WINTER SESSION COURSE IN CUBA  by Frank Mangan

Three Stockbridge students were among the five students who traveled to Cuba for 16 days in January for my course, Food Systems in Cuba: Production, Logistics, and Marketing. The course included visiting numerous farms and local farm markets, as well as Viñuales, the center of tobacco production in Cuba, where we joined in the harvesting (see photo).

We all stayed with Cuban families, enabling us to learn more about Cuban culture and food systems.

The course will be offered again in January 2017 and I hope to have 10-12 students join me in Cuba then.

STOCKBRIDGE STABLES: Authentic Learning in Equine Management  by Jordan LeVeille ’16

Stockbridge Stables was founded by the Equine Management Class of 2013, who created a hands-on learning environment in unused space in the barn for the UMass Amherst Police Department’s Mounted Unit. Offering boarding for the horses of students and some community equestrians, Stockbridge Stables prepares equine majors for success. Participating in Stockbridge Stables not only teaches students how to be barn managers and business owners but also builds their self-confidence and trains them in valuable skills—such as accountability, communication, and problem solving. The venture offers great networking opportunities and contributes to community relations.

Stockbridge Stables is a student-run enterprise, managed by a student board of directors. The students make all decisions collectively, with the help of their faculty advisor, Cassandra Uricchio.

Stockbridge Stables is carrying on our school’s proud tradition of providing authentic learning experiences for students at UMass Amherst.
ALUMNI PROFILES

HANNAH SADOSKY ’12AS, ’14  Hannah grew up on Cape Cod. In high school, she began her green career by pursuing jobs in floral design, horticulture, and garden center sales. A passion for plants was in her blood, and she knew a degree in the horticultural field would be next.

After her tour with Kathy Conway, Stockbridge School of Agriculture was the only school where she applied. She notes, “they weren’t kidding when they say ‘Stockbridge for life.”’ After receiving her AS in horticulture, her hunger for knowledge of both plants and sales grew, she jokes, “like lichen on an oak tree.” Hannah pursued a BS in plant, soil, and insect sciences with a business focus. She wanted a career in the industry and, working on the assumption, “it’s all about the connections you make,” Hannah was a frequent visitor to former Dean Bill Mitchell’s office. She credits her Stockbridge experience as leading her to her current dream job.

Hannah works as an inside sales representative for Monrovia Growers. She first started at the company in its Connecticut nursery after graduation. She recently transferred to the California branch to learn about tropical plants. Monrovia is a nationwide company dedicated to growing the most beautiful plants for your garden. It is based in Connecticut, Georgia, Oregon, and California.

COLLEEN FELTON ’13AS  Colleen is the training/layup foreman for Dixiana Farms LLC, based out of Lexington, Ky. Her duties include breaking and training high-dollar yearling Thoroughbred horses intended for racing, rehabbing horses of racing age from surgery and legging them up to be fit enough to enter race training again, and retraining retired racehorses for second careers.

A first-generation horsewoman with a passion for working around horses, Colleen says that Stockbridge’s Equine Management Program provided her with the tools to attain the knowledge and experience she needed in order to find a steady career in the equine industry.


Let us know what you are doing! Update your information in the online directory at www.umassalumni.com (click “Login” at the top of the page). Do you have news to share? Send it to Kim Graves at our address printed at the bottom of the cover page or email kmgraves@cns.umass.edu.

NEW ONLINE DEGREE

Starting in September 2016, the Stockbridge School of Agriculture will be offering a fully online AS degree in our Sustainable Food & Farming Program. The 60-credit program will cover basic knowledge of plant and soil sciences and give students the flexibility of designing a personal program of study, focusing on agricultural production and marketing, education, public policy, and/or community development. Students anywhere in the world will be able to earn credit online and by working in their local farm communities. Visit https://stockbridge.cns.umass.edu/onlinesustfarm for more information.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

MARK REILAND ’13MS  is a great fit for our two- and four-year arboriculture programs. An International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist, he has worked as a production arborist since 2005 and is active with the New England Chapter of ISA. Mark received his MS in urban forestry from UMass Amherst and is currently enrolled in ECO’s doctoral program. He is studying the effect of cabling and pruning on the dynamic motion of trees with Dennis Ryan and Brian Kane.

MARCO KELLUWEIT is our new assistant professor of soils and the environment. With a BS from the University of Tübingen (Germany) and both his MS and PhD from Oregon State University, Marco was a Lawrence Scholar at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University before joining Stockbridge. His research aims to explain how climate change affects fundamental biogeochemical mechanisms controlling the fate of essential elements, most importantly the cycling and storage of carbon.
STUDENT FARM NOTES  
by Amanda Brown ’00AS, ’02, ’08G

Since the UMass Student Farming Enterprise began as an independent study ten years ago it has grown into a nationally recognized beginning farmer training program. Ranked #5 in the U.S. among sustainable college-run farms, our Student Farm is a rigorous science-based year-long program that gives students experience in all aspects of managing a small vegetable farm.

For the upcoming season, we plan to expand our production to over 37 tons of certified organic vegetables to accommodate growing markets that include a campus-supported agriculture program (CSA), an on-campus student farmers market, student businesses, UMass Dining, and three local Big Y stores. We also plan to grow cold hardy greens and select root crops to sell early next spring. A new four-season off-the-grid greenhouse under construction at the Agricultural Learning Center will increase our growing capacities.

Sustainable Food & Farming students Julia Anderson ’18 and Hannah Miller ’18 display their work at the Agricultural Learning Center

An exciting venture for the program is pasture-raised poultry. Students raised three breeds of broiler hens last summer and then participated in slaughter and marketing in the fall. Birds were purchased by UMass Dining, and some were served to our students during an end-of-season celebration luncheon.

Thanks to all who have supported this program over the years. Visitors are welcome: The UMass Student Farmers hope to see you on the farm!

END OF AN ERA  by Brian Kane

At the end of 2015, H. Dennis P. Ryan III ’68AS, ’74 retired from UMass Amherst. Dennis joined the faculty here in the mid-1980s after working as a commercial arborist, serving as executive director of forestry and horticulture for the New York City’s Parks Department, and teaching at SUNY-Farmingdale. Admired by colleagues and alumni for his expertise, humor, and dedication, Dennis is a leader in the field of arboriculture. He has taught and mentored countless arborists throughout New England and across the country. He has won prestigious awards from local, national, and international trade associations, including the VISTA award from the Massachusetts Arborists Association (MAA) and the Award of Merit from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Most recently, the New England Chapter of ISA created the Dr. H. Dennis P. Ryan III Award and named Dennis as its first recipient.

Dennis has been a dedicated volunteer, frequently traveling to meetings, workshops, and other events—sometimes using a trip as a good excuse to get on his motorcycle. For many years, he chaired the Accredited Standards Committee that produces the American National Standard for Arboricultural Operations—Safety Requirements, or ANSI Z133. He served on the board of directors of ISA, New England Chapter; MAA; and the Massachusetts Tree Wardens’ and Foresters’ Association. In addition to teaching at UMass Extension’s Green School, Dennis has been integral to our student tree-climbing competition and, for several years, he judged the aerial rescue event at the New England Tree Climbing Championships.

Dennis is already sorely missed in Holdsworth Hall, but his retirement is well deserved. All of us in Stockbridge and in Environmental Conservation wish him the very best.

NEW HORSE SALE PROGRAM  by Jamie Maguire ’15AS, ’16

There’s a new horse sale program at the UMass Amherst Hadley Farm. Replacing the former sealed-bid process, the new program allows university horses to be sold through private treaty. Revenues from the program will be used for equine expenditures, including breeding costs, veterinary care, and equipment.

The horse sale program provides equine management majors with real-world experience in equine marketing and sales, horsemanship and training, and equine reproduction of both our Morgans and our Hanoverians.

Horses for sale can be seen online (visit stockbridge.cns.umass.edu and choose the Academics tab to click through to the Equine Management page). For more information, contact Jill Smith, director of equine training, at 781-603-4521 or horsesales@umass.edu.
NEW WAY TO RECRUIT STUDENTS by William L. Mitchell

To better address the questions high school students and their parents have about our programs and career opportunities for our graduates, Stockbridge is replacing some traditional high school visits with our new one- or two-hour Roundtable Career Fairs. We invite several alums to participate in each career fair, to discuss their journeys from high school to where they are now and the impact of Stockbridge on their career development and success, as well as answer questions from students. Our goal is to connect with each high school student who attends a fair, so we contact them after the fair to answer any other questions they have and encourage them to apply to Stockbridge.

Our pilot Roundtable Career Fair was held at the Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School and 45 students attended, including some from the Cape Cod Regional Technical High School. Feedback was very good, and we were able to personally contact each of the students who attended.

Our next Roundtable Career Fair will be at the Putnam School in Springfield, Mass. We want to conduct as many Stockbridge Roundtable Career Fairs as possible each academic year. If you think your local high school might want to host one of our fairs, contact me at wmitchell@cns.umass.edu or 413-545-6334.

Two students from Upper Cape Cod Tech will be attending Stockbridge in the fall. Recruited by Keith Boyle, '10AS, '12, owner of KDB Cranberries and a teacher at the high school, both students will be studying turfgrass science and management: Cameron Patton will be in the AS program and Renee DeAngelis will be in the BS program. Keith is a great ambassador for our school! With the help of our alumni, we are bringing Stockbridge to a new generation.

SAVE THE DATE!

COMMENCEMENT Stockbridge School of Agriculture’s AS commencement ceremony is on Saturday, May 7, at 10 AM in Bowker Auditorium. There will be a reception immediately following the ceremony for the graduates, families, friends, and faculty.

The Class of 2016 will have 105 graduates (51 with AS degrees and 54 with BS degrees)—the largest in several years.

STAY TUNED Watch for information about our upcoming 2016 Homecoming Open House and our Centennial Celebration in 2018!

To help us keep in touch with you with future issues of the newsletter, contribute to the Stockbridge Alumni Action Fund. Make your gift online at umass.edu/gives or mail it to the attention of Kim Graves at our address printed at the bottom of the cover page. Thank you for your generosity!