

Agricultural and Resource Economics

Volume 9, Issue 2 ♦ Fall 2017

Reporter

Highlights

- Alumnus Chris Bruno speaks at career workshop
- People Magazine references John Bovay on avocado prices
- ARE Club gets career oriented
- ARE PhD student Leticia Riva in the spotlight
- ARE alumna Margot Manning & Carina Immer accept positions



Economic Impacts Report receives media attention

The Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy has released the Economic Impacts of Connecticut's Agriculture Industry Report this year with success and recognition. The report has been cited in over 50 different publications, including the San Francisco Chronicle, US News and World Report, and the Hartford Business. Authors from the department are Dr.'s Rigoberto Lopez and Rebecca Boehm. The report details the importance of Connecticut's agricultural industry. It contributes \$4 billion to the state economy, generates 21,000 jobs, and provides environmental and social benefits that significantly improve its residents' quality of life. This report also explains changes in the structure of this industry between 2007 and 2015.

International Thanksgiving Potluck



The ARE Graduate Student Organization held a Thanksgiving multicultural potluck on November 17th at the Friends of Storrs Meeting House, highlighting their countries' cuisines, attended by faculty, staff, and students.



Student News

ARE Hosts Career Workshop



This Fall, the ARE department hosted a career workshop for undergraduate students to receive professional headshots, resume and networking advice, and key insights from Chris Bruno '16, an alumni who now is employed by McLagan as an asset manager. Chris shared valuable advice to students pertaining to networking, interviewing, and roles in entry level jobs. He also focused on how to build relationships with colleagues. Paul Gagnon from Career Services also spoke during the workshop about resume and cover letter building.

New Course Offered for Spring 2018:

ARE 4995- "Economic Perspectives: Climate, Environment, Policy. & Adaptation Decisions"

Students will evaluate climate science, adaptation and resilience planning, related ecosystem services, and the role of environmental values and economics in policy and decision processes.

Julia Schnelting in the spotlight



Schnelting is a senior ARE and foreign exchange student from Germany who was first attracted to UConn because of the Women's Rowing team. She previously studied sale engineering and product management back home, but found that ARE would be a great compliment to her degree. Julia has had to overcome language and cultural barriers since moving to the United States, and has deemed it a constant challenge to adjust. She is expected to graduate from UConn in May 2018, and then return to Germany to complete her Bachelor's that she began there. Julia claims she hopes to return to the U.S. "I love living in the United States and being part of a team here. It's very exciting to come to America and see all the women involved," Schnelting says.

ARE Club gets career oriented



The Applied and Resource Economics club has started off the semester with a new executive board and roster. Recently receiving a generous donation, efforts are being made to kick-start initiatives to shift efforts toward a more career oriented club, including

conducting simulations, personality tests, scholarship outreach, and being highly involved in events such as the career workshop. "This club has brought together exceptional students that want to take their major to the next step," says VP Owen Maloney '18. In Spring 2018, Maloney intends to take over as President of the club.

Leticia Riva goes global



Leticia Riva, a PhD student in the Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics, has worked to complete her degrees in several countries including Spain, Germany, England, and the United States. Leticia's travels have sensitized her to circumstances of people in

various parts of the world, which has been the major factor in her choice to study economics. Her current field of research is economic development, where she hopes to take that knowledge and apply it to understand and improve the lives of others. Expected to finish her degree in 2019, she plans to either return to Europe or stay in the U.S.

Faculty & Alumni News

John Bovay cited in *People Magazine*

ARE's own, John Bovay, was recently cited in the September 22nd issue of *People Magazine* explaining the high prices of avocados. "Basically production can't keep up with demand and when that happens, prices rise. Avocados are extremely popular-people use them to make guacamole and avocado toast is really trendy right now- they are just all over the place" explains Bovay. Wholesale avocado prices have increased 75% since July. Bovay explains that the growing season for avocados is fairly short, therefore in the off-season the U.S. has to compete with other countries to import them from Mexico.

Department Ranked 19th Again!

The department was ranked 19th worldwide as of November 2017. The department is ranked among other highly accredited and much larger institutions. Department head Rigoberto Lopez says, "Our goal is to continue our status as a premier department of agricultural and resource economics, committed to excellence in teaching, research, and extension."

Margot Manning accepts position at Unilever



Margot Manning '17 has recently accepted a position as a Customer Service Analyst at Unilever, a transnational consumer goods company stationed in Shelton, CT. The company centers around sustainably helping people improve their health and well-being through products such as beverages, food, cleaning agents, and personal care products. In her position, Manning provides assistance to customers to overcome issues related to the products Unilever supplies.

Carina Immer at Concord Resources Ltd.



Carina Immer '17 accepted a position as operator at Concord Resources Ltd, a private company that focuses on the distribution, supply chain and risk management of non-ferrous metals and raw materials. While the Headquarters are in the UK, Carina resides at a branch in Manhattan where she works in Supply Chain Logistics to match the changing demands of customers through product diversity.

Current visitors

Yu Wang— PhD student, China Ag. Univ.

Zhongmin Xie— PhD student, Renmin University of China

Visitors in Spring 2018

Jimena Masaro – Assistant Professor, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina

Philocles Sanchez – Undergraduate student, Zamorano University, Honduras

Wei Zhang – Assistant Professor, Connecticut College

Zhiming Yang – Assistant Professor, Beijing Science & Technology University, PRC

Consuelo Moraga - PhD student, University of Talca Göttingen,

Alumnus Dr. Alessandro Bonanno gets promoted

ARE Ph.D. alumni, Alessandro Bonanno, was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at Colorado State University where he has been from 2015-present. Prior, he held assistant professor positions at Penn State from 2008-2012 and at Wageningen University in the Netherlands from 2013-2015. His areas of expertise include economics of food and health, applied industrial organization and food marketing economics of food retailing. Bonanno won the Outstanding Article in the *Choices Magazine* in 2012 and in 2014 in the *European Review of Agricultural Economics*.



Fall 2017 Scholarship Recipients

Albert Wadsworth and the Helen Clark Meserve Memorial
Recipient: **Anna Esposito**

Willard H. Allen Scholarship
Recipient: **Risa Lewis**

Smyrski Farm Scholarship
Recipients: **Anna Esposito, Kevin Harris, Kasey Mahan, Meghan Patulak**

Cornelius and Mary Jane York Award
Recipient: **Charles Frazine**

Bishop Carder Scholarship
Recipients: **Gabriel Marmolejos, Timothy Murray, Thomas Krumel**

Irving and Justine Fellows Fund
Recipient: **Kevin Harris**

Nathan Koenig AG/EC Student Fund
Recipients: **Julia Schnelting, Meghan Patulak, David Foberg, Daniel Pickup, Sean Welch, Giulia Tiboldo, Zhenshan Chen**

The Russell Palen Fund
Recipients: **Hayden Couture, John Seymour, Michelle Allen, Edward Story, Mahesh Dahal, Xi He**

Marvin W. Kottke Fund
Recipient: **Julia Schnelting**

Stanley K. Seaver Scholarship Fund
Recipient: **Joanna Kamiche Zegarra**

DelFavero Agricultural Economics Scholarship
Recipients: **Risa Lewis, Julia Schnelting**



Mr. Richard DelFavero (ARE donor) with scholarship recipients Julia Schnelting (left) and Risa Lewis (right) during his recent visit to the UConn Dairy Bar.

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