

*Heifers at the Spring 2015 UConn Dairy Show*

# UConn Department of Animal Science August 2015 Student Newsletter

## A Message from the Department Head

Welcome to fall semester 2015!

Once again, we are preparing for an exciting and busy year in the Department of Animal Science, starting with our annual ice cream social to welcome new students. On Tuesday, September 1 beginning at 2:30 pm (it is in between lab sections of ANSC 1001, so students in the Intro class won't miss lab!), we will hold our annual ice cream social to welcome new students in front of the George White Building. All students, new and continuing, are invited to visit with faculty and staff as well as members of Animal Science clubs.

The summer began with the College graduation ceremonies. Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors and their

families. We hope that you all stay in contact with the Department through email, Facebook, or a return visit to your alma mater. Just send your updated email address to [animalscience@uconn.edu](mailto:animalscience@uconn.edu) to stay on the distribution.



Graduation was quickly followed by summer orientation for our new freshmen and transfer students. All new students should have been assigned an academic advisor. If you are unsure of who your advisor is, it should be listed in your student admin page.

*(More on Page 2)*

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

If no advisor is listed, please contact the main office (860-486-2413) and we will assign you an advisor.

This summer many of our faculty, grad students and undergraduates attended scientific meetings to present their data. Several of our students placed in undergraduate and graduate oral and poster competitions. In addition, our horses competed at several of the regional Morgan shows this summer, our cows traveled to the Connecticut Holstein Show and our Green Chile Queso Blanco traveled to the American Cheese Society Judging Competition. Horses and riders, cows and showman and the cheese did very well at their respective competitions. Closer to home, Dr. Kristen Govoni was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. Let's congratulate our faculty and students, horses and cattle, and cheese that earned recognition for their achievements in their field.

See you for ice cream on September 1<sup>st</sup>!



## First Baby Born From Uterine Transplant

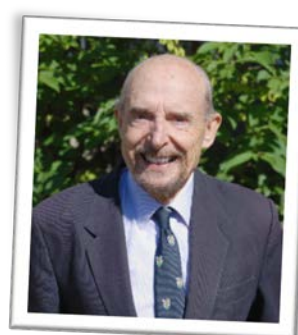
Dr. McCracken, Professor-in-Residence in the Department of Animal Science, collaborated with Dr. Brännström of Sweden in 2006 both here at UConn and in Sweden on performing uterine transplantation in sheep models. The success of the sheep trials allowed the studies to continue on to primate models and eventually human models. October of 2014 the first baby was born to a mother who had received a uterine transplant.

Read more about the studies and Dr. McCracken's work [here](#).

His work was also featured on Naturally@UConn in July. More on that story [here](#).



*Vincent, the first baby born from a uterine transplant*



*Dr. John McCracken, ANSC  
Professor-in-Residence*



*Dr. Mats Brännström, the leading  
doctor in the research trials*

## STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



### Add or Drop Classes

The last day to add or drop a class is Monday, September 14.

### Horse Practicum Meeting

The mandatory meeting for all students interested in signing up for riding lessons through the horse practicum is **Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM** in the Horsebarn Hill Arena. For more information, contact [Alena.Meacham@UConn.edu](mailto:Alena.Meacham@UConn.edu)



### Come to Freshman Welcome!

All ANSC students are invited to the annual **Freshman and Transfer Student Welcome Ice Cream Social** on **Tuesday, September 1 from 2:30 to 4:00 PM** on the front lawn in front of the George White Building. The event features information on clubs and teams as well as **FREE** ice cream from our creamery! Come have some fun and meet the newest students in the department! Rain location is the RH Arena or Horsebarn Hill Arena.

## LINKS TO FORMS

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

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

## Creamery Ice Cream Featured

The Department of Animal Science creamery was featured in *USA Today* for its limited edition flavor "Triple Champion Chunk." The flavor was created in honor of the UConn Women's Basketball team's third consecutive national championship. Read more [here](#).

The UConn Dairy Bar was also named the best place for ice cream in Connecticut by *Business Insider* in conjunction with *Foursquare*! Congratulations to all of the Animal Science staff involved in making such great ice cream!

*Creamery Manager Bill Scituro whipping up a batch of famous ice cream!*



## UConn Cheese Makes the Cut

Dr. Dennis D'Amico, ANSC Assistant Professor, was invited to speak at the 32nd Annual American Cheese Society (ACS) Conference this July. As part of their "Deep Dive" series of sessions, Dr. D'Amico led a 3-hour panel discussion of forthcoming food safety standards and requirements, as well as best practices and the Food Safety Modernization Act. Dennis shared the results and recommendations from his research and outreach programs developing risk reduction protocols for artisan cheesemakers to provide producers with real life examples of how research and outreach can enhance food safety and quality.

Dr. D'Amico developed, organized, and hosted the first "Artisan Cheese Food Safety Forum" at the Omni Hotel in Providence, RI on August 2-3. Funded by a USDA NIFA grant, the forum provided a distinctive venue for collaboration between stakeholders to identify challenges and opportunities related to cheese safety and to develop recommendations for future research and outreach priorities to support this emerging industry. The 85+ attendees included representatives from various governments, retailers, large and small cheese companies, university scientists, extension educators, veterinarians, consultants, and graduate students, among others.

The Department of Animal Science also entered our cheese in the American Society Judging and Competition where it placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in its category! Congratulations to Dr. D'Amico, Bill Scituro (Creamery Manager) and the creamery staff!





*Tashua Sotil, ANSC major, holds a horse for the vet*

## ANSC Summer Internships

Every year, ANSC students have the opportunity to apply for summer internships at the animal units on campus. Internship management trainees work full-time for ten weeks split between two of the three animal units. Students can work at the dairy, horse or livestock and poultry units where they learn valuable skills in working with the different animals as well as handling animal products such as eggs and milk. This includes vet visits where students assist in handling the animals and learning more about specific procedures. For more information on the 2016 program, please contact [Dr. Darre](#).



*Tierney Lawlor, ANSC major, helps with afternoon milking at the KDC*

## Spring 2015 Undergraduate ASAS Awards



The 2015 American Society of Animal Science Undergraduate Scholar Recognition Awards Ceremony was held this past May! This honor is awarded to ANSC sophomores, juniors, and seniors in the top 10% of their class. Thirty-seven students received this award this spring. Congratulations and great job on all of your hard work!

*Pictured (left to right from the top): Cara Dooley, Julia Bedos, Dr. Zinn, Alaina Michel, Mary Wynn, Alexandra Gallina, Bridget Johnson, Emma Lavigne, Katelyn McFadden, Clarissa Spadanuta, Heather Desroches, Olivia Catarino, Brenna Daly, Julie Nostestine, Lisa Russo, Bridget Borowy, Julia O'Rourke, Allison Schauer, Nicole Sereda, Kiera Schneider, Janelle Avelino.*

## ANSC Lab Happenin's

### Learn What ANSC Faculty and Students are Researching NOW



#### **Dr. Sarah Reed**

Dr. Reed, Dr. Zinn and Dr. Govoni along with their graduate and undergraduate students are researching the effects of poor maternal nutrition on muscle development in sheep fetuses. They are currently analyzing how maternal diet affects the cross sectional area of muscle fibers. The implications of this study impact the demand for lean meat and how current management practices can affect the quality of the meat. The results of the study will also potentially identify the genes and pathways that are most detrimentally affected by poor maternal diet during gestation to determine some of the long term effects across multiple species including humans.



#### **Dr. Jenifer Nadeau**

Dr. Nadeau's lab is collaborating with Dr. Reed and undergrads taking body and hoof measurements on horses between the ages of one and five. They are also utilizing GPS tracking to see how much distance the horses travel in different seasons. This study will help determine how horses are affected by seasons and growth.



#### **Dr. Michael Darre**

Dr. Darre is currently working on testing LED lamps for chicken cages at commercial poultry farms in conjunction with Overdrive lighting and a local poultry producer. His graduate student, Laura Burban, is currently researching the effects of noise, odors, light levels and ventilation on animals in shelters and how improving the environment has an effect on behavior and overall well-being. Dr. Darre is also collaborating with Dr. Venkitanarayanan on their Salmonella project.

#### **Dr. Amy Safran**

Students enrolled in SAAS 272: Sustainable Animal Management (Fall 2014) designed a sheep pasture management study with the goal of increasing soil carbon content, thereby reducing atmospheric greenhouse gases, using rotationally grazed sheep and fertilization with compost. This method will be compared to a pasture using only rotationally grazed sheep. Soil carbon changes occur slowly over time so this project will continue with summer sheep grazing and fall soil sampling for the following ten years. Evaluation of results made by the final group of students and the impact to sequestration of carbon by the soil will be revealed upon completion of this study in 2025. Data from this project will be included in a larger national project entitled, the Soil Carbon Challenge. Practices that have had the largest positive impact around the country on soil carbon will be communicated to others. These practices, having been measured under many different conditions throughout the country (and hopefully internationally, too) can be applied locally as management techniques for improving soil carbon and will vary with location and type of farm etc. For more information please go to:

<http://soilcarboncoalition.org/challenge>.



## ANSC Graduate Student News

- **Deepti Karumathil**, PhD student (Dr. Venkitanarayanan advisor), was awarded an IFT Foundation National Feeding Tomorrow Graduate Scholarship for 2015. This scholarship will help Deepti in her continued research in food science. Read more about IFT Scholarships [here](#).
- **Samantha Fancher**, MS student (Dr. Venkitanarayanan advisor), was selected to be a student ambassador at the US Pavilion at the world fair Expo Milano in Milan, Italy. Samantha was one of sixty students chosen to represent the US for the first half of the expo. This year's expo theme is "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life." While there, Samantha was able to meet First Lady Michelle Obama during a question and answer session. A video of Michelle Obama meeting the students can be seen [here](#). More information on the expo can be found [here](#).
- **Meera Nair**, **Genevieve Flock** and **Chi-Hung Chen**, graduate students (Dr. Venkitanarayanan advisor), attended the Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) in Lincoln, Nebraska in June. While there, they presented their research posters on various topics in meat science. More information on the conference can be found [here](#).
- Several graduate students attended the IFT meeting in Chicago in July. **Meera Nair** received first place and **Deepti Karumathil** received third place in Food Microbiology division graduate research poster competition. **Shafeekh Muyyarikkandy** (Dr. Amalaradjou, advisor) placed third in the Food Microbiology division graduate oral research competition.
- **Hsin Bai Yin**, PhD student (Dr. Venkitanarayanan advisor) won first place for her oral presentation in the Metabolism and Nutrition: Feed Additives section at the Poultry Science Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY in July.
- **Shankumar Mooyottu**, PhD student (Dr. Venkitanarayanan advisor), was selected to receive the Jerry Yang Graduate Research Excellence Award which honors and encourages excellence in research for graduate students in CAHNR.



L to R: Meera Nair, Dr. Venkitanarayanan, Dr. Amalaradjou and Deepti Karumathil at IFT



Samantha Fancher, MS student, shakes the First Lady's Hand



L to R: Meera Nair, Genevieve Flock, and Chi-Hung Chen at the RMC conference



Hsin Bai Yin, left, won first place for her oral presentation at PSA Meeting



## Animal Science at ASAS/ADSA

Several faculty, graduate students and undergraduates attended the 2015 American Society of Animal Science/American Dairy Society of America (ASAS/ASDA) JAM meeting in Orlando, Florida this past July. Some of the highlights from the awards our faculty and students received are below.

- **Dr. Maria Hoffman**, Post Doc in Dr. Govoni's lab, and **Katelyn McFadden**, ANSC undergraduate, were selected to present their posters as two of the "President's Picks." This honor goes to the top 10% of 2,500 poster submissions at the ASAS awards.
- **Dr. Steven Zinn**, Department Head and Professor, was presented the Fellows Award in Administration. Fellows Awards are given to individuals "who have rendered very distinguished service to the animal industry and/or to the American Society of Animal Science and had continuous membership in the Society for a minimum of twenty-five years."
- **Amanda Jones**, MS student (Dr. Sarah Reed advisor) placed second in the graduate oral competition.
- **Katelyn McFadden**, undergraduate (Dr. Kristen Govoni advisor) placed second and **Emma LaVigne**, undergraduate (Dr. Sarah Reed advisor), placed third in the undergraduate research poster competition.

For more information on the annual meeting, please click [here](#).



*Dr. Zinn with his Fellows Award*



*ANSC Faculty and Students at ASAS (Photo by Samantha Walker)*

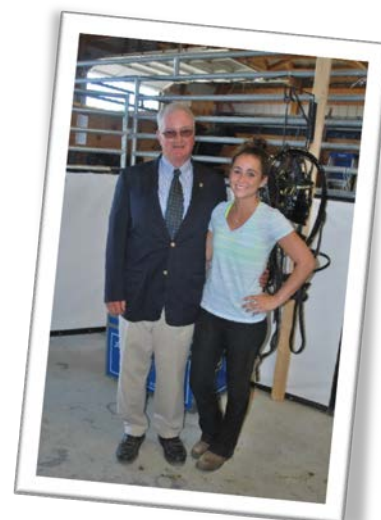
## UConn Morgans Take New England



*Mr. John Bennett shows UC Domination in a cones course at New England Morgan*

ANSC Horse Unit Manager, Mr. John Bennett, with help from ANSC student **Tori Travers**, has been busy this summer showing some of our best and brightest UConn Morgans at prestigious shows across New England. Our horses have done well in both under saddle and driving events including timed cones courses!

Opportunities to show UConn Morgans over the summer are often available for qualified students!



*Mr. John Bennett with Tori Travers*

## ANSC Alumni News

**Amy Zembroski**, ANSC alumnae, was accepted into the Kentucky Equine Management Internship (KEMI) program. This selective program gives participants a hands-on learning experience working full-time on a Central Kentucky commercial Thoroughbred farm for twenty-two weeks. Students are also required to take part in a classroom component focusing on the management aspect through lectures, demonstrations and field trips. Amy is working at Three Chimney's Farm in Versailles, KY. Amy is participating in the fall session which focuses mainly on sale preparation of yearlings, weanlings and broodmares. She will have the opportunity to meet with leaders in the thoroughbred industry during her internship and we wish her the best of luck!

A note from Amy: "I'm excited to have this opportunity to work in this fast paced industry and look forward to where it will take me! I've always wanted to work with horses and this program gives me a great opportunity to explore the possibilities."

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



*Amy Zembroski, above with UConn bred "Mufasa", is participating in the KEMI program in Kentucky*



*Matt McIntosh (third from right), 2015 ANSC graduate, accepting the Roy Wallace Scholarship plaque*

**Matt McIntosh**, ANSC alumnus, was awarded the 2015 Roy Wallace Scholarship at the Beef Improvement Federation Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi. This scholarship is awarded to two students, one graduate and one undergraduate, who demonstrate commitment to beef cattle improvement. Matt hopes to use his scholarship to pursue a graduate degree related to the beef cattle industry.

A note from Matt: "The meeting was overwhelmingly informative about the most recent genetic advancements which are being made and utilized by the beef industry. I feel very fortunate to have been selected for the Roy Wallace Scholarship and to gain the opportunity to network with some of the beef industry's top executives... I could not have had these successes without your (department) support and the invaluable lessons I learned in the animal science department at UConn."



## ANSC Alumni News Continued

**Sarah LaRose**, UConn alumnae, graduated with her bachelor's in Animal Science in 2007 and her Master's of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction in 2008. After completing the masters program, she began teaching at Nonnewaug High School in the Agriscience and Technology Program where she has been busy teaching a wide variety of classes including Animal Science, Horse Management and Local Food Production. She has won several awards for her teaching and traveled to South Korea. This month, she will begin working towards her PhD in Agriculture Education and Communication at the University of Florida. Read more about her work [here](#).



*ANSC graduate Sarah LaRose with some of the plants from her Local Food Production class*



*ANSC Graduate Emma Lawlor poses with animals she worked with at Southwick Zoo*

**Emma Lawlor**, ANSC alumnae, had the opportunity to intern at the Southwick Zoo in Mendon, MA from August 2014- July 2015 while completing her undergraduate degree at UConn.

During her internship, Emma worked with a wide variety of animals from reptiles to mammals. She helped with everything from feeding to creating training and enrichment programs. The internship allowed her to gain both college credit and invaluable experience with many exotic animals which she plans to use in her career.

Emma will be attending the Exotic Animal Training and Management program at Moorpark College in California this fall and plans to obtain a career in the zoo industry.

More information about her internship can be found [here](#).

**Ellen Valley**, ANSC alumnae, was featured on Naturally@UConn in May. Ellen talks about her experiences working in Dr. Govoni's lab, being involved in the Husky-for-a-Day program, and playing the marimba in the UConn marching band. Ellen will be attending the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University this fall.

Read more about her experiences at UConn [here](#).



*ANSC graduate Ellen Valley with her dairy show heifer*

## Dairy Technology Tour

On August 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Sheila Andrew, ANSC Professor, hosted a Dairy Farm Technology Tour. The two-day tour, entitled "Robots and Beyond," covered a visit to seven farms in Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire that have adopted robotic milking systems in their programs. The tour had twenty-five participants including students, local dairy enthusiasts and farmers. While on the tour, participants listened to speakers who addressed the specific nutritional needs of herds with voluntary milking systems and discussed risk management strategies. The group spent the night in Montpelier, VT where they enjoyed a nice dinner. Dr. Andrews looks forward to hosting more dairy tours in the future.

Special thanks to the following sponsors:

- CAHNR Extension
- CT Dept. of Agriculture
- Department of Animal Science
- LELY
- Poulin Grain
- USDA



*Dairy Technology Tour  
Participants*

## Fall Polo Matches

The UConn Polo Team is gearing up for another great season and we are looking forward to some exciting matches! Come out to support your fellow Huskies this season. Games are free and open to spectators of all ages.

See the fall 2015 schedule [here](#).

## Share Your Photos with Us!

We have joined Instagram! Follow us @uconnanimalscience and tag your photos with #uconnanimalscience for a chance to be featured on our page!



## Faculty and Staff News

- Dr. Kristen Govoni was recently promoted to Associate Professor. We look forward to many great things!
- Dr. Hoagland has retired from his position as Professor but will continue to advise and teach for the department. Congratulations and enjoy your "retirement"!
- Victor Delaire has resigned as Compliance Coordinator to take a job in Southern California. Good luck Victor!



*Dr. Hoagland*



*Victor Delaire*



*Dr. Govoni*

## ANSC Compliance Corner

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Julie Avery who will be taking over for Victor as our new Compliance Coordinator! Please contact her at [Julie.Avery@UConn.edu](mailto:Julie.Avery@UConn.edu) for compliance questions.

Attention: All Potential Student Employees of ANSC Barns!!

As part of the pre-employment process, barn employees must complete the EHS Training Module and IACUC training. The EHS training module description and training information are listed below. More information can be found at <http://animalscience.uconn.edu/compliance/compliancecorner.php>

### EHS Training Module specific to ANSC barn employees

- Review of Workplace Hazard Assessment
- Employee Safety Orientation
- Hazard Communication
- Voluntary Use of Respirator
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Animal Handler Forms

## New Grad Students

Please join us in welcoming the six new graduate students joining the department this fall:

- Rebecca Lang (MS, Dr. Venkitanarayanan)
- Yuqing He (MS, Dr. Nadeau)
- Yanyan Liu (MS, Dr. Venkitanarayanan)
- Linkai Zhu (PhD, Dr. Tian)
- Stephanie Barnes (PhD, Dr. D'Amico)
- Ellie Duan (PhD, Dr. Tian)

We wish you all the best in your studies here at UConn!





## George White Improvements

When you come back for the fall semester, you may notice that the George White Building is in the process of receiving a face-lift. The project began in the summer and includes installing new flooring, painting walls, and installing new ceiling tiles in both the hallways and common areas (including the library and conference rooms). The library may feel a bit cooler with the newly installed air conditioner!

The Horsebarn Hill Arena portico project has also been completed and looks great.

We look forward to many more improvements in the coming year!



*Hallway construction*



*The new portico*

## Shoe Sale Supports ANSC Department

Arethusa Farm in Litchfield, CT was established in 1999 by George Malkemus and Anthony Yurgaitis. Mr. Malkemus and Mr. Yurgaitis are also the president of the world renowned Manolo Blahnik shoe company. The proceeds of the Manolo Blahnik summer Shoe Sale benefits the Arethusa Farm Scholarship Fund. This year, the fund will be donating to the Department of Animal Science Scholarship Fund. Many thanks to all who volunteered on sale day and to Arethusa Farm and Manolo Blahnik for their generous donation to the future of animal science at UConn!

Visit the Arethusa Farm website [here](#).

See more about Manolo Blahnik shoes [here](#).



*Alumni and students with CAHNR  
Dean Greg Weidemann*

# UConn Department of Animal Science August 2015 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) 486-2965

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@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.

