

Milestones in the Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

1950-1967: In the formative years, the Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics was a small undergraduate and graduate (MS) program in Agricultural Economics. During this period over 20 MS theses were completed, focusing on economic issues associated with land use and the dairy, poultry and fishing industries.

1950-56 Fred Taylor serves as Chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics.

1954 Robert Martin receives the Department's first MS degree in Agricultural Economics for his study of "Forage Utilization on Dairy Farms" under Fred Taylor.

1956-72 Niels Rorholm serves as Chair of the Department.

1965 The Department changes its name from Agricultural Economics to Food & Resource Economics.

1966 The Sea Grant Program is established through The National Sea Grant College and Program Act of 1966.

1968-1980: The creation of the National Sea Grant College Program was an important catalyst ushering in a period of dynamic, rapid growth. Niels Rorholm, Andreas Holmsen, Harlem Lampe, Virgil Norton, John Gates, Thomas Grigalunas, Ronald Cummings, Kenneth (Ted) McConnell, Darrel Hueth, James McFarland, Jon Sutinen and Nancy Bockstael were among the faculty developing the new PhD in Economics – Marine Resources in the 1970s. During this period, the Department shifted its orientation toward graduate education. By 1980 the full-time faculty had grown to 13, and the number of graduate students was approximately 25. Most of the research projects emphasized fisheries and coastal economics. Approximately half of the students came from countries outside the US.

1968 First grants are awarded under Sea Grant Program.

1969 The Department changes its name from Food & Resource Economics to Resource Economics.

- 1969** The Department of Resource Economics, the Department of Economics and the College of Business initiate a jointly administered graduate PhD program in Economics - Marine Resources; making it the first PhD program dedicated to the study of Resource Economics.
- 1970** Resource Economics has 9 full-time faculty and 7 graduate students.
- 1971** URI is one of the first four universities to attain Sea Grant College status.
- 1971-84** Niels Rorholm serves as Director of RI Sea Grant College Program.
- 1972** Christopher Newton receives the first PhD in Economics – Marine Resources for his study of “Tariff Reduction and Fish Processing” under John Gates.
- 1972** URI’s newly created International Center for Marine Resource Development (ICMRD) funded by USAID becomes a major source of funding for students from developing countries to study in the Department.
- 1972-76** Ronald Cummings serves as Chair of the Department.
- 1975** Resource Economics has 12 full-time faculty and 24 graduate students.
- 1976** Nancy Bockstael is the first woman to receive a PhD in Resource Economics for her study of “Fisheries Investment and Market Behavior” under Darrel Hueth.
- 1976-78** Darrel Hueth serves as Chair of the Department.
- 1977** Nancy Bockstael receives AAEA Outstanding PhD Thesis Award.
- 1977** The Department of Resource Economics takes over the administration of the PhD program. The name is changed to Resource Economics - Marine Resources.
- 1978-83** Thomas Grigalunas serves as Chair of the Department.
- 1980** Resource Economics has 13 full-time faculty and 25 graduate students.

1981-1991: This period was characterized by continued growth and strengthening of the graduate curriculum. New faculty members Timothy Tyrrell, James Opaluch, Glen Anderson, Steve Crutchfield, James L. Anderson, Stephen Swallow and Cathy Roheim (formerly Wessells) helped build the program and diversify the teaching and research agenda. The faculty’s interests and research broadened the Department’s traditional focus on fisheries and marine resources to include areas such as: water quality,

land use, pollution, tourism, aquaculture and international trade. Throughout this period, at least half of our students were drawn from abroad.

- 1981** Newly hired faculty member, James Opaluch, receives AAEA Outstanding PhD Thesis Award for his study of “Managing Groundwater Quality and Quantity” under Richard Just.
- 1982** Jon Sutinen founds *Marine Resource Economics* and serves as its first Editor.
- 1982** Steven Edwards receives Sea Grant Best MS Thesis Award for his study on “Welfare Analysis of Sea Scallop Markets” under Nancy Bockstael.
- 1983-96** Thomas Weaver serves as Chair of the Department.
- 1983** Ed Richardson receives NAARE Outstanding MS Thesis Award for this study on “Bioeconomics of the Lobster Fishery” under John Gates.
- 1984** Jean-Louis Zeller receives AAEA Outstanding MS Thesis Award for his study of “Optimal Timing of Pesticide Application” under John Gates.
- 1984** Newly hired faculty member, James L. Anderson, receives AAEA Outstanding PhD Thesis Award for his study on “The Bioeconomics of Salmon Ranching” under James Wilen.
- 1985** Resource Economics has 13 full-time faculty and 28 graduate students.
- 1987-90** James Opaluch serves as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*.
- 1988** Thomas Weaver initiates discussion and strategic planning for a new building to house the Department and a state-of-the-art experimental economics laboratory.
- 1989** John Gauvin receives Sea Grant Outstanding MS Thesis Award for his study on “Compliance Behavior in the Lobster Fishery” under Jon Sutinen.
- 1989** William Emerson receives Appelbaum FDRS Best PhD Thesis Award for his study on “Spatial Allocation in New England Fisheries” under James Anderson.
- 1989** The undergraduate major, “Resource Economics and Commerce” (REC), is established.
- 1990** Resource Economics has 11 full-time faculty and 41 graduate students.

1990-97 Jon Sutinen serves as Chair, Executive Committee, International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade.

1991 Naomi Zeitouni receives AAEA Outstanding PhD Thesis Award for her study of “Efficient Management of Groundwater Quality” under James Opaluch.

1992-2000: This period was characterized by efforts to improve our facilities and increase grantsmanship. Toward the end of the 1980s Thomas Weaver initiated an ambitious plan to obtain a new building to house the Department. The idea for the new building included a state-of-the-art experimental economics laboratory. Despite many barriers, Tom worked tirelessly to secure funding for the building by 1995. Unfortunately, a few months after the funds were in place, Tom died suddenly on April 1, 1996. Despite continued adversity, the building was ready by January 2001. During this time, faculty productivity was exceptional in terms of funding, publications and graduate student advising.

1992-95 James Opaluch serves as President of the Northeast Association of Agricultural and Resource Economists.

1992 Marisa Mazzotta receives AAEA Outstanding MS Thesis Award for her study on “Complexity Effects in Contingent Valuation Surveys” under James Opaluch.

1992 Di Jin receives Sea Grant Outstanding PhD Dissertation Award for his study on “Economics of the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry” under Thomas Grigalunas.

1992-93 Timothy Tyrrell serves as President of the New England Chapter of the Travel and Tourism Research Association.

1993 Exequiel Gonzalez receives AAEA Outstanding MS Thesis Award for his study on “Economics of Mangrove Conversion for Shrimp Aquaculture” under Jon Sutinen.

1994-95 Stephen Swallow serves as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*.

1995 The Department changes its name from Resource Economics (REN) to Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (ENRE).

1995 The PhD degree name changes from Resource Economics – Marine Resources to Resource Economics.

- 1995** Final approval for **\$12 million** USDA Facilities Grant to build the new Coastal Institute Building is secured.
- 1995** ENRE has 10 full-time faculty and 33 graduate students.
- 1996** Cathy Roheim (formerly Wessells) serves as Editor of *Marine Resource Economics*.
- 1996** April 1 - Thomas Weaver dies suddenly; John Gates serves as interim Department Chair.
- 1997-01** Cathy Roheim (formerly Wessells) serves as Chair of the Department.
- 1997** ENRE and Natural Resource Science establish a new undergraduate major: Environmental Economics and Management (EEM).
- 1998** Thomas Grigalunas serves as Director of the Korean-America Joint Marine Policy Research Center, now located the Coastal Institute Building.
- 1999** James Anderson serves as Editor of *Marine Resource Economics*.
- 2000** Timothy Tyrrell receives the President's Award from the Travel and Tourism Research Association
- 2000** ENRE has 12 full-time faculty and 37 graduate students.

2001-present: By 2001, the Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics had granted over 200 MS and 100 PhD degrees. Our graduates represented over 30 countries and had become active in academic, public and private sectors worldwide, making it arguably the most culturally diverse program at the University of Rhode Island. *Marine Resource Economics* is recognized by many as the leading international journal in the field, especially in fisheries and coastal economics.

The new Coastal Institute building and experimental economics laboratory set the stage for next generation of teaching and research. New faculty, Christopher Anderson (PhD, CalTech), Kurt Schnier (PhD, U. Arizona), Emi Uchida (PhD, U. California, Davis) and Hiroshimo Uchida (PhD, U. California, Davis) add new vigor to the program and push the frontier of teaching and research in experimental experiments and resource economics.

- 2001** ENRE moves from Lippitt Hall to the new Coastal Institute Building.
- 2001** James L. Anderson begins in the role of Department Chair.

- 2001** The auditorium in the Coastal Institute Building is dedicated in memory of Thomas Weaver.
- 2001** The new CI Building houses a state-of-the-art Experimental Economics and Policy Simulation Laboratory (SIMLAB). This lab enhances both research and teaching.
- 2001** Jon Sutinen is appointed member of the Ocean Studies Board, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences.
- 2001** Christopher Anderson and Jonathan King conduct the first economic experiments in the SIMLAB.
- 2002** Jayne Merner (undergraduate, EEM) receives a Morris K. Udall Scholarship.
- 2003-04** Stephen Swallow serves as President of the Northeast Association of Agricultural and Resource Economists.
- 2003-05** Jon Sutinen serves as first President of the North American Association of Fisheries Economists.
- 2004** Stephen Swallow begins in the role of an Editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.
- 2004** Assistant Professor, Kurt Schnier receives AAEA Outstanding PhD Thesis Award.
- 2005** ENRE graduate Dana Bauer receives Honorable Mention in the AAEA Outstanding PhD Thesis Award Competition.
- 2006** ENRE Alumnus Nancy Bockstael (member of UMD faculty) is honored as a Fellow by the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists.
- 2006-08** Cathy Roheim serves as President of the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade.
- 2006** ENRE is nationally ranked #4 in Scholarly Productivity in a study by SUNY Stony Brook. Just behind UC Berkeley and ahead of UC Davis and University of Wisconsin. ENRE is the only URI program to be ranked in the nation's top ten.