

Sustainability: What is it?

Joseph Bonelli is an associate extension educator and resource economist with the Cooperative Extension System and a lecturer in the College. In the past he has worked as a farm business consultant in tax, estate, and business succession planning. He is a member of the Connecticut Farm Risk Management Team and on the boards of the Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation and the Blue Slope Country Museum.

Farming is a risky business

By Joseph Bonelli
Associate Extension Educator
in Residence

Connecticut agriculture is at a crossroads. According to a 2005 study by the Working Land Alliance, *A Call to Farms*, 7,000 to 9,000 acres of farmland in Connecticut are converted each year to nonagricultural uses. At a time when many are concerned about food security, food availability, and the cost of food, we all need to think about how critical it is to reverse this trend and to do what must be done to sustain a vibrant agriculture in Connecticut. The solutions are complex but we must be aware of the consequences if we are not successful. Farming systems

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New dean brings wealth of teaching, research, and administrative experience

Will emphasize international programs and building donor support



Gregory Weidemann, dean and director of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Photo by Sue Schadt.

By Nancy Weiss

Gregory J. Weidemann moves with the ease of a man who is comfortable in his skin. His strong academic background, a BS in zoology from the University of Wisconsin and his PhD in plant pathology from the same institution, could have guaranteed him a predictable life in teaching and research at the university level. Early in his career, he was recognized as an outstanding teacher.

Instead, more than a decade ago, Weidemann stepped into the challenging world of administration at the University of Arkansas. This decision set off a chain of events that led him on July 4, 2008, to assume the position of dean and director of the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Weidemann speaks with the soft accent of a man who has spent time in the heartland of America, where agriculture is big and powerful. He

was drawn to Connecticut by the desire for a new challenge and the impressive position the College holds due in part to the leadership of former Dean Kirklyn Kerr.

"When I looked at the College, I was pleasantly surprised to see how well focused and well integrated it is for Connecticut. The programs have been thoughtfully evolved. Any vision of mine will be based on the collective vision of the College," he says.

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email: sara.putnam@uconn.edu
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Graphic design

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Message from the Dean



Gregory J. Weidemann
Dean and Director
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dear Readers,

On July 4, I became the new dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UConn. My wife, Rozanne, and I are so pleased to become part of the College and the UConn family. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to succeed Kirklyn Kerr as dean of the College. I look forward to meeting many of you personally in the coming months and getting to know you.

By way of introduction, I am a product of a land-grant university, having received both my undergraduate degree and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. I joined the faculty at the University of Arkansas, where I moved through the faculty ranks as a teacher and researcher. Before accepting the position with UConn as the new dean, I served in a variety of leadership roles, including serving as dean of that college.

I was attracted to the University of Connecticut by its outstanding national reputation and the excellence of the faculty and student body in the College. During

my interview, there was a great level of pride in the College expressed by students, faculty, and staff. Those stakeholders that I met were universally complimentary about the College and the impact many of the programs have had on their livelihood or quality of life. I was excited about some of the program strengths I saw and how well focused the programs are in key areas that are important to the future of the state. It was clear the College has continued to evolve as the needs of the state and stakeholders have evolved—a clear sign that the College has stayed in tune and in touch with changing needs of alumni and supporters. There was a great sense of optimism about the future and the important role the College has played in the history of this great institution. The College will be critical to the success of the new academic plan that sets the vision for UConn over the next several years.

As dean, I am very excited about joining the leadership team at the University of Connecticut and working with the faculty, staff, and students to move the programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources forward. During these first few months, I will be challenged to meet everyone and become part of the College family. I need to hear from you about what the College can do better to serve your needs as we go through a period of self-assessment and visioning. The College needs your continued support and encouragement as we reset our vision in concert with the new academic plan.

I am looking forward to the challenge and to becoming part of the exciting things that are going on at the University of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Weidemann
Dean and Director

Allied Health Sciences offers new post-baccalaureate certificate in health promotion

By Kim Colavito Markesich

A new post baccalaureate certificate offered by the Department of Allied Health Sciences graduate program will provide career opportunities for recent graduates and for seasoned professionals as well. Final approval rests with the University's Board of Trustees, after which prospective students will be invited to apply.

This certificate will provide a core competency in health promotion and health education. Upon completion of the program, students will be eligible to sit for the Certified Health Educator Specialist (CHES) national exam.

"This certificate is important because the health-care system is moving from traditional medicine toward holistic medicine or prevention and health promotion," says Pourn Faghri, professor of allied health sciences and director of the graduate program. "Unfortunately, traditional curricula have not been focusing on that aspect."

"We believe that this program will give our students opportunities in the cutting edge field of health promotion. The program will position students for professional work in the field of community health, health education, and health promotion in a wide variety of settings."

According to Faghri, 65 percent of the country's

population is working, and employers shoulder the burden of ever-increasing health care costs. Most of the health care dollars in the United States are spent during the latter stages of illness. The continual rise in health care costs to treat chronic illnesses and conditions warrants the education and training of health promotion professionals to improve health and prevent disease and disability while containing health care expenditures.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health both have major initiatives in health promotion. And, while employers are beginning to realize that work site health promotion programs improve the overall health of their employees, increase employee productivity, reduce sick days, and improve overall morale, there is a shortage of trained professionals to implement these programs.

To earn the new certificate, students must complete twelve credits of required coursework while maintaining an overall GPA of 3.0 or greater. The required courses include:

- Critical Issues in Health Promotion, Disease and Disability Prevention
- Program Evaluation for Health Professionals
- Health Education and Behavior Interventions for At-Risk Populations

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Wetlands hydrologist identifies pigeons as source of bacteria in roof runoff

By Nancy Weiss

"I guess I just love water," says Jack Clausen, professor in the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering as he tips back in his office chair, folding his arms behind his head. Clausen, who spent his childhood summers on a lake in Minnesota, is spending his sabbatical leave writing an introductory textbook on water resources and completing a wetland project that has led to surprising results.

Clausen's latest wetland project has its antecedent in a program he developed in 1995 when he and some graduate students created an artificial wetland adjacent to the Department of Animal Science's Kellogg Dairy Center (KDC). They wanted to study whether waste from the milk house operation might be purified by the wetland. Encouraged by former Dean Kirklyn Kerr and funded from a variety of sources, the milk house waste project was highly productive. Studies at the site produced useful data and a PhD dissertation that led its author to a position working in the Everglades.

"I always have a wetland project going on," Clausen says. Noting that



Photo of middle cells of the constructed wetland showing young *Phragmites* plants and rock berms separating sub-cells. The plank bridging the cell is used as a platform from which to harvest the *Phragmites*.

see if it was leaching into the runoff. They studied the air quality associated with the facility. Through it all, they

wetland worked effectively, but Clausen and his team wanted to make sure they were measuring bacteria from pigeon waste rather than from

with a "naked" wetland from which the vegetation has been removed. The process of eliminating the persistent reeds was backbreaking, but once they

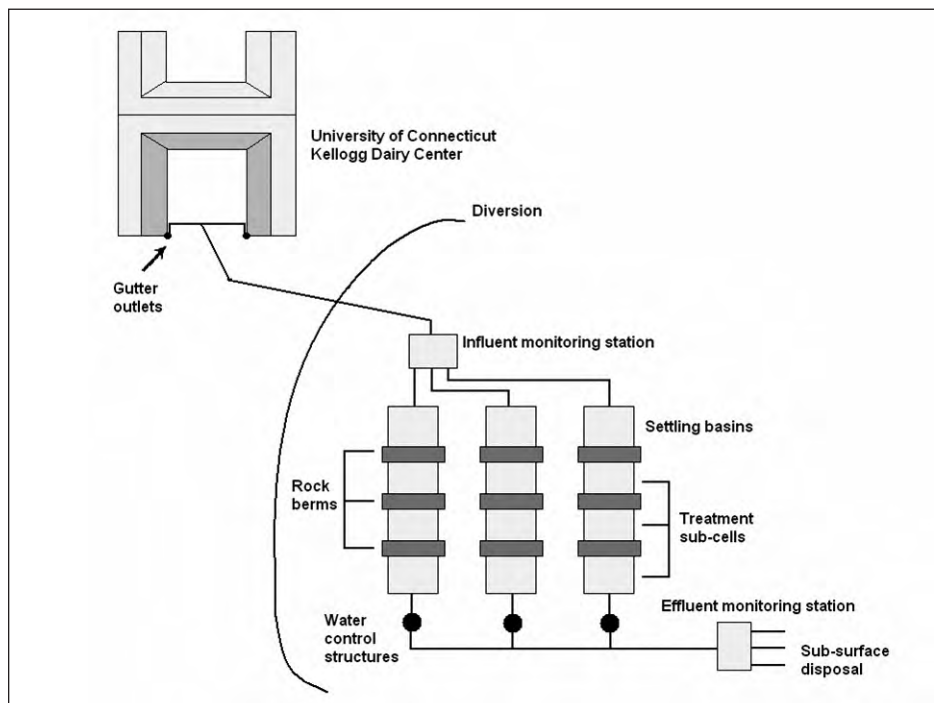


Diagram of the constructed wetland adjacent to the Kellogg Dairy Center.

rainwater runoff from roofs is used as drinking water in many parts of the world, he continues, "I thought, 'What if we converted the current wetland to study how it handles runoff from the KDC's roof?'" With the help of the College's farm services crew, the system was changed and the wetland began to fill with water from the metal roof of the KDC rather than from the milk house.

The results were surprising. Clausen says, "The amount of nitrogen and phosphorous in the water coming off the roof was about ten times higher than we see in rainfall itself. There were so many bacteria in the runoff that it exceeded water quality standards for swimming, let alone drinking."

They tested the roofing material to

observed the resident flock of pigeons that call the KDC home. Clausen became fascinated with pigeons, whose cooing presence is a worldwide issue, with one pigeon for every sixty humans, or a total population of around one hundred million. Pigeons live close to their food, which is provided by human enterprise. Despite efforts to eradicate them with poison, shooting, and elaborate roof structures, pigeons continue to thrive as long as there is food and a place to roost.

The water entering the wetland was contaminated with *E. coli* from pigeon droppings.

Measurements were taken of the amount of *E. coli* in the water entering the wetland and of the amount coming out. It seemed that the artificial

other sources such as dairy cows housed at the KDC. They are now investigating the use of bacterial source tracking (BST) or microbial source tracking (MST), methods to identify the DNA of bacteria that can pinpoint the culprits.

Once engaged in studying the genetics of bacteria, Clausen found an additional area of investigation. The team began a substudy to compare the efficacy of a vegetative wetland, one covered with the common reed (*Phragmites australis*), an invasive plant that gobbles up any wet spot,

"The amount of nitrogen and phosphorous in the water coming off the roof was about ten times higher than we see in rainfall itself.

There were so many bacteria in the runoff that it exceeded water quality standards for swimming, let alone drinking."

Jack Clausen
Professor, Department of
Natural Resources and
Management Engineering

were gone, the measurements began. The data revealed that it wasn't the vegetation that was removing the *E. coli* from the wetland. Further studies will test for other possible causes of the bacteria removal, including ultraviolet light, protozoa grazing, and the bacteria settling into the sediment.

Says Clausen, "Pigeons are actually an under-appreciated source of pollution

throughout the world, and roof runoff should be tested before people use it for drinking purposes."



Pigeons on the Kellogg Dairy Center's roof.

Farming is a risky business

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that balance the long-term productivity and profitability of the land resources with the needs of the community and the ecosystem over time are essential to any plan. These issues are at the core of what sustainable agriculture is all about.

Connecticut's farmers face many obstacles on their road to success, and they must use many tools to achieve and maintain success. One such tool is risk management. Farm risk management is about mitigating possible negative consequences of the uncertainties inherent in the business of agriculture by choosing among alternatives that best allocate scarce resources to achieve the desired result.

The first step in farm risk management is to understand the general sources of risk that the business can face. One source of risk is production risk. Production on a farm implies an expected harvest. Factors that can negatively affect the expected harvest include weather, pests, diseases, and quality of inputs. Another source of risk is marketing. This area deals with uncertainty related to the price that farmers receive for their products or pay for inputs. Financial concerns are also source of risk. Financial risk considers the impact of the cost and availability of capital and the ability of the farm to maintain an expected level of profitability. Human resources are another source of risk. This area is

concerned with the availability and management of labor and family members in the business. The final area of risk is legal risk. Issues here include tort liability; tax and estate planning; contractual arrangements; and statutory compliance, including environmental regulations.

The next step in risk management is to set goals and objectives and determine which areas of risk may prohibit or hinder growers from achieving those goals and objectives. Farmers deal with varying sources and levels of risk; each situation is unique and each grower must decide how to best manage the risks of his or her particular business. Each grower must gather information and analyze it carefully and must measure his or her own tolerance for risk. Some farmers are risk takers, some are risk avoiders, and many fall somewhere in between.

The final step in risk management is to develop strategies or combinations of strategies to manage the potential impact of the sources of risks on the business based on the farmer's risk tolerance. One strategy farmers can use is to shift part of the risk to others. One way of shifting a risk would be the use of insurance. Farmers can also decide to reduce the impact of a particular risk. For example, the potential risk of insufficient rain could be reduced by putting in an irrigation system. Some farmers could



Twilight meeting of the Connecticut Women's Agriculture Network (WAgN) at Woodbridge Farm in July 2007. WAgN, a partner organization of the Connecticut Farm Risk Management Team, offers educational programming and networking opportunities to support women in starting, sustaining, and supporting agricultural endeavors.

also decide to avoid a particular risk. One example of avoiding a risk would be to stop growing a particular crop due to annual losses. Conversely, a farmer may decide to retain a particular source of risk. Here, the farmer feels that the expected return outweighs any risks associated with growing the crop. Lastly, sometimes farmers decide to self-insure, inferring that emergency reserves are available to handle any losses.

Over time, I believe, the successful farmer is one who clearly understands the risks associated with the business and takes steps to mitigate those risks by addressing them promptly, making adjustments in the business as needed. Farmers make decisions every day that affect their business in one way or another. Some risks cannot be eliminated short of getting out of the business. Some risks can be reduced or eliminated with proper decision making strategies and risk management. In order to deal with production risks, for example, many farmers have diversified their

operations. While one crop might be wiped out by a drought, another crop might do well. Marketing and financial risks have been addressed by many here in Connecticut in marketing directly to the consumer. Many producers are now selling their products at farmer's markets, and the Connecticut Farm-to-Chef program is expanding. The introduction of sustainable agricultural practices on many farms continues as growers see the value in managing their farms in a way that balances the relationship between profitability, environmental conservation, and the needs of the community.

Since 2001, the University of Connecticut, in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, with funding from the USDA Risk Management Agency, has conducted a comprehensive risk management education program. Learn more about the program by visiting the Connecticut Farm Risk Management and Crop Insurance Web site at www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu.

Animal scientist receives award for service

By Kim Colavito Markesich

Cameron Faustman, associate dean for academic programs and professor of animal science, was recently awarded the 2008 American Meat Science Association (AMSA) Signal Service Award. The award, sponsored by Keystone Foods, Elanco Animal Health, and Johnsonville Sausage, is given in recognition for long-time service and contribution to the AMSA and the meat industry.

Says Faustman, "It's wonderful to be honored by my professional colleagues and by the American Meat Science Association. I've worked with fellow members in research, extension, and teaching activities and have benefited

immensely from those associations."

The American Meat Science Association is the leading professional organization providing meat science education and professional development. The AMSA also serves as a forum for commercial, academic, government, and consumer interests in the area of meat science, processing, and marketing.

The AMSA Signal Service Award was first presented in 1956. All Signal Service Award winners—current, past, and future—are granted Fellow status in the American Meat Science Association.

The 2008 awards reception was held on June 24, during the annual AMSA Reciprocal Meat Conference.



New dean brings wealth of teaching, research, and administrative experience

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Weidemann's path to the deanship began in Arkansas when he was asked to participate in a leadership program. He quickly learned how to handle administrative tasks, which he enjoyed.

"In administration, the rewards are different. I enjoy working to help someone else be successful," he says.

His experience has led him to discover ways to do everything from streamlining faculty reporting systems to working with a donation of intellectual property valued in excess of \$20 million. Whether looking at student involvement, development and alumni programs, or international and service learning opportunities, Weidemann has ideas and plans to implement them as conditions permit.

His previous positions have given him broad experience in teaching and research and he looks forward to working with the Cooperative Extension System, the sole area he has not worked with directly. He looks forward to working with this large and diverse program.

As dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture, Food and Life Sciences and associate vice president for academic programs, Weidemann provided leadership for the reorganization of its International Agriculture Programs.

"International experiences should be an area of emphasis. We live in a global economy. The world is truly a small place. Students are transformed by international exposure," he enthusiastically asserts.

While at the University of Arkansas, Weidemann participated in a campaign that raised nearly \$100 million for the Division of Agriculture and the College. He acknowledges that agriculture is very big in Arkansas, but expresses his eagerness to pursue development opportunities in Connecticut.

"It is an important role for the dean to play. The name of the game today is private funding. I am



Dean Gregory Weidemann with Samantha Morse, animal science/pre-vet major and Garrett Thomas, plant science/landscape architecture major. Photo by Sue Schadt.

interested in relationship-building and getting people excited about what the College is doing," he said.

Weidemann acknowledges the important role of alumni in the College. "They are the best cheerleaders we can have. I find them very energizing. I want them to be excited about the College's programs."

One program the new dean would like to implement is a "college ambassador" program. In Arkansas, each student ambassador receives a small scholarship for participating in College

recruitment events and helping at social functions. Weidemann also started a student advisory board that gave students a voice through the dean's office back to the faculty.

"Students felt they were more involved in their own destiny when they had some input into the programs," says Weidemann.

Weidemann moved to Connecticut with his wife, Rozanne, a former schoolteacher. "We were at a point in time in our lives when we were ready for a change. It was fortuitous that this

opportunity came along. We are both excited about it," he adds.

For the next few months, Weidemann will travel the length and breadth of the state, getting to know more about the people who work for the College and who use its services. His work will complement the new hobby he shares with his wife—getting out to see New England and all it has to offer.

Every dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has come from the Midwest or the south. In keeping with tradition, Gregory Weidemann, a plant pathologist who has transplanted himself to Connecticut's rocky soil, will leave his own mark on the College and its faculty, staff, students, and alumni in the years to come.

"When I looked at the College, I was pleasantly surprised to see how well focused and well integrated [it is] for Connecticut. The programs have been thoughtfully evolved. Any vision of mine will be based on the collective vision of the College"

Gregory Weidemann

Dean and Director, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Allied Health Sciences offers new post-baccalaureate certificate in health promotion

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In addition, students may choose from several other course electives, including:

- Research Methods in Allied Health
- Environmental Health
- Health and Aging
- Nutrition for Healthy Communities

Students will examine major health behaviors such as physical activity, diet, and smoking and the subsequent effects on population

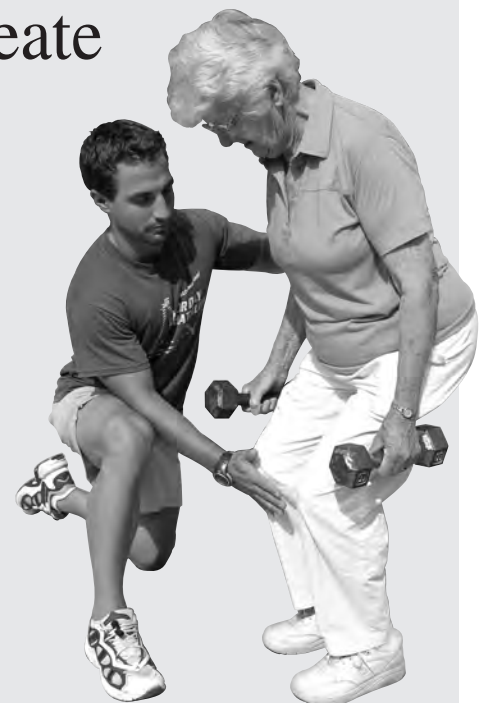
health and will develop an understanding of social and cultural influences that affect behavior and health.

"The program will give students a working knowledge of health promotion, program evaluation, and scientific research," says Faghri. "Students will design and develop interventions and programs based on individual and community assessments to effect change at individual, community, organization, and policy levels."

Graduates may find positions

within various settings, including county health departments; consumer advocacy organizations; international organizations; wellness programs; hospitals; federal, state and local health agencies; disease management firms; and consulting firms.

Students may enroll on a part-time or full-time basis. For more information about the program, please contact the Department of Allied Health Sciences at (860) 486-2834.



Recent grants

Andrew, S., Use of ultrasound technology to reduce intramammary infections in heifers during the pre-partum period, George Walker Milk Research Fund, 3/15/2008–2/31/2008, \$20,250, new.

Barclay, J., Moose (*Alces alces*) ecology and public perceptions about moose in Connecticut, CT DEP, 8/31/2007–5/31/2009, \$29,275, new.

Barclay, J., Wildlife assessment: Surveillance of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and distribution of New England cottontails (NEC) (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*) in Connecticut, CT DEP, 5/31/2008–5/31/2010, \$109,508, new.

Beeman, S., FSNE Administration, USDA FNS, 10/1/2007–9/30/2008, \$170,835, new.

Broderick, S., The Coverts Project in Connecticut, CT DEP, 10/1/2008–9/30/2009, \$5,000, continuation.

Broderick, S., Cooperative agreement between the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. and the University of Connecticut, US DOI National Park Service, 10/1/2007–6/30/2008, \$90,000, continuation.

Broderick, S., Cooperative agreement between the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. and the University of Connecticut, US DOI National Park Service, 1/1/2007–11/30/2007, \$126,077, continuation.

Bushmich, S., Avian influenza live bird market surveillance 2008, USDA, 2/1/2008–1/31/2009, \$171,476, renewal.

Carter, M., Derivation of germline competent rabbit embryonic stem cell lines (Phase I), NIH, 3/4/2008–4/30/2009, \$13,964, supplement.

Carter, M., Production of transgenic rabbits expressing human CD4 and CCR5 for the development of microbicides to prevent HIV infection of women, Evergen Biotechnologies, Inc, 5/1/2008–4/30/2009, \$61,557, new.

Civco, D., Fifth International Workshop on the Analysis of Multi-Temporal Remote Sensing Imagery, US EPA, 2/1/2008–12/31/2009, \$15,442, new.

Civco, D., Mapping of key habitats for species of greatest conservation need, CT DEP, 4/1/2008–4/30/2009, \$85,992, new.

Coble, D., Is CIS reaching Connecticut Native Americans? Understanding cancer information seeking, NIH National Cancer Institute, 11/1/2007–10/31/2008, \$5,450, continuation.

Cournoyer, M., Youth In Action Grant, Cumberland Farms, 3/28/2008–10/3/2008, \$1,400, new.

Deguisse, S., Immunomodulatory effects of domoic acid in California sea lions and southern sea otters, Morris Animal Foundation, 9/1/2007–8/31/2008, \$44,961, new.

Drake, L., FSNE Food Security, USDA FNS, 10/1/2007–9/30/2008, \$108,608, new.

Elliott, G., Horticultural evaluation of COWpots, USDA CSREES, 2/1/2008–8/31/2009, \$76,425, new.

Ellis, D., Noxious weeds work plan for calendar year 2008, USDA APHIS, 1/1/2008–12/31/2008, \$5,500, renewal.

Ellis, D., Biocontrol work plan for calendar year 2008, USDA APHIS, 1/1/2008–12/31/2008, \$9,350, renewal.

Ellis, D., Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) work plan for calendar year 2008, CT Agricultural Experiment Station, 1/1/2008–12/31/2008, \$14,847, renewal.

Fernandez, M., Eggs: Potential for dual protection, American Egg Board, 1/1/2008–4/1/2009, \$67,184, new.

Ferris, A., Evaluating changes to the local food environment, Donaghue Medical Research Foundation, 9/1/2007–10/31/2008, \$25,445, new.

Ferris, A., FSNE Food Stamp Connections, USDA FNS, 10/1/2007–9/30/2008, \$650,137, new.

Frasca, S., Collaborative program in aquatic pathobiology with New England Aquarium, New England Aquarium, 5/23/2008–5/22/2009, \$11,903, continuation.

Frasca, S., Advanced animal vaccine research subproject, USDA ARS, 5/14/2006–5/14/2007, \$33,632, supplement.

Fridell, Y-W., Putative *Drosophila* uncoupling proteins and aging, NIH National Institute on Aging, 5/1/2008–4/30/2009, \$115,654, continuation.

Fridell, Y-W., A UCP2 transgenic model for glucose metabolism and aging, NIH National Institute on Aging, 5/1/2008–4/30/2009, \$183,221, continuation.

Gorton, T., Advanced animal vaccine research subproject, USDA ARS, 5/14/2006–5/14/2007, \$42,012, continuation.

Gray, P., Bishop's Fund for Children, Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, 5/1/2008–4/30/2009, \$5,000, new.

Grillo, M., The 4-H Horticultural Program, New Haven Board of Education, 1/29/2008–6/30/2008, \$22,500, renewal.

Guillard, K., Nitrogen fertilizer reductions on coastal lawns through training and education, US EPA, 10/1/2007–12/31/2009, \$50,000, new.

Henderson, J., The effects of organic management practices on the quality and playability of athletic fields, New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, 5/1/2008–4/30/2009, \$22,330, new.

Johnston, R., Meta-analysis and benefit transfer at different levels of aggregation: Comparing group-averaged and individual-level models using hierarchical Bayesian methods., US EPA, 9/1/2007–3/31/2009, \$27,929, new.

Kaminski, J., Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network, USDA CSREES, 7/1/2007–6/30/2008, \$35,000, renewal.

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New head appointed for Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

By Kim Colavito Markesich

After a rigorous national search, Rigoberto Lopez was chosen to head the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. His appointment officially began August 23.

Lopez received a degree in agronomy at the Pan American Agricultural School in Honduras and BS and PhD degrees in food and resource economics at the University of Florida. He served as assistant and associate professor at Rutgers University before coming to the University of Connecticut in 1990 as associate professor. Lopez became full professor in 1996 and has served as interim department head since January 2007.

There are currently eight full-time faculty in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, which has been ranked in the top twenty nationwide. Lopez hopes to raise that ranking over the next few years and to double the department's undergraduate enrollment.

He says, "We want to serve the citizens of the state. I want to strengthen our extension outreach and treat Connecticut as our campus. We need to have critical mass to accomplish this mission of providing economic and business analysis to the agricultural industries as well as preserving the quality of natural resources."

Lopez is considered one of the leading agricultural economists in the United States, particularly in food marketing and public policy. He has conducted local outreach

and international outreach in Africa, Central America, and Spain and has consistently published in the top journals of the profession. Lopez has mentored numerous graduate students, some of whom have won national awards and are professors in leading agricultural economics departments such as Rutgers, Penn State, and Texas Tech.

Says Kirklyn Kerr, the College's dean until this past June, "Dr. Lopez was selected to be the new department head after an intensive and thorough national search. This shows the great confidence and support he has from his fellow colleagues in the department and in the College. We are excited about the new enthusiasm he brings toward enhancing and broadening the department goals and towards team building."

We are one of the oldest departments in the College," Lopez says. "We have a rich history dating back to the 1920s. We have endured a long time and simply have to adapt to emerging critical issues."



Rigoberto Lopez, head of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Photo by Sue Schadt.

For example, department faculty members are currently conducting research on the economics of alternative biofuels and on public policy aimed at the obesity epidemic. Lopez hopes to recruit additional faculty and funding by addressing these types of pressing economic issues within the land-grant mission and University and College academic plans.

The nature of agricultural and resource economics lends itself to varied collaborations with other College departments. "We are a small department in terms of the number of faculty, but we do play a critical role," Lopez notes. "We are uniquely positioned within the College to be a nexus between the biological and physical sciences and the social and policy sciences."

"I feel honored to have been chosen by the search committee," says Lopez. "My appointment demonstrates the commitment of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to diversity. I believe I am the first department head in the College to be of Hispanic origin."

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to strengthen the department by elevating teaching, research, and extension programs to the next level," Lopez says. "I would like to see our department become one of the top fifteen departments of agricultural and resource economics in the country."

"We want to serve the citizens of the state. I want to strengthen our extension outreach and treat Connecticut as our campus. We need to have critical mass to accomplish this mission of providing economic and business analysis to the agricultural industries as well as preserving the quality of natural resources."

Rigoberto Lopez
Head of Department of
Agricultural and Resource
Economics



Rigoberto Lopez works with agricultural and resource economics graduate students Jenna Castle, left, and Michael Cohen, right.

Extension educator offers special needs nutritional counseling

By Kim Colavito Markesich

For parents dealing with a child's life-threatening metabolic condition, monitoring the child's diet may feel overwhelming. Sharon Gray, extension educator in residence, assists these families through nutritional counseling.

For the past thirteen years, Gray has counseled at the UConn Health Center Health Partners and with the Health Center's Division of Human Genetics. She is also a community nutrition outreach educator at the West Hartford Extension Center.

"Working at the Health Center is a nice blend of clinical, community, and extension practice," says Gray. "It really does pull together all the facets of public health."

Gray's interest in metabolic disorders began while she pursued a master's degree in public health at the University of California, Berkeley. She then spent seven years as a registered dietitian with Boston Children's Hospital.

Funded through a Connecticut Department of Public Health grant for screening newborns, Gray counsels 140 patients who range in age from infant to geriatric. Half her patients suffer from phenylketonuria, or PKU, and the remainder are in treatment for a broad variety of metabolic conditions. PKU is a rare inherited metabolic disease that results in mental retardation and other neurological problems if treatment is not started within the first few weeks of life. When treatment is begun early and well maintained, affected children can expect a normal development and normal life span, but they must eat a special diet lifelong.

Once a diagnosis is made, Gray provides the patient and family with nutritional counseling that includes information on meal planning and preparation, dietary supplementation, and specialty foods. She also works with patients in tracking

blood tests and health status, insurance, and financial issues. Supplements and special foods are a major expense for families.

"I enjoy specialty nutrition, including nutrition for pregnancy, pediatrics, and geriatrics," Gray says. "I like the progression of following people for a long time."

In addition to counseling, Gray works with a team to plan educational and social activities for families. This year, an event will be held at Beardsley Zoo that will include a low-protein buffet for the PKU population. Every other year, the team offers a weekend camp at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, hosting over 100 people. Students from the College's Department of Nutritional Sciences assist with the event. Organizers raise funds to cover the cost of the weekend events, speakers, and specialty foods and hire a cook who must be trained to prepare the meals.

Once or twice a year, Gray offers a cooking school at St. Joseph's College in West Hartford, where children are taught cooking skills to help them with their special diets.

These events are designed to be educational, but they also provide much-needed social support to reduce the isolation felt by children and families dealing with these unique disorders.

Gray is especially concerned about reaching the PKU population as they reach adolescence, when they tend to relax their diets. PKU patients must maintain their diets throughout their lifetime, or they risk neurological and psychological problems such as a drop in IQ, behavior problems, depression, anxiety, or tremors.

"Most kids who have good family structure do very well," Gray explains. "But once they go off their diet as young adults and taste high-protein food, it's hard to get them back. Developing a support system is vital to these young people."

RHSA Outstanding Senior Woman plans to become a veterinarian

(continued from page 12)

"La-Shawna was one of the top students in my animal nutrition course," says Sheila Andrew, associate professor and extension dairy specialist. "She always asked very thoughtful questions and she was an active participant in classroom discussions. She became a leader in the poultry group course project and was very diligent in collecting the data and analyzing the results. I thoroughly enjoyed having her in my class and I know that she will be successful in her career path."

"I enjoyed [my work at Guiding Eyes for the Blind]. I've heard nothing but good things about the clinic. Everyone seems to love their job here."

La-Shawna Young
Animal Science major



In her volunteer position at Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Young tests for ringworm.

Recent grants

(continued from page 6)

Kerstetter, J., Dietary protein affects calcium and bone metabolism, USDA, 12/1/2007–11/30/2008, \$24,751, continuation.

Kuzovkina-Eischen, J., Pilot phytoremediation of lead contamination at the Mukluk Site, Town of Sprague, US EPA, 2/1/2008–12/31/2008, \$24,960, new.

Legrand, A., Contribution agreement: IPM technical assistance for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, USDA NRCS, 4/10/2008–2/28/2009, \$124,198, new.

Los, L., Integrated pest management and nutrient management demonstration project, US EPA, 1/1/2008–12/31/2008, \$70,000, continuation.

Malley, C., Birth through Five News newsletter, US ED Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, 10/1/2007–9/30/2008, \$57,000, new.

Mccracken, J., Molecular mediators of luteolysis in sheep, USDA CSREES, 9/23/2003–11/30/2006, \$246,603, new.

Miller, D., Jornada data analysis, US DOD/Army, 1/15/2007–1/14/2009, \$97,739, continuation.

Morris, T., Analysis of field-trial data to begin development of nitrogen fertilizer recommendations based on field history and cornstalk nitrate values, Iowa Soybean Association, 10/1/2007–9/30/2008, \$59,905, new.

Perez-Escamilla, R., C. Peter Magrath/W.K. Kellogg Foundation Engagement Award, National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, 10/1/2007–9/30/2008, \$6,000, new.

Perez-Escamilla, R., FSNE Hispanic Family Nutrition, USDA FNS, 10/1/2007–9/30/2008, \$656,564, new.

Pomeroy, R., Development of alternatives to the use of freshwater low value fish for aquaculture in the Lower Mekong Basin of Cambodia and Vietnam: Implications for livelihoods, production and market, US AID, 4/1/2007–9/30/2009, \$97,579, New.

Prisloe, M., Development of Connecticut Environmental Conditions Online (CT-CO), CT DEP, 3/1/2008–4/30/2009, \$358,442, new.

Rasmussen, T., Developmental regulation of macroH2A1 chromatin assembly, NIH National Institute on Aging, 2/15/2008–12/31/2008, \$247,543, continuation.

Robbins, G., Detailed hydraulic assessment using a high-resolution piezocene coupled to the GEOVIS, US DOD/Navy, 5/19/2004–4/30/2009, \$199,977, continuation.

Rodriguez, N., Milk's impact on protein turnover-specific intracellular signaling proteins (ISP's) in human skeletal muscle during recovery from endurance exercise, National Dairy Council, 11/1/2007–11/30/2008, \$153,522, new.

Rozum, J., Taking the next step toward water quality improvement through education and local implementation of low impact development, US EPA, 1/1/2008–12/31/2008, \$70,000, new.

Rozum, J., Advancing watershed N management at the local level: Incorporating stream reach ecosystem N sinks into an environmental spatial decision support system, USDA CSREES, 9/1/2007–8/31/2008, \$87,000, new.

Silbart, L., Advanced animal vaccine research subproject, USDA ARS, 5/14/2006–5/14/2007, \$71,284, supplement.

Silbart, L., Advanced animal vaccine research subproject, USDA ARS, 5/15/2006–5/14/2007, \$82,174, supplement.

Silbart, L., Advanced animal vaccine research subproject, USDA ARS, 5/15/2006–5/14/2007, \$84,674, supplement.

Silbart, L., Advanced animal vaccine research subproject, USDA ARS, 5/14/2006–5/14/2007, \$93,568, supplement.

Smyth, J., Prevention of necrotic enteritis, Bayer Corporation, 6/1/2008–5/31/2009, \$34,098, continuation.

Taylor, U., Connecticut Sustainable Community Project, USDA CSREES, 5/1/2008–4/30/2009, \$128,430, continuation.

Taylor, U., FSNE 4-H Summer Nutrition, USDA FNS, 10/1/2007–9/30/2008, \$78,062, new.

Vokoun, J., Connecticut Sea Grant College Program Omnibus 2008–2010: Continuing Sea Grant College support for February 2008 through January 2010, US DOC NOAA, 2/1/2008–1/31/2009, \$53,504, renewal.

Vokoun, J., Investigating stream temperature and brook trout population fragmentation: Riverscape genetics in thermally-contrasting headwater stream channel networks in Connecticut, CT DEP, 5/1/2008–4/30/2010, \$72,989, new.

Von Bodman, S., The characterization of the stewartan exopolysaccharide degradative functions embedded in and co-expressed with the CPS stewartan biosynthetic genes, NSF, 7/1/2008–6/30/2009, \$150,000, continuation.

Warner, G., FY 2008 annual application under Section 104 of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984, as Amended, US DOI Geological Survey, 3/1/2008–2/28/2009, \$2,600, renewal.

Westa, S., A Cooperative agreement between the Rhode Island Economic Policy Council and the University of Connecticut Department of Extension, Rhode Island Economic Policy Council, 1/21/2008–12/31/2008, \$30,000, new.

Wilhelm, N., 2007–08 Youth in Action Grants, Cumberland Farms, 1/18/2008–10/17/2008, \$1,400, new.

Wilhelm, N., 2008 4-H Volunteer Initiative Grants, Monsanto Company, 12/7/2007–12/31/2008, \$2,000, new.

Plant Science research farm hosts All-America Selections vegetable trials

By Kim Colavito Markesich

For seventy-five years, the All-America Selections (AAS) vegetable trials have provided superior quality vegetable varieties for commercial and home growers alike. The University of Connecticut has been an All-American trial location since the early years of this competition.

UConn is one of twenty-five trial locations across North America that

include seventeen states and four Canadian provinces. During these trials, breeders from around the world submit their new varieties, which are then produced under a variety of growing and weather conditions. The new varieties are compared to established commercial varieties.

A panel of independent judges with advanced degrees in horticulture or agriculture rate the vegetables based on earliness, yield, taste, fruit quality, ease of harvest, plant habit, and disease and pest resistance. Only the entries achieving the highest scores are considered for an AAS award.

The UConn trials are conducted at the Department of Plant Science Research and Education Facility. Between six and twelve different vegetable varieties are grown each year, including such staples as tomatoes, pumpkins, summer squash, and



'Fairy Tale' eggplant, AAS winner in 2005.



AAS trial at UConn in 2005.

melon, as well as unusual varieties like multicolor radishes. Jude Boucher, extension educator, oversees the program.

Rob Durgy, program assistant with the Department of Plant Science's Home and Garden Education Center until this past July and now research farm manager at the Griswold Agricultural Experiment

Station, has assisted Boucher with the trials. He says, "It's pretty important to the industry to have these trials. This is a very prestigious award for breeders." For more information on All-America Selections, visit their Web site at: <http://www.all-americaselections.org>

First Turfgrass Field Day a great success

The Department of Plant Science's first Turfgrass Field Day drew more than 300 people from throughout New England, including sports turf managers, golf course superintendents, sod farm owners, landscape architects and contractors, industry representatives, and lawn and garden professionals. The event, held July 22 at the Plant Science Research and Education Facility, showcased current research in the areas of golf and sports turf management and nutrient and organic management practices and included demonstrations of the latest equipment by professional turf equipment manufacturers.



Photos by Sue Schadt

CANRWORLD

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

PhD student uses remote sensing to study environmental effects of genocide

By Nancy Weiss

Combine a bright mind with an Ivy League undergraduate education and an interest in the way the world looks from a satellite, add an abiding interest in the effect of resource allocation on human beings and a new-found taste for the law, stir in incredible energy, enthusiasm, and charm, and you have a snapshot of Russell Schimmer.

Schimmer might be called a boy wonder, except he is beyond boyhood and will not burn out in a flash of brilliance. If his current work is any indication, he will stay the course and use his myriad talents in exciting ways. He is combining work on a law degree at the University of Connecticut Law School with the pursuit of a PhD in the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering, on the use of remote sensing in studying environmental impacts of genocide.

After spending his childhood in a small town in Maine, Schimmer made his way to New Haven, where he majored in archeology at Yale. While doing fieldwork at the Henry Whitfield House in Guilford, he began to assemble aerial photos, old maps, and geologic references. He digitized the information and wrote a paper his senior year on how the landscape had changed once the first settlers arrived.

Schimmer's work caught the eye of one of his advisors at Yale, Professor Robert Gordon. During Schimmer's senior year, Gordon suggested he take an introductory course in remote sensing and look into the effects of copper mine tailings. Using remote sensing, they could study how waste material from mining operations gets into the environment. Soon Schimmer was off to the Baghdad Copper Mine in Arizona to document the entire process of mining the ore, extracting the copper, and depositing the tailings, which are highly acidic. This November, he'll be giving a paper on his research at Pecora 17, a remote sensing symposium sponsored by NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey.

"I'm very interested in how large-scale resource extraction companies affect developing countries," Schimmer said in a recent interview after a quick trip to Southeast Asia to

look at mining operations there.

His mind began to ruminate on whether the West can set a better example of how to deal with environmental waste. He wondered whether legal and environmental monitoring might help determine why some practices are so destructive to countries and some are less so. He observed the roles

training to ask questions. First, in terms of understanding the events, were there people who saw what happened? And second, could he see changes in the environment from the satellite photos?

He observed the "Pompeii effect" in the countries he studied. The changes were abrupt and dramatic,

[index.html#schimmer](#).

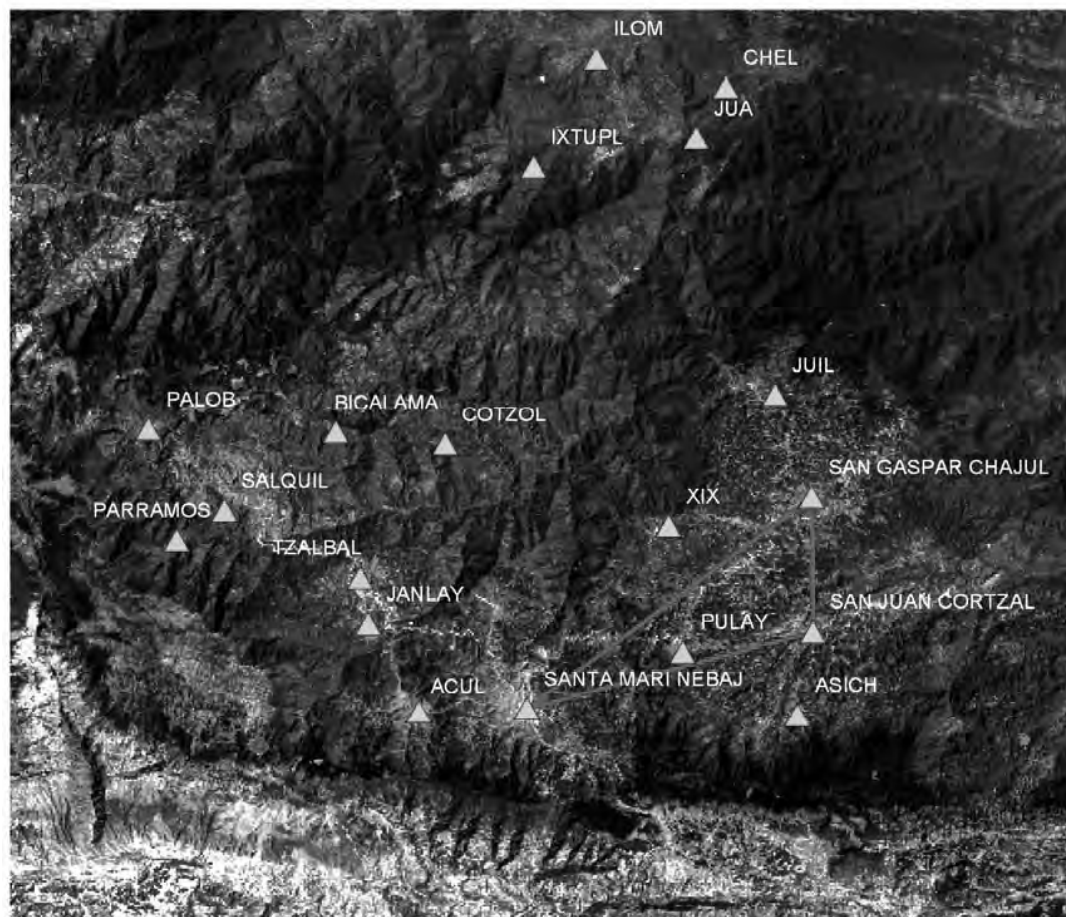
According to Schimmer, the study of Darfur has broad implications. "Remote sensing is an amazing way to actually understand how to manage land resources. What I am hoping will come from the Darfur project is a way to quantify the effects of land use. We can see the impact of livestock, with the effects of declining rainfall. Perhaps we can better manage how the resource, i.e. grazing land, is being used, which leads to competition for declining resources. Ultimately this type of competition can lead to conflict," he adds.

To prove genocide, one needs to show a target group, an intent to destroy that group, and a large-scale system of violence against that group. Remote sensing, which documents the time when changes occur in a way that is incontestable, can be part of the body of evidence proving genocide. Schimmer notes that as NASA releases all the land satellite images taken for the last three decades, there will be volumes of new information for scientists to study.

Schimmer heard about the work of Dan Civco, professor in the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering and director of the Center for Remote Sensing, from a former student of Civco's who now runs the Center for Earth Observation at Yale. The UConn program is well known and Schimmer thought perhaps he

could convince the UConn Law School and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to accept him in a dual degree program. A conversation with Associate Professor Tom Meyer convinced Schimmer to apply to the PhD program. The Law School's Dean Kurt Strasser was enthusiastic about the idea, and Schimmer was launched on his ambitious way.

Now that he has completed one year of law school, and despite commuting each day on I-91 from New Haven to Hartford and then to Storrs, Russ Schimmer is enthusiastic about his work. His drive to gather all the credentials he needs in life to use his skills effectively is admirable. He is a young man from whom more great things will come.



This 1986 Landsat TM image shows the locations of towns and villages in the Department of El Quiché, Guatemala, where acts of genocide occurred during the implementation of Guatemalan President Efraín Ríos Montt's "scorched earth" strategy, 1982–1983. The triangle shows the location of the "Ixil Triangle," an area heavily impacted by the violence. Image courtesy of Genocide Studies Program (www.yale.edu/gsp).

of the mining companies, native governments, the military, the church, and nongovernmental organizations in the lives of the people who work for large mining interests. He formed the opinion that some U.S. companies are trying to improve the lives of native people, but the process is slow and difficult.

As Schimmer's ideas were coalescing on copper and gold mining during the same period, he was hired by Ben Kiernan, director of the Genocide Studies Program at Yale, to see if the techniques of remote sensing could be applied to documenting genocide around the world. They whittled down the twenty places in their study to three: Guatemala, East Timor, and Rwanda.

Schimmer used his archeological

frozen in time, and could be documented using the satellite images. As resolution of the images became finer, it was possible to show when significant changes had occurred. He asked the follow-up question of whether there could be reasons other than genocide to explain the alterations, including the effects of climate and resource extraction, such as agriculture and even mining. All of his training was coming together to take him in an innovative direction.

Between 2006 and 2008, Schimmer published four working papers on using remote sensing to track genocide in the former Yugoslavia, Guatemala, Rwanda, East Timor, and Darfur. The papers are posted on the Web at www.yale.edu/gsp/publications/

New guide offers self-guided tour of Storrs Campus's unusual trees



By Patsy Evans
 Writer/Editor
 Communications and Information Technology

In a state that is over 50 percent forested, people sometimes disregard trees. A new *Campus Tree Touring Guide*, which highlights forty of UConn's unusual trees, might make a visitor stop and observe the giant sequoia.

Professor of Plant Science Mark Brand wrote the walking guide and picked the trees and route with help from the University's Arboretum Committee, which he co-chairs. The brochure describes each tree and shows its campus location. The entire circuit, designed to start and end at the Lodewick Visitors Center, takes about an hour. However, the self-guided aspect of the tour allows anyone to start anywhere and see as much as he or she likes.

Plant enthusiasts who also enjoy frozen dairy products are encouraged to look at, but not climb, Number 32. *Kalopanax septemlobus (pictus)*, the listed tree nearest the UConn Dairy Bar. This tropical-looking Asian plant blooms in ice cream season* and has large thorns on its branches.

Pick up the free *Campus Tree Touring Guide* at the Resource Center Store (Room 2, W.B. Young Building on the Storrs campus, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday) or the Lodewick Visitors Center (115 North Eagleville Road). To access the guide any time, download the pdf from <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/arboretum/walk.pdf>.

The giant sequoia, by the way, is located in the Torrey Life Sciences courtyard, which protects the tree from drying winter winds.

* with apologies to Dr. Brand



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Pathways



University of
Connecticut
College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UCANRAA Sale and Auction

UCANRAA seeks to raise \$100,000 in scholarship support



2007 UCANRAA Auction: Left to right: Richard Mancini, assistant professor of animal science and UCANRAA board member; Amy Hanaburgh, director of development; and John Bennett, farm manager and auctioneer. Photo by Sue Schadt.

Over the last eleven years, UCANRAA has hosted an annual auction and sale to raise scholarship support for CANR students. Thanks to the hard work of our alumni and the generosity of our supporters, the UCANRAA Endowed Scholarship Fund has grown to nearly \$80,000 and has supported numerous students. To keep up with the costs of higher education and the increased enrollment in the College, UCANRAA is seeking to raise an additional \$20,000 over the next two years to bring their endowment to \$100,000. At this level the endowment will generate approximately \$6,000 per year in perpetuity for scholarship support.

The UCANRAA Board will be accepting donations to the auction until October 1. Please join us on October 5 and help us to reach our goal. For more information about the auction or how to make a donation, please contact Alan Morris at (860) 462-0103 or Jane Slupecki at jslupecki@cox.net.

Calendar of events

October 5	Cornucopia Fundraising Sale and Auction Sale 11:00 a.m., auction 1:00 p.m., Young Building quad
October 25	Homecoming For details, visit the Alumni Association Web site at www.uconnalumni.com
November 12	UCANRAA welcome back reception for Career Night participants 4:40 p.m.– 5:30 p.m., Wilbur Cross Building Rotunda CANR Career Night 5:30 p.m., Wilbur Cross North Reading Room
November 7	UCANRAA Annual Meeting 6:00 p.m., UConn Alumni House

Nominees sought for Distinguished Alumni Award

The University of Connecticut Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association (UCANRAA) announces the opportunity to nominate a colleague, friend, or former classmate for a Distinguished Alumni Award. Since 1987, UCANRAA has been presenting these awards at the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet.

To submit a nomination, please follow the guidelines below.

Send your nomination by September 22 to:
Peter Wolcott
91 Marvin Rd.
Colchester, CT 06415

Or email it to Brandon Hyde at bdh401@yahoo.com.

Questions? Phone
(860) 537-3230 or
(860) 303-6380

Guidelines for UCANRAA Distinguished Alumni Award

Nominees should have a BS, MS, or PhD degree from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources or a certificate or AAS degree from the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture.

- The nominee does not need to be a member of UCANRAA, which is a constituent of the UConn Alumni Association.
- The nominee must be living at the time of selection.
- Current members of the faculty and staff and current members of UCANRAA Board of Directors are ineligible.
- No more than five individuals shall be selected in any one year.
- Nominees should have demonstrated one or more of the following:
 - a) Achievement and excellence in their profession
 - b) Significant interest in and contributions to agriculture and resources programs at the University
 - c) Leadership in the community.
- Nominees can represent a wide range of careers representing the wide interests of the departments within the College: Production agriculture, business, education, government, environment, economics, consumer and community service.
- Nominees may be contacted by the awards committee for more information.
- When submitting a nomination, please provide the class year if possible, the reasons your nominee should be selected, and contact information for both of you.

Annual Spignesi banquet and auction raises \$30,000 for scholarships and programs

On June 14, for the first time since its inception, the James V. Spignesi Jr. Sportsmen's Banquet and Auction was held at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. The annual event has become so successful that it has outgrown its original venue, the firehouse in Scotland, Connecticut. More than 300 people attended this year's Louisiana-style barbecue. The hard work and dedication of the Connecticut Conservation Law Officers Association (CCOA) was evident in the extensive array of auction items and door prizes. More than \$30,000 was raised that evening to support scholarships and programs in Spignesi's memory.

"Jim is one of ours and will forever live on as an alumnus of our College. I am deeply touched by the impact Jim had on the lives of others and his dedication to a life of service. The College and our alumni are proud to celebrate his life and think it only fitting we do so here at UConn," said Dean Kirklyn Kerr.

James V. Spignesi, Jr., was shot and killed while on duty as a Connecticut conservation law officer on November 20, 1998. Spignesi was the first conservation officer in the Department of Environmental Protection's 131-year history to be killed in the line of duty. Throughout his career, Spignesi dedicated himself to managing and protecting Connecticut's natural resources.

RHSA Outstanding Senior Woman plans to become a veterinarian

By Kim Colavito Markesich

La-Shawna Young was selected as the 2008 Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture Outstanding Senior Woman. Cameron Faustman, associate dean for academic programs and director of the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture, presented the award to Young during a ceremony this past May.

Young, an animal science major, graduated with a 3.7 grade point average. She has been accepted into the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and plans to major in animal science, possibly minoring in Spanish. She hopes to become a veterinarian.

She says, "I have always had a passion for animals and children. I've also considered a career as a pediatrician."

Young is particularly interested in companion animals and other small animals, although since arriving in Storrs, she has also developed

an interest in horses and larger animals. Young showed a cow at the Block and Bridle Club's annual Little International Livestock and Horse Show. "It was quite an experience," Young exclaims. "I had never been around farm animals." She plans to take horseback riding in the fall.

This past summer, in addition to working as an assistant pool supervisor at the Franklin D. Roosevelt New York State Park, Young volunteered at the Guiding Eyes for the Blind veterinary clinic in Yorktown Heights, New York.

"I enjoyed it," Young says. "I've heard nothing but good things about the clinic. Everyone seems to love their job here."

As a student at UConn, Young is



Young examines a dog's teeth at Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

a member of the ballroom and Surya dance clubs. She has received several awards, including the Ratcliffe Hicks Award of Excellence, the Ratcliffe Hicks Heritage Scholarship, Frances

E. Osborne Kellogg Foundation Scholarship, New York Farmers Scholarship, and the Smyrski Farm Scholarship.

(continued on page 7)

CORNUCOPIA

Sunday, October 5, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fest 2008

Come spend a fun and informative day at your College of Agriculture and Natural Resources! The fourteenth annual **Cornucopia Fest** will be held **Sunday, October 5**, at the University of Connecticut, Route 195 and North Eagleville Road in Storrs. **Exhibits and demonstrations from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., alumni sale at 11:00, auction at 1:00. New this year:** Learn how to compare costs of heating with oil, wood, pellets, natural gas, propane, coal and electricity • Connecticut Humane Society pet adoption • See how ice cream is made with a guided tour of the UConn Creamery • And, see live birds of prey • Fescue to the rescue: low-maintenance lawns • How much is enough? Environmentally, socially and economically responsible alternatives in today's lifestyle • Chicken BBQ • Talk to our scientists • Watch the Cornucopia Cup polo match • Take a guided hike in the UConn Forest • Ask the Vet • Bring your ailing plants to be diagnosed by the Plant Doctor • Bring a half cup of garden or lawn soil for a FREE pH test • Take a hayride • Visit the Hort Show • Bid at the auction • See antique farm equipment and horse carriages • Visit the farms • Have an ice cream cone at the Dairy Bar • and much more! **Admission is FREE and EVERYONE is invited!** Visit www.cag.uconn.edu for more information.

