



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES



2011

AWARDS & EVENT
HONORS



University of
Connecticut
College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011



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Welcome

to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and
the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture
2011 Awards and Honors Event

Welcome to the 2011 College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Awards Banquet. The College and the College's Alumni Association have a long history of recognizing outstanding and distinguished alumni, faculty, staff and supporters. For the second year, the College is pleased to partner with the Alumni Association in recognizing these individuals. On behalf of the entire College, I would like to thank the members of UCANRAA and the members of the Committee on Excellence for identifying the exceptional awardees we will recognize this evening and congratulate those receiving awards.

Dean Gregory Weidemann



Program

Awards and Honors Event Thursday, April 28, 2011

5:30 PM

GENERAL RECEPTION

Rome Commons Ballroom

UCANRAA ANNUAL MEETING

Rome Commons Portico

6:30 PM

WELCOME

Gregory Weidemann

Dean and Director, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

DINNER

7:30 PM

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

CANR Awards of Excellence

UCANRAA Awards

Augustus and Charles Storrs Award

Connecticut 4-H Volunteer Recognition

College Ambassador Recognition

CLOSING REMARKS



Awards

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Awards of Excellence

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Kumar Venkitanarayanan, *Department of Animal Science*

Over the past eleven years, Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan has established an internationally renowned research program and is well respected by the world's most influential food microbiologists. The focus of his research is to develop methods for improving the microbiological safety of foods and it has resulted in an outstanding record of seven book chapters, 60 refereed journal papers, 48 conference proceedings and abstracts, five new gene sequences contributed to the GenBank, and 19 presentations. Dr. Venkitanarayanan's outstanding grantsmanship has resulted in awards of over 3.5 million dollars, primarily from USDA.

Dr. Venkitanarayanan's graduate students have earned 28 prestigious scholarships and competitive presentation awards. Approximately 70 percent of his refereed publications over the past 10 years were authored or co-authored by his graduate students. He is chair of the department's Graduate Committee and coordinates the Animal Science Honors Program. He serves on the editorial boards of three prestigious microbiology journals and has served as an ad-hoc reviewer for six other journals. He has served as an ad-hoc reviewer for a number of major granting agencies and has served on three national USDA grant review panels.

DONALD KINSMAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Richard Mancini, *Department of Animal Science*

Dr. Richard Mancini is an assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science, a very popular teacher and guest lecturer. He is the key advisor for the Block and Bridle ham sale and the lead food science advisor. Dr. Mancini is an excellent graduate student mentor and coordinates student participation in the Nutmeg Section of the Institute of Food Technology. In addition, Dr. Mancini actively mentors undergraduate research projects such as those with NSF.



Awards

His dedication to the College is evident in his vigorous recruitment of undergraduates and his participation in the state FFA Career Development Events. Dr. Mancini is a very talented, engaging and popular teacher. His course evaluations consistently rank higher than University averages.

Dr. Mancini's contributions to the department and to College committees, his activity with UConn alumni, his enthusiastic support of and participation in student recruitment, and his dedication to undergraduate and graduate students have made him an invaluable member of the department of Animal Science.

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN OUTREACH

Mary-Margaret Gaudio and Joan Bothell, *Healthy Environments for Children Initiative, Department of Extension*

The Healthy Environments for Children Initiative (HEC) is a statewide, regional, and national Extension outreach program related to housing, public health and children's environmental health. HEC focuses on education to reduce the risks of lead poisoning, asthma and radon.

The HEC team has received state and national recognition for their curriculum and obtained grant support totaling well over \$1 million in the past ten years. They have developed innovative children's books, animated videos, manuals, curricula, peer-reviewed journal articles and instructional videos in partnership with many national and regional organizations such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Connecticut Department of Public Health, National Center for Healthy Housing, Native American tribes, and other nonprofits. The team's publications are widely distributed and published in English and Spanish for national distribution. The New England Lead Coordinating Committee (NELCC) has been administered by HEC since 2004. On behalf of NELCC, HEC has organized numerous regional conferences.

Ms. Gaudio and Ms. Bothell have received numerous honors and awards for their work, including the second-place prize for their public service announcement about lead poisoning in a nationwide video contest sponsored by EPA, HUD, and CDC. In 2008, they received the University of Connecticut Provost's Award for Excellence in Outreach and Public Engagement.

The HEC staff members serve on a statewide planning and advisory group for the Connecticut Department of Public Health that is currently working with EASTCONN to develop a train-the-trainer program for Head Start staff in eastern Connecticut.

UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association Awards

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Joan Smyth, Pathobiology and Veterinary Science

Dr. Joan Smyth is associate professor in the Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science. For the past six years Dr. Smyth has routinely taught up to 120 students for a core course required for students in the Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science and the Department of Animal Science. The class includes extra lab sections to accommodate the large number of students. Not only is Dr. Smyth's teaching record commendable, but she is also a pathologist in the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory and conducts a very active research program.

Dr. Smyth has mentored several independent study students, providing them with experiential learning opportunities in animal disease research, animal care and treatments, necropsy, bench microbiology and data analysis. Dr. Smyth contributes to the University's Honors Program and is involved with outreach activities such as 4-H demonstrations and poultry events that contribute to community education. Dr. Smyth is actively involved in training the pathology residents, a critical component of the department's service and teaching mission.



Awards

OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD

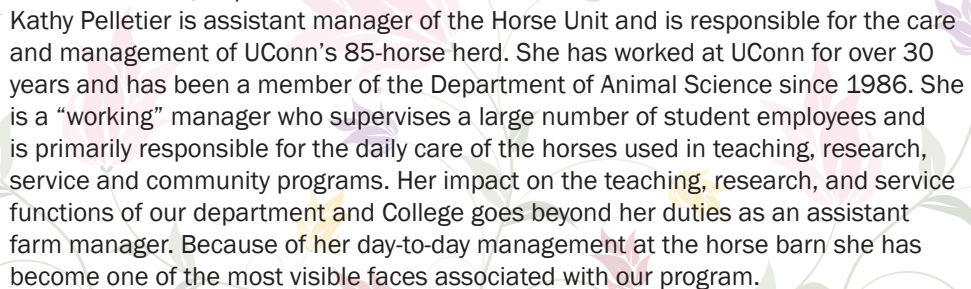
Ms. Karen Nye, *Agriculture and Resource Economics*

Karen Nye is the administrative assistant in the Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ARE). She has worked for the College for nearly twenty-five years. She is dedicated and competent and has professionally provided office administration and secretarial support far above the expectations for her position. As the “face of the department,” Ms. Nye serves as a friendly point of contact for students, faculty, staff and outsiders, and she consistently projects a positive and competent demeanor.

Ms. Nye’s focus, professionalism and disposition define excellence. Her intelligence and attention to detail ensure that all operations in the department run smoothly. Her work includes budget preparation, resolution of grant issues, office management, secretarial duties, payroll processing, report writing, and assisting with departmental searches, purchasing, the Income Tax School and much more. She is an indispensable problem solver and an important part of the ARE team. She has been a major contributor to department activities and independently initiates her own professional improvement by participating in training to keep her knowledge up to date with the ever-changing rules and technology.

OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD

Kathleen C. Pelletier, *Department of Animal Science*



Kathy Pelletier is assistant manager of the Horse Unit and is responsible for the care and management of UConn’s 85-horse herd. She has worked at UConn for over 30 years and has been a member of the Department of Animal Science since 1986. She is a “working” manager who supervises a large number of student employees and is primarily responsible for the daily care of the horses used in teaching, research, service and community programs. Her impact on the teaching, research, and service functions of our department and College goes beyond her duties as an assistant farm manager. Because of her day-to-day management at the horse barn she has become one of the most visible faces associated with our program.

Ms. Pelletier's outstanding care of the horses, the well-maintained facilities and the energy and positive attitude of everyone associated with the horse program are evidence of her dedication and hard work. The combination of her expertise in handling horses and her knowledge of the individual horses make her a valuable member of the program. She is involved with FFA, 4-H and the UConn Horse Committee. She participates in classroom training and in extension and service programs such as the annual Horse Science Symposium. She helps organize and conduct the annual horse auction and organizes a student "Fun Show" the evening before the traditional annual Little International Livestock Show. Ms. Pelletier volunteers as the adviser and coach of the UConn Morgan Drill Team, which she organized in 1987. The Drill Team has performed at several prestigious equine events in the Northeast and at numerous UConn and community events such as Homecoming, Cornucopia, the Mansfield Downtown parade, and the College's graduation student procession at Gampel Pavilion.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Frank C. Gwazdauskas

Dr. Frank C. Gwazdauskas is professor emeritus of dairy science at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, where he has held an appointment in research and teaching since 1976. He has a reputation as an outstanding teacher and as a premier scientist in the field of theriogenology.

Dr. Gwazdauskas graduated from Crosby High School in Waterbury, then enrolled at UConn, majoring in animal and dairy science. He was a member and officer in both the Block and Bridle and Dairy Science clubs. He was also a member of the Dairy, Livestock and Meat Judging teams. He placed first at a national dairy judging contest in Holsteins with a perfect score.

Upon graduation from UConn in 1966, he served as a federal meat grader and later as a veterinary specialist in the U.S. Army. In 1969, he began his graduate education at the University of Florida, where he majored in reproductive physiology and completed the requirements for the MS (1972) and PhD (1974) degrees.

At Virginia Tech, he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses, lectured first-year medical students, and served as a major advisor of MS and PhD students. Dr. Gwazdauskas has been a member of various professional organizations, and he has authored scientific journals, articles, abstracts and book chapters. His research has focused on embryonic development and survival.

Throughout his career, Dr. Gwazdauskas' distinguished service in teaching and in research has been recognized by numerous awards and honors. Among them are a Fulbright Fellowship to Ireland in 1989, the Virginia Tech Alumni Award for Research Excellence (1995), and his appointment in 1996 as the David R. and Margaret Lincicome Endowed Professor.



Awards

HONORARY UCANRAA MEMBER

Kenneth M. Couture

Kenneth M. Couture is a steadfast advocate for undergraduate, graduate and Cooperative Extension programs at the University of Connecticut, and he is an ambassador for opportunities in agricultural and environmental education. His efforts have contributed substantially to the success of collaborative ventures between the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and high school programs. He has encouraged many students to attend UConn and he has played a key role in strengthening communication between UConn's agricultural education students and current teachers. Mr. Couture's involvement at the national level, along with increased recognition of Connecticut's secondary and higher education agricultural programs, has helped the state and University stand out as leaders in agricultural education.

In 1980, Mr. Couture received his undergraduate degree in agriculture education from the University of Georgia. In 1981, he received a master's degree in agriculture education from Clemson University. Since then, Mr. Couture has served high school students in Connecticut as an agriculture education teacher at Killingly High School and Rockville High School. As a professional in the Connecticut Association of Agricultural Educators (CAAE), he has looked for ways to work with and promote the University of Connecticut. Recently, he was elected to a three-year position as the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) president-elect. Mr. Couture is the first Connecticut educator to be elected to such a prominent position on the NAAE Board.

As a teacher, advisor and leader in professional organizations, Mr. Couture promotes the UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as a resource to students, teachers and the agricultural industries. He has assisted with many activities and events on campus; coordinated professional development activities for high school teachers; and mentored pre-service and new agriculture teachers.

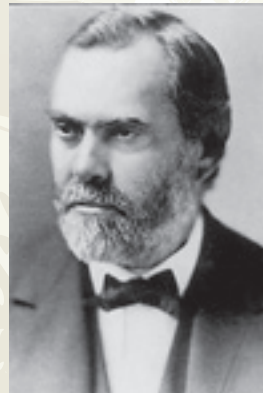
Augustus & Charles Storrs

Award

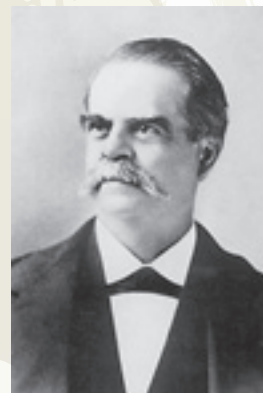
In 1881, Augustus and Charles Storrs made a gift of 170 acres of farmland with buildings and \$5,000 to establish a school of agriculture. The Storrs Agricultural School opened September 28, 1881. In April 1893, the General Assembly changed the school's name to the Storrs Agricultural College, allowed for the enrollment of women and made it the beneficiary of the federal Land Grant Act of 1862.

From the beginning, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the original school and college of what became the University of Connecticut, has served the state with distinction, providing undergraduate, graduate, extension, family and 4-H youth education, research, and service in a wide variety of areas related to agriculture, food, natural resources, and the environment.

The Augustus and Charles Storrs Award is given by the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The award recognizes and honors those who, through their leadership, generosity, and belief in the future of Connecticut, support the College in its service to the state, region and nation.



Charles Storrs



Augustus Storrs



Richard DelFavero
CANR 1956, 1958

2011 Augustus and Charles Storrs Award Recipients

Richard “Dick” R. DelFavero was born in Meriden, Connecticut, and graduated from Meriden Public High School. He received his BS degree in agricultural engineering in 1956 and his MS in agricultural economics in 1958, though his connection to the University began long before coming to Storrs. As a 4-H'er he raised pigs, rabbits, laying hens and broilers and helped teach other members to build hutches.

After completing graduate school, Mr. DelFavero was recruited by Rexnord Corporation, a Fortune 500 company. He served in their construction machinery division and worked in various positions in engineering and sales. After six years, having achieved the position of district manager of technical sales in New York and New Jersey, Mr. DelFavero returned home to Connecticut to join his father in the family business, DelFavero Builders.

He and his wife Barbara have been married for fifty two years. They raised five children and have twelve grandchildren. Mr. DelFavero, the first in his family to attend college, began a family legacy at UConn that has continued with his daughter Robbin and his grandchildren Julie and Jeffrey. He has enjoyed great success throughout his life as the founder and owner of several privately held family businesses. However, he has often described himself as living most of his life as a “farmer without a farm.” That changed 25 years ago when the DelFaveros purchased Hayward Farm in Derby, Vermont, and began raising beef cattle.

Mr. DelFavero is a lifetime member of the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association (UCANRAA) and a member of the Alpha Gamma Roe Fraternity Alumni organization.



Augustus & Charles Storrs

Award

He is a founding brother of the Alpha Nu Chapter, and served as Noble Ruler, President of the Alumni of the Alpha Nu Chapter. In 1992 he was recognized by UCANRAA with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Mr. DelFavero has been a member or chair of several local commissions and boards in Connecticut and in Vermont. He is also an active member and former trustee of the Vermont Beef Producers Association.

The DelFaveros are members of the UConn Foundation's Founders Society, Charles and Augustus Storrs Circle, and have created the DelFavero Scholarship in Agricultural and Resource Economics. In addition, they have also supported the Stanley K. Seaver Scholarship Fund, Stanley K. Seaver Fellowship, Stewart Johnson Scholarship Fund, Agriculture Dean's Fund, Horse Facilities Building Fund and Dairy Bar Creamery. The DelFaveros' generosity has transformed the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, allowing for the recruitment and support of talented students who have contributed to the Department's growing reputation for excellence.

The DelFaveros have also provided support to the Alpha Gamma Roe (AGR) fraternity, making much-needed upgrades to the fraternity's kitchen and electrical system. In fact, it was Mr. DelFavero who had negotiated with the Storrs family many years ago to purchase the AGR property.

The College is extremely grateful and proud to honor Dick DelFavero with the 2011 Augustus and Charles Storrs Award for his leadership and support of the College and University.

Recognition

Awards

As a college family, it is fitting to take the time each year to recognize our faculty and staff who have been recognized for their years of service and to present our faculty and staff awards along with several other recognitions.

40 YEARS

Linda Drake

35 YEARS

Carl Salsedo

30 YEARS

Thomas Hoagland
Todd Wright

25 YEARS

Candace Bartholomew
Karl Guillard
Joyce Meader

20 YEARS

John Clausen
Toni Ellis
Antonio Garmendia
Rigoberto Lopez
Frederick Pettit
Robert Ricard
Farhed Shah
Steven Zinn

15 YEARS

Sheila Andrew
Lorraine Downing
Pouran Faghri

James Hurd
Xiaofen Liao
Marlene Madzek
Maryann Morris

10 YEARS

Melissa Albaugh
Camilla Crossgrove
Wanda Hamilton
Stephen Miner
Emily Wilson

4-H VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Connecticut 4-H Leadership Award

Jeff Allen
Walter and Nancy Squier

Connecticut 4-H Meritorious Service to 4-H Award

Kelly Cronin
Waterbury Youth Services

Recognition

AMBASSADORS

Brittany Banning
Amy Beyer
Chelsea Briggs
Lauren Dilello
Elizabeth Fedorko
Genevieve Flock
James Gaffney
Oliver Gaffney
Stephanie Goldstein
Katherine Hebert
Edyta Hryniewicz
Bradley Hunt
Amy Krauss
Amy Law
Allie Leblanc
Anthony Minniti
Alicia Morrison
Jocelyn Starzyk
Kate Vezza
Christopher Ziegler





University of
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College of Agriculture
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