



# UConn Department of Animal Science Spring 2015 Newsletter

2014-2015 UConn Dairy Club poses with their advisor, Mary Margaret Cole, Exec. Director of Livestock Units.

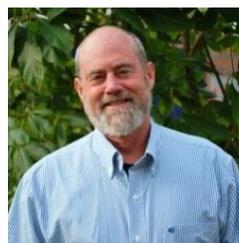
## A Message from the Department Head

Greetings.

Welcome back to campus and the start of the spring semester. As you head up or down the stairs in George White you should begin to notice that they look different. Crews are very busy renovating the stairwells in George White. In addition, crews have been working through the winter to refurbish the entranceway to the Horsebarn Hill Arena. Depending on the weather, the new entranceway should be finished in March/April.

As always, the spring semester will be busy. We look forward to our annual Horse Auction, the Dairy Show, equestrian team events, the Horse

Symposium, numerous club activities, Open House, graduation ceremonies and the end of the semester barbeque. This year, we will host the Regional Polo Finals in March and the National Intercollegiate Polo Championship in April. Many thanks to the students who participate in each of these events and I look forward to seeing you at these activities.



*(more on page 2)*

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

For students graduating this May, make sure that your Plan of Study is submitted to the degree auditor. It is important that these be submitted in the first two weeks of the semester. Please make an appointment with your advisor to complete these forms and make sure that they get signed by the Department Head and turned in to the registrar.

Congratulations to **Leanne Jankelunas** and **Alexandra (Ali) Rudolph** for being named University Scholars, UConn's highest academic honor. In addition, congratulations to all of our December graduates and congratulations to the UConn Field Hockey team for repeating as National Champions in 2014. Two members of the team, **Megan Palmisano** and **Darby Smith**, are Animal Science students! Let's also congratulate Dr. Michael Darre for being named the recipient of the 2014 Provost's Award for Excellence in Community Engaged Scholarship.

We have just completed a search for a staff member and I am happy to announce that Michelle Grant, a UConn Animal Science alumnae, is joining the staff in the Main Office. Please join me in welcoming Michelle to the Department.

Good luck with the semester.

*New ANSC Program Assistant  
Michelle Grant with UC Mastermind*



## ANSC Pre-Vet Students Featured in Naturally@UConn

ANSC Undergraduates, **Elizabeth Petrosus** and **Emma Lavigne**, were both recently featured on the Naturally@UConn website. While both students have unique experiences as Animal Science majors, both are seniors on the pre-veterinary/pre-grad track. Both students talk about their time at UConn and what drew them to the school and the major.

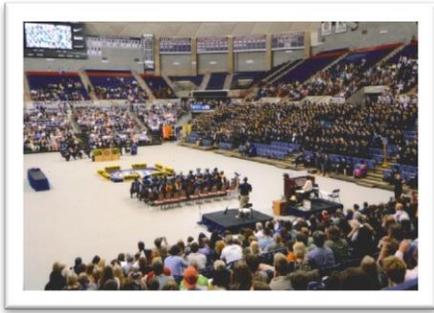
Elizabeth initially started out as a pre-med student, and shortly into her freshman year she realized working with animals was what she really wanted to do. Over the course of her undergraduate career, she has worked to gain more animal experience. She is a member of UConn's Herpetological Society and she participated in a Vetward Bound program. To read more about Elizabeth's time at UConn and her experiences as an animal science major, read the full article [here](#).

Emma started out as a pre-vet student in biology but switched to animal science before the start of her freshman year. As an animal science student, she has gained experience in the research lab as well as by spending her time down at the barn. She was fortunate enough to be able to work on a research project studying cytokines and growth factors with ANSC professor Dr. Sarah Reed. In her free time, Emma is vice president of the UConn Drill team and a member of InterVarsity Christian fellowship. Her full interview can be found [here](#).



*Emma Lavigne, pictured above, is a member of the UConn Morgan Drill Team*

STUDENT DEADLINES



Plan of Study- Due Now

Seniors who plan to graduate in May or August 2015 need to submit their forms within first two weeks of classes.



All ANSC Students Should Apply!

The CAHNR Scholarship application is now available online. All ANSC students should apply by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Students complete one form and the College Scholarship Committee will determine who is eligible to receive any of the many scholarships available.

Last year, the College awarded \$141,600 in scholarships to Animal Science students.

LINKS TO FORMS

For Plan of Study Form click [here](#)

For information and applicable forms for CAHNR Scholarships click [here](#).



Members of the UConn Morgan Drill Team pose for a photo after their demonstration at the Little "I" Show

## 2014 Little "I" Livestock Show

The Department of Animal Science and the UConn Block and Bridle Club (B&B) hosted the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Little International Horse and Livestock Show (Little "I") on Saturday, November 1, 2014. The show was a success due in part to the exceptional organizational skills of the B&B officers and members and a very large turnout of family members. Dr. Mike Darre and John Bennett were the MCs. **Tashua Sotil** was the Premier Experienced Division Champion and **David Kuhn** was the Novice Champion.

For anyone who is not familiar with the Little "I" Show, it's when ANSC students have the opportunity to handle and show animals. As part of the experiential learning process, this is often the first of many opportunities for ANSC students to gain hands-on experience with livestock as part of their Introduction to Animal Science class. In preparation for the show, students spend approximately two months training their animal. Meeting with their animal several times a week is essential for the student to grow accustomed to handling and developing confidence in working with livestock. This one-on-one experience with livestock species is critical if the students are Animal Science majors and/or minors are to effectively involve themselves with the care and handling of animals.

The next Little "I" Show is scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 2015 and we hope you will join us.



ANSC Senior **Matt McIntosh** with his pig and blue ribbon.

## Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine

This past fall, the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources finalized an agreement with the University of Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine. This agreement allows students to apply to the UK veterinary school early and if accepted, they will be able to spend their senior year (which will also double as their first year of vet school) at Glasgow. Animal Science Department Head, Dr. Steven Zinn, and Pathobiology's Dr. Sandra Bushmich worked with the UK vet school and staff in the Office of Global Affairs to secure this opportunity for UConn pre-vet students. More details about the program and what it entails can be found [here](#).



## ANSC Faculty News

- **Dr. Michael Darre** recently received the 2014 Provost's Award for Excellence in Community Engaged Scholarship in the Tenure Track Faculty category. He was honored at an award ceremony hosted by Provost Mun Y. Choi and Director of Engagement E. Carol Polifroni in UConn's Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts. More information about the award ceremony can be found [here](#).
- **Dr. Cindy Tian** and **Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan** received a prestigious four year membership to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). They were nominated for the membership that will be funded by the UConn Office of the Provost. At the end of the four years, both Dr. Tian and Dr. Venkitanarayanan will also be eligible to be nominated as AAAS Fellows by the University of Connecticut.



*Dr. Darre accepts the Provost's Award for Excellence in Community Engaged Scholarship*



*Dr. Venkitanarayanan (left) and Dr. Tian (right) were nominated for a membership to AAAS*

## Students Recognized

-Two ANSC students, **Leanne Jankelunas** and **Alexandra Rudolph**, were selected as 2015 University Scholars. Leanne, an ANSC and Pathobiology major, was selected for her project "Investigating the Efficacy of Plant-derived Antimicrobials in Increasing the Sensitivity of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and Vancomycin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA) to Antibiotics." Alexandra, an ANSC and MCB major, was selected for her project "Effects of Bovine Granulocyte-Macrophage Colony Stimulating Factor on Milk Neutrophil Apoptosis." The University Scholar Program allows undergraduate students to explore special projects under the guidance of a faculty advisory committee. Graduating as a University Scholar is considered the highest academic achievement the university bestows on undergraduate students. No more than 30 University Scholars are selected each year. More about the University Scholars program can be found [here](#).

-**Emma LaVigne** and **Brenna Daily**, two ANSC undergraduates, recently received honorable mention for their individual papers in the undergraduate scientific writing category for the Aetna Writing Prize. Both were nominated for papers written in Dr. Steven Zinn's Endocrinology course (ANSC 3317W). More about the Aetna Writing Prize can be found [here](#).



*Leanne Jankelunas was selected as a 2015 University Scholar*



*Emma Lavigne, left, and Brenna Daly, right, received honorable mention for their individual essays.*



*Alexandra (Ali) Rudolph was selected as a 2015 University Scholar*

## UConn Alumnus Shares His Experiences in Vet School

Upon graduating UConn's Animal Science program in 2012, **Justin Simone** enrolled in St. Matthew's School of Veterinary Medicine. Justin has received a lot of hands-on experience while on the island and highly recommends the program. Nearing the end of his time at the Cayman Island vet school, Justin talks about the last two years he spent on the island and the experiences he has had as a DVM student.

Read Justin's full story [here](#).

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

If you have been invited to interview, already interviewed, or you have been accepted into a Veterinary Program, please email Jennifer Simoniello at [Jennifer.simoniello@uconn.edu](mailto:Jennifer.simoniello@uconn.edu) with your news!



*Justin Simone, BS 12'*

## ANSC Generations: The Davenports

Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Karen Davenport (ANSC BS '82 and ANSC MS '84 with a teaching certificate, respectively) met in Dr. Michael Darre's first poultry class. Karen now teaches Agricultural Education at the local high school and Jim, along with two of his brothers, runs their successful dairy farm in upstate NY. Karen tells the story of the day she met Jim:

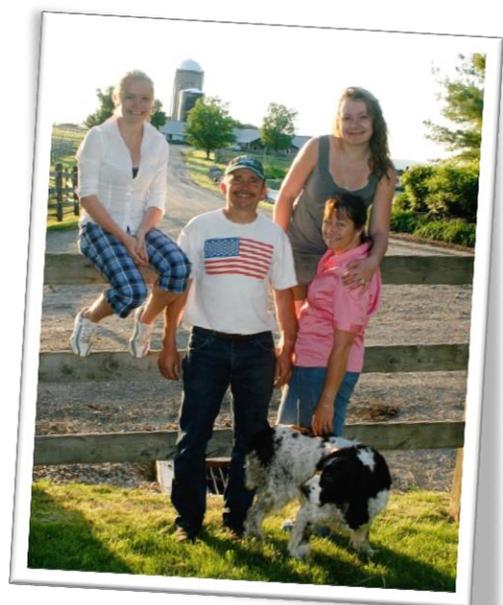
"I was in Dr. Darre's first ever poultry class. We met in George White where the temperature hovered over 90 degrees, day and night and all year long. We had taken our first exam and Dr. Darre laid the tests out on the front table for us to pick up AND for all the world to see. Apparently my four years as a vocational agriculture student at Ledyard High School and my poultry supervised agricultural experience program taught me a few things about chickens as well as Mike's instruction because I earned a 100 on the exam.

Jim saw my grade and said in a very loud and clear voice, "the people who get hundreds ruin the curve for the rest of us" apparently he saw this as an ice breaker to get to know me. HA!

He broke the ice all right, and I left the room frozen because I was so embarrassed. I actually missed the rest of the class. The only class in college I ever "skipped".

To this day, Dr. Darre takes credit for a very happy 30-year marriage and two more Davenport girls, Kristen, 24 and Laura 23."

Jim and Karen both come from families consisting of many UConn graduates and were involved in both the Dairy Club and Block and Bridle while attending UConn. The guidance they received from their ANSC professors, such as Dr. John Reisen, helped them in pursuing successful agricultural careers after their graduation. The Davenports are heavily invested in the future of agriculture and can attribute much of their success to the guidance of our Animal Science Program. Read more about their family and UConn experience [here](#).



*Jim and Karen Davenport with their daughters on their family dairy farm in NY*



*Karen Davenport with some of her agricultural high school students*

## Equine Program News

Mr. John Bennett, Horse Unit Manager, and **Valerie Mazrek**, ANSC Senior, exhibited UC Valentino and UC Mastermind, full brothers born and raised at UConn, in the Morgan Horse Breed Demonstration at the Equine Affair in November. Mr. Bennett was accompanied by Dr. Steven Zinn during the demonstration. The pair was a great representation of the top notch breeding and training program the Department of Animal Science has developed.



*Mr. John Bennett drives UC Mastermind and UC Valentino with Dr. Steven Zinn and groom, Valerie Mazrek at the 2014 Equine Affair in November.*

## Poultry Club Attends Expo

This past January, ten members of the UConn Poultry Science Club attended the 2015 International Production & Processing Expo at the Georgia World Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Darre, ANSC Professor accompanied the following ANSC and other CAHNR students: **Lexi Gallina, Julie Notestine, Allison Schauer, Clarissa Spadanuta, Farzana Zubair, Katie Speer, Michelle Marshall, Matt Rosengrant, Ashlie Johnson & Crystal Caouette**. Dr. Indu Upadhyaya, a recent graduate from the ANSC PhD program and a current post-doc in ANSC, attended the expo and worked at the National Poultry Science Association booth in the capacity as a Student Director.

The students explored the expo, talked to company representatives and participated in interviews with a variety of companies such as Tyson, Perdue, Aviagen, and Cal-Maine for both summer internships and full-time jobs. The trip was funded by the UConn Poultry Club and the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association, Inc.



## Sigma Alpha Activities



*Dr. Hoagland with attendees of the Sigma Alpha Emerald Ball*

The Sigma Alpha sorority hosted their annual Emerald Ball at Lakeview Restaurant in Coventry, CT. The theme of the ball was "Belles and Beaus" and both sorority members and their guests enjoyed a great meal and a night of socializing and dancing.



*Members of the Sigma Alpha sorority pose during their annual Emerald Ball*



*Members of Sigma Alpha give a demonstration to Boy Scout Troup 2*

Last fall, the Sigma Alpha sisters presented four topics concerning agriculture and nutrition to Boy Scout Troup 2 at Tolland Middle School. They created some interactive games that taught the boys about the steps involved in milking a dairy cow, sources of calcium and why it's necessary in the diet of young people, growing vegetables used in making chili, and the sugar content of popular snacks and drinks. The event was fun for all involved!

## ANSC Students Compete at NE Regional Dairy Challenge

This past November, **Victoria Vendetta**, ANSC Junior, and **Jose Eduardo Carvajal**, ANSC Senior, and Dr. Sheila Andrew, ANSC Professor, attended the Dairy Challenge Trip in Harrisburg, PA. The ANSC students competed on aggregate teams of four to five students from universities across the Northeast and Canada. Each team was assigned one of three dairy farms and asked to review the farm's records and visit the farm to fully analyze it. The teams then presented their evaluation of each farm's nutrition, facilities, herd health and finances. Eduardo's team took first place for their presentation. After the competition, the students toured Brubaker Farms which consists of over 1,000 acres of crops, 935 dairy cows and 800 replacements heifer, and 250,000 broiler chickens. Victoria and Eduardo also participated in a number of hands-on seminars while at the farm.



*Jose Eduardo Carvajal (top left) and his Dairy Challenge Team took 1<sup>st</sup> place!*



*Victoria Vendetta (bottom left) and her Dairy Challenge Team*



## Weathering Winter Blizzard “Juno”



*Ellen Valley stays bundled up to keep warm at the barn*

This January, winter blizzard “Juno” may have kept most people safe and sound at home, but several dedicated UConn Animal Science students and staff braved the elements to make sure the animals on campus were well cared for. Among those students were **Katelyn McFadden** and **Ellen Valley** who cared for the sheep by shoveling out and bedding down pens, feeding them twice during the day and keeping water buckets full and unfrozen. Special thanks goes out to all those who stayed on campus to make sure all of the animals were safe and sound. We are sure the animals appreciated their dedication!



*Katelyn McFadden gives the thumbs up while taking care of the sheep during the storm*



## ANSC Compliance Corner

### Safety Program Audit

The Environmental Health and Safety office is currently undergoing an audit of its safety program on campus and it will likely conclude on February 13<sup>th</sup> depending on weather conditions. All work spaces including barns, offices, laboratories and classrooms can be inspected during this time. Please stay vigilant on the use of proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other safety concerns within your work or research space. Contact your manager or the Compliance Coordinator for any additional concerns.

*Victor Delaire*

Compliance Coordinator

Victor.delaire@uconn.edu

860.486.2427



### Classroom Training Sessions

Whetten Graduate Center Rm 200, 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm

- Wednesday, February 4, 2015
- Wednesday, March 4, 2015
- Wednesday, April 1, 2015
- Wednesday, May 6, 2015
- Wednesday, June 3, 2015
- Wednesday, July 1, 2015
- Wednesday, August 5, 2015

Online training portion available [here](#).

# UConn Department of Animal Science Spring 2015 Newsletter

## 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 alumnus 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.

\_\_\_\_\_/ 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.

