

## SPECIAL BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE

### A LETTER FROM YOUR EQUINE SCIENCES PROGRAM DIRECTOR

I would like to extend a hearty "Welcome Back" to all of our Equine Sciences students, faculty and staff to the fall 2012 semester here at CSU. I particularly want to welcome our freshman class. We have a near-record number of freshman and transfer students entering the program this fall and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming months.

I am very proud of our Equine Sciences family here at CSU and want each of you to know that the doors are always open at the Equine Sciences Center to assist each of you as you begin your journey to graduation.

I want to also welcome our new Equine Sciences Coordinator for the program, Cassidy Kurtz. Cassidy comes to us from CSU Extension and served as a 4-H program and horse specialist in the Steamboat Springs area. Cassidy is a CSU alumna and received her master's degree at Texas A & M University. Please stop by Cassidy's office in the Equine Center and welcome her. She will be a great asset to the program.

We also want to send best wishes to Trinette Ross who is in the process of completing her Ph.D. this summer. Trinette is relocating to the Fort Worth area and will be married this fall. Best of luck, Trinette! Thanks for all you have done for Equine Sciences. We will miss you greatly! We are in the final stages of a search to find and hire a new instructor who will take on some of Trinette's former teaching duties and other program activities. Thanks to Dr. Bruemmer and his team for conducting that search.

Best wishes to Dr. Karen Hansen, who has taken a new position in CSU Animal

Sciences working with Dr. Pond on special projects. We will miss Karen but know that she is still part of the "team" and will be working to enhance the university experience for both animal and equine science students. Good luck, Karen!

We are fortunate to have made several improvements this summer that I want to share with you. The Adams classroom project is complete with a new look and a complete technology upgrade. A "Big Thanks" to Dr. Dave Denniston for coordinating that effort. Our Equine-Assisted Therapy program has been enhanced with a new state-of-the-art ramp and lift to help our assisted therapy equestrians with mounting and dismounting the program horses. Dr. Sherry Butler has begun the role of Program Coordinator of Equine-Assisted Therapies and will increase her role in the Equine Sciences Program through advising and other activities. Sherry now has an office in the Equine Center if you want to stop in to get more information on our "EAT" program.

We have a new 4-Star six-horse trailer that has just arrived! We will get the Equine Sciences logo placed on it in the next few days and have it ready for use by the time fall semester begins. I want to especially thank the Herbert family from California and Scott Murdock Trailer Sales for their support in making this great trailer available to the program and to our clubs. FYI: Deidre Herbert is a 2010 CSU Equine Sciences program alumnus.

Here are a few dates that you may want to remember this fall:



Come to the Source Horse Sale, Aug. 25  
T Cross Horse Sale, Sept. 1  
WYO Horse Sale, Sept. 8  
"Fall Gather" for Animal/Equine Sciences Alumni, Sept. 21  
Equine Sciences Advisory Committee meeting, Sept. 30 – Oct. 2  
Annual Colorado Horse Council Convention, Oct. 6  
Quarter Horse Congress, Oct. 5-25  
U.S. Arabian Nationals, Oct. 19-27  
AQHA World Show, Nov. 2-17

Many of you will be attending one or more of these events as part of your class studies, internships or on judging teams. Have fun and remember that your experiential education and networking during these special events helps your ability to stay connected with the equine industry and begin your career path.

Again, welcome! Have fun this fall while you are learning, and "GO RAMS".

Jerry Black, DVM

Student Tidbit: "My advice to students when beginning a new semester is to start out as organized as possible and set study goals for each class. Later in the semester when things start to get stressful you will find that you are ahead of the game and that you have some breathing room to take a few weekend-long breaks when you need it." – Lindsey Leatherman, Equine Sciences Steward Alumni

#### Inside this issue...

Letter from a Peer	Page 2
Program Coordinator	Page 2
Summer Trips	Page 2
Summer Trips cont.	Page 3
Working Abroad	Page 4
Calendar	Page 4

## BEGINNING A NEW SCHOOL YEAR – A LETTER FROM A PEER

I always feel a sense of possibility as we look to begin a new school year. Each year holds chances for self and academic improvement, the promise of new adventures, and a slew of new opportunities. Four years of school later, the best advice on how to get the most of your education and college experience all came from our introduction classes during our freshman year.

We were told to get involved with the program and the University. Whether it is participating in a club, a judging team, the Legends of Ranching Sale, or with packing and outfitting- find what you love and take an active hand in it. Outside activities help you not only gain practical experience but they are also a way to network with those who

have similar interests and help develop your professional persona. The program has so many opportunities to get involved, find one and take it!

We were told to appreciate our peers, especially in our equine and agriculture related classes, who have the potential to be lifelong friends both inside and outside of the industry. I have been fortunate enough to get to know a variety of students with different backgrounds and experience. They have taught me about the industry and pushed me to be a better horsewoman, and I have no doubt our friendships will last after graduation. Get to know your class, the people you meet will surprise you and you may end up with the friendship of a lifetime.

Finally, someone once told me to always assume you know nothing and take every opportunity as a learning experience. I have found this to apply to every situation; from the classroom to meeting new students. Having an open mind allows you to retain information and file it away for future use. It allows you to adapt to new methods and styles in professional situations and enables you to capitalize on your education.

As we look forward to the 2012 academic year, I hope you have the chance to get involved, get to know a new group of classmates, and embrace each experience with an open mind and have the year of your life! Go RAMS!

Cailin Caldwell, Equine Sciences Steward

By Michele Kane

*CSU Equine Connection* writer

As students are getting ready to start up classes, the Equine Sciences Department is getting ready to go as well and has added a new team member to the staff, Ms. Cassidy Kurtz, M.S.

As of July, Cassidy has taken on the Coordinator position and although she is new to the position, she is no stranger to the University. She received her Bachelors of Science at CSU with a dual major in both Animal Science and Agricultural Business. Upon graduation she studied at Texas A&M to pursue her M.S. in Animal Science with a concentration in Equine Exercise Physiology.

Cassidy is a Colorado native, having grown up in Steamboat Springs. During her high school and collegiate years she

competed in Rodeo and while at Texas A&M, assisted with the Stock Horse Team.

Cassidy is excited about coming back to CSU and working in this exceptional academic setting. When asked what she is most looking forward to this year, Cassidy stated, "First, I am looking forward to getting to know the students and working with them. It is also going to be great being a part of a University with an excellent Equine Sciences program."

Cassidy enjoys riding cow horses, but had to leave her horses in Steamboat for the time being. However, she does have her mini Australian Shepherd with her in Fort Collins to keep her company. For fun, Cassidy enjoys skiing, fishing and anything that will take her outdoors. She also operates a small

jewelry business in which she designs her own pieces.

When asked what advice she has for the new Equine Sciences students, Cassidy emphasized getting involved and getting to know as many people as you can. Networking is very important, especially in the Equine Industry. She said to not be afraid to try different things; get out of your comfort zone!

Be sure to stop by and say hello to Cassidy when you are at the Equine Sciences Center, or send an email to [cassidy.kurtz@colostate.edu](mailto:cassidy.kurtz@colostate.edu).



### NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Murphy's Law: If the course you wanted most has room for "n" students, you will be the "n+1" to apply. COURTESY [murphyslaws.net](http://murphyslaws.net)

## SUMMER TRIPS

### 2012 RANCH TRAVEL TRIP A SUCCESS

By Lizzie Kanetsky

*CSU Equine Connection* writer

The first ever CSU Ranch Travel Trip provided sixteen Equine Sciences students

with valuable hands-on experiences on several working ranches, breed association, and breeding facilities across Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. The week-long trip, which took place May 14th-20th, began with

a visit to the T-Cross Ranches in Pueblo, Colorado. Students were able to tour the facilities with the T-Cross Ranch head trainer. One highlight of the week took place at the

Singleton Ranch, located just south of



Participating students at T-Cross Ranch.

Santa Fe, New Mexico. There students took part in a branding, and in doing so learned the process and functions behind branding cattle, as well as learned why branding is still an important and useful tool on working ranches today. The week continued with tours of the Silver Spur-Bell Ranch Division, Crofoot Ranches, Burnett Ranches LLC

(6666s), and Circle Bar Ranch. These well-known ranches gave students a unique perspective of working cattle outfits, with each one emphasizing a different factor in the ranching, cattle and equine industries.

In addition to working ranches, students were able to participate in a tour of the AQHA Headquarters, observing the inner workings of the famed breed association and its registration process. Students also toured the AQHA Hall of Fame and museum. In Fort Worth, Texas, students were able to tour the Purina Mill after spending a day in Weatherford, Texas. While in Weatherford, the Oswood Stallion Station, and ESMS on the Brazos, (Equine Sports Medicine and Surgery), gave students an exceptional tour showing them the everyday tasks at a breeding facility, and the hard work required to keep successful stallions and mares at their peak breeding ability.

The first CSU Equine Sciences Ranch Travel Trip was a true success, and provided the participating students with the opportunity to learn more about not only working cattle ranches, but also showed them diversity within the equine industry. In addition to the invaluable hands on experiences, students were able to network and inquire about future job and internship prospects. This trip was not only important to expose students to the equine industry as a whole; it provided the chance for students to socialize more with their own classmates, and peers. Thank you to everyone, from the faculty, students and host facilities, who participated in the first ever Ranch Travel Trip!

#### Newsletter Committee:

Editor: Lindsey Leatherman

Writers: Kate Auchmoody  
Cailin Caldwell  
Michele Kane  
Lizzie Kanetsky  
Lindsey Owen



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

By Cailin Caldwell  
*CSU Equine Connection* writer



From left to right: Cailin Caldwell, Julie McDermott, Emily Dickson, Taylor Englert, Delani Miller and Morgan Klatt (not pictured)

On May 19, 2012 six members of the University's English Riding Club and their advisor, boarded a plane bound for Edinburgh, Scotland to compete in the R(D)SVS International Horse Society Competition. Designed to provide a true test of a rider's abilities, the competition utilizes a unique format with riders competing in both dressage and show jumping portions on a randomly assigned horse. The riders are given five to ten minutes to warm up their

assigned mounts with maximum of three trial jumps before heading into the arena.

Riders compete not only for individual awards, but also for the highly coveted team award between the various universities. The competition draws in competitors from all around Europe, with Colorado State University's team being the only University to represent the United States.

In 2011, Colorado State University sent a highly successful team of four riders who won both the dressage and show jumping portions to capture the overall championship. This year the team was composed of English Riding Club members Delani Miller, Taylor Englert, Julie McDermott, Emily Dickson, Morgan Klatt, and Cailin Caldwell. Advisor, Tiare Santistevan supervised the team in Edinburgh and coached them throughout the competition.

The riders started the day off with the dressage portion, with team highlights from Julie McDermott and Emily Dickson who

placed 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> individually. After a brief break the riders began to tackle a fun jump course, and the CSU riders all emerged with smiles on their faces. Emily Dickson rode a fiery pinto to the 4<sup>th</sup> place individual award, which helped the team secure the seventh place overall team award. Julie McDermott competed on a team that took 6<sup>th</sup> place overall.

Although the competition made for a clear highlight of the trip, the team enjoyed touring around Edinburgh and the Scottish Highlands. From late night haunted underground tours of Edinburgh, to watching steeple chasing in the pouring rain at the Perth race course and galloping on the beach; the team enjoyed their time abroad. They laughed, smiled, and embraced Scottish culture with open arms, and left the country with a few ribbons, new friendships, and the memories of a lifetime.

#### Ways to Annoy People in the Computer Lab:

- Type frantically, often stopping to look at the person next to you evilly.
- Every time you press Return and there is a processing time required, pray "Ohpleaseohpleaseohpleaseohplease," and scream "YES!" when it finishes.
- Put a straw in your mouth and put your hands in your pockets. Type by hitting the keys with the straw.
- Work normally for a while. Suddenly look amazingly startled by something on the screen and crawl underneath the desk.

COURTESY jokesaboutcollege.com

# WORKING ABROAD

By Kelsey Parisi

Equine Sciences Steward Alumni



September of last year, the little voice that says, "You may not have to go to school next fall, but you are going to need a job!" was already ringing in my head. If you had told me then that I would be working on a racing stud in South Australia, I probably would have thought you were crazy.

I have been working at Strangways Falls Stud for Jake Stephens Racing in Victor Harbor, South Australia since June 10th, and it has been absolutely amazing. The farm is on 650 acres in the Inman Valley, about an hour south of Adelaide, and is home to a small cattle herd and over 50 horses that

## HORSE RACING IN AUSTRALIA

vary from broodmares to racehorses. The main part of the property is in a valley of mountains covered in gum trees and if you hike about a mile in, there are three beautiful waterfalls in the cliffs with all sorts of wildlife. It is not surprising to see Peregrine Falcons, Kookaburras, Cockatoos, and Wedge-Tailed Eagles while out and about on the farm, and no day would be complete without seeing at least 10 or more Kangaroos. When you get to the top of the property you can see 10 kilometers to the ocean in a 180-degree view.

A typical week usually involves riding slower hill work two days on the farm, two days of fast work on the beach and bringing the horses to the track for fast work on the grass twice a week. With winter coming to an end, and spring rolling in we will have 15 horses racing, several two-year-olds beginning work, yearlings to handle, sales to attend, and four mares due to foal in the next six weeks! I think the greatest part about coming abroad is having been exposed to a new dimension of horse racing.

It is standard here to keep horses on the farm instead of the backside of the track. As a result of the varied work we do with the horses, we have less track sour horses. In addition, the horses here are raced more frequently and have longer careers than the average horse in the United States. Our top horse Alcopop, 2009 Melbourne Cup favorite, is eight years old this year and still racing strong with nominations to the Caulfield Cup and Cox Plate, both black type races. It has also been very exciting to be in a country that has such a huge racing fanbase and of course, Black Caviar is just about the best racehorse in the world!

As everyone is getting ready for another great year at Colorado State University, I just want to give one piece of advice- don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone. Whether that is moving to the other side of the country or to the other side of the world, take advantage of any opportunity no matter how far from home it may be.

# CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

### Fall Gather

September 21, 2012  
Adams-Atkinson Arena

### Ag Day

September 22, 2012  
Hughes Stadium

### Equine Sciences Advisory Committee Meeting

September 30-Oct. 2, 2012

## OCTOBER

### Annual Colorado Horse Council Convention

October 6, 2012  
Adams-Atkinson Arena

### Quarter Horse Congress

October 5-25, 2012  
Columbus, OH

### U.S. Arabian Nationals

October 19-27, 2012  
Tulsa, OK



[Pixmac.com](http://Pixmac.com) 87257712