

Department of

Animal & Avian Sciences

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

09
Summer

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Upcoming Events

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

Cook-Off!

September 23, 2009 from 5:00PM in the Animal Sciences Building Concourse and Courtyard

Save the date! This is YOUR chance to "grade" your professors! All Students are encouraged to come!

<http://ansc.umd.edu/events/index.cfm#26>

ANGR Open House

Oct 10, 2009 at 10:00AM at the Central Maryland Research & Education Center - Clarksville Facility

Learn about the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources! Spend a day on the farm at the ANGR Open House!

<http://agnropenhouse.umd.edu>

ANSC News

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 Hartsock

The Thomas Hartsock Animal Management Endowed Scholarship

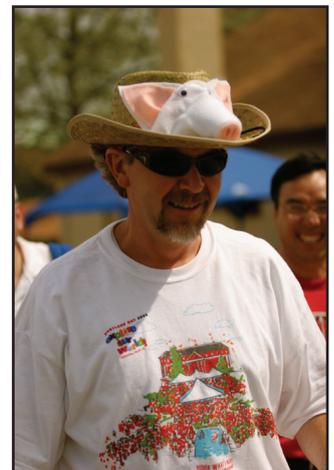
The Department is very proud to announce the creation of a new scholarship fund by one of our former faculty members. Through a gracious donation, **Dr. Thomas Hartsock** has created the **Thomas Hartsock Animal Management Endowed Scholarship Fund**. This scholarship is available to any Undergraduate student who is studying for non-veterinary careers related to the care and management of livestock. The student must either be enrolled in the Department of Animal & Avian Sciences or the Institute of Applied Agriculture.

From 1979 until 2007, Dr. Thomas Hartsock devoted himself to research and teaching students in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences at the University of Maryland. At the time of his retirement from the University, Dr. Hartsock held the positions of Director of the Institute of Applied Agriculture and Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences. Dr. Hartsock has had a long-standing belief in "hands-on" applied learning for students in the two-year and four-year programs.

AG Day 2009

Ag Day on April 25, 2009 was a huge success for the Department. One of the day's highlights was the Sigma Alpha's Kiss a Pig competition, which was won by the chairman, **Dr. Tom Porter**.

Photographs can be found at <http://ansc.umd.edu/gallery/AGDay2009/>.



Dr. Tom Porter

ARPAS Symposium

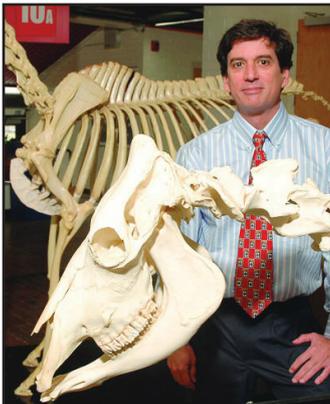
Faculty and students of the Department were invited by **Dr. Bill Price**, President Elect of the Washington D.C. Area Chapter of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) to participate in a Symposium. The Symposium and Banquet were held on April 20, 2009 at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. Presenters included faculty members, **Drs. Brian Bequette, Lisa Taneyhill, Amy Burk, and Tom Porter**, as well as graduate students, **Kristina Heuck**, M.S. (Porter Laboratory), **Beth Ventura**, B.S., (Estevez Laboratory), **Meredith Bohannon** (Ottinger Laboratory) and **Wynne Collins** (Keefer Laboratory) and **Dr. Monika Proszkowiec-Weglarz** (postdoc in the Porter Laboratory).



Dr. Mitchell Lazar

36th Mary Shorb Lecture

Dr. Mitchell Lazar, M.D., Ph.D. spoke as the 36th Mary Shorb Lecturer on May 14, 2009 in the Benjamin Banneker Room of the Stamp Student Union. Dr. Lazar is the Sylvan H. Eisman Professor of Medicine & Genetics and Chief of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism in the Department of Medicine at the Penn Diabetes Center, University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. He is also the Director of the Institute for Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism. Dr. Lazar is internationally renowned for his work in elucidating the molecular basis of diabetes and obesity. Dr. Lazar's lecture was entitled "Obesity, Diabetes, and Epigenetics."



Dr. Jorge Piedrahita

The 23rd Annual Symposium

The 23rd Annual Symposium took place on May 29th, 2009 with guest speaker **Dr. Jorge Piedrahita** from NC State University. Dr. Piedrahita's keynote address was entitled "Imprinted genes: Functional and comparative aspects."

Photos from the Annual Symposium can be found at <http://ansc.umd.edu/gallery/AnnualSymposium2009/>

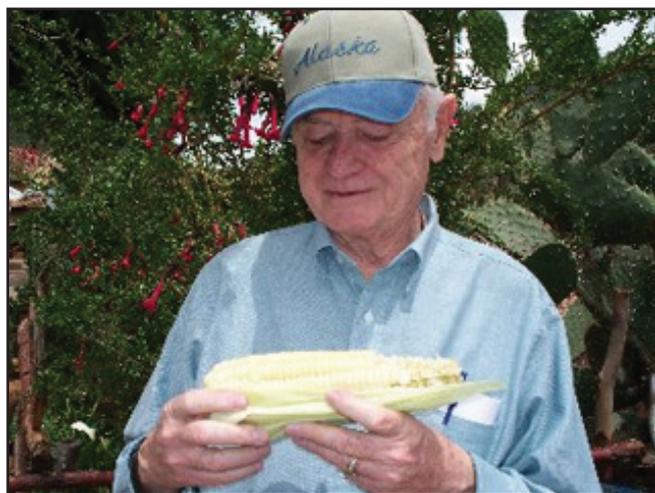
Dr. James Heath 1939-2009

Always In Motion



When I arrived to begin my career in the university's Poultry Science Department in 1978, former Chairman, Clyne Shaffner was just in the process of packing up his office to make room for Elton Johnson who would be neighbor to **James L. Heath**, poultry products scientist. Jim had an early chance to get to know me as I was in need of a lab with a fume hood and current Chair, Owen Thomas, told Jim to move his grad student out of room 3150. I'll never know if Jim was ever upset by that (his student was furious!) but if so, he never gave the slightest hint that he might be. Soon after, as I was setting up shop in 3150, Jim was up to explain the history of that lab (once belonged to Mary Shorb and then to her replacement, Dan Bigbee, both bacteriologists), and that in the grand scheme of things, it was probably fitting that the next microbiologist in the department should be assigned there. Our friendship began with that "move".

Of the faculty in the department, I likely served on more of Jim's graduate student committees than on those of other faculty. I got to know Jim and his work fairly well. Dennis Murphy, one of our faculty stationed at Princess Anne, is considered to be the originator of dead bird fermentation, one of the practices considered to have some merit in dealing with broiler house mortality. But, in reality, it was Jim and his student making "fish silage" that suggested that lactic fermentation of animal protein could preserve/convert dead chickens into something useful. Another time, Jim worked at length to demonstrate that marinated shredded chicken meat from spent fowl (birds taken out of egg production) could be used as an extender for crab cakes. Many of us participated in Jim's taste panels; sampling crab cakes was not a bad way to spend part of an afternoon. And, by the way, I don't believe any of the panelists ever recognized which cakes had the poultry extender! Jim's constant motion was evident in other ways. In his office were badge racks three or four very long strips of clips holding his past meetings' name badges. One could just about trace his professional history by following the numbers of society meetings he attended. Jim was skilled at the podium; his talks were clear and to the point. I can't recall hearing him present to mixed audiences where I ever felt that some in the room would be unable to follow what he was reporting about or others might feel he was talking down to them. His extension appointment likely helped in that regard, but the skill was there and Jim was in demand as a speaker.



There were many more moves over the years. From changes of office to expanding research facilities in the new wing; from faculty status to his temporary assignment in the Dean's shop in Symons to the Chair's office in Poultry Science; Jim was a mover! Perhaps that foretold his pleasure in travelling the world with Mary after he retired. His penultimate move was another trip with her to Peru to reprise a prior visit to Machu Picchu. Mary supplied the two photos, below, that were taken just a couple of days before his death on March 11th.

Others may wish to scour Jim's C.V. for his many noteworthy accomplishments in science. For my part, I will keep the memory of a colleague who genuinely loved life, the people around him, and the many places to be explored in this world. I am sorry he is gone, but then, he was always on the move.

- Dr. John Doerr

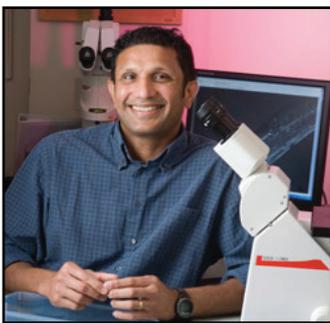
Faculty Honors and Recognitions



Dr. Tom Porter

Dr. Tom Porter honored with the Dean Gordon Cairns Award for Distinguished Creative Work and Teaching in Agriculture

Dr. Tom Porter has received the **Dean Gordon Cairns Award for Distinguished Creative Work and Teaching in Agriculture**. The Cairns award is the premier award to recognize members of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty, including AES and MCE faculty in Entomology and Family Studies, who make outstanding and creative contributions. Dr. Porter, an endocrinologist, first came to College Park in 1997 as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1999 and to the rank of professor five years later. He has served as chair of the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences since the summer of 2007. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Porter on this great honor!



Dr. Iqbal Hamza

Dr. Iqbal Hamza named Associate Professor

Join us in congratulating **Dr. Iqbal Hamza** for being promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure.



Dr. Rick Kohn

Dr. Rick Kohn is part of an Award Winning Team in Biotechnology

Taken from the Yahoo! News article

XyloFuel LLC, winner of a \$10K Warren Citrin Social Impact Award, aims to license out patented processes for converting plant fiber to fuel ethanol and other products. University of Maryland researchers discovered a bacterium that can readily digest and ferment various forms of plant fiber to ethanol. Team members include **Richard Kohn**, professor of animal science, and Robert Frank, engineering manager for XyloFuel.



Dr. Frank Siewerdt

Dr. Frank Siewerdt receives multiple teaching awards

Please join us in congratulating **Dr. Frank Siewerdt** for receiving not one, but two education awards. Dr. Siewerdt received the "Excellence in Teaching" Award from Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture, as well as the "Outstanding Faculty Educator" from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Agriculture Student Council. Great job, Dr. Siewerdt!

The "2009 Excellence in Teaching Award", bestowed on Dr. Frank Siewerdt by Dr. Bahram Momen, on behalf of Gamma Sigma Delta, Honor Society of Agriculture, University of Maryland-National Area Chapter. The awards were presented at the AGNR Awards Banquet on May 6, 2009 at the University Golf Course Club House.

Dr. Frank Siewerdt teaches first Brazilian Course in Genomic Selection

The first Brazilian course in genomic selection was held at the Center of Biotechnology of the Federal University of Pelotas, attracting 18 participants from four institutions and two countries (Brazil and Uruguay). Week 1 was taught by Dr. Heden Luiz Marques Moreira, covering molecular techniques used in data capture. Week 2 was taught by Dr. Frank

Siewerdt, covering selection theory, marker-assisted selection, and genomic selection, including the latest developments on the topic.

Grant Awards



Dr. Ray Stricklin

Dr. Ray Stricklin receives USDA Grant

Dr. Ray Stricklin's USDA AFRI animal well-being proposal, entitled "Quantitative Electroencephalography to assess pain in cattle" was recommended for full funding in the amount of \$362,000.

Dr. Iqbal Hamza receives Roche Grant

Dr. Iqbal Hamza has received a two-year grant for \$187,000 from **The Roche Foundation for Anemia Research (RoFAR)** for research in Functional Genomics by Genome-Wide RNAi of Heme Homeostasis in Animals.

Dr. Hamza has also received an Administrative Supplement, Summer research experience for students grant entitled, "The Biological Role of Heme in Human Nutrition" that is \$55,800/ 2 years.

Tony Capuco awarded NRI Grant

Tony Capuco, Adjunct Professor and ARS scientist in the Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory, Beltsville, is co-PI on a recently funded NRI grant "Myoepithelial Ontogeny in Prepubertal Heifers". The funded research will investigate cell lineage in the bovine mammary gland. In particular, experiments are designed to evaluate the impact of myoepithelial cells on prepubertal bovine mammary development and to investigate changes in gene expression that lead to myoepithelial differentiation. The grant is funded at \$349,049. Dr. Capuco will coordinate the isolation and amplification of RNA from laser microdissected specimens and perform microarray analyses. The collaboration includes researchers at Clemson University (S.E. Ellis and S. Pratt) and Virginia Tech (R.M. Akers).

New Graduate Students

We welcome a new group of graduate students to Animal and Avian Sciences!

Fall 2009 - Ph.D. Students

Umang Agarwal (Advisor - Dr. Brian Bequette)

Research interest in ruminant nutrition. Umang is from Saharanpur, India and received his B.S. degree from Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore, India in Biotechnology.

Taylor Callicrate (Advisor - Dr. Frank Siewerdt)

Research interest in avian genetics. Taylor is from Oregon and obtained her B.S. degree from Oregon State University in Poultry Science. She received her M.S. degree from ANSC, UMCP under the direction of Dr. Inma Estevez in Animal Behavior; specifically, personality in the budgerigar, a small parrot.

Heather DeCaluwe (Advisor - Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger)

Major research interest in reproduction of the clouded leopards. Heather is from a small mountain community of Topanga in Los Angeles. She obtained her B.A. from Vanderbilt University in Biology.

Karla Hudson (Advisor - Dr. Lisa Taneyhill)

Research interest in molecular biology. Karla is from North Carolina. She received her B.S. degree from North Carolina State University in biological sciences, an M.S. degree from East Carolina University-Greenville in Molecular Biology/Biotechnology.

Rangarajan Padmanabhan (Advisor - Dr. Lisa Taneyhill)

Research interest in molecular biology. Ranga is from Chennai, India. He received his B.S. degree from Anna University, India in industrial biotechnology and his M.S. degree from UMCP in Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics under the direction of Dr. Daniel Perez.

Olivia Smith (Advisor - Dr. Ed Orlando)

Research interest in physiology of bony fish. Olivia is from Morgan City, LA. She received her B.S. degree from Nicholls State University, LA in marine biology and her M.S. degree from Nicholls State University, LA in Marine and Environmental Biology.

Lindsey Vansandt (Co-advisor - Dr. Carol Keefer)

Research interest in reproduction. Lindsey is from St. Louis, MO. She received her D.V.M. from the University of Missouri-Columbia with major in Veterinary Medicine.

Fall 2009 - M.S. Students

Jose Carrillo (Advisor - Dr. Frank Siewerdt)

Research interest in beef cattle production, especially genetics aspects. Jose is from Paraguay and received his D.V.M. from the Veterinary Medicine School in Paraguay. He received a Masters in Business Administrative in Barcelona, Spain.

Hyunsu Shin (Advisor - Dr. Ian Mather)

Research interest in cell biology of milk secretion. Hyunsu is from South Korea. He received his B.S. degree from Kangwon National University in Animal Feed Science.

Jennifer Strykowski (Advisor - Dr. Ed Orlando)

Research interest in reproductive biology. Jennifer is from Schaumburg, IL. She obtained her B.S. degree from the University of South Florida in Marine Biology.

Lisa Tucker (Advisor - Dr. Julie Long, Co-advisor - Dr. Tom Porter)

Research interest is in endocrinology. Lisa is from Oregon and received her B.S. degree from UMCP in Animal Sciences.

Student Honors and Recognitions

ANSC students receive Phi Beta Kappa Honors

The Department would like to recognize **Rick Paynter**, **Charlotte Sanford-Crane**, and **Monica Fernandez** for their selection to **Phi Beta Kappa**. This is a tremendous honor, so please join us in congratulating these three outstanding students!

Katherine Robinson named Grand Champion at the 2009 AG Day Livestock Show

After a long day in the sun, **Katherine Robinson** was selected as Grand Champion of the **2009 AG Day Livestock Show**. She was selected from a group of three finalists for her superior showmanship. Congratulations, Katherine!



Katherine Robinson

The 23rd Annual Symposium

Please join us in thanking all of the faculty, staff, and students who participated in the 23rd Annual Symposium. The Department would like to recognize those students who were recipients of awards at this year's symposium.

First Place Oral Presentation -- **Caiyong Chen** (\$500 travel award)

Second Place Oral Presentation -- **Jason Sinclair** (\$250 travel award)

First Place Poster Presentation -- **Jonathan Walston** (\$500 travel award)

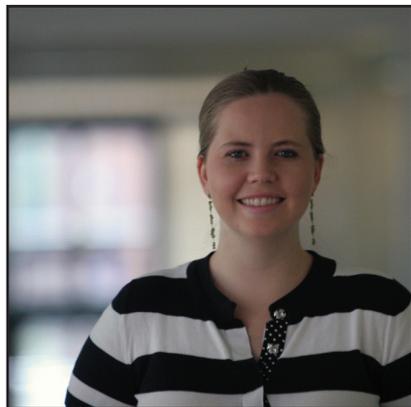
Second Place Poster Presentation -- **Katy Dorsey** (\$250 travel award)

First Place Shaffner Award for Research in Poultry -- **Fei Tian** (\$500 travel award)

Second Place Shaffner Award for Research in Poultry -- **Kristina Heuck** (\$250 travel award)

Beth Ventura -- Masters Student of the Year (\$400 cash award)

Andrew Schiffmacher -- Doctoral Student of the Year (\$600 cash award)



Kristina Heuck

Kristina Heuck wins Certificate of Excellence

Kristina Heuck, PhD candidate under the direction of **Tom Porter**, won a Certificate of Excellence for presentation in the Physiology, Endocrinology, and Reproduction Section at the **Poultry Science Association's 98th Annual Meeting** on July 23rd, 2009 in Raleigh, N.C. Her research poster entitled "Fine mapping of the glucocorticoid-responsive region of the chicken growth hormone (GH) gene in embryonic pituitary cells" is now eligible to compete for the 2010 Alltech Student Research Manuscript Award. Kristina hopes to complete her dissertation research in the fall of 2009.

Arun Kirshna Sasikala-Appukuttan (Ph.D. student in the Siewerdt laboratory) has received a fellowship to attend the prestigious 14th Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics at the University of Washington School of Public Health in Seattle, WA. He will also be partially supported by the LeClerg Rotary Fund that benefits students of the biometrics program. Arun will be taking three short courses in quantitative genetics and QTL mapping.

ANSC Dean's List - Spring 2009

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

Binzer, Lena	Cohen, Elana	Hodgson, Connie	Lui, Holly	Pfeifer, Mary
Bledsoe, Allison	Coleman, Heather	Huang, Linda	Margerison, Sarah	Polm, Laura
Bogart, Emily	Colvin, Jennifer	Hwang, Monica	McFillin, Deanna	Robinson, Jessica
Boostrom, Brendan	Fernandez, Monica	Johnson, Dekarra	McGucken, Anna	Rottman, Lauren
Bradley, Christine	Finder, Jennifer	Jones, Jeffrey	Meadows, Kristy	Sadnavitch, Kathleen
Brower, Kelly	Freudenberger, Kelly	Kilbane, Brigid	Mitchell, Rebecca	Sanford-Crane, Charlotte
Brown, Amy	Gankos, Katelyn	Klein, Ashley	Mongeon, Elizabeth	Schechter, Dana
Brown, Danielle	Gates, Katherine	Labus, Lindsey	Moorefield, Jessica	Schneider, Madeleine
Brown, Jessica	Goff, William	Lake, Victoria	Myers, Annelise	Schraml, Samantha
Bruce, Veronica	Hauser, Hagar	Lenahen, Killian	Olagbaju, Tolulope	Sigmund, Maureen
Cahall, Malora	Hengen, Cinthia	Lewis, Morgan	Paultre, Stephanie	Siva, Sindhu
Cannon, Dana	Hill, Lyndsey	Lilly, Margaret	Paynter, Richard	Thompson, Bianca
Catterton, Tracy	Hiltner, Donald	Liu, Wanxin	Perez, Lisa	Vesely, April
				Willis, Mallan

Scholarship Awards



Judy and Charles Iager with Amanda Heilman

The Iager Scholarship

Congratulations to **Amanda Heilman**, the winner of the 2008-2009 Iager Scholarship! The Judy and Charles Iager Scholarship Fund was established in September 2007 by Judy '66 and Charles '65 Iager. Spendable Income from the Judy and Charles Iager Scholarship Fund provides annual scholarships for students enrolled in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Dr. Thomas A. Fretz Scholarship for Leadership

In May, 2009, AGNR Academic Programs announced that ANSC senior undergraduate, **Charlotte Sanford-Crane** was the recipient of the Dr. Thomas A. Fretz Scholarship for Leadership.

National Goldwater Scholarship

Sarah Peitzmeier, a Howard Hughes Undergraduate Fellow in the Mather Laboratory, won a National Goldwater Scholarship (one of only 9 from the State of Maryland). Last semester Sarah was a Philip Merrill Presidential Scholarship and recipient of an Erik B. Young M.D. International Travel-Study Award.

Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics

Arun Appukuttan received a scholarship (\$1650) from the University of Washington, Seattle to attend the "Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics, 2009". He attended three modules - Quantitative Genetics, Introduction to QTL mapping, and Advanced QTL mapping- during the period June 22-July 1st. Arun also received a travel scholarship of \$550 from LeClerg Rotary Fund, University of Maryland

ANSC Graduate Degrees

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

Katy Dorsey successfully earned her M.S. degree under the advisement of Dr. Curry Woods. She is currently working at an emergency veterinary clinic and is in the process of applying to veterinary schools for the Fall 2010 semester.

Xuan Liu received her M.S. degree under the direction of Dr. Tom Porter. She will be working on her Ph.D. in the Math Department here at UMCP.

Beth Ann Ventura received her M.S. degree and completed an internship at the Washington State University. Plans on working for a while but has plans to get her Ph.D.

ANSC Bachelors Degrees

The department is proud to announce that the following Undergraduate students graduated in May 2009:

Amaya, Ana	Diep, Joy	Lee, Youn	Perez, Lisa
Barker, Audrey	Dowling, Christina	Lui, Holly	Proctor, Enrico
Biegel, Matthew	Fernandez, Monica	Marchan, Anneka	Rottman, Lauren
Boostrom, Brendan	Finder, Jennifer	McCourt, Emma	Sadnavitch, Kathleen
Bornt, Lisa	Greenbaum, Sara	McFillin, Deanna	Sanford-Crane, Charlotte
Bradshaw, Victoria	Hatfield, Brittany	Menendez, Kimberly	Schraml, Samantha
Bruce, Veronica	Hill, Lyndsey	Meyer, Brittany	Snider, Matthew
Cannon, Dana	Hodgson, Connie	Miller, Robert	Ukomadu, Okechukwu
Catterton, Tracy	Howell, Franklyn	Moorefield, Jessica	Welch, Robert
Chawla, Pranav	Huh, Amber	Olagbaju, Tolulope	Williams, Katrina
Coleman, Heather	Kilbane, Brigid	Paynter, Richard	

Maryland 4-H News

All of the latest happenings in Maryland 4-H

2009 State 4-H Dairy Bowl

Kiera Finucane reported on the State 4-H Dairy Bowl Contest held Saturday, May 2, 2009 in the Animal Sciences Building.

“Eight counties with ninety one contestants were well represented at the Maryland 4-H State Dairy Bowl contest held at the Department of Animal Sciences, University of Maryland College Park on Saturday May 2nd. We were thrilled to see this huge increase from the 67 participants of 2008. Event staff volunteers included former 4-H members, Maryland Cooperative Extension personnel, faculty and staff from the University of Maryland Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, and three USDA researchers and employees. This is a terrific networking opportunity for the contestants and a gateway to the University campus and programs. The contest began at 8:45am with teams competing in a double elimination bracket ranked according to their scores from the written exam. The students work very hard and show tremendous potential for leadership in the dairy industry. The results are all located on the University Dairy Extension website (<http://dairy.umd.edu>) and we have included a slide show highlighting the event (http://www.ansc.umd.edu/extension/dairy/4H_index.cfm?directory=../results/2009DairyBowl.cfm). Also, for the first time, the top scoring individual from each age division was recognized for outstanding performance based solely on the written exam.

The top ten Senior individuals are eligible to compete in the 4-H State Dairy Bowl Buzz-off will be held on Saturday September 12th at the State 4-H office in College Park for the opportunity to represent Maryland at the National 4-H Dairy Bowl Contest in Louisville, KY. For more information, please visit: <http://dairy.umd.edu> and click on the 4-H Dairy link.”

University of Maryland, Poultry Science graduate, **Dr. Rami Dalloul** was named the Bayer Young Investigator awardee at the American Association of Avian Pathologists/AVMA meetings in Seattle in July 2009. Dr. Dalloul received his Ph.D., in Poultry Science in 2002 and was the last student to receive this degree at UM. He is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences at Virginia Tech doing research in Poultry Immunology.

Former graduate student, **Dr. Rashmi Sinha** (mentor Dr. Joe Soares), was featured on page one of the March 24, 2009 issue of the Washington Post as the lead author of a major study on the risks of eating red meat. The article by Rob Stein is entitled
“Daily Red Meat Raises Chances Of Dying Early - Study Is First Large Analysis of Link With Overall Health.”

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.

We want to hear about **YOU!** If you have something that you would like to contribute to our Newsletter, please email us at ansc@umd.edu

Interested in contributing to the **Campus Farm Operating Fund** or the **Animal and Avian Sciences Scholarship Fund**? [Email us](#) to find out how!

Staff News

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



Gary Lapanne

Gary Lapanne, Director of Administrative Services, was presented with the **On-Campus Staff Excellence Award** at the AGNR Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards Ceremony. He began his career with the Dairy Science Department in 1976 as the Dairy Processing Plant Manager and has stayed with the Department throughout the mergers. Congratulations, Gary!

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