



Dr. D'Amico Instructing Undergrads Making Yogurt in ANSC Dairy Food Products Class

UConn Department of Animal Science April 2018 Student Newsletter

A Message from the Department Head

Greetings.

As we move into April, we prepare for the end of spring semester (with snow on April 2nd, it's hard to actually call it spring). With the last days of the semester approaching, it means that we are gearing up for or finishing up several events including the Open House on April 14th, Dairy Show on April 21st and Commencement on May 5th. On April 27th, we will have the end of semester barbecue hosted by the Poultry Club which will also be the retirement send-off for Dr. Michael Darre. He is retiring after 37 years of distinguished teaching and service in Department of Animal Science at UConn.

Congrats to the successes of our Equestrian teams; the Dressage, Western and Hunt Seat teams all completed successful regular seasons with zones and

nationals are on the horizon. In addition, Mr. John Bennett has announced his plan to retire on August 1. John has been at the heart of our UConn equine program since 1986 and he will be missed.

Join me in congratulating our graduating students in the 2-year and 4-year programs as well as those completing their MS and PhD degrees. Congratulations to the Animal Science students named as New England (3.7 GPA for all of 2017) and Homer Babbidge (4.0 GPA for all of 2017) Scholars, and to the sophomores, juniors, and seniors that have been named as American Society of Animal Science Scholars (top 10% of each class).

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Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

Dr. Breno Fragomeni will join the faculty as our new geneticist in August 2018. Dr. Fragomeni will teach Principles of Animal Genetics (ANSC 3121) beginning this fall. In addition, we will be interviewing for a new faculty member this spring to begin in fall 2018 as well.

For students graduating this May or August, make sure that your Plan of Study is submitted to the degree auditor. It is important that these be submitted before graduation. In addition, you should have received a graduating senior survey via email, which we would appreciate if you complete and submit. These surveys give seniors an opportunity to give feedback on our program.

Good luck with the end of spring semester and finals. I hope to see you at the Animal Science events in April and May.

Dr. Steven Zinn

Professor and Head

Department of Animal Science



2018 Vet School Admits

Congratulations to our Pre-Vet seniors who have been accepted to the following veterinary schools for fall 2018:

- Atlantic Veterinary College
- Auburn University
- Cornell University
- Lincoln Memorial University
- Ohio State University
- Ross University
- Tufts University
- University of California, Davis
- University of Georgia
- University of Glasgow
- University of Illinois
- University of Pennsylvania
- Washington State University



Dr. Zinn with ANSC Alumni now in the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine

**Attention Pre-Vet Seniors:
We Want to Hear From You!**

If you have been accepted into a veterinary program please email [Michelle](#) with your news!

STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



Senior Survey - Prizes

To help the Department of Animal Science maintain and improve the quality and standards of its undergraduate programs, the department finds it beneficial to gain feedback from its graduating seniors.

Seniors should have received an online survey via email from Survey Monkey. Please check your email and take the survey for a chance to win prizes!



What are your plans after graduation?

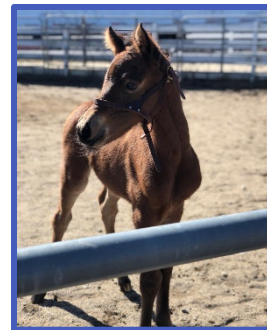
Attending your dream veterinary school?
Continuing studies at graduate school?
Land the job of your dreams? Taking time to travel? Tell us about it!! Send your news to [Michelle](#)!

LINKS TO FORMS

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

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

Spring is Here!



Despite the weather here in Connecticut, spring is finally here at UConn!

There are five new foals down at the horse barn, three Morgans, a Quarter Horse and a Warmblood. Foals can be viewed outside during good weather this spring!

Our spring lambs were featured in UConn Today at the end of March. Check out more of the photos [here](#). (Lamb Photos by Garrett Spahn)



Horse Symposium

We hosted a very successful Connecticut Horse Symposium on March 3rd in the Horsebarn Hill Arena. The event featured a western dressage clinic given by Mike Marquez of Vaquero Training Center, demonstrations by the UConn Morgan Drill Team and UConn Dressage Team, and a hands on horse science clinic featuring saddle fitting, myofascial release therapy, lameness location, and barn fire safety.

Read an article written by Alexandra Buss for WHUS [here](#). All photos below are courtesy of Alexandra Buss.



*Cathleen Peabody Demonstrates
Myofascial Release Therapy on Lucy
Photo by Alexandra Buss*



*Clinician Mike Marquez gives a
Western Dressage Clinic
Photo by Alexandra Buss*



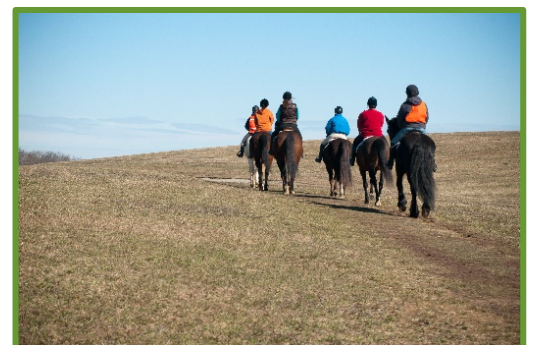
*The Morgan Drill Team gives a
Drill Demonstration
Photo by Alexandra Buss*

Come Ride with Us!

Did you know that the UConn Department of Animal Science offers horseback riding lessons that are open to the public during the summer?

Maybe you would like to brush up on your skills during the show season, learn how to play polo or ride the beautiful trails on UConn's campus. There is a program for every skill level and discipline!

Registration is now open and space is limited. Learn more at www.uconnsummerriding.uconn.edu and reserve your spot today!



New England Dairy Conference

The 2018 New England Dairy Conference was held on March 19th at the Tolland Agricultural Center. This event, which is sponsored in part by the UConn Department of Animal Science, featured a number of industry leaders including Dr. Rick Grant of the William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute, Dr. Amy Vasquez of Cornell University, Mr. Bob Wellington of Agri-Mark, Mr. Joe Bonelli of UConn Extension, and Mr. Joe Lawrence of Cornell University. The conference covered a variety of topics from cow comfort and its effect on profitability to the economic condition of the dairy industry. There were a number of vendors available for attendees to visit. Dr. Sheila Andrew, who organizes the event every year, provided the opening remarks and a panel of specialists provided information before the conclusion of the event.

Read more about this event in an article in Country Folks [here](#).



2018 New England Conference Presenters and Organizers (Dr. Sheila Andrew second from left)



ANSC Undergrad Megan Hebert making yogurt

ANSC Class Assists with Yogurt Project

Dr. Dennis D'Amico's Dairy Food Products class has been hard at work this spring formulating and performing sensory testing on various recipes for a new yogurt. This project is a collaboration between the Department of Animal Science and the Department of Plant Science. The yogurt will be formulated with aronia juice, or chokeberry, which is a tart berry that has a flavor that blends well in yogurt. Once all of the testing is complete, the yogurt will be produced in the [UConn Creamery](#) and sold at the UConn Dairy Bar. Read more in an article in the Daily Campus [here](#).

Stay tuned for more details!

Thank You for UConn Gives!



Many, many thanks to all who participated and made a gift to the UConn Department of Animal Science for the first ever [UConn Giving Day!](#)

The event raised \$1,669 from over 40 donors that will go to support student travel expenses for internships, presenting original data at scientific meetings, and participating in Study Abroad opportunities.

The value of these experiences for our students is immeasurable. They greatly enhance their experience here at UConn by opening a variety of doors and allowing for additional networking opportunities that will serve them long after they leave UConn!

We're looking forward to this annual event and hope you will participate next year!

DR. DARRE IS RETIRING!



Join us for a potluck poultry BBQ and ice cream social in celebration of his 37 years of service to the UConn Department of Animal Science!

Friday, April 27th
5:30 PM
Ratcliffe Hicks Arena

Please RSVP to Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu **ASAP**
and sign up for the potluck [here](#).

Club Updates and Events

UConn Block and Bridle Club attended the North East Student Affiliate (NESA) competition at the end of March at Rutgers University. The club placed 5th overall, 5th in the Livestock Judging competition and 6th in Quiz Bowl. Congratulations to all of our students who participated!



*B&B Club at the 2018
NESA Meeting*

The UConn Dairy Show will be held on Saturday, April 21st in the Horsebarn Hill Arena. UConn students (all majors invited) will show dairy heifers they have been training this semester in showmanship classes. This event is free and open to the public. Learn more [here](#).



*ANSU Undergrad Amanda Cohen
with her Heifer for the Dairy Show*

The Sigma Alpha Sorority hosted their annual horse show on April 7th. The show featured something for everyone including hunt seat, jumping, western classes and games. The winner of the Pleasure Classic class was ANSC student **Lily Morenz** riding UConn bred Morgan UC Nightstar.

The UConn Poultry Club will host the annual 4-H Poultry Show on Saturday, April 14th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 4-H members from across the state will flock to UConn to show off their poultry and handling skills!

The Poultry Club attended the International Production and Processing Expo (IPPE) in Atlanta Georgia in February. Club members enjoyed meeting with industry leaders and exploring the expo. The club also visited the Georgia Aquarium during their stay.



*Sigma Alpha with the winner
of the Pleasure Classic*

The Pre-Vet Club has had a busy semester with several events! The Cure Canine Cancer walk was held on Sunday, April 8th. Proceeds from the walk go to support canine cancer research at Cornell University. The club will host their semi-annual dog wash in the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena from 12 to 4 p.m. Learn more [here](#).



*A scene from the fall 2017 Pre-Vet
Club Dog Wash*

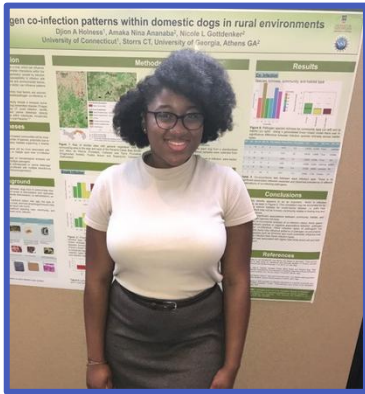


*The UConn Poultry Club at the
IPPE in Atlanta*

ANSC Undergrads in the News

Several of our ANSC undergraduate students made the “news” this semester!

ANSC junior **Djion Holness** was featured on the [Naturally@UConn](#) blog in early April. Djion is a College Ambassador and her goals are to go to vet school and potentially pursue a Ph.D. in veterinary pathology to study the relationship between animal and human health. Read more about her experiences at UConn and beyond [here](#).



Djion Holness

ANSC senior **Daniel Munch** was also featured on the Naturally@UConn blog this semester. Danny is pursuing an individualized major, which he named Livestock Management and Policy. He hopes this will help him pursue a career working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the policy sector. Read more about Danny and his undergrad experiences [here](#).



Danny Munch

ANSC student **Kaliana Tom** wrote an article for the CAHNR Ambassador blog in March. Kaliana discussed some of the research opportunities she has taken advantage of as an undergrad interested in veterinary school. Read more about her research [here](#).



Kaliana Tom

ANSC senior **Alyssa Condon** was selected as the 2018 Outstanding Senior Woman for the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. ANSC senior **Jessica LaRosa** was chosen as the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture 2-year student for this award this year as well! Only one 4 year and one 2 year graduating student is chosen from each school or college at the University. In addition, Alyssa will be the undergraduate commencement speaker for CAHNR Commencement in May. Congratulations Alyssa and Jessica!

ANSC senior **Rachel Conte** was chosen as the singer for the national anthem for this year's CAHNR Commencement ceremonies. Rachel is a member of the co-ed a capella group A Minor here on campus and will graduate in May.

ANSC student **Michelle Martinez** was featured on UConn Today in an article about the fencing club. See more [here](#)!



Alyssa Condon



Jessica LaRosa



Rachel Conte



Michelle Martinez

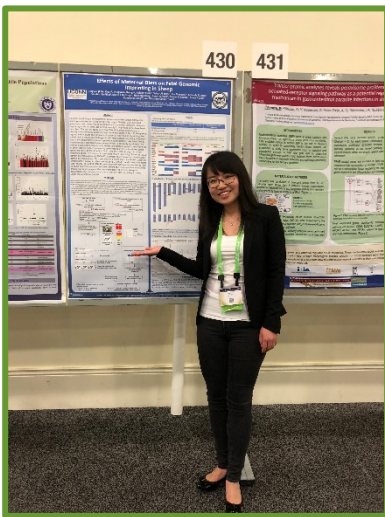
Graduate Student Success



*Elizabeth Johnson Presenting at
Accelerate UConn*

Dr. Xiuchun Tian and graduate student **Elizabeth Johnson** (Ph.D. with Dr. Tian) completed the Accelerate UConn Program through the UConn Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship. They have been working on creating a plant derived compound that prevents and treats diseases by *Mycoplasma bovis*. Learn more about this program [here](#).

Graduate students **Catherine Gensler** (M.S. with Dr. D'Amico) and **Deepa Kuttappan** (Ph.D. with Dr. Amalaradjou) were chosen to receive Nutmeg IFT Graduate Scholarships at the Nutmeg IFT Student Award Night in early April.



*Jingyue Duan presenting her research
at the 2018 PAG Conference*

Several ANSC graduate students presented their research at the Annual CAHNR Graduate Student Research Forum in March. **Abraham Pellissery** (Ph.D. with Dr. Venkitanarayanan), **Lang Sun** (M.S. with Dr. D'Amico), and **Poonam Vinayamohan** (Ph.D. with Dr. Venkitanarayanan) were recognized for their excellent oral presentations.

ANSC Ph.D. student **Jingyue "Ellie" Duan** (Ph.D. with Dr. Tian) presented her abstract entitled "Effects of Maternal Diets on Fetal Genomic Imprinting in Sheep", in the International Sheep Genomics Consortium workshop at the Plant and Animal Genome Conference in San Diego, CA in January. Learn more about this conference [here](#).



*Grad Scholarship Winners at Nutmeg
IFT Award Night*



Dr. Breno Fragomeni

New Animal Science Faculty Member

The UConn Department of Animal Science would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest faculty member, Dr. Breno Fragomeni, Assistant Professor, who will be our new genetics specialist. Dr. Fragomeni comes to us from the University of Georgia where he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

Please join us in welcoming him this fall as he begins his teaching and research!



Dr. Steven Zinn

Faculty & Recognition

Dr. Steven Zinn was selected to receive a 2018 UConn AAUP Career Teaching Excellence Award! Faculty with over 6 years of excellence in teaching and advising can be considered for this award. He is one of only two UConn professors selected for this award this year. Our congratulations to Dr. Zinn!

Dr. Xiuchun (Cindy) Tian was part of the UConn CAHNR GMO Team that was selected for the 2018 David and Nancy Bull Extension Innovation Award. Our congratulations Dr. Tian!



Dr. Xiuchun "Cindy" Tian

Dr. Young Tang was selected to receive a \$10,000 Promising Project Award from the Yale University Program in Innovative Therapeutics for Connecticut's Health (PITCH). Congratulations to Dr. Tang! Read more about this program [here](#).

On March 23rd and 24th, the Department of Animal Science hosted speakers from around the United States and the Northeast section of the American Society of Animal Science and American Dairy Science Association meeting. Organized by Dr. Reed and Dr. Zinn, with support from CAHNR and ASAS, invited speakers discussed the effects of maternal programming on the offspring and scientists from around the Northeast region shared their research. Several Animal Science alumni returned to share their current research, including Dr. Amanda Jones (Ph.D. '17) and Stacia Prosser (B.S. '14). Animal Science faculty, undergraduate and graduate students also presented at the meeting.



Dr. Young Tang

Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan received a \$635,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study the use of plant compounds to prevent food-borne pathogens from chicken and eggs. Congratulations to Dr. Venkitanarayanan! Read more [here](#).



Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan



Participants in the 2018 ASAS/ADSA Northeast Meeting



*ANSC Alumnae Ann Oakes
and Leanne Jankelunas*

Faculty & Staff Milestones

Congratulations are in order to several of our faculty and staff for many years of dedicated service to UConn and the Department of Animal Science!

Joe Hannon III (Dairy Unit) – 35 Years

Tina Burnham (Main Office),
Dave Macha (Livestock) – 30 Years

Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan (ANSC Professor & CAHNR
Associate Dean of Research),
Paul Bleimeyer (Dairy Unit) – 20 Years

Alumni Updates



Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan

ANSC alumna Leanne Jankelunas (ANSC B.S. '16) shared a photo of herself and Ann Oakes (ANSC B.S. '15) lobbying Congress in Washington, D.C. Leanne says “We lobbied to protect animal disease surveillance and diagnostic funding which is used to monitor and prevent serious disease outbreaks in the U.S.. We also lobbied to protect loan repayment programs which allow veterinary students to pay off their massive medical school loans even though most will never make an equivalent salary to that of individuals in other medical fields.”

Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan (Ph.D. '12) was selected to receive the 2018 Outstanding Young Animal Scientist Research Award from the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science! Dr. Ramanathan now works as an assistant professor at Oklahoma State University. Congratulations Dr. Ramanathan!

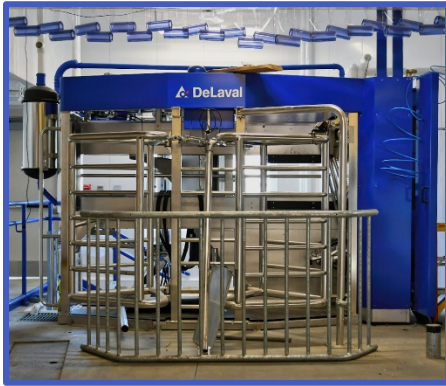
Merin (Bohem) Troutman (B.S. '95) made a donation to the Department of Animal Science “...to continue the strong growth of the UConn Animal Science program.” Many thanks for your continued support, Merin!

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!

Animal Unit Upgrades

Dr. Steven Zinn provided a seminar presentation entitled “The State of the Department of Animal Science” that highlighted all of the changes in our department from 2009 to 2018. The presentation included a number of changes to the ANSC facilities on Horsebarn Hill. Some of the installations and upgrades over the last decade include:



One of the new robotic milking units at the KDC

- Flooring, paint, lighting and heating and cooling upgrades in the George White Building
- A new egg room and removal of the old buildings at the Poultry Units
- Robotic Milking Units and a generator at the Kellogg Dairy Center
- A new roof on the Cattle Resource Unit
- The new hoop barn for beef cows, building paint and asphalt driveway at the Livestock Unit.
- Many, many upgrades to the Equine Units including stall and fire doors, a new portico, lighting, and footing in the arena and office and bathroom upgrades

We are looking forward to many more upgrades that are on the horizon in order to better serve our students, faculty and staff and accomplish our teaching and research goals!

Compliance Corner

Attention: All Potential Student Employees of ANSC Animal Units!

As part of the pre-employment process, all animal unit student employees must complete IACUC training and the EHS Training Module. More information can be found [here](#).

Required training specific to ANSC student animal unit employees

- Meet with Barn Manager for approval
- Must attend annual IACUC training (Initial training is in-person only)
- Complete all four EHS training modules online (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
- Make an appointment with [Jen Szela](#) (for horse unit) or [Tina Burnham](#) (for livestock/dairy units) to process payroll paperwork



*Compliance Coordinator
Sharon Aborn*

UConn Department of Animal Science April 2018 Student Newsletter



Spring 2018 Foal

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.



Dr. Milvae assists a student with a rat castration in Lab Animal Class