Contents

Mission and Focus.........................................................2
Advisory Board.........................................................3
Personnel.................................................................4
2017 Updates...........................................................6
Publications.............................................................7
Presentations...........................................................9
External Grants.........................................................10
Seminar Series.........................................................11
Other Funded Activities...............................................12
Future Directions.......................................................13

January 2018
Mission and Focus

Mission

The Charles J. Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy is driven by excellence in quantitative and policy oriented economic research on problems confronting food and energy markets, the use of natural resources, and the environment. The intent is to provide practical recommendations to improve the functioning of markets and related government policies and to advance and disseminate knowledge that impacts public policies to improve society's welfare. Key users include private firms, consumer organizations, non-profit organizations, scholars, public agencies, and policy makers.

Areas of Focus

The Center's endowment makes it possible to elevate the Department's national prominence, and to focus on high-priority policy and quantitative studies to solve problems in three signature areas:

- Food Marketing and Industrial Organization
- Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
- Food and Health Economics and Policy
- Economic Development
Advisory Board

Ronald Cotterill is Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics and Economics at the University of Connecticut, and Director Emeritus of the Zwick Center. During his thirty years as a professor, he taught hundreds of students and authored dozens of books, monographs, journal articles, and other works. An internationally renowned expert on the organization and performance of food industries, he has testified before Congress and state legislatures regarding industrial and antitrust issues, and has served as the editor of Agribusiness and on the editorial board of the Journal of Supply Chain Management. Email: ronald.cotterill@uconn.edu

Richard DelFavero is the founder of DelFavero Builders, a commercial construction company, and an active supporter of the University of Connecticut. An alumnus of the University, he is a recipient of the Augustus and Charles Storrs Award, a lifetime member of the UConn Alumni Association, and provided the gift to endow the DelFavero Chair of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Steven Reviczky is Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. He served as the Executive Director of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association from 2006 until his appointment as Commissioner in 2011. As Executive Director, he was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Association and was directly engaged in working with state and local officials, and Congress advocating on matters important to Connecticut’s farmers. Email: Steven.Reviczky@ct.gov

Robert Smith is Senior Vice President of Farm Credit East, ACA, which serves over 13,000 customers throughout seven Northeast states. He has led efforts to advocate on behalf of farmers at the legislative level, and has testified in front of Congress and state legislatures. Email: Robert.Smith@FarmCreditEast.com

Henry Talmage is Executive Director of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, where he oversees the state’s chief advocacy group for farms and farmers. Previously, he served as the first executive director of the Connecticut Farmland Trust and as president of the Long Island Farm Bureau. Email: henryt@cfba.org

Michael Willig is a Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Director of the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering at UConn. His areas of expertise include the application of quantitative and statistical techniques to understand the ecology and conservation of coupled human and natural systems. Email: michael.willig@uconn.edu
Zwick Center Personnel
Core Personnel

Rigoberto Lopez
Director, Professor
Food Marketing and Industrial Organization, Food Policy

Rebecca Boehm
Postdoctoral Fellow
Economics of Food, Health, and the Environment

Shaheer Burney
Postdoctoral Fellow
Food and Agricultural Economics, Food Policy
Faculty Affiliates

Tatiana Andreyeva – Associate Professor
Health Economics, Food Policy

Emma Bojinova – Lecturer
Health Economics, Industrial Organization

Boris Bravo-Ureta – Professor
International Agricultural Development, Production Economics

John Bovay – Assistant Professor and Extension Economist
Environmental and Resource Economics

Ronald Cotterill – Emeritus Director, Emeritus Professor
Food Marketing and Industrial Organization, Food Policy

Richard Dunn – Associate Professor
Health and Public Economics

Nathan Fiala – Assistant Professor
Food Security, Environment, Development

Robert Pomeroy – Professor
International Development, Fisheries, Marine Policy

Farhed Shah – Associate Professor
Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, Water Policy

Stephen Swallow – Professor
Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, Ecosystem Services, Land-Use Policy

Charles Towe – Associate Professor
Environmental Economics, Land Use Policy, Policy Evaluation

Fellows

Michele Baggio – Economics, University of Connecticut
Elena Castellari – Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut
Xiaou Liu – Associate Professor, Renmin University of China
Chen Zhu – Assistant Professor, China Agricultural University

Supporting Staff

Amanda Arroyo, Marketing and Communications intern (2017)
Madhi Fallahi, Data Management
2017 Highlights

During 2017 the Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy continues its mission of developing policy-oriented research and recommendations to confront problems associated with food and energy markets, natural resources, and the environment.

Some highlights from 2017 are:

- The Center hired two post-doctoral fellows: Rebecca Boehm (started in January 2017) and Shaheer Burney (started in May 2017). They replace Dr. Adam Rabinowitz who left in 2016 to take a tenure-track position at the University of Georgia.

- During Spring 2017 the Drs. Lopez and Boehm conducted research on the economic impact of Connecticut’s agricultural industry, thus updating the 2010 study that was impactful among stakeholders and policy makers in the state. Invited presentations to stakeholders included the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, the Connecticut Farm Bureau, the Department of Extension, and the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity. The Center also co-hosted Marcela Pineda, a visiting student from Zamorano University in Honduras, who assisted with data collection for the economic impact report as well as cost of production of wineries with Profs. Bravo-Ureta and Bovay.

- Over the summer, Zwick Center staff had high profile presentations at several key conferences, addressing the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association annual meeting, the Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association annual meeting, and other conferences in the U.S. and abroad.

- The Center staff also published several journal articles in World Development, Journal of Agricultural Economics, and Applied Economics Letters and continued to target high impact journals for submission, including Food Policy, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Food Quality and Preference, and Marketing Letters.

- The Center also applied to new grants to expand their research projects and leverage the Center’s funding. Grants were submitted on local foods, health care provision and diet quality of low income households, and the SNAP program.
Publications

Refereed Journal Articles by Core Personnel


Additional journal articles published in 2017 by the Zwick Center affiliates are listed in [http://zwickcenter.uconn.edu/publications.php](http://zwickcenter.uconn.edu/publications.php)
Media Coverage of Economic Impacts of Connecticut’s Agriculture Industry 2015: Update


Outreach and Research Reports


Working Papers by Core Personnel

Shaheer Burney. 2017. "Household Consumption Responses to SNAP Participation" wp44

Yuqing Zheng, Diansheng Dong, Shaheer Burney, and Harry M. Kaiser. 2017. "Eat at Home or Away from Home? The Role of Grocery and Restaurant Food Sales Taxes" wp45


Academic Presentations by Core Personnel


Darrouzet-Nardi, A., Boehm, R., Stabley, S. “Should the Definition of Food Deserts Incorporate a Seasonal Component?”, Experimental Biology, Chicago, IL, April 2017

Boehm, R., Cooksey Stowers, K., Schwartz, M. “Clustering of diet, physical activity, and health behaviors in adolescents: Results from a county-level, multiyear initiative to reduce sugary drink consumption and obesity,” Friedman Fellows Symposium, Chicago, IL, April 2017


Outreach Presentations by Core Personnel


External Grants by Key Personnel

Boehm, R. and Carlson, A. Sylvia Lane Mentor Fellowship grant ($2,500)
Title: Are Healthy Diets Affordable? Using USDA’s Linkages Database to Estimate the Cost of USDA Healthy Food Patterns

Boehm, R., Schwartz, M., Wilde, P. USDA Food Insecurity Incentive Program evaluation subcontract ($314,470)
Title: Optimizing Local Food Outlets: marketplace and customer analysis across new England

Boehm, R., Burney, S., and Lopez, R. USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Foundational Grant for New Investigators ($259,960)
Title: Impact of U.S. Health Care Provision Changes on Diet Quality Among the Poor, not funded.

Martin, J. and Boehm, R. USDA Farmers’ Market Promotion Program ($500,000)
Title: Discover CT Grown – A Co-Marketing Strategy for Increasing Consumers of Local Food, pending.
Seminar Series

The Zwick Center is a co-sponsor of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics seminar series

Spring 2017

**Tuesday, 1/17/17** - Speaker: Aaron Adalja, University of Maryland
Lecture Title: Who pays for Voluntary Quality Certification?

**Wednesday, 1/18/17** - Speaker: Yu Na Lee, University of Minnesota
Lecture Title: Commodity Price Volatility and Migration: Evidence from Rural Ethiopia

**Friday, 2/10/17** - Speaker: Matthew Turner, Brown University
Lecture Title: Urban Form and Driving: Evidence from US Cities

**Friday, 3/3/17** - Speaker: Gal Hochman, Rutgers University
Lecture Title: Sustainable Intensive Fish-farming: the Prospects of Aquaponics

**Friday, 3/24/17** - Speaker: Daniel Moscovici, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
Lecture Title: Coase Revisited: Economic Efficiency under Externalities, Transaction Costs and Non-Convexity

**Friday, 3/31/17** - Speaker: Jeremy Foltz, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lecture Title: Do Higher Salaries Lower Petty Corruption? A Policy Experiment on West Africa’s Highways

**Friday, 4/7/17** - Speaker: Robert Johnston, Clark University
Lecture Title: Accommodating Spatial Heterogeneity within Ecosystem Service Benefit Transfer: Advancing the Frontier

**Friday, 4/21/17** - Speaker: Giulia Tiboldo, Xi He, Jacque Julien, Mahesh Dahal, University of Connecticut
Lecture Title: 4 topics from current ARE PhD students

**Friday, 4/28/17** - Speaker: Sean Cash, Tufts University
Lecture Title: Young food consumers: How does homo economicus grow?
**Fall 2017**

**Friday, 9/8/17** – Speaker: Jesse Shapiro, Brown University  
Lecture Title: How Are SNAP Benefits Spent? The Evidence From a Retail Panel

**Friday, 10/6/17** – Speaker: Rebecca Boehm, University of Connecticut  
Lecture Title: Can You Taste the Climate Changing? U.S. Tea Consumers Willing to Pay Premium for Climate-Friendly Agricultural Practices and Climate-Sensitive Quality Attributes

**Friday, 10/20/17** – Speaker: Nathan Fiala, University of Connecticut  
Lecture Title: Social Accountability and Service Delivery: Evidence From a Large-Scale Experiment in Uganda

**Friday, 10/27/17** – Speaker: Shaheer Burney, University of Connecticut  
Lecture Title: In-Kind Benefits and Household Behavior: The Impact of SNAP on Food-Away-From-Home Consumption

**Friday, 11/3/17** – Speaker: Eric Njuki, University of Connecticut  
Lecture Title: Accounting for Technological and Environmental Heterogeneity in U.S. Agricultural Productivity Using Random Parameters

**Friday, 11/10/17** – Speaker: Guanlong Fu, Giulia Tiboldo, Joanna Kamiche Zegarra, University of Connecticut  
Lecture Title: Preliminary results from ARE dissertation work

**Friday, 11/17/17** – Speaker: Chris Barrett, Cornell University  
Lecture Title: Revisiting the Effect of Food Aid on Conflict: A Methodological Caution

**Friday, 12/1/17** – Speaker: Jörg Peter, Leibniz Institute for Economic Research  
Lecture Title: One-off subsidies and long-run adoption – Experimental evidence on improved cooking stoves in Senegal

**Friday, 12/8/17** – Speaker: Klaus Moeltner, Virginia Tech  
Lecture Title: Coastal home values in Connecticut: Using matching methods to separate flood risk from amenity effects
Other Funded Activities

- Supplementary graduate student funding
- Funding for travel for graduate students and faculty
- Funding supporting staff salary
- Collaboration with state agencies and partners
- Support to recruit new faculty
- Data purchases
  - University of Chicago Kilts Center ($7,000/year)
- Scholarships for students:
  - Xi He (Ph.D.)
  - Risa Lewis (B.S.)
- Co-funding of a Zamorano University intern:
  - Marcela Pineda Santos, Spring 2017
Future Directions

The Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy at the University of Connecticut is in a position to lead cutting edge research, education, and outreach in economic and business analyses in Connecticut. This includes a combination of engaging research studies on agricultural economic impacts, quantitative evaluation of public policies, feasibility studies, increasing local and healthy food consumption and enhancing food security and environmental sustainability.

Research

Research studies on economic impacts, feasibility, and food systems will be conducted in the next three years within the following three areas:

1. Economic impacts at the sector level
   - Assessment of trends in the industry
   - Assessment of the state regulatory environment
   - Current contribution of the state’s agricultural industry
   - Budgeting and financial analysis
   - Vetting the profitability of new products and technologies
   - Conducting market assessments for new and existing products
   - Establishing a clearing house for information

2. Food systems research
   - Assessment of local food expenditure
   - Evaluation of household and community food security
   - Enhancement of nutrition and food policy outreach
   - Establishing a clearing house of food systems data
   - Evaluation of the healthiness and environmental sustainability of food choices

3. Climate change and environmental sustainability
   - Assessment of impact of climate change on agricultural sector
   - Valuation of the environmental benefits provided by agricultural sector
   - Assessment of solar and other renewable energy production potential on farms and non-prime agricultural land
• Policy recommendations to protect Connecticut producers from adverse weather events due to climate change

The Center continues to support Ph.D. students with graduate assistantships and fellowships and post-doctoral fellows to participate in related research projects and training in pertinent areas. We further enhance this development through the provision of travel support to disseminate work at academic conferences and through the publication of the Working Paper Series, Outreach Series, and Research Report Series. Over 90 publications have been widely distributed since 2011 through these three publication series.

Outreach

Within the research focus outlined above, the Zwick Center will produce peer-reviewed academic journal publications, outreach publications, and impact decision making through dissemination and direct communication with policy makers. Human capital development, through graduate assistantships in the existing M.S. and Ph.D. programs will also occur in the pertinent areas. In addition to the standard research and education models, the Zwick Center’s mission of improving society welfare is further aided by UConn’s commitment to community engagement in research and teaching.

Impact

To aid in understanding the potential impact and outreach activities we have outlined a few examples of recent work and outcomes below:

One example of the type of impact the Zwick Center has had in recent years is with the dairy program research performed by the Zwick Center since 2011. This research has resulted in over a dozen publications from the Zwick Center, as well as support for the administration and continuation of a dairy support program to aid dairy farmers in Connecticut. Over $5 million has been distributed to dairy farmers resulting in the addition of about 75 jobs per year and roughly $10 million in additional annual sales for the industry.

A second example is conducting studies to support policy decisions and implementation such as a series of economic impact reports involving Connecticut agriculture, forestry, and fishery industries. With the initial report released in 2010 on the economic impact of Connecticut
agricultural industry and another report specifically requested by the legislature to implement Public Act 09-229 on the economic impact of the dairy industry, two additional reports have been issued in partnerships with Farm Credit East involving impacts of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the Northeast, including Connecticut. Additional reports focusing on the maritime industries and local foods have also been issued and well-received by stakeholders and policy makers alike. An update on Connecticut’s agricultural industry impacts in 2015 is due to be released in September 2017 at the Connecticut Capitol Building by Rep. Joe Courtney and Agriculture Secretary Steven Reviczky.

A third example is the community food security work that the Zwick Center has continued. With the initial report in 2005 and the subsequent report in 2012, this research has generated substantial media attention through television, print, and Internet, not just in Connecticut but across the United States including Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, California. This report has served to facilitate the organization of several advocacy groups and has prompted legislators and NGO’s to take focus on the problems associated with food security in Connecticut towns. A subsequent project that started in 2016 is currently underway to be released in 2017, with a delay due to the departure of Dr. Adam Rabinowitz.

The Zwick Center will lead these education, research, and outreach programs in partnerships with government, academic, and advocacy groups. Potential partners with whom we have existing relationships includes state and city governments such as the State of Connecticut, the Connecticut Food Policy Council, and the Governor’s Council for Agricultural Development; University of Connecticut faculty and staff including the Department of Extension, Office of Public Engagement, and the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention including the newly affiliated Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity; advocacy groups including End Hunger Connecticut and the Hartford Food System. In the next three years, the Center will continue its path of excellence in research and outreach with a focus on quantitative assessments of policy impacts to inform policy decisions to ensure that the agriculture, forestry, and fishery industries in Connecticut are both economically and environmentally sustainable for the current and future generations.