

Marilyn Altobello Retires After 36 Years of Service

Marilyn Altobello officially retired in October 2014 after 36 years at UConn and now serves as Associate Professor Emeritus of ARE. Her talent and contributions were appreciated not only by the department but the college and community as well. Dr. Altobello's interest in economics began as an undergraduate at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, and afterwards she completed a master's degree in economics at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. During Altobello's graduate studies, she developed a strong passion for food and resource economics, which led to earning a second master's degree and a Ph.D. in resource economics. After a year of working in Washington, DC, for the USDA as an agricultural economist, she was hired as an Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona-Tucson, where she worked for two years. Altobello joined UConn in 1978 as an Assistant Professor and became an Associate Professor in 1984. Her early work at UConn focused on the marine industry in the state, fisheries, and water resource issues. She was involved with the Long Island Sound Study and researched the economic value of the Sound for the Environmental Protection Agency and the benefits of improving water quality. Her research and outreach in the nineties focused on land use issues and farmland preservation, and for the past twelve years she worked on the Connecticut Farm Risk Management Program, analyzing programs for producers and advisors on products, markets, legal and financial issues, and human resources. Department Head Rigoberto Lopez says of her time and service to ARE, "Marilyn Altobello was an integral part and essential component of the department's mission, particularly in the undergraduate and outreach programs. Her contributions in environmental policy and farm risk management programs were vital to the transformation of the department. In addition, she's an outstanding citizen, who will be missed." Congratulations, Marilyn!



Marilyn Altobello

New Faculty Members Join Department

The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics is excited to officially welcome three assistant professors: **Charles Towe**, **Nathan Fiala** and **Richard Dunn**. The new faculty members began in August 2014 and bring an impressive publication record with a combined total of 38 peer reviewed journal articles, seven publications in review and an additional 12 working papers. Department Head Rigoberto Lopez says about the new appointments, "After an intensive self-study review, and following the academic plan of the department, the college and the university, the three new Assistant Professors are elevating the stature of the department to a new level. Their contribution to the education of undergraduate and graduate programs is a big welcome, given the stiff growth in the number of students that we have experienced in the last five years. They represent a 25% increase in capacity, while our numbers have grown by more than 50%. As evidence of this, the worldwide ranking of the department has risen from 31st to 27th, according to IDEAS."

Dr. Towe joins UConn from the University of Maryland and is fulfilling the need for an Assistant Professor in environmental and natural resource economics. Dr. Fiala finished his postdoctoral fellowship at DIW in Berlin prior to joining ARE and focuses on food security and economic development, while Dr. Dunn focuses on health economics and is joining ARE from Texas A&M.

With Assistant Research Professor **Adam Rabinowitz** joining the department this fall and the addition of Associate Research Professor **Tatiana Andreyeva** along with an Assistant Professor in Applied Microeconomics (currently under recruitment) in fall 2015, the department expects to further raise both capacity and the quality of its programs to a new level.



Charles Towe



Nathan Fiala



Richard Dunn

Faculty

Dr. Adam Rabinowitz Joins ARE as Assistant Research Professor



In fall 2014, **Dr. Adam Rabinowitz** joined ARE as Assistant Research Professor, with a split appointment in the Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy. In addition to undergraduate teaching in the areas of food marketing and policy, he is conducting applied research and outreach with **Drs. Benjamin Campbell, Yizao Liu, Rigoberto Lopez**, and managing large databases for the Zwick Center. Dr. Rabinowitz was recently interviewed by UConn Today about rising food prices in Connecticut (available online at <http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2014/08/whats-behind-grocery-store-sticker-shock/>). He also received a USDA FSIMP grant, along with Ben Campbell and Yizao Liu, to profile and quantify consumer segments likely to buy local-brand milk; identify price premiums associated with locally labeled milk; and assess the effectiveness of alternative marketing practices to expand consumption of local brands of fluid milk in New England.

Agribusiness: An International Journal, the flagship journal in this field, will continue to be edited in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Wiley & Sons have selected three editors, including **Rigoberto A. Lopez**, Professor, Head and Director of the Zwick Center at UConn. The other two editors are **Monika Hartmann** from the University of Bonn and **Nobuhiro Suzuki** from the University of Tokyo. **Adam Rabinowitz**, also from UConn, will serve as the Assistant Coordinating Editor.

Ben Campbell Takes ARE Students to NY Produce Show

Dr. Campbell took several students to the NY Produce Show and Conference in NYC, one of the largest produce trade shows in the US. The students experienced a global trade symposium, trade show, educational talks, and a career networking session.



L to R: Gabriella Beaumont-Smith, Casey Foley, Adam Bestrom, Philip Hornig, Michael Katz, and Ben Campbell.

Bravo-Ureta Hosts Kenyan Visitors



Dr. Boris Bravo-Ureta and Postdoctoral Fellow **Eric Njuki** hosted two groups of economists, IT and finance specialists from Kenya in September, with the purpose of strengthening capacity in overseas development assistance. The trainings included the importance of impact studies and GIS practices and also a mock court. These GIS practices are imperative for funding opportunities from other countries and stakeholders, and also assist in the implantation of new projects and monitoring current project development. Resources are limited and need to be allocated and accounted for. The visitors said they learned about GIS, project impact and cost along with how to equally distribute across the country so each city benefits.



Stephen Swallow was awarded two grants: Water Supply Capacity Credits within a Hydrologic Basin: Sustaining Ecosystem Services and Revenues from Undeveloped Forests and Farm, (USDA/NIFA for \$500,000) and Community-level Incentives to Support Farm, Forest, and Open Space Land Conservation in the Rural-Urban Fringe, (USDA for \$190,000).

Robert Pomeroy gave the Keynote Address, "Linking Science to People: Applying Socioeconomic and Governance Science to Solve Problems and Create Opportunities in Caribbean Fisheries," at the 67th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute annual meeting in Christ Church, Barbados, on November 3, 2014.

Boris Bravo-Ureta was invited to participate in the International Workshop, Going Beyond Agricultural Water Productivity, organized by the USDA/ERS, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the World Bank Group (WBG), on December 8-9. He presented the paper, "Agricultural Productivity Growth and Water: Evidence from the Frontier," co-authored with Roberto Jara, Michée Lachaud, and Victor Moreira, all with ARE connections. Bravo-Ureta also participated in the panel entitled Going Forward: Conceptual and Data Issues.

The American Fisheries Society Marine Fisheries Section awarded **Syma Ebbin** the Certificate of Appreciation for serving as Chair of the Student Travel Award Committee in August 2014, along with the American Fisheries Society Southern New England Chapter Certificate of Appreciation for serving as Chapter President in June 2014.

Charles Towe has been awarded the **DeFavero Fellowship**, named in honor and funded by alumnus **Richard DeFavero**.

Rigoberto Lopez and **Yizao Liu** were featured in UConn Today for their research on how social media engagement affects soda choice. Available online: <http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2014/11/social-media-engagement-significantly-impacts-soda-choice/>

ARE's ranking improved to #27 (up four spots) on the IDEAS ranking of Ag Econ departments and is now in the **top 12%** of Agricultural Economic departments in the world.

Syma Ebbin and **Adam Rabinowitz** have been accepted into the UConn Service Learning Faculty Fellows Program for 2015.

Graduate student **Madiha Zaffou**, **Ben Campbell** and Jennifer Martin presented an invited paper entitled "Using a Randomized Choice Experiment to Test Willingness to Pay for Multiple Differentiated Products," at the July 2014 AAEA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN.

Boris Bravo-Ureta received a grant in Education and Research in Agriculture, funded by USAID (Lead Institution Virginia Tech): \$181,750 for 2014-2015

Ben Campbell's research "Some consumers confuse 'local' with 'organic' food" was featured on several media outlets including Naturally@UConn and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida. Article available online: <http://news.ifas.ufl.edu/2014/05/uffas-study-some-consumers-confuse-local-with-organic-food/>

Elena Lopez visited ARE as a visiting scholar from the University of Alcalá from August to October 2014 (pictured at right).



ARE Graduate Students Show Strong Presence at Summer Conferences

UConn ARE graduate students made quite an impression at the annual **Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)** meetings in Minneapolis, MN, this past July, totaling 15 presentations (including one invited paper). Graduate students that presented include: Hualu Zheng, Lu Huang, Lingqiao Qi, Omer Hoke, Madiha Zaffou, Ian Yue, Pengfei Liu, and Anwasha Chakrabarti.

Dr. Lopez said, "Hopefully we can exceed the record again next year in San Francisco," while Dr. Swallow mentioned, "It was a great meeting and I uniformly heard positive feedback about our students." The UConn Economics department added three UConn presentations this year, including Kathy Segerson's (ARE joint appointment) Fellow Address, for a total 17 UConn presentations.



Madiha Zaffou at the AAEA meeting



Faculty and students also had a strong presence at the 2014 **Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA)** annual meeting on June 3, 2014, in Morgantown, WV. Madiha Zaffou received scholarships for her registration fee, and Quishuo Yu presented the paper, "A Choice Based Experiment of Community Support Agriculture (CSA) in Connecticut: Valuation of Attributes" (with Ben Campbell, Yizao Liu and Jiff Martin). Other students and faculty presenting included Dr. Farhed Shah, Ian Yue, Omer Hoke and Lingqiao Qi.

At left: ARE graduate students at the NAREA conference

Spotlight On >>> JOBS

Congratulations to M.S. student **Laura Dunn**, who will begin in January 2015 as a Global Energy Associate at Noble Group in Stamford, CT. For a year and a half she will complete a rotational trainee program of 4 months in risk, 4 months in operations, and 4 months in research, followed by a 6 month placement in a position suitable for her identified strengths and interests. Laura attended her first training week in Hong Kong in October (pictured at right) and met all 11 of her fellow Global Associates from around the world, along with the company's founder and CEO. Laura says "I am truly excited about the opportunity to learn and grow with Noble in the near future, and cannot wait to apply my background in resource economics to the job."



Congratulations are also in order for undergraduate students **Celena Wheatley, Kathleen Barada** and **Ariana Lema** for their recent job offers. Celena Wheatley accepted a position as Financial Control Risk Analyst with Voya Financial in September, after interning with the company for three semesters. Kathleen Barada has accepted a position with Dreyfus Commodities as Commodities Trader, after interning as a trader trainee this summer. Kathleen will begin after her graduation in May 2015 and says of her internship experience, "It was exciting and fast-paced and I enjoyed mentorships from senior level traders." Ariana Lema will be working at Steward Health Care in Brighton as an HR Assistant. Her role will be to support HR advisors, work with current and new employees for training and paperwork, as well as taking on a technical role managing their employee databases. She says "It's a really interesting career path that is most certainly open to resource economics majors, particularly those with the public policy minor."

Stephen Swallow and graduate student **Pengfei Liu** organized a session entitled "Generating Revenues for the Private Provision of Public Goods" at the ACES (A Community on Ecosystem Services) in Washington, DC, in December 2014. Pengfei Liu presented a paper titled "Understanding a Field Auction for Ecosystem Services using the Experimental Economics Laboratory." Pengfei was also invited to present a paper titled "The Influence of Credit Stacking Programs: The Coexistence of Regional Credits and Global Credits in Ecosystem Markets," co-authored by Stephen Swallow, at the University of Cambridge, England, at the 16th BioEcon conference in September 2014.

Chris Bruno received the prestigious RARE (Roper Award for Research Experience), and he will work with **Ben Campbell** to use Roper Center data to consider how different groups view the food system and access information about food-related issues. They will examine how different groups view organic, local, and genetically modified food products, considering the role of race, gender, income, and other characteristics to better understand differences in perceptions. This research will culminate with the development of policy recommendations that address potential racial and/or income inequalities within the food system.

Congratulations to **Madiha Zaffou** on receiving a student scholarship for the Consumer Food Safety Education Conference in 2014.

Natalie Vieira was appointed as undergraduate student rep to the UConn Environmental Policy Advisory Council.

Omer Hoke and ARE visiting faculty **Chad Cotti** published "The Impact of Large Container Beer Purchases on Alcohol-Related Fatal Vehicle Accidents" in *Contemporary Economic Policy*.

In September, **Adam Bestrom, Molly Deegan, and Jacob Ricker** attended the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) Career Pathways Conference in Newport, RI, with CAHNR's **Paul Gagnon**, where the students received an overview of the dynamic produce industry. They also took part in networking events with the produce industry at the New England Produce and Floral Expo, a trade show where buyers and sellers convened and were able to establish relationships and learn about new products.

Four of ARE's students, **Jeremy Jelliffe, Molly Deegan, Nate Wojtyna** and **Andrew Blacker**, were featured in the college blog Naturally@UConn for their stellar academic success and internship experiences.

ARE Graduate Students Enjoy Welcome Back Party and Thanksgiving Potluck

ARE graduate students have been busy this semester holding fun events for all to enjoy including a welcome back party in August and a Thanksgiving potluck (pictured below). Great food and fun was had by all!



Resource Economics Club

The Resource Economics Club kicked off the semester with two great events for students, with the first event held in the School of Business Boardroom with AXA Financial Advisor Andy Lane. Thirty undergraduate students showed up to learn about careers in financial consulting. The club also hosted "Resource Economics Majors: Career Services Panel," where students were able to learn how other Resource Economics students used their degree to find a job.



Club officers **Richard DeMarco, Aileene Duyan, Chris Bruno** and **James Rossi**

For more information on joining the Resource Economics Club contact us on UConnctact!

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Dr. Rigoberto Lopez at the Rockefeller Center in New York with Renmin University of China students (L to R) Xuan Chen, Zhifei Chen, Ling Zhu and Jingyi Chen in August 2014.

alumni news

Please send your updates to

ResourceEconomics@uconn.edu



Eleonora de Falcis (M.S. '14) recently took a position as a consultant in the Economic division of Agri2000 in Castel Maggiore, Italy, just outside of Bologna. Agri2000 is a service and research company that provides studies for the agro-food sector.



Xun Li (Ph.D. '14) left, is now Assistant Professor in the School of Economics at Wuhan University, which is among the top seven ranked universities in the People's Republic of China.

Luz Londoño Diaz (Ph.D., '10) has been appointed Visiting Assistant Professor at the UConn Institute of Latino/a, Caribbean and Latin American Studies.

Hadley (Weiss) Rosen (B.S. '02) is marketing and communications manager for Finalsite, a company that provides software and web design services to schools. She and her husband welcomed a son, Cabot, in September 2013.

Kendall Erskine (B.S. '11) was recently promoted to Marketing Communications Manager at New Benefits in Dallas, Texas, and is responsible for managing the marketing resources available to clients and promoting those resources through collaborative relationships and proactive creation of new marketing materials. Ms. Erskine says her favorite part about her job is that no two days are quite alike and "I am often on the phone with clients, ensuring they have everything they need from a marketing perspective. I also meet regularly with our ad agency to keep projects moving. I promote New Benefits through social media channels, so I am often on LinkedIn and Twitter seeking opportunities to connect with a new customer."



ARE alumni reunion in Storrs!

Pictured Left to Right:

Neha Paliwal (M.S. expected '15), **Alexis von Rhade**

(M.S. '12), **Frol Periverzo**, **Kwabena Amponsah** (M.S. expected '15), **Tsvetan Tsvetanov** (Ph.D. '13), **Eileen Underwood Periverzov** (M.S. '13), **Jennifer Clinton** (M.S. '13).



Queila Galan (B.S. '10) left, is teaching English in Jeju, South Korea, after receiving her Master's in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). She teaches students how to speak English in two different schools, starting from 3rd - 6th grade. Ms. Galan says of her experience,

"Teaching abroad is a dream come true. I experience new cultures, foods, languages, and educational systems. I hope to teach abroad for many years."



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<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/UConn-Agricultural-Resource-Economics-6522407/about>

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The University of Connecticut
Department of Agricultural and
Resource Economics
1376 Storrs Road, Unit 4021
W.B. Young Building
Storrs, CT 06269-4021