



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION • VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 1 • WINTER 2008

## Olympians Represent USET Foundation in 119th Rose Parade

BY MARY HILTON



Photo by Ilse Schuartz and Ken Braddick/HorseSportUSA

*Beijing float precedes the USET Foundation squad of 12 Olympians representing show jumping, dressage, and eventing as fans cheer, "USA!"*

### "IT WAS INCREDIBLE.

We will never, ever ride in front of so many people again," said Guenter Seidel, one of 12 Olympians who represented the USET Foundation in the 2008 Rose Parade on New Year's Day, marking the first time in history that a U.S. Equestrian Team participated in this renowned event.

More than a million spectators lined the five-and-a-half mile route on Colorado Avenue in Pasadena, California, for the two-hour 119th Rose Parade – a showcase for extravagant floral floats, top-notch marching bands, and 300 horses.

Nine U.S. networks broadcast the parade live, including ABC, NBC, HGTV, Tribune, Univision, Telemundo, Travel Channel, Discovery HD Theater, and Sky Link TV. Internationally, the Rose Parade was viewed by millions of people in more than 75 countries.

The USET Foundation squad was comprised of riders in the Olympic equestrian sports, with four members in each discipline, attired in discipline-specific competition clothes. The show jumpers were Margie Engle, Anne Kursinski, Beezie Madden, and Melanie Smith Taylor. The dressage squad was comprised of Sue Blinks, Debbie McDonald, Steffen Peters, and Guenter Seidel. Eventing riders were Darren Chiacchia, Nina Fout, Kim Severson,

and Karen Stives. This stellar group of riders has won 17 Olympic medals for the United States.

Leading the Olympians on foot as flag bearers were Jane Forbes Clark, USET Foundation President and CEO, and Mason Phelps, U.S. Eventing Team alternate at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.

Mounts for the Olympians were provided by the Los Angeles Mounted Sheriff's Posse. They were outfitted with USET saddle pads and USET quarter sheets. "The horses were fabulous," noted Seidel. "I rode a three-and-a-half year old horse that didn't put a foot out of place."

Ninety groups were featured in the 2008 Rose Parade, with the Olympians slotted as #47. They paraded behind the Olympics-themed "One World, One Dream" float sponsored by Avery Dennison and the Roundtable of Southern California Chinese-American Organizations. "We were the only Olympic discipline





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Dear Friends,

The year started off with a bang! On New Year's Day our Olympic athletes marched down the streets of Pasadena in the 119th Tournament of Roses Parade and started us on the road to Hong Kong and the XXIX Olympiad. It is hard to believe that in less than five months our U.S equestrian teams will be in Hong Kong, competing against the world's best, vying for Olympic Gold and national pride.

On February 8, we held our Olympic benefit, "Hong Kong by Night" in Wellington, Florida. It was a spectacular evening paying tribute to our athletes and generous supporters who truly make up our "team." We honored our most loyal and generous supporters, our Gold Medal Club 10, 15 and 25-year donors, and awarded two of the most prestigious awards in equestrian sport, the Whitney Stone Cup to veteran driver Randy Cadwell and the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Award to one of the brightest new stars on the show jumping scene, Hillary Dobbs.

The day after the benefit, we had the Foundation's Annual Meeting and elected four new members to the Board of Trustees. Joining our committed group of Trustees are Frank Merrill, Melanie Smith Taylor, Peter Welles and Abigail Wexner. We welcome them and thank them for giving of their time and passion to help our United States Equestrian Teams.

In this issue is our annual list of donors. These individuals and foundations are the very heart of the USET Foundation, for without them we would not be able to provide the funding that is critical to this country's high performance sport programs. From Developing Rider tours to the Olympic Games, their generous gifts are what help put this country's athletes on the podium. In 2007 the Foundation provided \$2,295,000 to the Federation, or 60% of the funding for high performance programs. In 2008, the Foundation has made a commitment to the Federation for \$2,650,000, an increase of 15% for the Olympic year.

The *Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence* has entered its fourth year, with \$14 million raised in cash and pledges towards our \$20 million goal. I am excited to get back on the road and visit with individuals who can help us continue the momentum. Contributions made to the Campaign help provide opportunities for our elite athletes to compete against their peers internationally, expand the Developing Rider programs giving our rising stars the chance to gain confidence and invaluable experience as a member of a "team" and maintain and expand the coaching programs, employing the world's most qualified and experienced coaches with leadership skills to inspire our athletes to reach their fullest potential.

Wishing all of our athletes the very best as they prepare and compete in the upcoming World Championship and Olympic Games selection trials, and thank you to our wonderful friends who provide the support to make their dreams come true.

Cheers!

With Best Regards,

Bonnie B. Jenkins  
Executive Director



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# ROSE PARADE

Continued from page 1

out there so it was fun to be a part of that," said Smith Taylor. "We followed the China Beijing float and so that really got you in the spirit. It was definitely an added benefit for the U.S. Equestrian Team."

Parade spectators made the Olympic connection and encouraged the riders vocally. "Right from the start people were yelling, 'USA! USA!' and 'Rock and roll in China!'" reported Peters. "It was fabulous."

Chiacchia was also delighted with the spectators' enthusiasm, relating, "The people were really into it and cheering, 'Go



Bearing USET Foundation flag, President Jane Forbes Clark leads (l-r) Margie Engle, Anne Kursinski, Melanie Smith Taylor and Beezie Madden (red coats in front), Karen Stives and Nina Fout (red shirts in middle), and Steffen Peters, Sue Blinks, and Guenter Seidel (shadbellies in back).

Team USA!' I was thrilled to be able to represent the United States Equestrian Team."

"There were moments I felt like I was going to tear up and bawl my eyes out because it was kind of this patriotic kind of feeling," shared McDonald. "Everybody's going, 'USA!' It just gave me goose bumps and really emotional."

Preparation for the USET Foundation's participation in the Rose Parade was ongoing for six months, spanning from the initial application to the logistics of transportation, housing, stabling, tack, and ultimately the minute timing required on the day of the event. "It's just an amazing situation how this whole thing comes about and how many people it takes to make happen and how much organization," noted McDonald.

Phelps Media Group, Inc. International, the Foundation's public relations firm headed up by Mason Phelps, arranged for the inclusion of the group and then with USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins, Executive Assistant Nancy Little, President Jane Clark, Peggy Phelps, Kim Tudor, Bobby Drennan, and Julie Tannehill, handled the myriad of details involved. The horses were stabled at the L.A. Equestrian Center with Polly Sweeney in charge. Karen Binz handled French-braiding, Patricia Kinnamon's Dominion Saddlery and The Traditional School of Riding supplied the tack, except dressage saddles, which the dressage riders brought, and Betsy Calder was the shipper.

"Polly Sweeney was absolutely phenomenal in managing the mounts for this event," Phelps pointed out. "She did it all – from selecting the horses, managing their stabling at the L.A. Equestrian Center, fitting and cleaning their tack, supervising their grooms, and coordinating their transportation to and from the parade route. She even loaned one of her best saddles!"

In addition to the excitement of the parade, the Olympians and their significant others had the opportunity to celebrate the holiday. They were treated to a pre-parade New Year's Eve party hosted by USET

Foundation President Clark and a post-parade brunch hosted by Peggy Phelps at her home in Pasadena.

All in all, the highlight of the Rose Parade for the riders was riding in front of over a million cheering fans for two hours. "It was just a sea of people," recounted Smith Taylor. "I was so amazed that for the whole length of the parade, just wall-to-wall people came out to watch and all



Debbie McDonald, Steffen Peters, Sue Blinks, and Guenter Seidel.

of them were smiling and waving. It just made you feel so good to be a part of it."

Madden was also impressed with the duration of enthusiasm, marveling, "It was amazing how enthusiastic they were. We were halfway through the parade and they were all still cheering and waving and it was neat to see."

Engle appreciated the Rose Parade's exposure for equestrian sport, noting, "I hope it helps public awareness about our sport. It certainly got to a wide range of people."



Darren Chiacchia, Karen Stives, Nina Fout, and Kim Severson.

"I cannot thank the riders and everyone who helped organize this event enough for accomplishing this extraordinary feat," said USET Foundation Executive Director Jenkins. "The exposure and goodwill this has afforded the U.S. Equestrian Team is priceless and now part of our history and heritage. The Rose Parade march is a wonderful kick-off to the excitement leading up to our equestrians participating in the 2008 Olympic Games." ■

All photos by Ilse Schwarz and Ken Braddock/HorseSportUSA

## USET Foundation Olympians in 2008 Rose Parade

### Show Jumping Olympians

**Margie Engle**  
2000 Sydney Olympics

**Anne Kursinski**  
Alternate, Gold Medal Team, 1984 Los Angeles Olympics; Silver Medal Team, 1988 Seoul Olympics; 1992 Barcelona Olympics; Silver Medal Team, 1996 Atlanta Olympics

**Beezie Madden**  
Gold Medal Team 2004 Athens Olympics

**Melanie Smith Taylor**  
Gold Medal Team 1984 Los Angeles Olympics

### Eventing Olympians

**Darren Chiacchia**  
Alternate, Bronze Medal Team, 2000 Sydney Olympics; Bronze Medal Team, 2004 Athens Olympics

**Nina Fout**  
Bronze Medal Team, 2000 Sydney Olympics

**Kim Severson**  
Bronze Medal Team and Individual Silver 2004 Athens Olympics

**Karen Stives**  
Gold Medal Team and Individual Silver, 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games

### Dressage Olympians

**Sue Blinks**  
Bronze Medal Team, 2000 Sydney Olympics

**Debbie McDonald**  
Bronze Medal Team, 2004 Athens Olympics

**Steffen Peters**  
Bronze Medal Team, 1996 Atlanta Olympics; Alternate, Bronze Medal Team, 2004 Athens Olympics

**Guenter Seidel**  
Bronze Medal Team, 1996 Atlanta Olympics; Bronze Medal Team, 2000 Sydney Olympics; Bronze Medal Team, 2004 Athens Olympics

# USET Foundation Names Four New Members to Board of Trustees

BY JENNIFER WOOD

## FRANK G. MERRILL

Frank Merrill has been involved in the American Quarter Horse industry for more than 40 years. With his wife, Robin, Merrill operated Windward Stud Ltd. in Purcell, OK, until October 2006 when the ranch sold. Currently, Merrill serves as CO-CEO of Cowan Select Horses LLC at Windward Stud Ltd. Merrill has bred, owned and raised American Quarter Horse champions in world and stakes competition and has participated in almost every AQHA discipline including racing, halter, roping, cutting, reining and other western and English events. In addition, Merrill owned and exhibited two American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame horses – Miss Jim 45 and Royal Santana. Frank and Robin Merrill have three children: Tyler who works for Western States Ranches in Dublin, TX, and Megan and McKenzie, who both live in Weatherford, TX.



Frank Merrill

Photo courtesy of AQHA

## MELANIE SMITH TAYLOR

Melanie Smith Taylor of Memphis, TN, helped the U.S. win Team Gold at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics aboard Calypso. The American Grand Prix Association named her Rider of the Year in 1978. In 1979, she was a member of the Gold Medal Team at the Pan American Games in Puerto Rico. In 1982, Smith Taylor and Calypso won the World Cup, she was named the U.S. Olympic Committee Sportswoman of the Year, and was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. Smith Taylor retired from competition in 1987, but continues in the sport as trainer, television broadcaster, course designer, and judge. In 2007, she served as Chef d'Equipe for the 2007 USEF Show Jumping Developing/Young Rider Tour. Smith Taylor guided the riders to two Team Gold Medals at Hamina, Finland, and Falsterbo, Sweden. She also helped U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe George H. Morris during the 2007 Samsung Super League; she was chef at the Hickstead, England, leg of the tour where the U.S. team won Gold, and also at Dublin, Ireland, where the U.S. won Silver. The Show Jumping Hall of Fame inducted Smith Taylor in 1998.



Melanie Smith Taylor

Photo by Mike Maple

## PETER C. WELLES

A long time 'horse show dad', Peter Welles has been active in promoting and enhancing equestrian sport in the United States. He currently serves as a member of the United States Equestrian Team Foundation's National Advisory and Development Committees. He is also an active Grand Prix horse owner with mounts ridden by his son Andrew Welles and by Olympian Chris Kappler. Welles's non-profit involvement includes serving as President of the Kensington Conservancy, an Ontario-based land trust and as a Board Member of the Land Trust Alliance. He is also a Trustee of the Cricket Island Foundation and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Horse Show Association of America. Former non-profit involvement includes having served as a Trustee of the Minnesota Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, including two years as Chair. Welles also served on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Land Trust, as Chair of the Blake School Parent Association and as a member of the United States Ski Team's Cross Country Competition Committee. Welles is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and has completed Harvard University's Initiative for Social Enterprise program, "Governing for Nonprofit Excellence."



Peter Welles

Photo by Kenneth Kraus/PhelpsSports.com

## ABIGAIL S. WEXNER

Abigail S. Wexner, lawyer and community activist, is involved in philanthropic work nationally and locally, with a particular focus on children's issues. Mrs. Wexner is the Founder and Chair of the Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence. In 1998, Mrs. Wexner created The New Albany Classic Invitational Grand Prix & Family Day, a show jumping event designed to raise money annually for the Coalition. Since its inception, The Classic has raised over \$15 million to benefit the Coalition. Mrs. Wexner has competed in the equestrian arena and has young horses in training with top professionals such as Jeffery Welles and Beezie Madden. Mrs. Wexner is the owner of Authentic, Madden's Team Gold Medal mount in the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, as well as numerous other up-and-coming Grand Prix horses. Prior to moving to Columbus, OH, she practiced law from 1987 to 1992 with the London and New York offices of Davis, Polk & Wardwell. She is a graduate of the Dwight School, New York City; Barnard College at Columbia University, Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa; and New York University School of Law. Mrs. Wexner is married to Leslie H. Wexner, chairman and founder of Limited Brands. They are the parents of four children, ranging in age from nine to thirteen years of age.



Abigail Wexner

Photo courtesy of Abigail Wexner



# USET Foundation's Special Section in *Town & Country* Raises \$200,000

BY MARY HILTON

**A**s a fundraising initiative, the USET Foundation was featured in a special 24-page editorial and advertising section in the February 2008 issue of *Town & Country* magazine. Contributors underwrote the editorial and sponsored advertising. The contributions totaled \$200,000 for the USET Foundation's high performance fundraising programs. These contributions will help support high performance equestrian athletes, including those preparing for and competing at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

The special section featured five sponsored pages of information on the USET Foundation and its mission, including photos of athletes and Gladstone and a full page of information on the Foundation's 'Hong Kong by Night' Olympic Benefit, plus 19 pages of sponsor advertisements. The project was a win-win opportunity – the USET Foundation received valuable exposure through the special section and sponsors reached *Town & Country's* affluent subscribers in key states at a highly discounted rate.

USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins explained that Richard Malloch, President of Hearst Business Media, initiated the opportunity for the Foundation. *Town & Country* is a publication of Hearst Magazines Division, Hearst Communications, Inc. "Rich is a wonderful dressage enthusiast, owner and rider," Jenkins said. "Rich made this possible. He worked with us closely on every aspect, from inception through distribution."

The February 2008 *Town & Country* magazine was distributed to subscribers in selected areas starting in January 2008.

*Town & Country* magazine also generously provided the USET Foundation with a special one-year subscription rate of \$10.00 for 12 issues. The U.S. cover price of *Town & Country* is \$4.50 per issue. Supporters who wish to subscribe to *Town & Country* and take advantage of this one time rate can do so at [www.uset2008.townandcountrymag.com](http://www.uset2008.townandcountrymag.com).

"The project with *Town & Country* provided a unique and exciting opportunity to put the USET Foundation in

front of a wonderful audience and promote our mission and equestrian sport," summed up Executive Director Jenkins. "The issue was also timed perfectly to help promote our 'Hong Kong by Night' Olympic Benefit Gala. It's a beautiful showcase for our supporters and our sport and one of the Foundation's most successful fundraising initiatives." ■

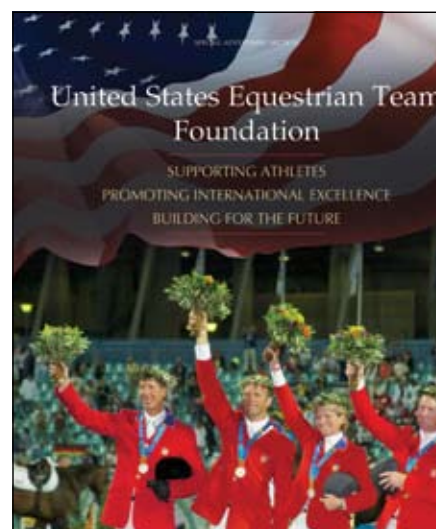


Photo by Diana de Rosa. Design by Miriam Morgan.

Cover page of the USET Foundation's 24-page section in the February 2008 issue of *Town & Country* magazine.

## *Town & Country* USET Foundation Charity Section February 2008

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## Paul Long Joins USET Foundation as Assistant Director of Development

Paul Long of Mahwah, NJ, has been named the USET Foundation Assistant Director of Development. Long will assist USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins in accomplishing the Foundation's mission of raising funds to support equestrian athletes, promote international excellence, and build for the future.

Long was a member of the USET Foundation National Advisory Council from 1993 until 2005. He earned his B.A. from Drew University in Madison, NJ, with a major in English and minor in Economics. His professional training includes the American Bankers Association Commercial Loan Officer Program; the Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor Training Program; and the Morgan Stanley Graduate School Series Program in Financial Planning.

Long's career background includes executive positions at financial institutions, including National Westminster Bank as Senior Investment Officer; The Kenton Group, Inc. as Regional Sales Manager for financial products; Morgan Stanley as Financial Advisor, Sales and Trading; and Medmal USA, LLC, as Director of Sales and Marketing.

In addition to his extensive background in finances, Long is also a horseman. His riding career in show jumping included being the 1984 Garden State Games Gold Medalist and he was a candidate at the 1996 U.S. Olympic Team Show Jumping Selection Trials. Long also spent two years as Trainer /

Manager/Rider at Ri-Arm, Farm, Inc.

"Paul brings to this position the background and qualities that we were looking for in an Assistant Director of Development," said Executive Director Jenkins. "He is very knowledgeable and experienced in financial matters, understands the sport and has a passion for our U.S. Equestrian Teams. We are very pleased to welcome Paul to the USET Foundation family and know he will be an important addition to our fundraising efforts."

Long commented on his new position saying, "It is with a great deal of enthusiasm that I begin my role as Assistant Director of Development. I consider it both an honor and a privilege to help promulgate the Team's most important mission of promoting international goodwill and funding international High Performance programs, athletes and coaches. As a young rider, my dream was to ride on a Nations' Cup Team and to 'follow in the boot steps' of those revered in the Trophy Room at Gladstone. I now have a chance to be part of that great legacy, not as a rider but as an ambassador, representing the sport I love.

I would like to thank Jane Clark, Bonnie Jenkins and the Board of Trustees for giving me this terrific opportunity and I look forward to working with them, the entire USET Foundation staff, and the many generous donors who share the same passion for the Team and for all equestrian disciplines." ■ — **Mary Hilton**



Paul Long, USET Foundation  
Assistant Director of Development.

Courtesy of USET Foundation

### "Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence" Reaches \$14 Million Mark

The USET Foundation's *Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence* has reached \$14 million towards its \$20 million goal.

"We are truly grateful to our supporters who have so generously contributed to this Campaign, which is essential to our athletes' success at the 2008 Olympic Games and their preparations for the quadrennium ahead," said USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins. "We are in the final months of the Campaign and are rallying the equestrian community's support to help raise the remaining \$6 million of the \$20 million goal."

The funds raised through the *Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence* are dedicated to preparing U.S. equestrian teams, horses, and athletes for success in international competition. The Campaign also provides funding for U.S. Developing Riders in seven High Performance disciplines. ■ — **Mary Hilton**

### Grants to USEF High Performance Programs Total \$2,295,000 for 2007

The USET Foundation awarded grants totaling \$2,295,000 to the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) for High Performance programs in 2007. The funding provided support, in whole or in part, for athletes in seven High Performance disciplines to participate in national and international events.

"The USET Foundation was able to provide funding for High Performance athletes through its fundraising efforts and the generous donations of contributors nationwide," said Ms. Jenkins. "I'm pleased to note that our donors provided nearly \$300,000 more in 2007 than in the previous year, which directly helped U.S. athletes succeed as representatives of the United States in international competition."

Highlights of the list of accomplishments for High Performance athletes in 2007 include: Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where the U.S. brought home eight medals, including Team Gold plus Individual Gold and Silver in dressage; Team Gold and Individual Gold, Silver, and Bronze in eventing; and Team Bronze in show jumping. Funding also provided support for the U.S. driving team at the FEI World Combined Pony Driving Championship, where the U.S. won Team Bronze and the Individual Gold Medal in Pairs; and the Samsung Super League show jumping tour, where the U.S. finished in fourth place. The funding also supported the 2007 USEF Show Jumping Developing/Young Rider Tour, which fielded a squad of five topnotch riders aged 18 to 25 for a three-city European tour, winning two Nation's Cups in the process. ■

— **Mary Hilton**



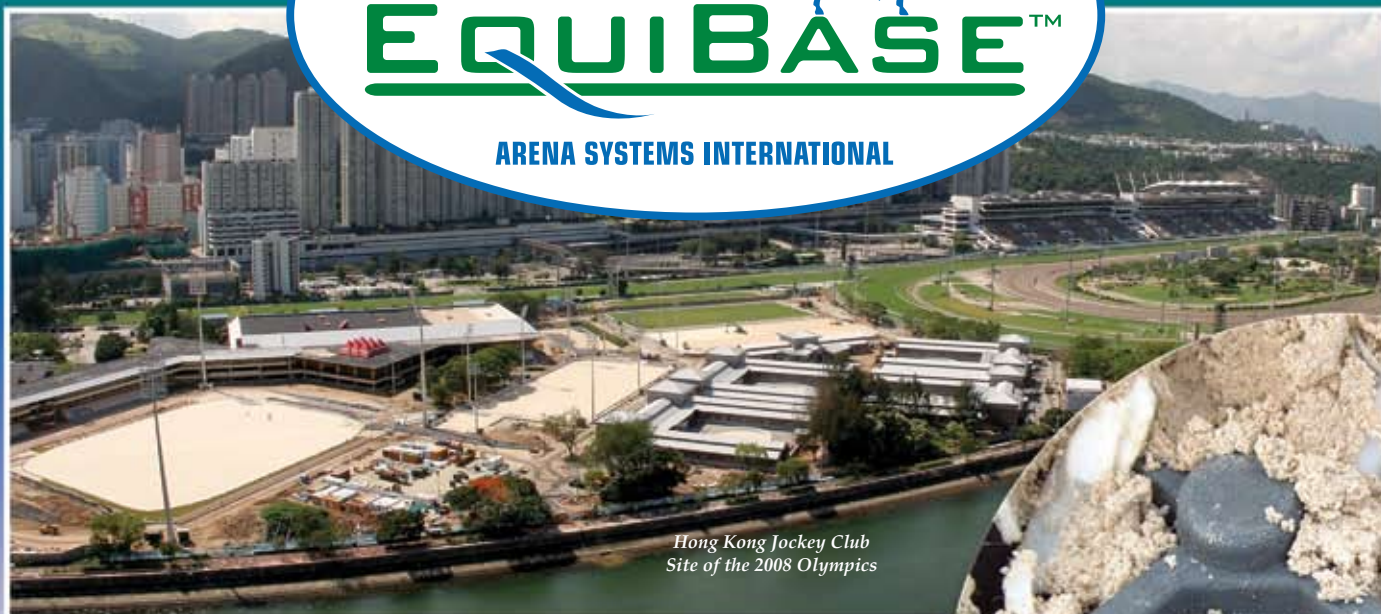


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# George Morris Horsemastership Training Session 2008

BY NANCY JAFFER

**E**ight lucky young riders from across the country got the benefit of a legend's wisdom – and the insights of other noted authorities – when they participated in January's George Morris Horsemastership Training Session, for which the USET Foundation was one of the sponsors.

Their time in the saddle involved intense flat work and riding without stirrups; gymnastics and jumping a demanding course designed by George. The participants assembled the fences themselves, under George's direction, in the jumping ring at the South Grounds of the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, FL.



George Morris at his Horsemastership Training Session.

Photo by Nancy Jaffer



Training Session participant Tina Dilandri tries a gymnastic exercise.

Photo by Nancy Jaffer

Scores of spectators shared the riders' training session experience as auditors of the six-day clinic. One mother-daughter pair even came all the way from Australia to watch the U.S. show jumping coach teach in his inimitable style and listen to lectures from a variety of experts.

They included veterinarians Tim

Ober and Danny Marks, speaking about conformation and horse care; Purina's Dr. Kathleen Young discussing nutrition; show jumping gold medal Olympian Melanie Smith Taylor on the importance of being a "thinking rider," and Olympic course designer Steve Stephens offering his insights about "reading" and riding a course. A presentation by Susan Harris and Peggy Brown detailed considerations of equine and human anatomy; Peggy wore a black "skeleton suit" on which her bones were outlined in white, while she rode a white horse who had muscles and bones painted on him (a four-hour project by Susan) so those attending could see the relationship among the equine and human moving parts.

Stable manager Laurie Pitts presented tips on horse care and oversaw what went on in the barn, where all the riders took care of their own horses after an introductory session with such "mentor grooms" as Olympians Margie Engle and Beezie Madden.

The idea was to round out the education of riders who could be future international stars for the U.S., making them self-reliant in terms of selecting, developing and caring for horses.

Californian Karl Cook said how much he appreciated learning about "everything outside of riding ... I didn't get before because all I did was ride."

John Madden, who came up with the idea for the session, told riders the concept is "about excellence, trying to acquire excellence. That leads to success. Blue ribbons have to be a by-product of great horsemanship."

George emphasized "education, education, education," explaining that "knowledge is priceless; no one can buy knowledge." His mantra always emphasized the highest standards. George advised his group, "If you can do something well, try to do it better."

Riders participating included Kimberly McCormack, number one on the Bates Equitation Rankings List and Maria Schaub, who attended the inaugural training session last year and was second on the rankings list; Jennifer Waxman and Carolyn Curcio, third and fourth respectively on the list and Tina Dilandri, the top West Coast rider in the rankings. Others were Nikko Ritter, winner of the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search East finals, and Aurora Griffin, individual gold medalist in the Adequan USEF Junior Jumper National Championship, where Karl Cook earned the silver medal.

The formal activities ended with a luncheon given by the USET Foundation, where each participant was presented with a silver frame engraved with their name and a picture of the group to commemorate a very special week.

In addition to the Foundation, the session was sponsored by Bates Saddles, Purina Mills, the U.S. Equestrian Federation, the U.S. Hunter Jumper Association, Practical Horseman Magazine, Equestrian Sport Productions and the Syracuse Invitational Sporthorse Tournament. ■



Maria Schaub, Karl Cook, Aurora Griffin, George Morris, Kimberly McCormack, Carolyn Curcio, Nikko Ritter, Jennifer Waxman, Tina Dilandri.

Photo by Nancy Jaffer

# "Hong Kong by Night"

## Olympic Benefit Raises \$500,000

BY MARY HILTON



Photo by Heather Christie

Gold Medal Club Honorees: Joe Patton, Ellen Holtgers, Jane Forbes Clark, Schuyler Riley, Carlene Blunt, Kathy Patton

The USET Foundation's "Hong Kong by Night" benefit on February 8, 2008, at International Polo Club in Wellington, Florida, raised \$500,000. The sold-out event drew 430 supporters who contributed to the effort by purchasing tables for the dinner and by bidding in a live auction. Proceeds from the evening will benefit the U.S. equestrian teams competing in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

As equestrian events at the 29th Olympiad will be held in Hong Kong, the party was themed to the host city. Guests were invited to dress in 'Festive Oriental Attire' and Renny & Reed of New York, NY, transformed the venue into a Hong Kong highlights showcase, including a spectacular backlit skyline mural of the city of Hong Kong.

The evening's program included a cocktail hour, welcome remarks and presentations led by USET Foundation President Jane Forbes Clark, a three-course dinner by Ken-Rose Catering, a live auction, and dancing to the Michael Carney Orchestra.

In her opening remarks, President Clark thanked the "Hong Kong by Night" committee and Honorary Chairwoman, Abigail Wexner. Contributors to the evening's gift bags were also acknowledged, including the Hong Kong Tourism Board, Jacquie Mars and Ethel M Chocolates,

Jaylaan Ahmad-Llewellyn and bluham-mock, and Dr. Frederic Brandt Skin Care Products. Clark thanked Murray Kessler for donating the evening's fine wines from UST's Ste. Michelle Wine Estates.

President Clark segued to the evening's celebration of the USET Foundation's long-time supporters, the members of the Gold Medal Club who were celebrating 10, 15, and 25-year anniversaries. Gold Medal Club members in attendance joined Clark on stage to receive gifts of appreciation including Schuyler Riley on behalf of her parents, Tom and Nephel Domencich, and Ellen Van Dyke Holtgers, celebrating 10-year anniversaries; Joe and Kathy Patton celebrating a 15-year anniversary; and Carlene C. Blunt, celebrating a 25-year anniversary.

Highlighting the evening were the presentations of two of the USET Foundation's most prestigious annual awards. Show jumper Hillary Dobbs received the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Award presented by President Clark, George H. Morris, U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe, and Bill Whitehead, the Equestrian Sales Manager for Hermès. Driver Miranda Cadwell received the Whitney Stone Cup, presented by Clark and Brownlee O. Currey, Jr., Vice President of the USET Foundation.

Clark concluded with two Special Recognition notations. She thanked Richard Malloch, the President of Hearst

Business Media, who provided the USET Foundation with the opportunity to participate in a fundraising initiative in the February issue of *Town & Country* magazine, which raised over \$200,000 to help support U.S. high performance equestrian athletes. Malloch was in attendance and stood for an enthusiastic round of applause. Clark next thanked Peggy Phelps for her efforts that led the USET Foundation to an invitation for 12 Olympians to participate in the 119th Tournament of Roses Parade. Mason Phelps accepted the gift for his mother.

Concluding her remarks, Clark introduced Monica Chen, Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, and Michael Lim, the Manager of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, who gave a short presentation on Hong Kong and the amenities visitors to the Olympic Games had in store for them.

Guests enjoyed dinner, and then focused on the live auction.

Auctioneer Tony Coppola led the bidding on three luxury trips: a Five-Star Olympic Games Package donated by Karen Lancaster and Cross Country International; a VIP Kentucky Derby Package donated by Wilhelmina McEwan, Tammy and Jerry Barber of Moxie Equestrian, and Fenwick Farm; and a Macau High Rollers' Luxury Package donated by Mark and Lindsay Harms. The high bidders for the packages were Carol Cohen (Olympic Package) and Hunter Harrison (Macau Package). The bidding was intense for the Kentucky Derby Package, so a duplicate was offered, with the two packages ultimately going to Dennis Dammerman and Tami Hoag. The auction bids totaled \$111,000.

Dessert and dancing capped off the evening with festive flair.

"The success of 'Hong Kong by Night' was truly beyond our expectations in both attendance and contributions," said USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins. "I am grateful to our committee members, contributors, and attendees for their support and generosity. It was a beautiful event, everyone had fun, and our fundraising efforts got a terrific start for a big year in 2008." ■





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Jacqueline B. Mars (center) with guests  
(l-r) Eric & Sara Dierks, Max Corcoran,  
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All benefit photos by Heather Caristo

## Hong Kong by Night

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## Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy Awarded to Hillary Dobbs

For 2008, the USET Foundation has awarded the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, which recognizes a Junior/Young Rider who exemplifies the USET Foundation's ideals of sportsmanship and horsemanship, to 19-year-old Hillary Dobbs of Sussex, NJ.

"I'm very honored that the USET Foundation has chosen me, and I'm truly grateful," Dobbs said. "To be among the past riders that have won, like Jeffery Welles, Chris Kappler and McLain Ward, is truly an honor."

Dobbs started out the year with four consecutive grand prix victories. Throughout the year, Dobbs also had consistent success in the amateur-owner jumper division. At the Washington International Horse Show, Dobbs was named the Leading Open Jumper Rider in her first year of top international competition. Her horse Marengo was named the Leading International Horse at the 123rd National Horse Show.



Bill Whitehead, Hermès Equestrian Sales Manager, George H. Morris, U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe, Hillary Dobbs, and Jane Clark, USET Foundation President.

Photo by Heather Corliss

Dobbs's greatest achievement was competing for the United States when she rode on the Gold Medal Team at the Nations' Cup in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and produced double clear rounds. "That's something that I'll always remember," Dobbs said. "It was such a thrill for me. It was my first international competition, my first time wearing the red coat, and the first time I trained under George Morris. Once you experience that international team competition, you want to keep doing it."

Dobbs noted her appreciation of trainers Missy Clark and John Brennan. "It's a great award for not only me, but for Missy and John. Over the years, they've been patient and supportive the whole way. It's been a long journey," she said. "It's

really a testament to them and their program that they could bring me along. I'm so grateful to Missy and John and my family. It's been a rewarding year for all of us; for all of the work that everybody has put in." ■ – Jennifer Wood



## Whitney Stone Cup Presented to Miranda Cadwell

The USET Foundation awarded the Whitney Stone Cup to Miranda ("Randy") Cadwell on February 8 at the Hong Kong by Night benefit. The Whitney Stone Cup is awarded annually to an active competitor who displays consistent excellence in international competition and high standards of sportsmanlike conduct while serving as an ambassador for the United States and equestrian sport.

The Whitney Stone Cup is awarded in honor of the late Whitney Stone, who served as President and Chairman of the Board of the USET from 1953 to 1973. He was instrumental in the creation of a civilian team when the Army retired from competitive horse sports after 1948.

Cadwell competes in Combined Driving and won the Individual Gold Medal at the 2007 World Pony Pairs Driving Championship in Dorthealyst, Denmark, and also led the U.S. pony drivers to their first team medal – a Bronze.

"It's a great honor to be awarded the Whitney Stone Cup," Cadwell said. "They considered every equestrian athlete that



Brownlee O. Currey, Jr., USET Foundation Senior Vice President, Miranda Cadwell, and Jane Clark, USET Foundation President.

Photo by Heather Corliss

represented the U.S. out of the country, so I'm very proud that it was awarded within the driving discipline."

The road leading to the championships was full of victories, as Cadwell won every national and international show in which she competed including Black Prong, Sunshine State CAI, Live Oak CAI, Sandringham Horse Driving Trials UK, and Saumur CAI France.

In addition to competing, Cadwell spends time coaching, teaching and promoting the sport. She has coached the USA Disabled Drivers team since 1998 and will continue to do so with the 2008 team. Cadwell is

also a sought-after clinician and works with many junior drivers in the U.S. and around the world.

Her participation carries over into carriage and harness making, where she acts as a consultant to U.S. and international suppliers on the design, fabrication and implementation of many structural, safety and performance adaptations to assist in the special requirements of disabled carriage drivers for both pleasure and competition purposes. ■ – Chrissy Lane



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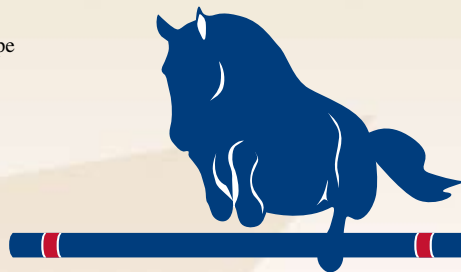
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