

Department of

# Animal & Avian Sciences

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

# 10

Spring/Summer



## Inside This Issue

- » *ANSC Events*
- » *Faculty News*
- » *Student News*
- » *Staff News*
- » *Maryland 4-H News*

## ANSC Highlights

- » Ag Day 2010!
- » 24th Annual Symposium
- » Dr. Iqbal Hamza receives prestigious Kirwan Award
- » New Course in Farriery
- » UMD Block and Bridle Club
- » ANSC Class of 2010!



Grand Champion Showman Mike Amoss

## Ag Day a success!

Despite some clouds and a sprinkling of rain, the Block and Bridle livestock show at **University of Maryland's Ag Day** was a huge success again this year. April 24 marked the 85th annual Ag Day and the 12th annual Maryland Day held at the campus in College Park; Ag Day is part of a bigger, campus-wide event in which all university departments participate by hosting exhibits and workshops. More than 55,000 people visited the campus this year.

Block and Bridle hosted its annual livestock showmanship show featuring swine, market lambs, dairy heifers, and market beef cattle. The show was coordinated by Block and Bridle members, and the showmen consisted of Animal Science students as well as club members. Students spent six weeks preparing their animals for the show ring under the supervision and instruction of student and staff coaches. All training and fitting was done solely by the student showmen. The livestock show is a unique opportunity for University of Maryland students to get hands-on experience with livestock and also provides an opportunity for the public to learn more about animal agriculture. This year fifty students participated in the show.

Results from the livestock show follow. Swine, judged by **Dr. Tom Hartsock**: **Victoria Lake**, champion; **Claire Marshall**, reserve champion. Sheep, judged by **Jennifer Woodward-Greene**: **Emily Jellick**, champion; **Brittany Mills**, reserve champion. Dairy, judged by **Bonnie Remsberg**:

**Amanda Heilman**, champion; **Brittany Gaban**, reserve champion. Beef, judged by **Dr. Scott Updike**: **Mike Amoss**, champion; **Malora Cahall**, reserve champion. **Mike Amoss** won the award for **Grand Champion Showman** after displaying his skills showing each of the four species.

## 24th Annual Symposium

The 24th Annual Symposium took place on May 25, 2010. The yearly event showcases the research being done by the department's graduate students. Students present their research in both oral and poster formats. This year's guest speaker was **Dr. Zhanjiang Liu of Auburn University**. Dr. Liu gave a lecture entitled "Genome research in catfish: From ground zero to whole genome sequencing." The department would like to thank everyone who helped to organize the event, the students that presented their research and all of the attendees who helped to make the event a success.

Here are the results of the contest:

- \* Shaffner Award First Place: **Fei Tian**
- \* Shaffner Award Second Place: **Ranga Padmanabhan**
- \* First Place Poster Presentation: **Diwakar Vyas**
- \* Second Place Poster Presentation: **Kara Duffy**
- \* First Place Oral Presentation: **Laura Ellestad**
- \* Second Place Oral Presentation: **Apratim Mitra**
- \* Research Assistant/Postdoc Award: **Monika Proszkowiec-Weglarz**

In Addition, the Animal Science Graduate Program named their Masters and Ph.D. Students of the Year. The **Masters Student of the Year** award went to **Jennifer Strykowski** and the **Ph.D. Student of the Year** was awarded to **Kristina Knubel**.



Above: Presentation Winners from left to right: Diwakar Vyas, Fei Tian, Kara Duffy, Apratim Mitra, Monika Proszkowiec-Weglarz, Ranga Padmanabhan and Laura Ellestad.

Below: Dr. Liu gives his lecture on "Genome Research in catfish"

## Faculty News Headlines



Dr. Iqbal Hamza

### Dr. Iqbal Hamza honored with Kirwan Faculty Research and Scholarship Prize

**Dr. Iqbal Hamza** was awarded the prestigious **2010 Kirwan Faculty Research and Scholarship Prize**. The Kirwan Prize recognizes a faculty member for a highly significant work of research, scholarship, or artistic creativity completed within the last three years. The award recognizes his “pioneering work on the discovery of genes that encode heme transporters which are essential for the ingestion of heme and which will lay the groundwork for understanding disorders such as anemia and genetic hematological diseases”. Dr. Hamza is the first biologist on campus to receive this prize. The award will be presented at the Faculty and Staff Convocation on Oct 12, 2010. A list of previous award winners can be found at <http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/Fellowship/KirwanWinners.htm>.

### Preservation of Rare Genotypes through Innovative Stem Cell Technologies

Faculty members from ANSC were one of four groups to receive **University of Maryland Smithsonian Seed grants** this spring. **Carol L. Keefer** is the lead principal investigator from UMCP. Her collaborators at UMCP are **John Song** (ANSC) and **John Fisher**, Fischell Department of Bioengineering. Smithsonian Institute co-principal investigators are **Budhan Pukazhenth** and **Pierre Comizzoli** of the National Zoological Park, Center for Species Survival. The overall goal of the seed grant is to preserve genetic biodiversity of endangered species through application of innovative stem cell technologies. The specific aims include a variety of schemes to allow extension of spermatogonial and embryonic stem cell culture, propagation and cryopreservation to multiple species. Current graduate student, **Lindsey Vansandt**, and incoming graduate students, **Emily Nestle** and **Hali Segal**, will be participating in this project. This collaboration strengthens existing relationships between personnel at the Smithsonian Institution and Department of Animal and Avian Sciences.



Dr. Tom Porter

### Dr. Tom Porter becomes Chief Editor of Poultry Science

**Dr. Tom Porter** has been named Editor-in-Chief of the journal **Poultry Science**. This is a three-year appointment beginning on July 1, 2010.

*Poultry Science* is an international journal publishing original papers, research notes, symposium papers, and reviews of basic science as applied to poultry. Poultry Science is ranked by ISI Impact Factor as one of the top 10 Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Sciences journals, and is the number one ranked journal in the world for poultry-related research. Subject areas include breeding, genetics, education, production, management, environment, health, behavior, welfare, immunology, molecular biology, metabolism, nutrition, physiology, reproduction, processing, and products.

## Faculty News Headlines

### Dr. Mark Varner appointed Acting Assoc. Director, International Programs in AGNR

From Dean Wei:

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of **Dr. Mark Varner** as Acting Associate Director of International Programs in Agriculture & Natural Resources (IPAN), effective July 1, 2010.

This is a two year appointment. Dr. Varner will, among other things, work closely with IPAN Director Ray Miller to broaden our activities into additional parts of the world such as Africa and South America and to work with faculty in developing program proposals. During the previous 16 months, he has served as Assistant Director of IPAN in a half-time mentee capacity, while continuing his teaching and extension responsibilities with the Department of Animal & Avian Sciences (ANSC) and conducting research in dairy cattle reproductive management and lameness of dairy cattle.

Dr. Varner came to AGNR in 1981 as an assistant professor and Extension dairy scientist. He was promoted to associate professor in 1988 and to full professor in 1997. From 1999-2002, Dr. Varner served as director of the graduate program and coordinator of the undergraduate program in ANSC. He is the College's coordinator for eXtension and online learning and is actively involved in the eXtension national effort through DAIReXNET.

Dr. Varner has been actively involved in many of our international programs, especially those with Russian institutions. I am confident that he will provide excellent leadership as our College continues to expand its international relationships.



Dr. Mark Varner



Dr. Bob Peters

### Dr. Bob Peters named new Undergraduate Coordinator

From Dr. Tom Porter:

I am happy to announce the appointment of **Dr. Bob Peters** as Coordinator of the Animal Sciences Undergraduate Program, effective July 1. Dr. Peters teaches our Capstone course, Critical Thinking in Animal Science (ANSC420). He has proven to be one of our better faculty advisors for undergraduate students. Dr. Peters is careful and thoughtful and pays close attention to detail. I am confident in his ability to lead our undergraduate program. One goal for the program that Dr. Peters has expressed is to increase the availability of internships for our undergraduate students. One of the stated goals in our campus strategic plan is to provide experiential learning opportunities for all of our students, and Dr. Peters' goal fits perfectly with this campus goal. The position of Coordinator of the Animal Sciences Undergraduate Program requires a lot of work, and I want to thank Bob for volunteering to provide this service to our department and students.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank **Dr. Mark Varner** for his years of service as Coordinator of our undergraduate program. Dr. Varner has been an excellent Coordinator of our program. We have seen much progress and growth in our program over the past several years, and I believe that much of this has been due to Mark's efforts.

## Dr. Amy Burk promoted to Associate Professor

**Dr. Amy Burk** received her Ph.D. from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2001 and joined the department as a Lecturer. In 2004, she accepted the position of Assistant Professor. Dr. Burk's focus is on equine nutrition and pasture management. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Burk!



Dr. Amy Burk

## Faculty Honors and Recognitions

**Dr. Richard Erdman** has been elected to the **American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) Board of Directors**, beginning at the joint meeting in July.

**Dr. Scott Updike** received the **Ag Council's Outstanding Faculty Educator Award** at the Ag Council Awards Banquet May 5, 2010.

**Dr. Lisa Taneyhill** has been awarded an **NIH Administrative Supplement for Summer Student Research**, in the amount of \$8,640.

Two faculty members were honored by the local chapter of **Gamma Sigma Delta**, the Honor Society of Agriculture. **Dr. Carol Keefer** was awarded the **Excellence in Teaching Award** and **Dr. Amy Burk** the **Excellence in Extension Award**. On that same occasion, **Dr. Frank Siewerdt** became the **2010-2011 President of the University of Maryland - National Capital Area Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta**.

**Dr. Ed Orlando**, was quoted about his research on intersex fish in the issue of **Parade Magazine** for Sunday, 31 January 2009. The article was entitled "Scientists Investigate Freaky Fish," and you can read more [HERE](#).

**Dr. Iqbal Hamza** was awarded his second R01 grant starting April 1, 2010 from NIH, NIDDK. The grant, titled "The Transport of Nutritional Heme in Animal Development", was funded for \$1,222,875 for 4 years. The main focus of this grant is to understand the molecular mechanisms of specific heme transporters in iron deficiency using genetic and biochemical approaches in humans and the roundworm *C. elegans*. Dr. Hamza's research program is currently funded by the Roche Foundation for Anemia Research and a R01 grant to identify heme trafficking pathways at the genome level.

## Emeritus Professor working with FDA

**Dr. Dennis Westhoff** retired in 2004 following 34 years at the University of Maryland. For 17 years of those years he was Department Chair. In retirement, he has been traveling a lot, but also staying busy conducting food safety and food processing training classes for private clients, local community colleges and for the FDA. Dennis has been a contractor with FDA since 2005, working on course development and delivery for Juice HACCP, the Food Code, Acidified Foods, and Food Processing Technology. He was recently awarded a competitive FDA contract for three years to continue with his FDA involvement. Following that contract period, he says he might actually retire!



Emeritus Professor Dr. Dennis Westhoff



A group participates in an educational seminar at the Equine Rotational Grazing Demonstration Site

## Equine Rotational Grazing Demonstration Site

The Equine Rotational Grazing site started off its 2010 educational series with a bang in April welcoming 65 participants eager to learn about soil fertility. After being welcomed to the site by **Dr. Amy Burk**, participants took a tour of the rotational grazing system, practiced taking soil tests, discussed how to interpret soil test results, and learned how to adjust soil fertility with lime and fertilizer. The next pasture walk is scheduled for June 17 and will focus on ways to improve the grass stand in horse pastures. More information can be found at [www.ansc.umd.edu/ERG](http://www.ansc.umd.edu/ERG).

## ANSC Bachelors Degrees - Class of 2010

Congratulations to the ANSC Class of 2010!

Andres Azcuna	Elana Cohen	Kaitlyn Hopkins	Erin Matyus	Sheila Polyoka
Julia Behler	Kristi Fritsch	Linda Huang	Devora McCoy	Heather Radford
Timothy Bernstein	Emily Gilliland	Jeffrey Jones	Kristy Meadows	Jessica Reich
Matt Biegel	Cynthia Hengen †	Kaylea Kowalski	Sara Meagher	Jessica Robinson
Shawnda Blair	Jose Herrera	Rachael Krieger	Liz Mongeon †	Katherine Robinson
Amy Brown	Donald (DJ) Hiltner	Margaret Lilly	Julia Nelson	Adam Rzepkowski
Malora Cahall	Samaria Hines	Catherine Magee	Colleen Nieman	Nicolette Springirth
				Shannon Taylor
				Robert Young

† Kinghorne Scholar

## Animal Science Ph.D. Recipients

Congratulations to the Animal Science Ph.D. recipients!

- **Caiyong Chen** (December 2009) conducted his research entitled, “Delineating the function of HRG-2 and HRG-3 in heme homeostasis in *C. elegans*” under the guidance of **Dr. Iqbal Hamza**.
- **Arun Kirshna Sasikala Appukuttan** conducted his research entitled, “Genetic variation in nitrogen and phosphorus levels in broiler excreta: Opportunity for improving both birds and the environment” under the guidance of **Dr. Frank Siewerdt**.
- **Andrew Schmittmacher** conducted his research entitled, “Investigating the roles of OCT4 and CDX2 in directing bovine trophectoderm lineage development” under the guidance of **Dr. Carol Keefer**.

## ANSC Dean's List - Spring 2010

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

Binzer, Lena Ann *	Foley, Maegan Hannah	Jones, Jeffrey Ezra *	Mongeon, Elizabeth Anne *†	Schneider, Madeleine Carr *
Bolek, Ann Marie	Fritsch, Kristi N	Juengst, Leslie	Morgan, Anna Kate	Sclarsky, Rachel
Bradley, Christine Mary *	Gankos, Katelyn *	Kosinski, Grace Elizabeth	Mundy, Lauren Nicole	Siva, Sindhu *
Brower, Kelly Elizabeth *	Garcia, Karla	Lesser, Henry Naftali	Noe, Laura E	Solli, Alexandra Margaret
Brown, Danielle M *	Gates, Katherine Yvonne *	Liu, Wanxin *	Pagones, Tessa	Way, Samantha Elizabeth
Castilla, Andrea Emily	Goff, William Frederick *	Matyus, Erin Kelly	Paultre, Stephanie *	Willems, Juliana Jean
Chia, Han Ying	Herriott, Caitlin Jean	McCoy, Devora Chashuva	Polyoka, Sheila M	Willis, Mallan M *
Coleman, Destiny Marie	Higgins, Arielle Kathleen	McGucken, Anna Mae *	Reich, Jessica Lynne	Wysocki, Danielle Megan
Colvin, Jennifer Lynn *	Hiltner, Donald Howard *	Meadows, Kristy L *	Robinson, Jessica Cerise *	Yang, Esther Hee Young
Delshad, Deborah	Huang, Linda C *	Mitchell, Rebecca Lee *	Roller, Ashley	Zhang, Grace Guosui

\* Past recipient of Animal Sciences Academic Excellence Scholarship Award

† Kinghorne Scholar

## ANSC Scholarship Winners

England Scholarship: **Amanda Heilman, Victoria Lake**

Kinghorne Scholarship: **Hannah Sanford-Crane**

Dodson Scholarship: **Jenna Day**

## American Society of Animal Science Scholastic Achievement Awards

Sophomores:	Juniors:	Seniors:
McGucken, Anna M	Binzer, Lena A	Huang, Linda C
Schechter, Dana	Goff, William F	Lilly, Margaret A
Willis, Mallan M	Pfeifer, Mary E	Meadows, Kristy L
		Meagher, Sara E

## American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists - Washington DC Chapter Academic Achievement Awards

Juniors: Goff, William F and Pfeifer, Mary E  
Seniors: Lilly, Margaret and Meadows, Kristy L



Back Row (L-R): Dr. Tom Porter, Dr. Mark Varner, Jose Carrillo

Front Row (L-R): Linda Huang, Lena Binzer, Anna McGucken, Dana Schechter, and Mallan Willis

## Other Awards and Recognitions



Nicole Fiorellino

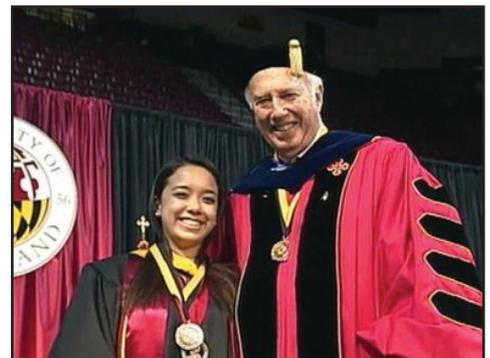
ANSC graduate student, **Nicole Fiorellino**, was awarded the **Outstanding Teaching Assistant award** from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Student Council. Nicole served as a teaching assistant for ANSC 103 Introduction to Animal Science Laboratory and ANSC 232 Horse Management.

Congratulations to **Elliot Frank**, an eighth grader from Howard County. His mentored research project on isolating ethanol-producing fiber-digesting microorganisms from the cow's rumen was selected to compete in the all-county and Baltimore Regional Science Fair. Elliot did this project with **Dr. Seon-Woo Kim** and **Dr. Rick Kohn** this summer in the Kohn laboratory.

**Sarah Peitzmeier** undergraduate working in Dr. Ian Mather's laboratory received the **University Medal** - given by **President Mote** to the most outstanding undergraduate in the University.

**Ranga Padmanabhan** ANSC graduate student in **Dr. Lisa Taneyhill's** laboratory is the recipient of **UMD Graduate School Fellowship** for Spring 2010 and recipient of **ASGSA Research Award** (\$200).

**Jennifer Strykowski**, an MS student in **Dr. Ed Orlando's** lab, was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the **Cosmos Club Foundation, Washington, D.C.**, to support her research proposal entitled *Effects of Low Temperature on Gene Expression and Sex Determination in Rivulus (Kryptolebias marmoratus)*.



Sara Peitzmeier and President Dan Mote

## Other Awards and Recognitions continued



Olivia Smith receiving the H. Palmer Hopkins Scholarship

**Olivia Smith**, Ph.D. student in Dr. Ed Orlando's laboratory was selected for the **H. Palmer Hopkins Scholarship** in the amount of \$500.

Several students of our department were honored by the local chapter of **Gamma Sigma Delta**, the Honor Society of Agriculture. **José Carrillo** was the recipient of an \$150 scholarship as the Outstanding Graduate Student (Master of Science) while **William Goff**, a junior in our department received a \$100 scholarship as one of two Outstanding Undergraduate Student. The ceremony was held jointly with a meeting of ARPAS on April 28. Four graduate students were elected to membership in Gamma Sigma Delta: **Andy Schiffmacher, Kristina Knubel, Fei Tian, and José Carrillo.**

**Ratan Choudhary** is a graduate student under **Dr. Ian Mather**, working at **USDA BARC**. He was recently awarded Honorable mention at the USDA BARC poster day last month. Ratan received a \$100 cash award and a certificate. Congratulations, Ratan!



UMD Livestock Judging Team at NESA. Left to Right: Chad Clark, Victoria Lake, Dr. Scott Updike, Sara Meagher and Mike Amoss

## Block and Bridle competes at NESA

The University of Maryland, College Park, livestock judging team competed at **NESA**, held February 20. The NESA contest is hosted by a different university in the northeast region each year and is coordinated by the host school Block and Bridle club. This year's contest was hosted at University of Rhode Island. Members of the 2010 University of Maryland livestock judging team include **Mike Amoss, Chad Clark, Victoria Lake, and Sara Meagher.** **Dr. Scott Updike** serves as the team coach.

The contest consists of animal judging, an animal science quiz bowl, and a presentation on a timely agricultural issue of the team's choosing. The judging component is different from most judging contests in that it includes multiple types of animals: dairy and beef cattle, pigs, sheep, and horses. Mike Amoss gave the team presentation which described how Maryland farmers are working to ensure

the health of the Chesapeake Bay. The University of Maryland team placed tenth overall out of 39 teams. Maryland also took home ninth in quiz bowl and tenth in animal judging. Team member Victoria Lake placed tenth individual out of more than 150 competitors in animal judging.

This was the first year in several that University of Maryland has participated in the contest; Maryland team members enjoyed the experience and plan to send several teams next year.

## Block and Bridle at Wye Angus

Student members of the University of Maryland's chapter of **Block and Bridle** got some hands-on time with the renowned cattle of **Wye Angus** on Jan 19. Club members volunteered their time to groom the cattle to prepare them for individual show catalog photographs. The photos appear in the farm's 2010 sale catalog available at [wyeangus.umd.edu/sales.cfm](http://wyeangus.umd.edu/sales.cfm).

The Wye Angus annual sale will be held on Saturday, April 3 at the **Wye Research and Education Center (REC)** in Queenstown, MD. Block and Bridle members will also be on hand the day of the sale to prepare cattle for the show ring.

In addition to hands-on experience, Wye REC provides the club with a sponsorship payment. This year the club plans to use these proceeds to purchase new clippers and show supplies for their annual livestock show which will be held on Maryland Day, April 24, at the University of Maryland, College Park.



Left to Right: Mike Amoss, Victoria Lake, Brittany Gabon, Nathan Glenn and Malora Cahall.

## Terp Down Under

ANSC Undergraduate Student, **Stephanie Porter**, is spending a semester abroad in Australia where she is studying at University of Queensland. You can follow her blog about her overseas adventures <http://terpdownunder.wordpress.com/>



Stephanie Porter studying abroad in Australia

## Miner Internship

**Annelise Myers** is a junior in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences majoring in pre-veterinary medicine, and double majoring in German. She is the first undergraduate from our department to be selected as a Miner Intern. The **William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute** is located in New



ANSC Undergrad Annelise Myers

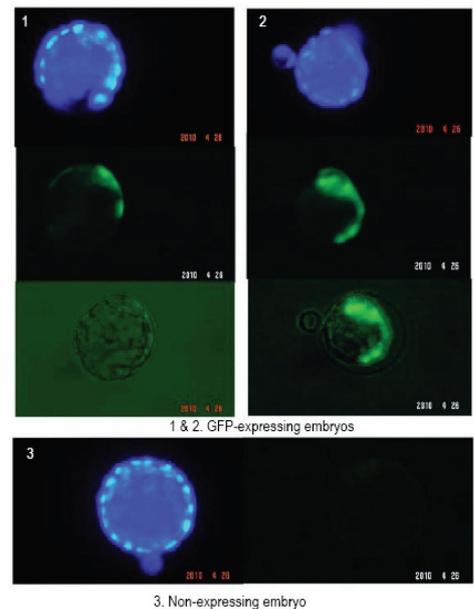
York's fertile Champlain Valley and is the present-day manifestation of the philosophy and principles once embodied in Heart's Delight Farm. Created in 1951, the principal function has been, and continues to be, the economic improvement of agricultural operations through research, education, and demonstration. During the internship, Annelise will gain experience in dairy management including milking, herd health, calves, and a variety of field work activities such as tillage, planting, and harvest. The students fit and show a string of dairy cattle at the local county fair. In addition, she will be involved in an independent study project analyzing an aspect of Miner Institute's farm management, such as reproduction, nutrition, nutrient management, herd health, and calf management. Each student works with a faculty member to plan, organize, and summarize the project. And, at the end of the summer, present oral and written reports. Anyone interested in applying for a summer internship at the Miner Institute, please follow the link [http://www.whminer.com/academic\\_farmmgmt.html](http://www.whminer.com/academic_farmmgmt.html).

## Transgenic Blastocysts

Students in **Dr. Carol Keefer's ANSC 435 Lab on Experimental Embryology** were able to successfully produce transgenic blastocysts this semester. This year's students injected a transgenic construct into the pronuclei of mouse oocytes, cultured the injected embryos for several days, and obtained glowing embryos that expressed the green fluorescent protein (GFP) gene.



Mike Poe demonstrates for students of the ANSC489F Class



## New Course Offering - Farriery

**ANSC489F** is an introductory course in farriery that was offered at the University of Maryland, College Park, for the first time during the January 2010 term. The workshop-type course was open to university students as well as members of the larger equine community. Students learn the scientific principles behind the care and management of the hoof, basic anatomy and function of the hoof, and the basics of farrier procedures. Practical instruction in hands-on farrier technique is also included. Instruction is provided by **Mike Poe**, owner of Alpha Farrier Services and Certified Journeyman Farrier. Read more at <http://www.ansc.umd.edu/undergrad/courses/spotlight/farrier/>

## Academic Showcase

On Friday, April 30, 2010, 19 AGNR students presented their final projects at the **College Park Scholars Academic Showcase**. These students participated in the "Business, Society and the Economy," "Life Sciences," "Earth, Life and Time," and "Science, Technology and Society" sections of the Scholars program for the past two years. Their final projects could be an internship, study abroad experience or independent research that was related to the specific program they were in.

**Kelly Brower**, a sophomore Animal Science major, studied rotational grazing at a demonstration site. She said her favorite part of this project was being able to spend time with horses and see the day-to-day care of them.

"It was interesting research, not just sitting in a lab," she said. "It wasn't just doing experiments and seeing how things turn out."

**Morgan Lewis** and **Emily Bielecki**, both sophomore Animal Science majors, worked as veterinary technicians for their projects, and **Sarah Margerison** worked at the Cape May City Park & Zoo in New Jersey. Margerison, also a sophomore Animal Science major, said she learned a lot about working with animals, such as "how to interact with them without messing up their routine, which is important to understand."

AGNR Students who participated:

- **Emily Bielecki, Animal Science**
- **Kelly Brower, Animal Science**
- **Olivia Cox, Animal Science**
- **Katie Gankos, Animal Science**
- **Hager Hauser, Animal Science**
- **Morgan Lewis, Animal Science**
- **Wanxin Liu, Animal Science**
- **Sarah Margerison, Animal Science**
- **Anna McGucken, Animal Science**
- **Hannah Sanford-Crane, Animal Biotechnology**
- **Dana Schechter, Animal Science**



Ariel Taxdal, Morgan Meisenheimer, Emily Gill, Chelsea Davis

## **Maryland 4-H Dairy Judging Team travels overseas**

On June 23rd, the winning team of the 2009 National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest will be heading to Scotland to compete in an International Judging event. The team brought Maryland its 29th National victory. This is an incredible feat. The team consists of Chelsea Davis, Cecil Co.; Emily Gill, Harford Co.; Morgan Meisenheimer, Howard Co.; and Ariel Taxdal, Harford Co.

The program is coordinated by Kiera Finucane, Animal and Avian Sciences, and this year's team was coached by Loretta Wright, a long-time supporter of dairy and Maryland 4-H, from Carroll County. The team will travel through Scotland, England, France, Luxembourg and Germany over the fourteen day trip. We will have the opportunity to judge cattle in multiple countries, see a play in London, take a cruise down the Rhine River and so much more.

The ladies have even been invited to lead cattle in 1st Annual International Sale hosted by the Luxembourg Herd Book Association!

Many of you have supported the fundraising efforts put forth by the team over the past eight months. The program's long term success and viability is possible only through the time, effort and financial support of the entire dairy industry in Maryland. While the team and 4-H program cannot send each and every one of you a personal thank you card, we would like to invite you along on our international adventure with us. Please look for daily updates on our blog:

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

For more information on the 4-H Dairy Program in Maryland, please contact Kiera Finucane at (301)405-1392 or [kieraf@umd.edu](mailto:kieraf@umd.edu).

## Farewell and Welcome!

Campus Farm Manager **Lindsay Callahan** left the department in May of 2010 to pursue a degree in Vet Medicine at St. Matthews University in Grand Cayman. The department would like to thank Lindsay for her service and wish her the best of luck in vet school. We would now like to welcome our new Farm Manager, **Crystal Caldwell**. Crystal comes to us with nine years of experience in animal agriculture, largely at university farms. She was the Livestock Manager at the University of Maine campus farm. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal and Veterinary Sciences from the University of Maine and a Masters of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of Idaho.



Our new Campus Farm Manager, Crystal Caldwell



Dan Theisen with the women of TRY in The Gambia

## Aquaculture in The Gambia

**Dan Theisen**, research assistant to **Dr. Curry Woods**, recently made a trip to **The Gambia** in West Africa to take part in an aquaculture project. The project involved training and education for the Women's Oyster Harvesters Association (TRY). Dan worked with the women of the Tanbi Wetlands to establish new practices for harvesting oysters in an effort to benefit both the oyster population and also protect the surrounding mangroves. Though Dan has since returned home to Maryland, he plans on continuing to provide support and guidance through email correspondence with those in charge of the program, and hopes he will one day return to The Gambia. This project was made possible through the partnership of USAID, Coastal Resources Center, WWF, and the Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters of The Gambia.

## Staff Publications

**Dr. Anil Kadegowda** postdoctoral fellow in **Dr. Ian Mather's** laboratory will receive the **Alltech, Inc. Graduate Student Paper Publication Award** to be presented at the ADSA Awards Program in Denver on July 13. Anil was previously a graduate student in the department under **Dr. Rich Erdman**.

Research assistants in **Dr. Lisa Taneyhill's** lab have written a paper accepted by the peer-reviewed journal "**Developmental Biology**". The paper is titled "*Novel insight into the function and regulation of alpha-N-catenin by Snail2 during chick neural crest cell migration.*" The authors on the paper are **Sharon Jhingory, Chyong-Yi Wu**, along with co-author **Dr. Lisa Taneyhill**.



Dr. Anil Kadegowda

Department of Animal and Avian Sciences  
1413 Animal Sciences Center  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742-2311

Phone Numbers:  
Office: (301) 405-1366  
Fax: (301) 405-7980  
[ansc@umd.edu](mailto:ansc@umd.edu)