



ANSC Undergrads in Dr. Reed's Breeding Farm Management class with a 2017 colt by UC Doc Sanchez

# UConn Department of Animal Science April 2017 Student Newsletter

## A Message from the Department Head

Greetings.

As we move into April, we prepare for the last sprint to the end of the 2016-2017 academic year. With the last days of the semester approaching, it means that we are gearing up for the Open House on April 8<sup>th</sup>, Dairy Show on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Sigma Alpha Horse Show on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the end of the semester barbecue hosted by the Poultry Club on April 28<sup>th</sup> and Commencement on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Join me in congratulating our graduating students in the 2-year and 4-year programs as well as those completing their MS and PhD degrees. Congratulations to the Animal Science students named as New England (3.7 GPA for all of 2016) and Homer Babbidge (4.0 GPA for all of 2016)

Scholars and to the sophomores, juniors, and seniors that have been named as American Society of Animal Science Scholars (the ceremony is scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup>).



As I write this, Block and Bridle Club is heading to Washington DC to cohost the National B & B meeting and members of the Dairy Club are heading to California to compete in the National Dairy Challenge.

*(More on page 2)*



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

The Women's Polo Team are champions of the Northeast Region and are headed off to the Polo Nationals to compete for the Women's Collegiate Polo National Championship. Congrats on the successes of our Equestrian teams; the Dressage, Western and Hunt Seat teams all completed successful regular seasons with regionals, zones, and nationals on the horizon.

For students graduating this May or August, make sure that your Plan of Study is submitted to the degree auditor. It is important that these be submitted before graduation. In addition, we will start scheduling senior exit interviews soon. 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. Steven Zinn**  
Professor and Head  
Department of Animal Science

## Vet School Admits

Congratulations to our pre-vet seniors who have been accepted to the following veterinary schools for fall 2017:

- Auburn University
- Cornell University
- Iowa State
- Massey University
- Midwestern University
- North Carolina State University
- Ohio State University
- Oklahoma State
- Ross University
- Royal Veterinary College
- St. George's University
- Tufts University
- University of Florida
- University of Glasgow
- University of Illinois
- University of Missouri
- University of Tennessee



**Attention Senior Pre-Vet Students:  
We Want to Hear From You!**

If you have been accepted into a Veterinary Program, please email [Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu](mailto:Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu) with your news!

STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



### Senior Exit Interviews

To help the Department of Animal Science maintain and improve the quality and standards of its undergraduate programs, the department finds it beneficial to gain feedback from its graduating seniors.

These brief and informal, but confidential meetings will be conducted between Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Michelle Lewis at 860-486-1009 to schedule your appointment.



### What are your plans after graduation?

Attending your dream veterinary school? Continuing studies at graduate school? Land the job of your dreams? Tell us about it!! Send your news to [Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu](mailto:Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu).

#### LINKS TO FORMS

For the Independent Study Syllabus Form click [here](#).

For the Advisor Change Form click [here](#).

## ANSC Alumni Facebook Page

The Department of Animal Science has created a new Facebook group to connect UConn ANSC alumni! The page features events, jobs, and departmental news. Alumni who join the group are encouraged to share memories, photos and news!

Alumni can join the page [here](#) and provide your graduation year and maiden name (if applicable) when you request to join so we can verify your alumni status.



## New Fish Tanks in George White

The new AquaLife Club on campus has set up two great fish tanks in the George White Building! Club president Danny Munch and club members put together one tank for the George White Main Office that features Glow Fish and a black light. The fluorescent tetra fish are a genetically modified breed that are active and brightly colored. The other tank can be seen in George White Room 212 lounge. This tank features neon tetras and swordtails.

We encourage students to relax and enjoy the fish in the 212 lounge and see the fish in the main office as well!



*Glow Fish tank in George White Main Office*



*Fish tank in George White 212 lounge*

## You're Invited: Annual Chicken Barbecue

ANSC faculty, staff and students are invited to the 2017 Annual Animal Science Chicken BBQ and picnic on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM hosted by the Poultry Club and Poultry Science Class. The event will be held in the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena. Please sign up in the George White Building Main Office (Room 107) to bring a food item to share! For a flyer with more information, please click [here](#).



## Women's Polo Team Attends Nationals

Congratulations to the UConn Women's Polo Team on their hard work at the USPA Intercollegiate National Championships!

The team qualified for Nationals after a shootout win against Cornell on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Carley Persano received the All Star Player Award, Tessa Kell received the Sportsmanship Award, UConn polo pony Pinta was the Best Playing Pony and our UConn string of horses was named the Best Playing String in the tournament.

They traveled to Santa Barbara, California for Nationals where they played Texas A&M on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. The ladies played a great game but eventually lost to Texas by one point in the final chukker.

Congratulations on a great season!

Read more about the tournament [here](#).



*UConn Women's  
Polo at Regionals*



*UConn Women's  
Polo at Nationals*

## Connecticut Horse Symposium a Success

The 2017 Annual Connecticut Horse Symposium was a great success this year. Participants and spectators enjoyed clinicians Jeff Morse and Caroline Mercier on Saturday and a “Hands on Horse Science” clinic on Sunday. Driving clinician Jeff Morse worked with participants on “Improving their Driving Performance” and jumping clinician Caroline Mercier covered “Finding Natural Balance” on the flat and over fences. The Sunday clinics were provided by veterinarians from Tuft’s Ambulatory Service, saddle fitters Jaime Kinneer and Ron Friedson, Equine Nutrition by Andrew Beals, and Myofascial Release Therapy with Cathleen Peabody. On Saturday, the UConn Morgan Drill Team and the UConn Dressage team gave demonstrations and on Sunday, there was a UConn Polo Team mock match. The UConn Western Team provided food at the event.

See a video from the event [here](#).



*Driving clinician Jeff Morse works with UC Romeo and ANSC student Amy Pruner*



*Clinician Caroline Mercier discusses flat work exercises with a group of riders*

## New England Dairy Conference

The 2017 Annual New England Dairy Conference was held on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> in Enfield, CT. Dairy farmers from across the Northeast attended the event, which featured speakers Dr. Heather Dann, Tom Kilcer, Joe Bonelli and Dr. David Barbano.

Dr. Barbano discussed “New Milk Analysis Technologies to Improve Dairy Cattle Performance,” Dr. Dann discussed the “Use of Milk Fatty Acid Metrics to Make Nutrition and Management Decisions,” and Mr. Bonelli discussed “Risk Management Program Updates,” and Mr. Kilcer discussed “Harvest for Profit.”

Attendees of the conference were treated to lunch and visited with trade show vendors at the vendor fair. Read an article on the conference [here](#).



## Dairy Club Attends Dairy Challenge

"This past week six students attended the North American National Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge in Visalia, California. Visalia is located in Tulare County, the largest agriculture-producing county in the United States. In addition to dairy farms, there are grapes, almonds and citrus produced. Dairy Challenge is a competition where four students attend a farm assessing nutrition, financials, reproduction and cow comfort. After visiting, we put together a presentation for judges and the owners of the farms recommending different management practices that would help improve the efficiency of the farm. Our competition farm was El Monte Dairy, home to 2,000 lactating Holsteins. The owner explained that his farm is average size for this region. The farm also houses 2,100 young stock; raising nearly 600 bulls each year for breeding purposes. It was amazing to see differences between New England dairies and the West Coast. For starters, most animals were raised in dry lots. Their cover consisted of a shed, which had a roof but no walls. Farms also utilized shade cloth and misters to aid in heat abatement. After all, it is hot eight months out of the year. Due to last year's drought, mainly sorghum was grown - a drought tolerant crop. This season the area received enough rain that some farms are planting corn. All in all, attending this competition has been an incredible experience and it would not have been possible without our coach, Mary Margaret Cole, the Department of Animal Science and our sponsors." Written by ANSC student Katelyn Williams.



*Dairy students with advisor Mary Margaret Cole at Airoso Farm*



*The 2017 Dairy Challenge team from UConn with Mary Margaret Cole*

## Pre-Vet Club Spring Events

The UConn Pre-Vet Club has two events scheduled for April.

The "Strutt Your Mutt" Kg Cancer Walk was held on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Donations from this event will be donated to the Sprecher Institute of Comparative Cancer Research at Cornell.

The Pre-Vet Club Dog Wash will be held on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Kellogg Dairy Center. All friendly dogs with up to date rabies vaccines are welcome. See the flyer for more information [here](#).



*UConn Pre-Vet Club*

## Block and Bridle Club Attend NESA and National Convention

The Block and Bridle club has had a very busy spring semester!

In February, the club sent representatives to the 2017 Northeast Student Affiliate (NESA) competition where the team competed against other Block and Bridle teams in the Northeast in judging, quiz bowl, and paper presentations. The team won first place in the livestock-judging contest and placed fifth overall in the competition.

In March, the Block and Bridle Club cohosted the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual National Block and Bridle convention with ASAS in Arlington, VA. The theme for this year's convention was "Scientific Voice in Agriculture" which involves learning how to speak to the public about agriculture. The keynote speaker was Meghan Wulster-Radcliffe. During the convention, the team went on a nighttime monument tour and toured the University of Maryland's Dairy Farm, Madhouse Oyster Farm, and Outstanding Dreams Alpaca Farm. In addition to tours, students participated in workshops, a BBQ dinner, and dance at Spocott Windmill Farm. UConn was awarded 5<sup>th</sup> place for a scrapbook they submitted to the competition during an awards dinner. UConn students also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the White House, and the Smithsonian during the trip.



*B&B Club at NESA*



*B&B Club at National Convention*

## UConn Dairy Program Featured in Article

The UConn dairy program was featured in an article on the Naturally@UConn blog in March. This comprehensive article discussed every aspect of the dairy program including its history, current research, dairy operations, student involvement in the program, ice cream and cheese production, the academic program and extension outreach efforts.

"The dairy program is a mainstay of Horsebarn Hill, from 4-H and FFA through adulthood, whether it's watching the cows, working in the barns, eating the ice cream, studying here as an undergraduate or graduate student. We have people from 4-H through PhDs who have impacts throughout the country based on their experience here."

Read the entire article [here](#). Learn more about the Department of Animal Science Dairy program [here](#).



## Ice Cream Taste Test

At the beginning of March, the Department of Animal Science conducted a taste test to choose a chocolate “chip” to be used in the mint ice cream.

UConn students were encouraged to participate in the taste testing held in the Student Union Center. Participants tasted three types of chocolate: regular chips, mini-chips and shavings. See a video about the taste test [here](#).

The results are in: chocolate shavings are the winner! The mint ice cream will now have chocolate shavings instead of chips.

Thank you to everyone who participated!



*Dr. Dennis D'Amico  
oversees the ice cream  
taste test*

## Honors Program Scholars Day



The UConn Honors Program hosts an annual program called Scholars Day that recognizes academic excellence among students in the honors program.

Students who earn a 4.0 GPA are awarded a Babbidge Scholar Award and those who earn at least a 3.7 GPA are awarded the New England Scholar Award.

The Department of Animal Science had thirty-one award recipients at the 2017 Scholars Day in March. Nine students were Babbidge Scholars and twenty-two were New England Scholars.

Congratulations to our students on all of your hard work!

Read more about these awards [here](#).

## ANSC Students in Ambassador Blog and Naturally@UConn

Four ANSC students had articles featured on the [CAHNR Ambassador blog](#) this spring and three were featured on the [Naturally@UConn blog](#).

**Chelsea Santa Lucia** wrote an article for the Ambassador blog entitled "In Learning You Will Teach, and In Teaching You Will Learn." In the article, she discussed her experience as an intern at Camp Care, a therapeutic riding facility in Columbia, CT. Read more about Chelsea [here](#).



*Chelsea Santa Lucia*

**Alyssa Condon** wrote an article about her journey to finding her passion with dairy cows while at UConn. Alyssa began her academic career here not knowing what direction to take until she signed up to participate in the Dairy Show during her freshman year. Read more about Alyssa transition to dairy [here](#).



*Alyssa Condon and Buttercup*

**Veronica Pleasant** wrote about her experience as a member of the Women in Math, Science and Engineering (WiMSE) learning community. She found a sense of belonging and community in this group that supports women in the STEM disciplines. Read more from Veronica's experience with a Learning Community [here](#).

**Amanda Michelson** wrote about her experiences traveling during her undergrad years. Amanda has been able to take several trips including travels to Honduras, South Africa, and Nashville, TN. These trips have enriched her undergrad experience and broadened her horizons. She was able to put together a list of tips for students interested in traveling while in school. Read more of Amanda's travel tips [here](#).



*Amanda Michelson*

**Amanda Michelson** was also featured on the Naturally@UConn blog this spring. She discussed her time here as an undergrad and her plans for the future. Amanda was attracted to UConn for the quality of the pre-vet concentration in Animal Science and the animal facilities on campus. While at UConn, Amanda has studied abroad, participated in internships and the CAHNR Ambassador program and is a member of Sigma Alpha. Read more about Amanda's experiences at UConn [here](#).

**Cristian Mortali** was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog as well this spring. Cristian is a two-year student with a strong interest in dairy management. During his two years at UConn, he has worked at the Kellogg Dairy Center and is currently President of the Dairy Club. Cristian plans to use his degree and experience to run his own dairy operation in the future. Read more about Cristian [here](#).

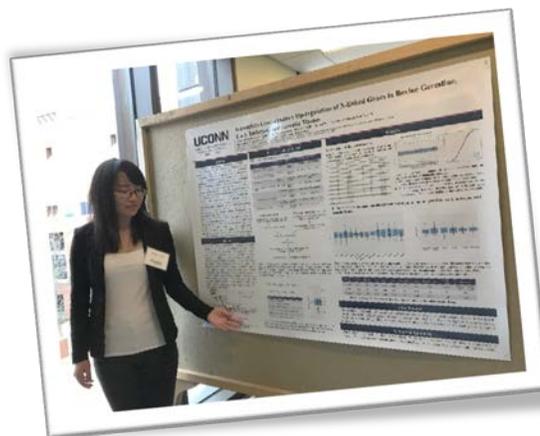


*Cristian Mortali*

**Deanna Puchalski** was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in April. Deanna is an Animal Science major with an interest in pre-vet, serves as a CAHNR Ambassador and an animal science mentor. Deanna volunteers for a couple of equine rescues and works at a veterinary clinic. Learn more about Deanna [here](#).

## CAHNR Graduate Student Research Forum

Every year, the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR) hosts a Graduate Student Research forum where graduate students from CAHNR come together to present their research. The event this year was held on March 25<sup>th</sup> and featured a talk given by Dr. Bradley Wright on "Thriving in Graduate School: Three Problems and Four Solutions." Students from the Department of Animal Science presented their current research posters and gave oral presentations at the event. The forum is a great way for graduate students to network with their peers on campus and practice their presentation skills.



*ANSC grad student Ellie Duan presents her poster at the CAHNR Grad Student Forum*

## Grad Student Attends Research Faculty Program

ANSC PhD student **Meera Nair** (Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan) attended the two day all-expenses paid Building Future Faculty Program at North Carolina State University in March. This event featured a variety of workshops and networking opportunities for current doctoral and post-doctoral students who are interested in pursuing faculty research positions. Meera was able to present her research, tour research facilities and meet with research faculty at the event.

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



*Meera Nair, inset, at the Building Future Faculty Program*

## Graduate Student Receives Travel Scholarship

ANSC PhD student **Stephanie Barnes** (Dr. Dennis D'Amico) was awarded a 2017 International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Student Travel Scholarship. This scholarship provides travel funds to select students in order to attend and participate in the IAFP Annual Meeting. Stephanie is one of twenty students out of 200 applicants who were chosen for the scholarship this year and she will be attending the meeting in Tampa, Florida this July.

Congratulations Stephanie!

Read more about the annual meeting [here](#).

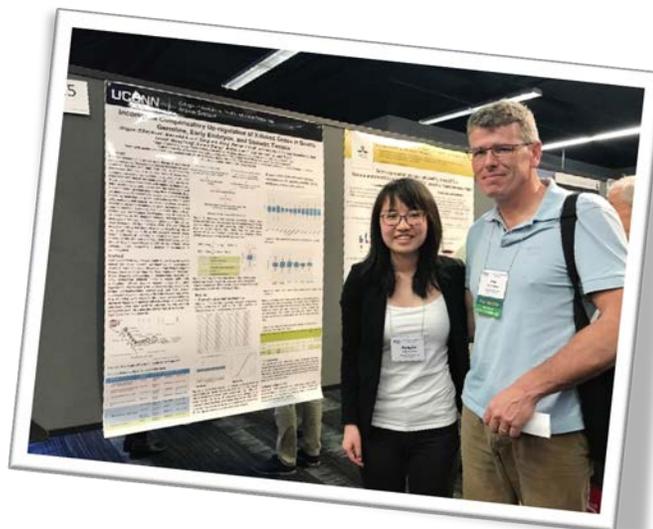


*Stephanie Barnes*

## Graduate Student Wins Poster Competition

In January, ANSC PhD student **Jingyue "Ellie" Duan** (Dr. Cindy Tian) attended the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting of the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS) in Austin, TX. Ellie presented her research poster on "Incomplete Compensatory Up-Regulation of X-Linked Genes in Bovine Germline, Early Embryos, and Somatic Tissues." Out of sixty-seven entries in the poster competition, she was awarded the second place prize.

Congratulations Ellie!



*Ellie Duan at IETS*

## Graduate Students Moving Forward



*Yanyan Liu*

The Department of Animal Science would like to congratulate a number of students for the completion of their graduate degree programs. The following students have completed their degrees in the last few months and moved on to the next step in their careers:

- Yanyan "Catherine" Liu (MS, Dr. Venkitanarayanan)
  - Will attend Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- Hsin Bai-Yin (PhD, Dr. Venkitanarayanan)
  - Accepted Post Doc position at USDA-ARS
- Yuqing He (MS, Dr. Nadeau)
  - Pursuing a PhD at the University of Maryland



*Hsin Bai Yin*



*Yuqing He*

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

## CAHNR Faculty and Grad Awards

The CAHNR Annual Awards and Honors Event was held on March 31<sup>st</sup> in the Rome Ballroom. This event is held annually to recognize faculty, staff, graduate students and alumni for their contributions to UConn, the community, and agriculture.

Dr. Sarah Reed, ANSC Assistant Professor, was awarded the UCAHNRA Excellence in Teaching Award for her efforts "to create a positive classroom where students are challenged to think, question and learn."

Meera Nair, ANSC PhD student, was awarded a Graduate Student Research Award. Meera was one of two students who received this prestigious award for her research on the use of antimicrobials in animal agriculture and food safety.

See photos from the event [here](#) and the full program [here](#).



*Dr. Sarah Reed with  
Dean Faustman*



*Meera Nair accepting  
her award*

## Dr. Milvae to Teach New Course

Dr. Robert Milvae has been awarded a grant through The Provost's General Education Course Enhancement Grant Competition. Dr. Milvae will be teaching a new course with the help of the grant entitled "Human Reproductive Biology and Society." The course will be offered beginning spring 2018.

Read more about this grant program [here](#).



*Dr. Milvae assisting student during a rat surgery in Lab Animal class*



*Dr. D'Amico oversees Allison Valluzzo during a cheese-making lab*

## Dr. D'Amico and UConn Cheese

Dr. Dennis D'Amico's work with cheese at UConn has been referenced in a couple of articles recently.

A survey that Dr. D'Amico conducted in conjunction with the American Cheese Society and Dr. Adam Rabinowitz (formerly with ARE) was discussed in an article on the Wisconsin Public Radio website entitled "Wisconsin's Specialty Cheesemakers May Be Better Off Than Other States." Read the full article [here](#).

The second article, entitled "Slideshow: Bringing the Craft Cheese Industry Into Focus," was featured in Food Business news. The article discusses the survey mentioned in the article above and various types of cheese production. Read the article [here](#).

## Dr. Hoagland Retirement Ice Cream Social

Please join us in celebrating Dr. Tom Hoagland's retirement from the UConn Department of Animal Science at an ice cream social!

**Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

**1:30 PM**

**George White Building Front Lawn  
(Rain location in RH Arena)**

We hope that you can join us for this event honoring Dr. Hoagland's career here at UConn.



## Alumni Updates

**Rachel Holden**, ANSC alumna '16, was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog this spring. Rachel is currently pursuing a master's degree in Agriculture Education at UConn through the Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates. Rachel is currently researching retention rates in agricultural education programs and hopes to teach either animal science or horticulture science in Connecticut upon graduation this May. Read more about Rachel [here](#).



Rachel Holden

**Norman Freyer**, ANSC alumnus '58, made a generous donation of two beautiful chicken paintings that he created to be displayed in the George White Building. They are now on display in the 103 conference room.

"I was a 1958 graduate CAHNR with degree in Agriculture-Poultry Science. Even though I spent most of my career in the Animal Health business focusing on large and small animal, I always kept an interest the field of poultry. Prior to working for pharmaceutical companies and focusing on animal health, I did manage a large broiler grow-out/breeder operation with 14 million broilers, and 250,000 breeders. So, in recent years I completed two paintings of chickens. The first was a painting named "Chicken Little", was based on a photo taken by my nephew that was subsequently exhibited on the Florida Watercolor Society On-Line Show.



"Chicken Little"  
by Norm Freyer

The second was a painting done during a watercolor exercise conducted by The Nature Coast Painters art critique group, and focusing on, of all things, chickens! I painted a Barnevelde rooster that is native to the Netherlands. I chose this subject bird because of the beautiful natural blue colors of the feathers. The painting was named "Proud Harry."

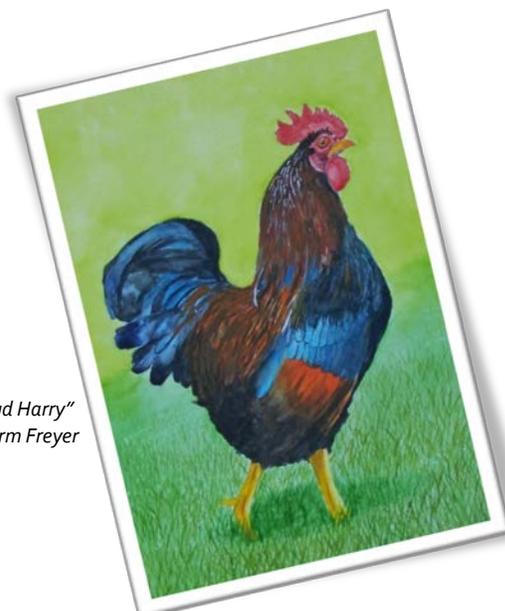
Read more about Norman's paintings on his website [here](#).

**Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan**, ANSC PhD alumnus '12, received the Outstanding Young Animal Scientist award during the 2017 ASAS Southern Section Meeting in February. Read more [here](#).

Dr. Ranjith  
Ramanathan



"Proud Harry"  
by Norm Freyer



## Employees Recognized for Years of Service

Every year, the University of Connecticut honors employees during Employee Appreciation Week for their dedication and commitment to the University for years of continuous service. The following faculty members from Animal Science will be recognized this year.

- **Dr. Jenifer Nadeau**- 15 Years of Dedicated Service
- **John Bennett**- 30 Years of Dedicated Service
- **Dr. Gary Kazmer**- 30 Years of Dedicated Service
- **Dr. Michael Darre**- 35 Years of Dedicated Service

Join us in congratulating these faculty members for their dedication to the field of animal science and the students of the Department of Animal Science and the University of Connecticut!



John Bennett with  
UC Doc Sanchez



Dr. Gary Kazmer



Dr. Michael Darre teaching  
about egg quality



Dr. Jenifer Nadeau  
in class with Fiona

## Compliance Corner

### **Attention: All Potential Student Employees of ANSC Barn Units!**

As part of the pre-employment process, all barn student employees must complete IACUC training and the EHS Training Module. More information can be found at:

<http://animalscience.uconn.edu/compliance/compliancecorner.php>

### **Required training specific to ANSC student barn employees**

- Meet with Barn Manager for approval
- Must attend annual IACUC training (Initial training is in person only)
- Complete all four EHS training modules on line (Husky CT)
  - Hazard Communication
  - Voluntary Use of Respirator
  - Personal Protective Equipment
  - Biological Safety Considerations in Farm Animal Research & Production
- Complete Animal Handler Forms
- Meet with the Compliance Coordinator
  - Employee Safety Orientation
  - Workplace Hazard Assessment
- Meet with Jen Szela (for horse unit) or Tina Burnham (for livestock/dairy units) to process payroll paperwork



Compliance Coordinator Sharon  
Aborn with her horse Trav

# UConn Department of Animal Science April 2017 Student Newsletter



*Olivia Catarino holds a lamb while working on a research project*

## 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 click the black "Donate" button on the right. Under "Additional Instructions About My Donation," indicate desired fund from list below.
2. Donate by mail using the form [here](#). Under the "Designation of Your Gift" section, indicate desired fund from list below.
3. Donate via phone by calling (800) 269-9965 or (860) 486-5000.

Please be sure to indicate which fund you would like to donate to:

- **Animal Science Department Fund**
- **UConn Morgan Horse Breeding Program Fund**
- **Randy Knight Memorial Fund**

For more information, contact Jennifer Simoniello by email at [Jennifer.Simoniello@UConn.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Simoniello@UConn.edu), via phone at (860) 486-1088 or by mail: University of Connecticut, Department of Animal Science, Attn: Jennifer Simoniello, 3636 Horsebarn Hill Road Ext. 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.



*Students watch Myofascial Release in Dr. Nadeau's Class*