



*Animal Science Undergraduates with their American Society of Animal Science Undergraduate Awards Spring 2019*

# UConn Department of Animal Science Spring 2019 Student Newsletter

## A Message from the Department Head

Greetings.

As we move into May, we prepare for the end of spring semester. With the last days of the semester approaching, it means that we are getting ready for finals and Commencement on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Join me in congratulating our graduating students in the 2-year and 4-year programs as well as those completing their M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. Congratulations to the Animal Science students named as New England (3.7 GPA for all of 2018) and Homer Babbidge (4.0 GPA for all of 2018) Scholars, and to the sophomores, juniors, and seniors that have been named as American Society of Animal Science Scholars (top 10% of each class).

In addition, congratulations to Dr. Govoni for earning the 2019 Petit Family Foundation Women in Science Leadership Award during the CT Science Center STEM Achievement Awards, and to Dr. Nadeau for earning the Distinguished Service Award for the American Youth Horse Council. Lastly, I was presented the 2019 Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association's Service Award.

Congrats to the successes of our Equestrian teams; the Dressage, Western and Hunt Seat teams all completed successful regular seasons with riders doing well at regionals, zones and national competition. The women's polo team had an excellent regular season and made it to the regional finals in Ithaca.  
*(More on page 2)*

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Vet School Admits
- Spring Foals
- UConn Summer Riding
- Horse Symposium
- UConn Morgans in Research Study
- New England Dairy Conference
- 4-H Dairy and Beef Day
- Thank You for UConn Gives
- Spring Fresh Check Day
- Best Ice Cream Flavors
- Club Updates and Events
- Undergraduate Announcements
  - Writing Award
  - Outstanding Senior Woman
  - UConn IDEA Grants
- Graduate Student Announcements
  - Scholarships & Awards
  - In the News
  - CAHNR Graduate Student Research Forum
- Faculty/Staff News
  - Faculty in the News
  - Awards
- Alumni News
  - In the News
  - Scholarships & Awards
- Compliance Corner
- Give to UConn ANSC

## Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

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, which I would appreciate if you complete and submit. These surveys give seniors an opportunity to give feedback on our program.

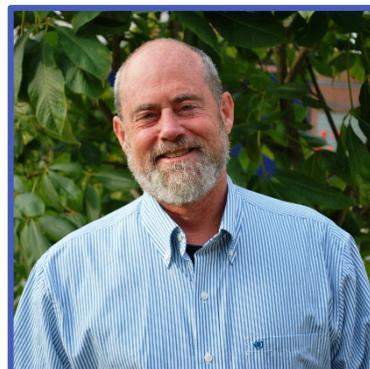
Good luck with the end of spring semester and finals. I hope to see you at the Animal Science events in May.



**Dr. Steven Zinn**

Professor and Head

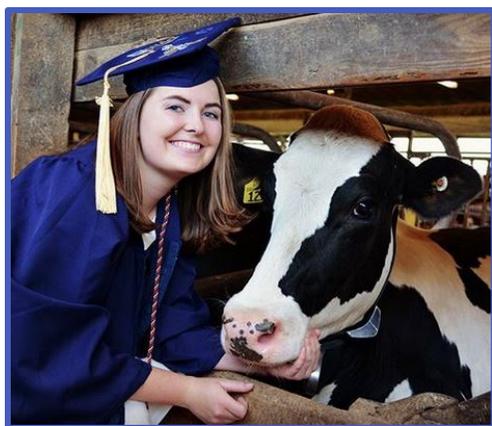
Department of Animal Science



## 2019 Vet School Admits

Congratulations to our Pre-Vet seniors who have been accepted to the following veterinary schools for fall 2019:

- Colorado State University
- Cornell University
- Iowa State University
- North Carolina State University
- Royal Veterinary College
- St. George's University
- Tufts University
- Tuskegee University
- University of Georgia
- University of Glasgow
- University of Illinois
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
- University of Pennsylvania



*'18 ANSC alumna Samantha Christian*

**Attention Animal Science Seniors:**

*We Want to Hear From You!*

What are you doing after graduation? Please email [Michelle](#) with your news!

## Spring Is Here

A sure sign of spring is new life on Horsebarn Hill! Join us in welcoming the new members of the UConn family!

- ❖ A filly nicknamed “April” by UC Doc Sanchez out of UC Serenity (Morgan)
- ❖ A filly nicknamed “Prim” by UVM Abington out of UC Holiday Rose (Morgan)
- ❖ A filly nicknamed Pippa by Whippoowill King Jubilee out of UC Holiday Pride (Morgan)
  - ❖ A colt nicknamed “Bo” by Blue Zephyr out of Aly (Warmblood)
- ❖ A colt nicknamed “Oliver” by UC Domination out of Friend Charity Rose (Morgan)

We’re still expecting two more foals before the end of spring! The foals will be officially named in **early fall**. Visitors are welcome to view the foals in **outside paddocks** over the summer.

See a video of “Pippa” [here](#).



“April” and “Prim”



“Pippa” and UC Holiday Pride



“Oliver”

## Come Ride with Us!

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

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](http://www.uconnsummerriding.uconn.edu) and reserve your spot today!



## Horse Symposium

The Annual Connecticut Horse Symposium was held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Horsebarn Hill Arena. The symposium included versatility clinics hosted by Peter Whitmore of It's a Pleasure Training, demonstrations by the UConn Dressage team and UConn Morgan Drill team, and many hands-on horse science activities. The activities included chiropractic demonstrations with Dr. Julia Wilkinson of Tufts Veterinary Field Service, developing feed plans with Amanda Morris of Purina, Meet the Hounds from the Tanhealth Hunt Club, and Horse 911 with Laurianne Goulet from the Connecticut Horse Council.

Read more about this event in an article in *The Daily Campus* [here](#).



*A symposium participant taking a horse over an obstacle*



*A participant in the Hands-on Horse Science demos greets a UConn Morgan Horse*



*Peter Whitmore of It's A Pleasure Training, instructing riders through a versatility course*

## UConn Morgans Included in Research Study

UConn's Morgan horses were part of a study by Dr. Jane Manfredi and her team at Michigan State University. The study involved horses diagnosed with equine metabolic syndrome and/or insulin dysregulation and testing the effectiveness of a supplement. The study involved comparing a control diet to a diet supplemented with an insulin-production stimulant. After performing the study and comparing it to results from a similar study a few years ago, the research team determined that the supplement could be beneficial in improving the metabolic function of horses who currently have or have had equine metabolic syndrome and insulin dysregulation.

UConn's own Dr. Jen Nadeau collaborated with the Dr. Manfredi's team on this project.

Read the article [here](#) to learn more!



## New England Dairy Conference

The 2019 New England Dairy Conference was held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the DoubleTree Bradley International Airport Hotel. The conference, which was sponsored by the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources Department of Animal Science, UConn Extension and the USDA, featured speakers Dr. Mike Amburgh of Cornell University, Mr. Joe Bonelli of UConn Extension, and Dr. Tom Oelberg, a Ruminant Field Technical Specialist from Diamond V. The presentations included topics such as improved nutrition models, TMR audits, crop insurance, and risk management. The event also included opportunities for attendees to visit a trade show and hear an economic update from Farm Credit East and Agri-Mark. Dr. Sheila Andrew coordinated the event.



## 4-H STEM Dairy and Beef Day

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, UConn Extension hosted a 4-H Dairy and Beef Day with the help of students, staff and animals from the UConn Department of Animal Science. The attendance included 160 youth from ages five to eighteen and 50 4-H volunteers and parents. The event strived to encourage youth in science to participate in an activity they are passionate about, in this case dairy and beef animals. This year, the hands-on activity involved the digestive tract. Veterinarians from the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine came to the event to walk students through the ruminant digestive tract using real digestive tracts. Additionally, UConn's own [fistulated cow](#) was used to show students the fermenting contents of the ruminant digestive tract. This program was a great hands-on experience for these 4-H STEM students!



*4-H students interacting with ruminant digestive tracts*



*A 4-H student working with the fistulated cow*



## Thank YOU for UConn Gives!

Thank you to all who participated and made a gift to the UConn Department of Animal Science for the second annual UConn Giving Day!

The event raised over \$2,500 from over 50 donors that will go to support student 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. Your donations 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!

## Spring Fresh Check Day

Fresh Check Day, hosted by UConn Counseling and Mental Health Services, featured many booths and games across the Student Union Mall as well as an appearance by a few of UConn's own dairy heifers. The event's purpose is to raise mental health awareness by giving students a safe environment to discuss mental health as well as learn about the resources available on campus. The booths around the mall each offered a resource involving stress relievers or discussion. Our dairy heifers proved to be stars of the event and gave students an opportunity to relax and pet the animals. We are proud to be a part of such a successful event and honored to be able to bring awareness to the mental health of all UConn students!

Read more about this event [here](#).



*Kaitlin Reyes and Dr. Steven Zinn with the heifers at Fresh Check Day*



## Favorite Ice Cream Favors

Have you ever wondered what the top flavors at the UConn Dairy Bar are? Wonder no more!

Spoon University recently published a list of the top nine ice cream flavors from our [UConn Creamery](#). Number one on the list? Salted Caramel Crunch! Read the rest of the list [here](#).

What's your favorite flavor?



## Club and Team Updates

UConn Block and Bridle Club attended the North East Student Affiliate (NESA) competition at the end of February at the University of Delaware. The club placed 6<sup>th</sup> overall, with one of their judging teams placing 2<sup>nd</sup> out of thirty-three teams, and two individuals placing 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> out of all the competitors. Congratulations to all of our students who participated!



*Block & Bridle Club at the 2019 NESA meeting*

The UConn Dairy Show was held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> in the Horsebarn Hill Arena. UConn students showed the dairy heifers they have been training this semester in showmanship classes. There was also a class for 4-H students as well as family, friends and faculty.



*ANSC Undergrad, Kirsten Krause, poses with her Dairy Show heifer "Demi"*

The Sigma Alpha Sorority hosted their annual horse show on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. The show featured something for everyone including hunt seat, jumping, western classes and games.

The UConn Poultry Club hosted the annual 4-H Poultry show on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. 4-H members from all over Connecticut traveled to UConn to show off their poultry handling skills.

The UConn Western Team had great success this spring! UConn's own UC Nightstar won Horse of the Year. UConn's **Emilie Hernandez** was named High Point Rider for the year, earned a bid to Nationals and was also awarded the Sportsmanship of the Year Award! ANSC undergraduate student **Nicole Gonzalez** placed Reserve Champion in her division.



*ANSC student Nicole Gonzalez*

The UConn Dressage Team went to IDA Nationals and placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the country! Highlights included ANSC students **Hannah Van Bergen's** 5<sup>th</sup> place finish and **Meghan Malloy's** 10<sup>th</sup> place finish! Congratulations to the team on all of their hard work!



*UConn Dressage Team at Nationals*

The UConn Equestrian Team had a rider, ANSC student **Katherine Aristi**, qualify for Nationals where she showed in the Walk-Trot Equitation. Congrats Katherine!

The UConn Intercollegiate Polo Team were reserve champions for the Northeast Region! Congratulations to UConn's **Nicole Kula** for winning the Sportsmanship Award, and **Anders Carlton** for winning an All Star Award. The UConn Polo team was also featured in an article in *The Daily Campus*! Read more about the team in that article [here](#).



*The 2019 UConn Intercollegiate Polo Team*

The UConn Paws and Claws Club hosted their third annual Canine 5-K on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. The event, which benefitted the Our Companions Animal Rescue and Sanctuary in Ashford, CT, raised over \$2,000! See photos from the event [here](#).

## Outstanding Undergraduates



*Caitlyn Splaine & Dr. Zinn*

ANSC Undergrad, **Caitlyn Splaine**, earned an Honorable Mention in the Aetna Writing in the Disciplines Awards for her paper “Polycystic Ovary Syndrome in Women of Reproductive Age.” This award recognizes undergraduate students with admirable academic writing in the scientific field.

ANSC student **Mackenzie Fischer** was recognized as the 2019 Outstanding Senior Woman in the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture. This award recognizes student of exemplary academic status who have also demonstrated achievements in research and service to the community.



*Mackenzie Fischer*



*Daria Larson*

ANSC undergraduates, **Daria Larson** and **Lindsey Vandermeir**, were selected for UConn IDEA Grants for summer 2019. These grants provides students with the opportunity to begin self-designed, innovative research projects. Learn more about the projects these two students will complete [here](#).



*Lindsey Vandermeir*

## Graduate Student Success

ANSC M.S. student **Catherine Gensler** was awarded the 2019 International Association of Food Protection Travel Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes students who are future leaders in the field of food safety. Congratulations, Catherine!

ANSC Ph.D. student **Sulaiman Aljasir** was selected as the recipient of the 2019 Nutmeg Institute of Food Technologist Graduate Student Scholarship. Our congratulations to Sulaiman!

ANSC M.S. student **Lang Sun** was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog this spring. Read more about her work with artisan cheese in Dr. Dennis D’Amico’s lab [here](#).

The CAHNR Graduate Student Research Forum was held on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The most engaging poster was awarded to our own ANSC M.S. student **Amanda Liefeld**! The following ANSC graduate students were also recognized for their oral presentations: **Elizabeth Johnson**, **Deepa Kuttappan**, **Brandon Smith**, and **Lang Sun**. Congratulations to all of our students on their well-earned success and thank you for your hard work!



*Catherine Gensler*



*Lang Sun*



*Sulaiman Aljasir*

## Faculty News



*Dr. Young Tang*

Dr. Young Tang and several other UConn researchers were recognized by *Medicine News Line* for their work in identifying a new drug that has the potential to treat a myriad of diseases using artificial intelligence. Dr. Tang hopes to make his discovery of a new molecule into a new, effective treatment for reproductive failure in pigs. Read more [here](#).



*Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou*

Dr. Dennis D'Amico was featured in the Highlights of Research section of the CAHNR Pathways newsletter for his work with the Departments of Plant Science, Nutritional Sciences and Allied Health Sciences creating a yogurt with Aronia berries. This project was included as part of the undergraduate Dairy Technology course. Read more [here](#).



*Dr. Dennis D'Amico*

A big “congratulations” goes out to Dr. Dennis D'Amico and Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou on their tenure and promotion to Associate Professors!

## Faculty Awards and Recognition

Dr. Kristen Govoni received the 2019 Petit Family Foundation Women in Science Leadership Award. This award recognizes women leaders working in STEM who make an effort to support other women and girl's interest in various STEM fields. Congratulations to Dr. Govoni!

Dr. Jenifer Nadeau attended the 2019 American Youth Horse Council meeting in Idaho and received the Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes individuals who dedicate themselves to using horses to improve the lives of young people. Dr. Nadeau was also part of a team who won the award for CES Innovative Programming for PATHS Outdoor Education Program Pilot which stands for People Active on Trails for Health and Sustainability. Our congratulations to Dr. Nadeau!

Dr. Zinn was recognized by the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association as the recipient of the 2019 Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes non-veterinarians who have a significant impact on the well-being of animals. Well done Dr. Zinn!



*Dr. Jenifer Nadeau*



*Dr. Steven Zinn*



*Dr. Kristen Govoni at the award reception in April*



*Kelly Chuquihuanca*



*Tashua Sotil*



*Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan*

## Alumni News and Awards

ANSC alumna **Kelly Chuquihuanca** was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in February. She began her UConn education in the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture. She received her associate's degree in Animal Science and continued on to obtain a bachelors at UConn in Agriculture and Natural Resources in 2019. She was recently accepted into the Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates in the UConn Neag School of education where she is pursuing a career as an agricultural educator.

**Tashua Sotil** graduated with a bachelor of science in Animal Science, and minored in Therapeutic Horsemanship Education and Psychological Sciences in 2017. Tashua also lived and worked in the Kellogg Dairy Center for two years. In 2018, she received her Master of Arts degree in school psychology from the Neag School of Education. She is a recipient of the 2019 Alumni Board Scholarship as she pursues her graduate certificate in Postsecondary Disability Services. We congratulate Tashua on her well-earned success!

Alumnus **Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan** received the American Chemical Society AGFD Young Scientist Award. This award recognizes an individual with outstanding research in agricultural and food chemistry. Our congratulations to Dr. Ramanathan!

Alumnus **Dr. Surendranath Suman** received the UCAHNRA Distinguished Alumni Award. This award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to their field. Our congratulations to Dr. Suman!

Alumnus **Dr. Mohan Nair Manoj Kumar** was featured in the 2018 CAHNR Pathways newsletter. Read more [here](#).



*Dr. Surendranath Suman receiveing his award from CAHNR Dean Chaubey*

## Calling All Alumni!

Are you an Animal Science alumni? We would like to hear from you! Please send your news to [Michelle](#). 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 summer it is more than likely you will require Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) 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 <https://ovpr.uconn.edu/services/rics/animal/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](mailto: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](mailto:Sharon.Aborn@UConn.edu)

# UConn Department of Animal Science Spring 2019 Student Newsletter

## 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](mailto: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.



*Spring Has Sprung – Michelle Lewis*



*Jonathan the Husky with Dr. Safran's  
Companion Animal Class Spring 2019*