



Dr. Safran and students in Livestock Skills & Management class watch ANSC grad Colin Siegmund spin wool.

UConn Department of Animal Science August 2016 Student Newsletter

A Message from the Department Head

Welcome to the 2016 fall semester!

Once again, we are preparing for an exciting and busy year in the Department of Animal Science, starting with our annual ice cream social to welcome new students. It will be held on Tuesday, August 30 beginning at 2:30 pm (it is in between lab sections of ANSC/SAAS 1001/101, so students in the Intro class won't miss lab!) in front of the George White building. All students, new and continuing, are invited to visit with faculty and staff as well as members of Animal Science clubs and teams.

The summer began with the CAHNR graduation ceremonies led by our Drill Team. Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors and their

families, and thanks to the Drill Team! We hope that you all stay in contact with the Department through email, Facebook, or a return visit to your alma mater. Just send your current email address to AnimalScience@UConn.edu to stay on the mailing list.



Graduation was quickly followed by summer orientation for our new freshmen and transfer students. All new students should have been assigned an academic advisor. If you are unsure of who your advisor is, it should be listed on your student admin page. If no advisor is listed, please contact the main office (860-486-2413) and we will assign you an advisor.

(More on page 2)

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Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

This summer many of our faculty, grad students and undergraduates headed to scientific meetings to present their research. Several of our students placed in undergraduate and graduate oral and poster competitions. Join me in congratulating Dr. Dennis D'Amico who received the 2016 Young Educator Award from the Northeast Section of the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) and the American Dairy Science Association. In addition, Dr. Kristen Govoni was elected to the ASAS Board of Directors. Let's congratulate our faculty and students that earned recognition for their achievements in their field.

Check your emails! The call for applications for the Tony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus, Arethusa Farm scholarships was recently sent to all Animal Science students. Three \$4,000 scholarships will be awarded to full-time, animal science students with a demonstrated interest in dairy science, dairy foods processing, or dairy production. The applications are due in the Animal Science main office (George White room 107) by Friday, September 9, 2016.

See you for ice cream on August 30th!

Dr. Steven Zinn
Professor and Head
Department of Animal Science



2016 Graduation Cap

Spring 2016 Undergraduate ASAS Awards

The 2016 American Society of Animal Science Undergraduate Scholar Recognition Awards Ceremony was held in May. These awards are bestowed on ANSC sophomores, juniors, and seniors in the top 10% of their class. Thirty-seven students received the award this year. Congratulations and great job on all of your hard work! Learn more about this ASAS undergraduate award [here](#).

2016 ASAS Undergraduate
Award Recipients



STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



Add or Drop Classes

The last day to add or drop a class without additional signatures is Monday, September 12th.

Horse Practicum Meeting

The mandatory meeting for all students interested in signing up for riding lessons through the horse practicum is **Thursday, September 1st at 7 PM** in the W.B. Young Building room 100. See the fall 2016 lesson schedule [here](#). For more information, contact Alena.Meacham@UConn.edu.



Come to ANSC Student Welcome!

All ANSC students are invited to the annual **Animal Science Student Welcome & Ice Cream Social** on **Tuesday, August 30th from 2:30 to 4:00 PM** on the front lawn in front of the George White Building. The event features information on clubs and teams as well as **FREE** ice cream from our creamery! Come have some fun and meet the newest students in the department! Rain location is TBD.

LINKS TO FORMS

For the Independent Study Syllabus Form click [here](#).

For the Advisor Change Form, click [here](#).

Foal Naming Contest

Six foals were born on the UConn campus this spring and it's time to choose names for them! Names will be chosen by committee and announced to the public at [Cornucopia](#) on Sunday, October 2nd at 1:30 PM in the Horsebarn Hill Arena.

Names can be submitted via email to Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu OR you can visit our Facebook event page [here](#).

Click [here](#) for a full list of rules.

See the list of foals with photos and information [here](#).

For more information and to donate to the UConn Equine Breeding Program, please click [here](#).



One of the six 2016 foals

Food Waste and You

This fall, the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources is teaming up with partners across the state to "feed people, not landfills." This series of events includes three talks on campus as well as a "Tasty Waste Lunch." This lunch is free for students, faculty and staff and will feature food that may have otherwise gone to waste. Click [here](#) to learn more and join us to learn how you can do your part to reduce food waste!



Get Involved!

Did you know?

There are hundreds of [clubs](#) to get involved in at the University of Connecticut and many right here in the Department of Animal Science! See the list below and visit <http://grow.uconn.edu/clubs/> for more information.

- [Alpha Gamma Rho](#)
- [Block and Bridle Club](#)
- [College Ambassadors](#)
- [Dairy Club](#)
- [Dressage Team](#)
- [Drill Team](#)
- [Equestrian Team](#)
- [Equine Club](#)
- [Polo Club](#)
- [Poultry Science Club](#)
- [Pre-Vet Club](#)
- [Sigma Alpha](#)
- [Western Team](#)



The UConn Pre-Vet Club at their semi-annual dog wash

ANSC Students and Cows to Show at Big E

The UConn Dairy club will be traveling with several cows to the [Big E \(Eastern States Exposition\)](#) in West Springfield, MA this fall to show our UConn bred cows and heifers. Executive Program Director Mary Margaret Cole and ANSC students **Katelyn Williams** and **Erin Norris** will show in the [Big E dairy competitions](#) on Thursday, September 15th and Friday, September 16th. Please see below for more details on when our cows and students will show.

Thursday, September 15th

- Red and White Holstein show- 9 AM
- Showmanship- 5 PM

Friday, September 16th

- Northeast Fall National Holstein Show- 9 AM

Please come out to show your support for our students and program!



Executive Program Director Mary Margaret Cole with Katelyn Williams at Big E 2015

Ride at UConn - Horse Riding Practicum

The UConn Department offers a horseback riding lesson program that is open to all UConn students during the fall and spring semesters. The following disciplines are offered in levels from beginner to advanced:

- Western
- Hunt Seat
- Dressage
- Polo
- Trail
- Drill
- Saddle Seat (by arrangement)

All students interested in signing up for the fall 2016 Horse Riding Practicum must attend the mandatory meeting on Thursday, September 1st at 7:00 PM in the W.B. Young building room 100.

At this meeting, you will learn more about the riding practicum, meet with riding team representatives, and review important barn rules and biosecurity practices.

If you are interested in joining a riding team (Western, Dressage, Equestrian, Polo, Drill), you must take at least one lesson per week in the practicum.

Sign-ups for riding lessons will be held on Tuesday, September 6th from 9 AM to 4 PM with Alena Meacham in her office at the main horse barn (red barn) at Horse Unit 1.

See the fall 2016 lesson schedule [here](#)

For more information including how to enroll, updated payment options, and to review important documents, please visit horsepracticum.uconn.edu.



ANSC Graduate Student Accomplishments

The Animal Science graduate students have had a busy summer presenting their research at various competitions across the United States! Here are some highlights of their hard work:

- In July, graduate students and advisors traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah to present their research at the ASAS/ADSA Joint Annual Meeting. In the graduate student oral competition, **Amanda Jones** placed second and **Sambhu Pillai** placed third. **Kasey Moyes**, a UConn graduate student alumnae, won the 2016 Young Scientist Research award. Learn more about ASAS [here](#).
- Graduate students traveled this July to the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Annual Meeting and Food Expo in Chicago where they presented their latest research. **Genevieve Flock** presented her research and won second place in the food microbiology division graduate research oral competition. Read more about IFT [here](#).
- The Poultry Science Association (PSA) had their Annual Meeting in New Orleans in July and several of our graduate students were there to present their research. **Abraham Pellissery** won first place in the graduate student oral competition in the microbiology and food safety division. Read more about PSA [here](#).
- Graduate student **Meera Nair** was selected to receive a Feeding Tomorrow Graduate Scholarship from the Foundation of the Institute of Food Technologists. Learn more about these scholarships [here](#).

Congratulations to our graduate students on all of their accomplishments this summer!

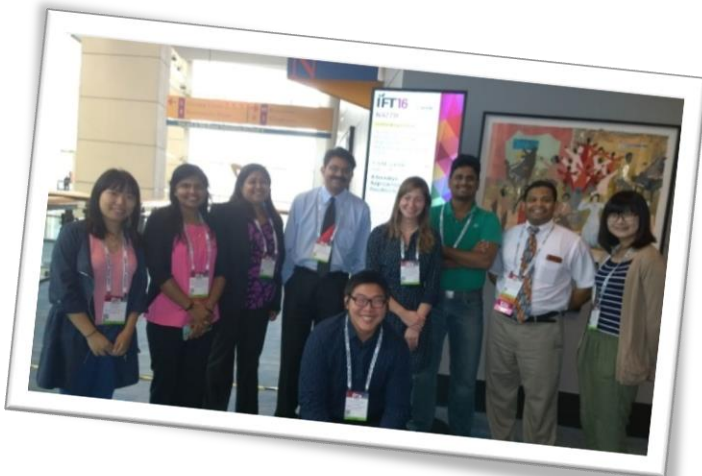
*Amanda Jones with
her 2nd place award
from ASAS*



*Abraham Pellissery
with his 1st place
award from the
PSA meeting*



*Meera Nair received an
IFT scholarship*



ANSC graduate students at IFT 2016

Dr. Zinn Receives Prestigious Award and Named ASAS President-elect

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Steven Zinn, Department Head and Professor, on his acceptance of the 2016-2017 University Teaching Fellow Award from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. This prestigious award is bestowed upon a select number of exemplary educators at the University of Connecticut each year. Dr. Zinn was one of two faculty members at UConn who were presented this award at a ceremony on Tuesday, April 26th. Dr. Zinn is the fourth professor from the Department of Animal Science to receive this award in under twenty-five years including Dr. Cameron Faustman (1995), Dr. Michael Darre (2003), and Dr. Robert Milvae (2011).

Dr. Zinn has also been named President-elect of the American Society of Animal Science. The three-year term will begin in January of 2017. Read more about the elections [here](#).

Congratulations again to Dr. Zinn on his achievements this year!



Dr. Zinn with his Teaching Fellow Award



Dr. Steven Zinn (L-ASAS President-Elect), Dr. Deb Hamernik (M-ASAS President), Dr. Michael Looper (R-ASAS Past President)

Dr. D'Amico Receives Prestigious Award



Dr. D'Amico with his ASAS/ADSA award

Dr. Dennis D'Amico, ANSC Assistant Professor, was presented the 2016 New England American Society of Animal Science/American Dairy Science Association Young Scientist Award for Education at the 2016 JAM meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

This award is presented in "Recognition of outstanding contributions to the broad field of Animal/Dairy Science by a young scientist as a researcher and/or educator."

Dr. D'Amico also received the Above and Beyond Award at the American Cheese Society Annual Conference for his work in developing the [Best Practices Guide for Cheesemakers](#). Read more about the conference [here](#).

Congratulations Dr. D'Amico!

Sigma Alpha Wins National Challenge

The UConn Sigma Alpha sorority was selected as one of five winners of the National Agricultural Education Challenge. Participants were asked to create a training workshop for middle school children covering common questions on topics in agriculture. Winners of the challenge were awarded \$2,000 and will have the opportunity to have their workshops used to educate many people across the country.

More information on the challenge can be found [here](#). Learn more about the Sigma Alpha sorority [here](#).



Members of the Sigma Alpha sorority

Morgan Pair Debuts at Summer Shows

There's a new driving pair in town and Horse Unit Manager John Bennett has been hard at work since the spring preparing and showing them at various Morgan Shows in New England. UC Romeo and Stillwell Suma are a well matched pair who showed promise as a driving team when they began their training with students in the Developing the Driving Horse class in the fall of 2015.

John debuted the pair at New England Morgan in July and showed them again at Mass Morgan in August. They will also be featured in a Morgan breed demonstration at the [Equine Affaire](#) this coming November.

The pair has big (horse) shoes to fill as UC Valentino and UC Mastermind had a very successful start to their career as a team here at UConn. We look forward to many great things from them!



*UC Romeo and Stillwell Suma showing
at Mass Morgan in August*

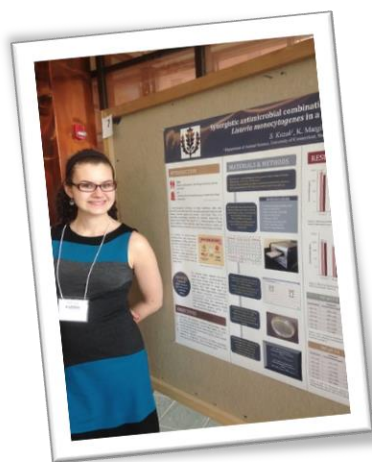
ANSC Students and Alumni Featured on Naturally@UConn

Recent ANSC/Pathobiology graduate **Leanne Jankelunas** was featured on Naturally@UConn in May. Leanne was attracted to UConn's strong pre-vet program and on-campus animal facilities. She worked hard through her four years here at UConn despite some setbacks and will be attending veterinary school at Cornell University this fall. Read more about her experiences at UConn [here](#).



Leanne Jankelunas

ANSC alumnae **Megan Palmisano**, who graduated in May, juggled the honors program, student research, and being on the field hockey team while at UConn. The field hockey team won two national championships while she was a student! Megan will be attending veterinary school at the University of Florida this fall. Read more about her time at UConn [here](#).



Sarah Kozak

ANSC master's student **Sarah Kozak** was featured on Naturally@UConn this August. Sarah hails from Rochester, NY and did her undergraduate studies at Cornell. At UConn she has been working in Dr. D'Amico's lab focusing on research to prevent *Listeria* growth in dairy foods. She has a strong interest in food safety and hopes to secure a job in quality assurance or continue her research after graduating this winter. Read more about her experience at UConn [here](#).



Megan Palmisano

UConn Cheese Wins Awards

For the third year in a row the UConn Department of Animal Science Creamery's cheese was recognized for excellence amongst 1,843 products from 260 companies in the 2016 American Cheese Society Judging & Competition. This year the creamery's Chipotle Pepper Queso Blanco took third in it's category making it three awards in three years.

At the Big E Gold Medal Cheese Competitions, there were 175 cheeses entered by 33 Cheesemakers throughout New England. The UConn Green Chile Queso Blanco and Chipotle Pepper Queso Blanco were awarded silver in their category. The UConn unflavored Queso Blanco received a Bronze medal in the Open Category.

Learn more about the cheese production at UConn [here](#).



UConn Queso Blanco wins third at American Cheese Society competition

Channel 3 Visits the Horse Barn

WFSB Channel 3 Eyewitness News reporter Melissa Cole visited the UConn Horse Barn in May to talk to Alena Meacham, the Director of the UConn Horse Riding Program, about the UConn summer riding lessons offered to the public. During the interview, ANSC students **Amanda Jones, Elise Heine** and **Chloe Ralston** performed demonstrations of three riding disciplines (western, hunt seat and dressage) and Melissa even rode one of our lesson horses.

The segment aired on Better Connecticut on June 8th at 3 PM. See the video [here](#) and visit uconnsummerriding.uconn.edu for more information on the summer riding lessons!



Reporter Melissa Cole talks to Alena Meacham about the UConn Summer Riding Lessons

Equine Events at Cornucopia

The Department of Animal Science has equine events scheduled for this year's CAHNR [Cornucopia](#) celebration! The names for the Foal Naming Contest (see page 2) will be announced in the Horsebarn Hill Arena at 1:30 PM. Winners will have their photos taken with the foals after the names are announced. At 2:00 PM, the following equestrian teams will give a demonstration:

- Drill Team
- Western Team
- Hunt Seat Team
- Dressage Team

Mr. John Bennett will also give a driving demonstration with the new pair of Morgans he began showing this summer.

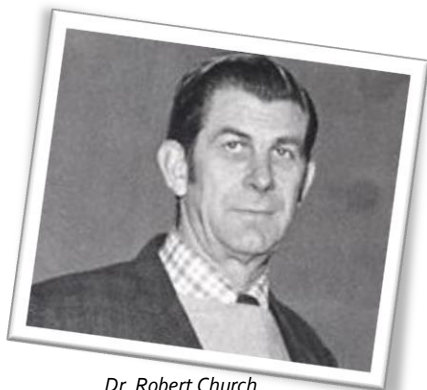
If you have any photos from your time in the UConn equine program, please feel free to forward them to Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu to be shared in a slideshow in the Horsebarn Hill Arena Lobby before, during and after the equine events!



The UConn Morgan Drill Team



A Morgan mare and 2016 foal



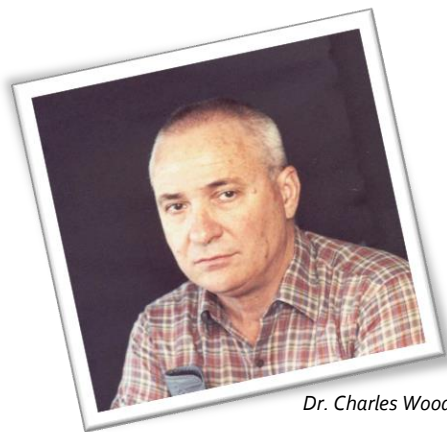
Dr. Robert Church

In Memory: Dr. Church and Dr. Woody

The UConn Department of Animal Science community mourned the loss of Dr. Robert Church and Dr. Charles Woody earlier this year.

Dr. Robert Church was a professor and the Horse Extension Specialist in the Department of Animal Science from 1966 to 1982. He won many awards for both his educational outreach and military accomplishments. Read more about his life [here](#).

Dr. Charles Woody began his career as an associate professor at UConn in 1968. During his time at UConn, he established the Transgenic Animal Facility and taught many classes in the department. He retired in 1992. Read more about his life [here](#).



Dr. Charles Woody

Animal Science Facility Improvements

This summer has been a busy one for the George White Building! Many improvements have been made while you were away including new fountains with cooled and filtered water! The main office now has brand new carpeting and paint and all building room signs have been updated.



Four new water fountains with bottle filling stations in George



New carpeting in the ANSC Main Office

Compliance Corner

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Sharon Aborn, our new Compliance Coordinator! Please contact her at Sharon.Aborn@UConn.edu or in George White 202 for any compliance questions.

Attention: All Potential Student Employees of ANSC Barn Units!

As part of the pre-employment process, barn employees must complete IACUC training and the EHS Training Module. More information can be found at:

<http://animalscience.uconn.edu/compliance/compliancecorner.php>

Required training specific to ANSC student barn employees

- Meet with Barn Manager for approval
- Must attend annual IACUC training (Initial training=in person only)
- Complete all Four EHS training modules on line (Husky CT)
 - Hazard Communication
 - Voluntary Use of Respirator
 - Personal Protective Equipment
 - Biological Safety Considerations in Farm Animal Research & Production
- Complete Animal Handler Forms
- Meet with the Compliance Coordinator
 - Employee Safety Orientation
 - Workplace Hazard Assessment
- Meet with [Jen Szela](#) (ANSC Main Office) to process payroll paperwork



Our new Compliance Coordinator, Sharon Aborn with her horse Trav

New Graduate Students Fall 2016



Mary Wynn joins Dr. Govoni's lab as a master's student

Please join us in welcoming the five new graduate students joining the department this fall:

- Arielle Halpern (MS, Dr. Govoni)
- Mary Wynn (MS, Dr. Govoni)
- Dominique Martin (MS, Dr. Reed)
- Chang Huang (PhD, Dr. Tang)
- Poonam Vinayamohan (PhD, Dr. Venkitanarayanan)

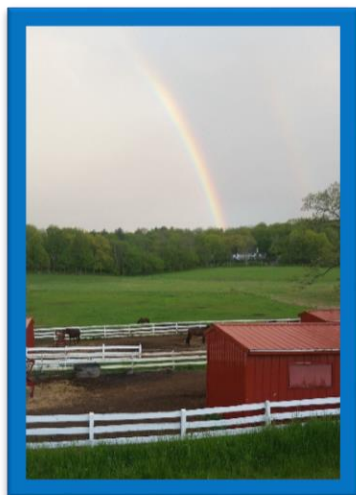
We wish you all the best in your studies here at UConn!

See all of our graduate students [here](#).



Dominique Martin joins Dr. Reed's lab as a master's student

UConn Department of Animal Science August 2016 Student Newsletter



A rainbow peeking over Valentine Meadow

Give a Gift...

ANSC Students and Faculty Welcome Your Support!

Many donors choose to honor a loved one or friend with a gift to support UConn in their name. Perhaps the gift is in memory of someone who loved UConn's animals, from an alumnus who attended the Department of Animal Science, or in honor of an inspirational professor.

If you would like to donate to the Department of Animal Science, you can do so one of three ways:

1. Donate online by clicking [here](#) and click the black "Donate" button on the right. Under "Additional Instructions About My Donation," indicate desired fund from list below.
2. Donate by mail using the form [here](#). Under the "Designation of Your Gift" section, indicate desired fund from list below.
3. Donate via phone by calling (800) 269-9965 or (860) 486-5000.

Please be sure to indicate which fund you would like to donate to:

- **Animal Science Department Fund**
- **UConn Morgan Horse Breeding Program Fund**
- **Randy Knight Memorial Fund**

For more information, contact Jennifer Simoniello by email at Jennifer.Simoniello@UConn.edu, via phone at (860) 486-1088 or by mail: University of Connecticut, Department of Animal Science, 3636 Horsebarn Road Ext., Storrs, CT 06269-4040.

The Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation dedicated to UConn. Donors to the Foundation have the right to request in writing that their identity be anonymous.



A beef calf relaxes in the tall grass summer 2016