

# January 2013 Newsletter

*Vet Schools That Have  
Offered Interviews to Our  
ANSC Seniors for Fall  
2013 Admittance...*

Colorado State  
Cornell  
Iowa State  
Michigan State University  
Ohio State  
Purdue  
Tufts University  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Florida  
University of Pennsylvania

*Internship Opportunity!  
CT Dept. of Ag. – Bureau  
of Regulation & Inspection*

Interested in gaining experience  
in livestock regulation and  
inspection? Work sites will  
vary on different farms  
throughout Connecticut and at  
the office of the CT Department  
of Agriculture located in  
Hartford, CT. The intern may  
focus on one, disease or  
species, or obtain a general  
overview of all diseases and  
species. For more information,  
visit

[www.animalscience.uconn.edu/  
InternshipsAndEmployment/  
internships.php](http://www.animalscience.uconn.edu/InternshipsAndEmployment/internships.php)

# University of Connecticut Department of Animal Science

*Welcome To a New Semester of a New Year!*



Greetings.

Although snow is in the air and the temperatures are below zero, welcome back to campus and the start of the spring semester. As always, spring semester will be busy. We look forward to our annual Horse Auction, the Dairy Show, equestrian and polo team events, the Horse Symposium, the Blue Ribbon Sheep Symposium, numerous club activities, Open House, graduation ceremonies and the end of the semester ANSC barbecue. In addition, we will conduct interviews for two new faculty positions; one in food microbiology and one in dairy foods. We look forward to expanding our faculty with these new hires.

Beginning this semester, we have several additions (and changes) to our class schedule (for more details see the article by Dr. Govoni in this issue of the newsletter). These changes in our curriculum will offer students more options for C classes and W classes. One of these changes

includes the Growth Physiology class. After teaching this class for the past 21 years, Dr. Govoni is taking over the reins. I will assist her this year (and still teach the W), but beginning fall 2014, she will have complete responsibility for the class, including the W. If all goes well, I will be teaching a new comparative endocrinology course (with a W) in spring of 2014. Be on the lookout for all of our new classes and changes in scheduling.

For students graduating this May, make sure that your Plan of Study form is submitted to the degree auditor. It is important that these be turned in during the first two weeks of the semester.

In its annual competition, Connecticut Magazine named UConn Dairy Bar Ice Cream as the best in the state. Bonnie Burr (Assistant Director of Cooperative Extension for CANR) may have put it best "Congrats to Bill S. and his crew for making such high quality ice cream in our Creamery and to Mary Margaret Cole and her crew for making sure the UConn cows make the high quality milk that makes the ice cream - way to go Department of Animal Science!"

Good luck with the semester.

- Dr. Zinn,  
Professor and Department Head

## Spring Programs & Events...

For more info. visit

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

Friday-Saturday, February 1-2:

Western Team Intercollegiate Horse Show  
(All Day @ UConn Horsebarn Hill Arena)

Thursday – Sunday, February 14-17:

Interscholastic Girls Regional Polo Tournament  
(All Day @ UConn Horsebarn Hill Arena)

Saturday, February 23:

- 4-H Hippology & Communication Contests,  
4-H Horse Program
  - 4-H Horse Program Hippology  
& Communication Contests
- 4-H Sheep and Camelid Project Clinic
  - Blue Sheep Ribbon Forum
- Huntseat Equitation Intercollegiate Horse Show

Sunday, February 24:

State 4-H Horse Judging Contest

Saturday-Sunday, March 2-3:

Connecticut Horse Symposium

Wednesday-Sunday, March 6-10:

Interscholastic Girls National Polo Championship  
(All Day @ UConn Horsebarn Hill Arena)

Sunday-Saturday, March 17-23:

Spring Recess

Monday, March 25:

Registration for Fall 2013 Begins!

April 2013: Specific Date, Time, & Locations TBD...

- 36<sup>th</sup> Annual American Youth Horse Council Symposium
  - 104<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Sheep & Wool Festival
    - High School CDEs
  - Intercollegiate Dressage Show
  - Polo National Championships
    - Shearing School
- Southern New England 4-H Poultry Show
  - UConn Dairy Show
  - UConn Horse Auction



## Recent Donations to ANSC...

The Department of Animal Science received three financial donations this fall. We appreciate that donors want to help support our educational, teaching, and research programs and especially our students.

## Give A Gift...

Many donors choose to honor a loved one or friend with a gift to support UConn in his or her name. Perhaps the gift is in memory of someone who loved UConn's animals, from an alum who attended the Department of Animal Science, or in honor of an inspirational professor. Gifts may be made by mail or online. For more information, visit [www.foundation.uconn.edu](http://www.foundation.uconn.edu)

## 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 [www.foundation.uconn.edu](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 information, contact

[Jennifer.Simoniello@uconn.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Simoniello@uconn.edu) via 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.

*ANSC Animal Care Workers  
Featured in Article...*

...Work is never really done for anyone who works with animals. Even during UConn's Winter Break there are chores to be done, including feeding the horses, milking the cows, and collecting eggs from the chickens... Visit [www.today.uconn.edu](http://www.today.uconn.edu) and search "Winter Break on Horsebarn Hill" to read more!



*ANSC Junior, Catherine Maher, says her work 'doesn't feel like a job, it's just another day at the barn.'* (Angie Reyes/UConn Photo)

*ANSC Undergraduate  
Research – Horse Nutrition  
Project*

Jazmyne Crespo, an ANSC Junior working in Dr. Jenifer Nadeau's lab, will be looking at the weights and body condition scores of UConn's horses from the past 2 years (March 2011 – March 2012). She will also analyze the data to see if there is a correlation between body weight and body condition score, and what amount of body weight results in a changed score as well as which parts of the body condition score are affected first when a horse's body weight changes.



*American Angus Assoc. Offers Internships & Scholarships*

Available internships offer students experience in the industry and the chance to gain real-world working knowledge – a must-have in today's competitive market. Scholarship programs, established by the Angus Foundation and Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), reward

undergraduate and graduate students who are passionate about beef and the Angus brand. Deadlines and details for each internship and scholarship are listed at <http://beefmagazine.com/american-angus-association-offers-internships-scholarships>

*UConn Dairy Club's Canada Trip*

On November 8th - 11th, UConn's Dairy Club went to Toronto, Canada to go to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Here they got to watch North America's top cows compete for Grand Champion in each breed as well as the Supreme Champion for the over all best milking cow. The Dairy Club was able to see the preparations each farm took in the barn of the coliseum, which included clipping, doing top lines and washing the cows. On their way home from the Royal, they

stopped at Niagara Falls and went on a farm tour in Up-state New York at Ridgedale Farms. Overall, the Dairy Club had a great trip and can't wait to go again next year!



*Equine Club Photo Fundraiser*



The UConn Equine Club held their Holiday Photo Fundraiser again this past November. Due to Hurricane Sandy's arrival there was a lower turnout than in 2011, but the attendees still had a great time. After 200 photos and about 10 families that visited, the club was able to raise \$100 in funds to help support future Equine Club events. Pictured is Katherine Fiore, ANSC Junior.



*Attention Current  
and Future Barn Employees!*

Do you think you know everything there is to know about working at the UConn barns? We certainly hope so, but here are a few things to remember in keeping safe, up-to-date, and ready for emergencies at our barns.

Workplace Hazard

Assessments(WHA): WHAs are found in the Barn Unit Manuals – they provide information on hazards and required Personal Protective Equipment(PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment

(PPE): Know the location of PPE in your barn unit (e.g. Horse Unit-lockers in men's restroom, Livestock Unit- cabinets in main office, etc.)

First Aid Kits & Eyewash Stations:

Know the location of first aid kits and eye wash stations in your barn units

Material Safety Data Sheets

(MSDS): Provide information on each chemical used at your barn unit. They are located in binders in the main office of each barn unit and are also available online

Q-Fever, Rabies, Ringworm: The main health concerns that can be transmitted from contact with UConn animals

Standard Operating Procedures

(SOP): Contain detailed information on how to complete barn tasks/chores

*- Courtesy of Victor Delaire,  
ANSC Compliance Coordinator*

*Sad Day At UConn Horse Barn –  
UConn Loses UC Ringmaster*

It is with great sadness UConn's Department of Animal Science has to inform the public of the passing on Tuesday, November 20 of UConn's prized morgan stallion, UC Ringmaster. Thirty-four year old UC Ringmaster had become very ill and it was apparent that he was not going to be with us much longer.



UC Ringmaster was a member of the CT Morgan Hall of Fame and probably the most prestigious and best known horse to be born at the University of Connecticut.

The Morgan Stallion UC Ringmaster returned to UConn 17 years ago to spend his retirement days. UC Ringmaster was a product of Dr. Al Cowan's outcross breeding program for the UConn herd, sired by the great Morgan stallion Waseeka's Showtime, and out of the great government-bred Morgan mare UC Lyric. In 1978 when he was born, it was said by many that he was the most beautiful foal to be born on the UConn campus. As time went on, he proved that fact to be true; in 1991 and 1993 he won the World English Pleasure Championship for his then owner, Cheryl Orcutt. In turn, he sired many regional and world champions, bringing accolades and fame to the University of Connecticut and the UConn Morgan program. To cap off a great career as a show horse and stud, in 2010 he was the first and only UConn bred horse to be inducted into the Connecticut Morgan Horse Hall of Fame. He is by far the most prestigious and best known horse to be derived from the University of Connecticut Morgan Breeding Program.

A blog written by UConn alum Helen Scanlon provides even more descriptions of UC Ringmaster and what a wonderful horse he was <http://soundthebuglestudio.blogspot.com/2007/05/uc-ringmaster.html>.

UC Ringmaster will forever be admired and revered by UConn faculty, staff, students, and alumni who were fortunate enough to know him.



## Alumni News

### *Amy Kriwitsky, ANSC '08*



*Amy Kriwitsky, graduated with a Bachelors from ANSC in May of 2008. She is now Hunter Seat Head Coach at Trinity College in Hartford, CT.*

During my time at UConn as an ANSC major, I focused my efforts toward the training and management of horses, taking as many horse related classes as possible, as well as doing independent studies of teaching every semester, and training in my final semester.

Upon graduation in 2008, I refined my skills at a position in New Canaan, CT. I learned about in the Chronicle of the Horse before accepting my current position as Assistant Trainer/ Instructor/ IHSA Coach at Oak Meadow Farm in East Windsor, CT.

In April 2010, I was scouted by the Trinity College Equestrian Team to be their coach, a position that I maintain to this day. Trinity competes against UConn in Zone 2, Region 5, so I still maintain connections to my former team, and also show as an alumnus at the shows. I represented UConn at the National Championships in 2010, 2011, and 2012, and I hope to do so again this year!

### *Dr. Mary Orefice, ANSC '05*

I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of Connecticut in May 2005. While attending the University of Connecticut, I gained valuable experience through coursework, hands on experience working at the University of Connecticut's Livestock Unit, research experience at the Center for Regenerative Biology, and internship opportunities at Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration and Pfizer Global Research and Development.

These experiences were instrumental in my acceptance into Kansas State University, where I earned my doctorate in veterinary medicine in May 2009. As a veterinary student, I served as president of my class and received awards for my leadership experience, potential to contribute to the profession, and proficiency in both small and food animal medicine and surgery.

After graduation, I moved to Borger, Texas, where I began working as a mixed animal practitioner at High Plains Animal Hospital. After practicing in Texas for three years, I moved back to Connecticut to be closer to family. I am currently employed at Torrington Animal Hospital in Torrington, CT, working as a small animal veterinarian.



*Dr. Mary Orefice graduated with a Bachelors from ANSC in May of 2005. She is now working as a small animal veterinarian at Torrington Animal Hospital in Torrington, CT.*

*Want to learn more about Dr. Orefice's experiences? You can reach her at [mary.j.orefice@gmail.com](mailto:mary.j.orefice@gmail.com)*



## *ANSC Curriculum Changes...*

Based on student and faculty comments we have made several changes to our curriculum. In general, these changes will offer more options and flexibility for our students including new C courses and new W courses.

1. Beginning in Spring 2013, ANSC 2111 (Principles of Animal Nutrition) will no longer be offered. It is being replaced with ANSC 1111 (Principles in Animal Nutrition and Feeding) which will be concurrently taught with SAAS 113, offered in the Spring semesters, and taught by Dr. Amy Safran.
2. ANSC 3313/5613 (Growth Physiology and Metabolism of Domestic Animals) will be offered this Spring 2013 and again in Fall 2013. It will then continue to be offered in the Fall semesters and taught by Dr. Kristen Govoni.
3. New Courses
  - a. ANSC 4342W (Writing in Food Microbiology and Safety) is being offered beginning in Spring 2013.
  - b. ANSC 3311 (Comparative Exercise Physiology) and ANSC 3312W (Scientific Writing in Comparative Exercise Physiology) will be offered beginning Spring 2014.
4. New Requirements for students matriculating Fall 2013 and after (current students are not required to take these):
  - a. BIOL 1108
  - b. Organic Chemistry with laboratory (CHEM 2441, 2442 or CHEM 2443, 2444, 2445)
  - c. One of the following: MCB 2000 (Biochemistry), MCB 2610 (Microbiology) or ANSC 4341 (Food Microbiology and Safety; taught by Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan)
  - d. Require 1 Group B, 1 Group C and 1 more Group B or C
5. Changes in progress:
  - a. ANSC 5612 (Advanced Ruminant Nutrition) will become a 3 credit course, available for undergraduates, titled "Advanced Nutrition" and co-taught by Drs. Sheila Andrew and Amy Safran. Planned start date: Fall 2013.
  - b. ANSC 3324W (Writing in Animal Embryology and Biotechnology) is being created. Planned start date: Fall 2013 and taught by Dr. Xiuchun (Cindy) Tian.
  - c. Creation of an additional Group C course (Comparative Endocrinology) with a W component. Planned start date: Spring 2014 and taught by Dr. Steven Zinn.



## *Dr. Sheila Andrew's Dairy Travel Course...*

Students enrolled in Dr. Sheila Andrew's ANSC 2690/ SAAS 290 *Animal Science Field Excursions: New England Regional Dairy Travel Course*, just returned from a 5 day visit to Gainesville, FL during Winter Break. From January 6<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, UConn Animal Science students met up with more Animal Science students from other universities (e.g. UMass Amherst and URI) and together toured more than five dairy farms that ranged from 150 to 5,000 heads of cattle! Among the dairy farms visited was "North Florida Holsteins", Florida's largest dairy operation. In addition to touring the farms, students took a backstage tour of Disney's Animal Kingdom and witness how animals are housed and taken care of (e.g. receive medications, pregnancy tests, have pens maintained). Students said it was an experience of a lifetime! *Above is a photo of all participants.*