

# The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute

*Carrying on William Miner's  
vision of science  
in the service of agriculture.*



2019-20  
Annual Report



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Organizations with strong leadership and great teams achieve success. Miner Institute is guided by the vision for agriculture and the North Country that William Miner established more than 100 years ago. A board of trustees with varied experience, knowledge, and leadership provides guidance to help the Institute “advance the science of agriculture,” as is stated in its by-laws. But the mission and the work of the Institute is really accomplished by the fantastic team of employees and students who work tirelessly to conduct integrated education, research, and demonstration programs.



The collaboration and cohesive vision among staff at Miner Institute has allowed this organization to become highly respected. It is where companies want to sponsor research; where students want to come to learn; where visitors want to come and experience agriculture as it was on Heart’s Delight Farm and how it is today at Miner Institute.

The staff and students use research and education to demonstrate best management practices for agriculture and environmental stewardship. The organization also endorses giving back to the community and encourages employees to be involved in charitable events. That truly embodies William Miner’s generous spirit and his belief that the North Country is a beautiful place.

— Rod Giltz  
*Chair, Miner Institute Board of Trustees*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had another exciting and productive year at Miner Institute.

I am always impressed with what our modest-sized staff of about 60 people is able to accomplish. In 2019 we had 61 students enrolled in our educational programs – undergraduate, graduate students, and interns. These students participated in our Advanced Dairy Management semester, Applied Environmental Science Program, year-long internships, and Summer Experiences in farming, equine management, and agricultural research. We value our mission of training tomorrow's dairy and equine leaders.

In 2019 we garnered approximately \$722,000 in research support through grants, contracts, facilities, and equipment. We continued to use our research bunker silos, upgraded our field nutrient management sites, and continued to enhance our milk analysis program. While conducting the research, our staff managed to make 61 presentations to various scientific and industry groups and write 43 papers. We also hired a new forage agronomist, Allen Wilder, who will start mid-year after receiving his M.S. degree from University of Vermont.

In the past year, 3672 people came through our stone gates to attend a program or visit our Heritage Exhibit. In all, 36 events were held at the Institute. Dairy Day, Crop Congress, the Dairy Nutrition Short Course, and Equi-Day focused on our industry clientele while other programs engaged the community such as hosting the Strides for James 5k/10k/kids Fun Run. Increasingly, we engage with the dairy industry and the community at large to educate and advocate for agriculture.

Of course, the full story for any organization lies behind the numbers. But, these few metrics tell us that the Institute is on-track and that our staff is doing a great job. We have so much planned for 2020 – including an Open House. As always, if you have questions about the range of Miner Institute programs, please feel free to contact us. If you find yourself in the beautiful Champlain Valley, please stop in and experience for yourself the outstanding facilities, grounds, programs, and staff of Miner Institute.

– Dr. Rick Grant



“The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming . . . and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

– Teddy Roosevelt.

# EDUCATION

In 2019, 61 students participated in our educational programs. This includes three Advanced Dairy Management students; 10 summer experience students: 2 Summer Experience in Farm Management interns, 4 Agricultural Research interns, and 4 Equine Management interns; 38 Applied Environmental Science students; five year-long interns who have finished their undergraduate degrees; and five graduate students.

To learn more about our education programs visit [whminer.org/education](http://whminer.org/education)

## Advanced Dairy Management Program

The Advanced Dairy Management program, a 15-credit course is a combination of 5 classes offered at Miner Institute. The course is designed to help meet the changing needs and challenges of the dairy industry. The dairy industry today requires greater technical education and knowledge, is operated on borrowed money for expansion to stay competitive, resulting in market forces that demand educational programs in dairy production to remain relevant to the industry. Training leaders of the future is an important part of what we do in our education programming. In 2019, we had three students in the program. Rachel Burt from the University of Vermont; Erin Norris from the University of Connecticut; and Maureen Whitney from the University of Vermont.



L to R: Rachel Burt, Erin Norris, and Maureen Whitney.

## 2019 Flanagan Scholarship

A \$1.3 million donation from the late Stephen Flanagan in 2015 established a scholarship fund to help support Miner Institute's education programs. The scholarship is named after Mr. Flanagan and his parents, Stephen S. Flanagan and Frances B. Flanagan.

In 2019, two Flanagan scholarships were awarded to graduate students Katie Smith and Leanna Thalmann. Katie is from Blue Springs, MO. She came to Miner in October 2018 as a research intern after earning an animal science degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, but then started toward a Masters degree at the University of Vermont. Katie is looking at the interaction of fermentable starch and indigestible fiber in the rumen and how it affects lactation performance and carbohydrate digestibility. She hopes to return to Missouri to help dairy farmers there as a nutritionist once she completes her degree later in 2020. Leanna is from Patchogue, NY and earned a bachelor of science degree from SUNY Plattsburgh in environmental science and geology before starting a graduate assistantship at Miner Institute. Leanna is completing her Masters degree in plant and soil science at the University of Vermont. She studies nutrient runoff from fields with and without tile drainage. She hopes to work in the environmental water quality field.



Katie Smith



Leanna Thalmann

## Summer Experience Programs

The summer experience programs offer students a 13-week paid internship focused on either dairy farm management, agricultural research, or equine management. Students from around the country apply for the highly competitive internships.

In 2019, we welcomed 10 students from a multitude of universities. Participating in the Summer Experience in Equine Management were Danielle Stevens from Auburn University; Isabel Wohlstadter from Truman State University; Emily Davie from Washington State University; and Angelica Torres Rodrigues from Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. Participating in the Summer Experience in Farm Management were Emily Hiller from SUNY Cobleskill; and Aimee Ding from Stonybrook University. Participating in the Summer Experience in Agricultural Research were Jessica Carnal from Delaware Valley University; Alex Benoit from Cornell University; Kayla Johnston from the University of Connecticut; and Sarah Baldwin from SUNY Cobleskill.



**Back row L to R:** Angelica Torres Rodrigues, Emily Davie, Aimee Ding, Alex Benoit, Isabel Wohlstadter, Danielle Stephens, Kayla Johnston, Jessica Carnal, Sarah Baldwin, and Emily Hiller.

“The experience I had this summer was even more than I was expecting. I learned so much in just 13 weeks about the research process and the dairy industry in general. I’m really happy I had this experience and I would recommend it to anyone who thinks they may be interested in pursuing research.”

— 2019 student testimonials

## Applied Environmental Science Program

The Applied Environmental Science Program features courses taught on a full-day basis; the format allows integration of theory developed in lectures with hands-on experience in indoor and outdoor labs dealing with soil, water, forestry, and the agriculture-environment interface.

Courses offered as part of the 2019 program were Forest Ecology and Management with Dr. Mark Lesser; Agriculture and the Environment with Stephen Kramer; Water Quality and Modeling with Patrick Korths; Wetland Ecology and Management with Dr. Mary Alldred; Soil Science with Dr. Colin Fuss, and Wildlife Ecology and Management with Dr. Danielle Garneau, which was offered on campus in 2019.



**Back Row L to R:** Zach Bingel, Luke Cutter, Tessa Moran, Alyssa Turner, Tierney Mayette, Jesse Pruden, Michala Hendrick, Harleigh Green, Kacey Daley, Hannah Rohan.

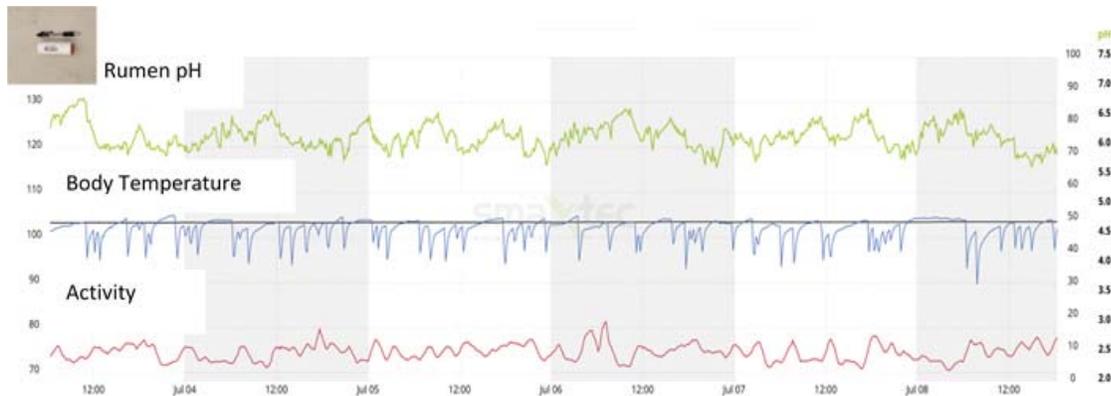
**Front Row L to R:** Steven Kramer, Dr. Colin Fuss, Dr. Mary Alldred, Dr. Mark Lesser, Patrick Korths, Dr. Danielle Garneau, Dr. Ed Romanowicz.

# RESEARCH

William Miner’s vision for Heart’s Delight Farm in 1928 was to provide “opportunities ...for experimental and research work in order that it may serve to advance the science of agriculture.” Today, Miner Institute proudly carries on his noble mission. Our highly-regarded professional staff, exceptional technical staff and well-managed dairy herd and crop program combine to support a unique research model focusing on the interface of crops, animals and nutrient management.

Results for most of the research conducted by Miner Institute are reported to the public through scientific meetings and journals or through the monthly *Farm Report* available on our website at **whminer.org**

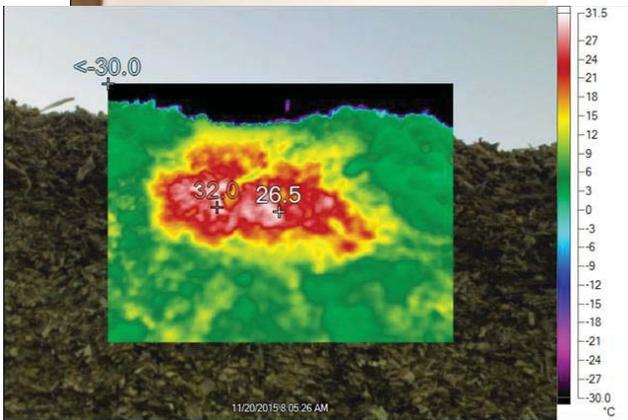
In 1928, William Miner’s vision for Heart’s Delight Farm was to provide “opportunities ...for experimental and research work in order that it may serve to advance the science of agriculture.” Mr. Miner incorporated the latest technologies to operate his farm and believed that American agriculture would need to adopt a progressive thinking in order to feed its growing population. Today, much of the research conducted at Miner Institute is evaluating cutting-edge strategies of management for crops, animals, and nutrients. We often utilize the latest technologies to monitor and collect data for these studies. Dairy herd management software and advanced applications of standard computer and statistical programs are the backbone for research data we collect. Infrared technologies are used to evaluate silage bunk management, dry matter of forages and composition of milk. Different types of data loggers are used throughout our research program to capture environmental conditions, evaluate lying or standing positions in dairy cows, and monitor water flow from our fields. Through the incorporation of the latest technologies, Miner Institute strives to be a leader to “advance the science of agriculture” as Mr. Miner intended. Our highly-regarded professional staff, exceptional technical staff and well-managed dairy herd and crop program combine to support a unique research model. Results for most of the research conducted by Miner Institute are reported to the public through scientific meetings and journals or through the monthly *Farm Report* available on our website at whminer.org.



SmaXtec bolus used to continuously measure body temperature, drinking behavior, rumen pH and activity of cows enrolled on dairy nutrition studies and projects evaluating the impact of heat stress on animal well-being in Northern New York.



State-of-the-art autosamplers and instrumentation that measures waterflow from surface and sub-surface (tile) runoff to better understand the pathways for nutrient loss and how to establish best management practices for farmers to retain these valuable nutrients in fields.



Near infrared sensor for measuring dry matter of feedstuffs and infrared photo of silages stored in bunks using thermal imaging camera to determine heating during feedout.



Data loggers used to assess lying time in dairy cows (left) and environmental conditions (right).



Mid infrared spectra of milk to analyze milk composition is used to develop models to predict animal health status.

# DAIRY

Miner Institute's dairy herd finished out 2019 with a really nice report card. When comparing our dairy herd with herds of similar size, we are in the top 99% for average herd milk production, pounds of butterfat, and pounds of protein. We have reached as high as 7.3 pounds of fat and protein daily.

The average milk price for the year was a little above \$19.00 per hundredweight, which was up \$1.95 from 2018. Somatic cell count was up this year due to the increase with Klebsiella, a Gram-negative bacteria. We also locked in our purchased grain giving us some control of income over feed cost.

In late September 2019 we started on an addition to our 2008 barn that houses our milking and dry cows. This addition will allow more research flexibility, adding 144 sand-bedded stalls, 4 row with a 10 foot transfer lane around the whole barn. We will also be putting in a manure lagoon to handle this barn.



Last fall we purchased a new forage chopper that is equipped with harvest lab; this will go with the new corn planter we plan to purchase this coming spring. Miner was also able to buy 242 more acres – 100 of which are tillable – late in the fall that is right up the road from the farm. Planning is under way to see what can be tilled and brought in to production. We grew both BMR and conventional corn along with some different varieties for research feeding trials. We also grew a few acres of rye cover crop.

Multiple research projects requiring feed, dietary changes, and pen moves were conducted again this year. Fulfilling our mission of education, research, and demonstration is a challenge that certainly sets us apart from average dairy farms. We rely on a knowledgeable and flexible dairy and crops staff to meet our goals and maintain our successful dairy program.

Our Summer Experience in Farm Management program had only two students: Aimee Ding from Long Island, NY and Emily Hiller from Cobleskill, NY. They learned how to milk cows, feed calves, and maintain a healthy herd. The field crops staff worked with the students teaching them about growing and harvesting crops – everything from picking rocks, preparing the ground, to mowing, merging, and chopping hay crop silage. These students gained practical, hands-on experience in how a modern production dairy farm operates. Aimee and Emily hope to pursue careers in the dairy industry in some capacity. Students train an animal to show at our local county fair, which is usually the highlight of the summer for them. We also went on several farm tours to expose them to different ways of farming. Assistant Herdsperson Victoria Vendetta went on to vet school this fall, Yearlong Intern Alexandra Banks returned to Maine to work on a dairy farm closer to home and Herdsperson Anna Pape opted to return to school and pursue a different career. In October, Dr. Kevin Tobey, DVM joined the dairy team as herd health manager. He has worked for a large animal practice in Vermont and was recently employed by Merck Animal Health. Kevin has been busy establishing an on-farm mastitis culturing lab, farm animal care Version 4.0 and he will be working with the Advanced Dairy Management students during the spring semester.

Overall, these outstanding herd performance numbers and all of our dairy activities are made possible because of our dedicated farm staff!

Performance measure	2019 Avg. for 13 months
Daily milk, lb/d	101
150-day milk, lb/d	105
Days in milk	167
Test-day fat, %	4.1
Test-day true protein, %	3.1
Rolling herd average milk, lb/cow/yr	32,274
Age at 1st calving, months	23
Total cows in herd	462

# EQUINE

One. Just one. One moment, one individual, or one opportunity can be pivotal and poignant.

In late May, one foal was born, a near perfect bay filly out of UVM Loyalty and by Canon. With 2019 marking the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the United States, it seemed only fitting to name the filly after the birthplace of the Women's Suffrage Movement, Seneca County. While barn names can be lighthearted, "Suzy" is named for Susan B. Anthony as homage to her pivotal role in the movement and her dedication to seeking social equality. This filly reminds us daily not to take our privileges for granted. A moment of loss; the second foal of 2019 was not to be. Late in gestation, our good-producing mare, Sugarlane Dominique suffered an abortion due to undetectable illness.

One wrong step for yearling filly HD Villenova (DPR Noble Viking x Spring's National Velvet) led to a long spring and summer of stall rest, uncertainty for her future and lots of learning. Found injured in the paddock early one morning, "Nova" was brought slowly to the stables and examined by staff and a veterinarian. Not much could be done for her except manage her discomfort and hope she healed. After four months of stall confinement for a suspected pelvic fracture, X-rays confirmed that it had been a bad break but she healed as beautifully as she could and maintained her positive outlook and engagement with people the whole time. She has a gait anomaly and will never be able to show, but we are hopeful that she can enjoy some light training as she continues to mature and then possibly join the broodmare group in a few years.



HD Redford at the Morgan Grand National Horse Show in Oklahoma City.

HD Jefferson (Democracy x Spring's National Velvet), a kind and correct bay gelding was the one horse sold in 2019. Purchased in the summer, his new owner asked for some additional training at Miner to advance his skills a bit more before he moved home. After performing well in his class at the county fair, "Tommy" did what he does best in meeting and greeting the public as they toured the exhibits in the barns. Unfortunately for us, he and several of the horses we brought to the fair came home with a mild, but persistent upper respiratory bug. While no major long-term health effects linger in the herd, we were unable to bring any horses to the NY Morgan Horse Show and had to close the barn for a few weeks to visitors in our best attempt to isolate the symptomatic horses from the rest. It was disappointing, but one lesson of biosecurity that we will learn from and continue to improve our practices as best we can and still remain practical and open. HD Jefferson was released in late fall to his new home and is the light of his owner's life and is a wonderful ambassador for the breed in his new stable.

Summer students spend 13 weeks immersed in our management and training program. The young Morgans in the herd are the instruments of their learning the skills of preparing a horse for a career as a saddle or harness horse. One trip around the coliseum at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds during the Morgan Grand National Horse Show was the trip of a lifetime for many. HD Redford (Tedwin Titlist x Perinton Serenity) is a 2004 gelding born at Miner and was the "project pony" for a few summer students before he was sold to Dr. Josephine Trott. A skilled amateur dressage rider and appreciator of the Morgan Horse, "Red" was her choice for an all-around horse for her husband to ride. After moving to California, Josie worked with dedication and care to train him in dressage all the way up to Grand Prix level, the pinnacle of this Olympic discipline. In October, Karen Lassell traveled to Oklahoma City to help Josie and to witness the first HD-bred horse compete at the national show for Morgans in the most esteemed and demanding of equine exhibition. It was truly an honor to see HD Redford perform in his element and go on to receive his multiple blue ribbons and Reserve Champion FEI Dressage horse awards under the show's banner. The national recognition this team has brought to Miner Institute's horses and the healthy training foundation they receive is priceless.

# 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2019, we hosted 36 educational, research, and community events that attracted nearly 3,700 visitors to Miner Institute. Miner Institute staff gave 61 presentations in three countries on dairy, equine, crop, and nutrient management topics. Our staff wrote 43 papers for the dairy industry. Four papers were peer-reviewed and 9 research abstracts were printed in high-impact journals.

Here are some of the highlights from 2019:

## **JANUARY**

Our annual Crop Congress event attracted about 100 attendees.

## **FEBRUARY**

Hosted around 55 pre-service teachers from SUNY Plattsburgh's education department for an agriculture/science field lab.

In collaboration with The Alice T. Miner Museum, we hosted the first annual winter break program for school-age kids.

Co-hosted an equine nutrition talk with Poulin Grain.

## **MARCH**

Annual EquiDay event attracted around 60 equine enthusiasts.

## **APRIL**

Participated in the United Way of the Adirondack Region's annual Day of Caring event cleaning up the Riverview Cemetery.

## **MAY**

Hosted the Seventh Annual Strides for James charitable 5K/10K race. More than 200 runners participated.

## **JUNE**

Participated in the annual Museum Days event with around 100 visitors to the Heritage Exhibit over the course of the weekend.

Hosted nearly 500 fifth grade students and teachers as part of our annual Farm Days for Fifth Graders event.

Hosted a Women's Wellness event with around 35 participants.

## **JULY**

Participated in the Clinton County Fair in the horse and dairy cattle shows and maintained exhibits in the horse and cattle barns for fair-goers to enjoy.

Hosted a group of invited local artists who took advantage of Miner Institute's beautiful grounds to create artwork.

## **AUGUST**

Hosted the Adirondack Architectural Heritage group for a tour that included The Alice T. Miner Museum, the Miner chapel and Mausoleum at Riverview Cemetery, and the Heart's Delight Farm Heritage Exhibit at Miner Institute.

## **SEPTEMBER**

Co-Hosted a Flat Rock Fire Workshop on preparedness and response to the 2018 wildfire at the Altona Flatrock property.

Participated in the Corporate Kickball Challenge.

Co-Hosted a Day on the Farm with Alice event with The Alice T. Miner Museum. We had about 30 participants.

## **OCTOBER**

Hosted students from Chazy Central Rural School kindergarten, first grade, and fifth grade classes as part of Miner Day celebrations.

Hosted the Sunrise Rotary Club for a meeting.

## **NOVEMBER**

Annual Youth EquiDay event attracted around 80 young people interested in horses.

Clinton County 4H students visited Miner Institute as part of a milking parlor tour in the county.

## **DECEMBER**

Our annual Dairy Day meeting attracted 120 attendees.

Hosted a Cornell Cooperative Extension hemp workshop.



— photo by Christopher Crosby Morris  
HD Villenova (left) and HD Hamilton

# COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

## Comedy for a Cause

In March, we attracted around 140 people to laugh along with us and Plattsburgh comedy group, Completely Stranded, and helped us to raise \$1,028 for the United Way of the Adirondack Region. This was the third year we hosted a Comedy for a Cause event and it was so much fun.



## Strides for James

In May, the Institute once again hosted the *Strides for James* charity run, a 5K/10K/fun run that raises funds for the James Wilson Memorial Scholarship at Clinton Community College. More than 200 runners and about 300 total people attended this event at the Institute. Five scholarships were given out to students currently attending or soon-to-be attending Clinton Community College.



## Corporate Kickball Challenge

In September, Miner Institute suited up for the fourth annual ETS Corporate Kickball Challenge. Our team, *The Miner Threat*, participated in the tournament which raised \$3000 — \$1000 went to United Way of the Adirondack Region; \$1000 went to Elmore SPCA; and \$1000 went to Make a Wish Foundation. Miner Threat was narrowly edged out by The Plattco Hessian Soldiers, who took first place in the fun division. The Miner Threat is already gearing up for 2020's challenge!



## Bikes for foster children

In December, our staff put together four bicycles that were donated to foster children in Clinton County. It was a great experience for our staff for a great cause. We worked with the United Way of the Adirondack Region to help us place the toys with families in need in time for Christmas. United Way partnered with Clinton County Department of Social Services to identify foster families to donate the bikes to.



# OUTREACH

In 2019, nearly 3,700 people attended an event at Miner Institute or visited the Heritage Exhibit.

We sent out 11 press releases which resulted in 14 news stories, including a story on North Country Public Radio, an interview on Hometown Cable, a standalone photo in the *Press Republican*, and a story on News Channel 5.

We helped to represent agriculture on the Adirondack Coast at the annual Farm Bureau Taste NY event in Albany and participated in several career fairs for local high school and middle school students. We also collaborated with The Alice T. Miner Museum for a Beat the Boredom winter break program for school-age kids, the United Way of the Adirondack Region's Annual Day of Caring event in April, and a Day on the Farm with Alice celebration in honor of Alice Miner's birthday in September.

Additionally, our annual Farm Days for Fifth Graders program was held in June and we held a series of high school chemistry labs with students from Chazy Central Rural School and Peru High School.



## Promoting Agriculture at Day on the Farm



Miner Institute staff participated in the Clinton County Farm Bureau's annual Day on the Farm event at Giroux Family Farms in August. Miner Institute staff partnered with Nutrition Consultant David Burnham to teach visitors about the variety of feeds that are fed to dairy cows. Many people were surprised to learn about the by-products such as almond hulls, bakery waste, and cotton seed that dairy cows eat. Visitors were also able to create their own human version of a total mixed ration (TMR) with a variety of corn and rice cereals.

**Photos above Top to Bottom:** Director of Lab Studies Steve Kramer makes 30-minute mozzarella with participants in the Beat the Boredom program. Volunteers from Miner Institute and The Alice T. Miner Museum cleaned up the Riverview Cemetery as part of the United Way Day of Caring. Summer students Danielle Stephens and Isabel Wohlstatter hold horse skulls used as a teaching tool during Farm Days for Fifth Graders. Students from Peru High School participate in a tank washout lab as part of the high school chemistry program.

# OUTREACH



In September, Miner Institute hosted a public workshop on the management of Flat Rock State Forest and its role in forest health. The workshop was a collaboration between the Institute, North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange, SUNY Plattsburgh, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The focus of the workshop was the response, preparedness, and student research surrounding the July 2018 wildfire that burned more than 500 acres of jack pine forest and became known as the Flat Rock Fire.

The workshop was held over two days and included a panel discussion on firefighter and community response to the fire; an afternoon science symposium that highlighted student research; and a field trip to the wildfire site that focused on firefighting operations and ecological research.

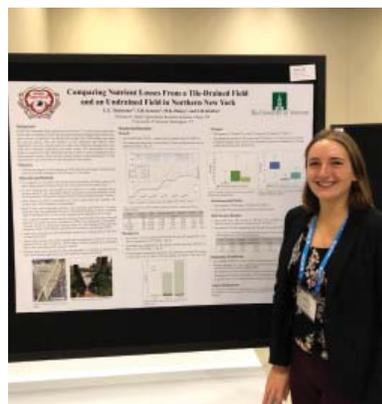


The jack pine forest of Flat Rock is rare in the Northeast. Jack pine is a fire-adapted boreal conifer, and its presence at Flat Rock speaks to the long relationship between people and fire in the area.



## Graduate Student Achievements

Michael Miller was named as one of two recipients of the 2019 Charlie Sniffen Graduate Student Award. Michael is working on a Ph.D. focusing on fiber digestibility, forage utilization, and nutritional modeling. The award was established in 2016 by nutritional ingredient company, Kemin, in honor of Dr. Sniffen's dedication to dairy nutrition research. The \$1000 award honors animal science graduate students at Cornell University and Miner Institute/University of Vermont that exemplify Dr. Sniffen's leadership in conducting and communicating impactful research. Dr. Sniffen led Miner Institute as president for 10 years.



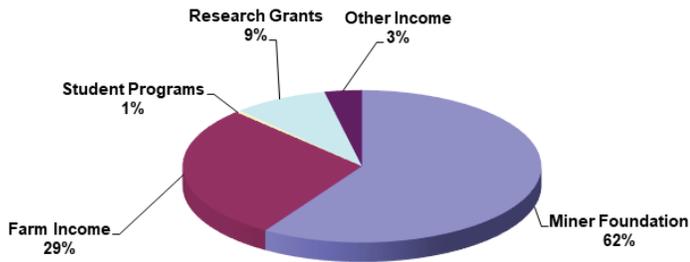
Leanna Thalmann presented a poster on her research at the tri-society meeting (American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America) in San Antonio, TX. The poster evaluated the impacts of tile drainage on field hydrology and edge-of-field nutrient export from fields managed as corn for silage. Leanna's poster earned a first place ranking against 20 other student posters from around the country in the Soil & Water Management & Conservation Division.

# COLLABORATION

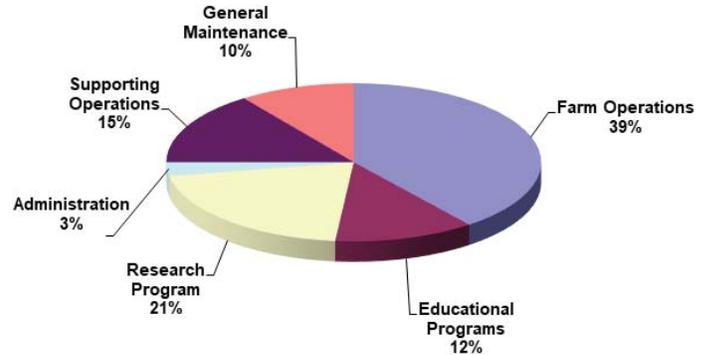
- Adirondack Farms  
Peru, NY
- Ashley Audet  
Cargill
- Dr. Ellen Adams  
The Alice T. Miner Museum
- Greg Albrecht  
NYS Soil & Water  
Conservation Committee
- Dr. Mary Alldred  
SUNY Plattsburgh
- Eileen B. Allen, GISP  
SUNY Plattsburgh
- Marie Audet  
Blue Spruce Farms
- Dr. Dave Barbano  
Cornell University
- Tom Barber  
Crop Production Services
- Dr. Gary Bergstrom  
Cornell University
- Eric Bever  
Champlain Valley Agronomics
- Linda Boccuzzo  
VT Agency of Agriculture,  
Food & Markets
- Mary Breyette  
CCE, Clinton County
- John Brouillette  
Lallemand
- Dave Bush  
Page Seeds
- Dr. Larry Chase  
Cornell University
- Jerry Cherney  
Cornell University
- Clinton County Soil & Water  
Conservation District
- Mike Contessa  
Champlain Valley Agronomics
- Linda Corey  
Corey Equine Dental
- Dr. Felice Cuomo  
Valor Mountain Equine
- Chuck Custeau  
Yankee Farm Credit
- Karl Czymmek  
Cornell Pro Dairy
- Dr. Mike Davis  
Cornell University
- Brett Denny  
Vermont DHIA
- Dimock Farms LLC  
Peru, NY
- Michelle Doorey  
Breathe You
- Dr. Pascal Drouin  
Lallemand
- Dr. Stephen Duren  
Performance Horse Nutrition
- Mark Eddy  
Seedway
- Jerry Emerich  
Premier Select Sires
- Dr. Joshua Faulkner  
University of Vermont
- Lindsay Ferlito  
CCE, Regional Dairy Specialist
- Anita Figueras  
CCE, St. Lawrence County
- Dr. Andrea Formigoni  
University of Bologna
- Claude Fortin  
Mycogen Seeds
- Dr. Dave Franzi  
SUNY Plattsburgh
- Paul Frederick  
Paul Frederick Productions
- Sharron Garden  
Community Member of the  
Miner Institute Animal Care  
and Use Committee
- Dr. Danielle Garneau  
SUNY Plattsburgh
- Dale Gates  
USDA-NRCS
- Larry Geohring  
Cornell University
- Dr. Francis Glenn  
Glenn Seeds
- John Gloss  
Dairy One
- Art Graves  
Mycogen Seeds
- Dr. Stefan Grimberg  
Clarkson University
- Dr. Russ Hahn  
Cornell University
- Tamara Healy  
Classic Carriage Service
- Hidden View Farm  
Champlain, NY
- Mike Hunter  
CCE, Jefferson & Lewis  
counties
- Hutchins Family Farm  
Malone, NY
- John Jacobs  
Premier Select Sires
- Dr. Dan Jaynes  
USDA-ARS
- Brian Jerose  
WASTE NOT Resource  
Solutions
- Doug Johnstone  
VT Agency of Agriculture,  
Food & Markets
- Jason Karszes  
Cornell Pro-Dairy
- Dr. Quirine M. Ketterings  
Cornell University
- Tom Kilcer  
Advanced Ag Systems
- Patrick Korths  
SUNY Plattsburgh
- Dr. Peter Krawczel  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville
- Joe Lawrence  
CCE, Lewis County
- Dr. Sam Leadley  
Attica Veterinary Associates
- Sue LeBlanc-Durocher  
My Cup of Tea
- Dr. Mark Lesser  
SUNY Plattsburgh
- Steve Mahoney  
River Bend Ag &  
Environmental Services
- Dr. Jane Manfredi  
Michigan State University  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Minnesota
- Dr. David Mertens  
Mertens Innovation
- Joe Monroe  
Nutrena/ Progressive Feeds
- Dr. Steve Mooney  
Morrisville State College
- Jeff Morse  
Green Meads Farm
- Howard Newton  
Key R-D Trailer Sales
- Dr. Andrew Novakovic  
Cornell University
- Akihiro Obata  
Zen-Noh
- Dr. Kitty O'Neil  
CCE North Country Regional  
Ag Team
- Kelsey O'Shea  
CCE North Country Regional  
Ag Team
- Dr. Tom Overton  
Cornell University
- Dr. George Palmer  
Palmer Veterinary Clinic  
Veterinary member of Miner  
Institute's Animal Care & Use  
Committee
- Dr. Katy Proudfoot  
The Ohio State University
- Barry Putnam  
Farm Credit East
- Dr. Shane Rogers  
Clarkson University
- Dr. Ed Romanowicz  
SUNY Plattsburgh
- Jon Rooney  
Monument Dairy
- Dr. Don Ross  
University of Vermont
- Rusty Creek Farm LLC  
Chazy, NY
- Dr. Nichol Schultz  
University of Minnesota
- Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith  
NYS Department of  
Agriculture and Markets
- Molly Scoville  
Merck
- Dr. Randy Shaver  
University of Wisconsin,  
Madison
- Elson Shields  
Cornell University
- Dr. Charlie Sniffen  
Fencrest, LLC
- Clarence Swanton  
University of Guelph
- Carol Tetreault  
Adirondack Tack
- Ev Thomas  
Oak Point Agronomics
- Rachel Tomko  
Seedway
- Dr. Mike van Amburgh  
Cornell University
- Dr. Harold Van Es  
Cornell University
- Dr. Philip van Harrevel  
VT Large Animal Clinic,  
Equine Hospital
- Dr. Robert Whitlock  
University of Pennsylvania
- Erik Whittaker  
Poulin Grain

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute  
2019 Revenue



The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute  
2019 Expenditures



## SUPPORT

- Dr. Kenneth Adams
- Adirondack Tack
- AgriMark
- AMTS LLC
- Joan Burke
- Maura Burke Weiner and family
- Collen Burke Rein and family
- Nancy Caisse  
Townshend Farm
- Corning Life Sciences
- Doug and Adrienne Gable
- Leatherstocking Morgans
- Lallemand Animal Nutrition
- Microflex Corporation
- Glenice E. Morris
- Celine Paquette
- RUM&N SAS
- Thermo Spectronic
- Patricia Waring
- Zen-Noh

## RETIREMENT WELL WISHES

Brian Bechard and Steve Fessette both began working at Miner Institute in 1982 and both decided that 2019 was the right time to retire. Brian spent a few years working in the dairy barn, before moving into the maintenance department as a custodian. Steve spent 37 years in the maintenance department, becoming the Director of Physical Plant in 1998. Brian retired in September; Steve in December. We wish them both the very best!



Brian Bechard



Steve Fessette

# CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

**Alexandra Banks**



Alexandra graduated from the University of Maine with an Animal and Veterinary Science degree in 2018. She came to Miner as a Summer Experience in Farm Management student and stayed on as the yearlong dairy intern. Alexandra now works as a herds person on a small 150-cow dairy farm in Maine. The farm is a fourth generation farm that hopes to expand.

**Charlotte Cilio**



Charlotte was the yearlong equine intern at Miner from September 2018 to September 2019. She has a Bachelors degree in animal and food science and a Bachelors in agriculture and natural resources with a minor in equine science from the University of Delaware. She works as a breeding barn assistant at Wild Turkey Farm in Wilsonville, OR, just south of Portland.

**Casey Corrigan, MS**



Casey graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and environmental science. He went on to earn a Masters from Clarkson University through a graduate assistantship at Miner. His masters in environmental engineering researched hydrology and nutrient and bacterial mobilization from surface runoff and tile drainage on agricultural fields. He now works as an assistant engineer at Kathleen Suozzo, P.E., PLLC in Bolton Landing, NY.

**Wyatt Smith, MS**



Wyatt graduated from the University of Minnesota with an animal science degree in 2016. He came to Miner for a graduate assistantship and completed his masters degree in animal nutrition, with a focus on fiber digestibility from the University of Vermont in early 2019. Wyatt has returned to the midwest and works as a dairy specialist for Vita Plus in southeast Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

# HEART'S DELIGHT FARM HERITAGE EXHIBIT



We had another successful Heart's Delight Farm Heritage Exhibit season in 2019.

Events such as Strides for James in May, Farm Days for Fifth Graders and the Sisterhood Empowerment Retreat in June, and our collaborative event with The Alice T. Miner Museum celebrating Alice Miner's birthday in September brought hundreds of visitors to the exhibit.

Additionally, we participated in Museum Days in June with numerous other participating museums in Clinton County; hosted Adirondack Architectural Heritage for a group tour; toured a group of 4H students from Vermont; and toured several groups from Champlain Valley Educational Services.

We look forward to another great Heart's Delight Farm Heritage Exhibit season in 2020 which will showcase a new exhibit on farm equipment in the back room of the main exhibit building.



The Heart's Delight Farm Heritage Exhibit is open to the public weekdays from May through October. The gardens and Wayside Walk are open year-round. We welcome the public, groups, schools and clubs to visit us to learn more about William and Alice Miner and their contributions to the North Country.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES & OFFICERS

## TRUSTEES

Richard Eakins  
Owner, NORCO Farms

Steven G. Frederick  
Vice President for Development &  
Alumni Relations  
Paul Smiths College

Roderic G. Giltz  
Chairman/CFO,  
Northern Insuring Agency  
Chair Miner Institute

Rocklyn Giroux  
Retired Dairy Farmer

Tony LaPierre  
Owner, Rusty Creek Farm

Bernard Leerkes, Jr.  
Co-owner, Leerkes Dairy Farm

Brendan P. Owens, Esq.  
Attorney at Law  
Stafford, Piller, Murnane, Kelleher &  
Trombley PLLC

Frederick Woodward, Ph.D.  
Retired Chief  
Collegiate Administrator

Geoffrey Yates  
Retired Senior Vice President/  
Chief Strategy Officer  
Yankee Farm Credit

Janet Duprey  
Retired State Assemblywoman

## OFFICERS

Richard J. Grant, Ph.D.  
President

Rachel Dutil  
Secretary

Kirk E. Beattie  
Vice President,  
Administration & Finance

## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tom Overton, Ph.D.  
Professor; Director, PRO-DAIRY;  
Associate Director,  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Interim chair, Department of Animal  
Science, Cornell University

William L. Owens  
Retired U.S. Congressman  
NY 23rd District

John Fairchild  
Educator  
Westport Central Rural School

Kristy Kennedy  
VP of Marketing/Director of Tourism  
North Country Chamber of Commerce

Matthew Bull  
Nutrition Consultant  
Holtz Nelson Dairy Consultants

Mark McCullough  
Environmental, Health, and  
Safety Engineer



**Front Row (L-R):** Roderic Giltz, Dr. Frederick Woodward, Rocklyn Giroux,  
Geoffrey Yates, and Richard Eakins.

**Back Row (L-R):** Dr. Rick Grant, Kirk Beattie, Janet Duprey, Tony LaPierre, and  
Bernard Leerkes.

**Absent:** Brendan Owens and Steven Frederick

## A Note of Thanks

Dr. Ann Willey joined the Miner Institute board as a member in 1987 and became a trustee in 1989. She stepped down from the board in December 2019 after 30 years of dedicated service as a Trustee.

# EMPLOYEES & YEARS OF SERVICE

## FACULTY/RESEARCH

Katie Ballard, M.S.	32
Amy Bedard, M.L.S.	13
Maggie Carter	23
Heather Dann, Ph.D.	15
Jeffrey Darrah	17
Wanda Emerich, M.Ext.Ed.	32
Heather Gauthier	19
Jered Green	3
Stephanie Green	1
Mark Haney	1
Laura Klaiber, M.S.	11
Lisa Klaiber	11
Katrina Klobucher	<1
Stephen Kramer, M.S.	25
Michael Miller, M.S.	2
Sarah Morrison, Ph.D.	1
Sheila Mousseau	7
Robert Navaroli	<1
Ashton Nelson	<1
Alexander Pape, M.S.	2

## ADMINISTRATION

Kirk Beattie	19
Rachel Dutil	10
Rick Grant, Ph.D.	16
Laurie Miller	36

## AGRICULTURE

Shawn Bechard	14
Makenna Bell	<1
Bethann Buskey	16
Shaun Castine	10
William Cole	<1
Steve Couture	14
John Dennis	<1
Carl Duprey	3
Joshua Duprey	<1
Kristup Kalvaitis	12
Leonard King	1
Jodie LaBombard	<1
Ralph LaBombard	15
Conner LaPierre	<1
Bryant Meseck	1
Henry Meseck	35
Lee Provost, Jr.	<1
Alexis Seymour	<1
Dave Sweeney	1
Kevin Tobey, DVM	<1

## EQUINE

Karen Bonhomme	2
Karen Lassell	24

## PHYSICAL PLANT

Jared Ashline	12
Daniel Belrose	17
David Boulerice	31
Mark Gonyo	19
Adam LaCount	10
Michael Lemza	<1
Gary Morrison	<1

## FOOD SERVICE / HOUSEKEEPING

Tammy Allen	11
Hope LaForest	21
Michelle Wright	7

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

Katherine Smith  
Leanna Thalmann

## INTERNS

ShyAnne Koehler, Equine  
Kristen Gallagher, Research  
Cari Reynolds, Research



# The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute



Education



Research



Demonstration

**1034 Miner Farm Road**

**P. O. Box 90**

**Chazy, NY 12921**

**518-846-7121**

**[www.whminer.org](http://www.whminer.org)**

