Prof. Sarah Davidson Evanega, PhD

Sarah serves as Director of the Cornell Alliance for Science—a global communications effort that promotes evidence-based decision-making in agriculture. She teaches courses on agricultural biotechnology at the graduate and undergraduate level and is part of an interdisciplinary team that developed a massive open online course (MOOC) on the science and politics of GMOs on Cornell’s EdX platform. Sarah serves as Senior Associate Director of International Programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) and holds an adjunct appointment in the Section of Plant Breeding & Genetics in the School of Integrative Plant Sciences at Cornell. In addition, she is a Senior Fellow at the Breakthrough Institute. Sarah was instrumental in launching the CALS initiative, AWARE (Advancing Women in Agriculture through Research and Education), that promotes women in agriculture.

Sarah received her PhD in Plant Biology from Cornell University in 2009, for which she conducted an interdisciplinary study combining work in plant molecular biology with science communication. She came to Cornell after completing a BA in Biology at Reed College, in Portland, Oregon. Sarah grew up in a small agricultural village in northwest Illinois and enjoys life in the Finger Lakes with her husband and young children.

Mr. William O’Keefe

Bill O’Keefe is Catholic Relief Services’ Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy, based at CRS’ headquarters in Baltimore. He oversees efforts to change U.S. foreign policy in ways that promote justice and reduce poverty overseas. This involves lobbying Congress and the Administration on a range of foreign policy issues and educating U.S. Catholics about international issues involving them in public campaigns for policy change. In his current role, he also is a board member of the US Global Leadership Campaign.

Mr. O’Keefe received his Bachelor of Science cum laude from Yale University in 1984 and a Master in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard in 1987. He joined CRS in 1987 as a Project Manager in Tanzania, designing and monitoring community development projects. He has served in various capacities for CRS and was appointed to his current role in 2003.

Dr. Daniel Gustafson, PhD

Dr. Daniel Gustafson is a US citizen, he has worked for the past 40 years on agriculture and rural development issues. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics and International Relations and an Master of Sciences in Agricultural Economics, both from the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D in agricultural extension from the University of Maryland. He started his career at the InterAmerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). He joined FAO in 1994 and has been the Organization’s Country Representative in Kenya, Somalia, India and Bhutan.

Reduce Hunger:
Pope Francis’ Call for New Approaches

Friday, September 28
9:00 AM - 6:15 PM

E. Gerald Corrigan Conference Center
12th Floor, Lowenstein Building
Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus
New York, New York

Sponsored by the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice - USA Affiliate (CAPP-USA) and hosted by Fordham’s Graduate Program in International Political Economy and Development (IPED).
9:00 AM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION 
Dr. Frederick Falchukzadeh, President, CAPP-USA
Prof. Henry Schwalenberg, Director, Fordham IPEP

9:10 AM POPE FRANCIS’ PERSPECTIVE ON FOOD INSECURITY – CALLING FOR NEW APPROACHES 
Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations

10:50 AM MEETING THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY 
Prof. Christopher B. Barrett, Stephen B. and Janice G. Ashley Professor of Applied Economics and Management, International Professor of Agriculture, Cornell University

RESPONDENTS: Prof. Andrew Simons, Fordham University and Prof. Kelly Davidson, University of Delaware

11:30 AM PANEL DISCUSSION: NEW APPROACHES TO “REDUCE THE NUMBER OF THOSE GOING HUNGRY.” 
MODERATOR: Rev. Richard Ryscavage, S.J., Georgetown University

The Right to Food in the United States: The Role of SNAP 
Prof. Craig Gunderson, Soybean Industry Endowed Professor in Agricultural Strategy, University of Illinois

Replicating Successful National Programmes to Reduce Hunger 
Dr. Daniel Gustafson, Deputy Director-General (Programmes), UN Food and Agricultural Organization

Access to GMO’s – A Moral Imperative? 
Dr. Sarah Davidson Evanega, Director, Cornell Alliance for Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University

New Approaches to International Food Security: On-the-ground Perspectives 
Mr. Bill O’Keefe, Vice President, Government Relations and Advocacy, Catholic Relief Services

12:00 PM MODERATED PANEL

2:00 PM RAPPORTEUR REPORT 
Mr. Brian Strassburger, S.J., Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

5:45 PM FELLOWSHIP, MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT & REFRESHMENTS 
Creative Leaps International:
Paul Spencer Adkins, Tenor
Christine McCune, Soprano
John Cimino, Baritone
Tom McCoy, Pianist

Archbishop Bernardito Auza

His Excellency Archbishop Bernardito Auza is currently Pope Francis’ representative to the United Nations. He has been in the diplomatic service of the Holy See for over 25 years. He initially served in the Apostolic Nunciatures in Madagascar, Bulgaria and Albania before being assigned to serve in the Secretariat of State at the Vatican and then in the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York. Subsequently the Pope appointed him as the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Organization of American States.

His Excellency hails from the island of Bohol in the Philippines where he was ordained a Catholic priest in 1985. He obtained his Licentiate in Philosophy and Theology and a Masters in Education from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. He earned his Licentiate in Canon Law and Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (Angelicum) in Rome.

Prof. Christopher Barrett, PhD

Chris Barrett is an agricultural and development economist, the Stephen B. and Janice G. Ashley Professor of Applied Economics and Management, and an International Professor of Agriculture, all at the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, as well as a Professor in the Department of Economics and a Fellow of the David R. Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, all at Cornell University. He served as editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, and currently edits the Palgrave Macmillan book series Agricultural Economics and Food Policy. He has served in leadership roles as the Deputy Dean and Dean of Academic Affairs of the SC Johnson College of Business at Cornell, as President of the Association of Christian Economists, as the David J. Nolan Director of Cornell’s Dyson School, as Chair of the International Section of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and on a variety of boards and panels. He has won numerous university, national and international awards for teaching, research and public outreach, and is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and the African Association of Agricultural Economists. His more than 300 publications have been cited more than 31,000 times, placing him among the top five globally in the agricultural economics, development economics, food security, poverty, and resource economics fields, according to Google Scholar. He has won more than $50 million in extramural research grants from various corporate, foundation, government agency and nongovernmental organization sponsors. He has supervised more than 100 graduate students and post-docs, many of whom are now faculty and staff at leading universities and research institutes worldwide. He and his wife are blessed with five adult children and a loving dog.

Prof. Craig Gunderson, PhD

Dr. Gunderson informs policymakers and program administrators who are seeking paths to reduce food insecurity and its consequences. Over 40 million Americans live in food insecure households and, due to serious health consequences, food insecurity has become one of the leading health care crises in the United States. Using data from multiple nationally representative data sets, he analyzes the causes and consequences of food insecurity and evaluates food assistance programs, with a particular emphasis on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Dr. Gunderson received his PhD in Economics from the University of California, Riverside, and is currently the Soybean Industry Endowed Professor in Agricultural Strategy for the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics of the University of Illinois.