Dear alumni and friends,

Communication is essential to fulfilling our mission as a land grant institution. In response to recent alumni and donor survey results, the College has determined electronic communication alone does not enable the College to stay connected with our alumni and supporters. While we will continue to utilize electronic and social media as tools of communication, we are happy to reintroduce Pathways as an annual magazine highlighting our alumni, supporters and College activities. We hope you will enjoy this publication and contribute to future editions. Your support and engagement continues to cultivate the growth and many successes of the College.

This fall, Cornucopia was once again a great success on a picture perfect New England day. Members of the UConn community and general public had the opportunity to learn a bit about what we do in our College to serve Connecticut citizens.

Our fall has been highlighted by the rededication of the Young Building on October 11. More than 200 faculty, staff, alumni and friends turned out to celebrate the reopening of the newly renovated building. W.B. Young's daughters along with several other family members attended to help us celebrate this event. Attendees received prints of a painting of the building presented by Norm Freyer (class of 1958). Two spaces in the building were named to honor generous gifts by Don (class of 1954) and Gail Maynard and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association. The event provided a great opportunity to celebrate the long-awaited face lift to this signature building.

Later that evening, Herm Weingart received the UConn Alumni Association Service Award for his dedicated service to UConn and our College for many years and Dr. Morty Ortega received the Undergraduate Teaching Award. That same weekend, Dr. Nancy Bull was inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame in recognition of her lifetime of service to 4-H.

In November, Dr. Jack Clausen attended the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) annual meeting to receive the USDA Teaching Award for the Northeast Region and Dr. Cathy Love received the newly created Pharos Award from the APLU Commission on Access, Diversity and Excellence to recognize her lifetime commitment to addressing issues of diversity, access and success.

Dean Gregory Weidemann

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- Lynne Warren, President, Master Gardener Assoc. CMGA
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Spotlights
Extension Update
Donor Report

PATHWAYS Fall 2013

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PATHWAYS is published annually by the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources and sent to alumni & friends of the college.

ON THE COVER:
Ribbon cutting at the W.B. Young Building Rededication, October 11, 2013. Left to right: Steve Reviczky, Connecticut Commissioner of Agriculture; Marna Young Thoma, daughter of W.B. Young; Dean Gregory Weidemann; and Provost Mun Choi

Dean Weidemann stands with Norman Freyer ’58, an artist who generously donated his time and artistic abilities to create the painting of the W.B. Young building used for the promotion of the rededication. The painting now hangs in the dean’s office.
**President’s Message**

It is a pleasure to serve as President of the University of Connecticut Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association (UCANRAA) this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many alumni who have successfully developed our group into the vibrant organization that it is today. UCANRAA has been busy this past year and we are looking forward to many new projects, as well. I would like to congratulate our newest UCANRAA members, the UConn CANR Class of 2013.

On behalf of the UCANRAA Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce the naming of the UCANRAA Board Room, in the newly renovated W.B. Young Building. This room will provide meeting space for students, staff and alumni, and it will also provide a location for our many awards and honors to be proudly displayed.

Congratulations to Dr. Morty Ortega, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, who received the Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award (Undergraduate Level); and alumnus Herm Weingart who was recognized for his decades of service with the Alumni Association Service Award. Both awards are from the UConn Alumni Association.

UCANRAA held its annual auction as part of Cornucopia on Sunday, September 29. I would like to thank the alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the College for their support. This is a major fundraiser for UCANRAA and it provides the necessary funds for all of the student and alumni activities and scholarships we support throughout the year.

On November 6, I had the pleasure of participating in the College’s annual Career Night. It was wonderful to see so many alumni and current students in attendance. This event certainly is a great opportunity for alumni to share their careers with current students.

As President of UCANRAA, I invite all alumni to be a part of the UCANRAA activities, whether it’s once a year or once a month. Our group will be stronger with your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you during the coming year. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail at ucanraa@uconnalumni.com.

Now you can show your pride as a College of Agriculture and Natural Resources alumnus by purchasing the new UCONN CANR alumni T-shirt (see page 21 for details).

Check us out on Facebook at UCANRAA or visit us at www.ucanraa.uconn.edu.

Sincerely,

Jennifer (Elman) Cushman, ‘07, ‘08, ‘12
President

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**UCANRAA Board of Directors**

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The UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association (UCANRAA) is an active organization dedicated to supporting the students, faculty, staff and alumni of CANR/RHSA through programming, funding and student scholarships. To join UCANRAA, visit www.ucnalumni.com or email Pam Chudzik at pamela.chudzik@uconn.edu.
Wilfred B. Young served the University of Connecticut for thirty-five years, beginning in 1931 when it was the Connecticut Agricultural College. Young, a Midwesterner, arrived in Storrs in 1931 to assume the post of assistant professor and extension animal husbandman.

In 1938 Young became an associate professor, in 1941, director of the two-year Radcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture; and in 1943, assistant dean of the then-College of Agriculture. He was named acting dean in 1944 following the death of Dean Edwin Woodward and his family in the tragic Hartford circus fire. In 1944 Young was named acting dean of the then-College of Agriculture. He was named acting dean in 1944 following the death of Dean Edwin Woodward and his family, in the tragic Hartford circus fire. From 1945 to 1966 Young held the post of dean of the College of Agriculture, director of the Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station, and director of the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Connecticut.

Young died in 1978, and in 1979 the Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut voted to name the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources building the W.B. Young Building.

Honoring Dean Young

By Nancy P. Weiss
Wilfred Young, affectionately called “Whip” from his speed and agility as a high school athlete in Indiana, where he grew up, became a groundbreaking administrator and educator during his years at the University of Connecticut. Under his leadership the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources more than doubled the number of faculty members, course offerings and undergraduate enrollment. The graduate program also grew extensively.

Physical facilities were expanded as new programs were initiated. Much of the College’s current physical plant was built while Young was dean. The George White Building was built to house Animal Industries (now the Department of Animal Science); the recently renovated Floriculture Greenhouse; and the W.B. Young Building, which houses classrooms, labs and offices, were all constructed in the boom years of mid-twentieth century development of the University.

W.B. Young was the face of agriculture across the region and the state and at the University. He was a trustee, and later president, of the Eastern States Exposition and instrumental in establishing Mallory Arena, a place for adult and youth livestock shows. He worked with the US State Department’s Agency for International Development on organizing programs in Zambia. He was a director of the Education Advisory Panel of the New England Council and held a number of positions with the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

Young was very active in University affairs. He was a member of the President’s Council, the Athletics Advisory Committee and the University Senate. Gubernatorial appointments led to service on the Connecticut Water Resource Commission, the Economic Planning and Development Committee and the Connecticut State Fiscal Study.

Dean Young believed that part of his role was to connect the agricultural sector to other aspects of the state. He helped launch UCANRAA Holds Annual Auction

The UConn Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association (UCANRAA) held its seventeenth Annual Cornucopia Alumni Auction on Sunday, September 29, 2013, in conjunction with the College’s Cornucopia Fest. This year the event raised $8,000. Using proceeds from the auction, UCANRAA has built a permanently endowed scholarship in the UConn Foundation. Over the last sixteen years, UCANRAA has donated more than $90,000 in auction proceeds for undergraduate scholarships, for faculty and staff recognition and for activities and programs that support the staff and students of the College.

UCANRAA would like to thank Board members, volunteers and donors for contributing to the outstanding success of this year’s auction. We look forward to seeing you there next fall. For more information about the auction, contact Pam Chudzik at Pamela.chudzik@uconn.edu.
the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council, which worked to improve communication between agricultural and urban interests, and was a frequent advisor to a succession of governors, legislators, committees and agricultural organizations.

W.B. Young was a charismatic leader and a tireless worker himself. John P.H. Brand, who was hired by Young as an agricultural economist and later became director of the Ratcliffe Hicks School and twice acting Dean of the College, recalls Young fondly.

"Dean Young was highly respected. He assumed the deanship as a result of the tragic Hartford circus fire and immediately demonstrated his competence by holding the College together at a very difficult time.

"Young was an Indiana farm boy, who was liked by the ag community. From my encounters with him, I knew Dean Young to be really committed to serving all the people and the ag community, both processors and producers. He was a well-rounded agriculturalist.

"He was proud of his students and wanted them to do well. After World War II, returning veterans, many former farm kids, streamed into the University and the College. Young was concerned about them and with the support of the ag faculty did his best for them. He was also a close friend of Albert Jorgensen, University president at the time, who undertook a major building campaign.

"Young wouldn’t allow coffee to be served or consumed in the College. Vending machines, which Young had installed all over campus, contained only milk and needed constant monitoring to make sure the milk wasn’t sour. Some departments in the College left twice a day for coffee breaks. Young also insisted that the shades in the W.B. Young Building be drawn to the same level in every window at the end of the day.

"Dean Young was the longest-serving dean in the history of the University and the best dressed. He was a dapper dresser with a deep, powerful voice and it is a testament to his leadership that nearly 50 years after his retirement he continues to be remembered in the naming of the College’s main building.”

Young was also devoted to his family. He and his wife, Margaret Miller Young, raised three children in Storrs, all of whom attended the University of Connecticut: Wilfred B. Young, Jr., Marilyn Young Tarasuk and Marna Young Thoma. Through the generosity of family and friends, the W.B. Young Leadership and Service Award Fund was established for “honoring a lifetime of service and leadership through an investment in youth and the future.”

Rudy Favretti, retired professor of landscape architecture, was a freshman when the W.B. Young Building opened in 1950. Favretti recalls that sidewalks had not yet been installed, so layers of rolled brown paper were used to protect the floors. Two years later, in 1952, two wings were added to the building.

Favretti remembers Young with affection.

"Dean Young had influence with the legislators, with President Jorgensen and with farm organizations, so that the entire ag complex at that time, all the buildings on Horsebarn Hill Road, were built under his administration. He created the leading college of agriculture in New England. With President Jorgensen, Young was a great proponent of the land-grant college movement.”

As a member of the faculty, Favretti noted that Dean Young was open-minded about many issues.

"I found him very easy to work with. He listened to the whole story before making a decision. He reorganized the entire College in the late 1940s, which continued to have an impact for many years."

Patricia Henson Weingart was a college senior in 1956 when Dean Young presented her with the Extension Pfizer Award. Young insisted that a photographer be summoned to record the event, because he deemed it important. Weingart also fondly remembers the movies that were held three nights a week in the College auditorium.

Wilfred B. Young left his mark on the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the University of Connecticut and the state of Connecticut during his long tenure as a faculty member and dean. The rededication of the W.B. Young Building in his honor celebrates a man and a moment in the history of higher education when belief in the future of the land-grant mission was strong.

Marna Young Thoma making remarks at the rededication.

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2013 Augustus and Charles Storrs Award Recipient

For more than 30 years, the influence of Alexander “Bud” Gavitt Jr. (‘67, MA) was felt in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources through hundreds of articles, photographs and publications he created while working in the College’s Office of Communications. His written and photographic accounts of the College’s events and programs have played an essential role in preserving its history.

Even greater than that, though, was Mr. Gavitt’s influence as an instructor and mentor to many students. Generations of UConn alumni now working in agriculture, nonprofit leadership and communications can trace part of their success to Mr. Gavitt. His path to UConn and the Storrs Award began with 4-H. At the age of 13, Mr. Gavitt was actively involved with farming, raising nearly 100 chickens and winning a statewide 4-H poultry contest. Within a year, he was working on the organization’s 4-H column in the local newspaper, which he still regards as his professional start in communications. As a graduate student at UConn, in addition to his main job of writing and editing for the College, he began training interns from the Journalism Department and later the Departments of English and Animal Science. He went on to receive many awards throughout his career in the College, including a national award for excellence in writing by the American Association of Agricultural College Editors in 1990.

In both his work in the College and his service to such sectors of Connecticut agriculture as poultry producers, maple syrup producers and Christmas tree growers, Mr. Gavitt has played an essential role in helping members of these constituencies communicate with each other, sharing information and camaraderie. The newsletters he has produced are particularly important for growers, who, by the nature of their work, may go for long periods without seeing or speaking with each other. Many professionals would happily retire after such a distinguished career, but Mr. Gavitt has remained a strong advocate and communicator for agricultural organizations across the state, serving as the editor for newsletters and publications as recently as 2012.

Upon retirement in 1992, Mr. Gavitt considered how best to keep writing at the forefront of the educational experience for students in the College and made a major gift to establish the Gavitt Agriculture and Natural Resources Communications Fund. The award offers employment-level writing experience in the field of agriculture and natural resources communications, as well as financial support. While his body of work is a legacy in itself, with his generous financial support Mr. Gavitt has planted seeds for the future. The Gavitt Scholarship Grant provides a wonderful opportunity for talented students to follow in his footsteps.

UCANRAA Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. Michelle Judge, ’94, ’06, is the recipient of the 2013 UCANRAA Distinguished Alumni Award. She was recognized this spring at the UCANRAA Annual Meeting and CANR Awards and Honors Event.

Dr. Michelle Judge received her BS in Dietetics in 1994 and her PhD in Nutritional Sciences in 2006, both from the University of Connecticut. She held a postdoctoral fellowship at the UConn School of Nursing in 2007. She currently serves as assistant professor in residence in the School of Nursing.

Dr. Judge’s research program focuses on the role of omega-3 fatty acids in maternal and infant health. She has more than 10 years’ experience with longitudinal, randomized controlled trials and has studied maternal postpartum depression and infant neurodevelopment related to maternal consumption of omega-3 during pregnancy. Dr. Judge has authored many papers and book chapters demonstrating the benefits of omega-3 in maternal and infant health. She has expertise in infant development assessment procedures and using gas chromatography and thin layer chromatography to quantify plasma and red blood cell fatty acids.
Dr. Judge’s research is nationally recognized and in 2009 she served on an ad hoc review panel for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Prior to her doctoral and postdoctoral work, Dr. Judge worked as a registered dietitian with a clinical specialty in neonatal intensive care and served as a leader in the clinical setting for eight years. She received a grant from the American Dietetic Association’s Herbert D. and Nylida Gemple Research Award. She has served as the secretary and editor for the American Oil Chemistry Society and on the Connecticut Dietetics Association’s Commission on Professional Issues.

Currently, Dr. Judge serves on the Advisory Committee for Dietetics in the Department of Allied Health Sciences. She has received numerous honors, including special recognition award from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain for mentoring a doctoral student; the 2004 Pediatric Nutrition Practice Group (American Dietetic Association) Glenda Bible Memorial Scholarship; and the 1997 Outstanding Clinical Education Award from the UConn School of Allied Health.

UCANRAA Outstanding Staff Award

Nancy Abbott has been recognized with the 2013 UCANRAA Outstanding Staff Award. Ms. Abbott, the College’s grants development officer since 2006, serves faculty and staff in their pursuit of extramural funding to support their creative endeavors. Ms. Abbott established and developed the College’s Grants Development Office and helps faculty PIs identify relevant funding opportunities, develop ideas that meet funding opportunities and funding agency objectives, write proposals to sell the ideas and their potential for success and meet compliance mandates related to budget and other specifications.

Ms. Abbott spends much of her time facilitating submissions and the completion of grant proposals. Each agency requires different directives and forms, each with different internal and external deadlines for review and submission that many times affect proposals. She is very successful in organizing her time with colleagues in the Office of Sponsored Programs to fulfill University obligations, helping with the special needs of College PIs, and coordinating training workshops. Ms. Abbott also welcomes graduate students seeking pre-doctoral and postdoctoral funding opportunities, assisting students and PIs with writing and editing. She meets the challenges of the competing needs of various personnel, grant programs, timing and deadlines in a professional manner. She champions the efforts of College PIs and her work removes a major burden from faculty and staff and advances the research, extension and teaching missions of the College.

UCANRAA Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr. Hedley Freake, professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences, has received the 2013 UCANRAA Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Freake has made significant contributions to the teaching mission of the College and the University. He is an exemplary teacher and scholar and is committed to undergraduate and graduate education and teaching. He is a strong advocate for undergraduate education and is especially passionate about helping economically and socially disadvantaged students to succeed academically.

Dr. Freake is a creative and effective instructor. His approach to teaching is engaging and interactive, fostering independent and creative thinking. Dr. Freake supplies the tools and encouragement so that students gain the ability and confidence to learn for themselves. Undergraduate students are included in his laboratory group, benefiting from both his advisement and from his research expertise.

Dr. Freake has served the University of Connecticut in an extraordinary manner as chair of the General Education Oversight Committee and chair of the University Senate. His commitment to STRONG-CT as the program director and the USDA Multicultural Scholars Program demonstrates his affection for students and genuine interest in teaching and education. STRONG-CT is funded by a $2.0 million NSF grant that targets first generation to go to college and other under-represented students in the basic science disciplines. Additionally, Dr. Freake has secured a USDA Multicultural Scholars Program grant funded by USDA and by a department and College match, which support underrepresented minority schol-
Herman Weingart ‘56, was awarded the University of Connecticut Alumni Association Alumni Service Award for his dedication to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and his pivotal role in the establishment and continuation of the College’s alumni association, UCANRAA (University of Connecticut Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association).

Mr. Weingart graduated with distinction, majoring in Dairy Production and minoring in Agricultural Economics. He joined his parents on a dairy farm in Franklin, which he operated for thirty years. He and his wife, Patricia ‘57 (Home Economics), raised ten children and many grandchildren. Seven of his children and two grandchildren are UConn alumni.

Mr. Weingart has a long history of involvement with the University and the College, but it is his commitment to the College’s alumni association that is especially notable. When the group was formed, it set ambitious membership and financial goals. Weingart stepped forward to help create the first UCANRAA auction, which has become a popular annual event that raises more than $10,000 each year.

Herm Weingart contacted a professional auctioneer for the first event and has shepherded donations ever since. He encourages members of the alumni board to reach out to others and helps engage CANR alumni across the state and beyond to become involved. As a result of the success of the auction, UCANRAA was the first college or school alumni association to establish an endowed scholarship fund, which provides support to students every year.

Weingart is a past president of UCANRAA and a devoted participant in current activities. He never misses the annual meeting and awards event and University alumni celebrations. He is an avid fan of UConn athletics, regularly attending games.

According to Leslie Wolfson ’82, a former UConn Alumni Association staff member, “Herm was also instrumental in helping the Alumni Association forge a relationship of mutual interest with the schools and colleges. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources was the first to support the Alumni Association and their quest to develop the school and college program.”

Associate Professor and Extension Dairy Specialist Sheila M. Andrew notes that Mr. Weingart is influential in the agricultural community.

"Since I have known Herm, I have observed that he is a strong voice for agriculture and has always been willing to ask the ‘tough’ questions and propose steps to assure that Connecticut’s agricultural industry remains viable. He is well known and respected for his contributions to discussions at agricultural meetings,” says Andrew.

Peter Wolcott served as UCANRAA president from 1996 to 2002 and has known Mr. Weingart since their student days.

“I appreciated Herm’s support for the FFA program and his avid promotion of Connecticut agriculture. Herm was excellent at soliciting gifts for the auction and happily engaged in bidding at the event. I applaud his selection for this award,” Wolcott said.

After retiring from active farming, Mr. Weingart worked as a pesticide compliance officer for the state and later as a National Agriculture Statistics Service enumerator. He has been active in the Connecticut Farm Bureau, the New London Extension Council, local school boards, town organizations and his church.

Kirklyn Kerr, former dean of the College, notes that volunteering is a fundamental characteristic of the Weingarts.
Isaac M. (Morty) Ortega, PhD, associate professor, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, has been awarded the 2013 University of Connecticut Alumni Association Faculty Excellence in Teaching (Undergraduate Level) Award. The Alumni Association established this award in order to recognize excellence in classroom teaching, which contributes to the University’s academic reputation.

Raised in Sewell, Chile, a former copper-mining town in the mountains, Dr. Ortega was the first member of his family to attain a college-level education, earning his bachelor’s degree in ecology from the Universidad Austral de Chile in Valdivia in 1976. He completed his graduate studies in the United States, receiving his master’s degree in wildlife biology in 1985 from Iowa State University and a doctorate in wildlife science at Texas Tech University in 1991. He joined the UConn faculty in 1997.

Devoted to teaching ecology and environmental conservation, Dr. Ortega always seeks opportunities to bring his students beyond the traditional classroom and into the field. Described by a former student as “the kind of guy who will get you out of your bubble,” Dr. Ortega escorts dozens of UConn students each year to South Africa, where they engage in hands-on coursework in African field ecology while learning firsthand about the country’s culture, history and people. He also takes his students to Chile to research the social behavior of Patagonian large mammals in Torres del Paine National Park. “He wants to integrate Chilean students with Connecticut students to the benefit of both,” John Clausen, a CANR professor, wrote in his nomination letter.

An adviser to several student clubs, including the UConn chapter of the Wildlife Society and the UConn Outing Club, Dr. Ortega was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award in 2008. He has served as director of the Global House Learning Community and is active in the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center.

Dr. Ortega was honored at the Alumni Association Awards Celebration on Friday, October 11, 2013, at the UConn Storrs Campus, and the following day at the UConn Homecoming Game at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Connecticut.
Davenports Win National Award
Jim and Karen Davenport were winners of the 2012 National Quality Award for premium milk production at Tollgate Farm in Ancramdale, NY. This was the fourth such win, and they add this to thirty-two other prestigious awards for top quality milk. The Davenports have been raising purebred cows under the Tollgate name since 1986, and Jim ’82 (Animal Science) is a fifth generation dairy farmer. Karen ’83 BS (Animal Science) and ’84 MS is currently co-chair of the agricultural education science and technology program at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. They met at UConn.

Laurie Poplawski Macha ’87 BS, ’91 MS. Laurie (Poplawski) Macha was recently promoted to Curator of Mammals and Birds at Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration. Laurie graduated from CANR with a BS in 1987 and an MS in 1991.

Cullina ’91 Recognized with Award
William Cullina ’91 (Plant Science) has received the national Award of Excellence from the National Garden Clubs. NGC is recognized as the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world. Cullina is executive director of Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, where he has driven the design and development of Maine’s only botanical garden. Cullina is an accomplished author, photographer, lecturer, teacher and consultant for garden, conservation and horticulture groups. Cullina accepted his award on May 25 in Seattle, and this joins several other prestigious awards that he has received.

George Appointed Adviser
Dr. Carol Lynn George has been appointed as the Utah State Science Adviser by the economic development office of Governor Gary Herbert. George ’03 (CLAS), ’05 MS (Animal Science), ’06 PhD (Animal Science) is the founder of the Salt Lake City-based 32ATPs Scientific Consulting LLC. George also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in neurobiology at Sanford Burnham Institute in San Diego.

Homberg Named Outstanding Young Farmer
Russell Holmberg ’04 (Horticulture) was named the CT 2012 Outstanding Young Farmer, an annual award sponsored by the state Agriculture Information Council. He was recognized for his work at Holmberg Orchards, a fifty-acre farm where his family has grown and sold apples, pears and peaches for four generations. There, Holmberg has started a winery making and selling hard ciders and fruit wines. He has also spearheaded a tall-spindle apple orchard, planting trees in a dense, hedge-style formation for efficient growing and picking. In addition, Holmberg was recognized as a 2013 National Outstanding Young Farmer Finalist by the Outstanding Farmers of America Fraternity. The fraternity is designed to facilitate an exchange of ideas and friendship that encourages excellence and involvement in agriculture and the local, state and national community.

Herbst to Open Farm
Victoria Herbst ’12 BS (Animal Science) ’13 MS (Neag) has opened Herbst Arabians. The farm, which will feature Arabian horses, is located on twenty-five acres in Wallingford, CT, and will include twelve stalls, indoor and outdoor arenas and a jumping field. Victoria hopes to expand the barn in the future.

CANR Alumnus Appointed to SBA
President Barack Obama has appointed Seth Goodall, D-Richmond, majority leader of the Maine Senate, to head the northeast regional post of the Small Business Administration. Goodall ’00 BS (Agronomy), ’05 MS (Plant Science) will head the Region I office in Boston that oversees all six New England states. The office is designed to provide financial assistance and manage program initiatives for an estimated 1.3 million small businesses in the area. Previously, Goodall co-owned a full-service landscaping company from 1992 to 1999. He was elected to his first term in the Senate in 2008.
For Mackenzie White ’14, doing what she knows and loves means working in the field of agriculture—on dairy farms, in extension offices or in active organizations. She has brought this love and knowledge with her to UConn, where they continue to grow.

White first heard about UConn during her sophomore year in high school. After learning more about the University, she decided to apply. Initially White considered pursuing studies in physical therapy, but with a resume filled with 4-H activities and agricultural experience, CANR seemed a better fit for her. After much consideration, the words of her brother rang true. “Stick with what you know. Stick with what you love.” White did just that, and next May she will graduate with a degree in Agriculture and Natural Resources and a minor in Animal Science.

In addition to her studies, White stays busy in student organizations. Since arriving at UConn, White has been a member of the Dairy Club and the Block and Bridle Club, and she has served in various offices for each. Currently, she is working to create a 4-H collegiate club. “We’re really excited,” says White of the new 4-H opportunity. “There are all sorts of projects, community service and mentoring projects we can do. That’s what our goal is.”

4-H is nothing new to White. She and her three older siblings have been involved in shows, fairs and camps since childhood. 4-H was a natural step for White, who grew up on a farm in Shapleigh, a small town in southern Maine. Her mother still lives on the two hundred-year-old family farm with cows, sheep, a horse and chickens. White hopes that it’s a place where her nieces and nephews will also learn and prepare for 4-H and a life in agriculture.

White’s newest adventure will be serving as the student voice for UCANRAA. She will be the student representative for the organization as it plans programming and activities for the students, staff, faculty and alumni of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. She attended her first meeting in June and is already impressed with the level of support UCANRAA offers the College. “It’s a great organization,” she said, and it offers her a way to stay connected with her alma mater once she graduates. “My plan is to stay involved. UConn has had such a huge impact on my life. I want to give back.”

For the summer, White spent anywhere from thirty to fifty hours each week working at Ledgebrook Farm in Canterbury. She milked the cows, fed the calves and did general farm work. In addition, she spent ten to twelve hours per week as a summer assistant in the Windham County Extension Office. There, she worked on small ruminant parasite control research, promoted STEM, worked on 4-H Summer Science Camp and handled other office tasks. White hopes that this will help her transition to a career after she graduates. She would like to continue in extension, bringing 4-H and agriculture to others, teaching them about what she already knows and loves.
Jerold Mande ’78, embodies the qualities that UConn strives to impress upon its students and alumni. He is a national leader, a creative problem-solver, an educator and a life-long learner. He has spent his career serving the public, and he has helped shape national policy on nutrition, food safety and tobacco. Perhaps he is best known for leading the design of the Nutrition Facts label that now appears on almost all packaged food. Currently, Mande is Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, where he helps lead the Obama administration efforts to prevent childhood obesity. He joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture in July 2009 and was named to his current position in April 2011.

Mande graduated from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in 1978 with a degree in Nutritional Sciences. He earned his Master’s of Public Health from the University of North Carolina, and he completed the Program for Senior Managers in Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard. He then began a career in government and education, where he tackled many of the nation’s most pressing public health and safety concerns.

Early in his career, from 1982 to 1991, Mande worked as a senior legislative assistant for then Representative and Senator Al Gore, where he helped research and create the National Organ Transplant Act of 1984. As senior advisor for both the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (1991-1997) and at the White House (1997-1998), he shaped national policy on nutrition, food safety, cancer and tobacco control. Before joining USDA, Mande was the associate director for public policy at the Yale Cancer Center at Yale University in New Haven. There, he devised a national model that leveraged state leadership to increase cancer prevention and control. He was also on the faculty of Yale’s RWJ Clinical Scholars program, where he trained physicians for careers in public policy.

Mande’s outstanding achievements extend beyond his professional life to his civic and personal life. He has participated in numerous boards and committees and has been an enthusiastic coach for his children’s soccer teams. For his exceptional achievements, Mande has been recognized with numerous awards, including the UConn Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award and the Presidential Award for Design Excellence for the Food Label.

Former Vice President Al Gore said of Mande, “[Jerry] combines a passion for solving the nation’s most pressing public health problems with a tireless intellect and curiosity that have allowed him to lead creative, transformational change. If schools can be judged by the quality of the citizens they produce, then the University of Connecticut has much to be proud of in Jerry’s ongoing and outstanding public service.”
**Gift from Horticulture Expert Improves Student Life in CANR**

From the UConn Foundation’s Our Moment newsletter

By: John Sponauer ’92 ’10, UConn Foundation

**Donald N. ’54 and Gail Maynard** have a long tradition of support for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, creating lectureships, scholarships and programs through their philanthropy. Through a new gift, they are now funding a student lounge in the remodeled W.B. Young Building.

The senior author of the world’s most widely used vegetable production book, *Knott’s Handbook for Vegetable Growers*, Maynard is also active in Florida’s Sun Coast Chapter of the UConn Alumni Association, the recipient of a distinguished alumni award and, along with Gail—a University of Kentucky alumna—an avid UConn athletics fan.

With the recent 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act, which created universities like UConn, Don Maynard says that agriculture is as significant as ever. “Safe, successful agriculture is so important for the entire world,” he says. “Locally, it boosts Connecticut’s economy, and UConn plays a very large role in that. And globally, of course, food production and agriculture are vital for the welfare and lives of millions of people who don’t have the luxuries we do.”

The couple sees resurgence in interest about the field. “I think people increasingly want ‘real’ food,” adds Gail. “They want to get back to basics, knowing what they are eating and actually having a part in it. Providing the knowledge in a way that is available for the public is a perfect role for land-grant universities like UConn.”

The Maynards’ recent gift supported the creation of a new student lounge in the Young Building, which was rededicated on October 11 (see story, page 5). More than 200 faculty, staff, alumni and friends turned out to celebrate the renovation, which improved nearly every facet of the almost 60-year-old building and give it LEED-certified status as a “green” building in terms of energy use and environmental impact. The Maynards say that supporting the lounge space is a natural extension of their past gifts to create scholarships in the College.

“It’s a cliché, but today’s agriculture students are our future, and we feel that we have to do everything we can to support them,” Don says. “Through the scholarship, we have had the chance to meet students who have benefited greatly from what is really a relatively small amount of money, and we still hear from several of them even after they’ve left UConn. “I hope the lounge becomes a place for students and faculty to meet, work and relax in a less-formal setting, share knowledge and information, and improve agriculture for all of us tomorrow.”
It has been a very productive year for UConn Extension. Last fall marked the official release of our first smartphone application – the UConn Rain Garden App. The app was developed by a team of extension educators led by Mike Dietz and Dave Dickson. The Rain Garden App has met with considerable nationwide interest and the team continues to update and adapt the App for other states.

The Rain Garden App is just one example of UConn Extension’s renewed commitment to our customers. To that end, we are completely redesigning our website as part of our commitment to a broader digital strategy for Extension. The new website will create a strong customer focus and will unlock new learning opportunities for Connecticut citizens. We are creating new ways for customers to connect with Extension using a variety of social media tools. During the upcoming year, we anticipate increasing the number of mobile technologies we offer to customers. As we continue to recruit new-and younger-audiences, we expect to reach them using mobile technologies and social media.

Our programs in youth development are transforming our connection to young people. The 4-H Team has completely repurposed their efforts to focus on STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This change is strengthening our connection between youth and the UConn campus. Youth and 4-H programs that address gardening, nutrition and fitness are helping young people make better life choices at the same time they learn the essentials of healthy lifestyles. Our youth programs continue to benefit from the considerable assistance we gain from our fabulous volunteers; they make our jobs easier and our programs stronger.

Finally, one of our key goals for this fall was to expand our audience base. In particular, we are hoping to engage undergraduates on campus as a young, new audience for Extension. We plan to create opportunities for undergraduates to work with extension educators—through internships and other programs. We see these opportunities as pathways to Extension careers for students as well as a means to expand their understanding of our great land grant university.

I am excited about the prospects for Extension in the upcoming year. We are creating a bold new future for our customers and our educators. Do you have ideas for improving UConn Extension? I’d like to hear from you. Best regards, Mike O’Neill

Michael O’Neill, Associate Dean for Outreach Education and Public Service; Associate Director, Cooperative Extension System

More than 9 BILLION people by 2050

So what is Next Gen CANR?

Enhancing Sustainable Agricultural Systems
Plant and Animal Production Policy Development
Economic and Market Analysis
Nutrition and Health for Humans and Animals
Food Safety
Environmental Sustainability
Water Resources
Wildlife Management
Climate and Weather
Last Spring the Connecticut Legislature and Governor Dannel Malloy passed into law a historic proposal to expand and enhance educational opportunities, research and innovations in science, technology engineering and math (STEM) at the University of Connecticut. The goal is to leverage financial support provided in NEXT GEN and past investments in Connecticut’s higher education landscape to grow the state’s economy by creating jobs and educating the next generation of students to fill them.

The University has a long history of discovery in which the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) has figured prominently; CANR is positioned and prepared to contribute significantly in the future through its land grant mission.

CANR has evolved to engage faculty, staff and students in connecting food, people and health in a manner that is economically viable and environmentally sustainable. This has been facilitated by both federal and state funding. The nation’s commitment to our programs began in 1862 with adoption of the Morrill Act, which has been complemented by additional federal commitments for research, extension and education. Among many challenges that CANR disciplines must meet through advancement of science and technology is the need to feed the 9 billion people estimated to occupy our planet by 2050. The state’s investment in NEXT GEN will greatly enhance our efforts to play a significant role in meeting this challenge.

In the last few years, students have recognized the career opportunities that CANR STEM disciplines will provide. Our College has experienced unprecedented growth, and freshman enrollment in Fall 2013 is expected to be 50 percent greater than in Fall 2012. The state’s investment in NEXT GEN will contribute significantly to our efforts in development of human capacity. Our faculty, staff and students are positioned to capitalize on this investment and continue the College’s tradition of innovation and excellence.

CANR programs enhance the quality of life in every Connecticut community. Our students, faculty and staff are themselves invested as part of the next generation. I am excited for our state’s future and look forward to our College’s role in advancing the quality of life of our state’s citizens.

By Cameron Faustman, Associate Dean & Director
Faculty researchers in the College are credited with developing methods to determine caloric contents of foods; discovering the relationship between bovine tuberculosis and human tuberculosis; performing pioneering research in the role of viruses in poultry diseases; successfully isolating and growing Vibrio fetus which led to a vaccination program for vibriosis in 1954; discerning the involvement of different bacteria in bovine mastitis and their control; developing the first high efficiency poultry feed, “Connecticut Ration”; establishing the interrelationships of vitamins A, D and E; and characterizing the nutritional value of human breast milk. Faculty members in the plant sciences have developed new plant varieties, particularly in horticultural crops, that have generated significant licensing income for the University. Dr. Jerry Yang and his research team announced in 1999 that they had delivered the first cloned bovine calf in the world.

The new knowledge generated by the College’s faculty, staff and students is communicated to students in UConn’s classrooms and delivered to practitioners in the field through the Cooperative Extension System.
International Graduate Students Study Sustainability of Connecticut Agriculture

By Nancy Weiss

How does climate change affect the productivity and growth of dairy farms? How can small and medium-sized farms survive when the price of milk drops? Do citizens value the open space preserved by dairy farms? What about niche markets, such as grapes for wine making? Is this a viable way to grow desirable crops and preserve open space?

These and other questions occupy and energize a team of lively graduate students who conduct a variety of research projects under the direction of Boris Bravo-Ureta, professor in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ARE). Bravo-Ureta, whose 30-year research and administrative career includes international and domestic projects, is particularly interested in the impact of climate change on agricultural productivity and examining alternatives to mitigate and adapt to such change.

“I was trained as a production economist and have always had a passion for the field, and I consider this passion an essential ingredient in research work, a notion I strive to instill among my graduate students,” Bravo-Ureta says.

The team of graduate students (Eric Njuki from Kenya, postdoctoral fellow Deep Mukherjee from India, Lingquio Qi from China, Michee Lachaud from Haiti and Jeremy Jelliffe from Connecticut) work together studying ways to help the agricultural sector survive and prosper.

The enthusiasm they share for their own projects and the support they offer each other is palpable. Small and medium-sized farms make up the dairy industry in New England. Regardless of size, all operations need to deal with the impact of dairy farm manure on the environment, especially in urban areas. Econometric models were developed to evaluate the cost of various components, including nutrient waste management and decisions related to efficiency and profitability. Data show that large farms can more easily adapt than smaller ones, which leads to longer-term policy implications, according to Eric Njuki, who wants to continue with these studies.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture funded a study of milk production costs in the state. After a year of collecting and analyzing data from 43 Connecticut farms, it was determined that the average cost of milk production in the state for 2011 was $31.52 per hundredweight (100 pounds of milk, or about 12 gallons). Citizens support preservation of open space and might be willing to pay for it in the form of a price subsidy to dairy farmers.

Climate change is a theme common to a number of ARE research projects. Student Lingquio Qi is gathering climate data for the past 25 years to study the effects on the dairy industry.

Deep Mukherjee analyzed data on the effect of higher temperatures and heat stress in dairy cattle and milk production. Farms that use a cooling system of fans and sprinklers on their cattle mitigate many of the negative effects on milk production. The project found that the average farm in Florida with an annual milk production per cow of 18,689 pounds could increase output by 5 percent. Cooling the cows would result in additional revenues amounting to more than $100,000. With only half of the farms using the practice, results point to the need for extension education activities.

Another project carried out by Mukherjee explores the possibility of establishing centralized anaerobic digesters for a group of small dairy farms in the state of Connecticut to mitigate methane emissions from manure and nutrient surplus problems. After a land suitability analysis is conducted to determine a set of feasible locations to place digesters, an optimization problem determines the number and size of such plants, their final locations and which farms would best be served by them.

Jeremy Jelliffe’s work toward a master’s degree led him to study the role of niche markets in agriculture. Jelliffe contacted every vineyard in Connecticut to examine the profitability of producing grapes to sell to winemakers. He concluded that winemaking and grape production need to be integrated to be profitable. He also examined various land use models to promote open space.

While a number of research projects in ARE focus on domestic issues, Professor Bravo-Ureta maintains a global perspective as well.

“I hope we are educating the public on the importance of global agriculture. Agriculture still matters for the wellbeing of people in poor countries. It matters not only materially but morally for people in this country,” Bravo-Ureta says.

Many of the students who complete their coursework in ARE will assume positions throughout the world. As they begin their working lives, they will build on a base of teamwork, passion and professionalism developed during several formative years in Storrs.
Richard Anyah, assistant professor of atmospheric science in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, is an expert on regional climate and environmental change modeling and applications who studies climate-human-ecosystem interactions. He considers fundamental questions about climate and environmental change and attempts to find ways to help society deal with the effects of constant change. “Human beings usually don’t acknowledge change even though they recognize that things around them are changing. They will say that what is happening in the environment isn’t new. When you tell them what humans are doing is contributing to the change, they say ‘no,’” says Anyah with a wry smile.

Anyah studies how climate affects water, air and ecology. Through the use of numerical modeling with computer systems, he is able to look at vast quantities of data over long periods of time.

Working with data from centers all over the world, Anyah and his students analyze how slight changes in temperature affect entire systems. They work in collaboration with centers in the U.S., Europe and Africa to study processes that influence the predictability of regional climates and climate change and to apply the information to understand drivers of climate-human-ecosystem interactions.

By looking at data from the past 100 years, Anyah is able to chart trends and measure the effects of change on surface water, crops, diseases, invasive plants and other systems that may not appear immediately tied to climate.

Since 2008 Anyah has worked with three graduate students and four undergraduates from different departments on a National Science Foundation grant entitled “Modeling Climate Variability and Change of the Greater Horn of Africa.” For this project, he and his students look at climate data generated by global and regional climate models and then analyze and highlight patterns in the past, present and predicted future climate systems over the Greater Horn of Africa and their relationship to natural and human systems.

While accumulating and working with climate data is intellectually compelling for Anyah, his work helping students develop their own potential as scientists is equally engaging. He sees the NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates as a way to build a platform of competency that will carry them much further in their academic careers.

Anyah believes research should be relevant to society. While acknowledging that climate has become a buzzword and a focus for alarm, he notes that there are still uncertainties. There are changes and people need to know how they will be affected. Climate change is often presented as negative, but Anyah looks at it from a more balanced perspective. Long-term trends point to great variation in climate and a dominant fluctuation toward warmer temperatures, which, if understood, can be adapted to. Warmer temperatures may lead to new invasive species, types of pollen never before experienced and even new pests, but Anyah doesn’t see it as entirely negative. “The Northeast may get prolonged growing seasons—perhaps two cycles instead of one. It could have a positive aspect if society can adjust,” he says.

Currently, Anyah is working with two students to examine and characterize climate anomalies and extremes during recent decades over the northeastern United States and their connection with agricultural systems. Their preliminary analysis of New England climate models and observed data for the period 1961–2010 indicates that New England’s climate has undergone significant change, especially increasing temperatures and precipitation. Snowfall amount has decreased steadily in southern New England, despite periodic large snowfall amounts such as during the winter of 2011, while northern New England’s snowfall amount has increased. Changes in January temperatures tend to be more pronounced than those in July. Increases in extreme climatic events have been noticed all over the world, including here in New England. January temperatures during recent years have sometimes soared into the 60s, most recently a high of 63° F recorded in January 2008 in Hartford, Connecticut.

The New England climate responds to global climate changes, especially those associated with warming and cooling of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Episodes of El Niño (anomalously warm sea surface temperatures over the equatorial Pacific Ocean) and La Niña (the opposite of El Niño) tend to affect New England temperatures and precipitation, with sharper effects during El Niño years. During El Niño episodes, temperature increases have been consistent throughout the region, while precipitation increases seem to be primarily in the southern parts of New England. On the other hand, La Niña episodes tend to be linked to diminished snowfall amounts, especially over southern New England. During La Niña episodes, temperature increases have been greatest in the south; precipitation gains have been largest in Connecticut, and regional snowfall has decreased, even in the north.
In 2007 the University launched an aggressive capital campaign, Our University. Our Moment. to raise $600 million in private support for scholarships, faculty and programs. Thanks to the support of our generous alumni, friends and stakeholders, the College is positioned to surpass this goal during the current fiscal year 2014. As of June 30, gifts totaling $13,118,226 have transformed our departments and programs while dramatically increasing private support for scholarships. While our goal is in sight, our work is far from done. Several projects and initiatives will require private support to continue. Most notably is completion of the much-needed renovation of the W. B. Young Building. The College will be utilizing nearly all of its unrestricted resources to complete this project, leaving very little to fund other initiatives and our student programs. The College and University are seeking to secure gifts to name the classrooms, conference rooms and labs to help defray the renovation costs. Don ‘54 and Gail Maynard of Sarasota, Florida have made the first commitment to name the new student lounge, and our alumni association, UCANRAA, has come forward to support the naming of the Board Room. These gifts not only provide support to the College but allow us to celebrate those who have made their gifts in perpetuity.

We are extremely grateful to our donors and volunteers and look forward to working with you to meet the priority needs of the College.

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The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Legacy Circle
Our College and ultimately the University of Connecticut began with a gift of $5,000 and 170 acres from Charles and Augustus Storrs to establish an agricultural school. In honor of this initial gift the Legacy Circle honors donors who have made a lifetime commitment of $5,000 or more to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.