



*Rainbow Over the KDC- Fall 2017*

# UConn Department of Animal Science January 2018 Student Newsletter

## A Message from the Department Head

Welcome back to campus and the start of the spring semester. Although with last week's frigid temperatures, spring seems like a far off dream. Congratulations to all of our December graduates and those students that have made the Dean's list.

To update you on the faculty...The Department is currently finishing our search for a new faculty position in genomics and hopefully we will begin the search for a second new faculty position very soon. In addition, as many of you know, Dr. Mike Darre has announced that he will retire at the end of spring term. At his request, his 'retirement dinner' will be the end-of-the-year chicken barbecue. Dr. Darre and the Poultry Club have hosted this event for many years, so it's fitting that we all join him at the barbecue to celebrate his distinguished UConn career.

With a look up Horsebarn Hill to the Kellogg Dairy Center (KDC), it is easy to see the addition on the west side of the barn. We are installing two robotic milkers at the KDC! Construction began in fall 2017 with an expected completion

date of March 2018. This is an exciting new project and will rapidly move the KDC to the cutting edge of milking technology. Once we are open, we will welcome guests to watch the robots 'work' through the window in our observation room. More details to come as construction progresses.

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. In addition to the recent installation of new footing and new LED lights, UConn Facilities installed heaters above the bleachers in the arena! We have also updated the locker room facilities, the tack room, and Alena Meacham's office in the horse barn, painted the livestock unit, and we are installing a new roof at the CRU.

*(More on page 2)*



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

Congratulations to Mary Margaret Cole, Executive Program Director, and the KDC staff for doing an outstanding job with our dairy herd this year. The herd was again awarded the 2nd place Agri-Mark Top Quality Producer Award for region 1 for the 2016-2017 year! This region includes 1,300 herds in New England and Eastern New York. Our high quality milk is one of the reasons that UConn makes the best ice cream 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 your Plan of Study is submitted to the degree auditor. It is important that these be submitted 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 are all set for graduation.

Good luck with the semester.



**Dr. Steven Zinn**

Professor and Head

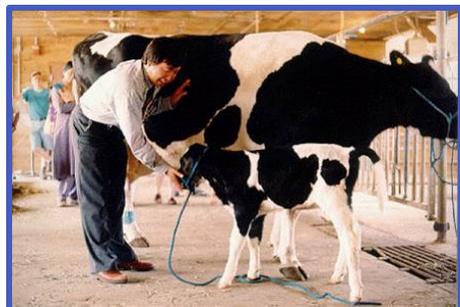
Department of Animal Science



## Road Named After Late Professor

Dr. Jerry Yang, a UConn Animal Science Professor who passed away in 2009, was honored this past fall when the Board of Trustees voted to name a road on campus after him. The road runs from Route 195 and passes the Agricultural Biotechnology Lab Building to the Dairy Bar parking lot.

Dr. Yang performed cutting-edge embryo transfer and biotechnology research while at UConn including cloning a Holstein cow in 1999. This was the first farm animal to be cloned in the United States. Read more [here](#).



*Dr. Jerry Yang with Amy, the first calf cloned in the US*



*Dr. Cindy Tian, wife of the late Dr. Yang, stands next to his road sign*

STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



### Add or Drop Classes

The last day to add or drop a class without additional signatures is Monday, January 29th.

### Horse Practicum Meeting

The mandatory meeting for all students interested in signing up for riding lessons through the horse practicum was Thursday, January 18th at 7 PM in the W.B. Young Building room 100. See the spring 2018 lesson schedule [here](#). If you were unable to attend the meeting, please contact [Alena.Meacham@UConn.edu](mailto:Alena.Meacham@UConn.edu).



### Scholarship Deadline

The deadline to apply for college-wide scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year in CAHNR is February 25, 2018. 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](#).

## Equine Clubs/Teams Highlighted

The Department of Animal Science is home to over eighty horses, all of which are used in our teaching, research, extension and riding programs. There are also a variety of riding teams and clubs that utilize the horses for shows and clinics. Riders on the teams show both locally and across the U.S. The equine related teams and clubs are listed below.

- [Dressage Team](#)
- [Equestrian Team](#)
- [Equine Club](#)
- [Morgan Drill Team](#)
- [Morgan Showing Team](#)
- [Polo Team](#)
- [Western Team](#)

The various teams and clubs were featured in an article on Naturally@UConn at the beginning of this month. Read the article [here](#).

Students who are interested in getting involved with the horses on campus can look into teams and clubs, take riding lessons in the practicum program, work in the equine units, take equine related classes and independent studies or work with faculty members on research.

What are you waiting for?



*The UConn Equestrian Team  
Fall 2017*

## 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!

## UConn Dairy Program Highlights

It has been a very busy and productive year for the crew and cows at the Kellogg Dairy Center!

The KDC is currently undergoing a renovation process that includes the installation of a new robotic milking system and parlor! The construction is scheduled to be complete in March. Read an article in Naturally@UConn [here](#). The Department will be hosting an Open House to showcase the new system in April. Stay tuned for more information about this event!

We are excited to announce that the UConn dairy herd was selected for a National Mastitis Council Gold Award! Only 46 dairy operations across the country were recognized in three award categories. Learn more about these awards [here](#).

Our dairy herd was also selected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> place Agri-Mark Top Quality Producer Award out of over 1,300 herd for region 1 for the 2016-2017 year!

For the 11<sup>th</sup> year, the UConn dairy herd was awarded a Progressive Breeders Registry Award. This honor is awarded to registered Holstein herds that have achieved high standards for production and type. We are very proud of this achievement with our 100% home-bred herd!

Anthony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus of Arethusa Farm in Litchfield, CT have generously sponsored a number of Manolo Blahnik Sample Shoe Sales in the past few years. The most recent sale was held at the UConn Stamford Campus in December and there are plans for one or two more sales this year. These sales benefit scholarships for undergraduate students in our dairy program and we are grateful to all of the patrons and volunteers for these events! Keep an eye out for announcements for future shoe sales!

A film screening in November in conjunction with [UConn Extension](#) and the [Connecticut Farm Bureau](#) highlighted modern dairy farms and the impact of the locally grown agriculture movement on these farmers. Learn more about the film [here](#).

Read more about the UConn dairy program [here](#).



*Progressive Breeders  
Registry Award Certificate*



*(L-R) Undergraduates Alyssa Condon, Laura Egan,  
Katelyn Williams, and Hannah Bernardi accept the  
Agri-Mark Award in December*



## UConn Morgans at Equine Affaire

The Morgan driving pair of UC Romeo and Stillwell Suma continue to represent the UConn Morgan breeding and training program through local and regional shows and demonstrations. The pair attended the 2017 Equine Affaire in West Springfield, MA where they performed in the Morgan breed demonstration under the direction of **Mr. John Bennett**, Horse Unit Manager. **Dr. Kristen Govoni**, ANSC Associate Professor, also attended the event and went along for the ride. The pair also took part in the opening ceremony of Fantasia! Learn more about this show [here](#).



*John Bennett and Dr. Govoni  
at the 2017 Equine Affaire*

The pair is looking more poised and polished as they continue to add experience to their showing career. Stillwell Suma will be taking some time off this spring as we are expecting our first foal from her by UC Doc Sanchez. If you see the pair out practicing on Horsebarn Hill, give them a smile and wave!

## Little "I" Livestock Show Success



*Laura Furtak with her dairy  
heifer Aubrey*

The 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Little International Livestock Show (Little "I") was held in October in the Horsebarn Hill Arena. The theme of this year's show was "Carnival." Students enrolled in the Intro to Animal Science class showed off their animals (beef and dairy cows, sheep, pigs, horses and chickens) in showmanship classes after working with them all semester. For the first time in several years, the weather was actually favorable! This is the last year **Dr. Michael Darre** will teach the class and coordinate the event so the Block and Bridle club honored him as the Guest of Distinction.

Read more [here](#).

Thank you to all who work hard to make sure this is a successful event every year!



*Chloe LaBranch (L) and Laura  
Irwin (R) were the Reserve and  
Champion Premier Showmen*



*The champion beef group*

## Undergraduate Scholarship Winners



*Erin Norris*

The Department of Animal Science is proud to announce several scholarship winners.

Three students were chosen for the Anthony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus Arethusia 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 undergraduates **Erin Norris**, **Katelyn Williams**, and **Willow Chesmer**!

**Erin Norris** was also selected for the Gregory Finn Scholarship by the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation. Read more in an article [here](#).

Congratulations to all!

## Undergraduates Featured on Media

ANSC undergraduates **Jessica Maiorino**, **Alyssa Condon** and **Veronica Pleasant** were featured on the CAHNR [Naturally@UConn](#) blog last semester.

Jessica is currently pursuing her second degree after completing a criminal justice associate degree at Housatonic Community College. She has gained experience working with large animals and enjoyed participating in the Little "T" Livestock Show. Jessica plans to attend vet school after graduation next year and hopes to work with large exotic animals. Read more about her [here](#).

Alyssa, an ANSC senior, wrote an article for the blog in December. She discussed her love of the cows here on campus as well as the internship she completed last summer. Read her article [here](#).

Veronica wrote an article for the blog in October and wrote about her involvement in the [Women in Math Science and Engineering](#) (WiMSE) learning community and research, and how this involvement has developed her skills and confidence. Read her article [here](#).

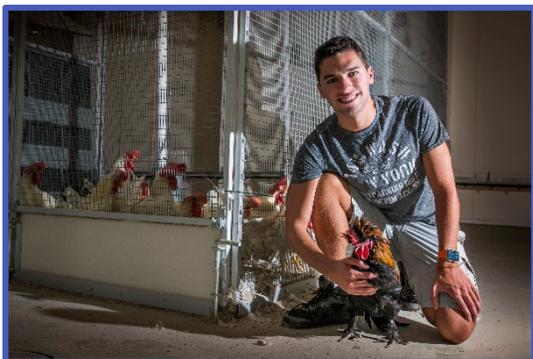
**Daniel Munch**, a senior with an individualized major with a strong interest in Animal Science, was featured on UConn Today in November. Danny is an active student in our department. Read the article [here](#).



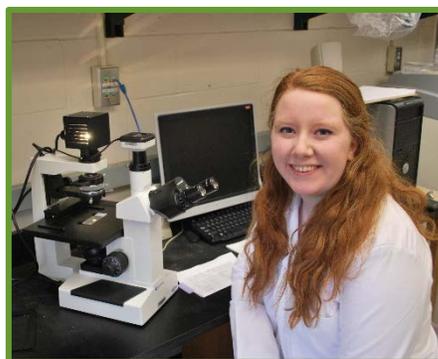
*Jessica Maiorino*



*Alyssa Condon*



*Daniel Munch*



*Veronica Pleasant*

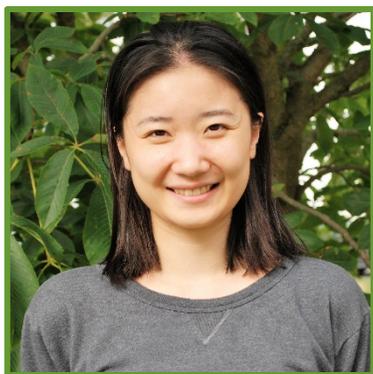
## Dairy Club Attends Fair in Canada

The UConn Dairy Club attended the 95<sup>th</sup> annual Royal Agricultural Fair in Toronto, Canada in November along with Mary Margaret Cole, the Executive Program Director. The club looks forward to this annual trip and 14 members were able to attend this year. In addition to experiencing the sights and sounds of the fair, which includes various livestock shows and demos, the team visited Niagara Falls on their trip as well. Learn more about the fair [here](#).



*The Dairy Club at  
Niagara Falls*

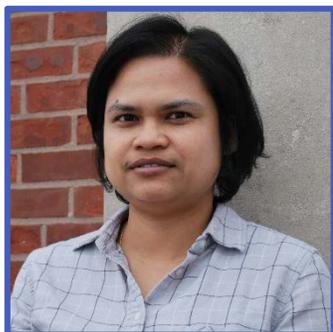
## Graduate Research Awards



*Lang Sun*

**Lang Sun**, a M.S. student in Dr. D'Amico's lab, will be using a fall 2017 Scholarship Facilitation Fund Award to support the research project she is working on for her thesis. This award, which is one of 33 awarded this year at the University, supports a project in Dr. D'Amico's lab entitled "*Characterizing the Microbial Ecosystems of Traditional Farmstead Cheese Productions and Their Roles in Microbial Transfer and Population Succession.*" This program "offers crucial support to faculty research, scholarly activities, creative works, and interdisciplinary initiatives" according to the Office of the Vice President for Research. Read more about these awards [here](#).

## New Members of ANSC



*Kanokwan Srirattana*

The Department of Animal Science would like to extend a warm welcome to two new members this spring.

**Dr. Kanokwan Srirattana** joins us from the Center for Genetic Diseases at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research. She will be working as a University Post Doctoral Fellow in Dr. Cindy Tian's lab.



*Sulaiman Aljasir*

**Sulaiman Aljasir** is a new Ph.D. student who will be working in Dr. Dennis D'Amico's lab. He comes to us from the University of Wyoming.

## Department Head Reappointment and Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Steve Zinn** for being selected as the winner of the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) Northeast Regional Award for Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences Program! Dr. Zinn accepted his award at the Board on Agriculture Assembly meeting in November in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Zinn has been reappointed to serve as the Department Head of Animal Science at UConn for another five year term. We are looking forward to five great years under his leadership!



L-R Dr. Sandra Bushmich, Dr. Chet Arnold,  
Dr. Steven Zinn and Dr. Cameron Faustman.

## Dr. Darre Retirement and Article



Dr. Michael Darre

After 37 years serving the UConn Department of Animal Science, **Dr. Michael Darre** will retire at the end of the spring semester. Dr. Darre has taught the Intro to Animal Science course for the last 29 years and has ensured the smooth organization and execution of the Little “I” Livestock Show every year since it became mandatory for the class in 1996. His expertise in poultry as our Poultry Extension Specialist has made him the go-to resource around the state and arguably all of New England as well. There will be big shoes to fill following his retirement!

Dr. Darre will be honored at a reception held in conjunction with the annual Poultry Club BBQ on April 27<sup>th</sup> for students and alumni. Stay tuned for more details!

Dr. Darre was quoted in an article this month in the Hartford Courant entitled “How to Define ‘Organic’ Divides Connecticut Farmers.” Read the article [here](#).



Dr. Michael Darre at Little “I”  
with Mr. Bennett



Dr. Darre performs an egg  
inspection in class

## Assistant Professors Featured

**Dr. Dennis D'Amico** was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog this month. The article highlights his current research in food safety and quality as well as his work in extension through outreach programs. In addition to his research and extension programs, Dr. D'Amico is busy teaching the next generation of food scientists. Read more in the article [here](#).

Dr. D'Amico was also interviewed for an article entitled "Everything You Know About Cheese Is a Lie." The article discusses raw milk cheese safety and regulation and the effect on the quality of cheese available in the U.S. Read the full article [here](#).

**Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou** was featured in UConn Today in an article entitled "Lab Identifies Way to Reduce Salmonella Outbreaks in Mangoes." Read the article [here](#).



*Dr. D'Amico with members of his lab*



*Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou*

## Dr. Tian Award and IETS Governor



*Dr. Cindy Tian*

Dr. Xiuchun (Cindy) Tian received a Core Values Award from Genex. Learn more about Genex [here](#).

Dr. Tian was also selected to serve as a Governor for the International Embryo Technology Society for 2018. The six Governors are responsible for managing all affairs for the Society and serve a two-year term with IETS. Congratulations to Dr. Tian for being chosen for this prestigious position! Learn more about the International Embryo Technology Society [here](#).

## Alumni Updates



*Catherine Cabano*

Two of our alumni were featured on the Naturally@UConn blog last fall.

**Catherine Cabano**, a recent alumna of ANSC who graduated in December, says she liked the feel of a big university with small majors when she chose UConn. During her time here at UConn, she has been very productive by founding the Paws and Claws club, presenting research at the Universitas 21 Undergraduate Research Conference and interning in Washington, D.C. Read more about Catherine [here](#).

**Amanda Jones** completed her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees here at UConn with Dr. Reed as her advisor. During her time here, she worked on projects with Dr. Reed, Dr. Govoni and Dr. Zinn relating to maternal nutrition. While a student at UConn, Amanda was also the National Graduate Director of the American Society of Animal Science. She is now at the University of Colorado, Denver completing a Post Doc in the Department of Pediatrics, Neonatology. Read more about Amanda [here](#).



*Amanda Jones*

**Corey Thomas**, ANSC '15 has made another successful career move since he left UConn! When we last featured Corey in the August 2017 newsletter, he had just accepted a position as the Education Director at Massaro Community Farm in Woodbridge, CT. Since then, he has been named the Farm Director at the Wakeman Town Farm in Westport, CT. Congratulations Corey and best of luck! Read the article [here](#).



*Corey Thomas*

## Calling All Alumni!

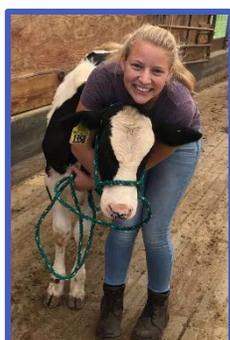
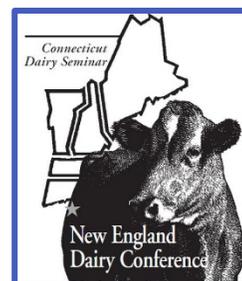
Are you an Animal Science alumnus? We would like to hear from you! Please send your news to [Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu](mailto:Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu). We would love to feature you in the next edition of the newsletter!



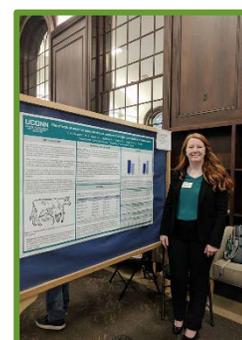
## Upcoming ANSC Events



- Western Team Home Show- Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Equestrian Team Home Show- Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>
- [Women's Polo Matches](#)
  - Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>
- [CT Horse Symposium](#)- Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- CT 4-H Beef and Dairy Day- Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>
- [New England Dairy Conference](#)- Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>
- [CAHNR Graduate Research Forum](#)- Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>
- Dressage Team Home Show- Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>
- [Sigma Alpha Horse Show](#)- Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>
- [Spring Open House for Admitted Students](#)- Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>
- KDC Robotic Open House- Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>
- Dairy Show- Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>
- Poultry BBQ/Retirement Social for Dr. Darre- Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>
- Commencement- Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>



Learn more about these events at  
<http://animalscience.uconn.edu/calendar.php>



## UConn ANSC in the News



*Jonathan XIV with  
Madeline the cow*

The Department of Animal Science has made the headlines a few times in the past few months!

A UConn dairy cow was featured in a holiday video with Jonathan the Husky! See the video [here](#) and don't miss the bloopers video [here](#).

[Levin Aerial Works, LLC](#) captured footage of riders on Horsebarn Hill. Check out the video [here](#). The drone also captured scenes of the construction progress at the KDC. See a photo [here](#).

The Hartford Courant published an article entitled "50 Things to Do to Get You Through a Connecticut Winter" and number forty-five on the list was to visit the [UConn Animal Barns!](#) Read the article [here](#).

## 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 [here](#).

### **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 online (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
- Make an appointment with [Jen Szela](#) (for horse unit) or [Tina Burnham](#) (for livestock/dairy units) to process payroll paperwork



*Compliance Coordinator  
Sharon Aborn*

# UConn Department of Animal Science January 2018 Student Newsletter

## 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 in Snow  
(Michelle Lewis)*



*Walking in a Winter Wonderland-  
[UConn Equestrian Team](#)*