

Department of  
**Animal & Avian Sciences**

*The Official Newsletter - Please visit us on the web at [www.ansc.umd.edu](http://www.ansc.umd.edu)*

09

Spring Semester



Spring has arrived on the Campus Farm! Lamb Watch, ANSC235 is in full swing... [read more](#)

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# Upcoming ANSC News/Events

*Also visit our web site at [www.ansc.umd.edu](http://www.ansc.umd.edu) for news from the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, University of Maryland.*

## Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference

*March 25, 2009 in Timonium, MD*

The Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference is recognized as a premier educational event for the animal nutrition industry. Local, national, and international nutritionists share new, innovative, and practical research being conducted at universities, in industry and at government institutions. Regulatory issues and future opportunities are discussed. The program is focused on poultry, dairy, and equine nutrition.

<http://manc.umd.edu/>

## Maryland Day / Ag Day

*April 25, 2009 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the University of Maryland College Park*

Save the date! All alumni and friends are invited to attend.

<http://www.marylandday.umd.edu/>

## Maryland State 4-H Dairy Bowl Contest

*May 2, 2009 on Campus in the Animal Sciences Building*

<http://ansc.umd.edu/extension/dairy/index.cfm>

## Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the Society for Developmental Biology

*May 15-16, 2009 at the University of Maryland College Park*

The University of Maryland is hosting the 2009 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the Society for Developmental Biology on May 15-16, 2009.

Please see <http://ansc.umd.edu/MASDB> for further details, or contact **Dr. Lisa Taneyhill** at [ltaney@umd.edu](mailto:ltaney@umd.edu)

## 2009 Annual Symposium

*May 29, 2009 at the Animal Sciences Building - University of Maryland College Park*

You are invited to attend the 2009 Annual Symposium will be May 29 with keynote speaker **Dr. Jorge Piedrahita**, North Carolina State University.

## Lamb Watch - Invitation to Visit the “Nursery”

In mid-February, Farm Manager **Lindsay Callahan** reported a Lamb Explosion in the Campus Farm Sheep Barn! Nineteen lambs, more than half of the expected number were born in just five days. All 28 lambs born so far are doing well with three ewes still left to lamb. The Lamb Watch students have put in a number of hours caring for the ewes and lambs, while doing daily health checks on all of the newborns that come along. They also participated in their first docking and castration session.

Please contact Lindsay if you want to visit, [lindsayc@umd.edu](mailto:lindsayc@umd.edu) or 301-405-1298.



# Upcoming ANSC News/Events Continued

Also visit our web site at [www.ansc.umd.edu](http://www.ansc.umd.edu) for news from the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, University of Maryland.

## Equine Rotational Grazing Demonstration Site to open its gates in April 2009

Dr. Amy Burk announced that the University of Maryland's 5.5 acre equine rotational grazing demonstration site is set to open its gates in April 2009 to a small herd of grazing horses and hundreds of horse farm operators interested in learning about the best pasture management practices. The site, located at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center (CMREC), 4241 Folly Quarter Rd. in Ellicott City, MD, features four rotational pastures, a laneway that guides horses into a sacrifice area and two smaller paddocks that will be used to test how well bermudagrass and bluegrass/fescue turfgrass species hold up to grazing. Another exciting feature of the site is its four different types of permanent perimeter fencing and three different types of removable internal fencing.



"This site will be an incredible tool for teaching horse farm owners about facility development and best management practices that promote productive pastures while enhancing and protecting the environment" says project leader, Dr. Amy Burk. "Sometimes it hard to convince farm owners to change their management practices until they see it being done by someone else. We're that someone".

The first educational event of 2009 will be a free **Pasture Walk** on April 2, from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. This event is open and free to the public, but registration is required to guarantee a copy of the education materials. Contact Edith Silvious at [esilviou@umd.edu](mailto:esilviou@umd.edu) or 301-405-5781 to register. Deadline for registration is March 26, 2009. Pasture walks and other educational events will focus on topics including pasture establishment and management, soil testing and fertility, weed control, rotational grazing, safe fencing and gate options, and manure management.

The project was made possible through a collaboration of horse, forage, and soil conservation experts, and supported by a Conservation Innovation Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For more information, please contact Dr. Amy Burk at 301-405-8337 or [amyburk@umd.edu](mailto:amyburk@umd.edu). All educational events will also be posted on the Equine Studies Program website.

## Campus Farm

The Campus Farm is alive and working thanks to a combination of cost cutting measures and donations from friends and alumni. It will continue to serve our undergraduate students this year and in the future. [click here](#) to find out more.

## Faculty Staff Cookoff

The annual Faculty Staff Cookoff was held September 24, 2008 and there was a huge turnout of students to taste the culinary offerings and vote for their favorites in hotly contested categories. The winners were:

### Main Dish

First Place - Ed's English Muffin Pizza by **Dr. Ed Orlando**  
Second Place - Super Sloppy Joes by **Edith Silvious**  
Third Place - Fisherman's Lunch by **Dr. Zhengguo Xiao**

### Side Dish

First Place - Rootin' Tootin' Cowgirl Beans by **Dr. Amy Burk**  
Second Place - Apple Mac & Cheese by **Dr. Carol Keefer**  
Third Place - Better than Amy's Baked Beans by **Dr. Tom Porter**  
(Apparently, the students didn't agree with the name of Dr. Porter's dish.)

### Desserts

First Place - Cookie Dough Truffles by **Libby Dufour**  
Second Place - Waterloo's Best Cheese Cake by **Dr. Brian Bequette**  
Third Place - Fear the Turtle Treats by **Dr. Lisa Taneyhill**

The hard work of all the chefs, grillers, helpers, and vote counters was much appreciated as well as the participation of the voting students.



Dr. Amy Burk showcases her 1st Place side dish

## Faculty Honors and Recognitions



Dr. Ray Stricklin

### **Dr. Stricklin Appointed the Assistant Dean for Academic Programs**

Dean Cheng-i Wei and Associate Dean Leon Slaughter announced the appointment of **Dr. Ray Stricklin** as Assistant Dean for Academic Programs, effective February 1, 2009, following a national search. Dr. Stricklin has been serving in acting capacity in that position since July 1, 2008.

As a faculty member in the Department, Dr. Stricklin demonstrated an interest in students beyond his classroom. He was involved in undergraduate student advising for many years and served as ANSC Undergraduate Program Coordinator for four years. Assistant Dean Stricklin will focus on student success in all AGNR departments while assisting them with their academic and career goals. He will also represent the College on a number of campus committees, including the Vice President's Advisory Committee (VPAC).

### **Dr. Varner Becomes Mentee in AGNR's International Programs**

Dean Cheng-i Wei announced that **Dr. Mark Varner** accepted the part-time mentee position in AGNR's International Programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources (IPAN). The mentee position, which began February 1, 2009, will last 12 months.

Dr. Varner has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to AGNR's international collaborations with other countries, especially Russia. As a mentee in IPAN under the mentorship of **Dr. Ray Miller**, Dr. Varner will be learning the role and responsibilities of IPAN within AGNR, including meeting with funding agencies such as USAID and USDA Foreign Agriculture Service; working cooperatively with AGNR and UM's Office of International Programs; learning the land-grant international structure; and becoming familiar with the role of government and non-governmental organizations in building international projects.

Dr. Varner's IPAN office is located in 1112 Symons Hall, and he can be reached by phone at 301-405-9589. He will continue as the Coordinator of the ANSC Undergraduate Program during the term of this assignment.



Dr. Mark Varner

### **Landmark Award Presented to Dr. Varner**

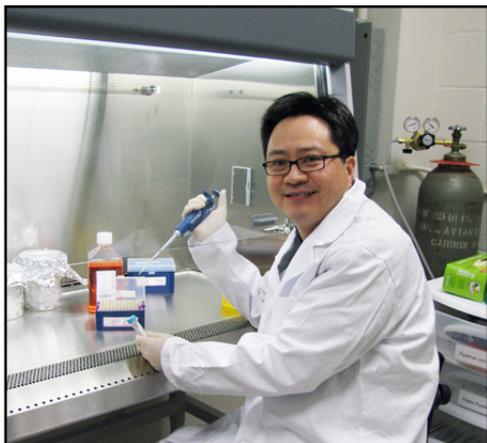
**Provost Nariman Farvardin** presented the Landmark Award to a team of faculty and staff from AGNR that included the Department's own **Dr. Mark Varner**. The International Awards Ceremony held in the Maryland Room of Marie Mount Hall November 5, 2008 was to present the University's two top awards for international work. Dr. Varner was honored as part of a team being recognized for their decade of outstanding work and significant accomplishments in Russia. Dr. Varner thanked the faculty and staff of the Department for their collegial support. The department is very proud of Dr. Varner.



Dr. Mark Varner and Dr. Nariman Farvardin



The Landmark Award's recipient group



Dr. Zhengguo Xiao

## Dr. Xiao's New Laboratory

In our continuing efforts to update our facilities, we have completed the renovations of laboratory space for **Dr. Zhengguo Xiao**, **Dr. Jiuzhou "John" Song** and **Dr. Frank Siewerdt**.

## Grant Awards



Dr. Carol Keefer

### Dr. Keefer Awarded Two Grants

In August 2008, **Dr. Carol Keefer** received the Maryland Stem Cell Grant and NSF funding to explore mechanical properties of mouse and human stem cells in collaboration with **Jaydev Desai** of Mechanical Engineering. Their grant proposal entitled "Mechanical Phenotyping of Embryonic Stem Cell Differentiation" was awarded \$230,000 by the Maryland Stem Cell Fund-TEDCO.

The NSF grant proposal by **Jaydev Desai**, **Carol Keefer**, and **Nikhil Chopra** entitled "Mechanical Phenotyping of Cells: Haptics-Enabled Atomic Force Microscopy" was awarded \$215,000. Congratulations Dr. Keefer!

### NRI Grant

**Dr. Tom Porter's** USDA grant titled "Regulation of Growth Hormone Gene Expression During Chicken Development" was funded for \$350,000. Funding began on January 1, 2009 and marks more than 17 years of continuous USDA funding for this project.



Dr. Tom Porter

### MAES Grants Awarded

**Dr. Rich Erdman** and co-PI **Dr. Brian Bequette** were awarded \$25,000 by the Maryland Agricultural and Extension Station (MAES) Competitive Grants Program for their grant proposal entitled "Methionine as a methyl donor in lactating dairy cows."

**Dr. Roselina Angel**, **Dr. Jennifer Timmons**, Agent and Regional Extension Specialist, Poultry at Lower Eastern Shore Research and Education Center (LESREC) and **Dr. Jeannine Harter-Dennis**, Associate Professor at UMES, were awarded a MAES grant of \$15,800 for their proposal entitled "Impact of Early Life Calcium and Phosphorus Restriction on Broiler Performance and Bone Ash of Birds Fed Low Phosphorus Diets in the Finisher and Withdrawal Phases."



Dr. Rich Erdman



Dr. Brian Bequette



Dr. Roselina Angel

## Other Faculty News



Dr. Rich Erdman in New Zealand

### Sabbatical News

**Dr. Rich Erdman**, Professor of Animal Sciences, left in late September, 2008 for a 9-month sabbatical leave in Hamilton, New Zealand. He is working within the Lactation Biology Group in the Dairy Science and Technology Section at New Zealand AgResearch's Ruakura Campus. While on sabbatical, Dr. Erdman has been at the lab bench learning techniques in cell and molecular biology and is involved with a projects dealing with mammary involution and the epigenetic regulation of milk protein synthesis in the dairy cow. New Zealand is a country that is perpetually green and full of millions of dairy cows and sheep. Dr. Erdman reports spending his weekends exploring the North Island and has taken 2 trips to the South Island with family and friends. Having missed winter for the first time in his life, Dr. Erdman looks forward to his return to Maryland in July.

### Discovery News Channel Videos

The Discovery News Channel interviewed **Dr. Nick Zimmermann** at Thanksgiving time in 2008 and produced two informative and fun video shorts on turkeys that continue to play on their web site.

#### “Why? Tell Me Why!: Turkey Eggs”

<http://dsc.discovery.com/video/player.html?bctid=2629189001>

#### “Top 5 Favorite Things About Turkeys”

<http://dsc.discovery.com/video/player.html?bctid=3304907001>



Dr. Nick Zimmermann being interviewed by the Discovery Channel

#### “Talking Turkey!”

Also in November 2008, WTOP, the all news radio network which broadcasts to the greater Washington, DC area (covering three states and serving more than one million listeners) produced and aired radio spots called “Talking Turkey!” after their interview with **Dr. Nick Zimmermann**. “Talking Turkey!” can also be found on the web at:

<http://wtopnews.com/?nid=223&sid=1517668>

### 4th Annual Horse Conference

On November 8, 2008 the University of Maryland and the University of Delaware presented the 4th Annual Horse Conference at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, MD. The keynote speaker was **Dr. Sue McDonnell** from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's New Bolton Center. As one of the leading experts in the field of horse behavior, she discussed simple methods of behavior modification that can benefit both horse and rider. There were many other seminar topics included such as equine dentistry, pasture weed management, marketing your equine business, trailer safety, and managing pastures to decrease feed costs and the realities of starting an equine business.

## New Graduate Students

We welcome several new graduate students to Animal and Avian Sciences:

### Fall 2008

**Nicole M. Fiorellino**, pursuing a Masters degree in Equine Nutrition with **Dr. Amy Burk**, advisor.

**Jonathan D. Walston**, pursuing a Masters degree in Genetic Mapping with **Dr. Iqbal Hamza**, advisor.

**Qiong Hu**, pursuing a Ph.D. in Molecular Nutrition with **Dr. Brian Bequette**, advisor.

**Ping Yuan**, pursuing a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology with **Dr. Jiuzhou Song**, advisor.

### Spring 2009

**Emmanuel Quansah**, pursuing a Masters degree in Animal Nutrition with **Dr. Roselina Angel**, advisor.

**Kelley Bryan**, pursuing a Ph.D. in Reproductive Physiology/Stem Cells with **Dr. Carol Keefer**, advisor.

## ANSC Dean's List - Fall 2008

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

Antonelli, Laura	Coleman, Camille	Hauser, Hagar	Malamud, Yuliya	Schneider, Madeleine
Behler, Julia	Coleman, Destiny	Hengen, Cynthia	Margerison, Sarah	Sigmund, Maureen
Bernstein, Timothy	Coleman, Heather	Hopkins, Kaitlyn	McFillin, Deanna	Siva, Sindhu
Bielecki, Emily	Colvin, Jennifer	Huang, Linda	McGucken, Anna	Snider, Matthew
Binzer, Lena	Deugwillo, Allison	Huh, Amber	Meagher, Sara	Tenney, Robert
Bledsoe, Allison	Ermoloff, Julie	Hwang, Monica	Menendez, Kimberly	Vesely, April
Bogart, Emily	Ernest, Katie	Jones, Jeffrey	Mitchell, Rebecca	Walker, Ashlee
Boostrom, Brendan	Fernandez, Monica	Klein, Ashley	Moorefield, Jessica	Willems, Juliana
Bradley, Christine	Finder, Jennifer	Kristiansen, Nicollette	Mundy, Lauren	Williams, Katrina
Brower, Kelly	Freudenberger, Kelly	Lake, Victoria	Paultre, Stephanie	Willis, Mallan
Brown, Amy	Frey, Emily	Lenahen, Killian	Perez, Lisa	Young, Robert
Brown, Danielle	Gankos, Katelyn	Lewis, Morgan	Pfeifer, Molly	
Brown, Jessica	Gates, Katherine	Lilly, Margaret	Robinson, Katherine	
Cahall, Malora	Goff, William	Listman-Ward, Jessica	Sadnavitch, Kathleen	
Catterton, Tracy	Gonzalez, Miguel	Lui, Holly	Sanford-Crane, Charlotte	
Cohen, Elana	Gross, Alyson	MacKnight, Margaret	Schechter, Dana	

## Student Honors and Recognitions



Bob Cantor, Jessica Moorefield, and Dr. Brian Bequette

### Jessica Moorefield named Philip Merrill Presidential Scholar

Congratulations to **Jessica Moorefield** on being designated a 2008-2009 Philip Merrill Scholar at a banquet held November 15, 2008, at the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center. The Merrill Presidential Scholars Program honors the University of Maryland's most successful seniors and their designated University faculty and K-12 teachers for their mentorship. In Jessica's application essay, she identified **Dr. Brian Bequette** of our Animal and Avian Sciences Department as her university mentor and **Bob Cantor**, her Bowie High School advanced placement psychology teacher, as her K-12 mentor. Jessica has been named to the university honor roll every semester while maintaining a stellar 3.94 GPA. In addition to academics, Jessica has worked for three years in the business office of the department and for the last one and a half years she has conducted research in Dr. Bequette's labs with egg-embryos and beef steers. In spring 2009 she will conduct a study in sheep. The Scholars are selected by academic Colleges and Schools with undergraduate major programs. The Scholars Program has been in existence for five years, and for four of those years a student from the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences has been designated a Merrill Scholar from the College of AGNR. Please visit the Merrill Scholars program website <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/merrill/scholarsmpsp.html#moorefield> to read Jessica's essay and to learn more about the program.

## Scholarship Awards

### Delmarva Flock Supervisors' Association Scholarships Awarded

In September 2008, ANSC undergraduate **Charlotte Sanford-Crane** and ANSC graduate student, **Kristina Heuck** of **Dr. Tom Porter's** laboratory, each received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Delmarva Flock Supervisors' Association. Congratulations!

### Scholarships Awarded by the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences

Congratulations to these outstanding students.

#### General Academic Scholarships Recipients 2008

Olivia Cox  
Katelyn Gankos  
Emily Bielecki  
Christine Bradley  
Deborah Delshad  
Kelly Freudenberger  
Anna McGucken

#### Equine Studies Scholarship 2008

(Dodson Memorial Scholarship)  
Sara Meagher

#### Kinghorne Scholarship Recipients 2008

Vaneesha Bradford  
Cinthia Hengen  
Kimberly Menendez  
Elizabeth Mongeon  
Charlotte Sanford-Crane

#### Academic Excellence Scholarship Recipients 2008

Audrey Barker	Jennifer Finder	Sara Meagher
Lena Binzer	William Goff	Jessica Moorefield
Brendan Boostrom	Alyson Gross	Richard Paynter
Jessica Brown	Linda Huang	Lisa Perez
Daniel Bruce	Amber Huh	Mary Pfeifer
Elana Cohen	Lauren Krone	Ashley Roller
Heather Coleman	Margaret Lilly	Charlotte Sanford-Crane
Allison Deugwillo	Holly Lui	Robert Tenney
Juan Duque	Anneka Marchan	Juliana Willems
Monica Fernandez	Kristy Meadows	

## **College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Scholarships**

Associate Dean Leon Slaughter, on behalf of AGNR Academic Programs, announced the students in the Animal Sciences program who received scholarship awards from the college for 2008-2009.

Audrey Barker - W.R. Winslow Foundation Scholarship  
Kristine Bell - AGNR Alumni Association Scholarship  
Lena Binzer - Paul Poffenberger Memorial Scholarship  
Kelly Brower - James R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship  
Vivien Change - T.B. Symons Memorial Scholarship, Jaime Dannemann Memorial Scholarship  
Elana Cohen - AGNR General Scholarship  
Jenna Day - Frank D. Brown, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, Siegfried Weisberger, Jr. Scholarship  
Deela Dicello - James R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship  
Jennifer Finder - W.R. Winslow Foundation Scholarship  
Caitlin Fleming - Joseph Byrd Foundation Scholarship  
Kelly Freudenberger - W.R. Winslow Foundation Scholarship  
Emily Frey - Joseph Byrd Foundation Scholarship  
Katherine Gates - Mylo S. Downey Memorial Scholarship, James R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship  
Caroline Gettys - Jerry V. DeBarthe Memorial Scholarship, James and Sarah Goddard Memorial Scholarship  
Nathan Glenn - James R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship  
William Goff - James R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship  
Sara Greenbaum - James R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship  
Garrett Hamby - Mylo S. Downey Memorial Scholarship, Southern States Cooperative Scholarship  
Lyndsey Hill - Theodore and Georgianna Weiss Scholarship  
Monica Hwang - Land Grant Scholarship  
Jamal Jeter - James R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship  
Ashley Klein - AGNR General Scholarship  
Lauren Krone - James R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship  
Morgan Lewis - James and Sarah Goddard Memorial Scholarship  
Margaret Lilly - W.R. Winslow Foundation Scholarship  
Wanxin Liu - James and Sarah Goddard Memorial Scholarship  
Holly Lui - Enhance AGNR Scholarship  
Deanna McFillin - W.R. Winslow Foundation Scholarship  
Anna McGucken - James and Sarah Goddard Memorial Scholarship  
Sara Meagher - Equine Studies Scholarship, Vansville Farmers Club Scholarship  
Robert Miller - Arthur M. Ahalt Memorial Scholarship, Chester F. Bletch Memorial Scholarship,  
Southern States Cooperative Scholarship  
Rebecca Mitchell - Land Grant Scholarship  
Elizabeth Mongeon - James and Sarah Goddard Memorial Scholarship  
Richard Paynter - W.R. Winslow Foundation Scholarship  
Stephanie Porter - Ernest T. Cullen Memorial Scholarship, Theodore and Georgianna Weiss Scholarship  
Jessica Robinson - James R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship  
Ashley Roller - W.R. Winslow Foundation Scholarship  
Emileigh Rosso - Paul Poffenberger Memorial Scholarship  
Charlotte Sanford-Crane - Arthur M. Ahalt Memorial Scholarship, Land Grant Scholarship  
Elizabeth Scholz - James R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship  
Nicole Sheckells - W.R. Winslow Foundation Scholarship  
Sindhu Siva - AGNR General Scholarship  
Abby Sherrard - Southern States Cooperative Scholarship  
Matthew Snider - James R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship  
Katrina Williams - James and Sarah Goddard Memorial Scholarship  
Danielle Wysocki - James R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship

## ANSC Bachelors Degrees

The department is proud to announce that the following Undergraduate students graduated in December 2008:

Catherine Cox  
Allison Deugwillo  
Miquel Gonzalez  
Lauren Krone  
Kate Lobue  
Sonia Poerio  
Margi Sheth  
Lisa Tucker

## ANSC Ph.D. Recipients

**Ray Brooks** received his Ph.D. and is has a postdoctoral research appointment under the direction of **Dr. Suzanne Millman** at Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Anil Kadegowda** received his Ph.D. and has a postdoctoral research appointment under the direction of **Dr. Ian Mather**.

**Erin Sorrell** received her Ph.D. and is doing work with **Dr. Daniel Perez**, in Vet Medicine.

**Yongqi Yan** received her Ph.D. and has joined her husband in Redmond, Washington.

## ANSC Students Study Abroad

Two ANSC undergraduates just returned from semester abroad. **Tamara Loeffler** was studying in Australia and **Liz Mongeon** spent a semester abroad in New Zealand.

### Tamara Loeffler tells us about the experience:

"I studied abroad Spring 2008 in Melbourne, Australia. I went to Deakin University there with about 150 international students, although Deakin has 70,000 students spread out over three campuses in Victoria. I lived in a house with five Americans but aside from them, I had only Australian friends. School is a bit more lax there, so since I only had classes three days a week, I had plenty of time to travel and explore different parts of Australia. Melbourne is a very cultured city with approximately 3.6 million people, and has a lot to offer to international students. My classes had field trips to various beaches, the botanical gardens, the Royal Melbourne zoo, and a bunch of art museums. I went through a program called Study Australia which was like the VIP way to go abroad-they set us up with everything from housing and bank accounts to cell phone plans and spring break trips. In the six months that I spent away from my family and friends, I was exposed to such a different world, and I have definitely grown from my experience. I also have decided to apply to three veterinary schools in Australia, as well as one in New Zealand."



## ANSC Graduate Degrees

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

**Kathleen Baczynski** received her M.S. degree December 2008.

**Taylor Callicrate** received her M.S. degree in December 2008 and will start work on her Ph.D. Fall 2009 under the direction of **Dr. Frank Siewerdt**.

**Ashley Choiniere** received her M.S. degree in December 2008 and has started work on her Ph.D. in Population Genetics and Inbreeding Depression under the supervision of **Dr. Frank Siewerdt**.

**Jason Sinclair** received his M.S. degree in December 2008 and has started work on his Ph.D. in Cell Biology of Micronutrient Homeostasis under the supervision of **Dr. Iqbal Hamza**.

**Rongyu Zeng** received his M.S. degree in December 2008 and started his Ph.D. in Bovine Mastitis under the direction of **Dr. Xiaoping Zhu, Vet. Medicine, UMCP**.

**Adam Coleman** switched from an M.S. to a Ph.D. program in Pathogenesis of Lyme Disease in 2008 with **Dr. Utpal Pal** as his advisor.

## ANSC Students Study Abroad continued



Liz Mongeon writes about her trip:

“I flew out on July 6th and returned home on November 21st. My last ten days were spent in Fiji (beautiful). While in New Zealand, I lived on the east coast of the south island in Christchurch where I studied at the University of Canterbury. I just took a blend of classes that looked interesting to me and thankfully, the schedule of classes and workload gave me and all of my new friends a lot of time to explore NZ. It really is the extreme sport capital of the world. I have never met so many people into hiking, climbing, kayaking, white water rafting, bungee jumping, and just about anything else, as I did there. It helped that I spent a lot of time with study abroad students who were there to live it up, but even so, there were so many opportunities to take advantage of. Hostelings was a whole new experience for me and staying new places and meeting new people was great. We rented cars and took a road trip around the South Island to see the mountains, Milford Sound, swim and hike in Wanaka, be touristy in Queenstown and just have a good time. I also flew to the North Island with a friend for more adventures and a good look around. It was the experience of a lifetime and I’d go back in a heartbeat.”

Malora Cahall says:

“Costa Rica was an amazing experience! We visited many different regions of the country including the city of San Jose all the way to the Arenal Volcano and Monteverde. It was very interesting to see Costa Rican agriculture and how they are able to be so productive on a small amount of land all through the year. We toured several research facilities that have been established by the country to try and make agriculture more sustainable and less damaging to the environment. Among these facilities were organic farms, banana and pineapple plantations, and botanical gardens. On the more adventurous side, we got to take a zipline through the canopy of a cloud forest in Monteverde as well as a skywalk which was made up of a series of suspension bridges. We also took a walk around the base of the active Arenal Volcano and hiked up one of the tallest mountains in Costa Rica. My favorite part of the trip was visiting the small organic farms and learning how the farmers were working so hard to further their education in farming to have the land last longer, and how they were trying to spread that knowledge to their fellow farmers. I would definitely recommend that other students participate in this trip! It was so much fun and it was a great eye-opening experience to how other parts of the world view the use of their land and methods that they are taking to preserve it for future generations.”



## Research Leads to Patent Application



Dr. Anil Kadegowda

In August 2008, **Anil Kadegowda**, graduate student in **Dr. Rich Erdman's** laboratory, completed his doctoral dissertation entitled: “Regulation of Milk Fat Synthesis by Dietary Fatty Acids”. Among the discoveries that Dr. Kadegowda made, he was the first to demonstrate an increase in milk fat synthesis from the addition of short chain fatty acids to the diet. A patent application has been filed and a commercial licensing agreement is being sought to support practical applications and continued research. Dr. Kadegowda accepted a postdoctoral position in **Dr. Ian Mather's** laboratory.

## North American International Livestock Expo 2008



Front Row: April Hall Barczewski (Coach), Chelsea Davis  
Back Row: Brandon Kahler, Kaylene Lyons, Kristin Zimmerman

### Maryland 4-H Dairy Bowl Team

The Invitational 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl was again a featured activity at the 35th Annual North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 7-8, 2008. The event features young people who have set their sights on a career in the dairy business or some other aspect of agriculture. Twenty teams from across the nation participated and the Maryland 4-H Dairy Bowl Team placed seventh overall. Maryland team members included: **Chelsea Davis** (Cecil County), **Brandon Kahler** (Carroll County), **Kaylene Lyons** (Montgomery County), and **Kristin Zimmerman** (Frederick County). Individually Kristin Zimmerman placed fourth and Chelsea Davis fifth on the written exam. **April Hall Barczewski**, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development from the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, Cecil County office and ANSC alum coached and accompanied the team.

## Maryland 4-H Dairy Judging Team

Maryland 4-H Dairy Judging Team received First Place Team in Oral Reasons at the North American International Livestock Expo in Louisville, Kentucky on November 9, 2008. **Ariel Taxdal**, **Morgan Meisenheimer**, **Hannah Hood** and **Mandi Ramsburg** made up the team. **Loretta Wright** and **Patrick Thompson**, Faculty Extension Assistant AGNR-MCE-Anne Arundel and ANSC alumnus coached. Individually Morgan Meisenheimer ranked sixth place, Mandi Ramsburg ranked twelfth place, Ariel Taxdal ranked fifteenth place, and Hannah Hood, thirty-first place. The team ranked third place overall.



Left to Right: Coaches Patrick Thompson and Loretta Wright with team members Ariel Taxdal, Morgan Meisenheimer, Hannah Hood and Mandi Ramsburg

## Maryland 4-H Poultry Judging Team



**Dr. Nick Zimmermann** reported that the Maryland 4-H Poultry Judging Team placed fourth in nation at the 2008 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference held November 19-20, 2008 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky. This annual conference allows 4-Hers from all over the country to compete in educational events that help them learn to make and defend decisions, speak publicly, and gain poultry-related skills. The Maryland team included **James Riggs III** (Frederick County), **Travis Moxley** (Frederick County), **William Tomlinson** (Charles County), **Jonathan Stevens** (Frederick County), **Rebecca Baldwin** (Carroll County) and coaches **Dr. Nick Zimmermann** and **Donna Bailey**. There were nineteen teams and 81 individuals competing this year. William

Tomlinson earned ninth place out of twelve competitors in the Egg Preparation Contest. James Riggs, Travis Moxley, Jonathan Stevens, and Rebecca Baldwin competed in the Poultry Judging Contest and earned fourth place overall out of nineteen teams nationally. Of the 81 individuals in the contest, Travis Moxley and Rebecca Baldwin placed thirteen and fourteen, respectively. In the Production Hens portion of the contest, the Maryland team placed seventh; Travis Moxley and Jonathan Stevens individually placed sixth and seventh, respectively. In the Market Poultry portion of the contest, the Maryland team placed fifth; individually Rebecca Baldwin placed fifth. In the Market Egg portion of the contest the Maryland team placed fourth.

## Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup

Sixteen of Maryland's top 4-Hers, four volunteer coaches, and Regional Extension Horse Specialist, **Kristen Wilson** headed to Louisville, Kentucky from November 6-9, 2008 to compete in Horse Bowl, Horse Judging, Hippology and Horse Communications at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup. This year's Horse Roundup was the largest in history with thirty states and 354 youth registered.

The Horse Bowl team coached by **Dr. Al Starr** (Howard County) took a second place finish overall at the Reserve National Championship. Horse Bowl Team members included **Mackenzie Barnard** (Howard County), **Ashleigh Friend** (Garrett County), **Kaitlyn Pontuti** (Baltimore County), and **Brook Dudrow** (Talbot County). Ashleigh Friend (Garrett County) earned second place overall and Kaitlyn Pontuti (Baltimore County) placed ninth overall.

The Horse Judging Team also claimed fifth place overall, eighth place in conformation classes, seventh place in performance classes, and tenth place in oral reasons. **Sabrina Ginn** (Cecil County) coached team members **Leah Berry** (Anne Arundel County), **Rachel Ginn** (Cecil County), **Rebecca Hoffman** (Carroll County), and **Leigh Ann Stead** (Cecil County). Rachel Ginn placed tenth in conformation classes, ninth in performance classes, tenth in oral reasons, and sixth overall.

Led by coach **Darryll-Ann Buschling** (Howard County), the Hippology Team placed sixth overall with an eighth place finish in the written phase, and sixth place in the station phase. Hippology team members included **Stacey Heaver** (Carroll County), **Megan Levin** (Baltimore County), **Colleen Slevin** (Carroll County), and **Elena Stojic** (Montgomery County). Individual awards were also won by Stacey Heaver (Carroll County) who placed eighth in the judging phase, seventh place in the station phase, and sixth place overall. Individual rankings also included an eighth place in the written phase for Elena Stojic (Montgomery County).

The Horse Communications Team, coached by **Janie Dell** (Carroll County) demonstrated and spoke eloquently against tough competition. The team demonstration duo of **Megan Jordan** (Carroll County) and **Ashley Newman** (Carroll County), earned tenth place for their demonstration titled "To Shoe or Not to Shoe." **Suzannah Macleod** (Carroll County) gave a talk about horse slaughter titled "America's Dirty Little Secret," which earned her a thirteenth placing overall. **Kelly Nolte** (Carroll County) gave a demonstration about riding safety titled "Your Life Depends on It" which earned her a twelfth place finish overall.

Congratulations to all of the 4-Hers!

# Alumni News

*ANSC Alumni making headlines in the world.*

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**Jennifer Antelman**, who graduated from ANSC in December 2004 and joined **Dr. Peter Sutovsky's** lab at the University of Missouri for a MS degree, has had her MS thesis work published in the July 17, 2008 issue of the **Journal Cell Physiology**, where it was featured on the cover and described in the "Highlights" section. Her first-author paper was entitled "Expression of mitochondrial transcription factor A (TFAM) during porcine gametogenesis and preimplantation embryo development". Congratulations Jen!

## ***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](mailto:ansc@umd.edu)

## Staff News

*The Department of Animal and Avian Sciences would like to recognize its Staff Members and their achievements.*

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Campus Farm Manager **Lindsay Callahan** was featured on the front page of "Lancaster Farming" in an article about the Central Maryland Research and Education Center (CMREC) Open House on October 4, 2008. Lindsay was pictured showing "open house attendees how a fistulated cow is important to dairy cattle research at the Clarksville Facility." <http://www.lancasterfarming.com/>

**Kelly Brannan**, Coordinator (Equine/Poultry) left the department in January 2009 in order to pursue a Ph.D. in Poultry Nutrition at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. We wish her the best of luck with her studies.

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