

UConn

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

ANIMAL SCIENCE

FALL STUDENT NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023





SNAP!

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Michela Brown '25, an undergraduate student conducting research in the Govoni lab, discusses her research during the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) programs poster presentation symposium in the Biology/Physics Building (BPB). Aug. 3, 2023.

The primary goal of this REU is to provide students, especially those from non-PhD granting institutions, opportunities to experience an intensive research environment. Students can expect to acquire skills and knowledge to help them enter graduate research programs and succeed in their scientific careers.



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A MESSAGE FROM

THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Welcome to fall 2023 and congratulations to all May/August graduates and those who made the Dean's list in spring 2023!

I want to give a special shoutout to our incoming first year class. I had the chance to interview and speak to many of you on different occasions. I continue to be impressed with the knowledge, determination and ambition you have at such a young age. You advocated and encouraged each other to become UConn Huskies. We are so fortunate to be joined by such a wonderful group of energetic people. Let's spend a few precious years of our lives together as a big family. The faculty and staff of Animal Science have been working hard to ensure that we are fully prepared to assist all students to make great achievements both personally and academically.

The Department has had great successes in the past academic year. To name a few, Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay received a \$3.5 million grant from the USDA organic program, Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou became the inaugural Provost's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) Faculty Leadership Fellow, Dr. Kristen Govoni received a prestigious USDA Excellence in College and University Teaching in Food and Agricultural Sciences Award and she was also a co-PI on the Inaugural "From Learning to Leading: Cultivating the Next Generation of Diverse Food and Agriculture Professionals Program" grant of \$4.5 million. In addition, the KDC was named Outstanding Dairy Farm of the New England Green Pastures Program. As a whole the Department's faculty submitted nearly \$9 million external proposals, received ~\$4.4 million, maintained active external funding of ~\$20.6 million. We also published

12 conference proceedings, 30 journal articles, 8 published extension articles, 5 book chapters, filed two patents, and awarded 5 PhDs, 13 MS, and 56 undergraduate degrees.

The Department of Animal Science is excited to welcome two new faculty members this fall. Dr. Maria Gervasi, a reproductive biologist, joined us from University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She brings to us expertise in gamete biology and will teach Reproductive Physiology (ANSC 3122) starting in spring 2024. Dr. MD Elias Uddin, a ruminant nutritionist with a specialty on environmental sustainability of ruminant production systems, joined us from South Dakota State University. He will fill a void in our education program by providing expertise on the impact of animal production on climate change. Soon, we will begin the process of interviewing candidates for a new Department Head! We are looking forward to finding a great new leader. I ask for your support and participation in this very important search and relaying of your vision for the Department. In the meantime, we are still waiting to refill a few important faculty positions. Please join me in thanking Mr. William Davenport, Dr. Sheila Andrew, Dr. Sau-Mei Leung and Dr. Thomas Hoagland for teaching courses left behind by departed/retired faculty members.

For those who plan to graduate this December, 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, let's have a great fall semester. Go Huskies!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cindy Tian".

Dr. Cindy Tian



ON THE HILL

UConn Dairy Herd is 2023 Outstanding Dairy Farm

Congratulations to the Kellogg Dairy Center (KDC) on earning the prestigious distinction of being named the 2023 Connecticut Outstanding Dairy Farm for New England Green Pastures!

The KDC, built in 1991, is a free-stall facility for 100 milking cows with an attached classroom, office, viewing rooms, surgical unit, and two student dorm rooms. In 2018, UConn became the first university in the country to install Voluntary Milking Systems (VMS or robotic milking systems). Robotic feeders were added at the same time; each cow wears a transponder that collects data. This data is shared with DeLaval to help other dairy farms worldwide manage their data and economic viability.

The KDC and our renowned cattle are cared for by 11 professional staff and student workers, all operating under the leadership of Mary-Margaret Smith, Executive Program Director for Dairy and Livestock Units.

All eyes are now on the forthcoming New England competition, scheduled for September at the Eastern States Exposition (Big E). Stay Tuned!



UConn Animal Science

SCHOLARSHIP

ASAS UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

The 2023 American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Undergraduate Scholar Recognition Awards Ceremony was held in May. ANSC sophomores, juniors, and seniors in the top 10% of their class are eligible for this award. The ASAS Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award recognizes undergraduate students enrolled in a four-year curriculum of animal science (dairy, food, meat, or poultry) for a period of at least two semesters or three quarters who rank scholastically among the top 10% of senior, junior, or sophomore classes and who are of good moral character and intend to pursue a career in animal science.

Congratulations and great job to our students all their hard work!



CREAMERY

LOOKING SHARP!

We're thrilled to announce the UConn Creamery team's outstanding success at the 2023 Big E Gold Medal Cheese Competition!

Their Old Farm Lane Fresh Cheese in Green Chile and Chipotle flavors clinched silver medals, and they also snagged a bronze medal for their unflavored Old Farm Lane Fresh Cheese.

Cheese Lovers, Rejoice! Our award-winning cheeses are available for purchase at the UConn Dairy Bar in limited quantities. Visit today to get yours while supplies last!



INTRODUCING: DR. MARY ANNE AMALARADJOU, DEI FACULTY FELLOW

The Provost's Office is excited to welcome Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou as the DEI Faculty Leadership Fellow for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. In her role, Mary Anne will collaborate closely with key faculty, staff, deans and department heads across campus to advance projects and initiatives with DEI as a core priority. We thank Mary Anne for her commitment to these principles and are grateful to have her advance these initiatives.

Bio

Hello, my name is Mary Anne Amalaradjou and my pronouns are she/her/hers. I'm an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Science at the University of

Connecticut. I received my DVM from India and MS and PhD in Food Microbiology from the University of Connecticut.

My research primarily focusses on food safety and gut health. Specifically, it is targeted towards understanding pathogen survival and persistence along the food chain, their virulence attributes and the application of protective cultures to control foodborne pathogens. I also evaluate the efficacy of currently applied intervention (hurdle) technologies to reduce pathogen transmission during pre- and post-harvest processing of fresh produce, meat and dairy products. Beyond controlling pathogens in food

systems my research investigates the potential application of probiotics and functional foods in the prevention and treatment of gut pathologies. Through all aspects of the research program, my main objective is to improve food safety and promote public health. Outside of research and teaching, I am passionate about mentoring the next generation with a strong focus on promoting equity and inclusivity in higher education.

What are you most excited about in this role for the upcoming AY?

As the provost DEI fellow, I look forward to working with partners and administrators across UConn in developing and promoting initiatives

that support our diverse workforce. Further, this position will provide me with the continuing opportunity to actively engage with a diverse population at UConn. Since diversity enriches educational experience, encourages critical thinking, helps communicate effectively with people of varied backgrounds and fosters mutual respect and teamwork, the

yearlong program would help me to not only grow as a faculty but also as a contributing member of the UConn community.

What is one piece of advice you would give to your colleagues regarding DEIJ work?

Shared identity does not necessarily imply shared values or ideals. Hence,

while it is important to bring my viewpoints it is more critical to promote the inclusion of those different from mine.

What is your favorite UConn Dairy Bar flavor?

Maple Walnut.

UConn Provost Office



AWARDS & HONORS

SPIRIT OF THE LAND GRANT AWARD

Members of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources community came together March 29, 2023 to recognize the contributions of distinguished alumni, faculty, staff, and supporters.

Among the honorees was Associate Professor Dr. Dennis D’Amico, who was recognized with the prestigious Spirit of the Land Grant Award for his unwavering commitment to research, teaching, and extension efforts.

Dr. D’Amico’s research focuses on creating innovative solutions to evolving issues surrounding dairy safety and quality. He has conducted numerous studies on the use of protective cultures to eliminate the risk of bacterial infection from dairy products. Dr. D’Amico’s research program has been funded by more than \$2 million of internal and extramural grants.

As a teacher, Dr. D’Amico engages students in experiential learning, as they produce dairy products, as well as being a dedicated instructor in the more traditional classroom setting. Dr. D’Amico leads educational workshops and talks for UConn 4-H, FFA youth, dairy producers, and regulatory authorities on safe cheesemaking practices. Dr. D’Amico’s extension activities include organizing the first Artisan Cheese Food Safety Forum which led to the creation of an advisory board, online resources, and training courses. He has served on numerous other national organizations, lending his expertise to the continual development of a safe, high-quality dairy industry in the U.S.

UConn CAHNR



AWARDS & HONORS

OUTSTANDING FACULTY ADVISOR

Congratulations to Dr. Steven Zinn for being recognized as the 2023 Outstanding Undergraduate Faculty Advisor by the UConn Office of Undergraduate Advising!

Dr. Zinn's advising philosophy prioritizes student care and fostering personal connections by being present, attentive, and knowledgeable about the information needed for success at UConn and in life.

“In total, my advising philosophy is very simple: care about students and get to know them as individuals, be present, pay attention, know the information they need to be successful at UConn and in life, and be aware of their growth as adults. My guiding principle in advising is one I tell my students all the time: ‘You are my advisee and mentee from the time that you decide to be an advisee until the time you decide you don’t--whether that is one week, one year, four years, or 30 years.’”

Steven Zinn, Professor

UConn Office of Undergraduate Advising

NEW FACES

WELCOME, NEW ANSC FACULTY & STAFF



Azizollah Bakhtari
Research Associate

Dr. Bakhtari received his PhD in Animal Genetics from Isfahan University of Technology, Iran, where he conducted research on mouse embryo vitrification and expression of methylation modifiers and imprinted genes. He attended the University of California Davis Department of Animal Sciences, as an exchange visitor, where he conducted research on gene knockdown in oocytes and epigenetic changes of resultant embryos. Before taking up his current position at UConn, he worked as a research assistant in the Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Iran. He has extensive experience in genetics, epigenetics, reproductive biology and assisted reproduction techniques (ART) in laboratory and domestic animals. He is currently a research associate in the lab of Dr. Xiuchun (Cindy) Tian, where he assists ongoing ART research projects.



Maria Gervasi
Assistant Professor of Reproductive Physiology

Dr. Gervasi obtained her PhD in 2013 from the University of Buenos Aires (Buenos Aires, Argentina) where she conducted research in sperm capacitation and the interaction of sperm with the epithelium of the oviduct using a bovine model. She then performed six years of postdoctoral training at the University of Massachusetts (UMass-Amherst, USA) working on mouse sperm maturation and capacitation. She is a two-time recipient of a postdoctoral fellowship from the Lalor Foundation. After her

postdoctoral training, Dr. Gervasi became Research Assistant Professor at UMass-Amherst where she studied the role of sperm on early embryo development. In addition, between 2021 and 2023 Dr. Gervasi worked as Assistant Professor at the Bedford Research Foundation (Bedford, MA) where she investigated human oocyte parthenogenetic activation for the development of human parthenogenetic stem cells. More recently, she worked on the development of sperm treatments and the potential for improvement of assisted reproductive technologies in cattle.



Craig Jones
Agricultural Worker 2

Craig brings over 40+ years of dairy industry experience, specializing in herd management, labor contracting, cooperative field service, and FARM AC/WFD program administration. A Virginia Tech alum with a background in Dairy Science, Craig had a successful tenure of more than ten years with Agri-Mark prior to joining our department.



Nicole Tillquist
Postdoctoral Research Assistant

Dr. Tillquist grew up in Southern California and received her BS (2018) and MS (2020) from Colorado State University in Ruminant Nutrition. She completed her PhD in 2023 at the University of Connecticut and is currently a postdoctoral research associate in Dr. Kristen Govoni's lab investigating the effects of nutrient restriction on fetal small intestine development using a sheep model.



MD Elias Uddin
Assistant Professor of Animal Nutrition

Dr. Uddin joins UConn in fall 2023 as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. Before coming to UConn, Dr. Uddin worked as a tenure-track Assistant Professor for 2 years in the Dairy and Food Science Department at South Dakota State University. Previously, Dr. Uddin completed his PhD under the guidance of Dr. Michel Wattiaux at the University of Wisconsin-Madison followed by a short postdoc at the University of California Davis under the guidance of Dr. Ermias Kebreab. Dr. Uddin started his academic journey with a BS in Animal Husbandry from Bangladesh Agricultural University and a MS in Quantitative Genetics degree jointly from Wageningen University in the Netherlands and Norwegian University of Life Sciences in Norway.



Poonam Vinayamohan
Assistant Research Professor

After completing BVSc and AH (DVM) from India in 2015, Dr. Vinayamohan obtained her PhD in Animal Science at the University of Connecticut in 2020. She pursued postdoctoral research experience for a period of two years at the College of Veterinary Medicine at The Ohio State University after which she joined us as an Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Animal Science this year.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

OUR 2022-2023 ANSC MS & PHD GRADUATES



CUTNESS OVERLOAD

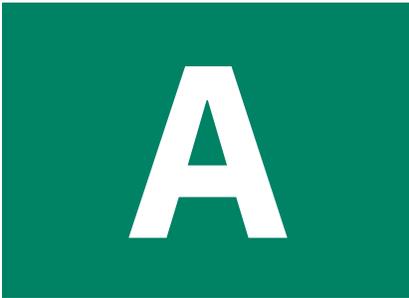
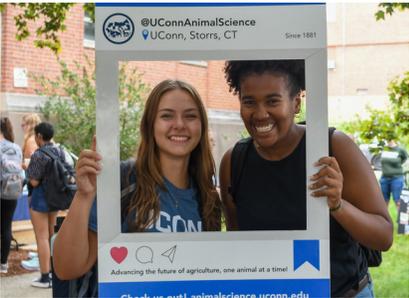
WELCOME, BABY MIA

Congratulations to Dr. Maria Gervasi and her family on the arrival of baby Mia Chakrin, who was welcomed into the world on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 1:16 pm in Worcester, MA!

Wishing her all the best with your new arrival!



📷 COURTESY PHOTO



Scenes from the 2023 ANSC Student Welcome on Aug. 29, 2023.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

➔ **Jasmine Morris '23 & Emma Forster '23** shared their experiences as ANSC undergraduates in a May 2023 article featured in UConn Today.

➔ **Julianna Bosco '24** placed 3rd in the 2023 ASAS Undergraduate Student Poster Competition for her presentation titled "PSIV-1 - Effects of poor maternal nutrition during gestation on F0 and F1 ewe colostrum and milk composition and colostrum IgG".

➔ **Emilia Fong-Gallagher '24** received a UConn Idea Grant to support her summer 2023 research project titled

"Comparing Effectiveness of Different Forms of Vitamin E Supplementation on Alpha- Tocopherol Concentrations in Morgan Horses".

➔ **Matthew Syrotiak '25** made a guest appearance on National Public Radio (NPR) news-talk show 'Where We Live,' to provide a glimpse into his life as a 4-H alumnus and his work on his family's farm.

➔ **Isabella Gaspard '23** was a key team member involved in shaping the flavor profile of the Class of 2023 Senior Scoop.

➔ **Vianna Bassani '23** received the 2023 Outstanding Senior Woman

Academic Achievement for CAHNR Award by the UConn Women's Center and Provost's Office.



COURTESY PHOTO



COMMUNITY IMPACT

ABIGAIL WILBER '23: MOVING UCONN EXTENSION MARKETING FORWARD

Abigail Wilber '23 spent this summer interning with UConn Extension where she learned and implemented marketing strategies, practices, and tools to help advance UConn Extension's digital presence to ensure their content resonates and reaches as many of Connecticut's residents as possible.

"I'm glad I had the chance to develop these skills in this type of role and in an area [agriculture] I love".

Abigail Wilber '23

UConn Today

➔ **Praveen Kosuri '23 MS (PhD, Amalaradjou)** shared his remarkable food safety journey in a recent article published in Quality Assurance Magazine. Additionally, he earned a travel award from PSA and secured a finalist position in the 2023 PSA Student Competition (oral).

➔ **Bruna Folegatti Santana (PhD, Fragomeni)** had her first chapter from her PhD thesis accepted for publication in the Journal of Animal Breeding & Genetics.

➔ **Bruna Folegatti Santana, Gaurav Dutta, and Issabelle Ampofo (PhD, Fragomeni)** were selected as recipients of travel scholarships awarded by both the Agricultural Genomics to Phenomics project (AG2PI) and the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS). These scholarships enabled them to attend

and present their work at conferences hosted by both organizations this summer.

➔ **Yuying Ren (PhD, Amalaradjou)** was awarded with the 2023 Nutmeg IFT Graduate Student Scholarship, while also being a finalist in the 2023 PSA Student Competition (oral) and co-authoring a publication.

➔ **Sulthana Humayoon Muttathukonam (MS, Amalaradjou)** took home 3rd place in the 2023 IFT Dairy Foods Division “Combating Dairy Food Waste from Farm to Fork” competition. She also placed first in the 2023 IFT International Division Student Hack-A-Thon “Hacking Single Servings, A Food Waste Conundrum” Competition.

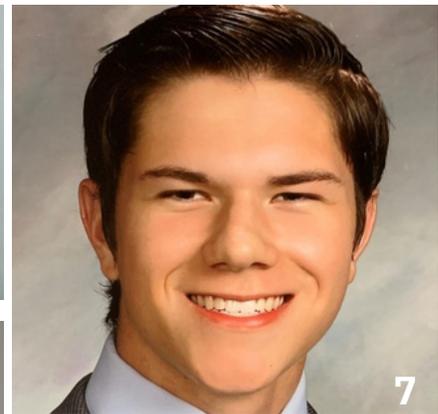
➔ **Mairui Gao (PhD, Amalaradjou)** co-authored a publication while also becoming a finalist in the 2023 PSA

Student Competition (oral).

➔ **Jodie Allen '19, MS (PhD, Upadhyay), Kimberly Rankin '20, MS '23, Brindhalakshmi Balasubramanian (PhD, Upadhyay), and Trushenkumar Shah (PhD, Upadhyay)** co-authored a publication alongside ANSC faculty members Indu Upadhyaya and Abhinav Upadhyay.

➔ **Brindhalakshmi Balasubramanian (PhD, Upadhyay)** was awarded with the IFT leadership Travel Award, while also being selected as one of the finalists in 2023 IAFP 3MT Competition.

➔ **Agustín Curutchet (MS, Fragomeni) and Molly Riser '17, '22 MS (PhD, Fragomeni)** presented their research in the 2023 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science in Albuquerque, NM.



NEW FACES

WELCOME, NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

1. Matthew Chevalier '23 (MS, Tian)
2. Shuangshaung Guo (PhD, Tian)
3. Eswari Kanike (MS, Amalaradjou)
4. Cheyenne Summers (PhD, Reed)
5. Rahat Ahmad Redoy (PhD, Uddin)
6. Arya Niraula (MS, Zhai)
7. Henry Schober '23 (MS, Fragomeni)

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

➔ **Dr. Indu Upadhyaya** and her team were honored with a Silver Award by the Association for Communication Excellence (ACE) for their exceptional project titled "On-Farm Food Safety Animated Videos."

➔ **Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Dr. Kristen Govoni, Sharon Aborn, and Lisa Nulton** presented their research projects titled "Assessing the Influence of Parasitic Load on the Equine Microbiome, Hematological Parameters, and Overall Health" and "Investigating Equine Parasitic Load: The Impact of Age, Status, Season, and Gender in an Academic Setting" at the annual Equine Science Society meeting held in Grapevine, TX.

➔ **Dr. Kristen Govoni** was promoted to the rank of Professor as part of the group of faculty members receiving promotions and/or tenure throughout the University this spring.

In addition, Dr. Govoni received the United States Department of Agriculture Excellence in College and University Teaching in Food and Agricultural Sciences Award, which recognizes outstanding college faculty in agriculture, natural resources, veterinary sciences, and human sciences. She also served as the Co-PI for a NIFA grant of \$4.5 million over 5 years, which focused on "Developing the Next Generation of Nutrition, Agriculture, and Health Professionals through Connecticut's Hispanic-Serving Institutions."



➔ **Dr. Breno Fragomeni** shared his expertise as a speaker at the 2023 ASAS Annual Meeting symposium titled "The Central Dogma of Phenomics." His talk covered topics related to using environmental data in animal genetics and complex traits associated with mortality risk.

➔ **Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou** has been appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to represent the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) on the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI).

Her expertise has also earned her a seat on the esteemed Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) Roster of Experts.

Furthermore, Dr. Amalaradjou was featured in the [Spring issue of the Association for Women in Science magazine](#).

She has also been awarded a NIFA-CONW grant of \$650,000 for a duration of 3 years. This grant focuses on the effects of in-ovo probiotic supplementation on energy status, yolk sac function, and intestine development in broilers.

➔ **Dr. Dennis D'Amico's** insights were featured in a compelling article by The New York Times titled "[Raw Milk: Safe or Risky? Experts Weigh In.](#)"

Furthermore, Dr. D'Amico's research on the efficacy of protective bacterial cultures in mitigating the growth of foodborne pathogens that have developed antimicrobial resistance (AMR) garnered significant attention and was featured in publications such as Enggtalks, The Microbiologist, Food Safety, and several others.

[Read the full feature here](#)



➔ **Dr. Sarah Reed's** research on shoeing previously barefoot horses and its profound impact on their gait quality has gained attention in UConn Today and several external news outlets.

[Read the full feature here](#)

Additionally, Dr. Reed authored an insightful op-ed for Oxford University Press's blog, [exploring the link between food consumption and its effects on body inflammation](#).

➔ **Dr. Cindy Tian's** research on combating Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Viruses (PRRSV) garnered significant attention in UConn Today and several external media outlets.

[Read the full feature here](#)

In July, Dr. Tian shared her expertise with the Hartford Courant, illuminating [UConn's pioneering work in cultivated meat technology](#).

Her unique perspective on the intricate process of cultivating meat from animal cells was also featured in an article on Chemistry World. This article highlighted the ongoing research efforts at the University of California, Davis.



➔ **Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay and Dr. Indu Upadhyaya** were selected to receive a USDA-SBIR grant (\$220,000 for 2 years) focused on developing antimicrobial films and coatings for food-contact surfaces.

➔ **Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay** was selected to

receive a NIFA-OAREI grant of \$3.34 million for a duration of four years, with a focus on "Enhancing Microbial Safety and Production Efficiency in Organic Poultry Farming: An Interdisciplinary Investigation of Innovative Strategies."



➔ **Dr. Nicole Tillquist** has been chosen as the recipient of a NIFA-CONS grant totaling \$225,000 over a period of two years. The grant's primary focus is to investigate the impact of maternal nutrient restriction on fetal intestine development and epigenetic regulation.

➔ **Dr. Steven Zinn** was honored with the Service Excellence Award at the UConn-AAUP 2023 Excellence Awards Ceremony this spring in recognition of his outstanding dedication to teaching and scholarship.

➔ **Dr. Steven Zinn and Dr. Sarah Reed** were both recipients of the Scholarship Facilitation Fund (SFF) through UConn OVPR.

➔ **Dr. Chaoyu Zhai's** research, which utilizes machine learning algorithms to elucidate molecular-level alterations in an enzyme responsible for enhancing meat tenderness, has garnered extensive attention in UConn Today and various external news outlets.

[Read the full feature here](#)

Additionally, Dr. Zhai was featured in an April article in UConn Today, which highlighted the history of the UConn Meat Science program.

[Read the full feature here](#)



➔ **Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Dr. Curtis Schondelmeyer, Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay, Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Dr. Amy Safran, Dr. Dennis D'Amico, and Dr. Sarah Reed** were recognized as part of a select group of faculty members across the university who were rated as 'excellent in teaching' by their students for the spring of 2023.

➔ **Dr. Elias Uddin** served as the Co-PI for a grant (250k/3 years) that focused on evaluating the sustainability of dairy production systems in South Dakota, specifically examining the relationship between milk carbon footprint and farm profitability.

➔ **Judy Gifford '79 (CAHNR), '86 MS (CLAS)** was featured in the May edition of Hoard's Dairyman in an article titled "More and more women are partners on the dairy".

[Read the full feature here](#)



➔ **Dr. Surendranath Suman '06 PhD** was appointed Assistant Dean of Research in the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment at the University of Kentucky.



➔ **Dr. Paul Siegel '53** shared his upbringing and storied careers as a poultry geneticist in a July article published in Morning AGClips.

[Read the full feature here](#)



➔ **Jiaqi Zhu '23 PhD** was featured alongside Dr. Cindy Tian in a July article published in UConn Today regarding on-going research combating Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Viruses (PRRSV).

[Read the full feature here](#)



➔ **Dr. Kris Johnson '80** was appointed to serve on the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) National Board as President-elect.



➔ **Dr. Sulaiman Aljasir '21 PhD** received a \$2.3 million grant as a PI for his research on evaluating the current status of contagious and zoonotic diseases in domestic, synanthropic, and wild animals in selected regions of Saudi Arabia.



➔ **Nolan Reilly '22** shared his education abroad journey in a compelling April feature titled "[The Italian Job: Studying Animal Science in Italy](#)" published in UConn Today.



➔ **Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan '12 PhD** was recognized by the American Meat Science Association as the recipient of the 2023 AMSA Distinguished Research Award.



➔ **Dr. Sarah LaRose '07, '08 MA (NEAG)** reflected on her career teaching agriculture in a May article published in AgriNews.

[Read the full feature here](#)





GIVE A GIFT

ANSC Students, Faculty and Staff 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 fund 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) 486-1088 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.

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 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) training or re-training. It is required for personnel listed on protocols, independent study students, and student barn employees.

Initial IACUC Training

If you have never received IACUC training, you must attend a live WebEx or complete the “Working with IACUC” module online through the CITI program (provided below).

[IACUC Training | Office of the Vice President for Research \(uconn.edu\)](https://uconn.edu/office-of-the-vice-president-for-research)

<https://ovpr.uconn.edu/services/rics/animal/iacuc/iacuc-training/>

Re-Training

Retraining is required annually for most and every 3 years for PI's.

There are three options for renewal:

1. Complete the Biological Safety Considerations: Farm Animal Research and Production course on Husky SMS available through the link below:
 - a. <https://uconn.bioraft.com/> (click on “Training and Course Directory” to find the specific course)
2. Complete a course through the CITI program
 - a. <https://ovpr.uconn.edu/services/rics/animal/iacuc/iacuc-training/>
3. Attend a live WebEx
 - a. [IACUC Training | Office of the Vice President for Research \(uconn.edu\)](https://uconn.edu/office-of-the-vice-president-for-research)

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](#).



