



*ANSC Undergraduate Kaitlin Reyes Oversees the Milking of a Cow
Using the New Robotic Milking System*

UConn Department of Animal Science January 2019 Student Newsletter

A Message from the Department Head

Greetings.

Welcome back to campus and the start of the spring semester, though spring weather seems like a far off dream. Congratulations to all of our December graduates and those students that have made the Dean's list.

A little update on the faculty and staff in Animal Science. Last fall, Dr. Breno Fragomeni joined the faculty from the University of Georgia and immediately started teaching Principles of Animal Genetics. In addition, on January 1, Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay joined the Animal Science faculty as an assistant professor in food microbiology. Dr. Upadhyay received his Ph.D. at UConn and returns after a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Arkansas. Our newest hire is Lisa Nulton-Streff. Lisa is our new Horse Unit Manager and comes to

us from Virginia Tech where she held the same position. Lisa replaces John Bennett, our long-time manager of over 30 years. I hope that many of you were able to attend his retirement celebration in September. Lastly, the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources welcomes a new dean, Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey, from Purdue University. Dean Chaubey will begin as dean on March 1.

With a look up Horsebarn Hill to the Kellogg Dairy Center (KDC), it is hard to miss the addition on the west side of the barn. We are now milking cows with a voluntary milking system (robotic milkers).

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Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

The dedication of the new wing and milking system was held on September 7 with a large audience of UConn faculty, staff, students, alumni, farmers and friends of Animal Science. Special guests and speakers included, Governor Daniel Malloy, Commissioner of Agriculture Steven Reviczky, Representative Greg Haddad, Provost Craig Kennedy, Board of Trustee member and DVM Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, and CAHNR Interim Dean Cameron Faustman. This is an exciting project and will rapidly move the KDC to the cutting edge of milking technology. Visitors are welcome to watch the robots 'work' through the window in the observation room.

As always, spring semester will be busy. We look forward to the Dairy Show, equestrian team events, the Horse Symposium, numerous club activities, Open House and graduation ceremonies. Many thanks to the students that participate in each of these events and I look forward to seeing you at these activities.

For students graduating this May, make sure that your Plan of Study is submitted to the degree auditor. It is important that these be turned in 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 are all set for graduation.

Good luck with the semester.



Dr. Steven Zinn

Professor and Head

Department of Animal Science



New Dean of CAHNR



Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey

The Department of Animal Science would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey, who was selected as the new Dean of CAHNR. Dr. Chaubey joins us from Purdue University where he was the associate dean and director of international programs for the College of Agriculture. His research is in the field of eco-hydrology and non-point source pollution. Read more about Dr. Chaubey [here](#).

He will begin his duties as dean on March 1.

Welcome, Dr. Chaubey!

STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



Add or Drop Classes

The last day to add or drop a class without additional signatures is Monday, February 4th.

Horse Practicum Meeting

The mandatory meeting for all students interested in signing up for riding lessons through the horse practicum was held on Thursday, January 24th. See the spring 2019 lesson schedule [here](#). If you were unable to attend the meeting, please contact Alena.Meacham@UConn.edu.



Scholarship Deadline

The deadline to apply for college-wide scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic year in CAHNR is February 25, 2019. Find the application for scholarships [here](#).

LINKS TO FORMS

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

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

Robotic Milking Events

The UConn Department of Animal Science hosted two dairy events this past fall.

The grand opening for the new wing for the robotic milking units at the Kellogg Dairy Center was held on Friday, September 7. The event was well attended by state officials, CAHNR faculty and staff, industry leaders and friends of the Department of Animal Science. A limited edition ice cream flavor, **Vanilla Moocha Swirl**, was featured at the event. Governor Dannel Malloy, UConn Provost Craig Kennedy, CAHNR Dean Cameron Faustman, State Representative Greg Haddad, CT Commissioner of Agriculture Steven Reviczky, and Department of Animal Science Head Dr. Steven Zinn all spoke at the event. Read more about this event [here](#).

The Department of Animal Science hosted a Robotic Milking Conference on Friday, October 26th. The conference was titled “Impacts on Animal Health, Welfare, and Economic Sustainability for Northeast Dairy Farms” and featured several speakers who are industry leaders in the field of robotic milking. Read more about this event [here](#).



Governor Malloy and Dr. Steven Zinn cut the ribbon at the KDC Open House



Participants listen to a presentation by Dr. Larry Tranel from Iowa State Extension Service

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 Lewis at Michelle.B.Lewis@uconn.edu with your news!

Little “I” Livestock Show

The 89th Annual Little International Livestock Show (Little “I”) was held on October 20th in the Horsebarn Hill Arena. The theme of this year’s show was “Red, White and Moo.” Students enrolled in the Intro to Animal Science class utilized the skills they learned in class to show their chosen animal (beef and dairy cows, sheep, pigs, horses and chickens) in showmanship classes after working with them all semester. ANSC freshman **Megan Davenport** was crowned the Grand Champion showman of the show. The Block and Bridle Club honored Mr. John Bennett as this year’s Guest of Distinction.

Thank you to all who work so hard to make sure this is a successful event every year!



Megan Davenport accepting the Grand Champion Award



A beef cattle showman being inspected by judge Megan Grogan

Arethusa Scholarship Winners

The Department of Animal Science is proud to announce some undergraduate scholarship winners.

Four students were chosen for the Anthony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus Arethusa Farm Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to full-time animal science students with a demonstrated interest in dairy science, dairy food processing, or dairy production. Congratulations to undergraduates **Rebecca Flodquist, Melissa Hill, Erin Norris, and Meagan Goodridge!**



Dairy Award



For the 12th year, our UConn dairy herd was awarded a Progressive Breeders Registry Award. This honor is awarded to registered Holstein herds that have achieved high standards for production and type. We are very proud of this achievement with our 100% home-bred herd!



Mary Roche (L) helps treat animals on a trip to Honduras

Pre-Vet Undergrads Volunteer Abroad

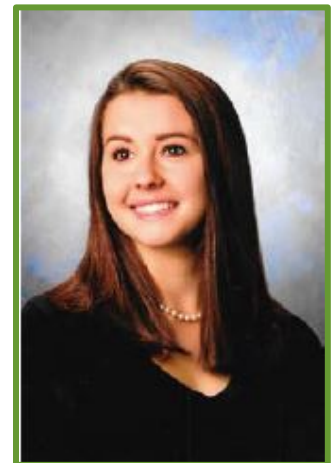
Naturally@UConn featured the pre-veterinary student trips abroad during alternative spring break. These volunteer trips are organized through [World Vets](#) and are open to any pre-veterinary undergraduate students who are willing to donate time to help animals in Honduras and Nicaragua.

Read more about the pre-vet trips [here](#).

Undergraduate Selected for Agriculture Leadership Program

ANSC undergraduate **Daria Larson** was selected as one of eleven New England undergraduate students to participate in the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Next Generation Program. This program aims to cultivate future leaders in agriculture, food and natural resources by exposing them to agricultural policy and promotion.

Read more about the NASDA Next Generation Program [here](#).



Daria Larson

Dairy Club Attends Agricultural Fair

Eight members of the UConn Dairy Club along with club advisor Mary Margaret Cole attended the 96th annual Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Canada in November. The club was able to experience all the show has to offer, from agricultural competitions to exhibits.

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



The UConn Dairy Club with advisor Mary Margaret Cole at the Royal Agricultural Fair

ANSC Undergraduate Students Featured on Naturally@UConn Blog



Samantha Doyle

ANSC undergraduate student **Samantha Doyle** was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in November. Samantha has been busy during her time here at UConn as both a member of Sigma Alpha and the Equestrian Team member. She also completed a summer internship at the Georgia Aquarium last summer. Samantha will graduate in the spring and plans to attend graduate school.

Read more about Samantha [here](#).



Emily Kirilov

ANSC undergraduate student **Emily Kirilov** was also featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in December. Emily plans to pursue a dual degree in Animal Science and Psychological Science. She fills her time here at UConn and abroad as a member of the Team USA synchronized skating team, often traveling to compete across the globe.

Read more about Emily [here](#).

Undergraduates Acknowledged for Research Efforts

ANSC undergraduates **Veronica Pleasant, Lauren Engels and Helenrose Iannitti** were acknowledged by the Office of Undergraduate Research for their summer research presentations at the American Society of Animal Science Annual Meeting.

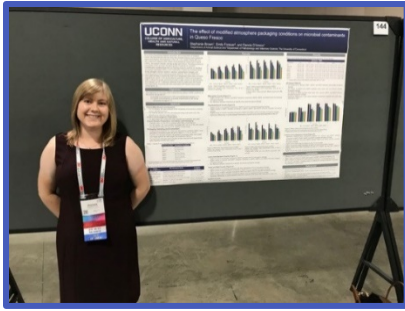
Read more about undergraduate research accolades [here](#).

Are you an undergraduate student interested in getting involved in research? Visit our faculty page [here](#) to see what our professors are studying now and contact them directly for research opportunities!



Veronica Pleasant, Lauren Engels and Helenrose Iannitti

Graduate Student Featured on Naturally@UConn



Stephanie Brown

ANSC Ph.D. student **Stephanie Brown** was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in September. Stephanie is performing research on dairy food safety and quality in [Dr. Dennis D'Amico's lab](#). Stephanie plans to graduate this spring and go into a career involving food safety and public health.

Read more about Stephanie [here](#).

Graduate Student Wins Scholarship

ANSC Ph.D. student **Ling Wang** was selected as the 2018 recipient of the Jerry Yang Scholarship. Ling formally accepted the scholarship at the CAHNR Awards Banquet in November.

Congratulations Ling!

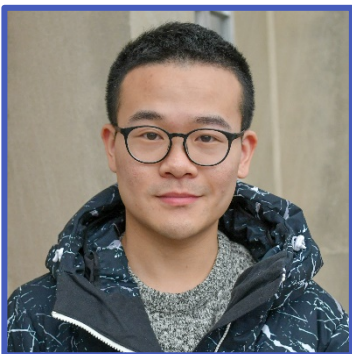


(L to R) Dr. Steven Zinn, Dr. Kristen Govoni, Ling Wang, Haoran Yu, & Dr. Cindy Tian

Welcome New Graduate Students!

The Department of Animal Science would like to extend a warm welcome to the new graduate students joining our department this spring semester!

- Yue Su (Ph.D. – Dr. Tang)
- Justine Liu (M.S. – Dr. Fragomeni)
- Jiaqi Zhu (Ph.D. – Dr. Tang)
- Brandon Scanlon (M.S. – Dr. Tian)
- Saurav Ranjitkar (Ph.D. – Dr. Tian)



Yue Su



Saurav Ranjitkar



Justine Liu



Jiaqi Zhu



Brandon Scanlon

Faculty Win Awards

Dr. Jenifer Nadeau was selected for the 2018 Outstanding Service Award at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in November. This award is sponsored by the Pinto Horse Association of America.



Dr. Jenifer Nadeau

Congratulations, Dr. Nadeau!

Dr. Michael Darre, who retired this past August, was selected for the UConn Provost's Outstanding Service Award. "This award honors faculty whose volunteer service is exemplary in enhancing the University's mission in teaching, research, service, or engagement."



Dr. Michael Darre

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

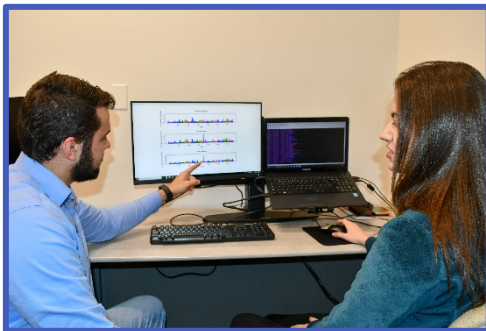
Faculty in the News

Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan was featured in a slideshow in the UConn Today online publication entitled "Year in Photos." See the photos [here](#).



Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan

Dr. Breno Fragomeni was featured in an article on Naturally@UConn this month. Dr. Fragomeni, who joined our faculty last fall, jumped right into teaching the Principles of Animal Genetics and starting his research. He plans to focus his research on the genetic component of livestock production. Read more in the article [here](#).



*Dr. Breno Fragomeni
advises a visiting scholar
on genetic data*

Dr. Dennis D'Amico was mentioned for his work analyzing microbes from creameries working on creating an original American cheese. Read more in the article [here](#).



*Dr. Dennis D'Amico supervising an
undergraduate making cheese in class*



Lisa Nulton

Animal Science Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

If you see some new friendly faces around this spring, it's not your imagination; it's our new faculty and staff members!

Lisa Nulton joins us from Virginia Tech as our new horse unit manager! This spring, she will be teaching a two-year equine skills course and co-teaching Light Horse Training and Management with Alena Meacham and getting up to speed on all the ins and outs at the horse units on campus. Learn more about Lisa [here](#). Welcome Lisa!



Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay

Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay joins us from the University of Arkansas. His area of interest is in food science, food microbiology, and pre and post-harvest poultry safety. Learn more about him on his faculty web page [here](#). We are looking forward to his teaching and research efforts here in Animal Science!

Be sure to say "hello" when you see them around campus!

ANSC in the News

The UConn Department of Animal Science has been featured recently in several lists and articles!

UConn was ranked as number eight on the top ten list of the most pet-friendly colleges in the country according to College Magazine. The list mentions our animals and several of the animal clubs and teams on campus as well as the Animal Science degree program. See the list [here](#).

UConn Today featured information on our department from an article originally in Naturally@UConn in November. The article gives an overview of our department. Read the Naturally@UConn article [here](#) and see the UConn Today feature [here](#).

Universities.com featured a list of the "Best Colleges with Animal Science Degrees in the U.S." and our program was ranked number 8! See the list [here](#).



Photo courtesy of Tyler Benton

Alum Interns on Capitol Hill



*Daniel Munch with CT
Congressman Joe Courtney*

ANSC alum **Daniel Munch** ('18) may have completed his degree in the spring, but he took full advantage of a great internship opportunity through the American Society of Animal Science. The ASAS Policy Internship connects students with strong interests in agriculture to spend time in Washington, D.C. with policy makers. Danny interned in the office of Connecticut Congressman Joe Courtney over the summer of 2018. Read more about his experience during the internship [here](#).

Alum Chosen for Fellowship

Emily Forauer ('18) was named the first Dave Theno Food Safety Fellow by STOP Foodborne Illness during the annual International Association for Food Protection conference. During her time at UConn, Emily worked in the lab of Dr. Dennis D'Amico where she was introduced to the world of food safety. During the year-long fellowship in Chicago, Emily will work to support food safety. Read the article she wrote about the fellowship and her career path [here](#).



*Jill Theno, Emily Forauer and
Deirdre Schlunegger at IAFP 2018*

Support ANSC During UConn Gives in March

Mark your calendars!

The University of Connecticut will hold its second annual UConn Gives Campaign on Wednesday, March 27th through Thursday, March 28th.

Your donations will help support our Animal Science students present their scientific research at national meetings as well as provide opportunities for study abroad!

No amount is too small.

Stay Tuned!

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 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/> (next session 2/12/2019)
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

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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.



Hello Friend – Michelle Lewis



Morgan in the Snow – Michelle Lewis