Greetings.

As we move into April, we prepare for the end of spring semester (with snow on April 2nd, it’s hard to actually call it spring). With the last days of the semester approaching, it means that we are gearing up for or finishing up several events including the Open House on April 14th, Dairy Show on April 21st and Commencement on May 5th. On April 27th, we will have the end of semester barbecue hosted by the Poultry Club which will also be the retirement send-off for Dr. Michael Darre. He is retiring after 37 years of distinguished teaching and service in Department of Animal Science at UConn.

Congrats to the successes of our Equestrian teams; the Dressage, Western and Hunt Seat teams all completed successful regular seasons with zones and nationals are on the horizon. In addition, Mr. John Bennett has announced his plan to retire on August 1. John has been at the heart of our UConn equine program since 1986 and he will be missed.

Join me in congratulating our graduating students in the 2-year and 4-year programs as well as those completing their MS and PhD degrees. Congratulations to the Animal Science students named as New England (3.7 GPA for all of 2017) and Homer Babidge (4.0 GPA for all of 2017) Scholars, and to the sophomores, juniors, and seniors that have been named as American Society of Animal Science Scholars (top 10% of each class).

(More on page 2)
Message from the Department Head \textit{(continued)}

Dr. Breno Fragomeni will join the faculty as our new geneticist in August 2018. Dr. Fragomeni will teach Principles of Animal Genetics (ANSC 3121) beginning this fall. In addition, we will be interviewing for a new faculty member this spring to begin in fall 2018 as well.

For students graduating this May or August, make sure that your Plan of Study is submitted to the degree auditor. It is important that these be submitted before graduation. In addition, you should have received a graduating senior survey via email, which we would appreciate if you complete and submit. These surveys give seniors an opportunity to give feedback on our program.

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

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\caption{Dr. Steven Zinn}
\end{figure}

Dr. Steven Zinn
Professor and Head
Department of Animal Science

2018 Vet School Admits

Congratulations to our Pre-Vet seniors who have been accepted to the following veterinary schools for fall 2018:

- Atlantic Veterinary College
- Auburn University
- Cornell University
- Lincoln Memorial University
- Ohio State University
- Ross University
- Tufts University
- University of California, Davis
- University of Georgia
- University of Glasgow
- University of Illinois
- University of Pennsylvania
- Washington State University

\begin{figure}[h]
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\caption{Dr. Zinn with ANSC Alumni now in the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine}
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\begin{figure}[h]
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\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{image3.png}
\caption{Attention Pre-Vet Seniors: We Want to Hear From You!}
\end{figure}

If you have been accepted into a veterinary program please email Michelle with your news!
Despite the weather here in Connecticut, spring is finally here at UConn!

There are five new foals down at the horse barn, three Morgans, a Quarter Horse and a Warmblood. Foals can be viewed outside during good weather this spring!

Our spring lambs were featured in UConn Today at the end of March. Check out more of the photos here. (Lamb Photos by Garrett Spahn)
Horse Symposium

We hosted a very successful Connecticut Horse Symposium on March 3rd in the Horsebarn Hill Arena. The event featured a western dressage clinic given by Mike Marquez of Vaquero Training Center, demonstrations by the UConn Morgan Drill Team and UConn Dressage Team, and a hands on horse science clinic featuring saddle fitting, myofascial release therapy, lameness location, and barn fire safety.

Read an article written by Alexandra Buss for WHUS here. All photos below are courtesy of Alexandra Buss.

Come Ride with Us!

Did you know that the UConn Department of Animal Science offers horseback riding lessons that are open to the public during the summer?

Maybe you would like to brush up on your skills during the show season, learn how to play polo or ride the beautiful trails on UConn’s campus. There is a program for every skill level and discipline!

Registration is now open and space is limited. Learn more at www.uconnsummerriding.uconn.edu and reserve your spot today!
ANSC Class Assists with Yogurt Project

Dr. Dennis D’Amico’s Dairy Food Products class has been hard at work this spring formulating and performing sensory testing on various recipes for a new yogurt. This project is a collaboration between the Department of Animal Science and the Department of Plant Science. The yogurt will be formulated with aronia juice, or chokeberry, which is a tart berry that has a flavor that blends well in yogurt. Once all of the testing is complete, the yogurt will be produced in the UConn Creamery and sold at the UConn Dairy Bar. Read more in an article in the Daily Campus here.

Stay tuned for more details!
Thank You for UConn Gives!

Many, many thanks to all who participated and made a gift to the UConn Department of Animal Science for the first ever UConn Giving Day!

The event raised $1,669 from over 40 donors that will go to support student travel expenses for internships, presenting original data at scientific meetings, and participating in Study Abroad opportunities.

The value of these experiences for our students is immeasurable. They greatly enhance their experience here at UConn by opening a variety of doors and allowing for additional networking opportunities that will serve them long after they leave UConn!

We’re looking forward to this annual event and hope you will participate next year!

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DR. DARRE IS RETIRING!

Join us for a potluck poultry BBQ and ice cream social in celebration of his 37 years of service to the UConn Department of Animal Science!

Friday, April 27th
5:30 PM
Ratcliffe Hicks Arena

Please RSVP to Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu ASAP and sign up for the potluck here.
Club Updates and Events

UConn Block and Bridle Club attended the North East Student Affiliate (NESA) competition at the end of March at Rutgers University. The club placed 5th overall, 5th in the Livestock Judging competition and 6th in Quiz Bowl. Congratulations to all of our students who participated!

The UConn Dairy Show will be held on Saturday, April 21st in the Horsebarn Hill Arena. UConn students (all majors invited) will show dairy heifers they have been training this semester in showmanship classes. This event is free and open to the public. Learn more here.

The Sigma Alpha Sorority hosted their annual horse show on April 7th. The show featured something for everyone including hunt seat, jumping, western classes and games. The winner of the Pleasure Classic class was ANSC student Lily Morenz riding UConn bred Morgan UC Nightstar.

The UConn Poultry Club will host the annual 4-H Poultry Show on Saturday, April 14th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 4-H members from across the state will flock to UConn to show off their poultry and handling skills!

The Poultry Club attended the International Production and Processing Expo (IPPE) in Atlanta Georgia in February. Club members enjoyed meeting with industry leaders and exploring the expo. The club also visited the Georgia Aquarium during their stay.

The Pre-Vet Club has had a busy semester with several events! The Cure Canine Cancer walk was held on Sunday, April 8th. Proceeds from the walk go to support canine cancer research at Cornell University. The club will host their semi-annual dog wash in the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena from 12 to 4 p.m. Learn more here.
Several of our ANSC undergraduate students made the “news” this semester!

ANSC junior **Djion Holness** was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in early April. Djion is a College Ambassador and her goals are to go to vet school and potentially pursue a Ph.D. in veterinary pathology to study the relationship between animal and human health. Read more about her experiences at UConn and beyond [here](#).

ANSC senior **Daniel Munch** was also featured on the Naturally@UConn blog this semester. Danny is pursuing an individualized major, which he named Livestock Management and Policy. He hopes this will help him pursue a career working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the policy sector. Read more about Danny and his undergrad experiences [here](#).

ANSC student **Kaliana Tom** wrote an article for the CAHNR Ambassador blog in March. Kaliana discussed some of the research opportunities she has taken advantage of as an undergrad interested in veterinary school. Read more about her research [here](#).

ANSC senior **Alyssa Condon** was selected as the 2018 Outstanding Senior Woman for the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. ANSC senior **Jessica LaRosa** was chosen as the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture 2-year student for this award this year as well! Only one 4 year and one 2 year graduating student is chosen from each school or college at the University. In addition, Alyssa will be the undergraduate commencement speaker for CAHNR Commencement in May. Congratulations Alyssa and Jessica!

ANSC senior **Rachel Conte** was chosen as the singer for the national anthem for this year’s CAHNR Commencement ceremonies. Rachel is a member of the co-ed a capella group A Minor here on campus and will graduate in May.

ANSC student **Michelle Martinez** was featured on UConn Today in an article about the fencing club. See more [here](#)!
Graduate Student Success

Dr. Xiuchun Tian and graduate student Elizabeth Johnson (Ph.D. with Dr. Tian) completed the Accelerate UConn Program through the UConn Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship. They have been working on creating a plant derived compound that prevents and treats diseases by Mycoplasma bovis. Learn more about this program here.

Graduate students Catherine Gensler (M.S. with Dr. D’Amico) and Deepa Kuttappan (Ph.D. with Dr. Amalaradjou) were chosen to receive Nutmeg IFT Graduate Scholarships at the Nutmeg IFT Student Award Night in early April.

Several ANSC graduate students presented their research at the Annual CAHNR Graduate Student Research Forum in March. Abraham Pellissery (Ph.D. with Dr. Venkitanarayanan), Lang Sun (M.S. with Dr. D’Amico), and Poonam Vinayamohan (Ph.D. with Dr. Venkitanarayanan) were recognized for their excellent oral presentations.

ANSC Ph.D. student Jingyue “Ellie” Duan (Ph.D. with Dr. Tian) presented her abstract entitled “Effects of Maternal Diets on Fetal Genomic Imprinting in Sheep”, in the International Sheep Genomics Consortium workshop at the Plant and Animal Genome Conference in San Diego, CA in January. Learn more about this conference here.

New Animal Science Faculty Member

The UConn Department of Animal Science would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest faculty member, Dr. Breno Fragomeni, Assistant Professor, who will be our new genetics specialist. Dr. Fragomeni comes to us from the University of Georgia where he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

Please join us in welcoming him this fall as he begins his teaching and research!
Faculty & Recognition

Dr. Steven Zinn was selected to receive a 2018 UConn AAUP Career Teaching Excellence Award! Faculty with over 6 years of excellence in teaching and advising can be considered for this award. He is one of only two UConn professors selected for this award this year. Our congratulations to Dr. Zinn!

Dr. Xiuchun (Cindy) Tian was part of the UConn CAHNR GMO Team that was selected for the 2018 David and Nancy Bull Extension Innovation Award. Our congratulations Dr. Tian!

Dr. Young Tang was selected to receive a $10,000 Promising Project Award from the Yale University Program in Innovative Therapeutics for Connecticut’s Health (PITCH). Congratulations to Dr. Tang! Read more about this program here.

On March 23rd and 24th, the Department of Animal Science hosted speakers from around the United States and the Northeast section of the American Society of Animal Science and American Dairy Science Association meeting. Organized by Dr. Reed and Dr. Zinn, with support from CAHNR and ASAS, invited speakers discussed the effects of maternal programming on the offspring and scientists from around the Northeast region shared their research. Several Animal Science alumni returned to share their current research, including Dr. Amanda Jones (Ph.D. ’17) and Stacia Prosser (B.S. ’14). Animal Science faculty, undergraduate and graduate students also presented at the meeting.

Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan received a $635,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study the use of plant compounds to prevent food-borne pathogens from chicken and eggs. Congratulations to Dr. Venkitanarayanan! Read more here.
Faculty & Staff Milestones

Congratulations are in order to several of our faculty and staff for many years of dedicated service to UConn and the Department of Animal Science!

Joe Hannon III (Dairy Unit) – 35 Years
Tina Burnham (Main Office), Dave Macha (Livestock) – 30 Years
Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan (ANSC Professor & CAHNR Associate Dean of Research), Paul Bleimeyer (Dairy Unit) – 20 Years

Alumni Updates

ANSC alumna Leanne Jankelunas (ANSC B.S. ‘16) shared a photo of herself and Ann Oakes (ANSC B.S. ‘15) lobbying Congress in Washington, D.C. Leanne says “We lobbied to protect animal disease surveillance and diagnostic funding which is used to monitor and prevent serious disease outbreaks in the U.S.. We also lobbied to protect loan repayment programs which allow veterinary students to pay off their massive medical school loans even though most will never make an equivalent salary to that of individuals in other medical fields.”

Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan (Ph.D. ’12) was selected to receive the 2018 Outstanding Young Animal Scientist Research Award from the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science! Dr. Ramanathan now works as an assistant professor at Oklahoma State University. Congratulations Dr. Ramanathan!

Merin (Bohem) Troutman (B.S. ’95) made a donation to the Department of Animal Science “…to continue the strong growth of the UConn Animal Science program.” Many thanks for your continued support, Merin!

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. We would love to feature you in the next edition of the newsletter!
Animal Unit Upgrades

Dr. Steven Zinn provided a seminar presentation entitled “The State of the Department of Animal Science” that highlighted all of the changes in our department from 2009 to 2018. The presentation included a number of changes to the ANSC facilities on Horsebarn Hill. Some of the installations and upgrades over the last decade include:

- Flooring, paint, lighting and heating and cooling upgrades in the George White Building
- A new egg room and removal of the old buildings at the Poultry Units
- Robotic Milking Units and a generator at the Kellogg Dairy Center
- A new roof on the Cattle Resource Unit
- The new hoop barn for beef cows, building paint and asphalt driveway at the Livestock Unit.
- Many, many upgrades to the Equine Units including stall and fire doors, a new portico, lighting, and footing in the arena and office and bathroom upgrades

We are looking forward to many more upgrades that are on the horizon in order to better serve our students, faculty and staff and accomplish our teaching and research goals!

Compliance Corner

Attention: All Potential Student Employees of ANSC Animal Units!

As part of the pre-employment process, all animal unit student employees must complete IACUC training and the EHS Training Module. More information can be found here.

Required training specific to ANSC student animal unit 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
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, 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.