



Aerial view of Horsebarn Hill fall 2019 – Photo Courtesy of Milton Levin

UConn Department of Animal Science Winter 2020 Student Newsletter

A Message from the Department Head

Greetings.

Welcome back to campus and the start of the new decade. Let's be happy that the weather has cooperated with the start of school and we didn't get snowed out. Congratulations to all of our December graduates and to those students who made the Dean's list in fall of 2019.

Please join me in welcoming our newest staff member and welcoming an old colleague back to the Department. Last fall, Angela Frati (Program Asst. I) joined us in the main office. Angela has hit the ground running and has become an important member of the administrative team. Also, this past fall, Dr. Cameron Faustman, former CAHNR interim Dean and long-time CAHNR Associate Dean of Academic Programs, and Associate Dean of Research, has

returned back to the Department of Animal Science. Before becoming a part of the Dean's administrative team, Dr. Faustman was a faculty member and Department Head in Animal Science. We welcome Dr. Faustman back to the Department. This semester he will be teaching a new course entitled "Science and Policy for Meat as Food" (ANSC 2695).

Congratulations to Mary Margaret Cole, Executive Program Director, and the KDC staff for doing an outstanding job with our dairy herd this year. The herd was again awarded the 2nd place Agri-Mark Top Quality Producer Award for region 1 for the 2018-2019 year! This region includes 1,300 herds in New England and Eastern New York. Our high-quality milk is one of the reasons that UConn makes the best ice cream in the state.

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Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

As always, spring semester will be busy. We look forward to the Dairy Show, Equestrian Team events, including hosting the Western regional competition, the Horse Symposium, numerous club activities, Open House, graduation ceremonies and the end of the semester barbecue. 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 or this August, make sure that you apply for graduation and submit your Plan of Study to the degree auditor. It is important that the Plan of Study 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 are all set for graduation.

Good luck with the semester.



Dr. Steven Zinn

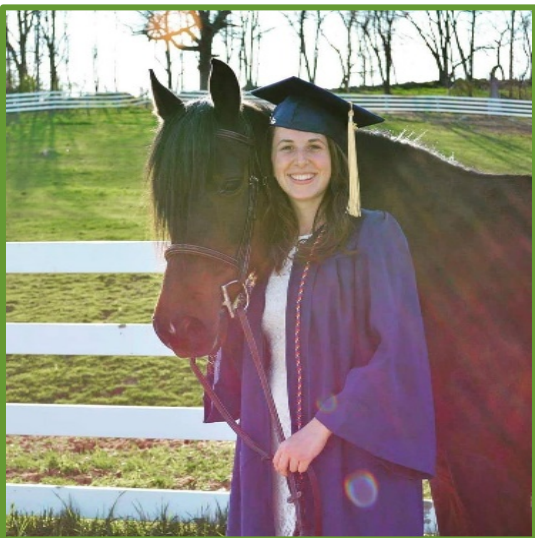
Professor and Head

Department of Animal Science



Dr. Steven Zinn

Samantha Calzone Scholarship Now Endowed



Alumna Samantha Calzone

The Department of Animal Science is proud to announce a new scholarship in memory of alumna Samantha Calzone ('18).

Samantha tragically passed away after a horseback riding accident in fall 2019. Samantha was a dedicated student and captain of the UConn Equestrian Team who was admired by her peers.

This scholarship will be awarded to continuing Animal Science undergraduate juniors and seniors on the UConn Equestrian Team.

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, this scholarship has reached \$50,000 and is permanently endowed. Our goal is for this scholarship to reach \$100,000.

Thank you to all those who donated. We appreciate your continued support!

[Donate to the Samantha Calzone Scholarship](#)

STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



Add or Drop Classes

The last day to add or drop a class without additional signatures is Monday, February 3rd.

Apply for Graduation

Seniors who plan to graduate in May of 2020 must [apply for graduation](#) via the Student Administration System by February 14, 2020. You must also [submit your final Plan of Study](#) by this deadline.



Scholarship Deadline

The deadline to apply for college-wide scholarships for the 2020-2021 academic year in CAHNR is March 8, 2020. Find the application for scholarships [here](#).

LINKS TO FORMS

[ANSC Independent Study Syllabus Form](#)

[Major Change Form](#)

[Advisor Change Form](#)

90th Little “I” Livestock Show

The 90th Annual Little International Livestock Show (Little “I”) was held on November 2nd in the Horsebarn Hill Arena. The theme of this year’s show was “Keep Groovin’ and Moo’in.” 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 **Miriam Dugas** was crowned the Grand Champion of the show. Block and Bridle Club honored Dr. Cameron Faustman as this year’s Guest of Distinction.

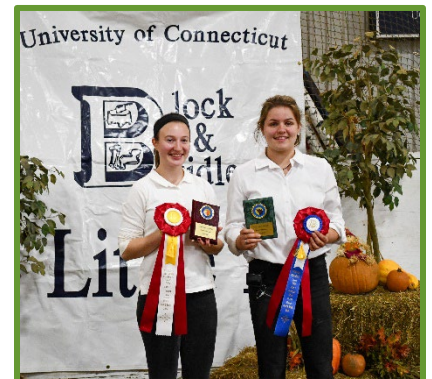
Thank you to all who work so hard to make sure this is a successful event every year!



Dairy cattle showmanship class



Sheep showmen posing with their first and second place ribbons



Grand Champion Miriam Dugas (right) and Reserve Grand Champion Carolyn Comstock (left) posing with their awards

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

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

Upcoming Events in Animal Science

The Department of Animal Science is excited to host a number of events this spring! Please be sure to mark your calendar and join us!

- Western Team Home Show - Saturday, February 8th
- Equestrian Team Home Show - Saturday, February 22nd
- Western Team Regional Show - Saturday, February 29th
- Dressage Team Home Show - Saturday and Sunday, March 7th - 8th
- Connecticut Horse Symposium - Saturday, March 28th
- Dairy Show - Saturday, April 25th

All events are held at the University of Connecticut main campus in Storrs.

Learn more on our [Events and Activities webpage](#).



Looking forward to spring!

UConn Wins Dairy and Ice Cream Awards

UConn ice cream was selected as the [Best Ice Cream](#) in [the Chronicle's](#) Best of 2019 Readers' Choice Awards. Congratulations to the UConn Creamery staff on all of their hard work!

For the 13th 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!

The UConn herd was also honored with second place in the Agri-Mark Regional Quality Award for 2019.

Congratulations and thank you to all who continue to make our dairy program what it is today!



UConn Ice Cream Readers' Choice Award



2019 Agri-Mark Award



2019 Progressive Breeders Registry Award

Undergraduate Scholarship Information

The [*CAHNR/RHSA Undergraduate Scholarship Application*](#) deadline is
Sunday, March 8, 2020.

The scholarships highlighted below are new additions to the list of scholarships in Animal Science.

The Oliver J. Hubbard Memorial Poultry Science Scholarship

The Oliver J. Hubbard Memorial Poultry Science Scholarship created by the Hubbard Farms Charitable Foundation wishes to encourage continued progress in technology and efficiency of production of poultry products. This scholarship will be awarded to an Animal Science student who demonstrates an interest in poultry production.



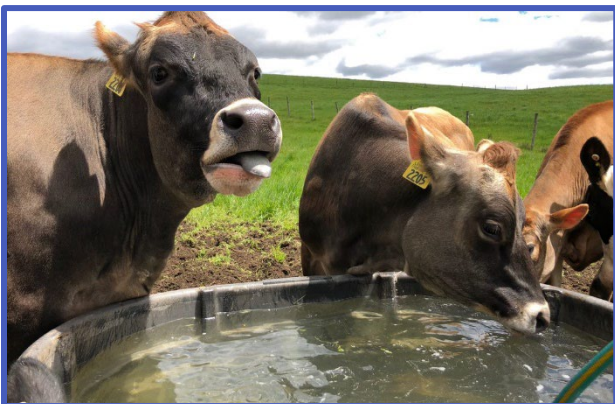
Chickens at the UConn Poultry Unit

The Kaye Andrus Scholarship

The Kaye Andrus Scholarship was created by the Andrus Foundation in fall 2019. Four scholarships will be awarded to Animal Science juniors and seniors who demonstrate financial need this fall.

All current Animal Science students are encouraged to fill out the scholarship application!

Arethusa Scholarship Winners



UConn cows at the water trough, summer 2019

The Department of Animal Science is proud to announce several 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 who have demonstrated interest in dairy science, dairy food processing, or dairy production. Congratulations to undergraduates **Rebecca Flodquist, Melissa Hill, Patrick Kennedy, and Kirsten Krause!**

Animal Science Club Updates

Eleven members of the UConn Dairy Club along with club advisor Mary Margaret Cole attended the 97th annual Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Canada in November. The club also visited local dairy farms and Niagara Falls while on the trip. [Read more about the Royal Agricultural Fair here.](#)

The UConn Block and Bridle Club was featured on the Daily Campus in October. The article highlights early UConn as an agricultural school, student experiences and events that the club participates in. [Read the article here.](#)

The Dairy Club also attended the opening game for the UConn Women's Basketball Team with several UConn heifers. [Read about how the team honored UConn's Agricultural roots.](#)

The UConn Daily Campus featured the UConn Dairy Club in November. The article discussed the history of the club, some of the events they host and attend as well as highlighting the public education the club does to dispel myths about the dairy industry. [Read more in the article online.](#)

The UConn Agricultural Advocacy Club published their first newsletter. [Read The UConn Advocate newsletter here.](#)



The UConn Dairy Club with advisor Mary Margaret Cole at Niagara Falls



Dairy Club members with a UConn heifer at Gampel

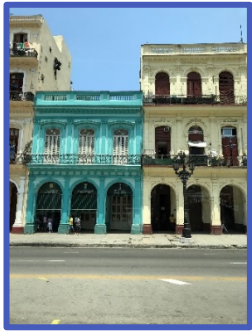
Undergraduate Achievements and Awards

ANSC undergraduate, **Megan Davenport**, was awarded the Connecticut Trustees of the Eastern States Exposition Scholarship. This award honors an exemplary student who has participated in the Eastern States Exposition's youth programs.

Megan Davenport was also selected as the Connecticut National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Officer Candidate. The duties of a national officer include representing student membership during meetings with the FFA Board of Directors, facilitating workshops demonstrating leadership and knowledge, motivational speeches, and serving as an FFA advocate. Although she was not selected as a National Officer, we commend Megan for her exemplary effort.



Megan Davenport with Dean Chaubey at the Eastern States Exposition Award Ceremony



Cuban buildings- Photo by Marie Frese

Cuba Trip

The annual CAHNR trip to Cuba was featured in an [article on the Naturally@UConn blog](#). Dr. Steven Zinn, Dr. Ana Legrand and several undergraduate students went on the trip and were able to explore sustainable agricultural projects at several Cuban institutions and farms. The course is entitled “Food and Revolution: The Cuban Experience.”

ANSC Students Featured on UConn 4-H

ANSC students **Kirsten Krause**, **Ryan Blatchley** and **Megan Davenport** were featured on UConn 4-H to share their 4-H experiences.



Kirsten talked about how her experience with UConn 4-H programs influenced her choice to come to UConn, created friendships and opportunities at the University, and taught her important life skills.
[Read Kirsten's post here.](#)



Ryan highlighted how 4-H has shaped his career decisions, sparked his involvement in many ANSC clubs, and like Kirsten, taught him important life skills.
[Read Ryan's post here.](#)



Megan discussed how 4-H led her to her passion for dairy science and animal advocacy and surrounded her with lifelong friends. She too participates in many ANSC clubs.
[Read Megan's post here.](#)

Welcome New Graduate Students!



Jodie Allen

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

- Jodie Allen (M.S. – Dr. Upadhyay)
- Bruna Folegatti Santana (Ph.D. – Dr. Fragomeni)



Bruna Folegatti Santana

Faculty Win Awards

Dr. Dennis D'Amico received the National Excellence in Multi-State Research Award presented by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. This award recognizes scientists who are conducting admirable research and outreach efforts across multiple states. Our congratulations to Dr. D'Amico!

Dr. Cameron Faustman accepted his APLU Excellence in Research Leadership Award at the APLU Annual Meeting in November. Read more about this award in an [article in the Naturally@UConn blog](#).



Dr. Cameron Faustman (center) with his APLU Award



Dr. Zinn advising an undergraduate student



Mary Margaret (far right) and Mary Kegler (middle) with Governor Lamont and Leia the heifer



Dr. Nadeau with a graduate and undergraduate student and UConn horse

Faculty and Staff in the News

Dr. Steven Zinn was featured on UConn Today in an article in UConn Today entitled [“Career Program Taps Critical Faculty-Student Connection.”](#)

Mary Margaret Cole, Kellogg Dairy Center Executive Program Director, presented updates on our transition to the robotic milking systems at the Holstein USA National Dairy Meeting in Hartford. Additionally, she served on a dairy producer panel at the seminar.

Mary Margaret Cole and Mary Kegler, Farms Manager, celebrated Stew Leonard's 90th birthday with a UConn heifer at the capital with Governor Ned Lamont and Commissioner of Agriculture Brian Hurlburt.

Dr. Sarah Reed was featured on UConn Today for her research project with Drs. Govoni and Zinn on maternal nutrition in sheep. [Read more about this research.](#)

Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan was featured in an article on UConn Today entitled [“Turning to Old Remedies For New Health Challenges.”](#) The article discussed the use of selenium to treat infections from pathogens.

Dr. Jenifer Nadeau and Dr. Sarah Reed published a study regarding seasonal effects on horses that was featured in an article in the Paulick Report entitled [“Study: Seasonal Weather Impacts Growing Horses.”](#)



Angela Frati

Animal Science Welcomes Staff Member

If you've noticed a friendly new face in the main office, it's not your imagination; it's our new staff member!

Angela Frati joins us from EASTCONN as our new Program Assistant! Angela will be able to help you with scheduling appointments with Dr. Zinn, travel, and so much more! Welcome Angela!

A Review in Photos

Animal Science has been busy behind the scenes! Enjoy some recent (and a golden oldie!) photos below!



*ANSC Main Office Staff
Celebrating Halloween*



*Dr. Nathan Hale (center) visits
Animal Science fall 2019*



Manter Road winter 2020



Animal Science Faculty 1997



John Garaventa's self-portrait photo

Alum Featured in Naturally@UConn

ANSC alum **John Garaventa** ('77) was interviewed by Naturally@UConn and he discussed his journey from an animal science student to a professional photographer. His interest in photography began during a Connecticut 4-H intercultural exchange program in the Soviet Union. Following this, Mr. Garaventa's work was published in *National Geographic*.

[Read more about Mr. Gauraventa here.](#)

Support ANSC Scholarship During UConn Gives in April

Mark your calendars!

The University of Connecticut will hold its third annual UConn Gives Campaign April 15th through April 16th, 2020.

This year, our UConn Gives campaign will support the Samantha Calzone Scholarship. We hope to increase this fund to \$100,000 over the next year. Our fundraising goal for UConn Gives is \$2,500 for this scholarship.

No amount is too small!

Stay Tuned!

ANSC in the News

The UConn Department of Animal Science was ranked as the Top Animal Science College Program in New England in a [report on College Factual](#).



Photo courtesy of Tyler Benton

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/>
2. Complete the Biological Safety Considerations in Farm Animal Research and Production course on Husky CT available through the link below:
<http://ehsapps.uconn.edu/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, 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.



*ANSC Student Kira Vigue and UC
Celebration at Equine Affaire 2019*



UConn Campus Ag Scene