



*Students showing dairy heifers at the 2020 Little "T" Livestock Show*

# UConn Department of Animal Science Winter 2021 Student Newsletter

## A Message from the Department Head

Greetings.

Welcome to spring 2021 and the start of another semester of "COVID-19 college".

Congratulations to all our December graduates and to those students who made the Dean's list in fall of 2020.

Due to COVID-19, some of you have returned to campus while others are staying home and doing the entire semester online. Many classes will be online, and some will be a hybrid model with some distance learning and some in-person, and other classes will be 100% in person (check Student Admin if you are unsure of where or how your classes will be delivered). Similarly, Animal Science faculty have made similar decisions, some will be staying home and doing all their teaching and advising online, while others

will be here several days each week and working remotely on other days. Faculty and academic offices across campus are making these same choices. Most will have their availability and the best modality of contact posted. I suggest that you check ahead of time if a person or an office is online or in their office, it will save some running around.

On a more personal note.... after 10 years as Department Head of Animal Science, at the end of the academic year (July), I will be stepping down and returning to the faculty. The national search for my replacement is underway, and hopefully a new department head will begin in the fall. I am NOT retiring, I will continue to do research, teach and advise, but my administrative responsibilities will be reduced (and my office will change!). *(More on Page 2)*

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

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.

We look forward to a great spring semester. We continue to urge you to follow the UConn Promise!

Stay safe.



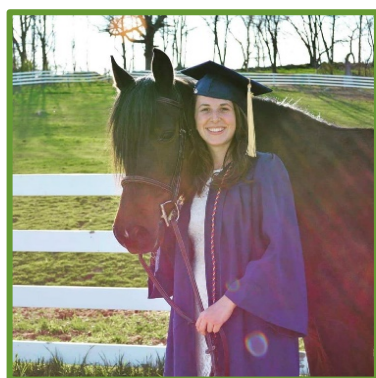
**Dr. Steven Zinn**

Professor and Head

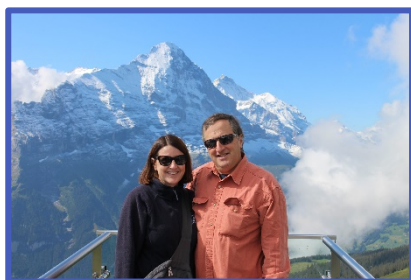
Department of Animal Science



*Dr. Steven Zinn*



*UConn ANSC alumna  
Samantha Calzone*



*Carol and Cameron Faustman*

## UConn Gives is Coming!

Mark your calendars!

The University of Connecticut will hold the annual UConn Gives Campaign March 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

This year, our UConn Gives campaign will support the Samantha Calzone Scholarship and the Cameron and Carol Faustman Scholarship.

Our fundraising goal for UConn Gives this year is \$5,000 total for both scholarships.

No gift is too small to support our current students.

***Stay Tuned for More Information!***

## STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



### Add or Drop Classes

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

### Apply for Graduation

Seniors who plan to graduate in May of 2021 must [apply for graduation](#) via the Student Administration System by February 12, 2021. You must also submit your final Plan of Study by this deadline.



### Scholarship Deadline

The deadline to apply for college-wide scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year in CAHNR is March 28, 2021. Find the application for scholarships [here](#).

## LINKS TO FORMS

[ANSC Independent Study Syllabus Form](#)

[Major Change Form](#)

[Advisor Change Form](#) (Email to [MLewis@UConn.edu](mailto:MLewis@UConn.edu))

## Ice Cream and Cheese and Eggs, Oh My!

Did you know? The UConn Creamery is known for more than just whipping up deliciously smooth ice cream. Throughout the year, they work with Dr. Dennis D'Amico to create a variety of cheeses! Last year, they produced Roasted Red Pepper Queso Blanco, Green Chile Queso Blanco, Black Olive Queso Blanco, Banana Pepper Queso Blanco and regular and Jalapeno Juustoliepa. When the UConn Dairy Bar reopens on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, cheese can be purchased through the [Dairy Bar Website](#).

You can also purchase eggs from the UConn flock. Learn more in the Daily Campus article "[Get your 'Egg-cellent UConn eggs.'](#)"



*Juustoliepa cheese in the oven*



*Black Olive Queso Blanco*



*Banana Pepper Queso Blanco*

## 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 program, please email Michelle Lewis at [MLewis@UConn.edu](mailto:MLewis@UConn.edu) with your news!



## Scenes from 91<sup>st</sup> Little “I” Livestock Show: “The One Where They Were Quarantined”

The 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Little International Livestock Show (Little “I”) was held on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Classes were held at various locations around Horsebarn Hill so that participants and judges could maintain physical distancing. The theme of this year’s show was “The One Where They Were Quarantined.” 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 or horses) in showmanship classes after working with them throughout the fall semester.

Thank you to all who worked so hard to make sure this event was successful this year despite many challenges due to the pandemic! See results, photos and more on our [Little “I” webpage](#).



*Ashley Thibault showing her sheep*



*Omola Battles showing her beef animal*



*Sarah Hecht showing her horse*



*Nolan Reilly shows his beef animal*

## UConn Dairy Herd is Moo-ving On Up

Our homegrown UConn dairy herd (and their exceptional caretakers!) qualified for the 2020 Progressive Genetics Herd Award! This recognition is awarded to the 500 herds with the highest average Total Performance Index (TPI) for females in the herd, both young and mature. The success of our herd is truly a testament to the hard work and dedication of their team of caretakers!

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



## Horse Riding Practicum Registration is Open



*Trail ride on Horsebarn Hill*

The Department of Animal Science offers a non-credit horseback riding program where current UConn students, faculty and staff of all riding levels who are approved to be on the Storrs campus for spring 2021 can participate in riding lessons in a variety of disciplines including hunt seat, dressage, western, polo, and drill.

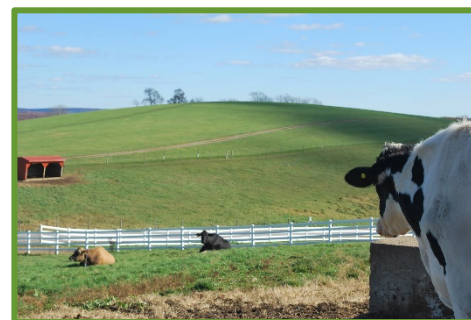
Learn more and register today on the [Equine Practicum webpage](#).

## Animal Science Students Receive Scholarships

The Department of Animal Science is proud to announce some undergraduate scholarship recipients!

A total of nine students were selected to receive the Anthony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus Arethusa Farm Scholarships this past fall. 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 **Kirsten Krause, Kathleen Atkinson, Carolyn Comstock, Heather Cashman, Michael Wolf, Sophia Sarlo, Ariel Kuhl, Sophia Mori** and **Aneury Moya**!

The Kaye Andrus Scholarship was awarded to four undergraduate students for the first time this fall. This new scholarship supports upperclassmen who have a love for animal husbandry. Congratulations to **Jacqueline Lampert, Kristen Krause, Samantha Barretta** and **Marie Frese**! Learn more about this scholarship and the students who received it this year in an [article here](#).



*Cow looking out over Horsebarn Hill*



## Undergraduate Student News

Several of our undergraduate students were featured in the [CAHNR Newsroom](#) and [CAHNR Ambassador Blog](#) this past fall.

**Rylyn Koger** is a sophomore from Texas who plays on the varsity polo team, is a member of the Sigma Alpha sorority and hopes to go to vet school after she graduates. Learn more about her experiences at UConn in [the full article here](#).

**Shayla Roman** is currently a student in the 2-year program who plans to continue into the 4-year program. Her goal is to become a pediatric surgeon and is a first-generation college student. Read about how she's adjusted during the pandemic and what brought her to UConn in [the full article here](#).

**Megan Davenport** was featured in the CAHNR Ambassador Blog in December. She discussed the effects of the pandemic and how being around animals has made social and physical distancing easier for her and others. Read [the full article here](#).

Two students, **Joanna Turner** and **Emilie Caron**, were featured in an [article in the CAHNR Newsroom](#) for their new leadership roles on the Connecticut Future Farmers of America 2020-2021 Officer Team.



*ANSC undergraduate student Rylyn Koger with her horses*



*ANSC undergraduate student Megan Davenport with a Holstein calf*



*ANSC undergraduate student Shayla Roman with a sheep*

## Missing the Hill?

Feeling nostalgic? The pandemic has temporarily closed the animal units and it's a bit cold for a walk over this iconic hill. We know you might be missing this view.

Take [a virtual tour of the Horsebarn Hill area here!](#)



*Horsebarn Hill dotted with dairy cattle*

# 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

- **Ragini Reddyvari** (Ph.D. – Dr. Amalaradjou)
- **Yuying Ren** (Ph.D. – Dr. Amalaradjou)
- **Trushenkumar Shah Sr.** (Ph.D. – Dr. Upadhyay)
- **Jianing Shen** (M.S. – Dr. Tian)



*New graduate student  
Ragini Reddyvari*

## Faculty in the News

New faculty member **Dr. Joe Emenheiser** was featured by UConn extension for a [video on choosing livestock fence](#). He was also featured in an article on the CAHNR Newsroom in late December. The article introduced Dr. Emenheiser, explored his history with livestock, and his areas of interest in research. Learn more and read [the full article here](#).



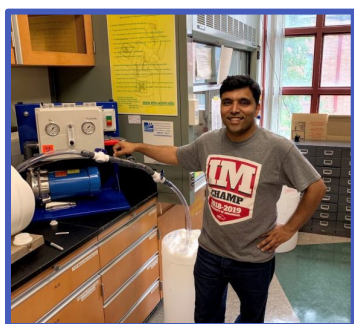
*Dr. Joe Emenheiser*

**Dr. Cindy Tian** was featured in an article in the CAHNR Newsroom at the end of last summer. The article discussed her involvement in cloning research and changes in the field over the years. Read [the full article here](#).



*Dr. Cindy Tian*

**Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay** was featured in the CAHNR Newsroom in November. The article featured his work on improving technology for poultry food safety. Learn more about his research and read [the full article here](#).



*Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay*

**Dr. Amy Safran** was quoted in an article on the Daily Campus regarding how CAHNR pivoted to meet new needs of students during the pandemic. Read [the full article here](#).



*Dr. Amy Safran*

**Dr. Breno Fragomeni** was featured on the CAHNR Newsroom in January. Dr. Fragomeni is currently working on research in animal genomics. Read [the full article here](#).



*Dr. Breno Fragomeni*



Dr. Marc Tufts

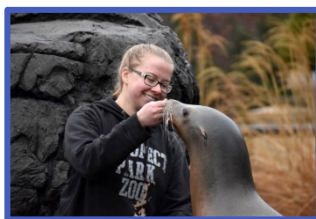
## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of former faculty member **Dr. Marc Tufts** in September. He was heavily involved in the UConn polo program and taught courses including Companion Animals. You can [read more about Dr. Tufts here](#).

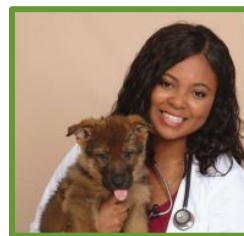
## Animal Science Alumni in the News

ANSC alumni **Tierra Price** was featured in an article in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association for her initiation of the [BlackDVM Network](#) which promotes and supports Black professionals, veterinary students, and veterinarians. Learn more about her work in [the full article here](#) (begins on page 464).

ANSC alumna **Kimberly Grendzinski** was featured in the UConn Magazine in October. Kimberly currently works with penguins and sea lions at the Central Park Zoo in New York City. Learn more about a day in the life of a zookeeper through Kim's eyes in [the UConn Magazine article here](#).



ANSC alumna Kimberly Grendzinski ('16)



ANSC alumna Tierra Price ('16)

## Why Do You Give?



Jacobson Barn with poultry units and  
Horsebarn Hill in the background  
Photo courtesy of Tyler Benton

The Department of Animal Science would like to extend thanks to Richard Sawyer for their generous donation to the Samantha Calzone Scholarship.

Richard shared some sentiments about why he chose to support our students in Samantha's memory:

*"What motivated my contribution was that three of my grandchildren who live on Long Island were friends of Samantha, with the oldest one being a very close friend. I thought the purpose of the fund was a suitable recognition of someone whom I did not know personally but who had been significant in the life of a granddaughter I love dearly."*

Why do you give? Share your story by reaching out to [Michelle Lewis](#).

## Calling All Alumni!

Are you an Animal Science alumnus? We would like to hear from you! Please send your news to [MLewis@UConn.edu](mailto:MLewis@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 that you will require IACUC training or re-training. It is required for personnel listed on protocols, independent study students, riding teams, and student barn employees.

**Initial IACUC training** (#1 below) If you have never received IACUC training you must complete the "Working with the IACUC" module online through the CITI program. Please follow this link: <https://ovpr.uconn.edu/services/rics/animal/iacuc/iacuc-training/>

**Retraining** is required annually for most and every 3 years for PI's. There are three options for renewals.

1. Complete a course through the CITI program <https://ovpr.uconn.edu/services/rics/animal/iacuc/iacuc-training/>
2. Complete the Biological Safety Considerations: Farm Animal Research and Production course on Husky SMS available through the link below:  
<https://uconn.bioraft.com/> click on training and course directory to find the specific course

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 Winter 2021 Student Newsletter



*A UConn polo horse during a lameness exam and kinematic data collection session for Dr. Reed's lab*

## 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 choose "College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources" under Choose Category, "Animal Science Department" under Choose Subcategory. Then select your desired funder under the Choose Fund dropdown and click the yellow Add Gift +. Then click "Next Step" on the right hand side.
2. Donate by mail using the form [here](#). Under the "Designation of Your Gift" section, indicate desired fund from list of funds found online by following step 1.
3. Donate via phone by calling (800) 269-9965 or (860) 486-5000.

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, 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.



*Dr. Steven Zinn, Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay, Dean Indrajeet Chaubey and Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan in front of the Young Building to present Dr. Upadhyay's poultry science award in the fall*