



*A class-winning sheep at the 2016 Little "I" Livestock Show.*

# UConn Department of Animal Science January 2017 Student Newsletter

## A Message from the Department Head

Greetings.

Welcome back to campus and the start of the spring semester. First of all, congratulations to all of our December graduates. As we head into spring, there are several changes in the College and the Department. Mrs. Kathy Pelletier, long-time assistant manager at the Horse Barn, retired at the end of November. Join me in wishing Kathy well in her next adventures. She will be missed at the barn; however, she will continue to coach the UConn Morgan Drill Team. In addition, Animal Science Professor and former Associate Dean for Academic Programs, Dr. Cameron Faustman, was named Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural

Resources. Dr. Faustman replaces Dean Weidemann, who is retiring this year. We wish them both good luck with their new roles in the college. The department is currently searching to fill a new faculty position in genomics and hopefully we will begin the search for a new assistant barn manager at the horse units soon.

We continue to work with Facilities and the Provost's office to remodel, upgrade, and repair George White and each of the animal units. The changes are very apparent at the Horsebarn Hill Arena. (More on page 2)



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

With the help of Facilities and Caroline Kyle (UConn '74) and IKG Equestrian, we were able to replace the new footing in the arena. Facilities was also able to install new LED lights and hopefully by the end of January installation of heaters above the stands in the arena will be complete!

Congratulations to Mary Margaret Cole, Executive Program Director, and the KDC staff for doing an outstanding job with our dairy herd again this year. The herd was awarded the 2nd place Agri-Mark Top Quality Producer Award for region 1 for the 2015-2016 year! This region includes 1,300 herds in New England and Eastern New York. This high quality milk is one of the reasons that makes UConn ice cream the best in the state.

As always, spring semester will be busy. We look forward to the Dairy Show, equestrian team events, the Horse Symposium, numerous club activities, Open House, graduation ceremonies and the end of the semester barbecue. Many thanks to the students that participate in each of these events and I look forward to seeing you at these activities.

For students graduating this May, make sure that you submit your Plan of Study to the degree auditor. It is important that you turn these in within the first two weeks of the semester. These can now be submitted online through Student Admin. Check with your advisor to make sure you that you are on track for graduation.

Good luck with the semester.

### **Dr. Steven Zinn**

Professor and Head

Department of Animal Science

## New Coach for Polo Teams

The UConn Department of Animal Science is pleased to welcome Emily Galloway as the new coach of the UConn Polo Teams. Emily brings with her a strong background in polo, having owned horses and ridden polo her entire life. She comes from a family of polo players and learned to play polo from Hal Vita Sr. who initiated the UConn Polo Team in 1969. She also played polo for the Shallowbrook Interscholastic team for five years.

Emily is a first grade teacher with a Bachelors in Elementary Education from Keene State College. While at Keene, she played on the lacrosse team. She also has three years of experience coaching lacrosse.

We're looking forward to a great season for UConn polo under her leadership!



*The 2016-2017 UConn Polo Teams  
with Coach Galloway*

STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



### Add or Drop Classes

The last day to add or drop a class without a W component is Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Plan of Study

If you are graduating in May, your Plan of Study form should be submitted through student admin during the first two weeks of the spring semester.



### Scholarship Deadline- Feb 19<sup>th</sup>

The deadline to apply for college-wide scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year in CAHNR is February 19, 2017. The application for scholarships can be found [here](#).

#### LINKS TO FORMS

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

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

## UConn Dairy Wins Awards

The University of Connecticut dairy herd has qualified for the 2016 Progressive Breeders Registry Award! This award is given to registered Holstein herds that have achieved high standards for production and type.

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> time that our dairy herd has been chosen to receive this award!

Our herd was also awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> place Agri-Mark Top Quality Producer Award for region 1 for the 2015-2016 year. This region includes 1,300 herds in New England and Eastern New York

Congratulations to Mary Margaret Cole and the KDC staff and students involved in the dairy operation here on campus!



Mary Margaret Cole with the Agri-Mark Award



UConn's 2016 Progressive Breeders Registry Award

### 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 Michelle Lewis at [Michelle.B.Lewis@uconn.edu](mailto:Michelle.B.Lewis@uconn.edu) with your news!

## New UConn Clubs

UConn has two new clubs that our Animal Science students may be interested in!

The Paws and Claws Club's mission is to promote the welfare of animals. This club plans to hold a number of events throughout the semester to increase awareness of animal related issues and assist local animal adoptions. Their official beneficiary is Big Fluffy Dog Rescue. Learn more about the club [here](#).

Aqua-Life Club was created to increase interest and knowledge about keeping fish as a hobby. The club plans to fundraise to set up fish tanks across campus. Click [here](#) to read an article written by the club president **Danny Munch** about the club and how to keep a betta fish on campus. Read more about the club [here](#).

To learn more about animal related clubs at UConn, click [here](#).



*Aqua-Life  
Club Logo*



*Paws and Claws  
Club Logo*

## UConn Undergraduates Chosen for Dairy Scholarships

Three animal science students were chosen to receive Anthony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus Arethusa Farm Scholarships. Three \$4,000 scholarships are awarded to full-time animal science students with a demonstrated interest in dairy science, dairy food processing, or dairy production.

Congratulations to **Megan Hebert, Erin Norris and Katelyn Williams** on being chosen for this year's scholarships!



*Anthony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus*

## ANSC Undergrads Featured in CAHNR



*Megan Hebert and dairy cow*

ANSC undergraduate **Megan Hebert** was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in December. Megan is a two-year student and two time Arethusa Farm Scholarship recipient. She actively participates in the Dairy Club and plans to run her family farm in Woodstock, CT after graduating from the four-year program.

To read more about Megan and her experiences at UConn, please click [here](#).

ANSC junior **Kelly Chuquihuanca** wrote a blog post for the CAHNR College Ambassador program in late October. Kelly began as a two-year student in ANSC and is now continuing to obtain her bachelor's degree. She is making the most of her time here by working with a variety of species including horses, chickens and cows. Read her blog post [here](#).



*Kelly Chuquihuanca at Little "I"*

## ANSC Undergrads Accepts ASAS Internship

ANSC junior **Alyssa Condon** has been selected for an ASAS Internship for the summer of 2017. The internship will be in Washington D.C. and she will work in one of three areas: an agricultural focused congressional committee, for a congressman associated with agriculture, or with an alliance organization. The goal of the internship is to gain experience in agricultural and environmental policy.

Alyssa tells us:

"I'm interested in agricultural policy because I want to help bridge the gap between policy makers and the people they affect. I think people with experience working in agriculture should play more of a role in the policy that affects them. I also really want to help with public education about animal agriculture because I know there's a negative stigma around it, and I know from first-hand experience that those stereotypes are almost always false."



*Alyssa Condon with Diamond*

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

## ANSC Graduate Students Moving Forward

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:

- Sarah Kozak (MS, Dr. D'Amico)
  - Is a research associate in NY
- Sambhu Pillai (PhD, Dr. Govoni)
  - A post-doctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School
- Varunkumar Bhattaram (PhD, Dr. Venkitanarayanan)
  - Works for Burger King as a Sr. Analyst for Distribution and Programs
- Amanda Jones (MS, Dr. Reed)
  - Is pursuing her PhD degree with Dr. Reed



Sarah Kozak

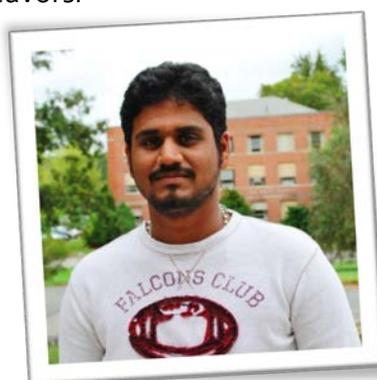


Sambhu Pillai

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!



Amanda Jones



Varunkumar  
Bhattaram

## ASGSA Hosts Multicultural Dinner

The Animal Science Graduate Student Association (ASGSA) hosted their annual Multicultural Potluck Dinner in November. ASGSA encourages graduate students from all of campus to attend. The event featured a potluck meal with a variety of international foods as well as a hot pepper eating contest and a contest for the best dressed in cultural attire and best dish.



The food table (L) and participants in the hot pepper eating contest (R)



## ANSC Grad Student Accepts Eastern States Expo Scholarship

ANSC graduate student **Sarah Kozak** and Block and Bridle Club President **Emily LaFlamme** accepted the CT Trustees of the Eastern States Exposition scholarship for graduate and undergraduates respectively at the end of October. The ceremony was held at Saint Clements Castle in Portland, CT.

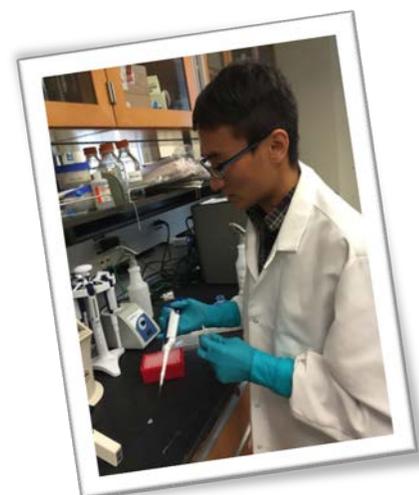
Congratulations to Emily and Sarah on this recognition of their hard work and commitment to agriculture in the Northeast!



*Sarah Kozak accepts her Big E Scholarship*

## ANSC Graduate Student and Professor Featured on Naturally@UConn

ANSC graduate student **Linkai Zhu**, a PhD student in **Dr. Cindy Tian's** lab, was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog at the end of August. "Link" studied here at UConn for his BS degree through the [3+2 program](#). As a PhD student, Link is now researching genetically modifying livestock. His research aims to target hunger and poverty most prevalent in rural areas. Link also enjoys the outdoors. Read more about his experience as a graduate student [here](#).



*Linkai Zhu*

**Dr. Sarah Reed**, Assistant ANSC Professor, was also featured on Naturally@UConn in November. The article highlighted her work with muscle growth and development in animals, specifically horses and sheep. Dr. Reed uses muscle biopsies and ultrasound to see how cytokines and satellite cells interact in both young and old animals over time.

Dr. Reed is also working with Dr. Steven Zinn and Dr. Kristen Govoni to determine how maternal nutrition affects muscle growth in unborn sheep during gestation which can in turn be used to determine fetal development of metabolic diseases. Both of these areas of research are relatable to common human problems with aging and fetal nutrition as it relates to future health. Read more about Dr. Reed and her research [here](#).



*Sarah Reed and UC Domination*

## Dr. Zinn Wins Teaching Award

Dr. Steven Zinn was awarded the Faculty Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award by the UConn Alumni Association in October. This prestigious award is bestowed upon one faculty member per year at the graduate level and undergraduate level.

"These awards recognize individuals who rise above good instruction, engage students thoroughly in the process of learning, and have contributed significantly to the intellectual life of the University through their teaching."

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



*Dr. Zinn with Susan Bird, Dr. Catherine North and Jake Zinn*

## Dr. D'Amico- A UConn Cheese Ambassador



*Dr. Dennis D'Amico*

Dr. Dennis D'Amico was featured in a video entitled "Making a Better Cheese: Arethusa Farm, UConn, and USDA" produced by the USDA Rural Development department. This video covered the topic of food safety specifically in dairy food production. Dr. D'Amico discussed the quality control program he has developed to help local dairies keep their products safe.

See the video [here](#).

Dr. D'Amico was also featured in an article in the *Willimantic Chronicle* entitled "A Cheesy Award for UConn Assistant Prof." The article discusses cheese and ice cream production at the University of Connecticut and the recent wins at local and national cheese competitions for our various cheeses.

Read the article [here](#).

## Dairy Club Goes to Toronto

Nine members of the UConn Dairy Club traveled with Executive Program Director Mary Margaret Cole to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Ontario in November. While on the trip, the club was able to visit a number of dairy facilities including Bosdale Farm, Semex Global headquarters, Oakfield Corners Dairy as well as a robotic dairy facility in NY. The club was also able to visit Niagara Falls while on their trip.

Learn more about the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair [here](#).



*The Dairy Club at the Royal Ag Fair*

## Dairy Travel Course

Ten UConn students participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Regional Dairy Program Travel Course in January. This group joined students from the University of Maine and the University of New Hampshire for a five-day trip to visit a variety of dairy farms and agri-businesses in the state of Pennsylvania. Students first toured the UConn Dairy facilities before heading to PA to tour Mason Dixon Farm, Gary Rogers Farm, Penn England Farm, Kulp Farm, Valewood Farm, Gorrell Dairy, Slaymaker Dairy, and Pennsylvania State University Dairy as well as the Cargill feed plant. Visiting these facilities gave the students the opportunity to experience a wide variety of different types of dairy operations. While on the trip, the students were also able to visit the Gettysburg Battlefield.



*Dairy Travel Course participants from UConn pose in front of the Robert E. Lee monument at the Gettysburg Battlefield*

## UConn Goes to Cuba

Dr. Steven Zinn along with Dr. Hedley Freake, Dr. Guillermo Risatti and Dr. Ana Legrand from UConn traveled to Cuba in January for an event at the Institute of Animal Science. During the three-day event, US and Cuban researchers discussed the future of sustainable global agriculture and animal science and how partnerships between the countries can benefit research in both nations.

Our representatives from CAHNR were able to present information on our programs and research to the organizations at the event including the National Center for Agricultural Health, the National Institute for Agricultural Sciences and the Agrarian University of Havana.

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



*The world's highest producing cow preserved in the lobby at CENSA*

## Nathan Hale Donation

Dr. Nathan Hale, who graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1946, was a professor in the Department of Animal Science from 1954 to 1985. Dr. Hale was heavily involved in department teaching and research as well as coaching the livestock, meats and horse teams.

The Department of Animal Science would like extend a sincere thank you to Dr. Hale for his continued support and donations to our program. It's donors like Dr. Hale who help us continue to provide top-notch educational opportunities to all of our students.

Read more about Dr. Nathan Hale in an article from the 1985 Block and Bridle Review [here](#).



*Dr. Nathan Hale*

## 2016 Little "I" Livestock Show



*Emily LaFlamme (L) and Maria Sorensen  
(R) Premier Champion and Reserve  
Premier Champion*

Almost 150 undergraduate students participated in the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Little International Livestock Show on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Students in Dr. Darre's Intro to Animal Science class spent several months in the fall preparing their animals for the show. Students showed their sheep, chicken, dairy cow, beef cow, horse or pig in showmanship classes against their peers. The Premier Showmanship Champion at the end of the day was **Emily LaFlamme** and the Reserve Premier Showmanship Champion was **Maria Sorensen**. The drill team also gave a demonstration at the event.

See photos from the event [here](#). Read an article in the Courant about the event [here](#).

Many thanks to everyone who worked hard to make the day a success!



*Sheep and Beef Classes  
running side by side*

## Drill Team Performs and Makes Movies

The UConn Morgan Drill Team was invited to perform a demonstration at this year's Eastern States Exposition (Big E) in October. Eight horses and riders performed a drill set to music for the crowd.

See a video of their performance at the Big E [here](#).

The Morgan Drill Team also recently produced a video on their history which can be seen [here](#) and a holiday performance video you can see [here](#).



*The UConn Morgan  
Drill Team at Big E*

## UConn Morgans at Equine Affaire

Horse Unit Manager John Bennett attended the 2016 Equine Affaire in West Springfield, MA in November with a pair of Morgans from UConn. UC Romeo and Stillwell Suma have been driving as a pair this year and showed off their skills in the Morgan breed demonstration on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> in the Coliseum. The demonstration showcased a number of Morgan horses in many disciplines. UConn is proud to be invited to represent the Morgan breed each year at Equine Affaire. Department Head Dr. Steven Zinn also joined John Bennett for the demonstration.

See a video [here](#).



*John Bennett and Dr. Zinn  
at Equine Affaire*

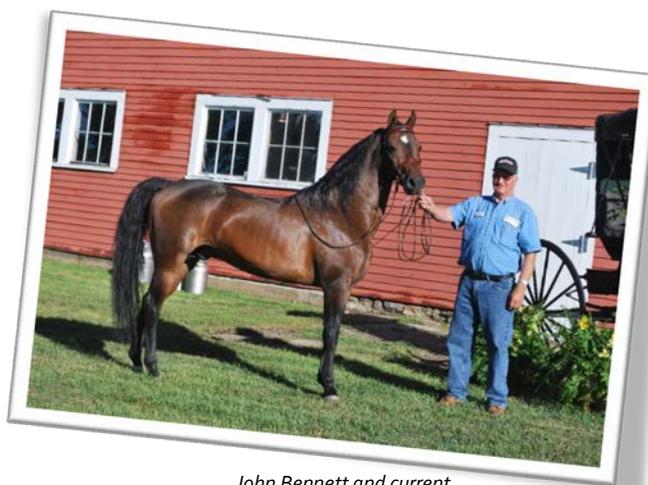
## UConn Morgans Featured on Animal Science Website

The Department of Animal Science is pleased to announce the completion of a web page highlighting the history of the UConn Morgans.

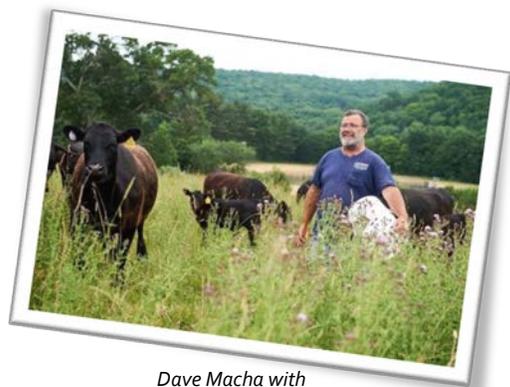
The page features an informational video, genealogy lists, articles, videos and photos.

If you have information or photos of UConn Morgans, please send them to [Michelle Lewis](#). We would love to know what your UConn Morgan is doing now!

Visit the page [here](#).



*John Bennett and current  
herd sire UC Doc Sanchez*



*Dave Macha with  
UConn beef cows*

## ANSC Alumni

ANSC alum **Laurie Macha '87** along with her husband **Dave Macha** and their son Jared '18 (CLAS) were featured in an article in UConn Magazine last semester. Laurie is now the curator of marine mammals and birds at Mystic Aquarium and Dave works in the livestock units on campus. Laurie came to visit campus to talk to students about careers possibilities after UConn. Read more and see photos [here](#).

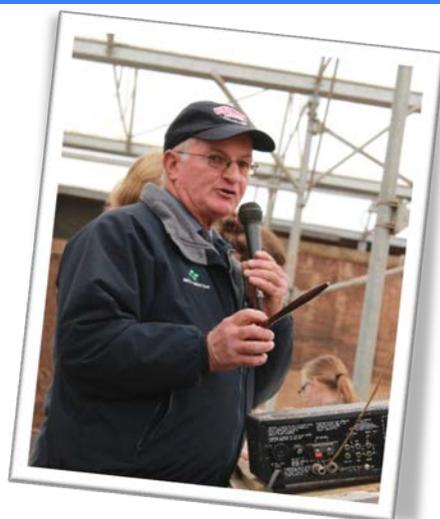


*Laurie Macha and Eric Fox, another  
ANSC alum at Mystic Aquarium*

**Casey Dunn '12** was featured on the Naturally@UConn Blog in November. Casey is now a veterinary science teacher at Wamogo Regional High School in Litchfield, CT. She is also a Future Farmers of America (FFA) advisor and coached her CDE team to a first place win at FFA nationals last year. Casey still uses notes from her classes at UConn to help teach her student more about veterinary science. Reach more [here](#).



*Casey Dunn*



*John Bennett provides his  
auctioneering expertise at the  
Beef Auction*

## Annual Beef Auction a Success

Another successful annual UConn Beef Auction was held on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Cattle Resource Unit on Horsebarn Hill Road. The sale included a total of 17 Hereford and Black Angus heifers, steers and 2 bulls that were auctioned off to the public. The cattle brought an average purchase price of \$1.50/lb. Mr. John Bennett provided his auctioneering services. Block and Bridle club sold donuts and coffee for the event.

## 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
- Arrange an appointment 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*

## Kathy Pelletier Retires

After serving the University of Connecticut for over 30 years as the Assistant Horse Unit Manager, Kathy Pelletier retired in December.

During her time at UConn, Kathy helped coordinate the care of the UConn horses by organizing and teaching student employees at the horse barn and keeping records of veterinary and farrier care. She also initiated the UConn Morgan Drill Team in 1987 and will continue to coach the team.

We wish her the best in her retirement and thank her for her many years of dedicated service!



*Kathy Pelletier with UC Midnight Lace*

# UConn Department of Animal Science January 2017 Student Newsletter



*Lauren Sands working with  
Little I Pigs*

## 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.



*KDC with snow*