

the  
**Moo's Letter**

CREAM 2017-2018

**Note from the Editor**

This past year of CREAM has flown by! It is crazy to think that we will very shortly be handing over the reins to next years CREAM class. Some important lessons that we have all learned is that even in the face of 4 am milking shifts, it is still possible to wake up and go to the barn with a smile on your face. Sometimes in spite of cows that seem determined to sleep in instead of going to be milked. Overall this past year has been one of difficulties, but mostly triumphs. Our look into dairy farm has been extremely immersive and educational. I want to thank each of the CREAMers for their continued hard work, and our faculty and student advisors for all of their help.

- Jess Childs

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**The Last Clean Cow Contest**

By Elise McDonough

Before we all head out for the summer and hand down our herd to next year's CREAM class we had to make sure the girls looked their best. We did a Clean Cow Contest in the last three weeks of school to celebrate the warmer weather and strip away some of the winter build up. There was an added challenge this time around though because the gutters were out of commission for the amount of excess water that comes with bathing 20 plus cows. Those CREAMers that were feeling adventurous took their girls out in front of the heifer barn to wash them. Although at times a taxing endeavor, baths and a good clip really suites the cows. In the end Drew with a few assistant judges gave Kira third place with Kanga, Jessie with Avery and Shelby with Fiore tied for second place, and the first place pairing was Alissa with Midway with a near perfect score of 98. Even though Drew's bag of prizes is enough of a reward in itself, I want to congratulate all the top cows and thank everyone who participated!

## CREAMer Biographies



### Emma Faddoul

My name is Emma Faddoul and I am a junior Biomedical Science: Medical Veterinary Science Major. I am from Marlborough, Massachusetts. Some hobbies of mine include photography and playing with my dog. My cow is #896 Winnie! I originally became interested in CREAM because I want to attend veterinary school, but now I love CREAM because I love the cows! They all have their own personalities and I really am enjoying learning the ins and outs of dairy farming. After I graduate, I am planning on attending veterinary school.

### Abygail Tate

My name is Abygail Tate and I'm a Second year student in the Thompson School two-year program. My major is Applied Animal Science – Dairy Management. I am from Hope Valley, RI. Outside of CREAM, my hobbies include working outside, working with my show cows, and hanging out with my family. Serena (845) is my CREAM cow. I've had cows my whole life, so I was born into the cow life. I became interested in taking the CREAM class because I have a farm at home and I wanted to learn better ways to manage my herd. After graduation I'd like to expand my current heifer herd and make it into a dairy herd.



### Jessica Childs

My name is Jess and I'm a senior, Biomedical Science: MedVet Science major. My CREAM cow is Frenchie (782)! She is very sweet, and one of the first cows I bonded with at the barn. When she had a heifer at the beginning of the semester, I named her Rizzo for my love of Grease. CREAM has been a highlight of senior year. My initial interest was for vet school applications, but I have really grown to love working with the cows. Outside of CREAM, I spend most of my time riding or working with the standardbred racehorses my family owns. Growing up on a horse farm, I quickly fell in love with horses and everything that went along with them. My dream of going to vet school stemmed from being 5<sup>th</sup> generation of having racehorses. Next year I will be attending vet school at the Atlantic Veterinary College on Prince Edward Island in Canada.





## CREAMer Biographies

### Shelby Silvia

I'm a junior, BioMed: PreVet major from Cohasset, Mass where farming and agricultural are basically nonexistent. Despite this I grew up with a passion for animals and had the opportunity to attend an agricultural school. My first two years I took mostly academic classes and missed the hands on work environment and daily interactions I had with animals during high school. C.R.E.A.M was the perfect class to take in order to work with animals again while at the same time learning about the business aspect of managing a dairy herd and more about the dairy industry. I knew that C.R.E.A.M would help me build skills and gain knowledge that would be beneficial to my future endeavors and my ultimate goal of attending veterinary school. My CREAM cow is Jumanji (902) Outside of school I enjoy riding horses, working at a local wildlife center, and finding new places to hike my dog Simba.



### Bram Robertson

My name is Bram Robertson. I'm a senior Integrated Agriculture Management. I come from a dairy farm in Contoocook NH, where we milk one hundred and sixty cows. I will be returning home after I graduate to work on the farm and hopefully become a co-owner with my brothers and parents. Fun fact: I live and work at Fairchild outside of CREAM.

### Kristina Lotz

I am a senior, animal science major from Exeter, NH. My family has farming experience from their family farm in Ireland. So it is no surprise that I am now interested in animals and agriculture. Before coming to UNH I took agriculture classes at Seacoast School of Technology. I was interested in CREAM because of the hands on experience it offered with dairy cows and the opportunity to learn all aspects of managing a dairy farm. When I'm not at the Fairchild Dairy center I work at a small farm in Madbury NH called Old Orchard Farm. There I have gained a wide variety of experience with raising pigs, sheep and turkeys for meat production. I learned a great deal about installing electric fencing as well as the importance of maintaining the hay fields. Outside of farming I love hiking, traveling, ceramics, and my dog. I am grateful to be part of CREAM.





## National Dairy Challenge

By Haley Osgood

On April 11, 2018, five students and two coaches began the journey to California to take part in the dairy challenge in Visalia California. All the students were either CREAMers, or former CREAMers. The contest team consisted of Bailey Basiel, Shelby Biasini, Kyah Hardy, and Shelby Jaffe. These students were being graded on their work and would be ranked at the end of the challenge. I went along as an academy participant, which is more of a learning experience, with an advisor guiding each group through the process. The two coaches were Dr. Pete Erickson and Dr. Kayla Aragona. The first day in California we listened to a lecture about livestock and climate

change in the morning that was very educational. In the afternoon we went to our first California dairy farm, the tour farm for the challenge. This farm was Maddox Dairy, and they milked Holstein cows, and they milked a lot of them. The parlor was a double 13 herringbone, and they had four of these. The “barns” were mostly just poles holding up a roof, which is what we saw at the other farms. There weren’t very many walls on any barns in California, very different from the farms here in New England. On Friday morning, the contest team and I got to visit our respective challenge farms. At the challenge farms we evaluate them, seeing where any improvements could be made and what the farm is doing well. On Friday afternoon, each team completes a PowerPoint presentation in about 5 hours. This PowerPoint highlights what was seen at the farm. The next day, the contest team then had to present to a panel of judges and the farmers the next day. Since I was part of academy, our groups presented to each other, without a panel of judges. Saturday night, the winners for the contest team were announced, and UNH was able to get fourth place on the farm they were evaluating! The opportunity to be able to go to California to see the dairies and take part in the dairy challenge was one I will never forget and am very grateful for.

## A CREAMer’s Reflection

By Kate DeChirico

If you asked me three years ago if I cared about cows, I probably would’ve said no. It’s not that I had a disliking towards cows, it’s just they never had a presence in my life until college. I never could’ve predicted what an impact dairy cows would have on my life. I walked into my first cow class (Intro to Dairy Management) as this girl from Long Island that had maybe seen a cow three times ever. I had no idea how complex the dairy world was. After taking that class as well as a dairy disease course and CREAM, I have such a better understanding of the dairy world. I am no cow expert, as my family likes to call me now, but I have a grasp on an industry that is just not appreciated or discussed very much on Long Island.

While the other classes taught me important factors regarding the dairy world, I believe CREAM is what really resonated with me. CREAM has

allowed me to experience all factors regarding production on a dairy farm. I got to see the good and the bad first hand and I believe that enabled me to develop a deeper appreciation. Managing a dairy farm is no easy task; it requires so much hard work and patience, especially with the declining milk price. Through many 4 am shifts, committee meetings and lectures I learned the importance of commitment, patience, initiative and hard work. Nothing in the dairy world comes easy and that is why I believe people involved in dairy production are some of the strongest and most hard-working people I have ever met. This includes my classmates, the barn manager, my professors and all the farmers we have had the pleasure of meeting. The cow world is a community that is often misunderstood so getting to be apart of it has been so special. So if I was asked the same question today, I would say yes I absolutely care about cows. There is so much more to those spotted cuties than just milk and I think everyone should be more aware of what goes into their management. I will never forget this experience.

# Senior Sendoff

By Emma Faddoul

- *Alissa Scinto* will be attending veterinary school at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.
- *Yianna Rhodes* will be doing organic dairy nutrition throughout the Northeast out of Morrison Feeds in Vermont.
- *Felicia Ingman* will be working as a Veterinary Technician at Keep 'Em Healthy Veterinary Clinic in Troy, NH while applying to veterinary school this fall.
- *Kristina Lotz* will be graduating in December and attending graduate school after graduating!
- *Elise McDonough* will continue to work at New England Ovis and Stratham-Newfields Veterinary Hospital for half the year and then will begin to look for an internship in the spring. She is interested in wildlife and marine-life and will be looking for internships in different parts of the country and even some abroad!
- *Abygail Tate* will be returning to her farm that she started, Glen Rock Acres in West Kingston, RI.
- *Miguel Catala* will be taking a gap year before applying to veterinary school. During his gap year, he will be working at Cocheco Valley Humane Society and working at a veterinary hospital.
- *Jess Childs* will be attending Atlantic Veterinary College at University of Prince Edward Island in Canada. She will most likely end up specializing in equine while she is there.
- *Brianna Wason* is taking a gap year before applying to veterinary school. In her gap year, she will continue to work at Stratham-Newfields Veterinary Hospital as an assistant. This summer she is attending a summer program, Adventures in Veterinary Medicine, at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts. Most importantly, she will be around UNH when Killians gets closer to her calving date!
- *Kira Kenny* is going to be taking a gap year before applying to veterinary school this fall. During that year, she is going to be working at Great Bay Dog Daycare and Veterinary Clinic while also volunteering at the Center of Wildlife in York, Maine.
- *Annie Ciampaglia* will be packing her bags and heading to New Zealand to work on a Thoroughbred racing farm (and eventually sucker a kiwi into marrying her for citizenship!)
- *Haley Osgood* will be working at Bonahan Farm as a co-herdsman.
- *Elizabeth Clock* will be working in a temporary position at York County Extension and at Longhorn Horse and Pet Supply. She will also be milking at a new facility in Shapleigh, ME.
- *Bram Robertson* will be heading home to Hopkinton, NH to work on his family farm, Bonahan Farm, to help operate the processing plant and one day become a Co-Owner.



# Interview with Dr. Matt Powers

## By Annie Ciampaglia

### **What year were you in CREAM and what is your fondest memory of the class?**

I was in cream for the 2009-2010 class, my fondest memory is feeding the cows, first thing in the morning before the rest of the world wakes up. I would get a great sense of peace while it was so quiet outside and one of the few sights and sounds were the cows coming down from the parlor to eat.

### **What kinds of activities/field trips did your class do?**

May not be able to remember all of them, multiple trips to nearby farms to see various set ups, I believe a few people took a longer trip to New York but I don't believe I could attend because of a track team related conflict.

### **Did you have any cow experience before joining CREAM? Have you had any since?**

I had zero experience with cows. It was a great experience to get more comfortable around cows and learn a lot regarding their care and husbandry. Since CREAM, I had some experience in vet school and was certainly more comfortable than other people without the same opportunity. During school we had responsibilities to clean and perform some tasks with the cows, we also all had labs for a few technical skills with cows. Later in school I fulfilled my large animal requirement doing ambulatory farm medicine. In Prince Edward Island (where I attended vet school) this largely entailed dairy herds with a few beef, pork and chicken producers.

### **How did CREAM contribute to your application process for vet school? Do you feel it helped make you stand out?**

I think that choosing vet school candidates must be a difficult job. Picking from a large pool of smart, competitive people who all got good grades. CREAM is a program that is very special to UNH and not one you can get at any university. Experiences like CREAM

will help you to stand out in a crowd. Also, it gave me a significant amount of time and experience with large animals. Generally schools want applicants to document various experience levels with cats, dogs, horses etc. Having a more diverse background is usually recommended to help with applications.

### **What kinds of experiences/work did you participate in to gain animal experience before applying to vet school? Which do you think was the most beneficial?**

In addition to CREAM, I worked as an assistant at a small animal emergency and referral hospital during the weekends and summers. I also participated in a summer internship program at the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick, Maine.

### **What do you think is the most rewarding aspect of being a vet?**

I find it very rewarding when I am able to teach a client something they didn't know. This happens for a lot of reasons, anything from a new puppy visit in for vaccines to bringing a dog in when it is very sick. Either way, there is usually a fairly limited amount of time to get a lot of information across. I may need to convey a lot of critical information before the owner makes a big decision. Other times we get to take more time and talk about preventative care like brushing teeth or the importance of vaccines.

### **Do you have any life advice for current CREAMers who are about to graduate?**

Don't be in a rush. Regardless of what your goals are coming out of UNH and where you hope to be next year, patience is very important. If you are interested in pursuing vet school, it is a marathon. I more or less spent 4 years sitting and studying, followed by a long year doing a rotating internship. Additionally, you are never done learning. School might be over and you certainly know more than you did four years ago but you will always be a student. On a day-to-day basis, I am always encountering something new that I didn't know before and this will be a lifelong learning process.



The CREAM class at Spooky View Varm

## CREAM's Trip Around New Hampshire

By Miguel Catala

This year's CREAM class went on a field trip around the state of New Hampshire to visit some of the most interesting farms around. For our first farm we visited Spooky view farm located in Epsom, New Hampshire where we were the first group to visit in 15 years. This farm is run by Keith Batchelder who does almost everything on his own with some help from his nephews. One of the most interesting aspects of this farm is that the family had built their beautiful barn completely on their own aside from their six-unit milking parlor.

After a jeopardy filled lunch at a BBQ/Seafood restaurant and taking a slightly frightening detour down a dirt road, we headed over to the futuristic Tullando Farm in Orford, NH where robots have taken over. That's right this farm is managed by Nate Tullar, an alumni CREAMer, and is operated with the use of robots! This farm is actually the first farm in New Hampshire to incorporate robots in their facilities. The robots do everything from milking the cows, mucking the aisles, and even pushing up feed.

Our last farm was the Bohannon Farm home to one our current CREAMers, Bram Robertson, where we got to experience what it's like to be on a reality show. Currently Bram's farm is being filmed for a new series that documents farmers around the country in their daily operations. While cameramen were running around us like mad men, Bram gave us a tour explaining each of his family roles at the farm and what the plans are for the future. After a tour we were treated to their delicious local milk and some of the best homemade pizzas. Despite the rain we had a great time exploring farms across New Hampshire and learning about the many different approaches farmers take to deliver us the dairy products we all depend on and love.



The Robertson's tractor is just a little bigger than ours!



Bram showing the CREAMer's around his family farm.

Thank you to all of the farmers, veterinarians, guest lecturers, and faculty that have helped us on this journey the past year!



## Congratulations CREAM Class of 2017-2018



## A Visit to Stuart Dairy Farm

By Bailey Veilleux

On Thursday March 22nd, the CREAM class took a quick field trip down to the local dairy, Stuart Farm in Stratham, NH. Stuart Farm is owned and managed by four generations of the Merrill family. With over 370 acres of land and around 260 milking cows, the Merrill's are certainly busy year round. We greatly appreciated them letting our CREAM class stop by for a visit!

The setup of Stuart farm is quite different from the Fairchild Dairy that our CREAM cows call home. While our cows are kept on shavings in a tie-stall barn, cows at Stuart Farm live in a free-stall system with sand bedding. "The sand can be pretty rough on our equipment, but it's easier for us to clean and manage, and our cows are very happy in their deep-sand beds" Nate Merrill explained to us. The barn for the milking cows is also open-concept, the walls could open on the sides, allowing for good ventilation. Many CREAMers



Stewart Farm's feed bunk in Stratham, NH

got excited when we saw the Merrill's milking parlor. It was almost exactly the same as our own parlor, but the distance between the groups of cows was much smaller, making it easier to move back and forth between them. It is always nice for our class to visit other dairy farms. By going on field trips like this one, we are able to witness the different management systems that exist in dairy farming, and pave the way for future connections between our class's herd and other working farms.