

Department of

Animal & Avian Sciences

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

09/10

Fall & Winter



Seasonal Decorations *on the Campus Farm*

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Campus Farm featured on Wednesday's Child

The Campus Farm recently hosted NBC Washington News Channel 4's Barbara Harrison for a Wednesday's Child feature on **Xavia**, a 15 year old foster child. Xavia met with our own **Lindsay Callahan** for a tour of the Campus Farm and had the opportunity to meet some of the animals. The story aired on December 16th, but can be viewed online at [NBC 4's Website](#).

Faculty/Staff Cookoff Results

Thank you to everyone who took part in this years Faculty/Staff Cookoff! As usual, the event was a success, so thank you to all of the organizers, participants and student judges!

MAIN DISH CATEGORY

- First Place: **SHERYL GREY** - "MEATBALLS WITH A TWIST"
- Second Place: **DR. ANGELA BLACK** - "TEXAS CHILI"
- Third Place: **JANICE BARBER** - "MAPLE CHICKEN"

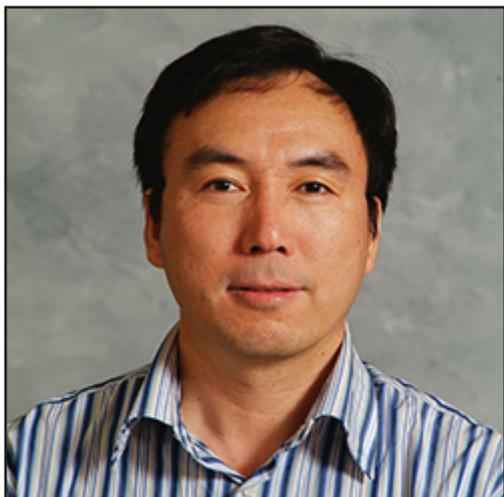
SIDE DISH CATEGORY

- First Place: **DR. MARK VARNER** - "GRILLED SWEET CORN SALSA CON POLLO"
- Second Place: **DR. ANGELA BLACK** - "CORN MUFFINS"
- Third Place: **JANICE BARBER** - "NOT-THE-SAME-OLD-COLESLAW"

DESSERT CATEGORY

- First Place: **DR. ED ORLANDO** - "ED'S EXOTIC CHOCOLATE PIE"
- Second Place: **DR. RICK KOHN** - "SEVEN LAYER CHOCOLATE RASPBERRY TORTE"
- Third Place: **DR. AMY BURK** - "BURK'S BANGIN' CHOCOLATE BARS"





Dr. Song Awarded USDA Grant

Dr. John Song has been awarded funding in the amount of \$ 748,494 for his USDA AFRI proposal entitled “The Epigenetic Landscape of MD Susceptibility and Resistance in Chickens.” The grant is a part of the Animal Genome, Genetics and Breeding program of the Agricultural and Food Research Initiative. Congratulations Dr. Song!

Dr. Tom Porter discusses collaborative endeavors with the China Agricultural University

Dr. Tom Porter met with **Dr. Yang Zhi**, Chairperson of the Animal Science and Technology at China Agricultural University (CAU) in Beijing. Dr. Yang is part of a large delegation from CAU who were visiting the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) at UMD. UMD and CAU have an active Memorandum of Understanding signed by UMD President Mote, and a long history of cooperation and collaboration. Drs. Porter and Yang were discussing the possibility of further cooperation, including possible faculty and student exchanges and collaborative research. AGNR is the host of two groups of undergraduate students from CAU, termed the 2+2 students, where the students take classes for their first two years at CAU and then their last two years at UMD and they receive a degree from both universities. It is possible that next year’s class of CAU 2+2 students may include ANSC majors.



Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger receives NIH Grant

Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger has been awarded a grant from NIH-National Institute on Aging entitled, “RECOVERY: Effects of E-Quinolins on Neural Disease.” The total amount is \$357,201 for two years. The research is a collaboration with scientists from the VA/UMB Medical School and University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. Ms. Anna Schlappal will be conducting her Ph.D. research as part of these studies. The focus of this research is to explore the effects of estrogens on the progression of neural disease, specifically Alzheimer’s Disease in a transgenic animal model that has several of the human genes.

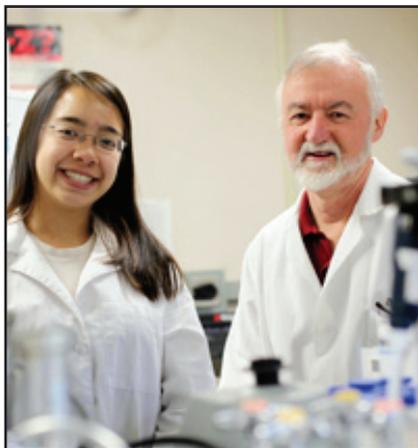
Nicole Fiorellino Awarded Scholarship

Nicole Fiorellino was recently awarded a “Backstretch Scholarship” in the amount of \$2,000 from the Maryland Racing Media Association. Although Nicole doesn’t work at a MD racetrack, she impressed the scholarship committee with her efforts as manager of our equine rotational grazing demonstration site, which just happens to house 4 off-the-track Thoroughbreds, and with her research efforts to characterize the use of pasture and manure best management practices by MD horse farm operators.

Nicole was also recently awarded a \$600 Financial Support Grant from our very own Animal Sciences Graduate Student Association. The money will be used to support travel costs associated with her 60 farm field study that she’s currently conducting



Undergraduates in the News



Sara Peitzmeier and Dr. Ian Mather

Undergraduate, **Abby Figat** working in the laboratory of **Dr. Lisa Taneyhill** received an award to support her research in the lab for Spring semester as part of the AGNR Undergraduate Research Program. The award pays for \$700 of supplies and materials.

Sara Peitzmeier, ANSC undergraduate working in **Dr. Ian Mather’s** lab, was named a finalist for the 2010 Rhodes and Marshall scholarship programs. Two of the nation’s most competitive scholarships, they both cover all expenses of graduate study in the United Kingdom. Although she did not win, she is extraordinarily talented and was featured in a December 2009 Between the Columns article online at:

<http://betweenthecolumns.umd.edu/2009/12/14/anunrelentingpassion/>

Alumni News

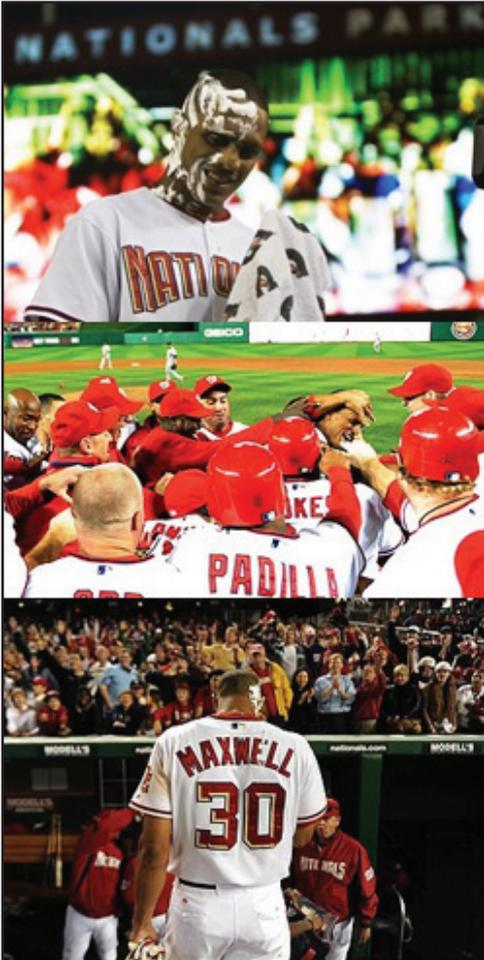
ANSC Alumni making headlines in the world.



Matt Snider - Letters from South Africa

Matt Snider is a May 2009 graduate of our ANSC Science/ Professional option. He hails from Middlebury, VT. Going into college, Matt’s plans were to attend vet school after graduation, but a combination of internships and experiences eventually steered him toward conservation rather than veterinary studies. While an undergrad here, Matt worked as a Zookeeper Aide at the National Zoo’s Asia Trail and then also subsequently work as a paid intern in the National Zoo’s nutrition lab. Matt was very active in student organizations during his time here, including; being an AGNR Student Ambassador, a member of the Animal Husbandry Club and a Highriser Council member. Matt is now working as a Research Intern for Global Visions International and is a member of their staff at Karongwe Game Reserve in South Africa.

You can read all of Matt’s letters and see some photos at <http://ansc.umd.edu/alumni/>



ANSC Alumnus is a “National” Sensation!

Oct 01, 2009

Former ANSC student, **Justin Maxwell**, made national headlines last night, but not as you might expect. Justin hit a walk-off grand slam for the Washington Nationals to give their troubled season a perfect storybook ending. The Nationals were down 3-4 to the Mets when Maxwell stepped up to the plate for the first time that night. What happened next was something that Justin will undoubtedly remember for the rest of his life. A Maryland native, Maxwell was actually drafted by the Baltimore Orioles straight out of high school in 2001, but declined the offer in order to pursue an education at the University of Maryland studying Animal Science. ANSC Professor and Department Chair, **Dr. Tom Porter**, recalls how Maxwell also excelled in the classroom. “He was a great student. I remember him hitting some home runs in our Physiology class,” says Porter. **Dr. Mark Varner** remembers when he had Justin on the first day of class and asked him, “What will you be doing in 10 years?” Justin’s response was, “Either playing major league baseball or I’ll be a small animal veterinarian.” A few years later, Justin was drafted for a second time in 2004, this time by the Texas Rangers, but again opted to stay and complete his education. After graduating college in 2005, Justin signed with the Nationals and spent the next few seasons playing in their minor league system. Unfortunately, Justin missed much of the 2008 season due to injury and then spent most of the 2009 season playing for a Triple-A team in Syracuse. It was only a month ago that Justin was called up to play for the Nationals in replacement of center fielder Nyjer Morgan. After last night’s spectacular performance, it is clear that Justin is no longer in the “farm club,” but has arrived in the big leagues.

The ANSC family wishes you our congratulations, Justin!

Entrepreneurial Spirit

The cover of the August, 2009 issue of Petfood Industry featured alum, **Jennifer Boniface** who received her M.S. degree under the direction of **Dr. Joe Soares**, Emeritus Professor in Animal and Avian Sciences in 1998. Jen has a small pet food company under the name of “Aunt Jeni’s Homemade” that operates out of Clinton, Maryland. Her interesting story is one of a small entrepreneur who has found a niche market in the pet food business.



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!

Maryland Dairy Judging Team wins World Dairy Expo

Congratulations to **Kiera Finucane** and the Maryland 4-H Dairy Judging Team for winning the 2009 World Dairy Expo! This year's team is coached by **Loretta Wright**, a long-time supporter of dairy and Maryland 4-H from a dairy herd in Carroll County. The team is composed of **Chelsea Davis**, **Emily Gill**, **Morgan Meisenheimer** and **Ariel Taxdal**. -

Maryland 4-H competes at the 2009 National Poultry and Egg Conference

Maryland 4-H Poultry Judging Team achieves 4th place at 2009 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference. Maryland placed 3rd in the Egg Preparation Contest. The results were announced by **Dr. Nick Zimmermann**, Poultry Specialist, and **Donna Bailey**, Charles County Extension Educator, University of Maryland Extension.



Maryland contingent attending the 2009 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference held November 18-19, 2009 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville. **Donna Bailey** (left to right), coach, University of Maryland Extension Charles County; **William Tomlinson**, Charles County, **Emily Ferver**, Cecil County; **Alison Brosnan**, Carroll County; **Rebecca Hammett**, Charles County; **Jacob Moore**, Carroll County; **Nick Zimmermann**, coach, University of Maryland Extension College Park.



In the 4-H Poultry Judging contest, participants must judge three divisions: live production hens, market eggs, and ready-to-cook chicken and turkey carcasses. Individual and Team scores are given for each division and overall. The Maryland Team placed 3rd in the Live Production Hen division, among 18 teams competing nationally. In the Market Eggs division, the Maryland team placed 9th. In the Ready to Cook division the Maryland team placed 7th. Overall the Maryland Team placed 4th in the nation.

Additionally, William Tomlinson and Rebecca Hammett placed 7th and 17th overall, among the 76 individual competitors in the National 4-H Poultry Judging Contest. (Note: William Tomlinson had the highest Oral Reasons scores in the nation; however no award is given for Oral Reasons in Poultry Judging Contests)

University of Maryland Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Team

ANSC undergraduates **Nathan Glenn**, **Amanda Heilman**, **Victoria Lake** and **Sara Meagher** represented the University of Maryland at the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin on September 21st and 28th respectively this past fall. These students took ANSC 244-Dairy Cattle Evaluation during the Spring 2009 Semester with **Kiera Finucane** and were coached by **Dr. Rich Erdman** this fall.



Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge

Department undergraduates received the following awards at the 2009 Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge Contest on November 5-7 in Glenn Falls, NY. The students were coached by **Dr. Richard Erdman**.

Camille Coleman – Don Rodgers Platinum Award

Amanda Heilman – Platinum Award

Annelise Myers – Gold Award

Anna McGucken – Gold Award

Ransom Livingston – Silver Award

Nathan Glenn – Silver Award

Staff News

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

Transitions

The department welcomes **Sandra Nola**, our new Director of Administrative Services. Sandra comes to us with 15 years experience working on campus, most recently as the Assistant Dean of Finance and Operations in the Office of Professional Studies. Sandra fills the position formerly held by **Gary Lapanne** who retired in October, 2009 after 33 years of service to the University and the department.

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