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Do you have an article, story idea or photo from a horse event you'd like to submit? Please email it to [vcrowe@rams.colostate.edu](mailto:vcrowe@rams.colostate.edu)

Our goal is to strengthen relationships between faculty, staff, and industry professionals by providing CSU Equine Sciences students a collection of information pertaining to the industry and undergraduate

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## Dolce Holistic Horsemanship

By Jordyn DeCarlo

**D**olce Holistic Horsemanship is owned and operated by Braxton Dolce, a certified trainer and instructor through Anna Twinney's Reach Out To Horses program. Braxton worked with Anna for twenty years before he went on to have his own training facility in Kerrville, TX. Braxton's stallions and one of his geldings. When we arrived at Dr. Aldridge's practice I was able to watch up close how he mechanically floated the teeth and what issues each horse had. Both Lightening and Snap had very bad hooks on their teeth which caused large sores in their mouths. Dr. Aldridge was able to point the sores out to me and let me feel the hooks that caused them. He discussed a schedule for Lightening and Snap to be on for teeth floating based on the tooth ware and how to look for hooks when they are not sedated.

Throughout my training internship with Dolce Holistic Horsemanship I learned much more than techniques for training horses. Braxton is full of knowledge and he gave me every chance to learn something new which included doctoring horses, checking tack, giving lessons, working with stallions, and running a business in the equine industry. He was open to new ideas and encouraging when I was put into new situations.

When I arrived in Texas we went straight to work cleaning stalls and moving horses, and I began to learn how to handle and start stallions. One day I had the opportunity to watch a teeth floating for one of

*(story continued on page 2...)*



Photo by Michelle Kirby

## INTERNSHIP

*(Dolce Holistic Horsemanship continued from page 1)*



Photo by Jordyn DeCarlo

Braxton then explained to me that if he is working with horses that have behavioral problems when riding the first thing he does is check their teeth to see if the bit or halter is causing pain. I found this to be very useful information to have when working with horses in order to quickly distinguish a behavioral problem opposed to a horse in pain.

After I spent two weeks on the Dolce farm, I traveled back to Colorado with Braxton to work with some of

his clientele. The first horse I was introduced to was Obie, a large Percheron who had harsh trainers in the past that put excessive pressure on him and caused him to rear. We assessed Obie by ground driving him and established his pressure limit. I then rode him bareback to see if there were any other issues that arose when a rider was added. We found that Obie was very willing to work but had many holes in his training and needed a consistent rider. I developed a schedule for his owner and recommended some exercises to do to improve forward motion such as incorporating ground driving and obstacles to adjust him to leg pressure. Currently, Obie is still my client and is becoming an amazing trail horse for his owner, Jaycee.

By the end of my month-long internship with Dolce Holistic Horsemanship, I learned many things I will use for the rest of my career in the equine industry. I feel grateful for the multiple hands-on opportunities Braxton allowed and the confidence he gave me to teach others. What I think is unique about his business is he truly focuses on the best interest of the horse and listens to what the horse is telling him through body language and energy. I plan on returning to Texas this summer to continue working with this fantastic horseman.

## CLUB CORNER



## Collegiate Horsemen's Assoc.

By Taylor Randall

**C**HA rounded out this semester with a roping clinic and a Halloween pumpkin carving party! Our last meeting of the semester is on Monday December 1 @ 6:30pm. We will be having a holiday potluck, so be sure to stop by for food and good company! It is never too late to get involved with this club -- please feel free to contact us for more information and join us at any of our meetings, this semester or next. Email: [colostateCHA@gmail.com](mailto:colostateCHA@gmail.com).

Photo by Emma Sparrow



# Extreme Mustang Makeover

By Charlotte Selke



**T**his summer I was fortunate to train a mustang for the Extreme Mustang Makeover (EMM). The EMM is a rapidly growing program in which trainers pick up a randomly assigned wild horse and then have approximately 100 days to train them to compete in a reining/trail/showmanship competition. It is definitely extreme. These horses have never been touched by people aside from their intake when they were put in a chute, vaccinated, freeze-branded, and gelded if they are male. At the end of the competition the horses are adopted at a public auction. The purpose of the event is to increase adoption of mustangs and showcase their versatility.

I picked up my mustang, Roulette, from the BLM holding facility in Canon City, CO. He was a five-year-old gelding who was captured in Nevada when he was two. During our first few days together, he was

terrified of me. He did not want to be touched, and was protective of himself to the point of aggression. At that point I was honestly thinking, “*What did I get myself into?*” I am so glad I didn’t give up then. About a month later I was riding him. During the time I had him he never threw a single buck with me on his back. It was truly amazing how quickly he became a calm, confident horse and a pleasure to ride. Unfortunately, our facility was quarantined with Vesicular Stomatitis during the competition so we were unable to compete. However, Roulette was adopted immediately after the quarantine was lifted and is now happily living at his new home.

This competition was the most intense learning experience I have ever had. The principal lessons I learned were patience and confidence. Mustangs are hypersensitive to your emotions because their lives have depended on that in the past. This means that if you’re frustrated, they know, if you’re scared, they know, and if you’re planning something, they know the second it crosses your mind. This quickly taught me that if you are having a bad day, you shouldn’t work your horse until you figure that out. I also learned that if you’re scared, you need to get over it quickly or you will end up causing what you are so afraid of to actually happen. Essentially I learned how to be aware and in-control of my emotions, a lesson that helps me in every aspect of my life. I am so grateful for this life-changing experience and I hope to continue working with mustangs in the future.

## CLUB CORNER

### Polo Club

By Janalee Thompson



**T**he Colorado State Polo Club has had a very busy semester! We hosted a very successful alumni tournament in October and our men's and women's teams have won games against University of Kentucky, Roger Williams University, and Oklahoma State University. Additionally, both teams have been playing at other universities to qualify for the regional tournament in the Spring. The CSU Polo Club has also created a traveling JV team which will begin playing competitively next semester. Our Spring schedule will be posted on our website and Facebook soon! Be sure to like CSU Polo on Facebook and check out <http://equinescience.agsci.colostate.edu/csu-polo-club/>

## Lazy E Ranch

By Emily Dickson

“Are we there yet?” After a ten-hour drive through the middle of the desert, Rebecca Mullen, Stephanie Ball, Kayla Gillespie, and I had no idea what we had gotten ourselves into. When we were asked to work for the Lazy E Ranch at the Ruidoso Select Yearling Sale in New Mexico, we all jumped at the opportunity without having too much information. We had no idea that it would turn out to be an eye opening adventure and amazing experience.

After arriving in Ruidoso at 11 pm and being told that we needed to be in the lobby of the hotel at 3:00 am the next morning, we were definitely fish out of water. Luckily, the Lazy E sales staff were very welcoming and showed us the way, both literally and figuratively. The ranch brought about 150 to 200 yearlings to the Ruidoso sale which kept us very busy! Our duties included cleaning stalls, feeding and watering, grooming, walking horses, preparing horses for the sale preview and sale, and showing horses to interested buyers. We learned how to properly “show” a horse and were given practical tools to work with young, rambunctious horses. Although the workdays were long and tiring, the experience that we gained was well worth it!

The ranch had us back in September to work at the Heritage Place Quarter Horse Yearling Sale in Oklahoma City, where they brought another 200 horses to sell. Since this was not our first rodeo, we had a better idea of what we were supposed to be doing. We were given more responsibilities at this sale and were able to work with many of the same people we met in

New Mexico while being fully emerged in the Heritage Place sales environment.

Our experience working for the Lazy E Ranch this semester was very rewarding and educational. Being involved in horse sales of such magnitude with a ranch as large and famous as Lazy E, is quite the adrenaline-rush. We were able to learn more about the equine industry as a whole, while making incredible new friends and contacts and traveling throughout the Southwest. We are all very grateful for this opportunity and are counting down the days to the next sale!



## SAVE THE DATE

For those of you staying in Fort Collins over winter break and looking for some fun it's the perfect time to check out the National Western Stock Show in Denver running from January 8-25. Many Equine and Animal Science students are involved in the program so make some new friends and learn something new! Find the schedule of events at: [nationalwestern.com](http://nationalwestern.com)

NATIONAL  
WESTERN<sup>®</sup>  
*Stock Show*



# Horsemanship Quiz Challenge

By Rachel Pekala

The Horsemanship Quiz Challenge (HQC) is a program offered by the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) with the goal of expanding and rewarding members' horsemanship knowledge. The HQC opens on December 1st and closes April 1st, and any USHJA members who have not reached their 21st birthday by that date may participate.

In order to qualify for HQC finals, a participant must pass the Level One Quiz with a 90% score or higher in order to advance to the Level Two Quiz. The participant must then pass the Level Two Quiz with a 90% score or higher, and their score must either: a) be one of the top three scores in their zone or b) be one of the top 10 national scores that did not qualify for the top three in their zones.

The HQC finals are hosted in November and have traditionally been held at the University of Findlay

however, the 2015 finals location has not yet been announced. The HQC finals give participants the chance to experience clinics and seminars along with competing in a written multiple-choice test and a graded hands-on practicum. The individual and the zone team with the highest combined scores are awarded a Charles Owen helmet and a \$1,000 grant for horsemanship or riding training and education.

As a member of the winning 2013 team at HQC finals, and a current ambassador for the program, I would highly encourage every CSU student who wants to expand their horsemanship knowledge to participate in the program. The clinics at HQC finals are really one-of-a-kind, and the opportunities to meet industry professionals as well as equestrian peers from other parts of the country are priceless. Information on the program can be found at: [www.ushja.org/programs/youth/HQC\\_home.aspx](http://www.ushja.org/programs/youth/HQC_home.aspx)

## Horse Judging Results

By Kathryn Fleischman

The Equine Science program at CSU is top notch within the university for providing its students with the most variety of sports and clubs that cater to all paths of interest, but little have seen as much success or been recognized as frequently as the Horse Judging Team. Coached by Dr. David Denniston, it is a program that not only seeks to produce a successful team in intercollegiate competitions, but also to teach its members to be educated, eloquent and highly motivated future leaders within the horse industry. It is a pivotal example of what being involved can do to enrich someone's college experience, and in doing so, fosters some incredible talent.

This year was no exception to the legacy. Team members of the Quarter Horse team Magdalena Arbes, Dyllan Freeburg, Emily Carpenter, Ashley Reisenauer and Becca Tierce brought home a Reserve Champion title from the All American Quarter Horse Congress in

Dayton, Ohio and took seventh at the American Quarter Horse Worlds Competition held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with several individual titles to boast. The Arabian team, coached by graduate student Kristen Wheeler brought home yet another National Champion title from the Arabian National Judging Contest hosted in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It is the fourth year in a row that CSU has brought home the national title from the competition, and the third year they have laid claim to the High Individual. The Arabian Team consists of team members Nicole Jones, Emily Hartman, Camille Glazer, Dana Ratcliffe, Abby Tillinghast and Katie Baker.

It was a fantastic finish to an immensely successful year of judging for CSU, in which all teams worked incredibly hard for in the months leading up to their prospective competitions.



# AQHA International Horsemanship Camps

By Ian Kersch

This past summer CSU Equine Science students Kristen Wheeler, Kate Baldwin, and Ian Kersch were provided the opportunity to travel to Europe for the AQHA International Horsemanship Clinics. Clinics were hosted in Denmark, Germany, and Amsterdam where students along with faculty members, John Snyder and Dr. David Denniston, were able to share their knowledge and experience about horses.

We attended four clinics which ran over the course of three weeks. Our group was put together in order to highlight different strengths and skill-sets, which allowed the clinics to offer direction and input to riders of all different abilities and interests. Furthermore, we were able to compliment fellow clinicians and personal attention and interest became fundamental for each program. The environment created at these clinics focused on building personal relationships and genuine interest was shown for each rider's progress.

While it was very exciting for the Colorado State team to share their knowledge of stock horses it was likewise interesting to learn about the social and cultural norms surrounding each country and region. We discovered the different areas of interest from other par-



Photo by German Quarter Horse Association

ticipants with- in western riding culture and practices. It truly provided perspective into western heritage and the horse industry within the states.

In closing, a special thanks goes to the clinic participants and coordinators for their hospitality and eager attitudes, as well as the CSU clinicians (both students and faculty) who made the program possible and provided exceptional quality of work.



**“Think of the horse as your partner....and it’s all one great dance.**

**That’s not to say it’s always going to be easy or you won’t have to work through issues.**

**But when a horse is troubled or uncomfortable in our world, rather than show contempt for him, you must demonstrate empathy and work to convince him that you mean him no harm.**

**You have some things that you’d like him to do ‘with you’, as opposed to ‘for you’- and the best way to do that is as partners.” – Buck Brannaman**

Erin and Merrylegs

Photo by Amanda Woods