



Jacobson Barn – Photo by Milton Levin

A Message from the Department Head

Happy New Year!

Welcome to Spring 2022 and congratulations to all of our December graduates and to those students who made the Dean's list in Fall of 2021.

I want to first thank you all for your efforts and personal sacrifice to keep UConn safe and open for the entire fall semester. The University has very low COVID infection rates. While the Omicron variant has delayed our return to campus this spring, we are all fully experienced in online education and will proceed with full rigor through virtual classes for the first two weeks of the semester. The faculty and staff of Animal Science are working hard to ensure that we are fully prepared to welcome you back to campus soon. I am confident that we will have another great semester of learning and personal

interactions in the Spring.

The Department is undergoing many personnel changes. We are currently interviewing candidates for the position of the Department Head. I thank you for actively participating in this important endeavor. The new leader should hear from you directly on how the department can do better in our tripartite mission of teaching, research and extension. We are also in the middle of searching for a food chemist who will bring new expertise to the department.

Additionally, Dr. Gary Kazmer, Dr. Sheila Andrew and Ms. Jennifer Simoniello will retire starting Feb 1, 2022 after years of dedicated services to the Department and University. Please thank and congratulate them. Mr. William Davenport,

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UConn Department of Animal Science Winter 2022 Student Newsletter

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Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

Dr. Sheila Andrew and Dr. Sau-Mei Leung will be teaching the spring courses originally taught by Dr. Kazmer. Please check these “new” courses out. Ms. Michelle Lewis will assume the duties and role from Jen as Administrative Coordinator in February. The department has also been given the permission to hire a new administrative staff member. With these major changes, I ask for your patience while we go through training and transitions.

For those who plan to graduate this May or August, please make sure that you apply for graduation and submit plans of study to the degree auditor. The plan of study should be submitted within the first two weeks of the semester through Student Admin. Check with your advisor to make sure you are all set for graduation.

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

Stay safe.



Dr. Cindy Tian

Professor and Interim Dept. Head

Department of Animal Science



Dr. Cindy Tian



*UConn ANSC Professor
Dr. Michael Darre*



*ANSC alumna Julia Kinzmann studying
abroad in Australia*

UConn Gives is Coming!

Mark your calendars!

The University of Connecticut will hold the annual UConn Gives Campaign March 30th through March 31st, 2022.

This year, our UConn Gives campaign will support poultry research, teaching and extension in memory of Dr. Mike Darre and study abroad travel for current students.

Our fundraising goal for UConn Gives this year is \$5,000 for each scholarship.

No gift is too small to support our current students and programs and we welcome your support!

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, January 31.

Apply for Graduation

Seniors who plan to graduate in May of 2022 must [apply for graduation](#) via the Student Administration System by February 11, 2022. You must also submit your final Plan of Study by this deadline.



Scholarship Deadline

The deadline to apply for college-wide scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year in CAHNR is March 27, 2022. Find the application for scholarships [here](#).

LINKS TO FORMS

[ANSC Independent Study Syllabus Form](#)

[Major Change Form](#) (Email to MLewis@UConn.edu).

Want to change your advisor? Email MLewis@UConn.edu.

UConn Morgans Participate in Equine Affaire

In November, several of our UConn Morgan horses traveled to Equine Affaire in Springfield, Massachusetts to participate in several breed demonstrations. A critical method of education at Equine Affaire is to showcase the conformation, qualities, work-ethic, and jobs of horse breeds through live demonstrations. Our horses demonstrated both in-hand horsemanship and riding in hunt seat, dressage and western disciplines. Members of UConn's Equine Club and various riding teams lead the demonstrations and represented UConn's program at our booth. As one of the delegates of the Morgan breed, UConn was given a place in the Breed Pavilion and our own UC April's Fool dazzled the public all weekend!



ANSC student Charlotte Quinn showing UC April's Fool



ANSC student Kansas Sienna showing UC Tesla

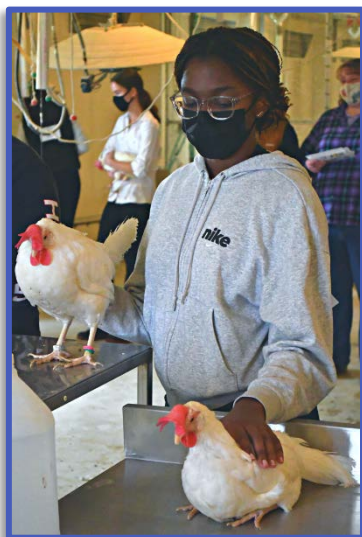
Attention Pre-Vet Seniors: We Want to Hear from You!!!

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 with your news!

A Recap of the 93rd Little "I" Livestock Show: "I'm Cluckin' out of Here" "

The 92nd Annual Little International Livestock Show (Little "I") was held on Saturday, October 23rd. Classes were held at the animal units around Horsebarn Hill so that participants and judges could maintain physical distancing. The theme of this year's show was "I'm Cluckin' out of Here!" Students enrolled in the Introduction to Animal Science course utilized the skills they learned in class to show their chosen animal (beef and dairy cows, sheep, poultry, swine or horses) in showmanship classes after working with them throughout the fall semester. See results, photos and more on our [Little "I" webpage](#).

Thank you to all who worked so hard to make sure this event was successful this year despite many challenges due to the pandemic! Additionally, UConn Today featured ANSC students **Rachel Kaihara** and **Kansas Sienna** in an article titled "A Lot of Learning from 'Little I'". The article also includes a video depicting the experience and benefits of participating in Little I. Click [here to read the article](#) and watch the video!



Anaya Phillip-Stoute showing her chicken 'Marshmallow'



Regine Hansen-Quartey showing her horse 'Bugatti'



Dr. Thomas Hoagland judging the swine classes



Yanily Aguilar showing her beef animal 'Oreo'



Kevin Woolam judging the sheep classes



Matthew Syrotiak showing his dairy heifer 'Jeopardy'

Want to Learn More About A UConn Legacy?

Did you catch the CT Insider article regarding President Biden visiting the Dairy Bar? Read the [CT Insider article about President Biden enjoying some ice cream here](#). The President sent a personal thank you for our ice cream. See [the letter here](#).

CAHNR Communications created a video highlighting the history of the UConn creamery and included a tour of the facilities. [See the video here](#). Additionally, **Dr. Dennis D'Amico** and **Bill Scituro** were interviewed by ANSC alumna **Michelle Lewis** on the evolution and history of the UConn creamery and its beloved ice cream and award-winning artisanal cheeses. [Watch the video here](#).



UConn Creamery Logo

Arethusa Farms Scholarship - In Memoriam



Tony Yurgaitis (left) and George Malkemus (right) at
Arethusa Farm
Photo taken by: Bradley Clift of Hearst Connecticut Media

The Department of Animal Science is saddened to report the loss of **George Malkemus** who was one of the founders of Arethusa Farm. Mr. Malkemus passed away in September, but the wonderful impact he left on those around him will be remembered forever.

George Malkemus and Anthony Yurgaitis kindly began donating to the university to fund the Arethusa Farm Scholarship in the fall of 2015. The scholarship fund has distributed \$120,500 across twenty four recipients in the last six years. These scholarships are awarded to full-time animal science students who have demonstrated interest in dairy science, dairy food processing, or dairy production. This year, the department is proud to present the Anthony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus Arethusa Farm Scholarships to undergraduates **Kirsten Krause, Richard Groben, Abigail Manka, Matthew Syrotiak, Abigail Wilber, Ariel Kuhl, Megan Padykula, and Sofia Mori**. We would like to extend our congratulations to these students!

UConn Dairy Herd Receives Awards

Our homegrown UConn dairy ladies (and their exceptional caretakers!) were awarded, for the second time, the 2021 Progressive Genetics award from the Holstein Association. This award recognizes the high standard of Holstein breeding we have attained and our exceptional production testing and herd classification programs. Additionally, the herd has been awarded the Agri-Mark Quality Performance award in recognition of our high quality milk production. We congratulate all of those who work so hard to achieve this level of excellence with our dairy herd!



2021 Progressive Genetics Herd Award

Undergraduate Student News

ANSC students **Megan Davenport**, **Emily Syme**, **Miriam Dugas**, and **Patrick Kennedy** represented UConn as the Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Team at the North American International Livestock Judging Exposition in November. The team placed 4th overall and Emily Syme placed 5th individually! In September, **Miriam Dugas**, **Emily Syme**, **Patrick Kennedy** and **Michael Wolf** represented UConn in the National Intercollegiate Dairy Judging contest at the World Dairy Expo in. The team placed 11th in the nation and also participated in the All American Invitational Collegiate Dairy Judging contest where they placed 5th! Congratulations to these students!

ANSC student **Sarah Hecht** rode her horse Justin in the Youth English pleasure division at the Morgan Grand National and received the World Champion title! Congratulations, Sarah!

Members of the UConn Dairy Club represented our program at the Eastern States Exposition in September. We brought members of our own dairy herd to perform milking demonstrations and serve as examples of our breeding. Our students did a terrific job of representing our program and we thank them for doing such a wonderful job!

ANSC student **Shawn Re** was featured on UConn Today in an article highlighting how UConn has prepared him to apply to veterinary school. He discussed the opportunities UConn has given students for hands-on experience with animals in both traditional livestock and clinical settings. Additionally, he mentioned the atmosphere that UConn has created in which he and his classmates feel that they are set up to pursue many careers and have various opportunities to be successful. [Read the article here.](#)

This fall, for the first time since 2020, our riding teams were able to host shows at UConn and we are very proud of their performances! Our dressage team placed first overall in their home show. The western team hosted a double header and won high point team in the second show. The equestrian team also hosted a double header and won high point and reserve high point team, respectively. We extend a big congratulations to our teams, and we thank you for representing UConn well!



*UConn Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Team at the North American International Livestock Judging Expo
Emily Syme (left), Megan Davenport, Miriam Dugas, Patrick Kennedy, and Coach Bill Davenport (right)*



ANSC undergraduate student Sarah Hecht with her horse 'Justin'



ANSC undergraduate student Jada Wilson performing a milking demonstration at the Big E



UConn Western Team at home show



ANSC undergraduate student Shawn Re



UConn Dressage Team at home show

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

Moving forward we proudly recognize and commend faculty and staff who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for the benefit of the department and our animal science program. We recognize the following faculty and staff for their much appreciated contributions:

- Dr. Robert Milvae, Dr. Dennis D'Amico, and Dr. Breno Fragomeni for volunteering for the fall Campus Visit Days for prospective students
- Dr. Amy Safran, the animal unit managers and staff for putting in extra hours for events including Little "I"
- Michelle Lewis for acting as the 'Little I' photographer and captures the highlights of the event
- The horse unit faculty for contributing many weekends to working equine events
- Sharon Aborn, Tina Burnham, and Dr. Abraham Pellissery for cleaning out rooms in the George White building to allow for the updating of graduate student offices

Faculty News



Dr. Jenifer Nadeau

Dr. Jenifer Nadeau was featured in an article in UConn Today, written by our ANSC own staff member, **Michelle Lewis**, in which her research on the equine microbiome was highlighted. The article discussed the avenues her research will pursue using the grant she received from the Research Excellence Program. Congratulations, Dr. Nadeau! Read the [full article here](#).



Dr. Abraham Pellissery

Dr. Abraham Pellissery has been awarded a seed grant from the USDA to pursue his research interests which include the identification of novel phytochemical and putative probiotics that target to inhibit pathogens, and reduce bacterial virulence and antimicrobial resistance.

Dr. Dennis D'Amico was featured in a UConn Today article highlighting his recent publication on protective cultures used in cheese making. This article was picked up by several media outlets in the last few weeks. [Read the article here](#).



Dr. Dennis D'Amico

Dr. Amy Safran participated on a committee who implemented an initiative through CAHNR to support the agricultural education of Native students through integrated financial, cultural and academic programs. A grant was received from the United States Department of Agriculture and the scholarships will be awarded beginning in Fall 2022. [Read more here](#).

We congratulate the following faculty members who are expecting new additions to their families in the spring! **Dr. Abhi Upadhyay** and **Dr. Indu Upadyaya** are expecting their second daughter in March, **Dr. Breno Fragomeni** is expecting twins in March and **Dr. Joe Emenheiser** is expecting his second child, a girl, in July! We wish these faculty members the best of luck and extend a loving welcome to their future children!

We also congratulate **Ms. Jennifer Simoniello**, **Dr. Gary Kazmer** and **Dr. Sheila Andrew** on their upcoming retirements on February 1st, 2022. We cannot thank them enough for their many years of dedication to the department and the program!

In Loving Memory

"Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of beautiful memories."

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of retired faculty member **Dr. Michael Darre**. He was a professor, colleague, advocate, educator, mentor, friend and family to so many. He will be greatly missed, but celebrated at the university for generations to come. Thank you for all you did, Dr. Darre.



Dr. Michael Darre

We also mourn the loss of alumnus **Dr. Michael Barnes** in October. He earned his bachelors, masters and Ph.D., through UConn and also received the CAHNR Distinguished Alumni Award. Our hearts go out to all of Dr. Barnes' friends and family.



Dr. Michael Barnes

What Are Our Alumni Up To?



ANSC alumna Dr. Kimberly McClure Brinton ('89)

ANSC alumna **Kimberly McClure Brinton** is now the acting president of the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, and she also serves as the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners representative of the AVMA CPAC. Dr. Brinton is an owner and practitioner at Country Companions Veterinary Services, LLC which is a mixed animal veterinary practice in Bethany, CT.

The Department of Animal Science at the University of Connecticut invites applicants for the position of Assistant or Associate Professor of Meat Chemistry. See the link below for details and to apply by the February 1, 2022 deadline!

<https://animalscience.uconn.edu/anfccareers.php>



University of Glasgow students with two UConn alumnae

The Department of Animal Science would like to extend thanks to all those who have made generous donations to various scholarships which allow our students to achieve wonderful educations. We would like to thank **Dr. Francis and Mrs. Judy Gwazdauskas** for their donation to the Animal Science Faculty/Staff Undergraduate Scholarship. Dr. Gwazdauskas graduated with a Bachelor's in Animal Husbandry and desired to give back and support students in the program.

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. 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 using this link:

<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 this link: <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

UConn Department of Animal Science Winter 2022 Student Newsletter



*Dairy heifer and Horsebarn Hill sunset –
Photo by Milton Levin*

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 Michelle Lewis by email at MLewis@UConn.edu, via phone at (860) 486-1009 or by mail: University of Connecticut, Department of Animal Science, Attn: Michelle Lewis, 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 and ANSC undergraduate students
taking the ANSC FYE attend the Big E*



*Members of the ANSC learning community
posing with the beloved Jonathan statue*