



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVE (SRI) HIGHLIGHTS

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Less than five years ago, the Administrative Cabinet at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) embraced the concept of providing support for the Social Responsibility Initiative (SRI). Since the SRI was established, there has been a wide range of activities undertaken by faculty, staff, and graduate students who have affiliated with the SRI. This issue of *SRI Highlights* provides an overview of what has been accomplished in the past, as well as a glimpse into what we hope to achieve in the future. By nearly every metric of importance, the SRI has been successful in fulfilling its intended purpose of providing leadership for the social dimension of the CFAES Ecological Paradigm.

Noteworthy achievements include two USDA National Needs Graduate Fellowship grants to support four master's and two doctoral students in Rural Sociology. Rather than narrowly focusing on a single discipline, the

USDA graduate student fellows are pursuing a broad array of coursework, which reflects the four dimensions of the CFAES Ecological Paradigm, namely: Production Efficiency, Economic Viability, Environmental Compatibility, and Social Responsibility. The ultimate goal of the program is to produce graduates who are better prepared to provide leadership in their future careers as a result of the broad base of their educational background. Although time will be the ultimate judge, the program appears to be destined for success!

Over the past few years, the SRI has placed particular emphasis on local food initiatives and environmental issues, particularly water quality and nutrient trading. We anticipate continuing support for the SRI affiliates in the coming years. Even so, we are also interested in extending our impact by promoting and facilitating collaborations that involve faculty, staff, and graduate students who

are interested in pursuing scholarly activities related to bioenergy and biobased products. Past history has shown that consideration of the social dimension is important to the long-term success of technological innovations; therefore, the SRI's primary focus in the foreseeable future is bioenergy and biobased product research, teaching, and OSU Extension outreach.

Please feel free to contact me or one of the SRI affiliated faculty, staff, or graduate students at 614-688-8798 to discuss how we might work together to address mutual needs and interests. Or, to learn more about the SRI or to access our topical reports, please visit www.sri.osu.edu.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Birkenholz,
Director



This issue of SRI Highlights is dedicated to Dr. Bill Flinn, who served as the first director of the SRI since it was established in 2005. Dr. Flinn retired from Ohio State earlier this year after a distinguished career as a faculty member in Rural Sociology. During this time, he also served as director of MUCIA for 20 years. Although Dr. Flinn has officially retired, his influence will continue indefinitely through his former graduate students and the programs he administered throughout his career. We collectively wish the best for Bill and his wife Susan as they survey the many opportunities that retirement will provide. Thank you for your leadership and service!



USDA Fellows Update

Beginning in 2006, the SRI was awarded funding from the USDA Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Program to train four master's and two doctoral students in an interdisciplinary rural sociology graduate program. We are pleased to share the following.

Julia Barton

Julia spent the summer balancing her internship in sustainable agriculture at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, along with a practicum experience at the Ohio State Waterman Dairy Center and the Ohio State Student Farm. In her work on the newly founded Student Farm, Julia assisted Metro Early College High School students and fellow Ohio State students in growing mixed vegetables, herbs, and flowers for sale to the Ohio State Office of Campus Dining Services and the new farmers market at Metro Early College High School. Some of the produce was also donated to local food pantries. Julia's volunteer work at the Waterman Dairy offered her an insider's view of a farm, where she took part in milking and feeding the dairy herd.

At the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Julia assisted in the creation of the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council Annual Report, where she helped to form a network of existing and emerging local and regional food policy councils throughout Ohio. Julia also served as a session chair and moderator at the Ohio State Human and Community Resource Development Graduate Student Association Annual Conference and the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Next year promises to be exciting, as Julia completes her interdisciplinary coursework and thesis on barriers to agricultural economic development.

Danielle Deemer

Danielle served as treasurer of the Ohio State Human and Community Resource



Danielle Deemer, USDA Fellow tending the garden at the SFS Buckeye Village community garden

Development Graduate Student Association during the 2008–2009 academic year. Danielle is also active in the student organization, Students for Food Sovereignty (SFS), and provides leadership for their Buckeye Village community garden. On behalf of SFS, she presented "Agricultural Inequality at Home and Across the Globe: Are Urban Gardens the Solution to Food Racism?" at Organize Columbus' Confronting Racism Conference in May.

Danielle also co-organized and participated in the SRI roundtable Sustainable Food Systems Opportunities for Student Engagement. Further, she served as a panelist on the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Visitor's Day at the Ohio State Faculty Club. This past summer, Danielle presented her thesis research at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, and at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA. In August, Danielle completed her master's thesis, and in September, she completed her graduate training program. She will begin a PhD program in Autumn 2009. Congratulations, Danielle!

New USDA Fellows

The SRI would like to welcome our newest USDA fellows joining us this fall. Erin Caricofe is our fourth master's-level USDA fellow, and Joe Campbell and Rebecca Som Castellano will start the doctoral fellowship program.

Erin Caricofe

Erin Caricofe originally hails from Northern Virginia, near Washington, D.C. Shortly after earning her BA at The College of William and Mary in 2001, she moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where the region's agricultural strengths sparked her interest in food. Frequenting farmers markets expanded to volunteering for a statewide farming nonprofit; her efforts focused on connecting urban and rural food and folk, and promoting

a "buy local" approach to healthy food. She also pursued a number of food-related opportunities: culinary school in Canada, agritourism in Italy, test kitchen cooking in Birmingham, and nonprofit work in organic farming (CA) and sustainable food systems (D.C.). She is currently completing a 6-month apprenticeship at the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at UC Santa Cruz, and is looking forward to exploring the sustainability of the US food system (and its imbedded food culture) through its community-based regionalization while at Ohio State.

Joe Campbell

Joe holds a Master of Science degree in Environment and Natural Resources from Ohio State, where he also minored in Rural Sociology. He has spent the last

year as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team, a regional non-profit organization that works across the Appalachian region to provide help to rural communities impoverished by environmental degradation and its consequences. The organization assists communities in making their home-place watersheds healthier places to live and work.

Rebecca Som Castellano

Rebecca recently earned her master's degree in sociology from the University of Kentucky. Her research focuses on the school lunch program, and she has also conducted community food assessments. In 2008, Rebecca was awarded the Rural Sociological Society Master's Thesis and Dissertation Research Award.

SRI Affiliates in the News

The SRI affiliates' research and Extension work is in the news.

Doug Doohan

Some of Doug's research and Extension work has focused on setting a comprehensive food safety program for fresh produce in Ohio. Specifically, Doug has worked toward implementing a program that includes small growers. His work was highlighted in a number of Ohio agricultural publications this summer. Doug is a fruit and vegetable specialist with OSU Extension and a leader of the Ohio Roundtable on Safe Production of Fresh Produce.

Linda Lobao

With the intent of keeping farms in the hands of independent farm families, North Dakota adopted a law that prohibits corporations from owning farmland or engaging in the business of farming and ranching. Linda Labao, a rural sociologist in Ohio State's Department of Human and Community Resource Development, has studied the effects of industrialized farming on communities; her research has been instrumental in upholding this law. In June 2008, Lobao and Curtis Stofferahn, a rural sociologist at the University of North Dakota, co-published an article in *Agriculture and Human Values*. In this article, Lobao and Stofferahn concluded that social science research supports the position that public concern about industrialized farming is warranted and, in turn, that states have a legitimate public interest in regulating these farms.

Molly Bean Smith

Molly's research on farm markets was recently featured in the food section of *The Columbus Dispatch*. Molly is a research associate with the SRI.

Sustainability Institute Events Held

On May 11, 2009, Dr. Rich Pirog, associate director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture presented "Iowa's Journey in Developing a More Resilient Local and Regional Food System" as part of the Center's 2009 Brown Bag Series. The SRI hosted the event with support from the Center for Farmland Policy and Innovation and the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Sustainable Agriculture Program.

Community activist Gus Newport presented "Turning Communities Around: Solutions for a Sustainable Society" on May 12, 2009. The Ohio Youth Leadership Summit on the Environment hosted the event with

support from the SRI; The Ohio State University Facilities Operations and Development Office of Energy Services and Sustainability; the New Harvest Community Arts Center; Simply Living; and WCRS LP Columbus Community Radio.

A panel of students, faculty, and Ohio State Office of Campus Dining Services representatives shared their thoughts on "Sustainable Food Systems: Opportunities for Student Engagement." The USDA fellows organized this event with support from the SRI and the Ohio Youth Leadership Summit on the Environment.

SRI Affiliate Serves as Program Chair for National Social Science Conference on Climate Change

Jeff Sharp, rural sociologist and associate professor in the Ohio State Department of Human and Community Resource Development was the program chair for the 2009 Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Madison, WI. The theme for the meeting was Climate Change and Societal Response: Livelihoods, Communities, and the Environment. More than 435 social scientists participated in the meeting, and it was the second largest meeting in the last 10 years. There were 8 organized paper and/or panel sessions focused on climate change, with a total of 26 papers on the topic. The SRI co-sponsored this event.



Edie Pigg, Rural Sociological Society, and Jeff Sharp, Program Chair for 2009 Annual Meeting

Lazarus Adua was awarded the Rural Sociological Society Graduate Student Paper Award at this year's annual meeting. Lazarus earned his PhD in Rural Sociology in Spring 2009. The title of his award-winning paper is "Examining the Human Dimensions of Climate Change: The Consequences of Efficiency Improvement Versus Social Stratification on Residential Energy Consumption."

Congratulations, Lazarus!



Lazarus Adua, 2009 recipient of the Rural Sociological Society Graduate Student Paper Award for his paper on the human dimensions of climate change

OUTREACH PRESENTATIONS

Adua, L. "Examining the Human Dimensions of Climate Change: The Consequences of Efficiency Improvement Versus Social Stratification on Residential Energy Consumption." Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, August 2009.

Adua, L., J. Schupp, and J. S. Sharp. "Energy Intensity and Chemical Usage in U.S. Agricultural Production: Lessons for the Climate Change and Sustainability Discourses." Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, August 2009.

Deemer, D. "Religion's Impact on Public Concern for Farm Animal Well-Being." Paper presented at the Fifth Annual Human and Community Resource Development Graduate Research Conference, Columbus, OH, May 2009.

Deemer, D. "Ideology, Doctrine, and Farm Animal Well-Being: The Influence of Religious Preference and Religiosity on Public Attitudes Toward Farm Animal Well-Being." Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, August 2009.

Deemer, D. "Religion and Consumption: Does Denomination and Religiosity Affect Demand for Labor-Friendly and Animal-Welfare Friendly Products?" Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 2009.

Schupp, J., M. B. Smith, and J. S. Sharp. "Rural-Urban Differences in Home Gardening in Ohio." Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, August 2009.

Smith, M. B. "Local Food Systems Development: A Core Project of the Social Responsibility Initiative." Invited team presentation for County Commissioners of Ohio, Wadsworth, OH. August 2009.

Smith, M. B., J. Schupp, and J. S. Sharp. "Home Gardening in Ohio." Paper presented at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS), State College, PA, May 2009.

Smith, M. B., J. Clark, J. S. Sharp, and H. Sacks. "Expanding Opportunities for Local Food Consumption and Marketing." Paper presented at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS), State College, PA, May 2009.

Smith, M. B. "But What's Next for Graduate Students in Food and Agriculture Studies?" Invited panelist and paper presenter at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS), State College, PA, May 2009.

OUTREACH REPORTS

Inwood, S., and J. S. Sharp. "Succession and Enterprise Adaptation at the Rural Urban Interface: Social Responsibility Initiative Topical Report 09-03." Columbus, OH: SRI.

Schupp, J., Smith, M. B., and J. S. Sharp. "Home Gardening in Ohio: Social Responsibility Initiative Topical Report 09-02." Columbus, OH: SRI.

Sharp, J. S., M. Webb, and M. B. Smith. "Planting the Seeds of Sustainable Economic Development: Knox County's Local Food System: Social Responsibility Initiative Topical Report 09-04." Columbus, OH: SRI.

MASTER'S THESES

Deemer, Danielle. 2009. "Public Attitudes Toward Farm Animal Well-Being: The Significance of Religion and Political Affiliation." The Ohio State University. Linda Lobao, Advisor.

Smith, Leah. 2009. "Food System Makers: Community Organizations and Local Food System Development at the Rural-Urban Interface." The Ohio State University. Jeff Sharp, Advisor.

GRANTS

Clark, Jill, Jeff Sharp, and Shoshanah Inwood. "Scaling-up Connections Between Regional Ohio Specialty Crop Producers and Local Markets: Distribution as the Missing Link." The Ohio Department of Agriculture's Special Crop Block Grants, \$29,240.

