



UConn's herefords enjoying a beautiful day in the sun on Horsebarn Hill summer 2019.

UConn Department of Animal Science Fall 2019 Student Newsletter

A Message from the Department Head

Welcome to fall semester 2019! 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. All students, new and continuing, were invited to visit with faculty and staff as well as members of Animal Science clubs and teams. The new Dean of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey, joined us for ice cream and to meet our students. As always the event was well attended and we appreciate those who participated!

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.

(More on page 2)

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Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

In Animal Science we also have a few new faces, one returning face, and a retiree. Lisa Streff is our new manager of the Horse Unit. Lisa was manager of the horse unit at Virginia Tech before coming to UConn. Kevin Woolam, alum and member of the Animal Science Industry Relations Committee is the instructor for Livestock Management this semester. Importantly, we are beginning a search to hire a faculty member who will teach Livestock on a more permanent basis. In addition, Dr. Cameron Faustman, who most recently has served as Interim Dean of the CAHNR, has returned to his faculty position in Animal Science. He will teach a section of 'Science of Food' and a Food Chemistry class. Dr. Faustman's primary interest is food policy and food waste. Over the last few years, you may have noticed how great George White looks. This has been due to the work of our primary custodian, Tracy. Unfortunately for us, Tracy will be retiring at the end of October. We thank her for her excellent work and wish her well in retirement.

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 to four \$4,000 scholarships will be awarded to full-time, animal science students with a demonstrated interest in dairy science, dairy foods processing and/or dairy production. The applications are due in the Animal Science main office (George White 107) by Tuesday, September 17, 2019.



Dr. Steven Zinn

Professor and Head

Department of Animal Science



Dairy Bar Featured as a Highlight of Storrs, CT

UConn's Dairy Bar was featured in an article published by Channel 3 News in which it was recognized as one of the go to places in Storrs, CT. The highlights from the public not only included the handmade, rich ice cream itself, but also being able to see the dairy cows being milked from the viewing areas at the Kellogg Dairy Center with our new robotic milkers. In addition, *Insider* magazine published the Dairy Bar as the "best ice cream shop in Connecticut." The UConn Dairy Bar proves to be a timeless wonder whose sweet treats put a smile on the faces of all who visit! Read the Channel 3 article [here](#) and the *Insider* article [here](#).



UConn Dairy Bar in 1957



*Jonathan makes an appearance at the Dairy Bar
Photo courtesy of the UConn Dairy Bar*

STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



Add Classes

The last day to add a class without the Dean's signature is Tuesday, September 24th.



Successful New Student Welcome!

All ANSC students were invited to the annual **Animal Science Student Welcome & Ice Cream Social** on **Tuesday, August 27th** in the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena. The event featured information on clubs and teams as well as **FREE** ice cream from our creamery! Incoming freshman, returning students, and faculty attended the social leaving with knowledge of new opportunities in their program! For more information on clubs, visit <https://grow.uconn.edu/clubs/>.

Love the UConn dairy herd? See a video of them [here!](#)

LINKS TO FORMS

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

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

UConn Cheese and Ice Cream Awards

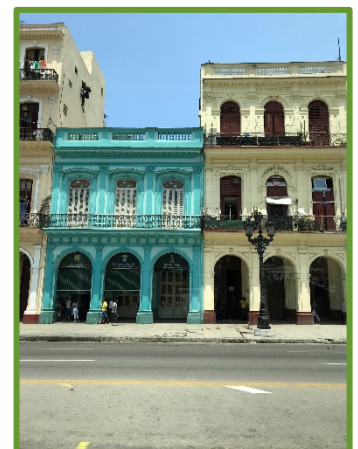
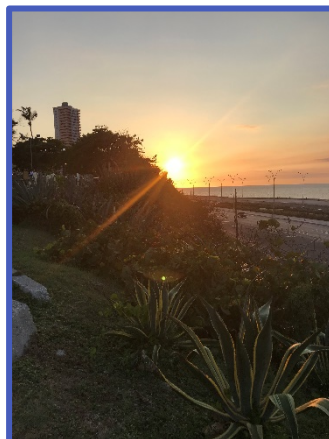


The UConn creamery has once again taken home awards from the annual American Cheese Society Judging and Competition. Our Chipotle Queso Blanco and our Green Chile Queso Blanco were recognized for excellence amongst almost two thousand products from over 250 entering companies. The Chipotle and Green Chile cheeses were awarded second and third place in their category, respectively.

UConn submitted Lemon Ice Box Pie Ice Cream to the 2019 American Society of Animal Science Annual Conference ice cream competition and won the Big Scoop Award for the best ice cream! The Animal Science Program served the award winning flavor at the UConn Board of Trustees Meeting and it was an absolute hit!

Animal Science Visits Cuba

In May, four Animal Science students, **Kira Vigue, Victoria Albright, Julia Traftaconda, and Marie Frese** traveled to Cuba with Dr. Zinn. Along with Dr. Legrand (plant science) and three other students, they learned about animal and plant sustainability and care. They also experienced and learned about traditional Cuban culture. See a video of Dr. Zinn on the trip [here](#).



Scenes from the UConn Cuba Trip 2019
Courtesy of Marie Frese

UConn Hosting Tournament of Champions

The UConn Equestrian Team is looking forward to hosting the IHSA Tournament of Champions this fall! The tournament will take place at Horsebarn Hill Arena on September 21, 2019. The event itself is a prestigious invite-only where riders from some of the top teams in the nation will compete. Please come support UConn equestrians at the event and wear your UConn gear! Learn more about the tournament [here](#).



*UConn Equestrian Team Members at
the last Tournament of Champions*

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 Austin, Texas in July. Faculty and students gave invited presentations and presented their research in oral and poster competitions.

Undergraduates from Dr. Reed's lab, **Helenrose Iannitti** (2019 graduate), **Brittany Dias**, **Caitlyn Splaine**, and **Michaela Mitchell** participated in the ASAS Undergraduate Poster Competition. **Amanda Liefeld** (Reed Lab) competed in the ASAS M.S. Student Poster Competition and **Brandon Smith** (Govoni Lab) presented an oral presentation. Brandon was awarded the Dr. H. Allen Tucker Appreciation Club Travel Award! ANSC M.S. student, **Alexis Trench**, and undergraduate **Lauren Soranno** attended the meeting. Dr. Govoni presented "ASAS Publication – the Big Picture" and Dr. Reed chaired the ASAS Publications Symposium. Both Dr. Govoni and Dr. Reed co-chaired the Cell Biology Symposium. Dr. Zinn chaired the Physiology session.

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



ANSC faculty and graduate students at ASAS



*ANSC undergrads Helenrose Iannitti and
Brittany Dias presenting their research*



*ANSC graduate student Brandon Smith
with his award*

ANSC Undergraduate Research and Awards



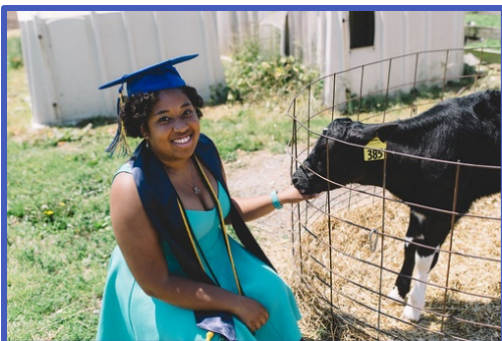
ANSC undergrads, **Caitlyn Splaine, Kelli Knapp, Alexander Calvi, Lauren Engles, Michaela Mitchell, Kelsey Tyler, and Veronica Pleasant**, presented their Frontiers in Undergraduate Research poster to peers and the public at the year-end showcase in April. Read more about this event [here](#).

Important Scholarship Deadline

The deadline to apply for the Arethusa dairy scholarship is Tuesday, September 17th! Turn your completed applications (check your email!) in to Dr. Steven Zinn in the George White Building Room 107.



Graduate Student Featured on Naturally@UConn



Alexis Trench

Alexis Trench (M.S., Dr. Govoni) was featured on Naturally@UConn in June! The article details Alexis's interview, and depicts her goals and interests. She currently works in Dr. Govoni's lab studying growth physiology and metabolism. Read more about Alexis [here](#).

Graduate Students Win Scholarships and Awards

Lang Sun (M.S., Dr. D'Amico) and **Poonam Vinayamohan** (Ph.D., Dr. Venkitanarayanan) were recipients of the Animal Science Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Recipients of the award exhibited strong academic performance and outstanding contributions in the research laboratory.

Brandon Smith (Ph.D., Dr. Govoni) received a NIH-USDA Young Investigator Travel Award at the 2019 Aspen-Snowmass Perinatal Biology Symposium for his poster entitled, "The Effects of Maternal Nutrient Restriction followed by Re-alimentation on Offspring Metabolism in Sheep."



Lang Sun (second from right) and other students working in Dr. D'Amico's lab



Poonam Vinayamohan



(from right to left) Brandon Smith, Dr. Govoni, and Dr. Reed at the Aspen-Snowmass Symposium

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:

- **Elizabeth Johnson** (M.S., Dr. Tian)
Lincoln Memorial University Veterinary Medicine Program
- **Catherine Gensler** (M.S., Dr. D'Amico)
Ph.D. at North Carolina State University in Agricultural Extension Education – Food Safety/Animal Agritourism
- **Ellie Duan** (M.S., Ph.D., Dr. Tian)
Post Doctoral Associate at Brown University
- **Amanda Liefeld** (M.S., Dr. Reed)
Lab Manager at Boston Children's Hospital and Howard Hughes Medical Institute
- **Abraham Pellisserry** (Ph.D., Dr. Venkitanarayanan)
Post Doctoral Associate at University of Connecticut

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

Welcome New Graduate Students!

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

- Brindhalakshmi Balasubramanian (Ph.D., Dr. Upadhyay)
- Sarah Carson (M.S., Dr. D'Amico)
- Mckenna Considine (Ph.D., Dr. Govoni)
- Mairui Gao (Ph.D., Dr. Amalaradjou)
- Nicole Gonzalez (M.S., Dr. Nadeau)
- Yu "Mia" Kawaida (M.S., Dr. Reed)
- Si "Rose" Lu (M.S., Dr. Amalaradjou)
- Amanda Reiter (Ph.D., Dr. Reed)
- Saleh Salman (Ph.D., Dr. Tang)
- Fei Sun (M.S., Dr. Tian)
- Delong Zhang (M.S., Dr. Tian)



Brindhalakshmi Balasubramanian



Amanda Reiter



Sarah Carson



Si "Rose" Lu

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



Mckenna Considine



Mairui Gao



Nicole Gonzalez



Yu "Mia" Kawaida



Saleh Salman



Fei Sun



Delong Zhang

Faculty News

Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan and his team were featured in Naturally@UConn for receiving the 2019 Award for Excellence in Multistate Research from the Northeastern Region Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors. Dr. Venkitanarayanan is the administrative advisor for a project called “Poultry Production Systems and Well-being: Sustainability for Tomorrow.”



Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan

Dr. Venkitanarayanan also received the Faculty Excellence in Research and Creativity (Science) Award through the UConn Foundation Office of Alumni Relations. We congratulate Dr. Venkitanarayanan!

Lisa Streff, the new horse unit manager and academic assistant, was featured in an interview for Naturally@UConn. The article highlights her responsibilities as a manager caring for the horses in the teaching program. Additionally, she talks passionately about her position teaching ANSC 3456 – Light Horse Training and Management last semester. Read more [here](#).



Lisa Streff

Dr. Cameron Faustman is the Northeast Region’s 2019 ESS Leadership Award recipient! This award is presented to an individual who shows phenomenal leadership skills and is well-respected amongst their colleagues throughout the region. We congratulate Dr. Faustman on this award!



Dr. Cameron Faustman

ANSC in the News



Saleh Salman posing with President Katsouleas

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

The UConn Morgan Drill Team made the 2019 commencement ceremonies snapshot reel on UConn Today. The team led the CAHNR graduates procession.

Dr. Tian’s research through the UConn GMO Working Group was featured on WILI radio in a segment about genetically modified organisms.

ANSC graduate student, **Saleh Salman** (Ph.D., Dr. Tang) was featured on the Instagram page of UConn’s new president, Dr. Thomas Katsouleas!

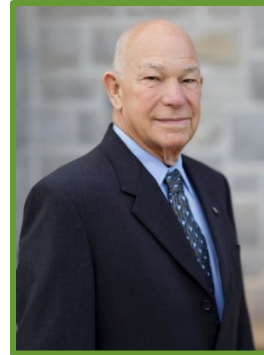
Alumni Updates

Marlese Lessing, a UConn alumnae who double majored in animal science and journalism, was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in May. Marlese was awarded second place in the UConn Public Speaking Competition which followed the theme of communication science in a modern society. Read more about Marlese [here](#).



Marlese Lessing

Dr. Michael A. Barnes, a UConn alumnus who majored in dairy science, will receive the National Dairy Shrine's Pioneer Award recognizing his service and contributions to the dairy industry. His portrait and story will also be on display at the Dairy Shrine's National Dairy Hall of Fame and Museum in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. Read more [here](#).



*Dr. Michael A. Barnes
Photo Courtesy of
Cowsmopolitan*



Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan

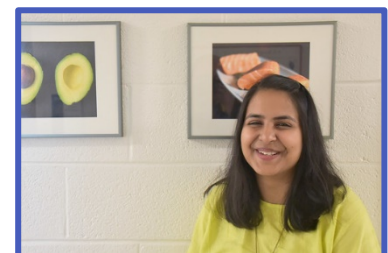
Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan, who received his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy at UConn, was appointed as the Leo and Kathy Noltensmeyer Endowed Research Professorship. Dr. Ramanathan specializes in food science and along with his research, teaches undergraduate and graduate level course at Oklahoma State University.

Kathryn Dal Zin, an alumnus of the animal science program, was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in June. She was distinguished as Wallingford Public Schools Teacher of the Year for 2019-2020. She began teaching in 2010, and currently is a part of the agriculture science program at Lyman Hall High School. Read more about Kathryn [here](#).



*Kathryn Dal Zin (left)
Photo Courtesy of myrecordjournal.com*

Dr. Indu Upadhyaya, who received her Ph.D. from UConn in animal science with a focus on food safety, has been hired as an Assistant Cooperative Extension Educator in Food Safety at UConn. Read more about Dr. Upadhyaya [here](#).



Dr. Indu Upadhyaya

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 that you will require IACUC training or re-training.

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

Initial IACUC training (#1 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 an in person IACUC training at the Homer Babbidge Library. See link below:
<http://research.uconn.edu/iacuc/iacuc-training/>
2. 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>
3. 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 Fall 2019 Student Newsletter



*UConn Drill Team at Commencement
2019 - Courtesy of Milton Levin*

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, 17 Manter Road, 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.



*Jonathan the Husky in Companion
Animal Class Spring 2019*