants, and academic achievement for the department.



Nataliya Plesha was featured in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources blog, Naturally@UConn, for her stellar teaching performance and enthusiasm in the classroom. A favorite amongst students, department head **Rigoberto Lopez** says, "We are extremely proud of Nataliya's prestigious national recognition for teaching excellence...our department and College are truly fortunate to have someone as gifted as Nataliya on our graduate teaching assistant staff. Her talent, her passion for students' learning and her unwavering dedication to their welfare—all work together to create an invaluable life-learning experience for our undergraduate students."

ARE Job Search Underway to Fill Four New Faculty Positions

The ARE department is currently underway in interviewing for four new faculty positions to start in Fall 2014. The professor openings include two openings for Assistant Professors in Industrial Organization and Applied Econometrics, an Assistant Professor in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, and an opening for an Assistant Professor in Agricultural and Resource Economics (Food Security).

Spotlight on >>>

Senegalese Agricultural Leaders Visit UConn



A group of 23 agricultural officials from Senegal visited CANR and UConn in September as part of a tour of the United States Agency for International Development program called Education and Research in Agriculture (USAID/ERA). The group comprised of men and women included business leaders, policy advisors and community organizers.

The USAID/ERA program hopes to benefit Senegalese institutions that conduct research and training in the agricultural sciences. Agricultural and Resource Economics Department professor **Boris Bravo-Ureta** says, "This program gives UConn and me an opportunity to make a significant contribution to economic development in Senegal. It builds on a 20-year relationship with the country." Bravo-Ureta conducted a trip earlier in the year to Dakar, Senegal to brief the Senegalese participants and to help determine their priorities on the USAID/ERA tour.

While at UConn, the Senegalese participants visited the Tolland County Extension

and also held a meeting with College Dean Gregory Weidemann and associate deans. The tour also included a session learning about the Technology Incubator Program (TIP), Information Technology and the UConn Foundation from top administrators in those programs. This year, USAID/ERA funds brought three new Senegalese graduate students to the College. Two students are working with Bravo-Ureta in agricultural production economics. The other student is studying GIS-based technology for the inventory and management of Senegal's crops with Professor Daniel Civco in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment.



Dr. Ben Campbell and **Dr. Chad Cotti** took four students to the NY Produce Show and Conference, one of the largest produce trade-show/conferences in the U.S. The students experienced the global trade symposium, trade-show, educational talks, and a career/networking session. The career/networking session allowed the students to interact and learn from some of the foremost leaders in the U.S. produce industry. *Students, Left to Right: Hayden Carnaghi, Laura Dunn, Jessica Frech, Christopher Bruno.*

Student Update

Resource Economics Club

The **Resource Economics Club** is looking for interested students and officers! If you are interested in participating in this fun and career oriented extracurricular activity, please contact whitney.hubbard@uconn.edu for more information.



ARE undergraduate students (left to right) **Hailey Eaton, James Rossi and Molly Deegan** all participated in the faculty-led UConn Sustainable Food and Environmental Systems study abroad experience in Florence, Italy. The program invites students to spend the Fall semester studying sustainable food and environmental systems in three prominent areas: the environment, economy and society. Students take classes on food and environmental systems, the economics of sustainable rural development in Tuscany, and environmental issues of sustainable agriculture. The courses taught by UConn and international faculty make full use of the culture of the city and region. Students do not need to have prior understanding of the language and will enroll in appropriate levels of Italian upon arrival. Participants take a special "Cultural Literacy Workshop" where they develop skills for success in Italian environments and learn to act as global citizens.

Adam Bestrom, below, sent us this picture from his adventures studying abroad in Sweden.



The annual **Cornucopia festival** (photo, right) was a major success with BBQ, prizes, ice cream, and departments from CANR presenting informative posters and demonstrations. The ARE department presented a poster called "How Many Calories Are In My Drink?"



Congratulations Graduates!

Bachelor of Science

Kyle Barr
Michael Berezecky
Manish Bicchieri
Justin Bracco
Eden Brevik
Megan Butler
Elyse Calnen
Sean Cammilleri
Michael Canaan
Lauren Casey
Jeffrey Celone
Michael Clarke
Scott Conran
Michael Cummiskey
Steven Daniels
Steven Feeney
Coline Forde
Christopher Forsdick
Ramonita Garcia
Mara Gauger
Ozzie Gooding
Matthew Goodkin
Michael Hagner
Spencer Haymond
Travis Herbek
David Herod
Taylor Irvine
Anna Kurak
William Leet
Lauren Marotta
Kevin Mathieu
Morgan McCabe
Thomas Mello
Mark Meltser
April Moon
Wesley Nichols
Tzu-Heng Peng
Jacob Raleigh
Tyler Riotte
Patrick Shah
Cheryl Simonsen
Samuel Smith
Dominck Spina
Laura Sterling
Ethan Stewart
Joshua Sullivan
Emily Udal
Scott Wolfe
Zachary Yakaitis
Michael Zimei

Master of Science

Jennifer Clinton
Stacey Roman
Michael Siers
Rui Wang
Nicholas Wright

Ph.D.

Umi Muawanah
Jason Patalinghug
Charles Rhodes
Tsvetan Tsvetanov
Taeyon Yoon
Chen Zhu

Junior **Natalie Vieira**, left, was featured on the College blog, Naturally@UConn, where she discusses her summer internship with Senator Chris Murphy, which focused on environmental and energy policy. Natalie expects to graduate in 2015 and is contemplating attending law school or pursuing a Master's degree in Public Policy.

Undergraduate student **Kathleen Barada** and graduate student **Laura Dunn** both received a Certificate of Achievement this past summer for attending the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) Summer 2013 Intern Briefings. The intern briefings focused on Capitol Hill careers, agencies and non-governmental organizations. These events are designed to allow students to hear from professionals about their career paths and receive insight on potential classes to take and other details regarding the necessary background to succeed in our nation's capitol.





Christopher Hopkins, above, (B.S. '12) has been working at Albourne Partners, a private, non-discretionary, investment consultant that works with institutional and non-institutional investors across hedge funds, private equity, real assets, and real estate. His role there includes working directly with clients to assist in the development of portfolios and is also part of the company's ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) working group which helps develop sustainable investing reporting and analysis for their clients. Additionally, he has also taken a position where he assists clients primarily investing in real assets real estate.



Rou Yu Wu, left, (M.S. '12) is working for a lithium battery materials and electric bus company. She is currently based in Nanchang and Shanghai, China as a project manager for the Taiwanese company. According to air pollution issues and the public's calling for better quality of life, the Chinese government has

launched a huge subsidy program on the electric vehicle industry. Rou Yu's main tasks are to coordinate sales projects with local governments and city bus companies with a special focus on financial arrangement.

Jennifer Clinton (M.S. '13) is working as a special projects coordinator for the Cape Cod Commission, a land use planning agency for the Cape.

Kevin Stengel (B.S. '12) just accepted a new position as Associate Property Manager for FirstService Residential in New York City.

Jason Patalinghug (Ph.D. '13) is now a visiting assistant professor at Wesleyan University.

Cresensia Asekenye (M.S. '13) has taken a position as an economist with the National Agricultural Resource Organization in Uganda.

Charles Rhodes (Ph.D. '13) is an ORISE Post-Doctoral fellow with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Chelsea Briggs, left, (B.S. '11) recently became Marketing Manager for Relationship Science in New York City. Relationship Science (RelSci) is the ultimate business development tool. It provides deep information about influential people—who they are and who they know, what you have in common with them, and most importantly, how you can gain access to

them and their organizations. RelSci helps you discover new relationships, advance existing ones, and maximize every opportunity.

Chelsea's main responsibilities include sales support, creative involvement as well as investor relations and partnerships. Within the sales support realm, she focuses on creating marketing collateral for the sales team, analyzing competition, and managing the publicity of her clients. With creative, Chelsea manages the agency relationship, design, executes internal/external communications and focuses on RelSci's brand strategy.

Join the ARE department LinkedIn group! <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/UConn-Agricultural-Resource-Economics-6522407/about>



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