

Department of

Animal & Avian Sciences

The Official Newsletter - Please visit us on the web at www.ansc.umd.edu

08
Fall Semester

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Dr. Varner is part of a LANDMARK TEAM

doing work in **RUSSIA** read more...

Department News 2007-2008

Also visit our web site at www.ansc.umd.edu for news from the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, University of Maryland.



Dr. Tom Porter, Department Chair

The Department of Animal and Avian Sciences at the University of Maryland: A Top 10 Department

Our department was ranked among the Top 10 Animal Sciences departments in the nation in the 2007 rankings published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. According to **Professor Tom Porter**, Chair of the Department, this is great news to us and something that we all should take pride in. This national ranking is based heavily on the percentage of faculty with a publication in the past three years, the number of publications per faculty during this period, the percentage of faculty cited in the past four years, and the number of citations per faculty during that time.

2008 Shorb Lecture

The 2008 Shorb Lecture on March 25, 2008 was given by Dr. C. Ronald Kahn, of Harvard University. His lecture was entitled, "Molecular Links Regulating Adipose Tissue, Insulin Resistance and the Metabolic Syndrome." Dr. Kahn is internationally recognized as one of the leading research scientists in insulin action and diabetes. He is President and Director of the Joslin Institute and a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Kahn essentially wrote the book on insulin signaling, from the time of his seminal discovery that the insulin receptor is a tyrosine kinase in the early 1980s. Among his many honors are memberships of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Institute of Medicine.

2008 Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference

The 6th Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference was held March 26-27, 2008 in Timonium, Maryland. **Conference Committee Chair and Editor Nick Zimmermann** reported there was a large turn out of 270 people in attendance. The event was coordinated by Extension Coordinators **Kiera Finucane** and **Kelly Brannon** and Administrative Assistant, **Clare Capotosto**. Several faculty served on the various subcommittees: **Drs. Roselina Angel and Nick Zimmermann** on the Poultry Program Committee, **Dr. Amy Burk** on the Equine Program Committee and **Dr. Rick Kohn** on the Dairy Program Committee. The Conference management has rotated through all the states that participate and will return to Maryland next year. Dr. Kohn has agreed to be the program manager.



Graduate Students present current research at the Annual Symposium

Annual Symposium 2008

Annual Symposium was held on May 27, 2008 with keynote speaker, noted poultry geneticist and Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor, Dr. Sue Lamont from Iowa State University. Dr. Lamont's keynote address was entitled "Salmonella Saga: Integrated Approaches to Understand the Genetics of Host Response to Bacterial Pathogens in Chickens." See the Awards in "Student News."

Department News Continued

Also visit our web site at www.ansc.umd.edu for news from the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, University of Maryland.

Maryland 4-H Wins Brown Swiss, Places 6th Overall at National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest 2008

A contest of 29 4-H teams from across the nation had the opportunity to compete for top honors in the 87th National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, September 29, 2008. The contest is held every year in conjunction with World Dairy Expo at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

The competition includes placing ten classes representing five dairy cattle breeds and presenting five sets of oral reasons.

In the judging contest, Maryland 4-H placed 6th overall as a team. Team members included: Austin Schwartzbeck, Carroll County; Caitlin Patrick, Howard County; Carissa Doody, Frederick County; Katie Moser, Frederick County.



Left to Right: Caitlin Patrick, Katie Moser, Carissa Doody, Austin Schwartzbeck

On an individual basis, the team members placed: Katie Moser - 11th, Carissa Doody -17th, and Caitlin Patrick 28th. In the reasons portion, Maryland 4-H finished 6th with team members placing: Austin Schwartzbeck -16th, Caitlin Patrick -17th, and Katie Moser -19th.

Breed results include:

Ayrshire - Team - 3rd, Katie Moser -2nd and Caitlin Patrick -6th

Brown Swiss - Team - 1st, Caitlin Patrick 7th and Carissa Doody 9th

Guernsey - Team - 14th and Katie Moser -17th

Holstein - Team - 13th, Caitlin Patrick -12th and Carissa Doody 19th

Jersey - Team - 7th, Austin Schwartzbeck -13th and Carissa Doody 15th

The team was coached by Denny Remsberg of Jefferson, MD and **Kiera Finucane** with the University of Maryland. Please join me in congratulating our 4-Hers on a job well done. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events! For more information, please contact Kiera Finucane at 301-405-1392 or visit dairy.umd.edu.

World Dairy Expo is an international trade and dairy cattle show. This year more the 65,000 visitors gathered from 90 countries to participate in the dairy cattle breed shows and sales, youth judging contest, educational seminars, a 1,500 booth trade show and an America's Dairyland Marketplace. For more information, contact World Dairy Expo at 608-224-6455 or go online at www.worlddairyexpo.com



National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest 2007

Derek Lease, Laurel Moore, Hannah Smith and Amy Yeiser all placed in the top 20 individuals at the National contest, a feat no other team came near to accomplishing! This moved them into second position in Oral Reasons and Overall Standings.

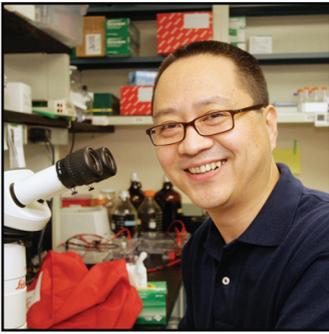
After a long eight months of fund raising, with help from many of you, the team traveled with Gail Yeiser and Kiera Finucane to the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh, Scotland. They have chronicled their adventures online for you to view:

<http://marylanddairyjudging2008.blogspot.com/>

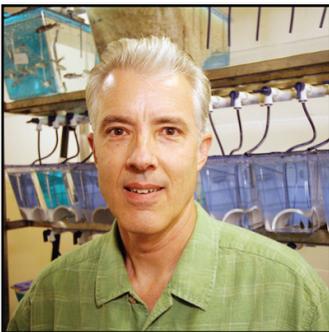
Pictured in the photo from left to right: Gail Yeiser, Kiera Finucane, Amy Yeiser, Laurel Moore, Derek Lease, and Hannah Smith

ANSC Welcomes New Faculty

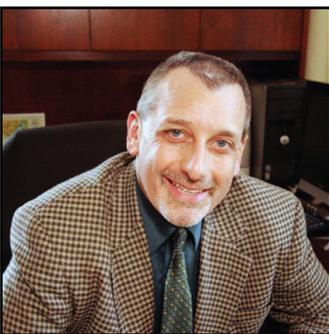
The Department of Animal and Avian Sciences would like to welcome its newest Faculty Members.



Assistant Professor Zhengguo Xiao joined the department in August 2008. He received his Ph.D. from University of Minnesota in Molecular Veterinary Medicine and did postdoctoral research there in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. As a Comparative Immunologist, Dr. Xiao's overall research aim is to understand the molecular mechanisms that result in generation of efficient memory Cytotoxic T Lymphocytes (CTL) after vaccination.



Assistant Professor Edward Orlando joined the department in August 2008 from Florida Atlantic University where he held a faculty position in the Department of Biological Sciences. Dr. Orlando received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. He is a reproductive biologist who integrates molecular, endocrinological, and morphological endpoints to investigate the environment – genome interaction and its effects on animal development and reproduction. Through a combination of laboratory and field experiments on fishes, his lab studies how environmental factors affect the development of sex specific characteristics and the brain–pituitary–gonadal axis regulation of reproduction.



Dr. Nick Place has been appointed as Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, effective July 1, 2008. Dr. Place became the Associate Dean and Associate Director of the Maryland Cooperative Extension (MCE) in August 2007. He came to the University of Maryland from the University of Florida where he was State Program Leader in Extension Professional Development and Coordinator of the Program Development and Evaluation Center as well as an Associate Professor in their Department of Agricultural Education and Communication.



Assistant Professor Lisa Taneyhill joined the department in October 2007. Dr. Taneyhill's area of research is growth biology. Specifically, she is studying the functional roles of Wnt and Snail2 Target Genes in the Neural Crest. She received her Ph.D. from Princeton University and was a postdoctoral researcher at the California Institute of Technology.



Assistant Professor M. Scott Updike joined the department in June 2007 directly from the Ohio State University where he received his Ph.D. in Animal Sciences. Dr. Updike is the Extension Beef Specialist for the department, coordinating beef extension programming throughout the state and serving as a resource for the stakeholders. The focus of his research is on improving the quality of beef produced in Maryland.

Faculty Honors and Recognitions

Mark Varner, Professor and Extension Dairy Scientist in the Department, has been a part of a highly successful team of University faculty members who have been involved with training programs for university faculty members and veterinarians in Russia since 1999. Making almost ten trips to Russia in that time, Dr. Varner has focused his efforts on practical application of distance-learning course management software to traditional on-campus courses and on a continuing education program for veterinarians using Internet-based video conferences.

Since 2004, these efforts have been supported by a USAID Higher Education Development competitive grant in partnership with Stavropol State Agrarian University (SSAU) in the Caucasus Region of Southern Russia. These efforts have helped SSAU gain regional and national prominence among Russian agricultural universities, culminating in the recent awarding of a 400 million Russian Ruble (over 17 million US Dollar) National Program competitive grant. SSAU's grant was one of only three awarded to agricultural universities in Russia.

Dr. Varner makes his next trip to Russia in October of 2008 for a veterinary video conference and to receive an honorary degree from SSAU. The team that developed the USAID grant will receive the University's Landmark Award from Provost N. Farvardin on November 5, 2008, which is one of two University-wide awards for international efforts.

Dr. Varner was also voted the 2008 Outstanding Faculty Educator by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) Student Council. By giving this award, the students seek to recognize Dr. Varner as a faculty member who enhances the student experience through a dedication to teaching; the ability to deliver subject matter in a stimulating and creative way; grading fairly and impartially; demonstrating interest in students' personal and academic achievements; and through demonstrating an awareness of and commitment to diversity.

Feel free to visit Dr. Varner's personal blog at <http://dairyadviser.blogspot.com>



Dr. Iqbal Hamza

Assistant Professor Iqbal Hamza was featured on the History Channel's television show, "Modern Marvels" in an episode about "Iron" that aired August 14, 2008. An article by Dr. Hamza, "Bloodless Worm Sheds Light on Human Blood, Iron Deficiency" was published in the April 16, 2008 issue of the prestigious Nature online. In it Dr. Hamza details how using a lowly bloodless worm, they have discovered an important clue to how iron carried in human blood is absorbed and transported into the body. The finding could lead to developing new ways to reduce iron deficiency, the world's number one nutritional disorder. The research was funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health, the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Kanwal Rekhi Fellowships, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Science Education Program.

Further reading can be found at <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v453/n7198/full/nature06934.html> and also at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/04/080416140912.htm>



Dr. Brian Bequette has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure effective July 1, 2008. Dr. Bequette came to the department in 2001 from the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen, Scotland. His research focuses on ruminant nutrition and metabolism.



Dr. Brian Bequette

Dean Cheng-i Wei and **Associate Dean Leon Slaughter** announced the appointment of **Dr. W. Ray Stricklin** as Acting Assistant Dean for Academic Programs, effective July 1, 2008 to temporarily fill the position left vacant by the retirement of **Dr. John Doerr**. Dr. Stricklin will serve through January 2009 or until the successful completion of a national search.



Dr. Frank Siewerdt was selected as one of the 2008-2009 Lilly Fellows by the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Office of Undergraduate Studies. A grant of \$4,000 accompanies the award.



In June 2008, **Dr. John Song** received notice of approval for his first USDA-NRI competitive grant award. The three-year grant is titled "System Biology, Epigenetics and Etiology of Marek's Disease" and is for \$375,000.

Faculty Honors and Recognitions Continued

Assistant Professors John Song and **Scott Updike** were awarded funding in February 2008 for the Integrated Research-Extension grant proposal entitled “Sustaining Maryland Beef Production By Increasing Beef Quality.”



“In Defense of Cloning” is an in depth interview with **Associate Professor Carol Keefer** by Jonathan Rockoff of the Baltimore Sun. The full page article appeared in the January 13, 2008 issue of the newspaper and has been archived at <http://ansc.umd.edu/extension/dairy/pdf/carolkeefercloing.pdf>

Dr. Keefer was one of three animal scientists who helped the Food and Drug Administration to research the safety of cloned foods. Her role was significant in the government’s deliberations on whether to permit sales of meat and milk derived from cloned animals.



In November 2007, **Dean Cheng-i Wei** announced that **Dr. Mark Varner** would begin coordinating eXtension and online learning for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Professor Varner’s initial major focus was on development of Maryland’s contributions to the new national Cooperative Extension Service initiative, eXtension. It was launched nationally with great success on February 21, 2008 at USDA’s Agricultural Outlook Forum.

According to Dean Wei in his announcement email, “Dr. Varner brings much valuable experience to this position through his involvement with DAIReXNET, one of the first virtual communities to receive national eXtension development funding. A pioneer for the University and the College in online learning, Dr. Varner has most recently been working with colleagues in AGNR and Russia on a three-year Higher Education Development USAID competitive grant entitled “Putting Learning into Distance-Education.”



At the 137th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society held August 31 – September 6, 2007 in San Francisco California, **Associate Professor Curry Woods** was inducted as President of the Society’s Fish Culture Section. He was appointed as a member to a two-year term (2007-2008) on the Governing Board of the American Fisheries Society. Dr. Woods was also elected to a two-year term (2007-2008) as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Striped Bass Growers Association.



Dr. Inma Estevez was promoted to the rank of Full Professor July 1, 2007. She started at the University of Maryland in 1997 as an Assistant Professor and became an Associate Professor with tenure in 2003. Her promotion reflects her national and international reputation in poultry behavior.



Assistant Professor Amy Burk was awarded a Conservation Innovation grant in July 2007 by the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS.) The three-year \$75,000 grant entitled, “Training Horse Farm Owners to Adopt Environmentally Sound Best Management Practices for Pasture” is to develop a 5.5 acre rotational grazing demonstration site at Central Maryland Research and Education Center (CMREC) in Clarksville that showcases best management practices for pastures. The rotational grazing system will serve as an invaluable tool for educating horse farm owners about facility development and management practices that promote productive pastures while enhancing and protecting the environment. The project will also yield much needed observational data on horse and plant performance as well as some important environmental impacts associated with rotational grazing horses. Current project collaborators include: **Dr. Rick Kohn** (MCE/ANSC), Dr. Les Vough (MCE-Retired), Kristen Wilson (MCE/IAA), Erin Petersen (MCE/IAA), and Elmer Dengler (USDA NRCS).

Dr. Burk was also the recipient of the 2007 Educator of the Year Award from the Equine Science Society (ESS.) The presentation was made in June 2007 at the ESS Symposium in Hunt Valley Maryland. Dr. Burk was awarded the honor based on her unflagging efforts to rejuvenate the equine studies program at the University of Maryland.

Farewell

Dr. Tom Hartsock, Associate Professor and Director of the Institute of Applied Agriculture retired in June 2007 after 28 years at the University. Although, he will return to teach Livestock Management in fall 2008, on a temporary basis to help the department. Having joined the Animal Science Department in 1979 as an Associate Professor and Extension Livestock Specialist, Dr. Hartsock worked with the swine industry for many years. The Maryland Pork Producers Association honored Dr. Hartsock in 1991 with the Roy Porter Memorial Award for service to the swine industry. When the swine industry in the state declined, Dr. Hartsock shifted his efforts to the growing horse industry and in 2000 became the Director of the IAA.

Dr. Hartsock has contributed greatly to 4-H youth programs in Maryland. He was recognized by 4-H with both the Extension Professional Partners in 4-H Award in 1993 and the State 4-H Alumni Award in 1996.

In 2002, Dr. Hartsock established the hugely popular “birthing center” at the Maryland State Fair, which each year introduces urban audiences to animal agriculture.



Professor Inder Vijay retired June 2007 after 32 years of service to the University of Maryland. In 1975 Dr. Vijay came to the University of Maryland as an Assistant Professor in Dairy Science. In 1980 he gained the rank of Associate Professor and in 1985 he was promoted to Full Professor. Dr. Vijay served as the Director of the Graduate Program in the department from 2005-2007 and in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science from 2002-2007. He taught “Food Chemistry” in Nutrition and Food Science and was the research supervisor to many graduate students over the years. Dr. Vijay’s research was in the area of Cell Molecular Biology, Physiology/Reproduction, and Transgenics. He was particularly interested in the biosynthesis and regulation of asparagine-linked glycoproteins during the growth and differentiation of the mammary gland.

Dr. Vijay received many awards and honors throughout his career, including:

- Dean Gordon Cairns Award, University of Maryland 2005
- Distinguished Alumnus, N.D.R.I., India 2000
- Lloyd Harris Scientist Lecturer, Univ. Oklahoma 1992
- Distinguished Faculty Research Fellow, Univ. Maryland 1990
- Senior Fellow, National Research Service Award, N.I.H. 1985
- Research Career Development Award, N.I.H. 1978-1983



The passing of **Emeritus Professor Edgar Young** in March 2008 saddens us. Dr. Young began at the University of Maryland in 1958 as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1965 and then to Full Professor in 1970. He served as Department Head of the Department of Animal Science from 1968 until August 1982, when it was merged with Dairy Science to form the Animal Sciences Department. Dr. Young retired in the early 1990’s. He received the 1987 Distinguished Service Award of the Northeastern Section of the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) and was also an Honorary Fellow of the ASAS. He hired both **Dr. Tom Hartsock** and **Dr. Ray Stricklin**, to start of the department’s program in Animal Behavior.



The department mourns the passing of **Emeritus Associate Professor J. Lee Majeskie**. Dr. Majeskie was inducted into the Maryland Dairy Shrine at the annual banquet on February 16, 2008. This is one of the highest honors that the Maryland dairy industry can bestow upon individuals and is in recognition for Dr. Majeskie’s contributions to dairy youth. He was honored that night along with the late Luther Huston, William “Buddy” Hill, and **Andrew “Ted” Ridgely**, a Dairy Science BS alumnus from the Class of ‘60. Dr. Majeskie received the American Dairy Science Association Award of Honor at the July 2008 Annual ADSA meeting. As a faculty member and Dairy Extension Specialist in the Animal and Avian Sciences Department and Maryland Cooperative Extension, Dr. Majeskie supported both 4-H youth and adult educational programs and taught classes on campus.

Outstanding Student Awards

Outstanding M.S. Graduate Student of the Year Award:
Ashley Choinière

Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate Student of the Year Award:
Xindong Liu

ANSC Dean's List - Spring 2008

Our ANSC Students on the AGNR Dean's List are all full time students who achieved a 3.5 or higher GPA.

Barker, Audrey Ellen	Fernandez, Monica Juanita	Krone, Lauren Michelle	Moorefield, Jessica Ann
Binzer, Lena Ann	Finder, Jennifer	Lake, Victoria A	Morgan, Anna Kate
Boostrom, Brendan Olof	Goff, William Frederick	Lebrun, Anne Marie	Pappas, Nicole Christine
Brown, Jessica Leigh	Gordon, Max Joseph	Lilly, Margaret Anne	Paynter, Richard Timothy
Bruce, Daniel	Gross, Alyson Jordon	Lui, Holly	Perez, Lisa Marie
Cahall, Malora Jean	Hanson, Sara Jean	Marchan, Anneka	Pfeifer, Mary E
Cohen, Elana T	Heller, Joanne Marie	Mathias, Shyvonne Nicole	Roller, Ashley
Coleman, Heather Marie	Hengen, Cinthia Lynn	McFillin, Deanna Stacy	Sanford-Crane, Charlotte Elaine
Crouse, Curtis Charles	Hill, Lyndsey Danielle	Meadows, Kristy L	Tenney, Robert W
Deugwillo, Allison Rae	Huang, Linda C	Meagher, Sara Elizabeth	Turek, Rebecca G
Duque, Juan Felipe	Huh, Amber Jayoon	Miller, Robert Charles	Walston, Jonathan Dean
Ermoloff, Julie Rebecca	Kelman, Alina	Mongeon, Elizabeth Anne	Willems, Juliana Jean

Annual Symposium

The 22nd Annual Symposium was held on May 27, 2008.
Here are the award winners:

Oral	1st Place	Erin Sorrell
	2nd Place	Andy Schiffmacher
Poster	1st Place	Anil Kadegowda
	2nd Place	Kristina Heuck
Shaffner	1st Place	Kristina Heuck
	2nd Place	Beth Ventura

Student Honors and Recognitions

The Center for Teaching Excellence recognized Graduate students, **Andrew Schiffmacher, Jason Sinclair, Sarah Benoit, and Kristina Heuck** as 2007-2008 Distinguished Teaching Assistants. They received their certificates at the annual Distinguished Teaching Assistant Ceremony on May 14, 2008.

Graduate student, **Ashley Choinière** was named one of the two Teaching Assistants of the year by the AGNR Student Council at their annual banquet May 5, 2008. This is the first year for this award, and she was cited by one of her students 'for making a math class (BIOM 301) "exciting."'. Also, in January 2008, Ashley was selected as a Cosmos Scholar and received a \$1450 grant to support her research work from the Cosmos Club Foundation. She is one of 27 successful applicants out of a field of 205.

Abhirami Rajagopal, graduate student working in the **Hamza** lab, won her category of the poster session for Bioscience Day, November 13, 2007. Bioscience Day is a "Research and Technology Review" event that features research talks, presentations, mini-symposia and demonstrations by university scientists. The program provides a unique opportunity for executives and professionals in industry and government to discover the most recent advances in bioscience and biotechnology at the University of Maryland; to promote the potential for academic-industry-government collaboration; to meet University scientists and interact with graduate student researchers; to network with colleagues who share an interest in the promotion of bioscience and the bioscience industry; and to recruit employees and investigate job opportunities.

In October 2007, **Anil Kadegowda**, graduate student in the **Erdman** lab, received the 2007 Pennfield Graduate Research Grant.

The **AGNR Dean's List** for Fall '07 included 64 undergraduate students from Animal and Avian Science. That is 26% of the department's 245 undergraduates. Criteria for the Dean's List are full-time status and a 3.5 semester GPA. Photographs of these high achieving students are on a poster outside of the Lecture Hall, room 0408.

Undergraduate Coordinator **Dr. Varner**, reports that ANSC students continue to have a high rate of success in gaining admittance to AVMA-accredited veterinary schools. For the last two years, over 84% (27 of 32) of ANSC students who have applied to an AVMA-accredited veterinary school were accepted. Currently there are former ANSC students enrolled in 17 different AVMA-accredited veterinary schools, and they form an ANSC Alumni Network that helps current students with applications and the decision making process many face with multiple acceptances.

ANSC Undergraduate Class of 2008

The department is proud to announce that the following undergraduate students graduated in Spring 2008:

Bartlett, Elizabeth	Green, Monica	Lewis, Teri-Ann	Ryan, Erin
Brescia, Katherine	Gribble-Fetter, Patrice	Lubarsky, Cara	Shaffer, Dana
Brunner, Meagan	Hannum, Katherine	Mathias, Shyvonne	Simon, Lea
Courtright, Christina	Hanson, Sara	Melendez-Torres, Yuisa	Strauss, Marci
Crouse, Curtis	Kaleikau, Leslie	Mogilensky, Michelle	Tucker, Lisa
Doll, Kristina	Kemp, Katelin	Niedermayer, Rachel	Vance, Evan
Duboff, Mariel	Klein, Melanie	Pappas, Nicole	Walsh, Bridget
Evans, Sarah	Kohn, Michelle	Preston, Heather	Walston, Jonathan
Garr, Brittany	Lauri, Cristina	Reed, Kristina	Wardlaw, Amanda
Gordon, Max	Lebrun, Anne	Richardson, Lisa	Williams, Deborah

ANSC Graduate Degrees

The department is proud to announce the following graduate students were awarded degrees:

August 2008

Anil Kadegowda
Xue Han
Rongyu Zeng

May 2008

Erin Hoerl
Arindam Mitra
Disha Pant

December 2007

Rachael Quinn
Nishanth Sunny

August 2007

Rosemary Bauer
Sarah Dinh
Sandra Kirsch
Ashley Meece
Shashidhara Rudrappa

May 2007

Cornelia (Neely) Kelley
Brandon Sitzmann
Jessica Suagee
Kelcey Swyers

Alumni News

ANSC Alumni making headlines in the world.

Charles Iager '65 and his wife, **Judy Iager '67** donated toward scholarships for students in Animal & Avian Sciences. The Iagers are described as alumni with a passion for the University and farming. The couple believes that it is important to financially support the university. Charles, a graduate of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, says "It's getting expensive for students to go to college," and "I just want to help somebody in the agriculture field." As a student Charles started out as a pre-vet major but changed to animal sciences because of his strenuous schedule that included carrying 19 credit hours and working every weekend on the Iager farm. In addition to the donation given to Animal and Avian Sciences, the Iagers have also given to the Riggs Alumni Center, and to Charles' fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho. For more about these generous alumni go to http://www.great.umd.edu/enewsletter/may_07/hsrs.html



Justin Maxwell, 2005 graduate from ANSC and former member of the UM Terrapin Baseball Team was drafted by the Washington Nationals. September 11, 2007 in Miami, he got his first hit in a major league baseball game. In just his third at bat, Justin came up as a pinch-hitter for the Nationals with the bases loaded, and he hit a home run.

The Washington Post article about the game, including a picture of Justin, is at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/11/AR2007091102505.html>



Attention Alumni!

If you would like to be added to our Alumni Mailing List to stay current with ANSC News please visit our website at <http://www.ansc.umd.edu> to subscribe. Also, if you have something that you would like to contribute to our Newsletter, please email us at ansc@umd.edu

Welcome

In September 2008, **Aaron Gough** joined the department as the Web/Graphics Coordinator. Aaron is a 2004 University of Maryland graduate with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science.

Michael Mobley joined the department in August 2008 as the Manager of Computer Services. Michael is a veteran University of Maryland staff member, formerly in the Department for Professional Services.

Kelly Brannan joined the department in June 2007 as Coordinator (Equine and Poultry Extension Activities.) She received her B.S. in Animal and Poultry Sciences in 2004 and her M.S. in Poultry Science in 2007 at North Carolina State University.

Kiera Finucane became the Coordinator (Dairy-Beef Extension Activities) in the department in February 2007. She received dual degrees in 2004 from the University of Maine, a B.S. in Animal and Veterinary Science and a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Equine Studies. In 2006 she received her M.S. in Animal Science from the University of Vermont.

Farewell

Long time department staff member **Dr. Liliana Piperova** retired in June 2008 from her position as research specialist in the **Erdman** lab. She worked in the department and for Dr. Erdman for 14 years.

In October 2007, staff member **Manju Masson** retired after 28 years. Originally hired as an Administrative Assistant in Poultry Science, she worked for **Professor Wayne Kuenzel** for 22 years before becoming the department's Graphic Artist.

Congratulations

Dr. Scott Severance received the prestigious NIH NRSA Postdoctoral Fellowship (F32) from National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) in August 2007. There are only 7 of these three-year fellowships on the University of Maryland College Park campus. Dr. Severance joined the **Hamza** lab in 2006.

Dr. Stacy Higgins was awarded a two year \$125,000 grant entitled "Probiotic-induced differential gene expression during Salmonella challenge in neonatal chicks" from USDA-CSREES-NRI. Dr. Higgins is a postdoctoral researcher in **Dr. Porter's** laboratory

Three Animal and Avian Sciences staff members reached career milestones in 2008. **Paul Everette**, Agricultural Worker in the Animal Wing and **Sandy Owens**, Research Scientist both marked 30 years at the University in the department. **Janice Barber**, Business Service Specialist has worked in the department for 25 years.

In 2007, Director of Administrative Services, **Gary Lapanne** reached his 30th year of service to the University. He began his career in the department as the Manager of the Dairy Processing Plant and Salesroom where he worked until becoming the Director of Administrative Services in 1997.

Dan Theisen, researcher in the **Woods** lab was selected to serve as a Volunteer Scientist in support of a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) aquaculture project to Ethiopia for July and August of 2007.

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