WUSET Foundation NEWS



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"An English Country Evening" Benefit Raises Over One Million Dollars for 2012 London Olympics

BY REBECCA WALTON

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beautiful English Country garden theme greeted guests and transformed the Special Events Pavilion at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center for the United States Equestrian Team Foundation's annual benefit. On Friday, January 27, 2012, over 500 guests joined together to help support the Foundation's mission and raise funds for the 2012 London Olympic Games. "*An English Country Evening*" featured honorary chairs NBC *Today Show* host Matt Lauer and his wife Annette, an avid equestrian, and was organized by USET Foundation President Jane Forbes Clark, Board of Trustees Members Robin Parsky and Bruce Duchossois, and Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins.

The celebratory evening included award presentations, an elegant dinner, and a lively auction, which helped raise over one million dollars for the USET Foundation.

Clark kicked off the festivities by honoring the owners and riders that participated in the 2011 Pan American Games, sweeping the medals for the United States. She then welcomed honorary chairmen Matt and Annette Lauer, who recognized the guests for their dedication to the sport and the Olympic movement as the USET Foundation prepares for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Following the opening remarks, the awards ceremony began by paying tribute to Gold Medal Club members who have supported the USET Foundation for 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years. Clark then went on to recognize 19-year-old Lucy Davis of Los Angeles, CA, the recipient of this year's Lionel Guerrand-Hermes Trophy, which is presented to a Young Rider in one of the Olympic disciplines who exemplifies both sportsmanship and horsemanship. (See related story on Page 9).



David O'Connor and Jane Forbes Clark



Matt and Annette Lauer

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Greenwich Park, London 2012 Olympic Games Equestrian Venue



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Dear Friends and Supporters:

The selection process for the U.S. Show Jumping Team is underway. The process being used combines both objective and subjective criteria, which is similar to the procedures I established in 2006 for the World Equestrian Games when I became Chef d' Equipe, and has produced some great teams for the U.S.

The first phase of selection process has just been completed with the Selection Trials in Wellington. It was purely objective, giving everyone an equal chance regardless of experience and past performance. The Selection Trials consisted of four classes, over four days simulat-



ing an Olympic format. The courses, designed by Alan Wade from Ireland, were excellent and tested the riders and horses similar with what we will experience at the Olympic Games. The Selection Trials resulted in some strong combinations, with the top eight only one point apart; and the top 10 or 12 are only a couple rails apart from each other. It also produced very solid and impressive performances by many of our younger riders, most notably Reed Kessler who is sitting in the #1 position in the ranking, and veteran competitor Margie Engle, who once again found her way to the head of the list with strong performances throughout the four days. With a few exceptions, the cream rose to the top. Overall, I am very happy with the trials.

In addition to the horse/rider combinations that competed in the Selection Trials, the Selectors had the ability to name up to five additional combinations to the Long List. There were four combinations named to the Long List that did not compete in the Selection Trials. Some were horses and riders with injuries, however had been showing great form and are world class, and some were top horse rider combinations that have been successful in international championships and continued to be in top form early in the season that the Selectors felt had earned their place on the Long List without requiring their participation in this phase of the selection process. These combinations were included in the ranking process following the Selection Trials; which involves judgment, instinct and feel. This is very difficult; no one has a crystal ball. However it is important that we respect the objectivity and those that have earned their rankings based on their performances in the trials too. (Ranking List page 5)

The next phase is Observation Events, in which the Long Listed ranked riders who want to remain eligible for selection must compete in two of the four: CSI3* Del Mar National, May 1-6, CSI3* Kentucky, May 8 – 13, CSI3* Devon, May 29 – June 2, and CSI4* Calgary, June 13 – 17. The combinations have the ability to move up or down in the ranking based on their performances.

Thank you for the confidence and support you place in our riders, horses, veterinarians, team leaders and coaches. This makes the difference between competing and winning. I appreciate all you do and expect the team we send to London will make you proud and provide for a very exciting Olympic Games.

Sincerely yours,

George H. Morris USEF Show Jumping Chef d' Equipe USET Foundation Trustee

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The final award was presented to Christine McCrea of East Windsor, CT, the recipient of the Whitney Stone Cup. The award is presented 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. (See related story on Page 9)

After dinner, Clark and the United States Equestrian Federation President

David O'Connor, took the microphone to assist Field Ladd, the auctioneer from Cross Gate Gallery in Lexington, KY. They began the live auction with a custom oil portrait, donated by Sharon Lynn Campbell, which eventually sold for \$22,000. The London Olympics eventing package, donated by JetSet Sports/CoSport, also brought in \$22,000, and a generous bidder claimed the show jumping and dressage package for \$155,000. The opportunity to be a character in New York Times best selling author Tami Hoag's next novel was also up for grabs, and was sold for \$13,000. R. Bruce



Margie and Steve Engle



Agneta and Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.



Tom Tisbo, Jeannie Tisbo, Bruce Springsteen, Hunter Julo, Hunter Harrison, Kaitlin Creel, Keith Creel and Ginger Creel



Michael and D.D. Matz



George Davis, Lucy Davis, Robert Frieze and Kelly Davis



Jessica, Bruce and Patti Springsteen and Maryann Loring



Mark Leone and Bruce Duchossois

Duchossois donated a once in a lifetime "Trip for Two" to the Kentucky Derby, which was claimed for \$67,500. During the live auction, guests also had the opportunity to bid on an absolutely amazing "Trip for Four" to Cat Cay Island in the Bahamas, donated by David Topping, on a privately owned 80' yacht, which was sold for \$55,000.

The benefit really started to rock when Bruce Springsteen surprised the guests with a late addition to the auction. The icon himself initially offered four VIP tickets to any concert in the United States. As



Robin and Gerry Parsky

bidding continued to rise on this big-ticket item, Springsteen increased the number of tickets and backstage passes, and included a signed Fender guitar. Two bidders were hotly contesting the item, and in the end it was the duo of Hunter Harrison and Keith Creel on one side and Tom Tisbo on the other with each donating \$275,000 to the "Team" for duplicate packages, winning them the opportunity to see Springsteen live in concert up close and personal with their friends and family.

Bonnie Jenkins summed it up nicely, saying, "'An English Country Evening' proved to be a tremendous success for the USET Foundation. The enthusiasm and generosity shown by our guests was extraordinary, for which we are so grateful. The confidence in our 'teams' and positive energy created we expect will continue right through the Olympic and Paralympic Games later this year in London."

All Photos by Phelps Media Group



Beezie and John Madden

Youth and Experience Highlight 2012 U.S. Olympic Show Jumping Trials

skilled equestrian superstar who won her first grand prix over 30 years ago and has since been to the winner's circle nearly 200 times, and a yetto-turn 18-year-old who has already posted four career grand prix wins emerged at the top of the charts as the USEF Selection Trials for the U.S. Show Jumping Team for the 2012 Olympic Games unfolded in Wellington, FL.

Margie Engle, of Wellington, FL, the veteran, and Reed Kessler of Armonk, NY, the rising star, came through the grueling four round process with only 12 faults each to rise to the top of the leader board for the Long Listed riders that will now move on to four selected observation events in the months ahead, leading up to the naming of the squad for London in July.

Engle, riding her emerging superstar, Indigo, owned by Garber, Greise, Hidden Creek and Gladewinds, came through the trials with rounds of zero, four, four and four. Meanwhile, Kessler, who ended up the Selection Trials leader, posted two clear rounds in a row, followed by rounds of eight and four, to come up with her 12 fault four round total on her own mount, Cylana.

Kessler, who has already claimed a notable list of top Junior and Amateur victories, including wins at the Prix De States and Young Riders, padded her already impressive portfolio with her performance in Wellington. In addition to the overall win in the Trials, she finished tied for third place as well, with only 13 faults accumulated on her second mount, Mika.



Reed Kessler and Cylana

Her line score on Mika showed two clear rounds and rounds of four and nine.

Engle meanwhile, has posted 197 career grand prix victories and has rep-



Reed Kessler and Margie Engle

resented the United States in international competition on numerous occasions, including the 2000 Olympic Games and 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games. She knows that nothing is set in stone, and there are still two events to go before the team is named, but she could not have been happier with Indigo's performance during these Trials. "I feel like the horses have done what the Selection Committee wanted them to do. I don't think they could have jumped much bigger tracks. Even the course designer said that's as big as they'll build for the Olympics. Thursday night was as big of a course as we've ever seen," she said. "You do the best you can. I think for sure Indigo has shown that he's capable of jumping a round anywhere. He's been good at World Cup Finals, and in Europe."

"I hope that it will hold though," she said, speaking of the Selection Trial results. "That's what it's supposed to be for. I've been around long enough to know though, things can change."

The four clear rounds on her two mounts were the tiebreaker that allowed Kessler to edge Engle for the actual Trials victory. She was still in a state of shock when the Trials came to a close. "I still can't believe I'm sitting here," she smiled. "It's just been the best week of my life." Reed only became eligible for FEI Grand Prix competition three months ago and has now won four grand prix classes and the Selection Trials.

Kessler, while thrilled at performing at the top of her young game this week, was realistic when assessing what lies ahead. "I have no experience and Cylana and Mika are both relatively green at this level. From here on in, I'll do whatever George tells me to do and I'll do my very best. What I've done so far has been unbelievable. I'm not taking away from myself; I understand the gravity of winning the Trials, but I also can't realistically say I'm going to go to London," she smiled. "I would give my left arm to go, but I'm going to do the very best that I can."

Despite her sensational showing in the Trials, Kessler willingly admitted to her lack of experience at the top level of the sport, "Senior Nations Cup experience, I have none. I've done a lot of Juniors and Young Riders. The USET Foundation generously put together the Young Rider tour last year and I did that. It was a phenomenal experience. We learned so much on that tour together in Europe, and I've done many years of Prix des States. As far as London? That would probably be a tricky first time, but I'm not against it!"



Margie Engle and Indigo

Joining Kessler and Mika in a threeway tie for third place were Mario Deslauriers and Urico, owned by Jane F. Clark, of New York, NY and Rich Fellers with Flexible, owned by Harry and Mollie Chapman of Wilsonville, OR. Deslauriers had rounds of zero, eight, one and four, while Fellers posted a four, zero, five and four. For Deslauriers and Fellers, it came down to a couple of ticks on the clock and a pesky time fault for each that prevented them from sharing first place with Kessler and Engle.

Except for the extremely difficult third Selection Trial, a monster test that saw no horse and rider combination able to master the course cleanly, Kent Farrington and Uceko, owned by the RCG Farm, partnered up for one of the best performances of any pair during the entire trials, finishing all alone in sixth place with 18 faults. Other than the disappointing 13 faults scored in that third trial, Farrington posted three great rounds of zero, five and zero.

Deslauriers described Selection Trial #3, saying, "I think that was one of the



Beezie Madden and Cortes 'C

biggest tests we've ever jumped in Palm Beach under the lights."

Two-time Olympic Gold Medalist McLain Ward, who is working his way back from a devastating knee injury, suffered early in the circuit, had a chance to observe the Trials in depth and came away very impressed with potential teammates Engle and Kessler. "Over the week they were very good. Margie was very consistent. I thought Reed, other than Thursday night's eight faults, which wasn't a bad round by any means, was quite spectacular. It's a shame she had the last jump down today because I thought the horse jumped a class round," he said. "Maybe it came from trying a little too hard, last



Reed Kessler and Mika

jumps are always a pressure cooker, but I think they both performed really well and I think Reed's performance in particular, for the experience level, was spectacular. We've all always thought the world of her riding, so it's not a total shocker." Ward, who received one of the pre-trial byes from the Selection Committee hopes to be ready to roll again at Old Salem in May and plans to compete at the observation events in Kentucky and Devon.

Ward continued, "One of the things that is important here, you have these six or eight horse and rider combinations going forward into the next process with a real chance to make the Olympic Team,



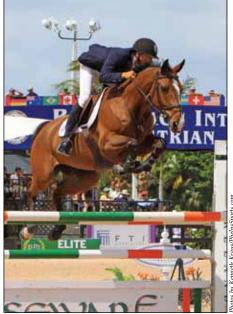
Kent Farrington and Uceko

and I think all of those people, myself included, need to try to be at our best and peak our horses. When the team is picked,



Rich Fellers and Flexible

we have to rally as a country," he said. "I think we really pulled together well at the Pan American Games and the result was obvious. That's very important. The supporters need to get behind the team that is selected and help us to do the best we can. That's the only way you can be successful at that level," he concluded.



Mario Deslauriers and Urico



Laura Kraut and Teirra

LONG LIST NAMED FOR U.S. SHOW JUMPING TEAM FOR 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

- 1 Cylana/Reed Kessler
- 2 Indigo/Margie Engle
- 3 Cedric/ Laura Kraut
- 4 Coral Reef Via Volo/Beezie Madden
- 5 Mika/Reed Kessler
- 6 Urico/Mario Deslauriers
- 7 Flexible/Rich Fellers
- 8 Antares F/ McLain Ward
- 9 Uceko/Kent Farrington
- 10 Sapphire/McLain Ward
- 11 Teirra/Laura Kraut
- 12 Cortes 'C'/Beezie Madden
- 13 Romantovich Take One/ Christine McCrea
- 14 Springtime/Saer Coulter
- 15 Nemo 119/Lucy Davis
- 16 Quick Study/Lauren Hough
- 17 Nougat De Vallet/Katie Dinan
- 18 HH Carotino/Quentin Judge
- 19 Nice De Prissey/Brianne Goutal
- 20 Uraya/Charlie Jayne
- 21 Simon/Beezie Madden
- 22 Scarface/Nick Dello Joio
- 23 Voranado Van De Hoendrik/ Jessica Springsteen
- 24 Saskia/Cara Raether
- 25 Combina/ Kirsten Coe
- 26 Blue Angel/Lauren Hough
- 27 Walk About/Jimmy Torano
- 28 Lyonell/Cara Raether
- 29 Leap of Joy/Charlie Jacobs
- 30 Jonkheer Z/Karl Cook
- 31 Kismet 50/Ray Texel
- 32 Tao Tao 3/Alicia Jonsson-Foster
- 33 Athena/Charlie Jayne
- 34 ASB Conquistador/Karl Cook
- T35 Woodpecker De Villars/Cara Anthony
- T35 Cadett 7/Ashlee Bond
- T35 Cella/Mario Deslauriers
- T35 Chill R Z/Charlie Jayne

Team USA Pep Rally Generates Excitement for U.S. Show Jumping Team

n Friday, March 2, 2012, the colors red, white and blue could be seen throughout the Special Events Pavilion at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, FL. That evening, riders from 10 countries gathered to compete in the CSIO Wellington, \$75,000 FEI Nations Cup Competition. Just prior to the event, the United States Equestrian Team Foundation and the United States Equestrian Federation hosted a Team USA Nations Cup Pep Rally Reception in the Pavilion to bring together the U.S. fans and supporters, ultimately generating team spirit among the group and extending to the American riders. Many of the guests also showed their confidence in the U.S. Team by pledging their support for each clear round a U.S. rider jumped during the evening's Nations Cup, raising \$9,000 for the show jumping high performance programs.

During the Pep Rally Reception, guests enjoyed cocktails and an "All American Picnic Dinner," as well as festive red, white and blue decorations.

"It's wonderful to see all of the fans out here, supporting us for such an important event," commented McLain Ward. "This is one of the few events we have in the U.S., and the pressure can be overwhelming for the riders. I am so glad to see that the kids got involved and we are bringing them into the future of this sport."

The judges for the contest included Olympians McLain Ward, Joe Fargis and Laura Kraut. The poster contest would not have been possible without the remarkable Sparky Frost who coordinated the event. Each of the poster contest winners received a signed copy of Hunter Seat Equitation by George H. Morris, as well as a hat and shirt signed by the Nations Cup Team.



Team USA Spirit and Best Team Horse of the Past. The winner of the Best Current Team Horse was Baylee McKeever for her poster of McLain Ward's Sapphire (left), while Mark Leone, Jr. picked up the award for his Team USA Spirit poster (center). The final award went to Halle Hunt for her poster of Night Owl in the Best Team Horse of the Past category (right).

Frost concluded, "When we were planning this event we realized that there are so many people that make up the team, and the kids are a huge part of this because they are going to be out there for us one day. They are also the ones that get the most excited. Why not try to bring the kids into the highest level of the sport? The poster decorating event was a huge success and everyone has been so supportive, so it has been a lot of fun."

The USA section during the Nations Cup was full of excited spectators as the team of Beezie Madden with Simon, owned by Abigail Wexner, Mario Deslauriers and Jane Clark's Cella, Lauren Hough aboard Quick Study owned by Laura Mateo and Margie Engle riding Indigo, owned by Gladewinds, Griese, Garber and Hidden Creek, and led by U.S. Show Jumping Chef d' Equipe, George H. Morris prepared to take to the field. Beezie Madden and Lauren Hough were each able to produce flawless efforts during the first round of the Nations Cup, helping to raise \$9,000 in clear round pledges for the USET Foundation.

"This Nations Cup is so important because it is the only one we get to have in our own country," noted Olympian Laura Kraut. "Jumping in a Nations Cup is one of the most nerve wracking and wonderful experiences; the pressure is intense. It's really a great experience and we thank everyone for the time and money they donate to us, it is truly an experience of a lifetime." - Rebecca Walton and Kendall Bierer



Baylee McKeever



Laura Kraut, Mark Leone, Jr. and McLain Ward



Sparky Frost and Paul Butterworth



George Morris and Jim Wolf

George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Session Luncheon Recognizes Future of the Sport

he sixth annual George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Session presented by the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) and Adequan proved to be nothing but a success. The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) started out the New Year with the clinic held at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, FL. It consisted of 12 of the top young riders from across the nation working alongside the best in the industry for five days. The USET Foundation hosted the congratulatory luncheon at the White Horse Tavern in Wellington, FL, at the conclusion of the week, warmly thanking the riders, clinicians and sponsors for their efforts and immense help.

Morris was forced to the sidelines by illness during the sessions; however, the Gold Medal Pan American Team consisting of Beezie Madden, McLain Ward, Christine McCrea and Kent Farrington stepped forward and took the reins. The 12 nationally qualified riders chosen to participate in the prestigious program were Carly Anthony, Natalie Crane, Katie Dinan, Taylor Harris, Lillie Keenan, Sarah Milliren, Michael Murphy, Meg O'Mara, Jacob Pope, Wilton Porter, Samantha Ramsay and Samantha Schaefer. They were split into two groups of six each day, learning the basics of flat work, gymnastics, positioning, and sport medicine.

Throughout the duration of the sessions, the Pan American teammates were joined by five-time Olympian, two-time Olympic Silver Medalist, author, clinician and international competitor, Anne Kursinski, internationally recognized and FEI sanctioned course designer and member of the USEF Jumper Committee Anthony D'Ambrosio, U.S. Show Jumping Team Veterinarian Dr. Tim Ober, Adequan's Allyn Mann, farrier Dean Pearson and Young Riders European Tour Chef d'Equipe Katie Monahan-Prudent.

The Horsemastership Sessions concluded with the USET Foundation luncheon. Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins said, "I don't think anyone would have been prouder of the way everyone stepped up and put together such an incredible week than George. All 12 riders who earned their spot here this week should know what a huge accomplishment that is in itself. One of the key points of our mission is building for the future and I think that we really accomplished that this week."

The USET Foundation presented each of the riders with an engraved silver frame, congratulating each rider for their participation and excellent riding. Pearson also provided the clinic riders with his emergency farrier packet, co-sponsored by John Madden and Cara Anthony. The final gift each of the students received was a gift certificate provided by Equestrian Sports Production. – *Kendall Bierer/PMG*



Top (L-R): Amy Serridge (USEF), Meg O'Mara, Sarah Milliren, Jacob Pope, Carly Anthony, Samantha Schaefer, Katie Dinan, Samantha Ramsay, Lillie Keenan, Pancho Lopez, Bonnie Jenkins (USET Foundation), and Lizzy Chesson (USEF) Bottom: (L-R) Michael Murphy, Taylor Harris, Wilton Porter and Natalie Crane



Monthly eGiving Program

The USET Foundation has had many requests for a monthly giving program and now it is here. We would like to introduce our Achieving Excellence! Monthly eGiving program. This is a way for you to make a secure, recurring gift each month and help America's equestrian athletes achieve excellence at this year's Summer Olympics and beyond. To make your special monthly commitment of \$10, \$15, \$20, or even more, or to learn more about the program, please visit www.uset.org/egiving.php.

Gold Medal Club Members Recognized for Their Loyalty and Generosity



Jane Forbes Clark, Bruce Duchossois, George Williams, Sally Ike and Armand Leone Jr.

The United States Equestrian Team Foundation recognized the generous support of its Gold Medal Club (GMC) members during its annual Olympic Benefit, "An English Country Evening,". The Gold Medal Club is the lifeblood of the USET Foundation, accounting for nearly 80% of individual contributions each year, and is comprised of members who contribute a minimum of \$1,000 or more annually. During the event, GMC members that have made the USET Foundation a priority in their charitable giving for 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years were honored for their contributions.

The GMC members have been a vital and essential source of support to the U.S. equestrian teams. For the last 10 years, the following GMC members have continued to generously support the USET Foundation: Sherry & Allen Adams, Henry L. Collins III, Anne W. Eldridge, Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Feldman, Jan Neuharth, Marcia R. Phillips, Karen Ramsing-Bixler, Phyllis Dye Turner and Anthony V. Weight.

Receiving the 15 Year Award were Jean Baum, K. Reed Berkey, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Dammerman, James H. Fairclough, the Lake



Jane Forbes Clark, Bertram Firestone, Diana Firestone and Armand Leone Jr.

Placid Horse Show, Heloise B. Power, Cara Raether, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Raether, Janne Rumbough, Mr. & Mrs. John E. Runnells III and Mr. & Mrs. Theodore L. Weise.

The 20 Year Award was presented next, and the recipients were R. Bruce Duchossois, Sally Ike, the U.S. Dressage Federation and Margaret J. Wyllie.

For a remarkable 25 years, Mr. & Mrs. Bertram R. Firestone and Joyce H. Williams have been members of the Gold Medal Club.

Receiving the USET Foundation's 30 Year Award, the Foundation's highest honor, were Corwith Hamill and the U.S. Eventing Association.

The USET Foundation would not be able to achieve its mission to support the competition, training, coaching, travel and educational needs of America's elite and developing international, High Performance horses and athletes in partnership with the United States Equestrian Federation without the generous support of each and every member of the Gold Medal Club. The Foundation looks forward to an exciting year in 2012.

– Rebecca Walton



(L-R) Armand Leone, Jr., Richard M. Feldman, John E. Runnells III, Paula Runnells, Jean Baum, Cara Raether, Ted Weise, Sharon Weise and Jane Forbes Clark

Christine McCrea Receives 2012 Whitney Stone Cup

an American Games Show Jumping Team and Individual Gold Medalist Christine McCrea of East Windsor, CT, was the recipient of the 2012 Whitney Stone Cup, which was given by the United States Equestrian Team Foundation. The award is presented 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. McCrea represented the United States on numerous occasions in 2011 with her talented mount. Romantovich Take One, and earned Show Jumping's Individual Gold Medal at the 2011 Pan American Games with five clear rounds.

"I am thrilled to win this award, it is such an honor for myself and my family," expressed McCrea. "The Pan American Games were like a dream, it was incredible. On one hand it was unbelievable, but on the other hand it kind of wasn't because I have that much confidence in my horse and I know he's really that talented. He loves getting up and going to work every day, and when you have



Jane Forbes Clark, Christine McCrea and Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.

a horse with a character like that it just makes the whole process more fun and more exciting."

In addition to McCrea's success at the Pan American Games, she also represented the United States on six occasions during the FEI Top League Nations Cup Series in Europe. She excelled throughout the summer with Romantovich Take One, completing six clear rounds.

McCrea noted, "George Morris and Lizzy Chesson were unbelievable, as was the whole team experience. Having that whole team and the USET Foundation behind you makes you really feel confident and you can focus on your job."

The 2012 London Olympic Games are one of McCrea's main goals for the year. In addition to her talented horse, McCrea thanked her parents, Larry and Candy Tribble, and her husband, Jonathan McCrea, for their incredible support over the years. *Rebecca Walton*



Christine McCrea and Romantovich Take One

2012 Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy Awarded to Lucy Davis

During the 2012 benefit "An English Country Evening", the United States Equestrian Team Foundation awarded the 2012 Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy to talented show jumping rider Lucy Davis of Los Angeles, CA. Each year this award is presented to a Young Rider in one of the Olympic disciplines who exemplifies both sportsmanship and horsemanship. In 2011, Davis set the west on fire, winning four grand prix events in a row at HITS Thermal, including the \$200,000 Lamborghini Grand Prix of the Desert aboard her brilliant mounts Nemo 119 and Hannah.

Davis is a 19-year-old freshman at Stanford University, and was thrilled to earn the prestigious honor. "I am very excited to have won the award," said Davis. "I got the call when I was in the middle of finals, and it really changed my mood. I am very honored because I know there are a lot of really incredible young riders in the United States, so this is really exciting to win."

Over the summer, Davis spent three



Jane Forbes Clark, Courtney Caverzasi (Hermès), George H. Morris and Lucy Davis

months in Europe riding and competing under the tutelage of Germany's Markus Beerbaum. During her stay, she had the opportunity to represent the United States on numerous occasions, including the FEI Nations Cup CSIO5* in Falsterbo, Sweden, July 7-10, 2011. "Competing in Europe is always an incredible learning experience," she explained. "I got to watch Aachen, which is really special and inspiring. The horses are all top quality, and you learn so much by watching all the really talented riders that are there." In 2012, Davis competed in the Olympic Trials at the end of March during the Winter Equestrian Festival finishing a very commendable 11th for such a young rider. "Right now I am just focusing on getting experience in that area and just wanted to be respectable at the Trials. Making the Olympic Team has been my dream since I was little. This year is not realistic, but in the future I would love to go to the Olympics, as not many people get to do that." — *Rebecca Walton*



Lucy Davis and Nemo 119

Sharon Lynn Campbell's Inspired Talent

To look through Sharon Lynn Campbell's body of work, one would think she had been painting her whole life. Her work is realistic and life-like. The artist, who donated her talent to the United States Equestrian Team Foundation for the live auction at its "*An English Country Evening*" Olympic benefit, has an interesting, perhaps miraculous, story to tell about how she came to be one of the country's most sought after equestrian portrait artists.



Originally from Chicago, Campbell became involved with horses early in life. Her family imported Warmbloods from Holland in the early 1980's.

According to Campbell, "I rode, taught and went to horse shoeing school at the age of 19. I was shoeing two horses a day, riding 11 horses and teaching. We moved to the East Coast to be close to Commonwealth Park when Culpeper had the longer summer series. We spent summers in Virginia and the winters in Wellington. My son did the lead-line class the first year the Winter Equestrian Festival was here at this location. Then, there was a period of time, for about seven years when I was out of the horses. I felt like a fish out of water. I got remarried in 1999 and shortly after I started painting."

Campbell had been doing some marketing in her non-horse related profession, but finally she felt it was time for a change in her life and she wanted to start following her passion. Campbell decided to call her father and encouraged him to contact a friend in Chicago that she thought might be interested in a painting of a foxhunting scene.

"When my father called back he said, 'Sharon, you won't believe this, I asked my friend if he wanted a painting from you, and that it would be your first painting. He said, 'Yes, I want it. It has to be large, in oil,'" explained Campbell. It marked the beginning her new life as a painter.

After visiting several local hunts to photograph horses and hounds, Campbell went to make her first purchase of art supplies. The salesperson

was shocked when she asked for such a large canvas for her first painting.

"I put my paints on an old ceramic plate," she explained. "I stood at my easel and thought, 'I can't do this.' Then I thought that I'd go to Michaels art supply store and learn how to paint from Bob Ross (the famous painting teacher and host of television's *The Joy of Painting*). Right at that moment the entire instruction came to me, like a conversation, step by step. I painted my first painting."

For Campbell, business took off right away. She attended a painting clinic in Atlanta and was awarded a showing of almost forty paintings. Painting equestrian portraits was the next natural step.

"Since I was around horses all my life, my art is very lifelike," expressed Campbell. "I love the horses. I was a horse person before I



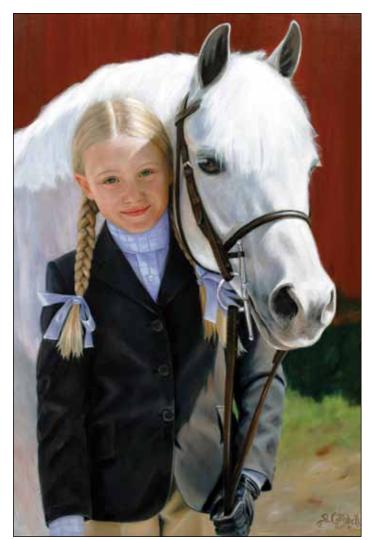
was an artist. I've had dogs since I was nine months old. I truly love animals. I feel blessed that I am in the horse world through my art.

Campbell's work has graced the covers of the country's most renowned hunter/jumper show prize lists and programs and appeared on the covers of many top equine publications. She paints in oils and works on five to six pieces at the same time. Her paintings take about ten months to complete because the process includes many layers that must dry in between each layer.

She recently added a line of custom platters to her repertoire under the registered trademark of Home Blessed Home. Campbell personalizes the pieces by adding a barn or family name and creates one-of-a-kind, eye-catching ceramics.

"I've painted everything from Olympic horses like Connaught to family pets," continued Campbell. "I went to South Africa to do some African art for a client and I did some life size zebras. People will call me and say, 'You can do this painting during your slow time.' I tell them, there is no slow time! I feel very blessed to be in that position. My husband also works in the business. He does all the framing. When someone receives a painting from me, it is wired, framed and it has a nameplate. It is ready to hang on the wall. I don't want anyone to touch my painting once it's done. I don't want a frame shop to accidently nick a painting."

Campbell donated a commission for a portrait to the live auction at the USET Foundation Benefit, which eventually sold for \$22,000. "The auction winner is a client of mine," she noted. "Later I was introduced to Matt Lauer, who had also bid on the item, so I agreed to do a second one for his family. My paintings

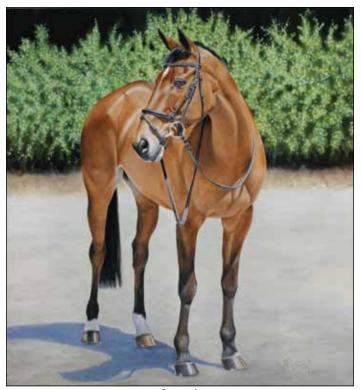


Alice and Southern Belle

raised \$44,000 for the USET Foundation. I am so thrilled. This is my life. I was happy to contribute, because without it, I wouldn't be here." \blacksquare – *Carrie Wirth*



For The Laughter (aka Bubbles)



Connaught



Elle Mae, Snoopy, Jewels and Dippy Doo

USA Qualifies for 2012 London Paralympic Games

The USA's Para-Dressage Team has earned a spot at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London. The Team came off of a strong performance at the recent Wellington Classic Sunshine Challenge CPED13* Team Qualifier for the Paralympics in Wellington, FL, after bouncing back from a second place finish at the Gold Coast Opener CPEDI3*. This crucial triumph gave the USA victory over Canada and the second place finish on the FEI Para-Equestrian team rankings list.

"It's very exciting," Chef d'Equipe Missy Ransehousen stated. "I was very pleased with not only the team, but also with the individuals. They are a good group of people, working hard, and going forward with a good plan in mind."

Although the team is excited to be traveling to London after its last qualifying finish, they will not be taking any time off before the Games begin this summer. There are two more CPEDI3* events on the schedule including Katy, TX, and San Diego, CA. Along with the two events, the USA Para-Equestrians are also looking forward to competing in the Paralympic Selection Trials in June.

The qualification process for the impending 2012 Paralympics Games began in October 2010, and finished January 21, 2012. An extraordinary 23 nations have qualified to take part in the London 2012 Paralympic Games, with Great Britain, Germany, Denmark and Canada each receiving five qualification slots. The USA is one of 11 nations who qualified through the Para-Equestrian Team ranking list and regional distribution of teams, and will enter with a team of four riders.

"I am so proud of the accomplishments of the U.S. Para-Dressage riders in their fight to rank our team fifth place in the World standings," commented Hope Hand, President of the United States Para-Equestrian Association. "We thank the USET Foundation for its support and recognition. The U.S. Para-Dressage Team is so honored to represent our nation at the London Paralympics"

There are currently three remaining qualification slots, which will be allocated by Bipartite Commission Invitation issued by the International Paralympic Committee and the FEI. These final qualifications will be announced on April 9, 2012. The nominated entries will be published on June 18, 2012, and the definite entries on August 6, 2012.

A total of 78 Para-Equestrian riders will battle it out for the 11 sets of medals available in Greenwich Park over six days from August 30 to September 4, 2012. – *Lindsay Y. McCall/USPEA*



(L-R) Chef d'Equipe Missy Ransehousen, Dale Dedrick, Rebecca Hart, Mary Jordan, Jonathan Wentz, and Coach Kai Handt at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center in Wellington, FL

'Salute to Driving' Benefit Raises Funds for High Performance Combined Driving

n the weekend of February 18-20, 2012, the second annual "Salute to Driving" benefit was held, with the dinner and auction on Saturday night designated as a fundraiser for the United States Equestrian Team Foundation to help support the USEF High Performance Combined Driving program. The successful evening was held at Wendy O'Brien's beautiful Trout Walk Farm in Aiken, SC. The focus of the event was to help raise funds for the USET Foundation that will be dedicated to helping train the best drivers and equines to represent the USA in World Driving Championships with the goal to bring home Team and Individual Medals.



Lisa Singer and Wendy O'Brien

At the dinner, a group of over 200 guests enjoyed lovely decorations featuring USET Foundation and USA flags to the recognize the World Pony Championship drivers. During the evening's live auction, attendees bid on auction items which included lessons with top driver Michael Freund in Florida, lessons with Chester Weber during the Live Oak Driving Event 2012, a dinner for six presented by Jack Wetzel at his newly restored 1780's log cabin in Aiken, a week long vacation in a four bedroom Victorian home on Block Island in Rhode Island, a Picnic Supper for 20 people at Wendy O'Brien's Trout Walk Farm hosted by the Bronze medal winning team from the Pony World Driving Championships, and a ride on a coach with the Four-in-Hand Club with lunch in the Audubon Nature Preserve. In addition to the live auction, a silent auction featuring 30 quality items was held throughout the evening on Saturday, and came to close following the dinner.

"My sincere thanks go to the most enthusiastic organizing committee, headed up by Bev Lesher, Lisa Singer, Wendy O'Brien and Jack Wetzel. Their energy and commitment to raising awareness and funds to help the High Performance Driving programs is truly appreciated," said USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins.

The overall "Salute to Driving" was a three-day affair featuring multiple driving clinics with some of the world's top trainers, and a Combined Test competition for drivers Preliminary-Advanced on Monday. The weekend helped raise awareness and educate different audiences about the discipline of driving. The exciting festivities kicked-off Saturday morning with clinics by Tjreed Velstra of The Netherlands and Hardy Zantke of California at Chateau Log and Courage to Lead Farms. The clinics continued Sunday, and throughout the course of the weekend there were other special events that included a hazard demonstration and clinic, harnessing demonstrations, and a carriage exhibit. An additional highlight on Sunday was the Driving Blind Cones activity with golf carts, where participants truly learned the importance of the navigator.

"The Blind Gator event was a huge hit," remarked Assistant Chairman Bev Lesher. "The navigator is so important, and this event really stressed that they are a key part of driving."

Finally, on Monday, February 20, the "Salute to Driving" weekend wrapped up with the thrilling Combined Test competition, and there was also a "Dressage by the Side" clinic conducted by Nancy Tomlinson. During lunch, attendees experienced a part of history when Raymond Tuckwiller of West Virginia gave a Coaching Horn



Velstra coaching Joe Yoder with Jack Wetzel's team

demonstration in full coachman's livery. The final event was a wonderful "Pas de Deux" dressage demonstration featuring Shelly Temple driving "Cooper," and Suzy Stafford driving "Roz" to some lively disco music.



Bev Lesher, Bonnie Jenkins and Lisa Singer

"It was a very enjoyable three-day fund-raising event," said Lesher. "There was wonderful participation in all of the events, and again we had fun while raising funds for the USET Foundation and the discipline of driving." — Rebecca Walton

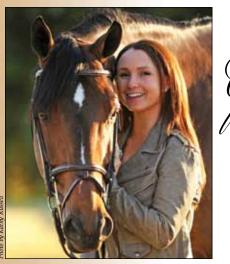


Jacob Arnold, whip and Craig Kellogg, navigator in marathon demonstration



USET Foundation Welcomes Eight New Trustees

The United States Equestrian Team Foundation is pleased to announce the election of new Trustees Georgina Bloomberg, George Davis, Elizabeth Juliano, Murray Kessler, Lyle Lovett, Misdee Wrigley Miller, MK Pritzker and Philip Ernst Richter. The new Trustees were elected to the Board on January 28, 2012 during the USET Foundation's Annual Meeting. They will aid and assist the USET Foundation in its mission to support the competition, training, coaching, travel and educational needs of America's elite and developing international, high-performance horses and athletes in partnership with the United States Equestrian Federation. The USET Foundation is very happy to welcome each of these individuals to its Board of Trustees.



CORGINA BLOOMBERG of North Salem, NY and

Wellington, FL, has been competing in Show Jumping at the international level for many years. She has represented the United States at the World Cup Finals and also in Nations Cup competitions. Bloomberg won the Maxine Beard Award in 2004 and she also founded The Rider's Closet to distribute used clothing and equipment to college equestrian teams and pony clubs.



EORGE DAVIS of Los Angeles, CA, is the CEO and Portfolio Manager at Hotchkis and Wiley Capital Management LLC in Los Angeles. His daughter, Lucy, is a successful Grand Prix rider who has represented the United States on two Nations Cup teams in 2011. George and his wife, Kelly, also have a son.





Wellington, FL, is a dressage rider, and owns several international level prospects currently with George Williams. Juliano owns Havensafe Farm North and South, and she also founded and leads Litigation Management, which acquires, reviews, analyzes and summarizes thousands of pages of medical records to provide defense counsels with summaries and analyses.

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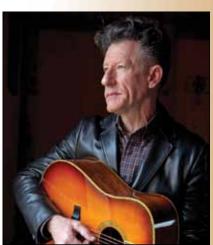
CURRAY KESSLER of Armonk, NY, and Wellington, FL. is on the Board of the North American Riders Group (NARG), and is a Director and the President and CEO of Lorillard, Inc. He competes in the Amateur-Owner Jumpers, and his daughter, Reed, has represented the United States at international

 $\star \star \star$

competitions, and is one of the country's talented show jumping riders. Murray's wife, Terri, also competes in the Amateur/Owner Hunters.

YLE LOVETT has reining horses with Tim McQuay and owns Smart & Shiney, who Lovett competed with in the CRI*****Ariat Kentucky Reining Cup. Smart & Shiney competed at 2010 WEG with McQuay's assistant. He is a Grammy-winning country singer/songwriter, and has also appeared in feature films.

+ +



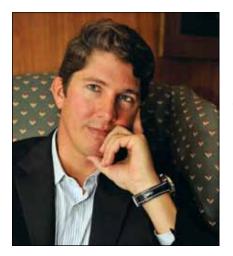
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DEE WRIGLEY MILLER of Paris, KY, is

an international level driver. She owns Hillcroft Farm in Paris where she trains her horses and coaching four-in-hands. Miller also trains and shows 3-gaited American Saddlebreds. She and her husband, James, own the Post Time Production video company and also Equus Limited Productions. Miller is president of the World Coaching Club, a group for female carriage drivers and represents the American Saddlebred Association on the Board of the Kentucky Equine Education Project.

 $\sim K \ PRITZKER$ of Kenosha, WI, was a member of the Miss Independent Group with grand prix rider Laura Kraut. She developed Evergreen Farm into a showplace, which hosts the Evergreen Classic, raising funds for Prentice Women's Hospital. Pritzker chaired the equestrian committee of the Chicago bid for the 2016 Olympic Games. MK and her husband, JB, have two children.



HILIP ERNST RICHTER of Bedford, NY, competes successfully in the Amateur-Owner Jumpers, and is serving on the USET Foundation's

Gladstone Fund Committee. Richter is an equity holder, President and CEO of Hollow Brook Associates, an investment management firm in New York City. He is the son of National Advisory Committee member Judy Richter.

2011 Year in Review Donors Support Training and International Competition RECORD BREAKING PAN AMERICAN GAMES FOR U.S.

The United States Equestrian Team Foundation and the generosity of its donors supported the efforts of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) through a busy and successful year with a total grant of \$2,255,000 in 2011. These generous people made it possible for the U.S. Teams to travel to the Pan American Games in Mexico, the World Pony Driving Championships in Slovenia, the Dressage and Vaulting World Cup Finals in Germany, the World Pair Driving Championships in France, the Pan American Endurance Championship in Chile, the Para-Dressage Championships in Australia, the Burghley Horse Trials in Great Britain, and throughout Europe for the FEI Top League events and the Show Jumping Young Rider Tour.

It is no small task to move the teams across the globe. The teams travel with a full accompaniment of support staff, including team managers, Chefs d'Equipe, and team veterinarians along with the athletes and horses. The cost of transportation, logistics, lodging and meals is significant. This feat could not be accomplished without the passion and support of our donors.

The highlight of the year was the successful Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, where the U.S. earned ten medals. Across the disciplines, the U.S. Team delivered in recordbreaking fashion. The U.S. Dressage Team garnered its fourth successive Pan American Team Gold medal. In Eventing, the team maintained their winning dressage scores and managed to complete the remaining phases penalty free. This had never been accomplished in a team championship. In show jumping, the U.S. Team was determined to win in order to qualify for the Olympic Games in London. They produced an astounding eight clean rounds earning Team Gold, as well as the Gold and Silver Individual medals. The Pan Am Endurance Championship was held in Santo Domingo, Chile with the U.S. Team clinching Team Silver and Individual Silver and Bronze medals.

In dressage, two riders from the North American League and two from the Western European League qualified for the 2011 World Cup Final. The U.S. also sent a team to the 2011 CDIO in Aachen, placing just out of the medals in fourth.

The 2011 World Pony Driving Championships were held in Lipica, Slovenia. The U.S. brought home both Team and Individual Bronze.

World Pair Driving Championships were held in Conty, France. The U.S. finished in tenth place, but earned valuable international experience.

The Para-Dressage Team had a stellar 2011 with a win at Saugerties DCPED13*, taking them closer to qualifying for the 2012 Paralympic Games. The U.S. Team seized Team Gold at the 2011 CPEDI3* in Mexico City, and repeated the win at the 2011 Melbourne CDEPI3* in Australia, indeed qualifying a U.S. Paralympic Team for London.

In vaulting, the U.S. Team earned Individual Bronze as well as the Pas de Deux Bronze medal at the 2011 CHIO in Aachen, considered the world's most difficult competition.

The Jacqueline B. Mars eventing grant was awarded to Sinead Halpin who traveled to England to prepare and compete at Burghley CCI3*, where she finished 15th out of 89.

The Amanda Warrington Grant, also in eventing, was awarded to Heather Morris of Lewisville, TX, who was also the recipient of the grant in 2009. Morris was recently named to the USEF



Heather Morris was awarded the Amanda Warrington Grant from the USET Foundation

Eventing High Performance's 2011 Developing Rider List. She successfully completed the 2011 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event CCI**** aboard Slate River, and placed second in the advanced division during The Fork CIC***. Morris used the funds from the grant for the training of her newest mount, First Mark. The pair competed in their first CCI*** at Galway Downs and plan to continue with this new phase in their career.

Ali Wolff of New Albany, OH, was awarded the 2011 Maxine Beard Show Jumping Rider Award. The award provided Wolff the opportunity to be credentialed and experience an international championship with the U.S. delegation at the 2011 FEI World Cup Finals in Leipzig, Germany.

The Show Jumping Team ended the 2011 FEI Top League Nations Cup Series in seventh for its performance in the Nations Cup events. The U.S. delivered excellent results in CSIO grand prix events, winning in Hickstead, Dublin, and Rotterdam and earning second and third at St. Gallen.

The United States also sent riders to the 2011 FEI Rolex Show Jumping Finals, where Beezie Madden finished just off of the podium in the fourth place position for her efforts aboard Coral Reef Via Volo, owned by the Coral Reef Ranch.

It was the second year of the Show Jumping International Young Rider Tour. Our country's young talent, ages 16-21, competed successfully in Nations Cup competitions in Belgium and France where they took second, winning in Austria and placing third in Germany. The Team members also earned individual grand prix wins with Jessica Springsteen in Lamprechtshausen, Austria, and Ricky Neal in Hagen, Germany.

This past May, two of the United States' top reining riders, Tom McCutcheon and Craig Schmersal, traveled to Europe to represent the U.S. at the 2011 FEI Reining World Finals. McCutcheon earned an exceptional score of 229.5 with Darlins Not Painted, owned by Turnabout Farm, winning the Gold medal. Just a few points back, Schmersal took home the Silver medal for his impressive performance aboard Miss Lil Addy Tude, owned by KC Performance Horses.

All of these achievements are, in large part, due to the support and generosity of the donors to the USET Foundation. Their contributions speak volumes about their belief in, and commitment to, promoting competitive excellence for our United States Equestrian Teams. – *Carrie Wirth*

Fourth Annual Olympic Gala in Aiken, SC, Raises \$65,000 for Eventing High Performance Programs

he 2012 Summer Olympics are swiftly approaching and anticipation is high as competitors vie for the coveted team positions, as well as funds to compete abroad. On Friday, March 16, 2012, Phillip and Evie Dutton generously hosted the fourth annual Olympic Gala in Aiken, SC at their winter facility in Bridle Creek. They helped bring the Aiken community together for a night of cocktails, a catered buffet, dancing and a silent auction. The night raised \$65,000 with proceeds going to the USET Foundation for the benefit of the U.S. Eventing High Performance programs.

Top eventing riders Phillip Dutton and Boyd Martin stepped forward as the Celebrity Hosts of the evening, welcoming the crowds as everybody gathered to enjoy the evening. Guests engaged in the raffle and silent auction while listening to the music of Preston and Weston.

"I thought the gala was great, everyone had a wonderful time," Evie commented. "We had over 300 people in attendance and there was a lot of excitement, especially with it being an Olympic year. There was great music, dancing and everyone really enjoyed themselves.

The items featured in the silent auction this year included a carriage ride and picnic lunch for four in the Hitchcock Woods donated by Jack Wetzel, a hearth-cooked dinner for six including wine at Wetzel's log cabin, a Charles Owen helmet, a Dutton RZ X-C saddle, two Bit of Britain bridles and a gift certificate for consulting from Aiken interior design store, Nandina.

"This event has always been close to our hearts," Evie elaborated. "We are thrilled to give back and raise money for the High Performance programs through the USET Foundation. We always want to be able to give back to the Team and support the riders as much as possible. Aiken has really become the epicenter for event riders. It is a great get together for everyone."

This benefit would not have been possible without the vision and support of Bruce Duchossois, Jack Wetzel, Joan & Carl Hampf and Meybohm Realtors, Gala Committee Co-Chairs Bruce Duchossois, Evie Dutton, Annie Jones, Tracey Turner and Jack Wetzel, as well as the Gala Committee's Amy Ruth Borun, Freddie Davis, Joan Hampf, Densey Juvonen, Fernanda Kellogg, Bonnie Stedt, Deirdre



Joan Hampf, Jessica Hampf, Jack Wetzel, Amy Ruth Borun and Evie Dutton

USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins added, "The Aiken Olympic Gala has really taken off and provides tremendous support and enthusiasm for the USET Foundation and the High Performance Eventing programs. We are so grateful to the wonderful Benefit Committee who worked tirelessly on this party and to all the guests who came out for all the fun as we prepare for the 2012 London Olympics."

Stocker Vaillancourt, Heidi White, Sarah Wildasin and Gretchen Wintersteen.

As the United States Equestrian Team riders prepare to compete at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England, the road ahead is looking bright. Due to the generosity of the guests and auction donors, and their goal to help fund the USET Foundation, the fourth annual Olympic Gala in Aiken, SC, proved to be very successful. - Kendall Bierer

Introducing the USET Foundation's New Affinity Card from Capital One

Capital One's Visa Platinum credit card makes it easier than ever to support the USET Foundation! Use our custom credit card and with every purchase you make, valuable cash rewards will be donated to the Foundation. We will also receive a \$50 bonus donation when you make your first purchase with the USET Foundation card. The card comes with a competitive rate and other great benefits, so sharing your passion - and your support - is easy and automatic, and you get to spread the word about our mission with every swipe. To learn more, you can visit our website at www.uset.org and click on the credit card image.

If you have questions regarding this program, please contact: Michele Zanzonico at (908) 234-1251 Director of Annual Support, USET Foundation



2012 Maxine Beard Award Presented to Katie Dinan at the American Invitational

n April 7, 2012, the United States Equestrian Team Foundation presented Katie Dinan of New York, NY, the Maxine Beard Show Jumping Rider Award at the American Invitational in Tampa, FL. The selection was based on Dinan's competitive record and future potential to represent the United States in international competition. The award provides Dinan with the opportunity to be



Katie Dinan and Nougat Du Vallet

credentialed and travel with the U.S. delegation to the 2012 FEI World Cup Finals in 's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands, from April 19 – April 22. She will observe the operations of an international championship, including the stabling area, veterinary inspections and schooling, and will walk the courses with the U.S. Show Jumping Coach, George H. Morris.

"I feel very honored to be the 2012

recipient of the Maxine Beard Award," expressed Dinan. "Representing the United States in international competition is a dream of mine, and it is thrilling to receive such a distinction from the USET Foundation."

At just 18 years old, Dinan is already taking the grand prix circuit by storm, looking like she will be at the top of the sport in no time. After winning the 2011 Individual Gold medal at the North American Junior Young Rider Championships aboard Vancouver last year, Dinan established herself at the grand prix level at the beginning of 2012. She proved that consistency is key, and with continued top placings at the biggest events at the Winter Equestrian Festival, she eventually took home the blue ribbon in the \$50,000 Horseware Ireland Grand Prix with Nougat du Vallet.

"Winning the Individual Gold medal at Young Riders meant a lot to me personally," explained Dinan. "The competition tested my consistency and ability to ride under pressure, two things I have been working to improve. Also, winning the Horseware Ireland Grand Prix was a huge turning point. It was my first major victory among international competitors and gave me a lot of confidence going forward."

In the fall of 2012, Dinan will begin her freshman year at Harvard University, but she is using this "gap year" as an opportunity to focus solely on her riding with her trainer, Olympian McLain Ward. She



Katie Dinan and Vancouver



Katie Dinan

participated in the 2012 Olympic Selection Trials, finishing a respectable 13th (moving up from 37th,) and hopes to one day represent the United States internationally on a Nations Cup Team or by competing at the FEI World Cup Finals

Dinan is excited to be traveling to The Netherlands with the U.S. Show Jumping delegation and added, "I am looking forward to the unique opportunity to spend time and walk the courses with George Morris throughout the competition, especially since this will be his last World Cup Finals as Chef d'Equipe. In addition, I think the trip will be a great chance to watch top riders work with their horses and prepare to compete for such a high level competition. I hope to make the most of this experience."

As a young rider that has risen through the ranks, Dinan recognizes the hard work that is required to reach the top of the sport. "I have learned that no matter how hard you work, there are going to be frustrating days and that this is a sport of ups and downs," she said. "It is important to try to maintain perspective and keep looking forward. It's also important to remember that this is a team sport, because behind every horse and rider in the ring is a team of people who help get you there. There is so much to be learned from the team at the barn, and it is so important to be thankful for all their hard work."

Dinan is a very talented rider whose hard work and ambition will hopefully find her on a U.S. team in the years ahead. — *Rebecca Walton*



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