

CSU Equine Connection

Equine Science Students Connecting with Equine Enthusiasts

Volume 3, Issue 2

In this Issue:

Memorial	Page 1
Internship	Page 2
M.A.R.E Program	Page 2
Alumni Highlight	Page 3
Club Corner	Page 3
Meet Your Teacher	Page 4
Classifieds	Page 4
Judging Teams	Page 5
Industry News	Page 6
Editor's Note	Page 6

Newsletter Committee

Writers: Emily Dickson
Kathryn Fleischman
Brittany Johnson
Mary Misgen
Erin Pettigrew
Katlin Pittman
Ashley Reisenauer
Chanel Schvaneveldt
Amanda Summers
Emily Wolf

Goal: To strengthen relationships between faculty, staff, and industry professionals by providing CSU Equine Science students with a collection of information pertaining to the industry and undergraduate program.

In Memory of Amelia Sundblad

By Chanel Schvaneveldt and Amanda Summers



Photo taken by: Sam Bietsch

On October 23, 2013, we lost one of our own Equine Science students. Freshman Amelia Sundblad was heavily involved in the Equine Science Program as she was a member of the CSU Rodeo Club,

Polo Club and a mentee in the MARE program. Amelia was an inspirational role model to the CSU Rodeo Club. She would go above and beyond to help someone out, this was especially noticed at rodeo practices whether she was helping to run roping chutes or supporting and uplifting other members with her cheerful attitude and positivity. A few weeks ago the CSU Rodeo Club put on the first annual Amelia Sundblad Memorial Barrel Race Jackpot in tribute of her. It was a huge turnout with over 90 entries and a successful event as all the competitors rode for Amelia. Today, the CSU Rodeo team "rides for Amelia". She touched the lives of so many with her bright smile, caring heart and helping hand. Amelia left us with many memories to smile about and will forever be in our hearts.

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Darling 888 Ranch

By Mary Misgen

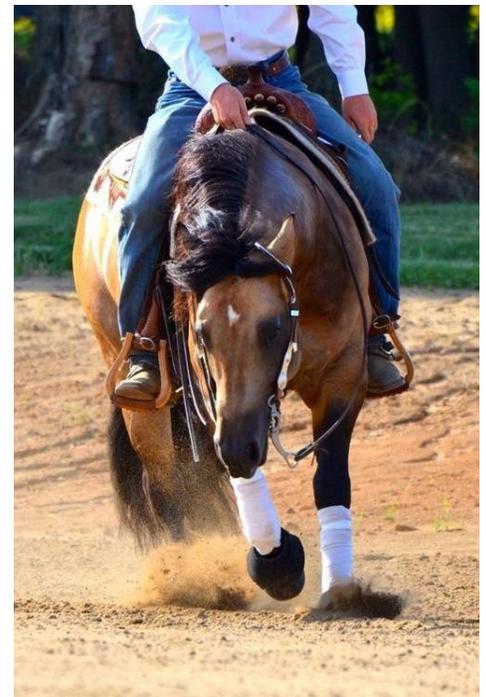


We've all admired the power and ability of a reining horse as it goes from a dead run to a sliding stop or as it spins at a dizzying pace. Over the summer of 2013 I spent three months in Princeton, Kentucky completing my internship at Darling 888 Ranch. The ranch strives to establish a reputation for producing top quality horses that are capable of winning NRHA (National Reining Horse Association) futurities and derbies as well as having lasting longevity in the show pen through their career of awards, prizes and points. The ranch was built in 2007 and sits on 240 gently rolling acres. The current owners, Rick and Cheri Darling, purchased the ranch in 2010 and have done a lot of work since. The grounds are dedicated to the training barn, stallion barn, foaling barn and mare motel. The training

barn, where I spent almost all my time, consists of 60 heated 12' x 12' stalls that were always full to capacity with client and ranch-owned horses. The ranch also boasts a 200' x 300' lighted outdoor track and 120' x 220' lighted indoor arena. They have an automatic hot walker and two round pens one is 100' and the other 60'.

This internship was a truly amazing experience. I came in not having any previous reining experience and learned an extraordinary amount every moment I spent there. On a daily basis we would work 45+ horses between the three main trainers (Gabe Hutchins, Andrew Fox and Kole Price) and horses assigned to the interns and other barn workers. As an intern I would groom, saddle and bathe the horses. I would also warm-up horses for the trainers and ride my own assigned horses for the day and week. I also helped in yearling preparation for sale, halter breaking and leading of foals, plus various tasks with the vet. I traveled to a number of shows with the ranch such as the Clayton Woosley Hall of Fame Reining Show at Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. The amazing horses I rode and trained, along with the unique and tal-

ented individuals I met are people I will never forget and experiences that will last me a lifetime. If you are interested in completing an internship at the ranch or would like to know more, visit their website at darling888ranch.com, their facebook page, or feel free to contact me, Mary Misgen, at mmisgen@rams.colostate.edu.



M.A.R.E

By Amanda Summers

The MARE Program has hit the ground running with great review sessions being held every other week where students are able to study for all of their classes in a group setting, which has been especially helpful in the time leading up to finals. The program has also been participating in events such as the Ranch Horse Versatility Contest, the

student coordinated horse show and gymkhana, and the Amelia Sundblad Tribute Barrel Race. Even though other activities were postponed due to all of the events occurring in the Equine Sciences Program throughout the semester, the program has many plans for the spring semester including a tour of Hearts and Horses, a therapeutic riding

center in Loveland, and another industry-related tour with the location being chosen by the current MARE Program mentees.

If you are interested in joining the MARE Program for the spring semester, please send an email to mareprogram@gmail.com to receive an application!

Carly Little – CSU 2013 Alumni

By Emily Dickson



After receiving riding lessons for her thirteenth birthday, Carly Little's childhood fascination with horses turned into her lifelong passion. A graduate of the class of 2013, Carly Little took full advantage of the opportunities available within the CSU Equine Sciences program. In her time at CSU, Carly was busy studying Equine Sciences and Agricultural Economics. Carly was heavily

involved with the Legends of Ranching Sale, as she took the Horse Training and Sales Preparation class as a junior and then served as a teaching assistant in her senior year. Carly says that the Horse Training class was her favorite part of her college years, and probably what she misses the most. The sale gave Carly the chance to meet lots of people and new friends, and ultimately opened up the door for her to work for Bill and Carole Smith in Thermopolis, Wyoming. After graduating, Carly worked for the Smiths for four months, assisting with fitting horses for the WYO Quarter Horse Sale in September. Carly helped plan the sale by putting together the sale catalog and pedigrees, while riding five to seven horses a day!

After the WYO sale, Carly secured a job as the foaling manager at Bartlett Ranch in La Grange, Wyoming. Carly's daily routine includes taking care of

42 two-year olds, 113 mares, and 60 weanlings. She feeds, counts, and gives veterinary care to all of these horses, in addition to halter breaking the weanlings. Currently, there are about 80 pregnant mares on site, so the spring is shaping up to be a busy season for Carly!

As far as future plans go, Carly says that she is taking it one step at a time. She loves working for Dr. Bartlett and is happy to see where life takes her! When asked if she had any words of wisdom for current students Carly said, "They tell us all in school how important networking is, but it really is! I am where I am today because of networking. And don't be afraid to pursue what you want to do because you never know where it will lead."

Club Corner

Collegiate Horsemen's Association:

CHA is wrapping up 2013 and preparing for some big events next semester. Our annual Spring Fling Hunter Jumper Schooling Show is coming up on March 8, so mark your calendars and tell your friends! Some of our members will also be headed to Aiken, South Carolina March 26-29th for the ACHA National Convention, which includes tours of world-class show barns, social events, networking with industry professionals, and more. We are looking forward to the next semester, and if you are interested in joining, come to our first meeting of the spring on Monday, January 27th at 6:30pm! We plan to have a mounted shooting demonstration at our first meeting, so don't miss it! Other meetings planned include a trip to the Stockton's farm for a driving demonstration and a visit from a veterinary student to talk about surviving veterinary school. (By Taylor Randall)

Rodeo Club:

The Rodeo Club lost a very important teammate this month. Amelia was a great member of the club and a friend to us all. We held the very successful 1st annual Amelia Sundblad Memorial Barrel Race in honor of our dear friend. In addition to our barrel race, the club put on a Gymkhana for the public. We had a great time with the families that joined us for our event and we are excited to put on more in the future. The club is eager to help the kids in the area learn more about the sport of rodeo. (By Tanner Isaacs: Rodeo Club President)

Meet Your Teacher: Sarah Matlock

By Erin Pettigrew



What is your favorite class to teach? I LOVE working with ANEQ 102 students. It has been my favorite class to teach because I get a chance to meet all of the new incoming equine science students. I believe this is one of the most important classes in our program because it serves as a foundation for every other class and provides exposure to all aspects of the industry. Also, the students' personal experiences in this class can set the standard for the rest of their college career. As far as a specific topic, I love teaching nutrition. It is important for me to inspire a passion for nutrition because of its effects on health and wellness for all species.

What discipline/activity in the equine industry would you most like to try? I would like to try ranch sorting. I have done a little bit of team penning in the past, but have always wanted to try sorting. Recently, I watched a student's presentation on trail horse competition and would love to jump into that world. In my younger years, my show

days were in the ring riding hunter-jumper. Having kids slowed my need for speed down quite a bit.

What item could you not live without? I would rather offer what item I wish I COULD live without: my iPhone! I can't stand the dependency these phones have created for folks. I have to admit, I am just as bad with mine. It is my source for everything: information, social connection, relaxation, and play (huge Candy Crush addict). I work with high school students and am planning a research project on the effects of giving up cell phone use for one semester. I believe the results will surprise a lot of students.

Quote to live by: "Be the change you want to see in the world" -Mahatma Gandhi

What advice would you offer Equine Science students? Seize the day! College is a unique opportunity that you only really get once in a lifetime. Take advantage of EVERY opportunity and ENJOY yourself. Do not let stress override your experience - when you look back in 5 years, those things you lost sleep and hair over - just won't matter! In the words of Bill Murray, from Meatballs, "It just doesn't matter, it just doesn't matter....." (See the movie, it's a classic.)

Why did you choose to get into the

Equine Industry? I have loved horses since my first exposure at 9 years old. However, I also have a passion for teaching. I wanted to combine my love for horses with my passion for teaching. I also believe horses can serve as an amazing learning tool in education, even for those that are not in the industry. There is a program in New York where high school students receive science credits through an equine science course. This is innovative thinking that truly inspires a passion for learning through the use of horses! I would like to see more of these types of programs in our public schools.

Who is your role model and why? Trinette Ross was a very important person for me during my undergraduate career. She was the former instructor for ANEQ 102 and I had the opportunity to TA for her. She was also my undergraduate advisor. She truly has a passion for teaching and for the success of her students. She created a learning environment that was open and authentic and is always encouraging those around her. She also has an unmatched work ethic. Beyond that, her faith is evident, and she always practices ultimate humility and grace. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Tarleton State University in their animal science department, living the dream!

Classifieds

- Looking for a new four legged friend? The CSU Polo Club has some wonderful polo horses that are looking for a new home. Have horses that could suite all walks of life. If you are interested, contact Dr. Jason Bruemmer for more information! Phone: (970) 491-8409 jason.bruemmer@colostate.edu
- Areion Tack Trunk by Brittany Johnson & Jose Morales. Contact at (303)518-5124.



Arabian Horse Judging Team – National Champions

By Ashley Reisenauer

The CSU Arabian Horse Judging Team competed at the Arabian Nationals in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the end of October. The team included Emily Carpenter, Dyllan Freeburg, Ashley Reisenauer, Becca Tierce, and Katie Watts and coached by Kristen Wheeler and Justine Dunlap-Truly. For the third year in a row the Arabian Horse Judging team walked away from the contest with a national champion trophy. CSU swept all areas of the competition and these included being the high team in the halter classes, high team in the performance classes, and high team with reasons which resulted in being crowned the 2013 National Champions. During the competition we judged ten total classes ranging from halter, reining, country english pleasure, and even ladies side saddle. In addition to judging we gave oral reasons on four of the ten classes, which is an oral presentation explaining why you placed that class the way you did. Overall, it was a very successful contest and each and every one of us had a blast!



Quarter Horse Judging Team

By Kathryn Fleischman

On that first day at Ram Camp during Freshman Orientation, it's fair to actually think the Orientation Leaders are broken records who are stuck on the same track forever repeating the same line, "Involvement is key, get yourself involved in an activity!" It falls on deaf ears half the time; don't they understand that by the time they've entered college, those eighteen and nineteen

year olds have already learned everything that needs to be learned in life? Involvement is key; the understatement of the century. Without a doubt those first weeks of classes at CSU prove to everyone that college is where the big kids come to play. It's that moment when you're looking at your first biology or chemistry exam and thinking of all the names you'd like to call your professor that start with the letter grade you just received when the realization hits that it's going to take something outside of academics to stand out from the crowd. That not only do you need to expand your education beyond what's being written in text books or on dry erase boards by joining a club, but that you also need a support group to get you through the most trying years of your young adult life.

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 Kallie Emig, Lindsey Galliher, Sadie Stockert, Meghin Kiernin and Amelia King brought home Reserve Champion titles from both major contests: the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Dayton, Ohio and the American Quarter Horse Worlds Competition held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with several individual titles to boast. It was an incredible finish to an immensely successful year of judging for CSU in which all teams brought home either champion or reserve titles from every contest they competed at.



Reserve Champions at The All American Quarter Horse Congress. (From left to right, Assistant coach Kathryn Fleischman, Meghin Kiernan, Amelia King, Sadie Stockert, Kallie Emig, Lindsey Galliher, and coach Dr. David Denniston.)

National Western Stock Show

By Brittany Johnson

For 108 years Denver, Colorado has been home to the National Western Stock Show, an annual event that began as a six day show in 1906. Many changes have taken place at National Western since 1906 when attendance capped at 15,000 and the Grand Champion Steer sold for 33 cents per pound. One hundred years later in 2006 attendance reached a staggering 726,972 people for the 16 day show and the Grand Champion Steer sold for \$75,000 or \$58 per pound.

In 2014 National Western Stock Show will be held from January 11th through January 26th. The National Western Horse Show will consist of seven different breeds and disciplines, numerous special events from an Evening of Dancing Horses, a \$40,000 Grand Prix, Freestyle Reining

and the Classic 6-Horse Hitch Finals. Additionally, the Livestock Show will host over 20 different breeds of cattle, bison, llamas, alpacas, swine, poultry, rabbits, goats, and sheep. National Western Stock Show will also host a Hereford sale, the Mile High Select Quarter Horse and Paint Horse Sale and a Stock Dog Sale to be accompanied by 29 different Rodeos.

Many members of Colorado State Uni-

versity are familiar with National Western Stock Show in one form or another. Whether it be showing horses or other livestock, performing with the Westernaires, as a spectator or even as the highly honored Citizen of the West. Some Colorado State University personnel that have received the prestigious Citizen of the West award in-



clude; the 2013 award winner Dr. John Matsushima, Dr. George Marvin Bee-man (graduate of Colorado State University's Veterinary School), Albert C. Yates, and Brownie and Thurman "Fum" McGraw.

National Western Stock Show provides multiple internships to Colorado State University students, affording them the opportunity to learn about Event Management, Sponsorship, Livestock Show,

Horse Show and Rodeo. These programs provide students invaluable industry connections and the opportunity to increase their experience and participate in an event of this scale.

National Western Stock Show also strives to provide students the opportunity to attend college and graduate school by providing 74 scholarships every year, with 27 of them awarded to Colorado State University students. Twenty of these scholarships are provided to Undergraduate Agriculture Science students, two to Masters in Beef Industry Leadership, two to Masters in Integrated Resource Management and three to Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Science students with an emphasis in Large Animal Practice.

Needless to say, National Western is invested in our education as well as our future leadership in the Agricultural Industry. If you are interested in these internship opportunities visit Career Ram or talk to your advisor about these and more internships offered to Colorado State University students. You can also return National Western's support by participating in their events as a volunteer, intern, or exhibitor.

Photo courtesy of NWSS by Steve Crecelius

A Note from the Editors

Greetings equine enthusiasts! With our first semester just about under our belt, we wanted to check in with you as our readers as to how we are doing. This newsletter is for YOU and we want it to be helpful and something you want to read. If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see added to or changed about our content, please let us know. Also, if you have any equine-related stories, experiences, contacts, etc . . . that you would like to share with other CSU equine enthusiasts, email us with an idea for an article (contact information available at csuess.com) and we would be happy to consider it for a future publication. Next semester we will print in February and in April. We wish you well in finishing out the rest of the semester strong and for a restful and enjoyable winter break. Stay safe and remember to take care of each other, as we are all one big happy College of Ag family.

Best Wishes,

Erin Pettigrew, Emily Wolf, and Katlin Pittman