



ANSC Undergraduates making mozzarella cheese in Dr. D'Amico's Dairy Food Products Class

UConn Department of Animal Science April 2016 Student Newsletter

A Message from the Department Head

Greetings.

Usually the arrival of April means that we are getting ready for spring but instead it feels like winter is back upon us! Regardless of the weather, we are getting ready to wind down the Spring Semester and get ready for graduation. With the last days of the semester approaching it means that we are gearing up for the Open House (April 9), Dairy Show (April 16), The Sigma Alpha Horse Show (April 17), the end of the semester barbecue hosted by the Poultry Club (April 29th) and graduation (May 7). For the second year, in conjunction with the United States Polo Association and the UConn Polo Club, from April 5 to April 9, we are hosting the 2016 National Collegiate Polo Finals at Horsebarn Hill Arena.

The top men's and women's Collegiate Polo teams in the country will travel to UConn to compete for the national men's and women's polo championships.



Please welcome the two newest members of the Animal Science Family. On April 1, Sharon Aborn and Jen Szela joined the Animal Science Staff. Sharon is our new Compliance Officer and Jen is our new Program Assistant I in the Main Office. Both are graduates of our department and come to these positions with a wealth of experience. We are excited to have them onboard.

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Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

Join me in congratulating our graduating students in the 2-year and 4-year programs. Congratulations to all of the Animal Science students that were recognized at the spring Scholarship Dinner for their outstanding achievements. Also, congratulations to the Animal Science students named as New England (3.7 GPA for all of 2015) and Homer Babbidge (4.0 GPA for all of 2015) Scholars and to the sophomores, juniors, and seniors that have been named as American Society of Animal Science Scholars (the ceremony is scheduled for April 29).

Congratulations on the successes of our Equestrian teams; the Dressage, Western and Hunt Seat teams all did very well and both the Men's and Women's Polo teams completed successful seasons.

For students graduating this May or August, make sure that your Plan of Study form is submitted to the degree auditor. It is important that these be turned in before graduation. In addition, we will start scheduling senior exit interviews. These meetings give seniors an opportunity to provide feedback regarding our program. Please contact Michelle to schedule an appointment.

Good luck with the end of spring semester and finals. I hope to see you at the Animal Science events in April and May.

Steven Zinn
Professor and Head
Department of Animal Science

Vet School Admits

Congratulations to our pre-vet seniors who have been accepted to the following veterinary schools for fall 2016:



- Cornell University
- Illinois
- Iowa State
- Kansas State
- Lincoln Memorial University
- Michigan State
- Midwestern University
- North Carolina State
- Ohio State University
- Oklahoma State
- Purdue University
- Ross University
- St. George's University
- Tufts University
- University of Florida
- University of Glasgow
- University of Missouri
- University of Pennsylvania
- Western University

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

If you have been accepted into a Veterinary Program, please email
Michelle.Grant@UConn.edu with your news!

STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



Senior Exit Interviews

To help the Department of Animal Science maintain and improve the quality and standards of its undergraduate programs, the department finds it beneficial to gain feedback from its graduating seniors.

These brief and informal but confidential meetings will be conducted between Monday, April 18th and Thursday, April 28th. Please contact Michelle Grant at 860-486-1009 to schedule your appointment.



What are your plans after graduation?

Attending the veterinary school? Continuing studies at graduate school? Land the job of your dreams? Tell us about it!! Send your news to Michelle.Grant@UConn.edu.

LINKS TO FORMS

Independent Study Syllabus Form [here](#).

Advisor Change Form [here](#).

General Academic Forms [here](#).

Share Your Photos with Us!

The Department of Animal Science Instagram is up and running but we need your help. We want to share interesting and pertinent ANSC content with all of our followers. We have come up with the following topics for our daily posts:

- Monday- #MorgancrushMonday- share a photo of your favorite UConn Morgan, past or present.
- Tuesday- #TongueoutTuesday- share a photo of your favorite UConn animal with their tongue out.
- Wednesday- #WingitWednesday- share a photo of our UConn poultry
- Thursday- #ThrowbackThursday
- Friday- #FeatureFriday- share a photo of any activity, research, class, etc. in Animal Science!

Please share your photos with us by tagging them with #uconnanimalscience and the appropriate hashtag above for a chance to be featured! If your photo doesn't fit one of the categories above, share it to #uconnanimalscience as we love to see what our students are doing!

Don't forget to follow us at @UConnAnimalScience on Instagram!

Please contact Michelle.Grant@UConn.edu with any questions!



*An Instagram photo shared by ANSC junior,
Alexa LeConche*

Patagonia Biodiversity Trip

Animal Science offered its first Education Abroad class which culminated in an educational and exciting trip to Chile for the course Patagonian Biodiversity and Horse Culture. Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Assistant Professor in Animal Science, collaborated with Dr. Ortega, Associate Professor in Natural Resources and the Environment, to offer the trip. Thirteen students, including Animal Science students **Sarah Cubells, Rachel Ghiroli, Natalia Gil, Summer Hoogenboom, Tori Travers, Liza Jones** and Teaching Assistant **Antonia Brunetti** participated in the combined fall course and trip during the winter intersession. They were guided by local Paola Goich.

Students slept mostly in tents but also at a hostel. Three nights were spent in different locations in the field. The first set of nights they stayed at Laguna Sofia where they camped near a beautiful lake. During their stay, students were shown how pasture was divided for rotational grazing and where cows stayed in the winter and summer in the area. They also learned about best management practices in the US versus Chile after an exciting trail ride. This was the first time riding for two of the students! Abdias, a local horseman, gave a wonderful presentation on a combination of Native and Natural Horsemanship during which he began training a 3-year old horse. By the end of the second day, two of the students were able to ride the horse.

During the trip, students visited ancient caves, hiked in various locations, rode local horses, and viewed glacier fields via boat. Student spent a lot of time learning about the local culture and the history of wild and domestic horses in the region.

This class and trip are being offered again in the fall of 2016 and winter intersession in 2017.



Students on one of several hikes during the trip



Students riding through the Chilean countryside



Students pose at a lake

ANSC Student and Graduate Featured in Naturally@UConn

ANSC senior **Katie Speer** was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in February. Katie, who plans to attend veterinary school after graduation this December, wasted no time diving head-first into a wide variety of activities as a UConn student. She has worked on campus at the poultry units, is a member of the Community Service Learning community and Pre-Vet club, serves as a CAHNR student ambassador and is the current historian of the Poultry Club. In addition to these activities, Katie has interned at Whispering Winds Animal Connection and the Beardsley Zoo. Despite some challenges along the way, she has loved her time here at UConn and is looking forward to veterinary school! Read more [here](#).



ANSC senior Katie Speer poses with a dog at the pre-vet club dog wash



ANSC graduate Antonia Brunetti poses on the Patagonia trip in January

ANSC December graduate **Antonia Brunetti** was also featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in March. As a student here at UConn, Antonia was involved in a wide variety of activities including two study abroad trips, one in South Africa working with exotic animals and one as a teaching assistant for the Patagonia Biodiversity and Horse Culture course in Chile. She also worked for UConn Blooms, as a photographer and student employee in the ANSC main office, and served as a CAHNR Ambassador for three years. Toni plans to attend graduate school to study reproductive physiology in the future and would like to work with exotic animals. Read more from the article [here](#).

ANSC Block and Bridle Club Hosts NESAs



Members of the UConn Block and Bridle Club pose with advisor Tom Hoagland at the NESAs banquet

In February, the UConn Block and Bridle Club, with the help of the Dairy Club, Sigma Alpha and the Animal Science faculty, hosted the annual Northeast Students Affiliate (NESA) competition. This year eight schools from the Northeast brought 180 students and faculty to compete in the Livestock Judging and Quiz Bowl competitions as well as oral presentations.

Teams of four judged classes of Angus heifers, Holstein heifers, Morgan stallions, Shropshire sheep, Leghorn production hens and a surprise class of Porterhouse steaks. Following the judging competition, a Jeopardy style quiz bowl competition was held with animal science related questions while a representative from each team presented a topic of their choice related to animal agriculture.

Following the competition, all of the teams celebrated at an awards banquet where the top participants, teams and universities were named. This year URI beat Penn State, the reigning champion of the past five years.

Dairy Travel Course

The 19th Annual New England Regional Dairy Program Travel Course in January was a great success! Five UConn students and Dr. Sheila Andrew joined students and faculty from the other New England Land-Grant universities for a week-long tour of dairy farms and agribusinesses throughout Maine. The trip gave students the opportunity to visit successful farms that represented a variety of different types of dairy farms. From an organic dairy farm to a sheep milking flock to a 1,500 cow-dairy with a 100 cow rotary milking parlor, the students gained valuable experience in understanding what makes a sustainable dairy operation and that there is more than one way to achieve this success. We are looking forward to the 20th annual dairy travel course next year!

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



Participants from several schools pose for a photo at Conant Acres Farm in Maine

Animal Science 2016 Summer Courses



A student performs a castration on a rat in Lab Animal class

The Department of Animal Science is offering several courses during the 2016 summer intersession. The following courses will be available this summer:

- The Science of Food – ANSC 1645
- Animal Food Products and "W" Section- ANSC 3343 and ANSC 3344W
- Reproductive Physiology- ANSC 3122
- Lab Animal Science- ANSC 3272

All classes will take place on Storrs campus. If you are interested in taking one of these classes, please sign up now on Student Admin!

Spring Dairy Show

The Annual Spring Dairy Show will be held Saturday, April 16th in the Horsebarn Hill Arena. The event is open to all UConn students. Earlier in the spring, students attended a draw to pick a heifer. Students spend several weeks working with their heifers and then prepare their heifer by bathing and clipping. They then show their animal in several different divisions based on their experience level. The event is free and open to the public.

If you are interested in sponsoring a class or donating, please click [here](#) to fill out the sponsor and donation form!



ANSC student Victoria Vendetta with her prize winning heifer at the 2015 Dairy Show

Connecticut Horse Symposium

On the first weekend in March, UConn hosted the annual Connecticut Horse Symposium at the Horsebarn Hill Arena. The event featured three clinicians on Saturday (Meg Brauch, Ben Wallace, and Susan Bartfay) who discussed straightness training, body control, and animal communication.

The Sunday clinic was entitled "Hands on Horse Science" and covered topics such as dental floating, horse conformation, and fecal flotation. Participants were able to learn about a variety of relevant topics for today's horse owners.

Both days featured vendors and events such as a UConn Morgan Drill Team and Dressage Team demonstration of a pas de deux (dressage test ridden by two people at once) by ANSC students and Dressage Team members Elise Heine and Sofia Santacaterina and a polo game.



Clinician Ben Wallace talks to participants during the Saturday clinic



Members of the Dressage Team and ANSC students, Elise Heine and Sofia Santacaterina performing a pas de deux dressage demo

ANSC Students Shine at CAHNR Graduate Research Forum

ANSC graduate students competed against other graduate students in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources at the annual CAHNR Graduate Research Forum on Saturday, March 5th.

Graduate students were able to present their research in oral and poster competitions. Congratulations to the following students for being chosen amongst their peers:

Outstanding Oral Presentations

- Jingyue Duan
- Meera Surendran Nair
- Sambhu Pillai
- Varunkumar Bhattaram

Outstanding Poster Presentations

- Yanyan Liu



Stephanie Barnes ANSC (PhD, left) and Sarah Kozak (ANSC MS, right) present their poster for research in Dr. D'Amico's lab

IFT Graduate Students Volunteer at Soup Kitchen

Institute of Food Technologists Student Association (IFT), UConn chapter organized a food bank volunteering event at "Covenant Soup Kitchen", Willimantic on Saturday, March 19th. ANSC graduate students, faculty and staff all came out to prepare a meal for the community of Willimantic. This yearly volunteer event is a great way for students, faculty and staff to serve the local community.

Read more about IFT [here](#).



ANSC Graduate students at the Covenant Soup Kitchen

UConn to Host Polo Nationals

The University of Connecticut will be hosting the National Intercollegiate Polo Championships again this year from April 5th – 9th.

The National Collegiate Polo Championship is hosted by the Department of Animal Science, The UConn Polo Club and USPA at Horsebarn Hill Arena.

Please click [here](#) for the schedule and more information on the teams competing this year.



Members of the UConn Women's Polo Team compete against Cornell in the regular season

Pre-Vet Club Events and News

The semi-annual Pre-Veterinary Club Dog Wash will be held on Saturday, April 30th, time and location to be announced. The club will wash well-behaved dogs of any size and will offer nail trims. All dogs must be leashed and up-to-date on their rabies vaccination. For more information, click [here](#).

For the second year in a row, Pre-Vet Club members participated in three different trips as alternative spring breaks through an organization called World Vets.

Gabriella Locicero (ANSC), Ashley Russo (ANSC), Mary Ward (Patho) traveled to Granada, **Nicaragua** as part of a large spay/neuter clinic where they learned how to prep for surgery, place an IV catheter, place an endotracheal tube, administer shots, and had the opportunity to watch several surgeries on cats and dogs. Outside of their spay/neuter clinic, they had a community outreach day where they performed physical exams, administered vaccines, and treated any issued to local animals. Their group treated over 150 animals on their community outreach day and spayed over 100 cats and dogs at their clinic, all free of charge to the pet owners.

Jordyn Bryant (ANSC), Alyssa Condon (ANSC), Sarah Cubells (ANSC), Noria Davis (ANSC) and Emily Forauer (Patho) went to Roatan, **Honduras** to work with abandoned, confiscated and orphaned exotic animals at the Maya Key Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Center. They performed annual exams, which included taking vitals, giving subcutaneous and intramuscular shots, and drawing blood. They also learned how to safely prepare and discharge a dart gun to sedate the animals. Among many other things, they focused on learning the many differences that come with treating exotic animals in comparison to domestic animals. Some species they worked with included jaguars, margays, ocelots, white faced capuchin monkeys, spider monkeys, howler monkeys, crocodiles, a peccary, and a kinkajou, along with a few species of birds. All medical treatments were provided free of charge.

Christopher Culviner (ANSC), Lauren Giampapa (Patho), Gregory Rybacki (ANSC) traveled to Otavalo, **Ecuador** as part of a large scale sterilization campaign. Here, their team, which consisted of six vets, three vet techs, three pre-vet students, and two assistants, offered free spay and neuters to the community's dogs and cats. This campaign was organized in collaboration with a local non-profit organization that promotes animal welfare. Students were able to administer sub-cutaneous shots and help prep for and observe surgeries. Over the course of three days they were able to sterilize 270 cats and dogs.

Overall all three groups had an amazing time and the club is looking forward to sending more students with [World Vets](#) next year!



Pre-Vet Club members at the fall 2015 dog wash



ANSC Major Ashley Russo in Nicaragua



Pre-Vet Club members at the with a jaguar in Honduras



Pre-Vet Club members in Equador

Employees Recognized for Service

Every year, the University of Connecticut honors employees during Employee Appreciation Week for dedication and commitment to the University for years of continuous service. The following faculty members from Animal Science will be recognized this year.

- **Dr. Richard Mancini**- 10 Years of Dedicated Service
- **Dr. Sheila Andrew**- 20 Years of Dedicated Service
- **Dr. Steven Zinn**- 25 Years of Dedicated Service

Join us in congratulating these faculty members for their dedication to the field of animal science and the students of the Department of Animal Science and the University of Connecticut!



Dr. Sheila Andrew



Dr. Richard Mancini

New Hires in ANSC

The Department of Animal Science would like to welcome the following employees to our department:

- Sharon Aborn- Compliance Coordinator- ANSC Alum '99- Comes to us from Bristol-Myers Squibb in Wallingford, CT where she was a Veterinary Scientist for 15 years whose primary responsibility was safety & compliance.
- Jennifer Szela- Program Assistant I- ANSC Alum '12- Comes to us from the UConn Document Production Center where she worked for almost four years.
- Agricultural Worker I- Anticipated start date in April!

We are looking forward to great things from our new employees!



You're Invited: Annual Animal Science



You're invited to the 2016 Animal Science Chicken BBQ and picnic on **Friday, April 29th at 5:30 PM** hosted by the Poultry Club and Poultry Science Class. The event will be held in the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena. Please sign up in the George White Main Office (Room 107) to bring a food item to share! For a brochure with more information, please click [here](#).

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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, via phone at (860) 486-1088 or by mail: University of Connecticut, Department of Animal Science, 3636 Horsebarn Road Ext., 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.



ANSC student making mozzarella in Dairy Technology class



Students reviewing the form and function of the equine digestive track in Animal Nutrition lab