



Retired Horse Unit Manager, John Bennett, taking ANSC Department Head, Dr. Steven Zinn for one last drive on Horsebarn Hill in July

UConn Department of Animal Science August 2018 Student Newsletter

A Message from the Department Head

Welcome to fall semester 2018! Once again, we are preparing for an exciting and busy year in the Department of Animal Science, which started with our annual ice cream social to welcome new students and visit with continuing students. It was held on Tuesday, August 28 in the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena due to the stifling heat outside. All students, new and continuing, were invited to visit with faculty and staff as well as members of Animal Science clubs and teams. The event was well attended and we appreciate those who helped and attended!

The summer began with the College 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 updated 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.

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Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

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There are a few changes in the Department this fall. John Bennett, our Horse Unit Manager, Dr. Michael Darre, our Poultry specialist, and Joe Hannon, from the KDC have retired. As we say good-bye to these long-term members of Animal Science, we will have several new faces for the 2018-2019 academic year. Dr. Breno Fragomeni from the University of Georgia will be teaching (ANSC 3121) and doing research in genetics. Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay will be joining us in January from the University of Arkansas and will be teaching and conducting research in poultry and food safety. Meagan Grogan, one of our alums will be teaching Livestock in the fall. In addition, the search to replace Mr. Bennett is underway, and we hope to have a new barn manager by the end of the fall semester.

Dr. Steven Zinn

Professor and Head

Department of Animal Science



Dairy Robots Have Arrived

The new robotic milking system at the UConn Department of Animal Science has caught the attention of several media outlets over the last few months. The new milking system at UConn was featured in a number of articles and videos. See the full list below.

- [UConn Relies on Robots at Milking Time](#) – UConn Today
- [Milking Cows for Data- Not Just Dairy Products](#) – The Conversation
- [UConn Milking System Gives Cows Udder Control](#) – NBC Connecticut
- [Robotic Milkers Produce Big Data for UConn's Lauded Dairy Herd](#) – Hartford Business.com



Photo Courtesy of UConn Photos

STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



Add or Drop Classes

The last day to add or drop a class without additional signatures is **Monday, September 10th**.

Fall Riding Practicum

The mandatory meeting for all students interested in signing up for riding lessons through the horse practicum is **Thursday, September 6th at 7 PM** in the W.B. Young Building room 100. See the fall 2018 lesson schedule and register [here](#). For more information, please 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 28th from 2:30 to 4:00 PM** in the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena. 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 the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena.

LINKS TO FORMS

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

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

UConn Cheese Awards



The UConn creamery has once again taken home awards from the annual American Cheese Society Judging and Competition. Our Chipotle Queso Blanco and our Green Chile Queso Blanco were recognized for excellence amongst almost two thousand products from over 200 entering companies. Both cheeses were awarded third place in their category.

You're Invited

*A Retirement Social to Honor Mr. John Bennett, Jr.,
UConn Horse Unit Manager for 31 Years*

**Friday, September 21st
6:00 - 8:30 PM**

Nathan Hale Inn Pavilion, Storrs, CT

Hors d'Oeuvres, Ice Cream, and Cash Bar

\$25 per person

Please contact Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu to purchase tickets and make a contribution toward his gifts.

Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis due to limited space. Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 5th!

Please email photos and memories to Michelle to be included in the memory book and photo slideshow by Monday, September 10th.

Mr. Bennett was featured in a lovely article written by Stacey Stearns, ANSC alumna, in The Morgan Horse. Read the article [here](#).

UConn Morgans at Summer Shows

It was a busy summer for the UConn Morgan horses with the popular summer riding lessons as well as showing at the New England Morgan Horse Show in July.

Three UConn Morgans traveled to the New England Morgan Horse Show where they competed in under saddle and driving classes. John Bennett, with the help of ANSC student **Kira Vigue**, showed gelding UC Romeo in harness classes including cone courses, driving dressage, and carriage classes. Alena Meacham and Kira also successfully showed UC Pride and Joy in Hunter Over Fences Classes.



*UC Pride and Joy with Alena Meacham aboard at NE Morgan
– Shane Shiflet Photography*



UC Romeo at NE Morgan

ASAS Annual Meeting

Several faculty members, graduate students and undergraduate students attended the [American Society of Animal Science](#) (ASAS)/Canadian Society of Animal Science (CSAS) Joint Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada in July. Faculty and students gave invited presentations and presented their research in oral and poster competitions.

ANSC undergrads **Helenrose Iannitti** (Reed Lab), **Lauren Engels** (Govoni Lab), and **Veronica Pleasant** (Govoni Lab) participated in the ASAS Undergraduate Poster Competition. Lauren Engels placed first! **Arielle Halpern** competed in the ASAS MS Student Poster Competition and **Dominique Martin** presented an oral presentation titled “Effects of poor maternal nutrition during gestation on the offspring muscle metabolome.” Kristen Govoni gave an invited presentation in the Cell Biology Symposium titled “Poor maternal nutrition during gestation alters whole body and cellular metabolism in offspring” and Sarah Reed gave an invited presentation in the Meat Science and Muscle Biology Symposium titled “Roles for inflammation in livestock muscle growth and repair.”

Overall, it was a very successful meeting and we’re looking forward to the meeting next year!



*ANSC undergrad Helenrose Iannitti
presenting her research poster*



ANSC faculty and graduate students at ASAS



*ANSC undergrad Lauren Engels with her
first place certificate*

ANSC Undergrads in the News

Two of our ANSC undergraduate students were featured on the CAHNR Naturally@UConn blog this past spring.

Jessica Olivar, ANSC senior, was featured on the blog in April. She is a first-generation Latina student who aspires to be a veterinarian after she graduates next year. She is making the most of her time here at UConn by working in the animal units and volunteering on alternative spring break trips. Read more about Jessica [here](#).



Jessica Olivar

Samantha Calzone, who graduated with her bachelors in Animal Science in May, is headed to Hartpury College in England to study for her master's in equine science. During her time here at UConn, she was captain of the UConn Equestrian team and took time to travel on alternative spring break trips and an internship working with an equine therapist in Kentucky. Read more about Samantha [here](#).



Samantha Calzone

Undergraduate Awards

The 2018 American Society of Animal Science Undergraduate Scholar Recognition Awards Ceremony was held in May. ANSC sophomores, juniors, and seniors in the top 10% of their class are eligible for this award. Twenty-eight students received the award this year. Congratulations and great job to our students on all of their hard work! Learn more about this ASAS undergraduate award [here](#).

ANSC undergrad **Erin Norris** was selected as one of six 2018 National Distinguished Junior Members at the National Junior Holstein Convention in July. Congratulations Erin!

Two of our ANSC undergrads were selected as the two-year and four-year Senior Women of the Year for the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. **Alyssa Condon** was selected for the 4-year award and **Jessica LaRosa** was selected for the 2-year award. The ladies received their awards at a ceremony in May.



*ANSC undergrads with
their ASAS Awards*



*Erin Norris (second from left) at the
National Junior Holstein Convention*



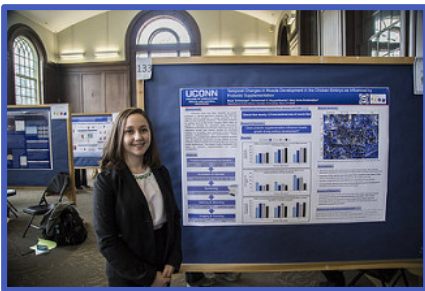
*Dr. Steven Zinn, Alyssa Condon,
Jessica LaRosa and Dr. Amy Safran*

ANSC Undergraduate Research and Awards

Maya Schlesinger, and ANSC undergraduate student who graduated in May, presented her [IDEA Grant Program](#) research to peers and the public at the year-end showcase in April. Read more about this event [here](#).

ANSC undergrad **Kelli Knapp**, was selected as a recipient of a UConn IDEA Grant and will spend the fall semester researching the effect of bits and bitless bridles on horses with Dr. Nadeau. Her project, entitled "Force Applied to the Horse's Head by Bitted and Bitless Bridles," will be presented in the spring. Read more [here](#).

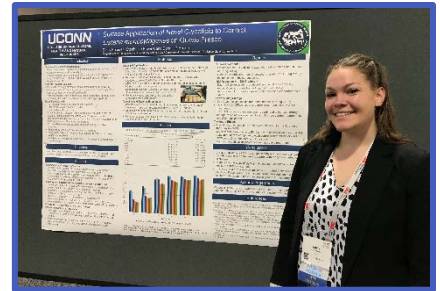
Emily Forauer, ANSC undergrad, attended the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah in July and was selected as the first Dave Theno Fellow. Learn more about this honor [here](#).



Maya Schlesinger



Dr. Nadeau with Fiona



Emily Forauer

Graduate Students Featured on Naturally@UConn

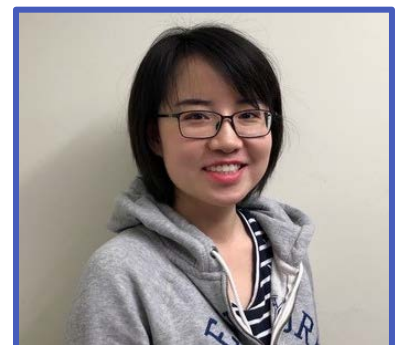


Dominique Martin

Dominique Martin (M.S., Dr. Reed) who graduated this summer, was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in June. She is now working as the Neuroscience and Animal Cognition Lab Manager at Providence College. Read more about her time at UConn [here](#).

Ellie Duan (Ph.D., Dr. Tian) was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in August. She completed her undergrad degree in our department through the 3 + 2 program with her honors thesis with Dr. Venkitanarayanan. She then went on to complete her Master's with Dr. Tian and is now working on her Ph.D. in animal epigenetics. She plans to graduate this fall. Read more about Ellie [here](#).

Ellie Duan



Graduate Students Win Scholarships and Awards

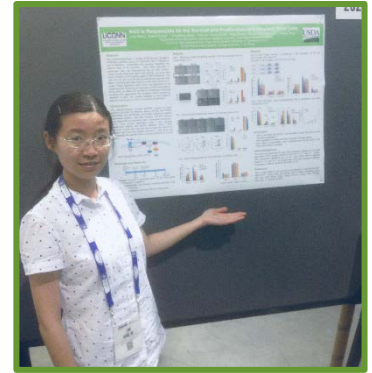
Ling Wang (Ph.D., Dr. Tang) was selected as this year's recipient of the Jerry Yang Graduate Research Excellence Award.

Elizabeth Johnson (Ph.D., Dr. Tian) completed the CT Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation [Accelerate UConn](#) program and her project, MycoZap, was selected as one of the Top 5 projects. She will present the business plan in October at the [Wolff New Venture Competition](#) for a chance to receive \$15,000 of start-up funding.

Poonam Vinayamohan (Ph.D., Dr. Venkitanarayanan) was awarded the Certificate of Excellence Award in the Graduate Student Research Competition in the Food Safety category. She gave her presentation, entitled "Inhibiting horizontal transfer of antibiotic resistance gene between *Salmonella* Heidelberg and *E. coli* by phytochemicals" at the Annual Poultry Science Association meeting in San Antonio, TX in July.

Ellie Duan (Ph.D., Dr. Tian) received a scholarship and travel fund for the [Preparing Future Faculty Workshop](#) at Stony Brook University. While at the workshop, Ellie had a chance to network with other graduate students and learn how to prepare for faculty positions after graduate school. Ellie was also selected as one of two recipients of the UConn ANSC Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

Catherine Gensler (M.S., Dr. D'Amico) received the third annual Chicagoland Food Industry Scholarship from the Chicagoland Food Science Foundation. Catherine was also selected to serve as the International Association for Food Protection Student PDG Chair, a position she took over from the current chair **Stephanie Brown** (Ph.D., D'Amico). In addition, Catherine was selected as the second of two recipients of the UConn ANSC Outstanding Graduate Student Award.



Ling Wang



Elizabeth Johnson



Poonam Vinayamohan



*Ellie Duan (3rd from left) at the
Stony Brook Workshop*



Catherine Gensler at IAFP



Benjamin Robinson

Welcome New Graduate Students!

The Department of Animal Science would like to extend a warm welcome to the six new graduate students joining us this fall semester!

- Liqi An
- Carissa Gaghan
- Janeth Perez Garza
- Benjamin Robinson
- Aseno Sakhrie
- Alexis Trench
- Shyann Williams

We wish you all the best of success in your studies and research!



Aseno Sakhrie



Liqi An



Janeth Perez Garza



Carissa Gaghan



Shyann Williams



Alexis Trench

Where Are They Now?

Several of our graduate students defended their research and completed their degrees this summer!

Here is what some of our former graduate students are doing now:

- **Muhammed Shafeekh Muyyarikkandy** (Ph.D., Dr. Amalaradjou)
 - Post Doctoral Associate at the University of Maryland
- **Dominique Martin** (M.S., Dr. Reed)
 - Neuroscience and Animal Cognition Lab Manager at Providence College
- **Lindsay Bavone** (M.S., Dr. Tian)
 - Animal Care Technician at Charles River Laboratories
- **Laura Burbán** (M.S., Dr. Darre)
 - Director of Branford's Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter

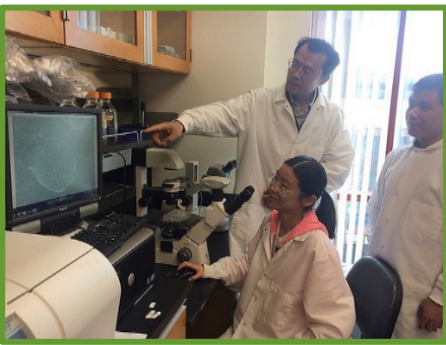
We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

Faculty News



Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan

Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan was featured in UConn Today in an article entitled “Probiotics Effective in Keeping Cantaloupes Safe to Eat” which highlighted his food safety research using cantaloupes. Read the article [here](#).



Dr. Young Tang with graduate students

Dr. Young Tang was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in an article on his research on bovine induced pluripotent stem cells entitled “Programming of Bovine Stem Cells from Adult Cells May Help Improve Human and Animal Health.” Read the article [here](#). Dr. Tang was also featured in a press release by Atomwise in June on its expansion of AI Screening Programs. Read more [here](#). Science Trends also published an article by Ling Wang and Dr. Tang entitled “Protein Engineering of Reprogramming Factors: A Strategy to Facilitate the Production of Patient-Specific Stem Cells” in June. Read the article [here](#).

Dr. Steven Zinn was featured in an article in Business Vancouver regarding conventions and events held in the city. He attended the ASAS/CSAS joint annual meeting as the President of ASAS in July. Read the article [here](#).



Dr. Steven Zinn in Vancouver



Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay

New Animal Science Faculty Member

The UConn Department of Animal Science would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest faculty member, Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay. Dr. Upadhyay is the new assistant professor in the department specializing in food science. He completed his Ph.D. and a postdoctoral position here at the UConn Department of Animal Science and was more recently employed as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Arkansas. He will begin research and teaching work here at UConn in January. Welcome Dr. Upadhyay!

Important Announcements for Undergraduate Students

The deadline to apply for the Arethusa dairy scholarship is Tuesday, September 18th! Turn your completed applications (check your email!) in to Dr. Steven Zinn in the George White Building Room 107.



ANSC in the News

The UConn Department of Animal Science made some UConn headlines this summer!

The [Connecticut Wool Blankets](#) were featured in an article on UConn Today entitled “[Hidden UConn](#).” The article also featured little known spots around Horsebarn Hill Road.

The yogurt that was produced in Dr. D’Amico’s Dairy Food Science course this spring was featured in an article on Naturally@UConn entitled “[Plant Science + Animal Science = a Nutritional Yogurt](#)”. The article was then featured in [UConn Today](#).



ANSC undergrads making yogurt

Alumni Updates

Dr. Steven Zinn met with a group of alumni from the UConn Department of Animal Science at the American Veterinary Medicine Association Meeting in Denver. The reception, which was held in July, brought together a variety of alumni including some who are currently practicing veterinarians.

Department of Animal Science alumnus Dr. Surendranath Suman received the ASAS Meats Research Award. This award is sponsored by Elanco Animal Health and was presented at the ASAS/CSAS Joint Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada. Dr. Suman completed his Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut in 2006.



*UConn ANSC Alumni at the
Denver AVMA Meeting*



*Dr. Surendranath Suman
with Dr. Steven Zinn*

Calling All Alumni!

Are you an Animal Science alumnus? We would like to hear from you! Please send your news to Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu. We would love to feature you in the next edition of the newsletter!

Compliance Corner

REMINDER:

Faculty, Staff, Graduate and Undergraduate Students:

If you will be working with animals this semester it is more than likely you will require IACUC training.

It is required for personnel listed on protocols, Independent study students, riding teams, and student barn employees.

Initial IACUC training (#2 below) is required to be received in person.

Retraining is required annually for most and every 3 years for PI's.

There are multiple options available for annual retraining:

1. Attend Animal Science Seminar on Friday, 8/31/2018 in GW 209 from 12:20 -1:10pm. Karen Moré will be presenting.
2. Attend an in person IACUC training at the Homer Babbidge Library. See link below:
<http://research.uconn.edu/iacuc/iacuc-training/> (next session 9/11/2018)
3. Complete the Biological Safety Considerations in Farm Animal Research and Production course on Husky CT available through the link below:
<http://web2.uconn.edu/ehs/training/schedule/BioTrainingSchedule.php#162>
4. Complete the online IACUC training course on CITI. Email Sharon.Aborn@UConn.edu for more information.

If you are interested in working at the barn units or in an Animal Science lab, be sure to check out the [Compliance Corner](#) page.



Still scratching your head?

Contact Sharon!
Sharon.Aborn@UConn.edu

UConn Department of Animal Science August 2018 Student Newsletter



Summer Trail Riders

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, Attn: Jennifer Simoniello, 3636 Horsebarn Hill Road Ext. Unit 4040, 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.



*ANSC undergrad Julia Klinzmann
in Australia this summer*