

The Official Newsletter



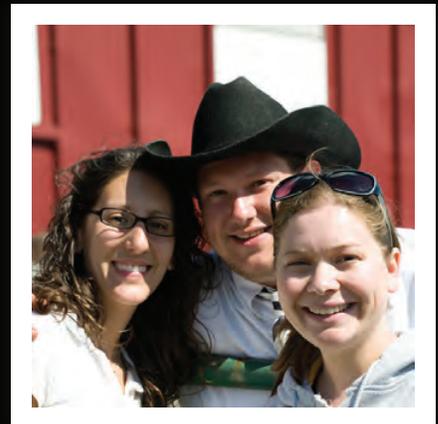
DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL & AVIAN SCIENCES



Faculty Awards & Honors



Ag Day 2011



Outstanding Students

Ag Day 2011

There was perfect weather and a big crowd of visitors on April 30 for Ag Day/Maryland Day at the Campus Farm. Students competed in the riding and show rings. Farm Manager, **Crystal Caldwell** demonstrated the fistulated cows and Alpha Farrier's **Mike Poe** demonstrated farriery. There was a doggy puissance (in which dogs attempt to jump a fence multiple times as it is raised higher and higher each time) and a horse jumping demonstration where the horses were jumping fences of up to three feet high. **Dr. Amy Burk** won Sigma Alpha's Kiss a Pig contest and did the honors dressed as a Holstein cow! Everyone enjoyed delicious chicken kabobs grilled by the Animal Sciences Graduate Student Association as well as burgers and hotdogs from Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. The Equestrian Club gave visitors the opportunity to take their picture with a horse and to decorate a horse shoe to take home.

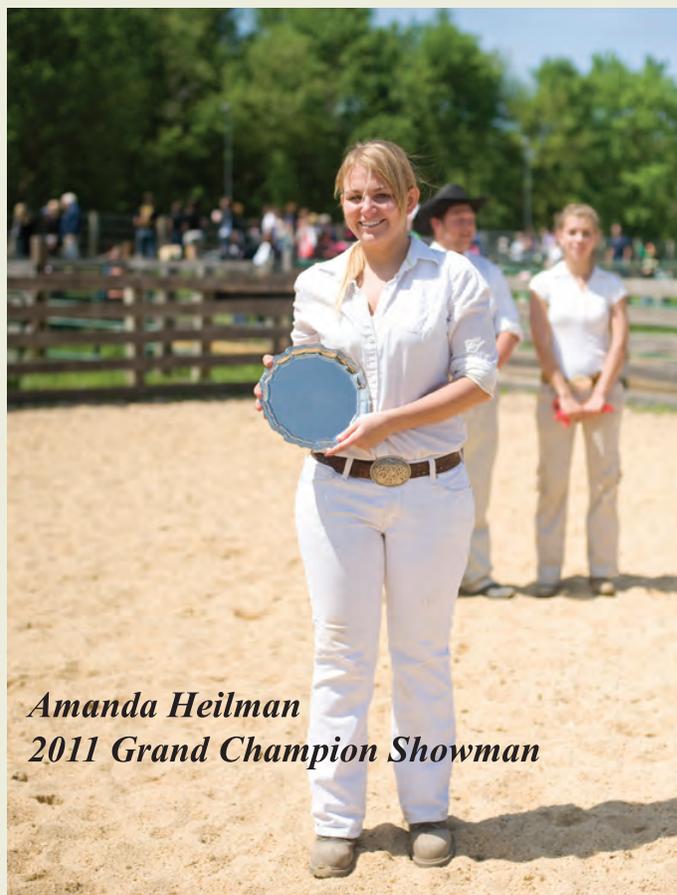
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Gillian Pemberton was the judge for the Equestrian Show. There were six different classes that MEC members competed in from in-hand to advanced jumping and two faculty/staff classes with participants: **Dr. Amy Burk** (ANSC), **Nicole Fiorellino** (ENST), **Sara Meagher** (ENST/ANSC), **Jennifer Reynolds** (ANSC), and **Kellie Stephens** (AGNR).

The lambs from Lamb Watch were shown under the supervision of Coach **Mac Campbell**. Students showing pigs were supervised by Coach **Amanda Heilman**. Students that competed in showing beef steers were supervised by Coach **Mike Amoss**; and dairy heifers by Coach **Nathan Glenn**, all with the help of Extension Coordinators, **Kiera Finucane** and **Jennifer Reynolds**. The announcer was Student Services Coordinator and Block and Bridle Advisor, **Libby Dufour**. The judges were **Senator Barry Glassman** (sheep), **Dr. Scott Updike** (beef), **Dr. Tom Hartsock** (swine) and **Jessica Little** (dairy). At the end of the day, **Amanda Heilman** was named this year's **Grand Champion Showman**.

The first **Chad Dulin Clark Memorial Herdsmanship Award** was presented at this year's Ag Day/Maryland Day in honor of our student who was taken from us in a tragic car accident last December. For the award, students nominated fellow students who embody the fine qualities that Chad exemplified: leadership; willingness to help; positive and inspiring attitude; and going above and beyond what's asked. The winner, **Mike Amoss**, does exactly that. A senior in the College and an AREC major, Mike is a member of the Block and Bridle Club and coached the beef steer exhibitors this year. He was last year's Grand Champion Showman. Exhibitors and coaches agree that Mike is truly deserving of this award.

<http://bit.ly/kPjOKZ> - video of award ceremony



*Amanda Heilman
2011 Grand Champion Showman*



Mike Amoss and the Clark Family

Winners of the Day

Lambs

Class 1: Intermediates

- 1st – Emily Jellick
- 2nd – Rebecca Stoecker
- 3rd – Emily Koemeter-Cox
- 4th – Stephanie Paultre

Class 2: Intermediates

- 1st – Tim Von Thun
- 2nd – Ashley Klein
- 3rd – Sindhu Siva

Class 3: Beginners

- 1st – Kara Levin
- 2nd – Grace Zhang
- 3rd – Tenley Diaz
- 4th – So Young Kim
- 5th – Erica Greenwald

Class 4: Beginners

- 1st – Emily Snyder
- 2nd – Kelsey Blocker
- 3rd – Sean Young
- 4th – Michelle Kurtovic
- 5th – Connie Brinks

Class 5: Beginners

- 1st – Robert Rock
- 2nd – Dana Schechter
- 3rd – Maegan Foley
- 4th – Christina Betta
- 5th – Annie Bolek

Class 6: Beginners

- 1st – Jenna McMillan
- 2nd – Leaton Jones
- 3rd – Morganne Campbell

Champion: Emily Jellick
Reserve Champion: Tim Von Thun

Swine

Class 1: Intermediates

- 1st - Emily Jellick
- 2nd - Molly Hancock
- 3rd - Brooke Ruhl

Class 2: Intermediates

- 1st - Dekarra Johnson
- 2nd - Kelsey Welsch
- 3rd - Emily Beall

Champion: Emily Jellick
Reserve Champion: Molly Hancock

Beef

Class 1: Intermediates

- 1st – Jeanne Herbert
- 2nd – Emily Zier

Class 1: Beginners

- 1st – Mac Cambell
- 2nd – Anna McGucken

Class 2: Intermediates

- 1st – Christine Bradley
- 2nd – Amanda Heilman

Class 2: Beginners

- 1st – Rebecca Mitchell
- 2nd – Nicole Fiorellino

Champion: Mac Campbell
Reserve Champion: Christine Bradley

Dairy

Class 1: Advanced

- 1st – Amanda Heilman
- 2nd – Brit Gaban
- 3rd – Rebecca Stoecker

Class 2: Intermediates

- 1st – Amanda van Tassel
- 2nd – Killian Lenahen
- 3rd – Cassie Durand
- 4th – Stephanie Paultre

Class 3: Intermediates

- 1st – Mac Campbell
- 2nd – Kelly Morani
- 3rd – Molly Hancock
- 4th – Christina Cowgill-Fiorito

Class 4: Beginners

- 1st – Emily Koemeter-Cox
- 2nd – Elisabeth Fox
- 3rd – Kelsey Welsch
- 4th – Christine Bradley
- 5th – Erica Greenwald
- 6th – Leaton Jones

Class 5: Beginners

- 1st – Sindhu Siva
- 2nd – Mallan Willis
- 3rd – Maegan Foley
- 4th – Arielle Higgins
- 5th – Brittany Mills
- 6th – Anna Wisniewska

Champion: Amanda Heilman
Reserve Champion: Brit Gaban



More photos online at:
<http://www.ansc.umd.edu/gallery>

Faculty News



AGNR Spring Awards Convocation

The AGNR Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards were presented at the Spring Awards Convocation held in the Colony Ballroom of the Stamp Student Union on May 5, 2011. Three of our department members were honored.

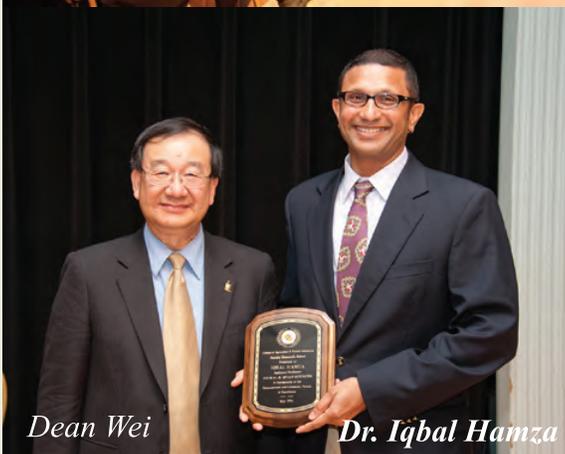
Dr. Christine Hakenkamp received a Non Tenure-Track Faculty Excellence Award in recognition of her innovative teaching of Biometrics 301.

Dr. Iqbal Hamza was awarded the AGNR Faculty Research Award. He is an outstanding scientist with an international reputation based on his research findings, which are published in top-tier journals. He is one of only four faculty members on this entire campus who are funded by two NIH R01 grants concurrently. Dr. Hamza is very deserving of this award.

Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger was honored with 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 who make outstanding and creative contributions. Dr. Ottinger joined the Poultry Science Department at the University of Maryland in 1978 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1983 and Professor in 1989. She is currently a Professor in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences and Associate Vice President for Research Compliance and Policy for the University of Maryland.

In many respects, Mary Ann Ottinger has been a pioneer during her career. Like many fields of science, agriculture has long been a male dominated domain. She was the first woman elected as President of the Poultry Science

Association (PSA) in 1995. Dr. Ottinger was elected Fellow of the Poultry Science Association in 2005. Her leadership as PSA president was pivotal in convincing a traditionally conservative PSA membership to join as a founding organization of the Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS). FASS is a highly successful consortium with common goals and interests that has unified the animal sciences community. Mary Ann went on to serve as President of FASS in 1998 and received the Helene Cecil Leadership Award from PSA in 2000 for her leadership efforts. In 2011, Dr. Ottinger was chosen as one of the first ADVANCE Professors on the College Park campus for her service as a role model for other female faculty members.



Dean Wei

Dr. Iqbal Hamza



Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger

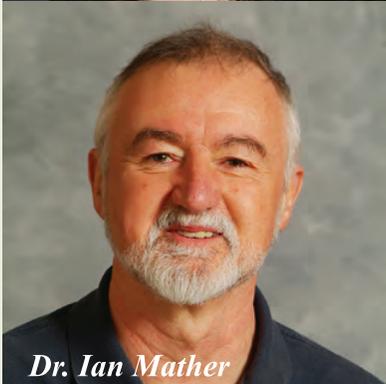
Dean Wei

Faculty News



More Faculty Awards!

Dr. Lisa Taneyhill was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Educator Award at the AGNR Student Council Awards Banquet held at the University Golf Course on May 4, 2011.



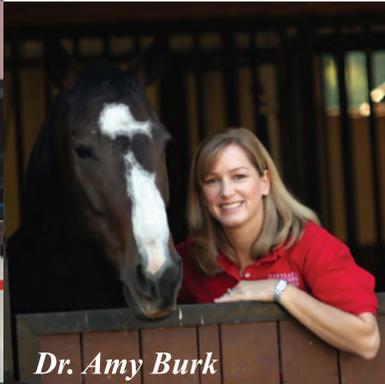
The Annual American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) Symposium was held on May 3, 2011 at USDA. This year's theme was to honor **Dr. Max Paape**, former adjunct recently retired after a long career at USDA-Beltsville. At the joint ARPAS Gamma Sigma Delta awards banquet held that evening at the Holiday Inn, College Park two of our department members were honored by Gamma Sigma Delta. **Dr. Ian Mather** was awarded the Distinguished International Service Award. **Dr. Angela Black** received a Certificate of Merit in Teaching.



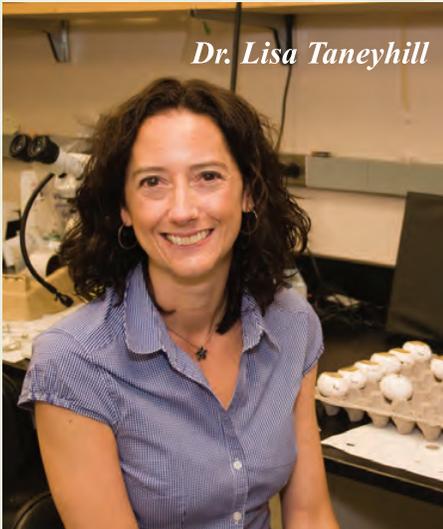
At the 44th Annual AGNR Alumni Reunion and Awards program held at the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center on April 20, 2011. **Dr. Iqbal Hamza** received the Excellence in Research Award. Dr. Hamza was also awarded Best Inventor Pitch at the 2010 Bioscience Research and Technology Review Day. Hamza's technology is a new screening technique to enable doctors and veterinarians to test patients for multiple parasitic targets simultaneously. Dr. Hamza was chosen out of a group of five faculty and graduate students who presented their ideas at the Faculty Venture Fair, here at the University of Maryland.



Dr. Amy Burk is the recipient of the 2011 Sigma Alpha Agriculture Advocate Award. This honor is to recognize women in agriculture making an outstanding contribution congruent with Sigma Alpha's objective, which is: "to promote its members in all facets of agriculture and to strengthen the bonds of friendship among them. It is the purpose of the members to strive for achievement in scholarship, leadership, and service, and to further the development of excellence in women pursuing careers in agriculture."



Faculty News



Dr. Lisa Taneyhill

Grants

Drs. Lisa Taneyhill and **Carol Keefer**, along with Dr. Arpita Upadhyaya in the Department of Physics, were awarded a UM ADVANCE Interdisciplinary and Engaged Research Seed Grant. UM, in partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF), has made an historic commitment to the professional growth of women faculty in all academic disciplines. Through this partnership, which involves a major contribution of in-kind funding from the University, the ADVANCE Program aims to improve rates of retention and advancement of women faculty by fostering changes in institutional culture. The goals of this seed grant program are to promote collaborations among women faculty members in departments and colleges across campus and to provide funding for preliminary or exploratory projects that will contribute to future external grant applications.



Dr. Carol Keefer

Drs. Taneyhill, Keefer, and Upadhyaya were successful in securing one of the first 13 grants given out by the UM ADVANCE program. They will study the functional roles of palladin and α -actinin in actin cytoskeleton remodeling during key developmental transitions.

In similar news, **Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger** was chosen as one of the first ADVANCE Professors on the College Park campus for her service as a role model for other female faculty. Her appointment begins spring, 2011 and runs through May 2012. The ADVANCE Program for Inclusive Excellence is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation to the University to Advance women faculty in Science and Engineering.



Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger



Dr. Amy Burk

Dr. Amy Burk was awarded a \$10,000 Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant to fund the environmental education events at the Equine Rotational Grazing Demonstration site in 2011.

Faculty News



Dr. Siewerdt gives two International Lectures

Dr. Frank Siewerdt delivered a research talk last November at the Interbull in Uppsala, Sweden, on his research on maternal effects and inbreeding in the Wye Angus herd. The talk was sponsored by the Interbull, the premier center for international genetic evaluation of dairy and beef cattle. The Interbull is hosted by the Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics of the Swedish Agricultural University. Dr. Siewerdt has also been selected as a speaker at the 1st Annual World Congress of Molecular & Cell Biology in Beijing, China, in August. He will be delivering a talk on his experimental and theoretical work on group selection and population processes.

Hamza Lab published in the scientific journal Cell

The **Hamza Lab** recently had a paper published by the prestigious journal, *Cell*. The paper is entitled “An Intercellular Heme-Trafficking Protein Delivers Maternal Heme to the Embryo during Development in *C. elegans*.” The Hamza Lab researches heme transport in worms in hopes to learn more about iron deficiency and find new methods to battle parasites in humans.

More information about research being done in the Hamza Lab can be found at:

<http://newsdesk.umd.edu/universitynews/release.cfm?ArticleID=2436>

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/05/110526122909.htm>

Original Source:

<http://www.cell.com/abstract/S0092-8674%2811%2900483-1>



Faculty News



Remembering Dr. JoGayle Howard

Dr. JoGayle Howard served for many years as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Animal & Avian Sciences. Our Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger remembers her - “She (JoGayle) provided many internship opportunities for our undergraduates and co-advised a number of graduate students. These students participated in conservation research focused on the black footed ferret, big cats, and the giant panda; they also had the wonderful experience of being part of the Smithsonian community. JoGayle and her colleagues always participated in Maryland Day with a wonderful exhibit that was fascinating to kids and adults, alike. We will miss her!”

Below is a message from Dr. Monfort of the Smithsonian National Zoo, where Dr. JoGayle Howard spent her career in research.

“With great sadness, we write to tell you that our esteemed colleague, JoGayle Howard, passed away early this morning. She was a warrior in her battle against cancer surprising her doctors with the tenacity and strong will that are familiar to us, her Zoo family.”

JoGayle arrived at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo in 1980 as a research intern, later earning her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. Her intense focus on animal reproduction and her success at pioneering new techniques earned her the title of “Sperm Queen,” a nickname she relished. In 1993, the National Institutes of Health awarded her a prestigious Fellowship Special Emphasis Research Career Award (SERCA), which helped support her research. It was but one of many notable awards she received, along with international acclaim for her innovative research.

During her three-decade career, this remarkable scientist and woman achieved countless breakthroughs in the field of reproductive physiology, trained hundreds of students and foreign colleagues, and played an instrumental role in saving species. In collaboration with many of you and others around the country, she rescued the black footed ferret from the brink of extinction. Clouded leopards in Thailand and in zoos around the world have JoGayle to thank for their survival. And yes, she was a member of the NZP team to unravel the giant panda reproduction puzzle for us and our Chinese colleagues.”

Student News



Congratulations to all of our graduates!

Undergraduates May 2011

Bernstein, Ainsley
Binzer, Lena Ann (Dean's List 2008, 2009, 2010)
Brown, Danielle (Dean's List 2008, 2009, 2010)
Bruce, Daniel (Dean's List 2008)
Chang, Vivien
Coleman, Destiny (Dean's List 2010)
Croyle, Kaitlin
Day, Jenna (Dodson Mem. Schshp 2010)
Dicello, Deela
Foley, Maegan (Dean's List 2010)
Garcia, Karla (Dean's List 2010)
Goff, William (Dean's List 2008, 2009, 2010)
Gross, Alyson (Dean's List 2008)
Hancock, Molly
Heilman, Amanda (England Schshp 2009, 2010)
Hwang, Monica (Dean's List 2008, 2009)
Iwaniuk, Marie
Jeter, Jamal
Lake, Victoria (Dean's List 2008, 2009 & England Schshp 2009, 2010)
Lechner, Elizabeth
Listman-Ward, Jessica

Undergraduates cont'd

McMillan, Jenna
Menefee, Stepanie
Mundy, Lauren (Dean's List 2010)
Nguyen, Vanly
O'Steen, Megan
Pagones, Tessa (Dean's List 2010)
Pfeifer, Mary (Dean's List 2008, 2009, 2010)
Polm, Laura
Porter, Stephanie
Reveron, Ana
Roller, Ashley (Dean's List 2010)
Schneider, Madeleine (Dean's List 2008, 2009, 2010)
Sheckells, Nicole
Sirna, Allison
Summers, Jessica
Tenney, Robert (Dean's List 2010)
Wadsworth, Laura
Way, Samantha
White, Madeleine
Willems, Juliana (Dean's List 2008, 2009 & Hartssock Schshp 2011)
Wysocki, Danielle (Dean's List 2010)

Graduate Students

M.S. Recipients
José Carrillo (May 2011)
Walston, Jonathan (Dec 2010)

Ph.D. Recipients (Dec 2010)
Aitken-Palmer, Copper
Coleman, Adam
Collins, Wynne
Knubel, Kristina

Student News

Spring 2011 Dean's List

Congratulations to all of our students that made the Dean's List for the Spring 2011 semester!



Not Pictured:

Binzer, Lena Ann
Brown, Danielle M
Bruce, Daniel
Cavelier, Laurence
Coleman, Camille Micheaux
Coleman, Destiny Marie
Condo, Christine M.
Cortese, Olivia Gray
Dicello, Deela Jean
Ellmaker, William Taylor
Fox, Elisabeth A
Gankos, Katelyn

Gross, Alyson Jordon
Han, Kyeong Jin
Iwaniuk, Marie
Jones, Kelly Louise
Kahn-Deere, Chelsea R
Kim, So Young
Laser, Kimberly A
Lechner, Elizabeth R
Lenahen, Killian Marie
Levin, Kara A
Lewis, Morgan Brittany
MacKnight, Margaret C

Marko, Jason Tyler
Marnane, Hillary E.
Menefee, Stephanie
Miller, Hayley
Mitchell, Rebecca Lee
Moirano, Steven John
Muldoon, Katherine D
Mundy, Lauren Nicole
Myers, Annelise M
Odenwald, Emily Rosa
Ogle, Nicole Anna
Perrott, Brady Alan

Pfeifer, Mary E
Pilossoph, Zachary Alexander
Polm, Laura Michelle
Porter, Stephanie Michelle
Przydrozny, Alyssa Lynn
Reczynska, Alicja Izabela
Senders, Ariella R.
Sullivan, Kerri Lynn
Tenney, Robert W
Way, Samantha Elizabeth

Student News

ARPAS Gamma Sigma Delta Awards

Several of our students were honored at the joint ARPAS Gamma Sigma Delta Banquet held at the Holiday Inn, College Park on May 3, 2011.

Gamma Sigma Delta:

Outstanding Ph.D. Student: **Fei Tian**

American Society of Animal Science (ASAS):

Sophomores:

Anna McGucken

Dana Schechter

Mallan Willis

Juniors:

Lena Binzer

William Goff

Mary Pfeifer

Seniors:

Linda Huang

Margaret Lilly

Kristy Meadows

Sara Meagher

American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS):

Juniors:

William Goff

Mary Pfeifer

Seniors:

Margaret Lilly

Kristy Meadows

Scholarships and Awards!

ANSC Scholarship Winners

England Scholarships:

MacKenzie Campbell

Courtney Johnson

Annelise Myers

Kinghorne Scholarship:

Hannah Sanford-Crane

Dodson Scholarship:

Mallan Willis

Alltech Award

ANSC undergraduate **MacKenzie (Mac) Campbell** was recently selected as a scholarship award recipient for the Alltech Young Scientist award. The program consisted of undergraduate and graduate students across the globe competing in a research contest. Each student was to submit a 3000-3500 word thesis paper on a topic of their choosing related to animal science. Mac submitted a paper titled "Equine Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy: Nutritional Management Strategies based on Genetic and Molecular Analyses". His decision to write on this topic was based on the fact that he has a horse at home with this nutritional disease. The paper required researching and writing a thesis paper on that issue current in the agricultural industry and then submitting it. Globally about 5,000 students entered this competition and it was split into regions, with Mac competing against 1,800 other students from North America. Mac placed second in the United States, and 3rd in North America! The award comes with a cash prize, but specific details on the amount have not been released yet. Mac will be using his prize money to fund the honors thesis research he is doing in the Animal Science Honors Program.



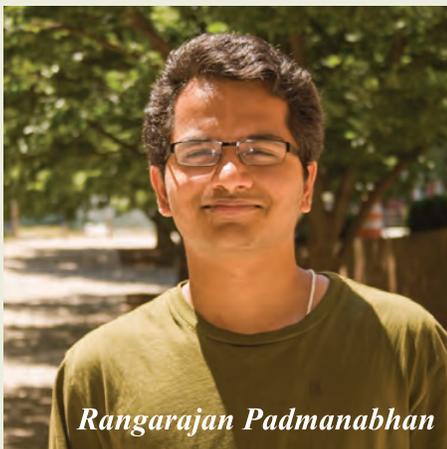
Student News

Summer Scholars!

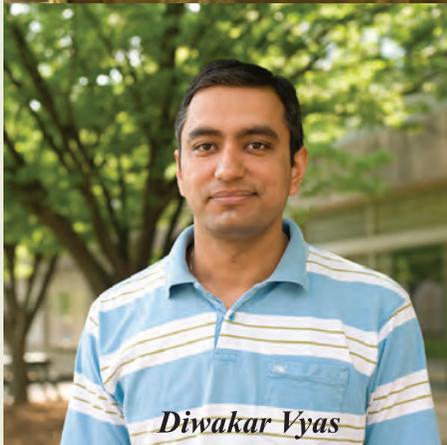
Graduate students, **Rangarajan Padmanabhan**, in the laboratory of **Dr. Lisa Taneyhill** and **Diwakar Vyas**, in the laboratory of **Dr. Richard Erdman**, have been awarded the Summer Research Fellowships for 2011 from the Graduate School.

Ranga, was awarded the Summer Research Fellowship from the Graduate school for the 2011 Summer term. The fellowship carries a \$5000 stipend, and provides support to outstanding doctoral students at “mid-career,” that is, in the period approximately before, during, or after achievement of candidacy, and is intended to enable students to prepare for or complete a key benchmark in their program’s requirements. The main focus of his dissertation is understanding the molecular mechanism(s) of down-regulation of a transmembrane cell-cell adhesion protein, Cadherin6B in chick embryonic Neural Crest Cells. Ranga works on elucidating the cell biology of Cadherin6B in vitro and in vivo using embryonic and cell biological approaches.

Diwakar, was awarded the Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship for the 2011-2012 academic year. The fellowship carries a \$10,000 stipend with \$800 towards health insurance as well as tuition remission for the semester. The main focus of his dissertation is to study the role of short and medium chain fatty acids on mammary lipid metabolism in lactating dairy cows and mice. The results will help us better understand the regulatory aspects of milk fat synthesis and develop feeding guidelines to control milk fat yield according to market demands.

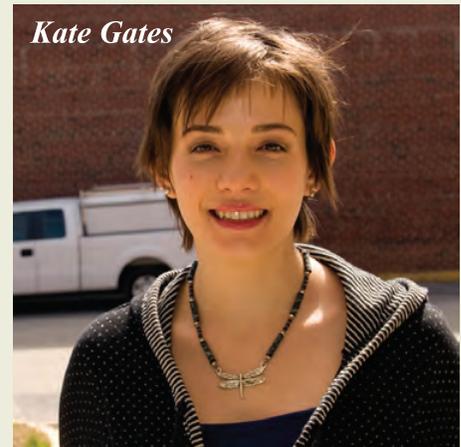


Rangarajan Padmanabhan



Diwakar Vyas

Kate Gates, an ANSC undergraduate senior has been selected for a Maryland Summer Scholars award. Kate works with Dr. Zhengguo Xiao and has a strong interest in immunology and vaccine development. She submitted an outstanding proposal to MSSP in the Maryland Center for Undergraduate Research entitled, “Regulatory function of tobacco carcinogens on CD8 T cell activation.” The support for this award is \$3,000 and Kate is one of 30 winners campus-wide. This project will be carried out in the Xiao lab and will gain critical insight into how cigarette smoking may influence immunity directly.



Kate Gates

Student News



Studying Abroad

Undergraduate, **Annelise Myers** has been awarded a scholarship by the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (<http://www.cdsintl.org/fellowshipsabroad/cbyx.php>) to work and study in Germany for a full-year. The scholarship includes round-trip transatlantic flight, university tuition, language training, living stipend, and program-related travel costs in Germany, plus health and accident insurance. The CBYX program begins in July and includes two months of intensive German language training in Germany, four months of classroom instruction at a German university or college of applied sciences, and a five-month internship in a participant's career field. Annelise will be

attending either the University of Rostock or Christian-Albrecht University in Kiel for her studies. For her research experience, Annelise will be working at the Research Institute for the Biology of Farm Animals in Dummerstorf, where she will work alongside Dr. Cornelia Metges, head of the Nutritional Physiology research unit. Annelise is double major in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences and in German Language and Literature, and **Dr Brian Bequette** is her academic advisor.

Additionally, Annelise Myers and 6 other students from the College of Arts and Humanities were selected to receive the 2010 Dean's Senior Scholars Award. Annelise received a plaque and \$1000 cash prize in recognition of her extraordinary academic performance as a double major in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences and in German Language and Literature. Dr Brian Bequette, her academic advisor in our department, introduced Annelise at the ceremony and Dean James Harris from the College of Arts and Humanities presented Annelise with the award.



2011 Outstanding Senior Award

The Department is proud to announce that **Daniel Bruce** has been selected as the 2011 Outstanding Senior by the AGNR Alumni Association. The award is given to a graduating student in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources who has provided outstanding service, demonstrated leadership, maintained an above average GPA, and exhibited a high standard of citizenship and fellowship. Just some of Dan's accomplishments include: maintaining a 3.5 GPA, serving as an integral member of our ANSC Campus Farm Crew and effectively overseeing many of the day-to-day operations while we were searching for a new farm manager, demonstrating excellent leadership and communication skills as the President of 80-member Equestrian Club,

promoting environmental awareness through the EcoHouse Living-Learning Program, serving as teaching assistant for the demanding ANSC 211 Anatomy of Domestic Animals containing 80 students, and just being an all-around good citizen by being a member of the Primannum Honor Society.

Student News



Anna Schlappal

Tiffany Carro

Scholarships and Awards!

Tiffany Carro, graduate student working with **Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger** was selected to receive the H. Palmer Hopkins Scholarship in the amount of \$500 for her excellent academic record and devotion to Ag Education. The award was officially announced by Dr. Hopkins and Mr. Charles Coale at the Ag Day Breakfast on April 30, 2011. She was also invited to attend the celebration of scholarships event at the Riggs Alumni Center on April 29, 2011.

Anna Schlappal in the laboratory of **Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger** has been awarded the William Hodos Dissertation Research Assistantship for Spring 2012 by the Neuroscience and Cognitive Science Program. This assistantship will provide one semester of support.



Kendra Smyth

Tiffany and Anna were also recipients of the The National Capital Area Chapter of the Society of Toxicology's Bern Schwetz Travel Award for 2011 to attend and present at their national meeting in Washington D.C. this past March. Anna Schlappal was awarded first place and Tiffany Carro received the honorable mention prize. Anna's March 7th presentation was titled "The effects of estrogen-derived compounds in a murine model of Alzheimer's disease." Tiffany's March 8th presentation was titled "Effects of PCBs on embryonic cardiac development in Gallus domesticus (domestic chicken)."



Nicole Fiorellino

Kendra Smyth from **Dr. Zhengguo Xiao's** laboratory and **Nicole Fiorellino** from **Dr. Amy Burk's** laboratory won this year's **Joseph Soares Graduate Student Travel Awards**. Kendra will attend the Autumn Immunology Conference in Chicago this November to present a poster on her thesis research. Nicole will attend the 2011 Equine Science Society Meeting in Murfreesboro, Tennessee from May 31 - June 3.

This travel award of \$750 is made possible through a generous donation by Emeritus Professor, **Dr. Joseph Soares**. Dr. Soares strongly believes that all graduate students should have an opportunity to present their work at National meetings.

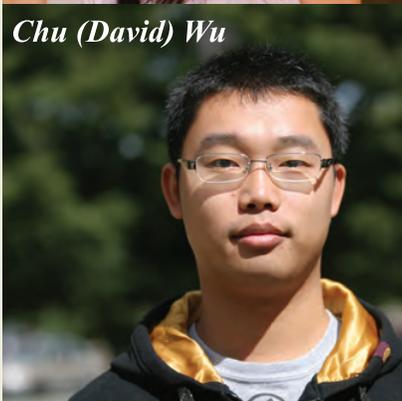
Student News



Qiong Hu

Scholarships and Awards!

Qiong Hu won first place in the graduate student poster category at the Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference held March 23-24, 2011 in Timonium, MD. The second place winner in this category was **Umang Agarwal**. Both are pursuing their Ph.D. under the mentorship of **Dr Brian Bequette** in our department.



Chu (David) Wu

Chu (David) Wu, a new graduate student in **Dr. John Song's** research group, has been selected as a 2010-2011 CTE International Teaching Fellow, co-sponsored by the Graduate School and the Center for Teaching Excellence. This year-long program pairs novice international graduate teaching assistants with a senior graduate student mentor to help develop teaching skills. David is one of only eight fellows selected from the College Park campus this year.



Olivia Smith

Two graduate students in the Department of Animals Sciences are Young Scholars Awards Recipients for 2011 in the Cosmos Scholars Grants program. **Megan Brown**, a graduate student under **Dr. Carol Keefer** received the Cosmos - Henry H. Work Science Award for her research project "Reproductive Behavior as an Evaluation of Reproductive Success in Captive Whooping Cranes/(*Grus americana*)." **Olivia Smith** of **Dr. Ed Orlando's** lab was awarded a Cosmos Scholars grant for her project "Characterization of the Reproductive Seasonality of the Fathead Minnow."



Megan Brown

Megan also recently attended the joint conference of the North American Crane Working Group and The Waterbird Society hosted in Grand Island Nebraska. Megan placed 2nd in the student competition within the Crane Working Group for her abstract titled Chromic Oxide as a Fecal Marker to Identify Individual Whooping Cranes.

Student News

Scholarships and Awards!



Ratan Choudhary won first place for his poster presentation at the Graduate Research Interaction Day (GRID) held at the University of Maryland College Park Campus on Wednesday, April 6. GRID provides an opportunity for UMD graduate students from many academic backgrounds to present and obtain feedback on their research. The best presentations in a number of categories were recognized. Ratan won in the “Science of the Cell” category. Ratan is a fourth year PhD student working under **Dr. Anthony Capuco** at the USDA facility in Beltsville. His poster described laser microdissection of mammary stem cells, evaluation of their transcriptome profile and his identification of novel markers for mammary stem cells.

Ratan was also a prize winner at the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center (BARC) Poster Day. Visiting Scientists and Post-doctoral Research Associates to present research results to the scientific community and others interested in advances in agricultural research. Ratan won 3rd place for his poster titled “Expression of novel, putative stem cell markers in the bovine mammary gland.” Ratan demonstrated

novel mammary stem cell and progenitor cell markers in prepubertal and lactating mammary gland.

Lastly, Ratan has been selected by the Scholarship Committee for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as this year’s recipient of the Richard F. Davis Scholarship. The scholarship is provided to the grad students for their outstanding academic record, strength of research program and commitment to agriculture and natural resources. Ratan received scholarship of \$500 and a certificate.

Fei Tian, a pre-doctoral student working in **Dr. John Song’s** research group received a 2010 Travel Award in Poultry from the Fifth International Workshop on the Molecular Pathogenesis of Marek’s Disease Virus and the First Symposium on Avian Herpes viruses held in Athens, Georgia, Oct 17-19, 2010.



Extension News

Dairy Bowl 2011

Dairy Bowl was held in our building on Saturday, May 7 and due to **Kiera Finucane's** hard work, planning and experience, it went off without a hitch. Seven counties with seventy-four contestants were well represented at the Maryland 4-H State Dairy Bowl contest held at the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, University of Maryland College Park on Saturday, May 7th. Event staff volunteers included faculty, staff and students from the University of Maryland Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, and five 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 9:00 am 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. Please congratulate the following teams and individuals for their outstanding performance. Event staff remarked throughout the day how impressed they were with the knowledge that the contestants demonstrated. The top ten Senior individuals are eligible to compete in the 4-H State Dairy Bowl Buzz-off will be held on Saturday, September 10th 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.

Complete contest results are available at:

<http://ansc.umd.edu/extension/dairy/4h/dairybowl/index.cfm?directory=../results/2011DairyBowl.cfm>



Extension News

Maryland 4-H Poultry Judging Team is Second in Nation

The Maryland contingent attending the 2010 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference held November 17-18, 2010 in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville and placed second overall.

Steven Bode of Charles County, **Tommy Diffendal**, **Karl Johnsson**, and **Olivia Wolf** from Carroll County comprised the 2010 Maryland 4-H Poultry Judging Team. They had previously won the four top spots in the 4-H and FFA Poultry Judging Contest at the Maryland State Fair. The Maryland Team competed at the National 4-H Poultry Conference

The Maryland Team placed 2nd overall among the 19 teams competing from across the nation. The Maryland team placed 10th, 4th, and 2nd in the market egg, market poultry, and production hen divisions, respectively.

In the production hen division Steven Bode and Olivia Wolf placed 3rd and 4th, respectively, among the 78 individuals from around the nation in the competition. Karl Johnsson placed 4th in the market poultry division. Overall Steven Bode, Olivia Wolf, and Karl Johnsson placed 5th, 12th, and 20th, respectively.

The 2010 Maryland 4-H Poultry Judging Team has performed better than any Maryland team since 1997, when the Maryland team placed second in the National Competition. In 1987, the Maryland 4-H Poultry Judging Team won the National Competition.

Alison Brosnan, Baltimore County, placed 6th out of 11 contestants in the National Egg Preparation Demonstration Contest.



From left to right: Nick Zimmermann (coach), Karl Johnsson, Alison Brosnan (Egg Preparation Demonstration Contest), Steven Bode, Olivia Wolf, Tommy Diffendal, and Angelique Livezey (coach).



2010 Maryland 4-H Poultry Judging Team receiving Second in the Nation Award. From left to right: Olivia Wolf, Tommy Diffendal, Karl Johnsson, Steven Bode, and presenter Paul Pressley from the US Poultry and Egg Association.

Staff News



Laura Ellestad

Staff Awards

At the AGNR Spring Awards Convocation, Service Awards went to:

Laura Ellestad for 10 years of service to the university and in the department. Dr. Ellestad was a Research Specialist and graduate student in the ANSC program. She is now a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Tom Porter's laboratory.

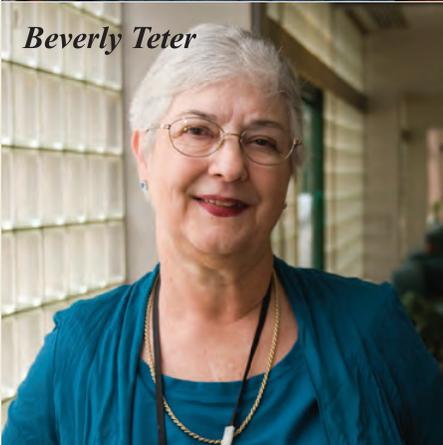
Michael Mobley for 10 years of service to the university. Michael has been the Manager of Computer Services in the department since 2008.

Steven Dantley for 30 years of service to the university and in the department while assigned permanently as a Service Worker at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center under the direction of Dr. Glenn Welch.

Beverly Teter has been named the Vice President of the American College of Nutrition as of January 29, 2011. She works in the **Erdman laboratory** and is a grad from the Agricultural College here at UMD when the Nutritional Sciences Program was started by Mark Keeney and Dick Davis.



Michael Mobley



Beverly Teter

Alumni News



A Story of Commitment

The story of **LTJG Carrie (Hovland) Muller** is a story of determination, commitment and dedication to education and country. These qualities now allow Lieutenant Muller to begin her intermediate-term goal of entering veterinary school so that she can realize her career goal and become a veterinarian. She will be attending the College of Veterinary Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences in the Fall of 2011. She will be the first ANSC alumna to attend this AVMA-accredited veterinary school. ANSC has had students accepted at more than 21 different AVMA-accredited veterinary schools since 2005.

Carrie's story began in 2003 when she enrolled in the ANSC undergraduate program. During her four-year college career, Carrie kept a high paced schedule. She took a full load of courses every semester, worked in the labs of **Dr. Brian Bequette** (undergrad advisor) and **Inma Estevez**, and also served as a training and leadership officer in the campus Naval ROTC. Carrie's college career was highlighted by numerous awards and academic and research scholarships. At graduation, Carrie was honored for her record of excellence and leadership by being selected to give one

of the two College of AGNR commencement speeches by students. Upon graduating from UMD, Carrie embarked on her 5 year commitment to serve in the Navy and Marines. Her tours of duty have taken her around the world: including Pakistan, Malaysia, Brunei, Philippines, Kuwait, Greece, Egypt, Croatia, Bahamas, Iraq, Kenya, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea. In the military, Carrie has received eight awards, medals and special commendations for her leadership, service and expertise. Captain Richard K. Ullsh, USMC, Public Affairs Officer, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit stated that:

"What deserves to be highlighted is Carrie's work ethic and the trust placed in her by senior officers within the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)."

"Though Carrie is one of the most junior officers in the section, a high operational tempo pulled many of the senior officers away, which left Carrie to pick up the load. Rather than sink beneath the weight of this burden, Carrie emerged as an anchor within the operations section and MEU by which the commanding officer and operations officer can depend."

"She has managed to associate herself with words like "competent," "perceptive", and "organized," used by senior officers, who have upwards of three to four times more experience than she. Needless to say, her work ethic is tireless and approaches the mechanical."

While in the Navy, LTJG Muller has demonstrated her continued commitment to veterinary medicine by working with the veterinary clinic at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Further, she has continued to challenge herself academically by taking supplementary courses to complete her veterinary school application requirements.

Those of us in the ANSC Department and the College of AGNR, who were privileged and honored to know and work with Carrie, are not surprised with her success. We find that it is typical of Carrie that through her diligence and abilities that she will now embark on the path towards her career goal of becoming a veterinarian. Congratulations LTJG Carrie Muller!

Alumni News

Equine Alumnus

ANSC class of 2005 graduate, **Dr. Rebekah Cosden** was featured in an April 22 article entitled, "UK Graduate Student Spotlight: Rebekah Cosden" on TheHorse.com for her unique approach to researching equine joint cartilage repair by using the axolotl salamander as a model species. Growing up, Dr. Cosden was a standout member of the Maryland 4-H horse program in Carroll County. After earning her B.S. in the Equine Science option of our program, she went on to get a M.S. in equine nutrition from VA Tech. and then a Ph.D. in Veterinary Science from the University of Kentucky. Here is a link to the article:

<http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=18137>



Back to Africa

For the past few years, we have been following one of our Alumni on his adventures around the globe. Class of 2009 graduate, **Matt Snider**, has been working in Africa and the American Southwest on various wildlife preservations and does an excellent job keeping us abreast with his activities. Matt will be headed back to Africa this month to start the next chapter in his career. Here is a photo of Matt in New Mexico, where he worked with The Peregrine Fund. You can read about Matt and other alumni on our website at

<http://www.ansc.umd.edu/alumni>

ANSC Alumni receive DVMs

Former Department of Animal and Avian Sciences students receive their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. (L to R) **Drs. Robert Simmons, Cassie Fox, Jessica Adamany, Hope Poffenbarger, Brian Bequette, Mark Varner, Andrew Gorman, Katy Mills Dempsey and Heather Scruggs**. Dr. Simmons graduated from the School of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University and those in gowns graduated from the joint Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine on May 14, 2011.



Attention Alumni!

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Click Here to join our mailing list!

The Department of Animal & Avian Sciences
University of Maryland
Office: (301) 405-1366
Fax: (301) 405-7980
ansc@umd.edu
www.ansc.umd.edu