

# CAREERS PANEL: Learn from CNR alumni in the industry!

## FOOD AND THE ENVIRONMENT – How Food Choices Matter

Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

CNR Student Resource Center, 260 Mulford Hall

Sponsored by the College of Natural Resources Alumni Association



### Food Safety Specialist

#### Devon Zagory '74 Agricultural Sciences, '78, '81 Plant Pathology



Over the years Devon has worked in many aspects of fruit and vegetable production and handling. He has worked with growers, packers, coolers, shippers, distributors, food service chains and supermarkets helping them ensure the quality and safety of the products they handle. Lately he has been very active in food borne illness prevention working with both organic and conventional producers and handlers. He owned one of the largest international food safety auditing companies, Davis Fresh Technologies, until he sold it in 2006. In the past few years he has completed projects in Ghana, Morocco, Sumatra, Java, Spain and various parts of Latin America and the USA. He has created a career by spotting a few of the many opportunities in the food industry and by using some of the diverse tools he acquired during his education at UC Berkeley. He wishes that he had taken a few business courses but is actually glad that he took a lot of statistics courses.

### Agricultural Operations Specialist

#### John Casazza '77 Soils and Plant Nutrition

After CNR, John joined the Peace Corps and spent two years conducting soil surveys throughout Honduras and teaching soil science and conservation at a local agriculture high school. He joined Dole Food Company in 1981 at the company's pineapple plantation in Lanai. His career with the premier food company lasted 22 years. It took him to Honduras, the Dominican Republic, China and the Philippines where he expanded his agriculture management expertise with assignments in pineapple, citrus, banana, papaya, mango and asparagus operations. Following Dole, John served as Vice President for agriculture operations at Growers Express in Salinas with responsibilities for the group's ag operations in California, Arizona, Mexico and Peru. John is currently an independent consultant working with farmers in Chile, Tanzania, Mozambique and the Philippines.



### From Wall Street to Farming

#### Michael Dobler '92, Political Economics of Natural Resources



After graduation, Michael went on to receive an MBA at Northwestern University and joined JP Morgan Securities in New York. He spent a month working with USAID's Farmer to Farmer program in Spassk Dalni and Primorskiy Kray – the Russian Far East. He then joined JP Morgan Securities in New York. After working for 10 years in NY as a broker, he returned home to organize the family business—Dobler & Sons LLC in Watsonville. He also served as the director elect of a seven member board for the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency in Watsonville.

### California Certified Organic Farmers, Handler Certification Specialist

#### Allison Clark '05, Nutritional Sciences



After Allison Clark graduated, she went in search of food. Her interest in the connection between food, health, and the environment led to her work on a farm in Costa Rica and then pursue a Master at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Italy. When she returned to California, CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers) hired her as a Handler Certification Specialist. Her work in organic certification unites her background in chemistry and nutrition with her passion for great food and the environment. In her free time, Allison continues to explore sustainable food systems as the Chair of Slow Food Santa Cruz and at home in her kitchen.

### Veritable Vegetable, Inventory Control Manager

#### Melisa Lin '09, Conservation and Resource Studies (focus on Sustainable Food Business)



Under the guidance of Professors Michael Pollan, Jeffrey Perloff, Miguel Altieri, Marc Hellerstein, Kimberly TallBear, and Ignacio Chapella, Melisa acquired a comprehensive overview of America's food system. At Berkeley, Melisa led the Cal Cooking Club and the Berkeley Student Food Collective's Food Committee. She continues to pursue her passion for making sustainable food more accessible as an Inventory Control Manager in Training at Veritable Vegetable, the nation's oldest organic produce distributor.