

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Greetings,



Welcome to all our new freshmen and transfer students into the Department of Animal Science. In addition, welcome to our newest faculty member, Dr. Amy Safran (see page 2).



With Halloween approaching it means four things; we are halfway through the fall semester, Little “I” results are in, the Drill Team Fun Horse Show took place on October 26, and registration for 2013 spring semester has begun! The 83rd Little “I” took place on Saturday, October 27 in the Horsebarn Hill Arena and luckily there was no big snowstorm this year; luckily Sandy waited until Little I was over! This year’s event was dedicated to Dr. Daniel Fletcher, our former Department Head who passed away this summer after a long bout with cancer. Thanks for supporting our Intro Animal Science Students and the Block and Bridle Club at the Little International Livestock and Horse Show this past weekend!

Make sure that you meet with your academic advisor before your scheduled pick time for classes. If you are unsure of whom your advisor is contact the ANSC Main Office (860-486-2413) for assistance. For students graduating this December, make sure that your Plan of Study is submitted to the degree auditor. In addition, senior exit interviews will begin in November, so if you are graduating in December and would like to make an appointment to talk to me, contact the ANSC Main Office. This is your opportunity to discuss your experience in the Department of Animal Science and the University of Connecticut.

Congratulations to Caitlin Tufts, ANSC major, for being named the 2012 Polo Training Foundation Women’s Intercollegiate Player of the Year Award Interscholastic. Congratulations to Lisa Dauten and Maria Hoffman for being named the undergraduate and graduate awardees of the CT Trustees of the Eastern States Exposition Scholarship, respectively. Kudos to the Prevet Club for a successful October Canine Cancer Walk on Horsebarn Hill.



Make sure that you visit us on Facebook!



- Dr. Zinn, Professor and Department Head

WELCOME NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS!

- * Ms. Genevieve Flock & Ms. Meera Surendran Nair—Dr. Venkitanarayanan’s M.S. students
- * Ms. Devi Jaganathan—Dr. Govoni’s Ph.D. student * Ms. Elisabeth Leahy—Dr. Reed’s M.S. student
- * Mr. Sambhu Muraleedharan Pillai Geetha Kumary—Dr. White’s M.S. student

CANR CAREER NIGHT!

This year’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources **Career Night** will be held **Wednesday, November 7**, from 5:30 pm -7:30 pm in the Wilbur Cross North and South Reading rooms.

The purpose of Career Night is to bring together current UConn students and alumni/career representatives to discuss career options related to agriculture, health and the environment.

More information is available at www.myagncr.uconn.edu/CareerNight.php.

DR. DANIEL FLETCHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



The Department of Animal Science has begun the process to establish a scholarship in memory and recognition of the late Dr. Daniel Fletcher's service to the Department and University as Department Head. This scholarship will recognize upperclassmen academic achievements.

RANDY M. KNIGHT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



A student scholarship has been established in memory of Randy Knight, UConn Livestock Manager, who passed away suddenly last fall.

Donations can be made payable to:
UConn Foundation/
Randy Knight Memorial Fund
UConn Foundation
2390 Alumni Drive Unit 3206
Storrs, CT 06269-3206

NEW FACULTY MEMBER



Dr. Amy Safran joined UConn's Department of Animal Science as Lecturer in August 2012. She received a Bachelors in Animal Science from UConn in '94. She then received her M.S. in ANSC from the University of Missouri in '96 as well as earned her Ph.D. in '00. Prior to starting at UConn she served as an Adjunct Faculty member at William Woods University, Keene State College, and Middlesex Community College. Beginning in Spring 2013, Dr. Safran will teach the required nutrition course for 4-year and 2-year students, the 2-year skills course, and co-teach the advanced nutrition course with Dr. Sheila Andrew.

CT GOVERNOR DANIEL P. MALLOY'S VISIT

Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy visited the UConn Dairy Bar, Creamery Plant, and the Kellogg Dairy Center as part of his state tourism and economic development campaign. On August 16th Governor Malloy met with Dean Weidemann, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr. Steven Zinn, Department of Animal Science Head, and Mary Margaret Cole,

Executive Director Livestock Units. The Governor ate ice cream, received a tour of the Creamery Plant, and was shown the KDC's milking parlor.

*Pictured below (L-R):
Governor Malloy,
CANR Dean Weidemann,
and ANSC Department Head Dr. Zinn*



CONGRATS UCONN MORGAN SHOW TEAM!

The UConn Morgan Show Team attended the CT Morgan Horse Show, June 7-10th at Eastern States Expo. UC Domination (*shown by Brynne Cummings*) won the Amateur Road Hack and came in 3rd in Championship. Pictured below is UC Doc Sanchez (*shown by Kayleigh Meyer*) who came in 2nd in the Novice Rider Class and won the Championship!



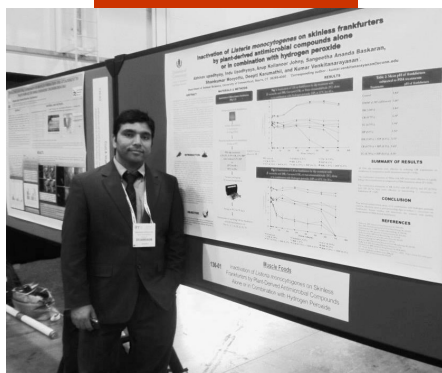
To find out more about the rest of their season, visit www.animalscience.uconn.edu/equine/UConnMorganHorseShowTeam.php

PRE-VET CANINE CANCER WALK



The Pre-Vet Club organized and held their first ever Canine Cancer Walk on Saturday, October 20th. It was a phenomenal success! Fifteen dogs and their owners made the trip to UConn to walk the Horsebarn Hill loop, and the club raised \$450 by the end of the day. Thank you all who participated! All proceeds are being sent to the Sprecher Institute of Comparative Cancer Research at Cornell's vet school. The club has decided to make this a yearly event, so stay tuned for next year!

ANSC LABORATORY NEWS



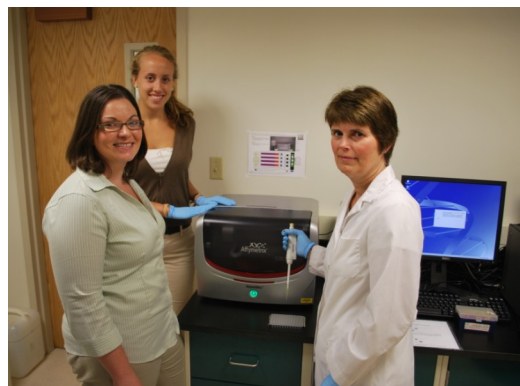
Dr. Venkitanarayanan's Lab

In July, Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan's graduate students attended the 2012 IFT Annual Meeting & Food Expo to present their research. Abhinav Upadhyay, an Animal Science Ph.D. student, won second place in the Z. John Ordal (Food Microbiology Division): Graduate Student Research Paper Oral Competition.

Dr. White's Lab

In June, Dr. Heather White applied for and was awarded the Early Investigator grant via CANR's Diet and Health Initiative. This grant warrants her lab to utilize the Affymetrix GeneAtlas to perform microarray analysis.

Pictured at right is Dr. White with her Animal Science undergraduate summer intern Molly Viner (middle) and research specialist Christine McCann (right).



ANSC STUDENTS AND FACULTY WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT

If you would like to contribute to a scholarship or to the general ANSC fund, please complete the information below or make a donation online at

<http://www.foundation.uconn.edu/> and click GIVE NOW at top right.

____ I/ we would like to contribute to the ANSC department. Please indicate amount:

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ Other

Name: _____ Phone: _____

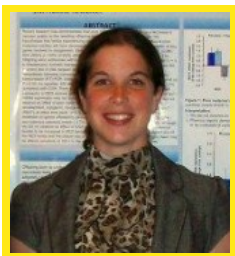
Amount Enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to the *University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc.* On the memo line indicate the *ANSC Department Fund* or name of a particular scholarship.

For more info., contact Jennifer Simoniello via mail, phone, or e-mail: University of Connecticut, Department of Animal Science, 3636 Horsebarn Road Ext., Storrs, CT 06269-4040; (860) 486-2413; Jennifer.Simoniello@uconn.edu The Foundation is a tax-exempt not-for-profit corporation dedicated to UConn. Donors to the Foundation have the right to request in writing that their identity be anonymous.

MORE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

This year's Graduate Student Scholarship was presented by the CT Trustees of the Eastern States Exposition on CT Day, Wednesday, September 19th at the Big E to Ms. Maria (Procopio) Hoffman, ANSC Ph.D. student. Congratulations Maria!



Also, for the second time in her academic career, ANSC undergraduate Ms. Lisa Dauten was awarded the Eastern States Exposition Connecticut Trustee Undergraduate Student Scholarship.

Way to go Lisa!!



DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

QUALITY MILK AWARD

For the past 8 years, Mary Margaret Cole (Department of Animal Science Livestock Unit Executive Program Director) has managed our UConn dairy herd to consistently be in the top 3 for milk quality among dairy herds throughout the northeast – an unbelievable and highly competitive accomplishment! Rep. Joe Courtney had been on campus to review the Farm Bill with the College of Agriculture's Dean Weidemann and wanted to congratulate Mary Margaret for achievement with the UConn dairy herd.



Congrats to our farm staff and the ANSC Undergraduates who are employed at the UConn Kellogg Dairy Center. This high quality milk is what makes UConn ice cream such a high quality product. Start with the best and you get the best!

2012 AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANIMAL SCIENCE/ AMERICAN DAIRY SCIENTIST MEETINGS

There was a good showing of UConn faculty, grad students, undergrads, and even alums this summer at the 2012 ASAS/ADSA meetings in Phoenix. The following members of the Department of Animal Science presented at the meeting: Maria Hoffman, Ph.D. (Dr. Govoni) - received ASAS Presidential Poster Selection, Melissa Rokosa, M.S. (Dr. Zinn) - placed second in oral presentation for the Northeast ASAS/ADSA Grad Competition, Sarita Neupane, M.S. (Dr. Govoni) - placed third in oral presentation for the Northeast ASAS/ADSA Grad Competition, Molly Viner (Dr. White; poster), Nidhish Francis (Dr. Govoni; poster), Dr. Sarah Reed, and Dr. Steven Zinn.



PRESTIGIOUS POLO AWARD

Caitlin Tufts, ANSC major and captain of the 2012 UConn Women's Polo Team was presented the 2012 PTF Women's Intercollegiate Player of the Year Award. The Polo Training Foundation presented the award Friday, September 21, 2012 at The Santa Barbara Polo Club in California.

Player of the Year award winners are judged on: Playing ability (e.g. horsemanship, mallet skill, team work, and comprehension of the game); Contribution to the sport based on leadership, commitment, and assistance to new players; and Sportsmanship with emphasis on conduct in and out of the arena, knowledge of the rules and their enforcement, and a positive attitude.

The University of Connecticut, Department of Animal Science, UConn Polo Program, and the entire community congratulate Caitlin on her outstanding achievement and service.



ALUMNI NEWS!



After graduating from UConn in '92 with a BS in Animal Science, **Dr. Steven E. Ellis** attended graduate school at Virginia Tech, where he earned both his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees researching lactation physiology and mammary development in dairy animals. After earning his Ph.D. in '98, Steve spent two years working at the Institute for Molecular Medicine and Genetics at the Medical College of Georgia as a postdoctoral researcher on a thymus development project. He then returned to dairy research as a visiting scientist at the USDA Beltsville Animal Research Center. In '02, Dr. Ellis started his position at Clemson University in the Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department, where he continues his mammary development research and teaches histology, graduate physiology, and other courses. In addition, Dr. Ellis is currently serving as a Program Officer at the National Science Foundation in the Biological Sciences Directorate. At NSF, he helps manage the review of grant proposals from a wide range of researchers across the biological sciences.



Alumna **Kaitlin (Wilson) Lindhardt** graduated from UConn in '09 as an honors student with a B.S. in Animal Science. Her honors advisors were Dr. Cindy Tian and Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan. She received her M.S. in ANSC from Washington State University in '11 under Dr. Holly Neibergs with a focus on breeding and genetics. Kaitlin is currently Senior Husbandry Coordinator in the Lab Animal Resources Department at KUMC (University of Kansas Medical Center) where she utilizes skills she learned in Dr. Milvae's Lab Animal course. Kaitlin works as a supervisor of a large animal team which takes care of all species that are USDA regulated (e.g. gerbils, rabbits, dogs, etc.) She provides basic husbandry and also assists the rodent workers with taking care of a mouse breeding colony.

ATTENTION NEW & FORMER ANIMAL BARN EMPLOYEES!

Periodically, our barn units are inspected for human and animal concerns, but did you know that an inspector can ask you questions about working at UConn animal barns? Here are a few questions that may be asked during inspections:

Q: Where can you find information on specific "hazards" in your environment and the protective equipment (ppe) you should use?

A: Workplace Hazard Assessments which are in the Barn Manuals

Q: Are you allowed to recap needles after use?

A: No, except by the "one handed technique"

Q: Where are the Animal Health Records?

A: Typically, in the main office of each Barn Unit



Q: Are you able to report concerns of animal welfare anonymously?

A: Yes, the IACUC office or the attending vet should be contacted and your anonymity will be protected.

There's no need to be nervous or afraid of the inspectors, but there is a need to be safe, up-to-date, and prepared for emergencies!


- Courtesy of Victor Delaire
ANSC Compliance Coordinator

Mary Margaret Cole, Executive Program Director, student Brigid Ernst, and Associate Professor Heather White, posed with two of UConn's herd favorites, UConn Blackstone Arabia and her dam UConn Mercedes Ariana, for the June 2012 issue of "Jersey Journal". To read more excerpts about UConn from the magazine visit the ANSC website!



Thank you to the buyers of our New England Spring Sale consignments. UConn Showtime Bubblegum, topped the sale and sold to E. & A. Williams, Elmer, N.J. We wish you all the best with your purchase.

Also thank you to the AJCC Research Foundation for selecting our research project (Identification of SNPs associated with ketosis in Jersey cattle) for a 2012 grant.

 **University of Connecticut**

Department of Animal Science

3636 Horse Barn Road Ext., Storrs, CT 06269-4040

Phone: (860) 486-2413 • Fax: (860) 486-4375

Kellogg Dairy Center, Executive Program Director:

Mary-Margaret Cole • Mary_Margaret.Cole@uconn.edu

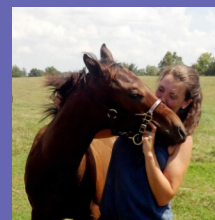
ANSC UNDERGRAD RESEARCH



Rachel Forbes, an ANSC senior, has been working in Dr. Sarah Reed's lab since the beginning of her junior year. Rachel spent the spring semester and summer working on a project studying the effects of poor maternal nutrition on offspring, using sheep as a model. Rachel quantified the number of satellite cells, which are stem cells found in muscle, in lambs from ewes with poor nutrition at birth and at three months of age. Rachel hopes to determine whether or not poor maternal nutrition has an effect on the both the number and the activation of satellite cells in lambs.

Want to read more about undergrad research?
Visit the ANSC website!

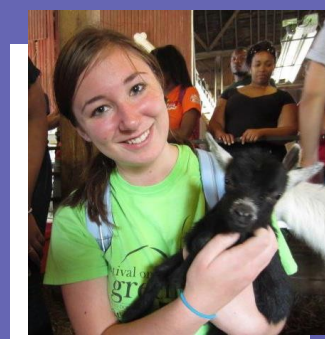
AVAILABLE INTERNSHIPS FOR ANSC MAJORS



LEARN WHERE ANSC STUDENTS HAVE INTERNEED

[WWW.ANIMALSCIENCE.UCONN.EDU/
INTERNSHIPSANDEMPLOYMENT/INTERNSHIPS.PHP](http://WWW.ANIMALSCIENCE.UCONN.EDU/INTERNSHIPSANDEMPLOYMENT/INTERNSHIPS.PHP)

- This past summer, **ANSC Sophomore Elizabeth Petrosus**, participated in Michigan State University's Vetward Bound Enrichment Summer Program. It was a paid internship, where for 7 weeks she took 5 different classes: Animal Science, Biology, Organic Chemistry, Physics, and GRE Math. The classes were not for credit, but gave an introduction to the material so that she would be familiar with the information when she did take them at UConn. She also went on field trips that offered hands on experience with different animals – focusing mostly on large animals. The Enrichment Summer Program (ESP) is an intensive internship for serious pre-vet students who are considered educationally, economically, or culturally disadvantaged. It is split into three different levels to match the different needs of students who are a few years away from applying to vet school versus those who have already been accepted and will be attending vet school in the fall. This program is nationally funded and well known in the veterinary community. Just participating will strengthen students' vet school applications. On top of that, you gain experience working with animals, veterinarians, learning medical terms, preparing for the GRE and more! She highly recommends it to any qualifying pre-vet student.



For more information, visit: <http://cvm.msu.edu/student-information/cvm-undergraduate-programs/enrichment-summer-program>

If anyone has questions regarding her internship experience, Elizabeth can be contacted directly at Elizabeth.Petrosus@uconn.edu.

UConn BEEF AUCTION



Mary Margaret Cole, Executive Director of Livestock Units, Dr. Tom Hoagland, Professor and Dr. Richard Mancini, Associate Professor are preparing for this year's Beef Auction. Mr. John Bennett, Jr., will be the auctioneer this year and will auction approximately 20 UConn animals. Alpha Gamma Rho will be providing lunch for purchase and Dr. Mancini will provide an educational lecture on the advancements of meat

technology. All are welcome to attend and support the department's Livestock Unit. For details visit <http://animalscience.uconn.edu/beef/beefCalfSale.php>

- Want to gain experience in livestock regulation and inspection? You can with the State of Connecticut Bureau of Regulation and Inspection! Students may tailor their experience to reflect other interests if it is deemed appropriate to the CT DoAg. The student will receive academic credit for this internship. Interested? Learn more at the UConn Department of Animal Science Undergraduate Internship webpage!

LITTLE “I” RESULTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2012

Approximately 140+ UConn students, the majority who are animal science majors enrolled in the Introduction to Animal Science course this fall, showed their chosen livestock species to livestock judges at the Little “I” Saturday, October 27. Students learned how to care for and handle a livestock species that is new to them. The students spent almost two months training and preparing their animal for the Little “I”. Judging livestock animals is a tool to identify the animals that should be bred to improve their genetic potential for production (meat, milk, eggs, etc.). UConn students who are outstanding showmen can walk up to any animal, quickly access the animal’s strengths and weaknesses and then showcase that animal. This requires more than an ability to handle an animal, it requires the knowledge to know what to do with the animal. Showing also improves student’s leadership skills since they have to learn to control an animal generally much larger than themselves.

Horse in Hand: Novice Champion – Ben Weidig
 Novice Reserve – Helaina Furriel
 Experience Champion – Nicole Maturo
 Experience Reserve – Mike Weisberg

Beef : Novice Champion – Hannah Gallen
 Novice Reserve – Elizabeth Silva
 Experience Champion – Brigid Ernst
 Experience Reserve – Kayla Akkaya

Dairy: Novice Champion – Leanne Jankelunas
 Novice Reserve – Rachel Finneson
 Experience Champion – Katelyn Boswell
 Experience Reserve – Jordan Gosselin

Sheep: Novice Champion – Sara DeAngelis
 Novice Reserve – Audriana Finney
 Experience Champion – Sam Lambert
 Experience Reserve – Erin Biron

Poultry: Novice Champion – Michelle Sweetman
 Novice Reserve – Alvin Alper
 Experience Champion – Zipporah Drozdowicz
 Experience Reserve – Kiera Schneider

Swine: Novice Champion – Angelica Coppola
 Novice Reserve – Katherine Owens
 Experience Champion – Elizabeth Houston
 Experience Reserve – Rachel Holden

Experience Champion Premier Showman - Elizabeth Houston

Experience Reserve Premier Showman – Sam Lambert

Novice Champion Premier Showman – Audriana Finney

Novice Reserve Showman – Michelle Sweetman

Little I King – Mat McIntosh

Little I Queen – MacKenzie White

Outstanding Senior – Cassie Leone

Outstanding Member – Tia (Slivinsky) Ciliano



Above are ANSC Freshmen Katelyn Boswell (left) and Jennifer Couture (right). Pictured on the left is ANSC Junior Sara DeAngelis.