

USDA Fellows Update

Two fellows, **Julia Barton** and **Rebecca Som Castellano**, completed internships with the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Sustainable Agriculture Program. While at ODA, each had different foci and worked on diverse projects throughout their internships.

Som Castellano's work included compiling funding sources for projects aimed at healthy food access, and promoting a new initiative, Ohio Neighborhood Harvest, which is working toward improving local economies, environment, and equity in the food system. In addition, Som Castellano compiled a report documenting best practices in Ohio and across the United States in projects addressing healthy food access, such as local farmers' markets and corner store improvement. This work allowed Som Castellano to apply her knowledge of theory and research to the policy world.

During her time as an intern, Barton worked in conjunction with the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council's four task forces, and assisted in developing the first annual Ohio Food Policy



2009-2010 USDA National Needs Graduate Fellows Rebecca Som Castellano (left) and Julia Barton.

Council Report. She also collaborated to plan and execute skill-sharing sessions and roundtables for existing and emerging local and regional food policy councils from around the state.

Both Barton and Som Castellano noted that their internships reinforced the importance of interdepartmental and interdisciplinary collaborations, both within state government, and also within the academy. Their time at the ODA reminded them of the importance of working with and for broad and diverse audiences with varied priorities and backgrounds. Both Barton and Som Castellano found value in the opportunity to work with their internship mentor Amalie Lipstreu and the Ohio Department

of Agriculture, and are grateful that the USDA National Needs Fellowship afforded them funding which enabled them to participate in these internship experiences. 🌱

A New Home for the SRI

The Social Responsibility Initiative (SRI) has a new home. We are pleased to join the School of Environment and Natural Resources. You though, may still find us on the web at: www.sri.osu.edu or may contact us via phone: 614-688-8798.

New to the team

It is our pleasure to welcome our new undergraduate research assistants. **Kelly Lewis** is a sophomore honors student working towards a double major in Crop Science and Geography. She is interested in tackling agricultural and environmental issues in Ohio and around the globe. She is the website manager for Students for a Sustainable Campus, is an active member of several urban gardening groups on campus, and enjoys biking to the Clintonville Community Market on Saturday mornings. This summer she studied agriculture and rural sociology in the Czech Republic and helped conduct research on weed responses to climate change.

Ariel Miller is a sophomore honors student with junior standing pursuing a dual-degree in Environmental Policy & Management and Anthropology. Her particular interest in both of these disciplines relates to food — how food systems impact the environment and also how people connect to their food on a cultural level.

She is secretary of Students for a Sustainable Campus and president of a new group she started called Growing Green, which is geared towards starting student-run gardens in local elementary schools and educating students about basic environmental concepts that they can relate to the garden. She loves boating, gardening and traveling, and next summer is planning to volunteer in Peru on an organic farm through WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) to gain both international and agricultural experience. Welcome! 🌱



SRI Undergraduate Research Assistant, Ariel Miller

SRI Funds Affiliate Project



Doug Doohan (above) will be conducting an SRI-funded interdisciplinary workshop.

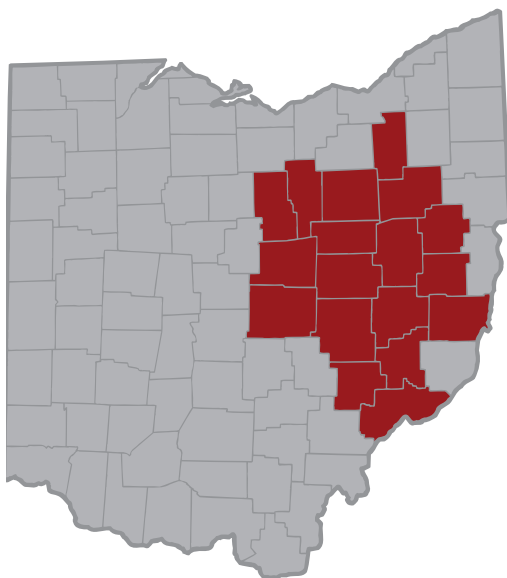
The SRI recently funded as part of its' affiliate investment program a proposal submitted by **Drs. Jason Parker** and **Doug Doohan** to conduct an interdisciplinary workshop to identify and explore research interests among participants on the topic of food safety and farm scale in agricultural sustainability. The workshop will bring together experts in the field of food safety and sustainability in order to share research interests and explore ideas for future collaboration. The focus of this workshop will be to build a network of collaborators (researchers and educators) to bring in external funding for conducting research in areas identified during the workshop on the topic of food safety and sustainability. The workshop is modeled after a similar project, the

Agricultural Risk Analysis Program (ARAP) funded via the SRI in 2006 that successfully leveraged external funding in the amount of \$4.5 million through the National Food Safety Initiative (NIFSI) and OAREI. The full 2-day event will feature seminars and sessions aimed at identifying common themes and interests and developing action plans and proposal development. For more information, contact Jason Parker (parker.294@osu.edu). 🌱

Coming Soon— SRI Website Gets a New Look

In the next few months, we will be launching our new and improved website. We hope it will make it easier for you to keep up with our happenings and make it easier to connect with research on the social dimensions of food, agricultural and environmental issues.

SRI Affiliates and Associates in the News



Joint Board of Soil and Water Conservation Districts for the Muskingum Watershed Formed

This 22 county group was created last December as a result of the success of the Alpine Nutrient Trading Plan, an important project led by Dr. Richard Moore and others for the Social Responsibility Initiative because of its water quality improvements and the assistance it gave to the Amish farmers, local cheese industry, and the county SWCD office. Currently, the joint board is exploring options to expand these successes with water quality trading. The goal with this water quality trading is that point sources, such as factories and wastewater treatment plants, can buy environmental credits that are more effective in watershed improvement than EPA-required facility upgrades and are also less expensive. The five year project with the Alpine case was finished on budget in three years with a waiting list of farmers who wanted to get involved. 🌱



Richard Moore

Dr. Richard Moore is the new President for the American Anthropological

Association's Culture and Agriculture Section for the next two years. This subgroup's journal will soon be renamed "Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment" (CAFÉ) to recognize the inherent interconnectedness of these areas of study. Dr. Moore is also welcoming Professor Yumiko Iwasaki from Fukushima University in Japan for a year-long stay with OARDC. Her research will be focused on women entrepreneurship in local foods and specifically will be looking at Wooster's new Local Roots Coop. In Japan, she was an important part of the Japanese Organic Farming Association which works with the concept of "teikei" — the face to face relationships between producers and consumers.



Linda Lobao

An article featuring Dr. Linda Lobao, a rural sociologist in the College of Food, Agriculture & Environmental Science, and her research with the inequalities of life in rural Appalachia appeared in the March/April 2010 edition of the *Ohio State Alumni Magazine*. The article highlights how spatial inequality can occur not only throughout a country, but also within smaller regions. In Appalachia, this can be attributed to a couple different factors, including the fact that "bad families"

that do poorly have a difficult time breaking out of the label that is put on them by the community and that in small towns, cronyism often takes root. Lobao also points out that cycles of poverty can be created when workers fall in debt after being forced to live in their company's housing and use company-owned stores. She sees potential for improvement in Appalachia through well-paid jobs created on a national level and believes that as more Americans experience poverty after losing their jobs in the current political climate, more attention will be paid to helping the poor.



Jeff Sharp

This past September, Dr. Jeff Sharp spoke at the first Brownbag Lecture Series event of the school year, hosted by the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity on campus. Titled "Global to Local, Production to Consumption: An Overview of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food Systems," Sharp's lecture focused on scholarly approaches to studying food systems and discussed some of the current questions and insights in the field.



Social Responsibility Initiative Highlights

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College of Food, Agricultural,
and Environmental Sciences

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Columbus, OH 43210

Book Reviews

Deemer, D.R. 2010. Remaking the North American Food System: Strategies for Sustainability. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*.

Journal Articles

Bean, M. and J.S. Sharp. "Profiling Alternative Food System Supporters: The Personal and Social Basis of Local and Organic Food Support." *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*. (Forthcoming).

Hardy, Scott D. and Tomas Koontz. 2009. "Rules for Collaboration: Institutional Analysis of Group Membership and Levels of Action in Watershed Partnerships." *Policy Studies Journal* 37 (3): 393-414.

Hardy, Scott D. and Tomas Koontz. 2010. "Collaborative Watershed Partnerships in Urban and Rural Areas: Different Pathways to Success?" *Landscape and Urban Planning* 95: 75-90.

Hooks, G. C. Mosher, Shaun Genter, T. Rotolo, and L. Lobao. 2010. "Revisiting the Impact of Prison Building on Job Growth: Education, Incarceration, and County-Level Employment, 1976-2004." *Social Science Quarterly* 91(1): 228-244.

Lobao, L. and D. Kraybill. 2009. "Poverty and Local Governments: Economic Development and Community Service Provision in an Era of Decentralization." *Growth and Change* 40 (3): 418-451.

Lobao, L., R. Martin, and A. Rodriguez-Pose. 2009. "Rescaling the State: New Modes of Institutional-Territorial Organization." *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 2(1): 3-12.

Sharp, J.S., J.K. Clark, G. Davis, M. Bean, and J. McCutcheon. "Adapting Community and Economic Development Tools to the Study of Local Foods: The Case of Knox County, Ohio." *Journal of Extension*. (Forthcoming).

Scholarly Presentations

Adua, L. and J.S. Sharp. "Tracking Agrarian Views Over Time: Public Attitudes about Agriculture, 2002 to 2010." Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, August 2010.

Barton, J. and J.S. Sharp. "Agricultural and Food Systems Development." Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, August 2010.

Bean, M., L. Lobao, and R.J. Birkenholz. "Training Future Faculty in Sustainable Sciences through and Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Rural Sociology (IPPRS)." Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, State College, PA, June 2010.

Clark, J.K., S.M. Inwood, and M. Bean. "Regional Food Systems: The Birth of New Farmers and the Death of an Industry?" Paper presented at Local Food Systems in Old Industrial Regions: Challenges and Opportunities, Toledo, OH, August 2010.

Deemer, D. and L. Lobao. "Is Human Compassion Finite? Examining Public Concern for the Well-Being of Farm Animals and Workers in the Food Sector By Religiosity and Political Affiliation." Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, August 2010.

Schupp, J. and R. Som Castellano. "Bursting the Local Foods Bubble? An Examination of Potential Obstacles Facing Food System Localization." Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, August 2010.