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UNIVERSITY OF
Rhode Island

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www.uri.edu/cels/enre

Dear Friends of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (ENRE):

You may have noticed the absence of my annual letter last year. I began to write it on several occasions, but forces were aligning against me at most every turn. Last year ENRE faced the 'perfect storm,' but by year end, we emerged stronger. I came away more convinced that ENRE will maintain its position as a first-rate program in resource economics and that URI needs to aggressively strengthen its commitment to quality education and research.

Let me give you a brief recap. As you know from prior letters, our faculty's global reputation, publication rate, teaching effectiveness and competitiveness for external funding are at all-time highs. This success has drawn considerable attention to our program and attracted raids from growing programs at competing universities. In 2005-06, five of our ten faculty members were *invited* to apply for faculty positions at rival universities. These invitations resulted in several appealing offers. To add to these difficult challenges, we were attempting to hire new faculty and recruit new students. Fortunately, thanks to the help of Deans Seemann and Nixon, entrepreneurship and a few miracles, we were able to retain all of our faculty except Tim Tyrrell (Tim has moved to Arizona State University), and we hired two new faculty members.

I am extremely pleased to announce our newest faculty members, Emi Uchida and Hirotosugu (Hiro) Uchida, who are both from the University of California at Davis. Emi has expertise on China's environmental policies and development. Initially she will be working with Steve Swallow and Chris Anderson on an innovative project to create a market of ecosystem services. Hiro's work is oriented toward evaluating fisheries co-management in Japan. I am confident that the lessons from Japan will help in the management of our own marine resources.

Over the past two years we have been outstanding in obtaining external funding. We received over \$2.2 million between 2004-06, led by the creative energies of Chris Anderson, Steve Swallow and Jim Opaluch. This is exceptional for *any* social science program at *any* major research institution. Unfortunately, this success is in stark contrast to eroding state support for URI.

Marine Resource Economics (MRE: www.uri.edu/cels/enre/mre) has formally agreed to be published in association with the North American Association of Fisheries Economists (NAAFE) and the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET), clearly establishing it as the leading professional journal in the field. If you are not already a subscriber, please visit the website and sign up. In addition, Dr. S.-Y. Hong, President of Inha University in Korea, has funded an annual cash award for the Outstanding Article in *MRE*. The journal is now available on-line with EBSCOHost and AgEcon Search, further increasing its visibility and ease of access for researchers and students worldwide.

The following are additional highlights and updates from the faculty, students and alumni:

Chris Anderson was granted tenure with promotion. Well deserved! He is extremely busy and has too many students and projects to list in this short letter.

Cathy Roheim was elected co-Chair of the Stakeholders' Advisory Council (StC) and to the Board of Trustees of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), an ecolabeling organization. Cathy also serves as the President of IIFET.

Tom Grigalunas co-chaired the First International Conference on Port Security and Marine Transportation hosted by URI. The conference attracted the attendance of US Senator Lincoln Chafee and national media attention.

John Burkett's text, *Microeconomics: Optimization, Experiments, and Behavior*, was published by Oxford University Press.

Jim Opaluch was asked to serve on an EPA Advisory Panel on the well-known hypoxia problems in the Gulf of Mexico (the so-called Dead Zone).

Steve Swallow and Kurt Schnier have been actively involved in a NSF-funded planning grant committee on the integration of social science into the long-term ecological research (LTER) network within the United States. The LTER network consists of 26 sites across the US and Antarctica which research the long-term dynamics of their resident ecosystems. In addition, Steve has been working with EcoAsset Markets, Inc., of Providence, RI, to create an endowment supporting the study of a new, market-based system to value ecosystems.

Jon Sutinen completed his term as President of NAAFE and has recently been appointed to the Advisory Board of the Baltic Sea Science Network. This group brings together key research funding organizations in Russia and all EU Member States around the Baltic Sea to improve understanding of conditions for science-based management of environmental issues in the Baltic Sea.

We were happy to host Dawn Parker, an assistant professor at George Mason University, who spent her sabbatical year with us. She specializes in agent-based modeling.

Dana Bauer (PhD, US) received the URI Outstanding Social Science Dissertation Award, Honorable Mention in the AAEA Outstanding PhD Thesis competition and started as an assistant professor at Bates College.

Robert Johnston (PhD, US) and Steve Swallow edited a text entitled, *Economics and Contemporary Land Use Policy: Development and Conservation of the Rural-Urban Fringe*, published by Resources for the Future. Rob is an associate professor at the University of Connecticut.

Sam Bwalya (PhD, Zambia) is working as an Economist, Zambia Revenue Authority, Division of Policy and Research.

Jungsam Lee (PhD, Korea) is a Senior Researcher at the Korea Maritime Institute.

Meifeng Luo (PhD, China) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Logistics at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Dan Holland (PhD, US) returned from New Zealand and has taken a position as a research scientist with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

Harry Upton (PhD, US) recently accepted a new position as an Analyst in Marine and Coastal Resources Management, US Congressional Research Service, Washington, DC.

Andrada Pacheco (PhD, Romania) is now working as Sr. Manager for Research and Development, The Modeling Group, Stamford, CT.

Ramesh Baskaran (PhD, Malaysia) accepted a Post Doc at Lincoln University in New Zealand.

Haiwei Li (MS, China) took a position as an Analyst with Barclays Global Investors in San Francisco.

Current PhD students Jingjie Chu and Julie Insignares received URI Fellowships for 2006-07. Jingjie Chu and Yong Jiang were selected for a Dean Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship and will be spending 2007 in Washington, DC.

Chris Martin (BS '06, US) accepted a position as a Trader for Seaboard International Forest Products LLC in New Hampshire.

Tara Germond (BS '06, US) is working with the URI CE Education Center.

Kim Anderson (BS '01, US) is doing an excellent job as the URI Interim Coordinator, Student Affairs, Office of Undergraduate Programs.

As noted earlier, we have realized great success in attracting external funds for specific projects. However, we receive relatively little funding from URI for student travel to professional meetings, scholarships and other areas of program support. Please consider donating to our efforts to increase ENRE's funding. You may send a check to the Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, 1 Greenhouse Road, Coastal Institute Bldg., University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881, payable to either: 1) URI Foundation - Weaver Fund or 2) URI Foundation - ENRE. Either way, the money will be used to enhance ENRE graduate education and research. You will receive acknowledgment from the URI Foundation.

I hope that all is well in your world. Please let me know of address changes, updates and how to contact others that may be interested in receiving this letter.

Sincerely,



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Chair and Professor
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