



Alyssa O'Keefe, poses with Corinthian Troubadour (Ted).  
Ted will also be in this year's auction.

The Department of Animal Science will once again host the annual UConn Spring Horse Auction on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen UConn horses are currently entered into the auction, and vendors are anticipated to sell their horse related wares. Something extra special this year is that we will have four local authors present who will sell a combination of ten different books written about horses.

## A Message from the Department Head



Greetings.

With this April issue of the Animal Science newsletter we begin to envision warmer weather (or at least hope that winter will finally end and I can start driving the Mustang!) and can see the end of the semester on the horizon. Of course it also means that we are gearing up for the Dairy Show (April 5), Open House (April 12), the Horse Auction (April 26), the end of the semester barbecue (May 2) and graduation (May 10). In addition, we are completing the search for a

new faculty member in epigenetics and stem cell biology.

Welcome to the newest member to our Animal Science family. Our riding instructor and equestrian teams coach, **Alena Meacham** and her husband Jarrett, welcomed their son, Noah, into the world on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 AM. Congratulations to the proud parents. In addition, a heartfelt thanks to **Catherine Maher, Amy Hacker** and **Teagan Gaeta** for teaching lessons and thanks to **John Bennett** and **Kathy Pelletier** and the students at the horse unit for making sure all went well while Alena was out on maternity leave. The dedication of our staff and students to our equestrian program is obvious when you see how willingly they stepped up during this exciting time.

I offer my congratulations to our students, faculty and staff who have been recognized for their achievements this spring. **Dr. Darre** will receive the 2014 AAUP Excellence Award in Service Excellence/Career which will be awarded on April 29 at the State capital building. **Dr. Govoni** earned the 2014 Kinsman Teaching Award, **Dr. Hoagland** is the recipient of the 2014 UCANRAA Teaching Award, and **Bill S.** (*UConn Creamery Manager*) was named the 2014 CANR Outstanding Staff Member. At the spring Scholarship dinner, numerous Animal Science students were recognized for their outstanding achievements. Also, congratulations to the sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have been named as American Society of Animal Science Scholars (the ceremony is scheduled for May 2) and congratulations to the Animal Science students named as New England (3.7 GPA for all of 2013) and Homer Babbage (4.0 GPA for all of 2013) Scholars. (*con't page 2...*)

## Summer-Time Survey

ANSC Undergraduates, what are your plans this summer?

- Summer Internship
- Summer Job Related to Major
- Summer Job Unrelated to Major
- Taking Summer Courses
- Traveling
- Hanging-Out at Home
- Other

We're interested in finding out what you are doing this summer! Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PZKTGY9> and let us know! Results will be posted in the August Newsletter.

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## Milking the Herd for Education, Science, and the Economy *(Excerpt from UConn Today article by Sheila Foran)*

Next time you savor a scoop of Dairy Bar ice cream, spare a thought for UConn's award-winning dairy herd. The iconic Holsteins that make up approximately 80% of the herd and their Jersey sisters have more than a little to do with why UConn Dairy Bar products taste so delicious. But the herd's value to the University extends far beyond providing the main ingredient in a double dip cone or sundae.

As a land grant university, UConn's mission includes teaching, research, and outreach. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' dairy herd embraces all three

aspects of the mission in a symbiotic relationship that serves students, the scientific community, and citizens of CT.

Under the direction of **Mary Margaret Cole** (CANR, '89), Executive Program Director in the Department of Animal Science, approximately 12,500 pounds of milk (nearly 1,500 gallons) is shipped from Storrs to a central milk processing plant every other day. This comes from a herd of approximately 100 Holstein and Jersey cattle, about three quarters of which are milked on any given day.

*"We take our role in Connecticut agriculture seriously and we are meticulous about the health of our herd," says Mary Margaret as she greets the next generation of UConn milk producers.*

### Upcoming Events

#### Friday, April 11 - Saturday, April 12

- Undergraduate Frontiers in Research

#### Saturday, April 12

- Sheep Shearing School

#### Saturday, April 26

- 105<sup>th</sup> CT Sheep & Wool Fest
- UConn Spring Horse Auction

#### Sunday, April 27

- Sigma Alpha Horse Show

#### Friday, May 2

- ASAS Awards Ceremony
- Last Day of Classes
- Poultry Club BBQ

#### Saturday, May 3

- Pre-Vet Dog Wash

#### Saturday, May 10

- Commencement

#### Monday, May 12

- Summer Horse Riding Lessons Begin

If you enjoyed reading this excerpt from UConn Today, you can read the rest at <http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2014/01/milking-the-herd-for-education-science-and-the-economy>

## UConn Dairy Conference

**Dr. Sheila Andrew** organized the New England Dairy Conference again this year. It was held on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Tolland Agricultural Center in Vernon, CT, and included a Trade Show, Dairy Community Address from US Representative Joe Courtney, and various speakers – one of which was our own ANSC Assistant Professor **Dr. Dennis D'Amico**, who gave a talk on "Challenges and Opportunities for the New England Dairy Industry." Other topics discussed included "Milk Quality Applied Science – Realities and Results" and a panel discussion with **Jim Davenport** (ANSC BS '83 and owner of an award winning dairy farm in NY) and **Mary Margaret Cole** (Executive Program Director of UConn Dairy and Livestock Units). To receive a notice regarding the next Dairy Conference, e-mail [animalscience@uconn.edu](mailto:animalscience@uconn.edu).

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

Congrats to the successes of our Equestrian teams; the Dressage, Western, and Hunt Seat teams all did very well in the region and we wish these riders well in Zones and Nationals. Congrats to the UConn Men's and Women's Polo Teams for reaching the Regional Championships and to the Polo Club for hosting the 2014 National High School Polo Championship and the 2014 Collegiate Regional Championships. Lastly, on a personal note, I was very proud to be named the 2014 CPIA Academic Advisor of the Year.

For students graduating this May, make sure that your Plan of Study is submitted to the degree auditor. It is important that these be turned in during the first two weeks of the semester. In addition, we will start scheduling senior exit interviews. These meetings give seniors an opportunity to give feedback on our program.

Good luck with the end of spring semester and finals. I hope to see you at the Animal Science Events in April and May.

- Dr. Zinn,  
Professor & Department Head

## Catherine Maher, ANSC Student & UConn Equestrian Team Captain

*Bv: Antonia Brunetti, ANSC Junior*



**Catherine Maher** is an Animal Science senior fulfilling her dream career – training horses. Since a freshman, she has enjoyed teaching at the UConn equine facility and riding on the Equestrian Team – she is now captain! Catherine soon fell into her place of work her sophomore/junior year and realized being in the barn was where she needed to be... Catherine has accomplished so much at UConn, but her greatest moment thus far is starting a middle school and high school riding team as her independent study project... Not only does she oversee the Interscholastic Equestrian Association team (IEA) she is an assistant trainer at a local family barn... To read more, visit <http://animalscience.uconn.edu/newsletter.php>

## ANSC Undergraduate (ASAS) Awards

Since 1965, the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) has recognized undergraduate Animal Science students' academic achievements. The Department of Animal Science has nominated the following ANSC majors (based on their academic excellence) for membership in the National American Society of Animal Science. Students will receive a certificate signed by the President of ASAS and their names will be published in the July issue of Journal of Animal Science. Award recipients will receive their certificates at an Ice Cream Social on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

This year's ASAS recipients are...

**SENIORS:** Nicole Davoren; Audriana Finney; Alycia Fulton; Alexandra Gallina; Ellen Harness; Katherine Hermonot; Rachel Jorgensen; Tessa Kalin; Brandon King; Julie Notestine; Maria Paradis; Clarissa Spadanuta; Leanne Wooley

**JUNIORS:** Jessica Barry; Travis Corbelle; Brenna Daly; Cara Dooley; Samuel Lambert; Emma Lavigne; Jacquelin Lee; Katelyn McFadden; Delaney Patterson; Emma Price; Abigail Ruane; Allison Schauer; Bethany Sullivan; Kaitlin Way

**SOPHOMORES:** Ashley Allard-Raucci; Alvin Alper; Cathryn Beebe; Jessica Box; Elise Heine; Monica Krupski; Erin O'Rear; Megan Palmisano; Geri Roth; Alexandra Rudolph; Kiera Schneider; Mary Wynn

## Grad Schools & You!

ANSC students accepted to graduate school for Fall '14 are now making their final decision as to where to spend the next four years! Congratulations to the following students who have been accepted to graduate programs and vet schools as of the date of this newsletter's publication.

### Graduate Programs

**Carolyn Card, Krystal Perrotti, and Jennifer Solter** – UConn's Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates (TCPCG)

**Devyn Schultz** – Texas A&M's Masters in Biomedical Science Program

### Veterinary School

**Rebecca Hasak, Cecilia Lavigne, and Parker Wilcox** – Iowa State University

**Brandon King & Kelsey O'Donnell** – Tufts University

**Stephanie Watko** – Deciding between St. George University and University of Glasgow

## ANSC Grads Win Big!

Congratulations to the ANSC grad students who were awarded for their 2014 Graduate Research Forum research presentations – each year CANR hosts this event so graduate students can present their research and sharpen their skills.

### Oral Presentation:

1. **Devi Jaganathan**, PhD Candidate
2. **Genevieve Flock**, PhD Candidate
3. **Varun Kumar Bhattaram**, PhD Candidate

### Poster Presentation:

**Zongliang (Carl) Jiang**, PhD Candidate

## ANSC Graduate Student Earns Scholarship

**Deepti Prasad Karumathil** (ANSC PhD Candidate) received the Nutmeg IFT Grad Student Scholarship at the Student Awards Night held on March 26<sup>th</sup> for her outstanding academic achievement on work with multi-drug resistant bacterium *Acenitobacter baumannii*. The Nutmeg IFT Awards Program increases awareness of food science as a profession and encourages promising young scientists to consider this as a major in college.

## An Egg-citing Trip!



**UConn Poultry Club at World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA.** Club members work hard at fundraising to help cover travel expenses. They must attend at least two fundraising events and help at the Annual 4-H Poultry Show to be eligible to travel to Atlanta.

This past January during winter break, for nearly the 30th year in a row, **Dr. Michael Darre** traveled with six UConn Poultry Science Club students to the International (Poultry) Production and Processing Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia. The IPPE is now the world's largest annual poultry, feed, and meat industry event of its kind and is one of the 50 largest trade shows in the U.S. Students visited booths, talked with various companies about their products and services – some students even landed job interviews!

**Matthew Rosengrant** (ANSC Junior) was interviewed by Tyson and will participate in a summer internship with them in Virginia, and **Stacia Prosser** (ANSC Senior) was interviewed by Cargill at the Expo and then was flown to Nebraska for a follow up interview. They also attended a reception at the Georgia Aquarium and saw whale sharks, beluga whales, and other exhibits. They got stuck in the snowstorm in Atlanta and were lucky to get a flight out. It was a very fun and educational trip.

*"I am extremely proud to be involved in the exciting and diverse research in the Department of Animal Science. It is an extraordinary opportunity to work with leading animal scientists and to support the future of agriculture." – Katelyn McFadden, ANSC Junior*

### Compliance Corner – What You Need to Know About Inspections

*Courtesy of Victor Delaire,  
ANSC Compliance Coordinator*



Hooray for inspections??? Maybe it is going a bit too far in shouting "Hooray" for an inspection but for certain,

there is no need to run and hide. The Department of Animal Science faculty and staff work hard at making sure we are in line with regulations and procedures that apply to our activities. In fact, UConn's animal care and use program has been awarded the status of "exemplary" according to AAALAC International and the Department of Animal Science contributed significantly to this. So who is AAALAC International and why do they matter?

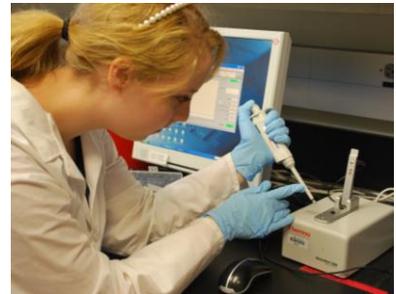
AAALAC International stands for the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care. As the full name suggests, AAALAC International is an organization that assesses the animal care program of institutions all over the world including universities, hospitals, and even governmental agencies...

Read the rest of this edition of Compliance Corner, at...

[www.animalscience.uconn.edu/compliance/compliancecorner.php](http://www.animalscience.uconn.edu/compliance/compliancecorner.php)

## ANSC Undergraduate Research

**Katelyn McFadden**, an ANSC junior, has been working in **Dr. Kristen Govoni's** laboratory since her senior year of high school. For the past year and a half, she has been working on her Honors thesis project to examine the effects of maternal supplementation of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol (25OHD3), a vitamin D metabolite, on bone and cartilage development in fetal pigs.



This is a collaborative study with Dr. Jessica Starkey at Texas Tech University. Lameness in pigs is often due to poor bone and cartilage development and creates a major health issue for the swine industry. The majority of bone and cartilage development occurs during fetal and early postnatal development and vitamin D is required for proper development. Katelyn is interested in determining if maternal 25OHD3 supplementation will alter the gene expression of the fetal pig bone and cartilage. She has evaluated mRNA expression of markers in bone mineralization and cartilage development, genes that mediate the effect of vitamin D, as well as, genes involved in the somatotrophic axis. This study is important to increase knowledge of the mechanisms by which vitamin D acts on bone and cartilage and to determine if 25OHD3 may alter expression of key genes in fetal bone and cartilage development to improve postnatal bone and cartilage formation. Katelyn was recently awarded third place in an undergraduate poster competition when she presented her research at the 2013 ADSA/ASAS Joint Annual Meeting. She has also been involved in a large collaborative project in the Animal Science department focusing on poor maternal nutrition using sheep as a model.

Want to learn more? Visit [www.animalscience.uconn.edu](http://www.animalscience.uconn.edu) to read more about this research project as well as other Animal Science students' ongoing projects.

## National Anthem – Animal Science Style!

Guess who will be singing the National Anthem this year at the CANR Graduation Ceremony! It's the ANSC Senior dynamic duo, **Alyssa and Katie O'Keefe!** Congratulations on being selected!



## 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 at [www.foundation.uconn.edu](http://www.foundation.uconn.edu) and click **GIVE NOW** at top right.

\_\_\_\_\_/ 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 information, contact Jennifer Simoniello via e-mail [Jennifer.Simoniello@uconn.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Simoniello@uconn.edu), phone (860) 486-1088, or mail University of Connecticut, Department of Animal Science, 3636 Horsebarn Road Ext., Storrs, CT 06269-4040.

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.

*We have received a number of donations since our last newsletter.*

*"Thank You!" for your support!*

## Excellence in Service Award

**Dr. Michael Darre**, ANSC Professor, has been honored with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Excellence in Service Award – an award given for professional service that impacts citizens of Connecticut, contributes to the common good at national or international levels, enhances the visibility of UConn among prospective students, promotes program excellence, and fosters cooperative activities at UConn. Dr. Darre will receive this award at the State Capitol on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations Dr. Darre!  
(Photo provided by *The-Chicken-Chick.com*)

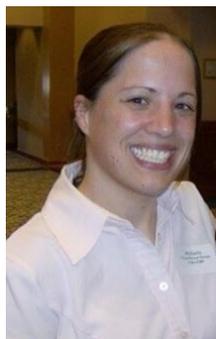


## Alumni News!

**Heather Lord** (ANSC BS, 2007) – Heather grew up on a small farm in Connecticut, where she raised and showed a small herd of registered Jersey Cattle. She was a member of the Litchfield County 4-H and the Woodbury FFA Program. She graduated from UConn in 2007, with a BS in Animal Science and a Minor in Dairy Management. After



graduation, she worked in retail for Agriventures Agway (New Milford, CT) as a Farm Specialist and Store Manager. In 2009, she moved to Lee, MA to work as a herdsman for High Lawn Farm (HLF) – a 180 milking cow registered Jersey Herd. Heather served as Farm Manager from 2011-2013, and helped the farm downsize and transition to a 2 robotic milking facility. During her time at HLF, she worked closely with several bull stud companies to breed young stud bull calves using genomics – they had a Top 5 bull in the breed, as well as several Top 200 cows and heifers to rank on the quarterly genomic lists. In 2013, she received the Young Jersey Breeders Award from the New England Jersey Breeders Association for her work with the genetic improvement at HLF. Since last June, Heather is now working at Arethusa Farm (Litchfield, CT) as the Milking Barn Manager and is in charge of an 80 cow milking barn and its staff, along with other daily tasks that include all cow care, breeding, and barn upkeep. Arethusa Farm gives many tours, and has their barn open to the public every Saturday to promote their products and the local farm movement. Arethusa consists of 350 head of Registered Holsteins, Jerseys and Brown Swiss. The farm also houses some of the great cows from the show ring, including Veronica, Vista, Karlie and many others.



**Michaela Tibbetts** (ANSC BS, 2002) – After graduating from UConn in 2002, Michaela worked for a brief time as an Assistant Animal Curator at a local small children's museum. After a short period of time, she went back to UConn for a degree in Physical Therapy. She graduated with a Masters in Physical Therapy in 2007, and started working in an outpatient setting with a large focus on sports and manual therapy. Since then, she has had the opportunity to work in a variety of settings, including a school system north of Hartford, and home-care. As well as working in a clinic, she has had the opportunity to serve on the CT Board of Physical

Therapy. Michaela believes that her time at UConn studying Animal Science has given her a greater sense of confidence to help achieve her goals within her field and help her patients achieve theirs. She is currently working per diem as a Physical Therapist while raising her three young sons.

## Carly Persano – ANSC Freshman & USPA Team Member

**Carly Persano**, ANSC freshman, has been selected to participate in the U.S. Polo Association Team (USPA) program. The USPA application process is very competitive and each year only a small group of players is selected nationally. The selection process includes an interview where each applicant shows they are serious about committing to a career as an equine professional and thus reward the USPA for the significant investment that is made in each member. The USPA program is structured to “enhance the skills and grow the next generation of American polo players.” The organization provides mentors, training, networking, and playing opportunities to young players so they can lead the way in expanding the sport in the U.S. Carly’s entire life has been oriented towards polo – she spent the last two summers concentrating on her game and riding skills in order to qualify for the application. Carly is the fourth UConn student to be selected for the program – proof that UConn has one of the top talent pools in the U.S. for intercollegiate women’s and men’s polo.



Above, the 2014 Team USPA selected candidates in Wellington, FL. Carly is 3<sup>rd</sup> in from the right.

## 2014 Northeast Intercollegiate Regional Polo Tournament

From March 20-23, UConn hosted the Northeast Intercollegiate Regional Polo Tournament. Five Men’s Teams (Harvard, Yale, Skidmore, Cornell and UConn) and three Women’s Teams (UConn, Cornell, and Skidmore) competed for the Regional Championship and a trip to Nationals in Houston, TX. The UConn Men lost to Skidmore in the semi finals, and the UConn Women lost to Cornell in the finals after a very successful season. Congratulations to both Cornell Men’s and Women’s Teams as they will be headed to Nationals. UConn Players and Horses did take home some Tournament awards: Women’s Sportsmanship - **Sara Tufts**; Women’s All Star - **Carly Persano**; Men’s All Stars - **Mike Giordano** and **Connor Deal**; Women’s Best Playing Pony – **Esperanza**. Thank you to all fans and supporters, you are the best! Looking forward to next season!

## UConn Animal Unit Management Trainee Internship



From May 16 – July 24, four Animal Science Majors (**Ashley Allard-Rauci**, **Travis Corbelle**, **Alexander Deoss**, and **Marissa SanFilippo**) will participate in the annual Animal Unit Management Trainee Internship opportunity. Congratulations! The goal of this program is to provide students with practical “hands-on” experience in order to learn a variety of skills associated with animal husbandry and management. If you are interested in applying for this opportunity next year, contact Dr. Mike Darre (Office: George White Building, Room 003; Phone: 486-1008; E-mail: [Michael.Darre@UConn.edu](mailto:Michael.Darre@UConn.edu)) for details.

*Photo of Danielle Caro, one of last year’s animal unit interns.*

## New ANSC Faculty Hire – Dr. David Magee



**Dr. David Magee** joins the department in August as the new Assistant Professor of Genomics. He earned his PhD in Molecular Population

Genetics from the Trinity College’s Smurfit Institute of Genetics in Dublin, Ireland. Dr. Magee is coming to us after working as a postdoctoral research scientist in an Animal Genomics Laboratory at the University College Dublin’s College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine in Dublin, Ireland.

## CANR Awards & Honors

Please congratulate this year’s ANSC Faculty & Staff CANR Award Winners:

**Dr. Tom Hoagland**  
*Professor*

UNCANRAA Excellence in Teaching Award

**Dr. Kristen Govoni**  
*Assistant Professor*

CANR Donald M. Kinsman Award for Excellence in Teaching in CANR/RHSA

**Mr. Bill S.**

*Creamery Manager*  
UCANRAA Outstanding Staff Award

Also, join us in congratulating staff members that have reached employment milestones:

**Mr. David Schreiber**  
*Technical Associate*  
35 years of service

**Ms. Lisa Nowak**  
*Agricultural Worker 2*  
25 years of service

**Ms. Jennifer Simoniello**  
*Administrative Coordinator*  
25 years of service

**Mr. Paul Bleimeyer**  
*Agricultural Worker 2*  
15 years of service

**Dr. Kristen Govoni**  
*Assistant Professor*  
10 years of service