





Animal Science News & Announcements



Photo: Alexandra Doolan,
(Equestrian Team member) with
Julieta (a UConn Polo Horse)

Saturday, April 27th is
UConn's Annual Horse
Auction and Tack &
Equipment Tag Sale!

Alumna Helen Scanlon
has even donated a
print to be included in a
silent auction!

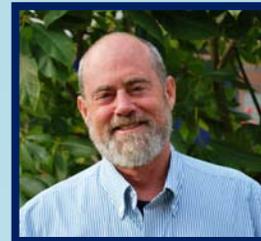
Visit
[www.animalscience.
uconn.edu](http://www.animalscience.uconn.edu) for more
information!

ANSC STUDENTS ADMITTED TO VET SCHOOL

ANSC students who accepted to vet school for Fall '13 are now making their final decision as to where to spend the next four years! They have been accepted to Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Island, Auburn Univ., Univ. of CA – Davis, Cornell, Univ. of Edinburgh, FL State, IA State, KS State, MI State, Univ. of MN, Univ. of MO, MS State, NC State, OH State, Penn State, Purdue, Texas A&M, Tufts, St. George's Univ., Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, and Univ. of WI. Congratulations to the following ANSC students who have been accepted to vet schools as of the date of this newsletter's publication:

Brian Carson – *Deciding between Purdue, NC State, and Virginia-Maryland Regional College*
Ashleigh Cournoyer – *Purdue*
Lisa Dauten – *Purdue*
Christiana Fischer – *UPenn*
Rachel Forbes – *Purdue*
Michelle Forella – *Cornell*
Amanda Fox – *North Carolina State*
Erica Hess – *Atlantic Vet College in Prince Edward Island*
Ruzena Jata – *Mississippi State*
Dana Kaelin – *Iowa State*
Katelyn Litchko – *University of Florida*
Jessica McDermott - *St. George's University*
Katherine Pokrandt – *Tufts*
Rebecca Remeika – *Deciding between Univ. of FL & UPenn*
Daniel Shaiken – *IA State*
Cameron Smart – *Texas A&M*
Amanda Steneck – *Tufts*
Molly Viner – *University of California – Davis*
Zoe Wichman – *University of California – Davis*

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD



Greetings.

With Final Exams just around the corner, the spring semester is winding down and once again it's been a very busy semester with some major accomplishments for students and faculty in Animal Science; many of which are featured in this issue, including a spotlight on Dr. Darre.

In March after conducting a search and interviewing three candidates, Dr. Mary Anne Roshni Amalaradjou agreed to join the faculty. She is a food microbiologist and will arrive in Storrs for the fall semester. We are just completing our search for a dairy foods expert with the hope that he or she will join us in the fall as well. A big thank you goes to ANSC faculty, staff and students who took time to listen to seminars and meet the candidates. Feedback to the search committee is a critical part of the hiring process and we appreciate all of your efforts and input.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors. We look forward to seeing you at graduation on Saturday evening at 6 p.m. and at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources reception, held just prior to the graduation ceremonies. We appreciate your input as to your experience as an Animal Science student at UConn so I encourage you to meet with me for a Senior Exit Interview.

As the semester winds down, we know that means a few important annual events are rapidly approaching, including the Dairy Show on April 20, the Horse Auction on April 27, the Poultry Barbecue on May 3 and student teacher evaluations. Many classes are going to an on-line evaluation system instead of the traditional 'scantron' sheets. The new evaluations will require you to have a portable device to log-on to the internet, so this may be the only time that we encourage you to bring your phones, laptops and tablets to class!

As we look back on the year and realize the number of activities and programs that we offer in the Department of Animal Science, I want to thank the efforts of the faculty, staff and especially our students that have volunteered their time, often on weekends and evenings, to make these events successful. Although the events and the individuals that help are too numerous to mention, I want to extend an extra thank you to the clubs that organize many of our events that make Animal Science the great department that it is.

Thank you all, good luck with finals and have a great summer.

Special Features in This Issue

- * CANR Award Winners
- * Outstanding Alumni
- * Spotlight on Dr. Michael Darre
- * UConn Polo Gala



ANSC AWARDS & HONORS

ANSC Undergraduate (ASAS) Awards

In 1965, the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) initiated a program of recognition for undergraduate animal science students by making available several means of recognition. UConn's Department of Animal Science has nominated the following ANSC majors based on their academic excellence for membership in the national American Society of Animal Science. Students will receive a certificate signed by the President of ASAS and their names will be published in the July issue of Journal of Animal Science. Student recipients are invited to attend an Ice Cream Social on May 3rd to receive their certificates. This year's ASAS recipients are...

SENIORS

Brian E. Carson
Lisa H. Dauten
Christiana Fischer
Allison L. Fisher
Michelle E. Forella
Amanda R. Fox
Katelyn M. Litchko
Katherine H. Pokrandt
Alexander M. Pryzgod
Rebecca S. Remeika
Amanda G. Steneck
Molly E. Viner
Zoe R. Wichman

JUNIORS

Alison M. Bush
Zachary T. Cosgrove
Kaitlin Davies
Nicole M. Davoren
Mariah L. Harrington
Rebecca L. Hasak
Matthew M. McIntosh
Kelsey L. O'Donnell
Maria A. Paradis
Lindsay D. Parshall
Jordan A. Schechtman
Jacqueline M. Thomas

SOPHOMORES

Cara E. Dooley
Alycia J. Fulton
Samuel L. Lambert
Emma K. Lavigne
Julie A. Notestine
Emma R. Price
Abigail K. Ruane
Allison L. Schauer
Clarissa E. Spadanuta
Bethany E. Sullivan
Ellen V. Valley
Kaitlyn M. Way
Leanne K. Wooley

ANSC Undergraduate Research

Michelle Forella, an ANSC senior, works in the laboratory of Dr. Steven Zinn. For the past two years she has worked on a large collaborative project studying developmental programming using sheep as a model. Suboptimal maternal nutrition, which can be a result of under - or over - nutrition, can alter the intrauterine environment in a way that causes permanent developmental changes in the offspring. Several diseases, including obesity, cardiovascular disease, insulin resistance, and diabetes, have been linked to developmental programming, so an understanding of the mechanisms underlying this process will help to reduce its prevalence and thereby reduce the incidence of these diseases. Michelle has collected all field data and is now analyzing it in the lab and finishing her thesis.

Want to learn more? Visit us online at www.animalscience.uconn.edu to learn about her research project as well as other Animal Science students' ongoing research missions!



ANSC Department Hosts National High School Polo Tournament

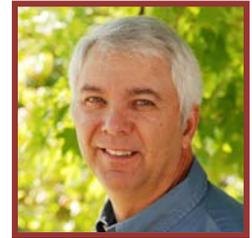
On February 15-17, the Department of Animal Science and UConn Polo Program hosted the Northeastern Interscholastic (High School) Regional Tournament, with UConn's own high school team competing. This team (comprised of **Leslie Field**, **Carly Persano**, **Sara Tufts**, **Maddie McDougall** and **Kathleen Moriarty**, and coached by UConn Animal Science alumna **Caitlin Tufts**) is currently ranked second in the country behind returning Interscholastic National Champions, Maryland Polo Club. In the first round, UConn defeated Western New York 29-4 and Newport, RI defeated Toronto, Canada making for an all-New England final. The Regional Finals, held on February 17 was a hard fought match with UConn eventually winning 13-10, guaranteeing the team a spot at the Women's Interscholastic National Championship, representing the Northeastern Region. Congratulations to Carly Persano and Sara Tufts on receiving All-Star Awards as well as to UConn's own "Pampe" for winning Best Playing Polo Pony of the tournament.



Photographed (l-r): Carly Persano, Leslie Field, Sara Tufts, Caitlin Tufts (Coach, UConn 12), Kathleen Moriarty, and Maddie McDougall

The Department of Animal Science and UConn Polo Program hosted the 2013 Women's Interscholastic National Tournament at the Horsebarn Hill Arena March 7th-10th. The number 2 ranked UConn girls were joined by teams from Culver Girls Academy in Texas, the Maryland Polo Club, and the Maui Polo Club from Hawaii. The UConn Interscholastic team won their first Interscholastic National Title!

Dr. Michael Darre UConn's Own Animal Science Superhero!



Written By: Katie Smith, Freshman ANSC Major (Pre-Vet)

Dr. Michael Darre is notorious for cracking jokes in class and his difficult exams, but there is much more to this Animal Science professor than his wittiness and his ability to challenge his students. Dr. Darre was born in Chicago, Illinois. With his four brothers and a sister, he grew up on a farm in Oak Park, Illinois where he was exposed to cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry early in his life. He enjoyed his summers as a boy working on the farm. Despite his mother wanting him to be a doctor, Dr. Darre always knew he wanted to work with animals.

In 1971, Dr. Darre enlisted in the army as a Top Secret Courier/ Communications Specialist where he served for two years in Vietnam. He recalls a memorable experience with a monkey who once threw a handful of poop at him. And this monkey eventually became his pet! Dr. Darre was able to teach the monkey how to ride on the back of one of the dogs at the army compound. Even in Vietnam, Dr. Darre had a way with animals! Upon returning to the United States, he went to work for G.D. Searle Pharmaceuticals as a Lab Technician in the Endocrinology lab. Here, he was inspired by many Animal Scientist PhDs who informed him along the way of everything a career in Animal Science had to offer. He states, "So that is what I did, and it is all history since then."

(continued on next page)

Compliance Corner

Courtesy of Victor Delaire,
ANSC Compliance Coordinator



Above, Victor Delaire poses with
UC Doc Sanchez

Ever wonder what happens to UConn's livestock during our not so rare fall Hurricanes or record breaking Nor'easters? Seek no further!

The Department of Animal Science has an **Emergency Disaster Plan for Agricultural Animals** tailored to the needs of our livestock and barn staff.

This plan contains pertinent information including: emergency contacts, instructions on preparing for severe weather, prioritization of duties, and safety precautions around our barns.

All animal unit employees (including student employees), have access to this document in the main office of their respective animal units. Employees should familiarize themselves with the document and forward any questions, comments or concerns to the animal unit manager or Compliance Coordinator.

Animal Science Superhero Continued...

Dr. Darre graduated from the University of Illinois in 1975 with a B.S. in Animal Science and went back to earn an M.S. in Animal Physiology from the University of Illinois in 1977. It was during this time that he first worked with an Extension Poultry Specialist and realized that this was the career he wanted to pursue. He continued his education and earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Animal Physiology from the University of Illinois in 1981.

Since then, Dr. Darre has been at the University of Connecticut and there has been no looking back. When asked when he decided to become a professor, he jokes, "The day they hired me!" He not only teaches Introduction to Animal Science, Principles of Poultry Science and Behavior and Training of Domestic Animals, but he has helped to create and establish both the Behavior and Training of Domestic Animals and the Companion Animals classes we now have at UConn. And if that is not enough, Dr. Darre is also the University Marshal, a member of the University Senate Executive Committee, a member of the University Senate, past Chair and current member of the Senate Courses and Curriculum Committee, Chair of the CANR Courses and Curricula Committee, Chair of the Animal Science Scholarship Committee, a member of the Animal Science Advisory Committee, a member of the Animal Science Internship Committee, and Coordinator of the Animal Science Summer Farm Management Internship Program. He is also the advisor for the UConn Poultry Science Club and co-advisor to UConn's Block and Bridle Club.

(read more on page 5)



Animal Science Superhero – Conclusion...

Furthermore, Dr. Darre is the Extension Poultry Specialist in Connecticut and all of New England. For this, he educates in all aspects of the poultry industry: from a backyard poultry farmer with just a few birds to the vast, multimillion bird commercial businesses. He also offers advice for poultry farmers on anything and everything, including general nutrition and healthcare to choosing a breed to environmental management. He does this by providing both written information and maintaining two websites, a general one and one for 4-H. He also works with the 4-H youth in New England and proudly remarks of one of their biggest accomplishments: the Annual Southern New England 4-H held Poultry Show and Showmanship Contest in the spring. It attracts more than 100 youth and over 250 birds. Dr. Darre says he likes working with poultry because “they are found world-wide and enjoyed by people of all ages. They can be pets as well as used for food and fiber. There are over 300 varieties recognized as pure breeds and hundreds of other crosses used or shown by people. It also helps feed a hungry world with economical, nutritious food, including both eggs and meat.”



Dr. Darre attends the Big E each year and teaches the public how to cook the perfect omelet as well as entertains any poultry-related questions.

Finally, Dr. Darre does research on energy efficient lighting for poultry to save energy and reduce the cost of electricity on farms. He has been speaking and working on this topic for the last 30 years. Many poultry farmers have adopted the use of such energy efficient lighting devices, first compact fluorescent lamps and now LED lamps. Besides “still living at age 62!”, Dr. Darre views this as his largest accomplishment.

Dr. Darre notes that the reason he has stayed at UConn for all these years is because of the good relationships he has developed with current and past students, many of whom have become involved in the Poultry Industry. He also credits the Animal Science faculty who, he says, “has become a second family.”

Faculty Outreach and Teaching Awards

Congratulations are in order for two ANSC Professors! **Dr. Sheila Andrew** was named the 2013 recipient of the **CANR Award of Excellence for Outreach** and **Dr. Jenifer Nadeau** was named the 2013 **Donald M. Kinsman Award for Excellence in Teaching in CANR/Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture**. Both will be presented their awards at the annual CANR Awards and Honors event on April 25, 2013.

ANSC STUDENTS RECEIVE VALUABLE EXPERIENCE AS TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Dr. Robert Milvae's ANSC 3272 Laboratory Animal Science class has two Animal Science TA's: Seniors **Christiana Fischer** and **Sara Deangelis**. In ANSC 3272, Christiana and Sarah help weekly with each of the 3-hour labs. They were selected as the course's TAs this year because they have good lab and people skills and are very knowledgeable. The labs are very hands on (e.g. administering anesthesia to rats, performing ear notching, etc..) They lend an extra pair of hands to help with prep and clean-up too!

"I took the course as an elective during the Spring 2011 and felt that it was a great way to get hands-on experience working with live animals. The culminating project is a rat castration- this is a huge confidence booster for students (like me) who want to be veterinarians. Now that I am a TA for the lab, it is really rewarding when students ask for your help and you are able to aid them in taking the necessary steps to become lab animal experts!" - Christiana Fischer, BS '13



Christiana reassures an undergraduate on how to properly cover a specimen with a surgical drape.



Emily Silva (left) and Michelle Grant (right) pose with UConn mare Lilly Ann Clabber and her filly Latte.

"Being a TA for Dr. Reed's Equine Breeding Farm Management is giving me valuable hands-on experience that I will be able to apply to my chosen career path and I really enjoy being able to spend extra time working with some of the UConn horses." - Michelle Grant, BS '13

"Working with Dr. Reed has been an invaluable learning experience. Being able to TA her Breed Farm class has allowed me to gain more hands-on experience in a field that I hope to get more involved with after graduation and has given me an excuse to basically take one of my favorite classes over again without having to take any exams!" - Emily Silva, BS '13

In addition to students mentioned above, there are Undergraduate TAs assisting this semester in Dr. Darre's Behavior and Training of Domestic Animals, Dr. Hoagland's Livestock & Carcass Evaluations and Animal Breeding & Genetics courses, as well as Ms. Meacham's Pleasure Horse Appreciation & Use, Dr. Milvae's Lab Animal Management, and Dr. Safran's Nutrition courses.

Alumni News!



Carey (Marston) Kegel – BS '05
SmartPak

Carey (Marston) Kegel graduated from UCONN in 2005 with a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science, focusing on Equine Sciences, with a deep interest in animal nutrition, reproduction, and behavior. She spent a lot of time in the UConn horse barn and was a member of the Equestrian Team. As a result of her four years of classes, labs, and extracurriculars, she took away an invaluable amount of information that helped her find a job in the field she desired.

In Carey's senior year, she began to focus her career search around equine feed sales and pharmaceutical sales. During her career search, she found a company called SmartPak Equine that was hiring for Product Specialists for equine supplement and supply sales. After being hired in November 2005, she moved from Connecticut to Plymouth, MA, and served as a Product Specialist for over a year, helping customers to find the best products and supplements for their horses. Since then, Carey transitioned to the E-Commerce Department where she now serves as the Email Marketing Manager. "My experiences at UConn definitely contributed to the career I have today, and I have been fortunate to be able to combine my love for horses with customer service and marketing to help solve customer problems." - Carey (Marston) Kegel



Jessica Belsito – BS '03
IBA

Jessica Belsito graduated from UConn in 2003 with a B.S. in Animal Science and a Minor in Dairy Management. While at UConn, she aided a graduate student with research trials and in turn learned what being a graduate student and pursuing an M.S. degree was all about. Jessica decided that was the route she wanted to take so she could specialize in her favorite area -- Dairy Industry Mastitis Management.

As an undergraduate, Jessica took classes useful to her as a graduate student even though she did not need them to graduate (e.g. Organic Chemistry, Growth & Nutrition, etc...). The summer before her senior year, Jessica participated in an internship with a pharmaceutical company to gain experience in that field. It was a great résumé builder and she learned sales skills and, more importantly, people skills.

During her senior year, she focused on choosing which college she wanted to attend for graduate school. She visited a few colleges and met with all of the professors that would qualify to be her "major professor" and in charge of her research project. Jessica picked the University of Florida based on the kinds of research that her professor was doing and because she thought they both would work together well.

Jessica completed her M.S. in two years and applied for many different jobs. It is important to start applying almost a full year before you graduate. Finding a job that will be a good fit takes time. Jessica worked for a nutrition company before deciding she wanted to move home to Massachusetts and work with her family's business. The sales and people skills she learned from her internship and other job experiences were invaluable. She was able to bring new marketing ideas and some new science knowledge to her family's business.

The work Jessica undertook while obtaining her Master's degree allowed her to be able to understand new science concepts as they relate to new products and management techniques. She feels that working with many different people and companies gave her invaluable experience that has become a valuable asset to her own company.

Jessica's current title is Director of Marketing and Technical Advisor. She does everything from research and development of new products, filling out EPA and FDA paperwork for products, creating labels and instructions for marketing and use of company products, and editing the company's magazine - Dairy World!

UConn Dairy Conference



Dr. Sheila Andrew spearheaded the New England Dairy Conference again this year on Monday, March 11th. This year, the event was held at a new location – the Tolland Agricultural Center in Vernon, CT. The conference included a Trade Show. The keynote speaker Dr. Bill Weiss, a Professor of Dairy Cattle Nutrition in the Department of Animal Sciences at the Ohio State University Agricultural Research & Development Center in Wooster, OH gave a talk on “Feeding Cows in Today’s Economy” as well as on “Lower Starch Diet for Dairy Cows/ Do Cows Have a Corn Requirement?” Some other topics discussed that day was “Dairy LGM Insurance Update and Other Risk Management Updates” by Mr. Joe Bonelli, Associate Extension Education from UConn. To receive a notice regarding the next Dairy Conference, send an e-mail to anscmail@uconn.edu.

Graduate Students Learn Hands-On With Industry Leaders

Dr. Cameron Faustman’s ANSC 5641 Food Chemistry class attended the Boston Seafood Show on Sunday, March 10th to get an appreciation for the vastness of the food industry. The seafood industry has many components such as retail, sustainable fishing practices, production line innovations, etc. Companies from around the world travel to this show in order to market their products.

Dr. Faustman guided his graduate students through the show and shared interesting facts with them along the way. For instance, he showed them how to distinguish between male and female blue crabs by the size of the aprons on their abdomens!

The students spoke with industry professionals about freshwater ice fishing in Canada and discussed sustainable fishing practices with other companies. All in all, it was a very fun and educational time!



- Source: Genevieve Flock, ANSC M.S. Student

ANSC STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

- **Sigma Alpha** participated in the Blue Ribbon Sheep Forum on February 23rd. They organized a skill-a-thon and helped 4-H children learn about the major body parts, skeletal system, feeds, medications, and foot and leg structure of sheep. The sorority ran workshops to teach parliamentary procedure too!
- **UConn's Dressage Team** received Reserve at their Mount Holyoke College IDA game.
- **UConn's Equestrian Team** received Regional Championship for the year, High Point Rider and Reserve High Point Rider at their last home game. They move on to Zone Finals at CW Post on April 7th.
- **The Western Semi Finals** was a big success! Christine Turrini placed 3rd in Intermediate Horsemanship and is moving on to the National Finals in Harrisburg, PA.
- **UConn Dairy Club** will host the Dairy Club Show on April 20th!
- **UConn Poultry Club** will host their annual Poultry BBQ on Friday, May 3rd at 5:30 pm. ANSC students, faculty, staff, and friends are invited! Sign-up in the ANSC Main Office to bring a food or beverage item.



UConn's Western Team Coach (Alena Meacham) and 3rd place winner (Christine Turrini) pose at the Western Semi Finals in Pomona, California.

UCONN POLO GALA

You are cordially invited to join the UConn Polo Club as they celebrate the year and honor Dr. James Dinger for everything he has done for our program. **Please refrain from mentioning this to Peggy and James Dinger;** we want it to be a surprise! This eventful weekend consists of two alumni polo games and a Saturday Evening Dinner Banquet with live music and Silent Auction.

Saturday May 4th: Men's Alumni Game @ Noon

Sunday May 5th: Women's Alumni Game @ 11 AM

Cost: \$30/chukker* or \$20/chukker with purchase of dinner

*Includes horse rental. Mallets are provided. Four chukker maximum purchase/player. Games take place at Horsebarn Hill Arena. Arrive 30 minutes prior to game time; horses will be tacked for you.

Saturday May 4th: Dinner Banquet and Silent Auction

Cocktail Hour: 5:30-6:30 pm

Silent auction will take place during this time – all proceeds directly benefit UConn Polo Club

Dinner: 6:30-10:00 pm

Dinner buffet followed by speeches, awards, and live music by UConn's Funky Dawgz Brass Band!

Dress code: Sunday Polo attire.

Cost: \$45/person. Cash bar throughout the night.

Contact Cameron.Smart@uconn.edu to be sent an **RSVP Form** where you can indicate the number of guests, items you wish to donate to the Silent Auction, and/or number of chukkers you would like to play.

UNIVERSITY OUTSTANDING ANSC SENIOR



When **Lisa Dauten '13** (CANR) asked her parents for a pony, they suggested she get a cow instead, thinking it would be a less expensive (and temporary) addition to the family.

So, at age 11, Dauten joined her local 4-H club and leased her first calf. At the end of the summer 4-H livestock show season, she was supposed to give the animal back to the farmer who owned it. But Dauten had fallen in love with 'her' calf, so she used the \$400 she had earned bussing tables at her mother's restaurant to buy the baby bovine.

This fall, Dauten, who has a 3.85 GPA, will become a member of the **Class of '17** at the **Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine**. What got her there is a testament to her intellectual curiosity, her work ethic, and her love for animals.

Want to read the rest of the interview? Visit www.today.uconn.edu!

ANSC STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT!

If you would like to contribute to a scholarship or to the general ANSC fund, please complete the information below or make a donation online at www.foundation.uconn.edu and click **GIVE NOW** at top right.

_____ I/ we would like to contribute to the ANSC department.

Please indicate amount:

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100

_____ \$250 _____ Other

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to the *University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc.* On the memo line indicate the *ANSC Department Fund* or name of a particular scholarship.

For more information, contact 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.

ANSC Faculty & Staff Longevity We Appreciate Your Dedication!

"Thank you!" to the following members of Animal Science for your dedication and contribution for so many years in supporting the Department's mission and providing excellence in teaching, research, and extension.

Ms. Tina Burnham
Financial Assistant
25 Years of Service

Mr. Joseph Hannon III
Agricultural Worker II
30 Years of Service

Mr. David Macha
Agricultural Worker II
25 Years of Service

Mr. Noel Miller
Agricultural Worker II
30 Years of Service

Dr. Robert Milvae
Associate Professor
25 Years of Service

Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan
Professor
15 Years of Service