

ANSC Alumni Jim and Karen Davenport Interview

Who else in your family graduated from UConn?

Jim

Wife - Karen Dunn Davenport

Brothers - Bill, Bob, Scott

Sister-in-law - Jill Perham Davenport

Uncle - Edward Davenport

Karen

Father - David Henry Dunn; Engineering

Mother - Patricia Brooks Welt Dunn; Education

Maternal Uncle - Robert F. Welt; 1969, Social Studies and School of Education

Cousin- Faith Welt Richardson; 2000, Business

Were you involved in any extracurricular clubs/organizations that helped you while at UConn?

Jim

U-Conn Dairy Club; President 1981-82

Block and Bridle

Karen

Block and Bridle; President 1983

Dairy Club

Was there a professor who really helped you as a student?

Jim

Dr. John Riesen - his knowledge and presentation of animal reproduction and nutrition, helped me to understand and utilize such information in a very real and practical way on our dairy farm.

Karen

Drs. John Riesen, Mike Darre, and Al Mannebach

Tell us about your family farm:

Jim

We are a dairy farm in Ancramdale, NY. We produce 1.8 million pounds of very high quality milk per year. We have won the AgriMark Top Quality Award eight times and have been an NMC Platinum Award winner four times and a Gold winner twice.

Bill and Scott Davenport are important members of our team and help out as their time permits.

What did you do following graduation as far as a job/career and how did UConn prepare you, with what you pursued post graduation?

Jim

I continued working for Dairy Herd Improvement Association as a supervisor, while working on a 200 cow dairy in Washington, CT. We began our own dairy, Tollgate Holsteins, and shipping milk in 1986.

Karen

Jim and I married in August of 1984 and I began teaching what was then Vocational Agriculture. While teaching at WAMOGO Regional High School in Litchfield, we renovated an old barn in Bethlehem, CT and began milking our own cows. I think this was some of the most valuable education I received; to be able to teach from experience. I am still teaching Agricultural Education at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, and still use our dairy as a "land" lab. Our daughters grew up with generations of students in the best teaching program American education has to offer.