



ANSC Undergraduates tattooing beef cows in Dr. Hoagland's Livestock Class

UConn Department of Animal Science January 2016 Student Newsletter

A Message from the Department Head

Greetings.

Welcome back to campus and the start of the spring semester. Hopefully you will see a big difference in the appearance of the George White Building. New lighting, new flooring and a much needed paint job were completed as the fall semester came to an end. We continue to work with UConn Facilities and the Provost's office to remodel, upgrade, and repair George White and each of the animal units. Just in the past year, in addition to the renovations in George White, WiFi has been upgraded, new computers and air conditioning were installed in the library, the Horsebarn Hill Arena portico was completed, and several laboratories were renovated. Facilities and the Provost's office

have been great partners in the steady improvement in George White and the Animal Units.



As always, spring semester will be busy. We look forward to the Dairy Show, equestrian team events, the Horse Science Symposium, numerous club activities, Open House, graduation ceremonies and the end of the semester barbecue. This year, we will once again host the National Intercollegiate Polo Championship in April. Many thanks to the students that participate in each of these events and I look forward to seeing you at these activities.

(More on Page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

- UC Doc Daniels
- UC Creamery in Progressive Dairyman
- UC Dairy Receives Awards
- UC Morgans at Equine Affaire
- Royal Agricultural Fair
- Big E Scholarships
- ANSC Research Projects
- Alumni at Vet School
- Horse Auction-New!
- Difference Maker Scholarships
- Undergrads & Alumni in Naturally@UConn
- Beef Auction
- Little "I" Livestock Show
- Alumni News
- Arethusa Shoe Sale and Scholarship
- ANSC Graduate Research
- AAALAC Inspection
- Kathy Noyes Retirement
- Job Openings in ANSC
- Foal Watch Class
- Support ANSC

Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

Congratulations to Mary Margaret Cole, Executive Director of Livestock Units, and her crew for being selected for a 2015 Agri-Mark Milk Quality Award! This high quality milk is one of the reasons that makes UConn ice cream the best in the state. Congratulations to all of our December graduates. Lastly, after 16 years at UConn, Kathy Noyes, Secretary, retired at the end of December. Join me in wishing Kathy well in her next adventures. She will be missed in the main office.

Thanks to all that participated in the Manolo Blahnik shoe sales in Bantam and West Hartford, CT. We raised almost \$300,000 for scholarships. Congratulations to Alicia Audet, Megan Hebert and Rachel Holden as the first recipients of the The Anthony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus Arethusa Farm Scholarship.

We also need to give ourselves a little pat on the back. In October we completed an AAALAC site visit. Thanks to the hard work of our farm managers, their staff and students who work in the animal units, our compliance officer, Julie Avery, the rest of the faculty and staff, Facilities, the attending veterinarian and the entire IACUC, we passed with flying colors! We are one of a very few schools that have large and small animal certification and probably one of a very small number that have achieved and maintained our exemplary status.

For students graduating this May, make sure that your Plan of Study form is submitted online to the degree auditor. It is important that these be submitted within the first two weeks of the semester. These can now be submitted online through Student Admin. Check with your advisor to make sure you have met all of the requirements for graduation.

Good luck with the semester.

Steven Zinn
Professor and Head
Department of Animal Science



Remembering UC Doc Daniels

UC Doc Daniels was a legendary stallion in the history of the UConn Morgan breeding program. He sired many of our foals and taught students about the true versatility and temperament of the Morgan breed. "Doc" spent his last years living peacefully in Vermont under the loving care of ANSC alumnae, Mary O' Donovan, DVM, who had enjoyed working with him while she was a student here at UConn. Dr. O' Donovan created a video as a lovely tribute to his life and legacy. See the video [here](#).

Doc Daniels is the namesake of Dr. Willard Daniels, who was a professor and department head in the Department of Pathobiology. Dr. Daniels also passed away in November. Read more about him [here](#).

STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



Add or Drop Classes

The last day to add or drop a class without a W component is Monday, February 1st.

Plan of Study

If you are graduating in May, your Plan of Study form should be submitted through student admin during the first two weeks of the spring semester.



Scholarship Deadline- Feb 15th

The deadline to apply for college-wide scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year in CAHNR is February 15, 2016. The application for scholarships can be found [here](#).

LINKS TO FORMS

Independent Study Syllabus Form [here](#).

Advisor Change Form [here](#).

ANSC Creamery in Progressive Dairyman

The UConn Creamery was featured in the Progressive Dairyman in an article on the upgrades that university milk processing has gone through recently. The article highlights the facility and machinery improvements and the recent production of cheese. Dr. D'Amico was quoted saying "We've already made great progress from producing 16,000 gallons of ice cream in 1999 to 43,000 gallons in 2014, and our expansion will continue in the near future. It's an exciting time for the University of Connecticut." Read the entire article [here](#).

Creamery Plant Manager Bill Sciturre creates a batch of ice cream



UConn Dairy Wins Awards

The University of Connecticut dairy herd has qualified for the 2015 Progressive Breeders Registry Award! This award is given to registered Holstein herds that have achieved high standards for production and type.

This is the 9th time that our dairy herd has been chosen to receive this award!

Our herd was also selected for a 2015 Agri-Mark quality award!

Congratulations to Mary Margaret Cole and the KDC staff and students involved in the dairy operation on campus!



UConn Morgans at Equine Affaire

Once again, the UConn Morgans showed out in style at the November 2015 Equine Affaire. UC Nightstar, ridden by ANSC student Samantha Prusak, showed off in hunter-over-fences in the Morgan demonstration. Joining them in the demonstration was one of our stallions, UC Domination, driven by Horse Unit Manager John Bennett, ANSC Department Head Steven Zinn, and ANSC students Tori Travers and AJ Terracciano. Our Morgans helped showcase the versatility of the breed!



*UC Nightstar with ANSC student
Samantha Prusak*



*UC Domination with John Bennett, Dr.
Steven Zinn and ANSC student Tori
Travers and AJ Terracciano*

Toronto Royal Winter Fair- Dairy Club Trip



*Dairy Club members with Mary Margaret Cole,
Club Advisor*

November 12-15th, seven members of the UConn Dairy Club traveled to Toronto, Canada to see the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The members left early Thursday morning to make it to Summerholm Holstein Farm in Guelph, Canada where they milk about 400 purebred Holsteins and are a Semex farm. The club members visited Semex headquarters to learn about the company and saw some of the bulls they raise and service. At the Royal, students saw the Sale of Stars - the average cow sold for \$16,954 and the highest bid was \$170,000; they also attended the Jersey and Holstein shows and the crowning of the Supreme Champion- which is determined from the Grand Champion cow from each dairy breed.

In addition to the cow shows, they saw a horse show that included the International Show Jumpers, the high knee stepping Hackney Pony Championship, and six horse hitch Percheron teams pulling stage coaches and wagons.

On the way back to the US, they went to Niagara Falls and were able to see the falls at night and during the day. Overall a great trip.

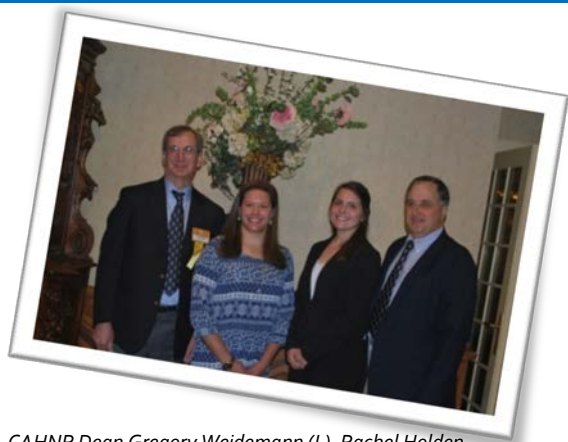
Write-up by ANSC senior Rachel Holden

Read more about the Royal Fair [here](#).

Big E Scholarship Recipients

Rachel Holden, ANSC senior, and **Amanda Jones**, ANSC graduate student, were awarded the 2015 undergraduate and graduate CT Trustees of the Eastern States Exposition Scholarship. The scholarships were distributed in a ceremony at a recent meeting of the CT Trustees of the Eastern States Exposition. Congratulations to Amanda and Rachel on their award recognizing their hard work and commitment to agriculture in the Northeast!

Read more about these scholarships [here](#).



CAHNR Dean Gregory Weidemann (L), Rachel Holden (center, L) and Amanda Jones (center, R) and CAHNR Associate Dean Cameron Faustman (R)

ANSC Research Projects

Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou along with her graduate and undergraduate students are researching the efficacy of wash water disinfectants in reducing pathogen contamination on mangoes. This project is being conducted in collaboration with the Center for Produce Safety and the National Mango Board. They are currently evaluating the use of common water disinfectants including chlorine in its ability to inactivate and eliminate Salmonella from mango wash water to prevent cross contamination of the fruit. The results from the study are expected to identify most effective wash water disinfectants that can be employed to control Salmonella and other pathogens on mangoes. Further, this study will provide science-based results to help improve best management practices in the post-harvest handling of mangoes thereby promoting food safety and quality.



Members of Dr. Amalaradjou's lab

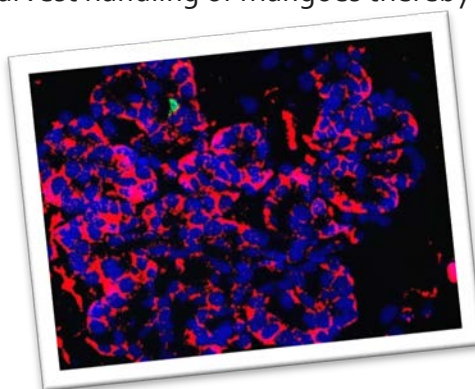


Image of the pancreas tissue from Dr. Govoni's lab



Maria Hoffman, Post Doc and Dr. Govoni studying pancreas cells

In **Dr. Kristen Govoni's** lab, in collaboration with Dr. Zinn and Dr. Reed, the effects of maternal under- and over-feeding on the muscle tissue of offspring is being evaluated. This is being done using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technologies to identify changes in expression of key genes and pathways that regulate muscle development. In addition, Dr. Hoffman, a post-doc in Dr. Govoni's lab is evaluating how maternal diet affects offspring pancreas development. Part of this research involves performing histological analysis on the pancreas tissue to determine changes in insulin, glucagon, and somatostatin production as well as cell proliferation. Changes in DNA methylation, a key epigenetic modification, of the pancreas is also being evaluated. These data will improve our understanding of how poor maternal nutrition during gestation alters metabolism of the offspring during growth and across subsequent generations. Poor maternal nutrition during gestation can have long lasting, detrimental effects on the growth, development, and metabolism of the offspring. Therefore, this negatively affects the health and productivity of these animals. Understanding how these changes occur in the offspring is critical to improve livestock health and production.

UConn Alumni at Ross University Veterinary School



*ANSC Alumni currently at Ross
University in St. Kitts*

The UConn Huskies studying veterinary medicine at Ross University in St. Kitts came together to get a group photo! ANSC Alumni currently studying there are:

- Allison Ambrosie
- Katie Fiore
- Eliana Alvarez
- Ashley Danowski
- Rachel Nestor
- Stephany Lopez
- Kimberly Coker
- Michael Esposito
- Stephanie Watko

Attention Pre-Vet Senior Students: We Want to Hear From You!

If you have been invited to interview, already interviewed, or you have been accepted into a Veterinary Program, please email Michelle Grant at michelle.grant@uconn.edu with your news!

UConn Horse Auction- Something New This Year



The Department of Animal Science is making a change. Due to the vast potential of the Internet and its ability to reach so many potential buyers, we will transition to selling UConn horses online versus an onsite auction. With the ability to market our horses to a larger audience beyond New England along with the endless resources to assist with online sales, we know we can do a better job of matching up our horses with an appropriate new owner/rider.

When UConn has horses for sale they can now be seen on our website [here](#).

Given the number of UConn, and especially Animal Science alumni who attend our horse auction each spring in Storrs, we will coordinate an equine related activity in the fall in conjunction with the annual fall CAHNR Cornucopia Event.

Stay tuned for more details at the end of summer 2016.

Undergrads and Alumni Featured in Naturally@UConn

ANSC senior **Olivia Korte** was featured on Naturally@UConn in November as a recipient of the Difference Maker Scholarship. Olivia, who works as a veterinary assistant at Quinebaug Valley Veterinary Hospital and as assistant manager at Beacon Ridge Pet Resort, plans to graduate in May and attend graduate school before going on to vet school. While she was a little overwhelmed at first by the size of UConn, she settled in and enjoys the close knit feeling of the Department of Animal Science. Read more about her future plans and her experiences at UConn [here](#).



ANSC senior Olivia Korte

ANSC senior **Kim Grendzinski** was featured on Naturally@UConn in December as a recipient of the Difference Maker Scholarship. Kim is the president of the Dairy Club and works at the livestock units on campus. She also spent time interning at the CT Beardsley Zoo this summer and as a result of her experience there, she plans to pursue a career as a zookeeper. Read more about her time at UConn [here](#).



ANSC senior Kim Grendzinski

ANSC Ratcliffe Hicks alumnae **Courtney Lawrence**, AAS 01', was featured on Naturally@UConn in December. Courtney is now the farm manager and riding instructor at the Learning Clinic where she works with 100 students teaching about everything from farm animals to haying. She also runs the therapeutic riding program. Courtney currently serves on the board of directors in UCAHNRAA as well. Read more about her experiences at UConn and her current career [here](#).



ANSC alumnae Courtney Lawrence

Beef Auction

Another successful Annual UConn Beef Auction was held in the beginning of November at the Cattle Resource Unit on campus. A total of 16 Hereford and Black Angus heifers and steers were auctioned off in the public sale. Mr. Bennett provided his services as auctioneer and the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity provided food for the event.



ANSC student Rachel Holden handles one of the beef cows in the auction

Little "I" Livestock Show

The 86th Annual Little International Livestock Show was held at the end of October. This year's theme was "Species in Space." Students enrolled in Dr. Darre's Intro to Animal Science class prepared their animal over the course of two months and presented their animal in a showmanship class. The show included classes with chickens, beef and dairy cows, pigs and horses. ANSC student **Kelsey Karp** and ANSC alumnus **Matt McIntosh** sang the National Anthem, the Morgan Drill Team provided a demonstration and students' parents had the opportunity to show a pig.



Emily Foraer and Janna DiVico
with their prize winning chickens



Christian Mortali, Champion Premier Showman,
with his dairy heifer "Buttercup"

The event was a huge success and the winners are as follows:

Beef Class 1: Bethany Keene

Beef Class 2: Alyssa Condon

Dairy Class 1: Heather Kwasowski

Dairy Class 2: Christian Mortali

Horse Class 1: Nicole Blake

Horse Class 2: Mary Roche

Poultry Class 1: Emily Foraer

Poultry Class 2: Janna DiVico

Swine Class 1: Scott Tarbox

Swine Class 2: Daniel Munch

Reserve Premier Showman: Scott Tarbox

Champion Premier Showman: Christian Mortali



Kacey Reinholtz and Christian
Mortali, Little I Queen and King



Scott Tarbox, Reserve Premier
Showman, with his pig "John
Hancock"



Mary Roche with "UC Pride and
Joy"



Bethany Keene with her beef steer

ANSC Alumni News

Jamie Woodside, BS 07', was initially interested in a career as a veterinarian. The more time she spent as an Animal Science student, however, the more she realized that there were a wide variety of opportunities in food science, a field that interested her. The three classes that piqued her interest in food science were Animal Food Products, Poultry Science, and Food Microbiology and Safety. After graduating from UConn, she went on to obtain a Master of Public Health degree from UConn. In addition to her job in Recall Management and Technical Analysis with the USDA, she is on the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health's Food Safety Advisory Committee and assists with the UConn Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point course twice per year in Storrs. Jamie believes in the importance of exploring a wide variety of opportunities and getting involved. Read more from her interview on Naturally@UConn [here](#).



*ANSC alumnae Jamie Woodside
at the CAHNR Career Fair*

Elisabeth Leahy, ANSC MS 14', was awarded the Merck Animal Health/American Associate of Equine Practitioners Foundation Scholarship. Only five students are chosen for this \$5,000 scholarship. Elisabeth, who is a second year veterinary student at Michigan State University, is interested in a career in equine medicine.

For more information on the scholarship recipients this year, please click [here](#).
Read more about how to be selected for the scholarships [here](#).

Manolo Blahnik Shoe Sale and Arethusa Scholarships

The second Manolo Blahnik sample shoe sale of 2015 was held in November at the West Hartford Regional Campus. Shoe lovers from far and wide attended the sale to purchase designer shoes at discount pricing. Over \$90,000 was raised through this shoe sale, all of which was donated to the Anthony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus Arethusa Farm Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to Animal Science students interested in dairy science, dairy food processing, or dairy production. Many thanks to Anthony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus for making this sale possible! See a video from the sale [here](#).



*Volunteers, both ANSC students and
supporters, who helped organize a
successful shoe sale*

The Anthony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus Arethusa Farm Scholarship was awarded to three students for January of 2016. These students are **Alicia Audet, Megan Hebert and Rachel Holden**. Congratulations to these students on their hard work and dedication to the dairy industry!

Grad Students Present Research



Graduate students (L to R) Hsin-Bai Yin, Genevieve Flock and Samantha Fancher in NYC

ANSC Graduate students **Hsin-Bai Yin**, **Samantha Fancher** and **Genevieve Flock** were invited to attend an event entitled "Journey through Science Day" hosted by The New York Academy of Sciences and PepsiCo on December 14th. The students listened to presentations from PepsiCo R&D specialists and presented their research in a poster session along with 50 graduate and post-doctoral students chosen from around the world to participate in this event. Read more about this event [here](#).



A group of 50 early-career scientists at NYAS

ANSC Compliance Corner- AAALAC Inspection

In October, our animal units were inspected by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC). All of our animal units were inspected for compliance with standards for animal use, care and management. This AAALAC inspection occurs in our animal units every three years. Students, faculty and staff work hard on a daily basis to keep our units compliant with the strict standards of AAALAC. We are happy to report that the review team from AAALAC recommended that we be considered for exemplary status for our entire animal care operation. Congratulations to our faculty, staff and students who work tirelessly to be sure that our animals receive the best care possible!





Kathy Noyes and Mr. Bennett

Kathy Noyes Retirement

The Department of Animal Science said a fond farewell to one of our cherished main office staff members, Kathy Noyes, who retired in January after sixteen years of service to the University of Connecticut. Many of you know Kathy as the helpful woman at the front desk in the main office. We wish her a very happy retirement!

Job Opportunities in ANSC Department

The Department of Animal Science is currently in the process of filling two full-time positions in the department, Program Assistant 1 and Agricultural Worker 1. More information on the positions available can be found [here](#).



ANSC alumnae Amy Zembroski and a 2015 foal

Foal Watch Class

Every spring, ANSC students have the opportunity to register for "Foal Watch Class." This class allows students to actively participate in the equine breeding and foaling process here at UConn. Anywhere from five to eight foals are born each spring here on campus. The students in this class are responsible for pre-natal care and monitoring of the mares, foaling out of the mares, imprinting the foals after birth and breeding the mares for the next spring's foals. This hands-on experience is often the highlight of many students' time spent at UConn. Read more about the class and our breeding program in the article [here](#).

UConn Department of Animal Science January 2016 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, 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.

