Dr. Charles J. Zwick Signs Next Major Gift

Dr. Charles J. Zwick (pictured at Right) signed his next major gift of $500,000 to UConn for the Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy at a ceremony held on April 23 at the UConn Foundation. His gift will help continue to advance the research and outreach capabilities of the Center, which focuses on food marketing, environmental policy, and economic development. Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky and UConn Provost Mun Choi were among the distinguished guests who spoke of the impacts that the Center has had on food and environmental issues locally, regionally, and nationally. Professor and Department Head Rigoberto Lopez and professor Adam Rabinowitz gave brief presentations on the achievements of the Center over the past five years and the research that it is pursuing today, followed by local Connecticut farmers Ben Freund and Peter Orr who gave remarks on the impact that the Center’s work has had on their own farms. Among those in attendance for the Ceremony was Bernard Dzielsinski (pictured bottom Left), Dr. Zwick’s close friend and former roommate during their UConn years.

Dr. Zwick is a UConn alumnus himself, B.S. 1950 and M.S. 1951 in agricultural economics, and earned his Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University in 1954. He was Head of Logistics at the RAND Corporation from 1956-’63. He then served as Director of the U.S. Bureau of the Budget—now the Office of Management and Budget—from 1965-’68 and served as Director under President Johnson’s Administration from 1968-’69. He has the distinction of being the only Director, until the Clinton Administration, to balance the federal budget. He later became President and CEO of Southeast Banking Corporation in Florida until his retirement in 1991.

Philanthropist, ARE Alumnus Richard DelFavero Receives Thanks at Charles Zwick Ceremony

Richard DelFavero (B.S. ‘56, M.S. ‘58) attended the signing ceremony for Dr. Charles J. Zwick in April and was greeted by ARE undergraduate students Casey Foley, Chris Bruno, and Robert Ranieri who were there to personally thank him for the funds they have received through his endowed scholarship, the DelFavero Agricultural Economics Fund. In May 2011 DelFavero donated $1.5 million to establish the DelFavero Chair in Agricultural and Resource Economics and to establish the endowed scholarship.

Also there to thank him was ARE professor Charles Towe, a recipient of the DelFavero Fellowship in 2014 (pictured at Right). DelFavero held an extensive career in building with DelFavero Builders, building hundreds of condominiums and buildings in the state. He has since retired to northern Vermont where he manages 125 heads of cattle.

“Excellence in Agricultural and Resource Economics Education and Research”

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Professor Bravo–Ureta Receives AAUP Research Excellence Award

Professor Boris E. Bravo-Ureta (pictured at Right with State Senator Tony Guglielmo) accepted the American Association of University Professors 2015 Research Excellence Award at the Capitol Building in Hartford on April 6. Dr. Bravo-Ureta’s research focuses on the economics of production and development. Currently he is conducting research with experts in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia on a project titled “Productivity and Profitability Growth in Peanut Production: A Farm Level Analysis in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.” His work is recognized by experts around the world as well as those around the state of Connecticut. Congratulations Boris for receiving the AAUP Research Excellence Award.

Professor Pomeroy to Study Fisheries Livelihoods in the Philippines

Robert Pomeroy began a research project in March concerning sustainable fisheries livelihoods in the Philippines, supported by RARE and the U.S. Agency for International Development – Philippines. The project aims to improve the implementation of livelihood interventions for fishing households by identifying lessons learned from both successful and unsuccessful livelihood programs and projects in fisheries as well as other sectors in the Philippines.

Professor Rabinowitz has Students Present Issue Posters

Adam Rabinowitz led his Food Policy class to create presentations offering information and solutions to a variety of issues from SNAP and fracking to GMO labeling and marketing. On April 16 and 21 his students presented their posters and stood by to explain their work.

Ben Campbell and Students Attend UConn STEM Event

Ben Campbell and ARE graduate students ran into Geno Auriemma while they showcased the department’s eye tracking technology and research for the Bobolink Project was also highlighted in the College’s Basketball team on their 10th national title! ARE congratulates Geno and the UConn Women's Basketball team on their 10th national title!

Professor Dunn Enters Cooperative Agreement with USDA

Richard Dunn recently received $30,000 from a cooperative agreement with the USDA, Economic Research Service to work with Jim MacDonald (a current AAEA Fellow) on a subset of Dr. Dunn’s Census Research Data Center project: Firm Dynamics in Agricultural Services Sector: New Evidence from the Longitudinal Business Database. The funding (October 2014—September 2016) will support work relating to agricultural support activities.

Professor O'Donnell and Students Present Issue Posters

Chris O’Donnell (Left) is a visiting scholar from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, from March—June 2015. Meiying He (Right) is a visiting scholar from South China Agricultural University in Guangzhou, China, from January 2015—January 2016.

Hugo Fueglein and Ted Wells of the STEM Food & Ag Council met with Boris Bravo-Ureta and Rigoberto Lopez, as well as UConn Career Consultants Emily Merritt and John Bau (pictured at Right) in April to discuss the Council and how it may benefit ARE students. Fueglein and Wells also met with CAHNR Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Cameron Faustman and Associate Dean of Extension Mike O’Neill.

Boris Bravo-Ureta received a $230,000 research grant to fund the project titled “Productivity and Profitability Growth in Peanut Production: A Farm Level Analysis in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia,” funded by USAID’s Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Peanut Productivity and Mycotoxin Control (PMIL).

Ben Campbell and Dean of CAHNR Gregory Weidemann (pictured at Right) accepted a New York Farmers medal on April 7 at the Union Club in New York City for their presentation “The Transformation of Agriculture: A Behavioral Perspective.”

Nathan Fiala was highlighted in Naturally@UConn in an article describing his previous work and education that led to his new position as assistant professor in ARE: http://naturally.uconn.edu/2015/03/20/meet-new-faculty-member-nathan-fiala/

Stephen Swallow received a $450,499 grant titled “Making Markets for Ecosystem Services of Farms on the Rural Fringe: Vermont Grasslands for Hay and Nesting Songbirds” from the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture, Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. Dr. Swallow’s research for the Bobolink Project was also highlighted in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources 2014 Highlights of Research publication, available online: http://www.are.uconn.edu/index_31_2532864472.pdf

Professor Brian Wansink met with ARE faculty (pictured at Left, Wansink in Center) after presenting a seminar at the ARE Department in April on “The Overlooked Limitations (and Promises) of Behavioral Economics” as part of the Department’s Seminar Series. Wansink is a professor of Consumer Behavior at the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Commodities at Cornell University. From 2007-2009 he accepted a White House appointment as Executive Director of the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.

The ARE Department’s Spring 2015 Seminar Series brought 15 distinguished guests to the department including Jayson Lusk of Oklahoma State University, Monika Hartmann of the University of Bonn, and Akshaya Jha of Stanford University. Please visit http://are.uconn.edu/seminars.php for more information.
**ARE Class has Research Presented at Conference**

Students in Associate Professor Syma Ebbin’s Fall 2014 Environmental and Resource Policy class conducted research focusing on fertilizer use by Connecticut residents entitled “Is the Grass Always Greener? Assessing Lawn Care Practices of Connecticut Residents.” Their research was presented by Dr. Ebbin at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources held at UConn in March 2015.

Two articles on the research are set to be published in the CTSG Wrack Lines publication and the Groton Open Space Association newsletter.

**Undergraduate Profile >>>**

ARE student Molly Deegan interned last summer with the Sustainable Food Systems Director at the UConn Extension Center, where she built ties with Connecticut farmers and worked to promote a campaign initiated by UConn that encourages consumers to buy locally. Molly says that her Fall 2013 semester spent as part of the Sustainable Agriculture Study Abroad Program in Florence, Italy was “the most exciting semester I had.”

Molly plans to work “in some capacity in the realm of policy, since that is where I believe change really can start happening.” After graduating with her Bachelor’s degree she hopes to serve in AmeriCorps, and soon thereafter, return to school to achieve her Master’s degree.

**ARE Students Shine at CAHNR Scholar’s Night**

The ARE Department was strongly represented at the 2014-2015 CAHNR Scholar’s Night held on March 26, 2015. Both ARE undergraduates and graduates received a variety of scholarships including 12 undergraduates who were awarded the DelFavero Agricultural Economics Scholarship, and 19 undergraduates who received the Russell Palen Scholarship.

(L - R: Graduate students Michael Katz, Kristen Raub, and Yoon-Young Choi).

**Spotlight On >> Alumni Award**

ARE alumnus Charlie Ling (M.S. ’70, Ph.D. ’73) was awarded the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources Alumni Association distinguished alumni award in April 2015 at a UCAHNRAA event on Storrs campus. Dr. Ling retired from USDA Cooperative Extension in 1995 and is founder of the newly formed CT Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, where her work focused on researching and mapping areas on Connecticut’s coastline that are most vulnerable to flooding.

**ARE Student to work at Louis Dreyfus Commodities**

Senior Kathleen Barada has been hired by Louis Dreyfus Commodities, one of the world’s largest commodity trading companies, to work as a Trader Trainee, allowing her to gain an understanding of the business before becoming a full time trader on one of their many trading desks.

**Resource Economics Club**

Members of the Resource Economics Club (pictured Left) stand with Farm Credit East Recruiter Crystal Bernardes (center) after their “How to Stand Out in Interviews” event held in March, which also featured CAHNR Career Consultant Paul Gagnon.

Elected officers include:

**Chris Bruno:** President **Rowan Sullivan:** CFO **Rose Croog:** VP of Marketing

**Casey Foley:** Secretary **James Rossi:** Event Coordinator

For more information on joining the Resource Economics Club contact us on UConnect.


Graduate student Jeremy Jelliffe (pictured at Right) has been accepted to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative Summer School 2015. Jelliffe will be studying in Washington, D.C., learning techniques for measuring multidimensional poverty.

Chris Bruno was featured in April on Naturally@UConn as the CAHNR undergraduate of the week, available online: http://naturally.uconn.edu/2015/04/08/meet-undergraduate-student-christopher-bruno/

Resource Economics minor Cristina Mullin interned in Spring 2015 with the newly formed CT Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, where her work focused on researching and mapping areas on Connecticut’s coastline that are most vulnerable to flooding.
Rachael Shenyo (M.S. ‘15) is legalizing her own NGO, named ALTICULTURA, which will focus on climate change adaptation research, innovation, and education in Guatemala. For years Shenyo has been identifying climate risks and impacts, and developing climate change adaptations in Guatemala. In March 2015 Shenyo took a position as a USAID Project Coordinator for the western highlands region. She oversees projects concerning a variety of issues including food security, climate change, and economic development.

Helping her to legalize her NGO is Ronald Fernando Vasquez Siguenza, a member of Guatemala’s Ministry of the Environment. Siguenza collaborates with Shenyo on combating chronic hunger in Guatemala. Shenyo says that she could not believe “how well-informed, involved and determined the overall population is.”

Hugo Fueglein (B.S. ’80, M.S. ‘84) is Managing Director at Diversified Search, working with Fortune 500 and 1000 companies globally to place Chief Information Officers. It was Emeritus professor Dr. Tsoung-Chao Lee who helped him land his first job as an Associate Economist at Chase Econometrics. He says “I learned how to recruit technological people because that is what I did initially, and knew how to do because of ARE.”

Fueglein is also working avidly with the newly-created STEM Food & Ag Council to promote STEM fields in agriculture. Some focuses include developing seeds and researching processes to stretch resources to feed more people.

Alexis von Rhade (B.S. ‘13) is now Assistant of the Executive Board at German Seed Purification/Grafting Corporation. He works in their headquarters in Lippstadt, Germany analyzing, restructuring and connecting their national and international investment procedure. He also does work for their grasses and legumes division, focusing on establishing new customers in South Africa.

Daniel Solis (Ph.D. ’15, M.S. ’02) has been named Program Leader for the Agribusiness Program at Florida A&M University. As such, he coordinates the program’s academic research activities and advises Agribusiness undergraduates.

Tigran Badalian (B.S. ’12) is an Operations Analyst at Nitron. The company is always interacting with their suppliers and clients, which means that a constant and clear flow of communication is imperative. Badalian says of his ARE professors that it was “the way they taught and the way they made me learn that helped the most.”

Join the ARE Department on Facebook and LinkedIn!