



SCHECHTER

ignite. educate. empower.

Jessica Wittenstein (SSDS '14):

Schechter alumna Jessica Wittenstein (SSDS '14) is pursuing a graduate degree in Animal Assisted Reproductive Technology at Colorado State University (CSU), with the goal of working with the reproduction of endangered species.

In her master's program, Jessica conducts in vitro fertilization rounds of bovine embryos with a focus in animal and human reproductive biology, physiology, and health. "Simply put, I make cow petri dish babies," Jessica said. "With the knowledge I have acquired, I can apply it towards sustainable agriculture or conservation biology to help endangered species."

Jessica said her favorite part of the program is working with gametes and embryos in lab, because it has opened her eyes to the different avenues of research involved within reproductive sciences. After classes, she works in a lab studying maternal recognition of pregnancy in sheep.

Jessica first became interested in animal reproduction when she was involved in the 4H youth development organization. That interest led her to major in Animal Science and Conservation Biology at the University of Maryland.

Jessica noted that her Schechter education had a huge impact on how she asks questions, troubleshoots, and respects animals. "The use of animals in research is essential to the progression of medicine, however my Schechter education taught me how important respect is while working with animals," she said. "Respect for animals is an ongoing theme in the Torah, and I apply these teachings while working with research livestock."

"Schechter also taught me how to evaluate an idea or issue from multiple angles and perspectives," she added. "This is a valuable skill to have in science and especially in a new field like Animal Assisted Reproductive Technology."

In her free time, Jessica loves taking advantage of the Colorado sunshine as she explores the outdoors. She enjoys hiking, swimming, and reading. Jessica still considers many Schechter alumni from the class of 2014 her closest friends, including Liam Lynch, Barak Farhi, and Maya Zadik. "Schechter is a very warm and strong community, and I will always be grateful to be a part of this community," she said.

Jessica's brother, Ben (SSDS '09), attended Indiana University and works as a producer at Watch Stadium Network, a streaming service for sports news and information. Jessica's sibling, Ren (SSDS '12), attended Indiana University and is a substitute teacher at the Sager School.

