



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION • VOLUME 11 • ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2013

S. TUCKER S. JOHNSON Leads USET Foundation as New President & CEO

*Johnson addresses vision and initiatives he will
work towards as USA sets sights on Rio.*

BY KENDALL BIERER

Tucker Johnson joined the international driving competition scene in 1987, and after making a name for himself and the United States over his 23 years of competition, Johnson is taking the next step into the transnational scene since his retirement in 2010. Johnson was named United States Equestrian Team Foundation

President and CEO during the 2013 Annual Meeting of the USET Foundation Board of Trustees on January 26, in Wellington, FL, a position for which the Olympic four-in-hand driver is well suited and excited to fulfill.

It was October 2012 when Jane Clark Forbes announced she would be resigning from her position as the USET Foundation President and CEO. She was one of the biggest contributors to the USET Foundation, and helped raise \$2.7 million in High Performance funding to the United States Equestrian Federation last year.

Clark has emphasized that she will continue to serve on the Board and fulfill her financial commitments to the USET Foundation, as well as her support for two-time Olympic medalist Leslie Burr Howard, 56, who has ridden with Clark in the past. Clark will continue to also sponsor the United States four-in-hand driver Chester Weber and United States Dressage rider Katherine Bateson-Chandler, who is currently riding and competing with one of Clark's promising mounts. Clark stepped down from the position during the Annual Meeting in January, welcoming Johnson to the role.

Johnson has had a long involvement with both the USET Foundation and the USEF.

For the Foundation, he has served as the Treasurer and as a member of the Investment Committee. For the USEF, he has not only been a top competitor, but also as a member of its Executive, Budget and Finance Committees and the High Performance Working Group. From these vantage points, Johnson has had the opportunity to formulate a vision for the future of the USET Foundation for all disciplines.

"Over the years I have served on several committees, and I have had the opportunity to work with athletes in all the international disciplines. I am definitely going to put a large focus on understanding the challenges of how to engage people in each



S. Tucker S. Johnson,
USET Foundation President and CEO

Photo by Rebecca Walton/Phelps Media Group



Photo by Susan Stickle.com



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THE USET FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES Patrick Lynch FOR OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Immaculately manicured grounds and perfectly turned out horses have been a signature at Gladstone for years. Most of this is due to Patrick Lynch, who after 42 years, is retiring as Facilities Manager.

Born in Baltimore, Patrick grew up in the horse world. His father ran the riding department at McDonough School in Baltimore, Maryland, where Patrick began on ponies and started showing horses while in high school. During this time, the young man was busy showing in both the hunters and jumpers, bouncing back and forth between disciplines. After completing high school, he decided to join the Air Force, where he fulfilled a four-year term, serving as an offensive weapons mechanic on F-105 fighter planes in Japan and Thailand.



Photo Courtesy of The USET Foundation

Patrick Lynch waits out rain which drenched the stadium phase at the Middletown Horse Trials with Eventing team horse Bally Cor

After returning from the Air Force, Patrick learned that the United States Equestrian Team was looking for someone to help work with their Eventing Team at its facility in Gladstone, NJ. So in 1971, he began his journey with the USET and, eventually, the USET Foundation.

"I started out as a groom, taking care of the horses. Then the Eventing Team moved to Hamilton, Massachusetts and when we moved there I also took care of the grounds and did maintenance," he explained.

Patrick and the Team were based in Massachusetts for 15 years. In that time, they traveled the globe to places including Germany, England, France, Canada, Los Angeles and Atlanta. "I was where I needed to be when I needed to be. Burghley was one my favorite experiences when the Team won the Gold and Individual Gold and Silver for Eventing. That was our first big win when I worked for the Team," he said.

The Hamilton training facility closed in 1985 and Lynch returned to Gladstone, this time focusing entirely on maintenance of the buildings and grounds. Nevertheless, one of his more important roles continued to be the meticulous packing of USET tack trunks to be sent around the world with the various Team members. He packed these not only with the necessities, but he also knew the favorite snacks for each rider which he managed to tuck into the corners.

Patrick has also been the go-to man for grounds preparation for many championship events and manicuring the property to look its best for visitors and competitors through the years. Even after the recent Superstorm Sandy, the buildings and grounds were up and running in record time. He is a man who displays great pride in this historic farm known to generations of riders as simply "Gladstone."

Now, after 42 years of dedication to the horse world, Patrick is going to take time for himself. He will spend part of his time at the family home in Maryland, and in the summers spend his days sailing his boat around Lake Champlain near Plattsburgh, NY.

"This job is the kind of thing you do every day and you don't think about," said Patrick. "When you first start it's a big deal working with the Olympians, but when you're doing it for this long, you sort of get used to it. It's been a good job. Every day is different."

Bonnie Jenkins, Executive Director of the Foundation, concluded, "Patrick is part of the fabric of Gladstone and our United States Equestrian Teams. His time with the "Team" represents 168 medals, and he has played a supporting and important role in winning all of them. We will miss him dearly, but feel privileged to have worked side-by-side with him for so many years." ■ — Arianna Delin



TUCKER JOHNSON

continued from page 1

discipline,” Johnson explained. “My goal is to continue to increase the support for all disciplines by the USET Foundation. I have an understanding and a sense of what is important to the owners, riders and supporters. I am going to do the best that I can to create communication and be as supportive as I can.”

One of the main goals for Johnson includes creating and building depth. Johnson has built a strong working relationship with Chrystine Tauber, President of the United States Equestrian Federation. They plan on working together to create a structure that will increase sponsorships and commitments over the next four-year period.

“It’s not just about the funding for one or two or even five top athletes,” Johnson explained. “What it really comes down to is building depth. It is about putting the funds and programs in place, and the USET Foundation is the best source of revenue. We rely on individual donors and family foundations, but we want to see the USEF expand commercial sponsorships that will provide a four-year plan for growth of income too.”

Johnson has made a name for the United States on the international scene for over 25 years, winning numerous awards across the globe. In 1991, Johnson was a member of the Gold medal team for the World Pairs Championship in Zwettl, Austria. He took his second Gold medal in 1992 during the USET National Pairs Championship in New Jersey. He was a member of the USEF World Four-In-Hand Championship Team in The Hague, Netherlands, in 1994. Johnson also took first during the USEF Four-In-Hand Championship in Maryland in 1997, and won the first place award three consecutive times in 1998, 1999 and 2000. He earned a fifth place finish during the World Equestrian Games in Rome, Italy in 1998. In 2000, he was part of the sixth place team and finished seventh individually during the World Four-In-Hand Championship in Wolfsburg, Germany. In 2002, Johnson was a member of the Silver medal team for the World Equestrian Games, also finishing fourth individually in Jerez, Spain.

In 2010, Johnson drove in his last competition, the World Equestrian Games in Lexington, KY. He helped lead the United States to a Team Silver medal, as well as receiving an Individual Bronze medal. He has been awarded the Whitney Stone Cup twice, once in 2001, and again in 2011. The award is presented

“I think there is an advantage to having someone that has been there, experiencing competition themselves. It is important to have someone who understands the financial challenge that the competition forces you to face,”

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.

“I think there is an advantage to having someone that has been there, experiencing competition themselves. It is important to have someone who understands the financial challenge that the competition forces you to face,” Tucker described. “I see where we need to increase funding, such as in our Developing and Young Riders High Performance programs. The Young Riders are the future of our sport; we need to find a way to fund these initiatives. I have a strong insight coming at it from the carriage driving side. Having spent time working with people who want to fund initiatives helps me know and understand what is well-suited to come next.”



S. Tucker S. Johnson winning the Team Silver medal and the Individual Bronze medal at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.

As a father of three children, Johnson has seen the equestrian sport from all angles, including the pipeline of the sport. “It’s the children that drive the grassroots of our sport,” Johnson remarked. “I see my daughter as she rides her pony, and she is the one imagining that she will one day ride at Aachen or the World Championships. If we can take young equestrians, such as the

ones following the pipeline, we can help them transition into the international level with the right initiatives.”

As Johnson takes on the position of President and CEO of the USET Foundation, he realizes that he is faced with impending challenges as Normandy approaches. “We first need to focus on Normandy. We need to have success in Normandy to get to Rio,” Johnson emphasized. “I know that it’s not lost on anyone at the Foundation. I know the Federation was hit very hard by the United States’ lack of success in London, it was disappointing.”

Johnson continued, “We are in transition right now, not only within the Foundation, but also on an even larger scale with our U.S. coaches. We need to support these programs as well build toward success, but we also need to encourage owners to have the confidence to be willing to get the quality horses with the top

TUCKER JOHNSON

continued from page 3

riders so we have a chance for that success. In some ways, we are outdone in horse acquisition."

Johnson realizes that one of the largest problems he is going to face during his term as President is the fact that the equestrian sport is moving forward across the world, and the United States is no longer coming off as a leader. "If we want to go back to a level of dominance in this sport we need to find ways to bring in owners and find the support for this level of competition. We are faced with challenges from countries that weren't on the scene, or our radar, a few years ago. My test, and that of the Foundation, is to find the support to bring the United States back into the forefront of the sport on a global level. We have time until Rio, and Normandy is our first step. We have promising young athletes and positive opportunities ahead of us."

With Johnson at the head of the USET Foundation, there is sure to be an impact as the United States moves toward Normandy in 2014. Following in footsteps of previous presidents Jane Forbes Clark, and Armand Leone, Jr., Johnson assures that he looks forward to seeing the Foundation through this next chapter.

Johnson concluded, "I feel incredibly honored that my fellow Trustees and leaders at the USET Foundation would have the confidence in me to ask me to serve as the President and CEO of the organization. I look forward to working with an incredible staff with Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins and CFO Mark Piwowar, and the people they have in the office. I feel like they have faith in me, and I appreciate that, and hope I can live up to and build on the good work that has been done already." ■



S. Tucker S. Johnson receives the 2011 Whitney Stone Cup presented by Jane Forbes Clark and Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.



Tucker Johnson during the Marathon phase of the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games

Photo by SusanJStickle.com

2013 LIONEL GUERRAND-HERMÈS TROPHY

Awarded to Olympian Reed Kessler

In 2012, it was 18-year-old Reed Kessler who advanced to the highest levels of show jumping when she competed during the Olympic Trials and won the USEF Show Jumping National Championship. The United States Equestrian Team Foundation honored Reed's excellence in the ring with the 2013 Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy. Each year this award is presented to a young rider in one of the Olympic disciplines who exemplifies both sportsmanship and horsemanship.

After her top performance during the Trials and Observation Events, Kessler and her mount Cylana were selected to represent the United States at the 2012 London Olympic Games. Kessler, of Lexington, KY, was presented with this prestigious award at the USET Foundation Reception on January 25th, in Wellington, FL.

"The list of riders who have stood in this exact place giving this same speech is a truly exceptional group, and I am honored to join their ranks," stated Kessler. "One year ago, I sat in this audience, wondering how my first Florida show season, free from all the age restrictions, would go. I sat wondering if I would be ready for the approaching Olympic Trials, and most of all, who would make up the team that we would send to London. It did not cross my mind that one year later I would stand here, having been a member of that team. It did not occur to me that my new horse, Cylana, which we were still so unfamiliar with, would carry me to those Games. It is truly amazing what can happen in a year, and when I look back, this will probably be one of the best of my life."

Kessler continued, "Although my name is the one that will be inscribed on the trophy, I can only take a very small percentage of the credit. First, I have to thank the USET Foundation, which has supported me by funding programs like the European Young Riders Tour, without which the Olympics would have been my very first U.S. Nations Cup Team. I also have to thank the ladies behind the scenes that work tirelessly to take care of my horses. A thanks also goes to our vets and blacksmith, who are also critical members of our team."

"It is impossible to name everyone who has touched my career and that of my horses, so thank you to everyone who has helped along the way," acknowledged Kessler. "I would like to thank Andre Dignelli and Patricia Griffith and the whole team at Heritage Farm, who gave me a great foundation from Short Stirrup to Junior Jumpers. After I transitioned from Equitation to Jumpers, I began training with Katie and Henri Prudent. I jokingly call them my fairy godparents, because they transformed



Jane Forbes Clark, Tucker Johnson with Reed Kessler and Hermès representative Courtney Caversazi

an ordinary young girl who loved horses and taught her how to make that passion a career. Their incredible teaching is further evident by the fact that I am their third student to receive this prestigious award. I cannot thank them enough for everything they have taught me and everything they continue to teach me. Next, I'd like to thank my parents, Murray and Terri Kessler. I doubt any parents could bestow any more love and support on their child than my parents have. Way before the grand prix and the glory, my parents had the same enthusiasm for the sport and dedication to support me in whatever path I chose."

Kessler was the youngest person in Show Jumping history to compete at the Olympic Games. The team from the United States finished in sixth place, facing fierce competition from the other nations. She also

represented the United States during the Nations Cup at Spruce Meadows. Later in the year, Kessler was the winner of the \$100,000 President's Cup Grand Prix at the Washington International Horse Show, where she was also the Leading Jumper Rider. In 2011, some of Kessler's accomplishments included becoming a member of the U.S. Show Jumping European Young Riders Tour and winning the Young Riders Grand Prix and Young Riders Nations Cup in Lamprechtshausen, Austria. She has now begun her professional career at Kessler Show Stables. ■ — *Rebecca Walton*



Reed Kessler and Cylana



Photo by Kenneth Krause/PhelpsSports.com

WORLD CUP WINNER RICH FELLERS Receives 2013 Whitney Stone Cup

On January 25th, 2013, the United States Equestrian Team Foundation honored the reigning Show Jumping World Cup Champion Rich Fellers of Wilsonville, OR, with the 2013 Whitney Stone Cup. The award was presented during the USET Foundation Reception, in Wellington, FL. Although Fellers was unable to attend, his friend and U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, accepted the honor on his behalf and read Fellers' acceptance speech.

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. Fellers was the winner of the 2012 FEI Show Jumping World Cup Finals aboard Mollie and Harry Chapman's Flexible in 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands. The

pair then went on to be the highest placed American competitor at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

"I would like to thank the USET Foundation for honoring my achievements with this prestigious award," commented Fellers. "I am humbled to be included with the elite group of former winners. We all talk about having the horse of a lifetime. Mollie and Harry Chapman have, without a doubt, been owners of a lifetime. Their support, confidence, and trust in Shelley and me over the years have been amazing. The majority of my success in the sport has been a direct result of their commitment. Looking forward, my biggest wish for the success we enjoyed this past year is to in some way inspire the future stars of our sport."

After a whirlwind year, Fellers was named the 2012 USEF Equestrian of the Year, while 16-year-old Flexible took home the honor of 2012 USEF International Horse

of the Year. Fellers was the first American to win the Show Jumping World Cup Finals in 25 years after a nail-biting jump-off in Europe. When they returned to the United States, Fellers and Flexible went on a winning streak that featured all four of their Olympic Observation Events, including the \$100,000 Hermes Grand Prix of Del Mar and the \$200,000 CN Performance Grand Prix at Spruce Meadows.

Selected as the anchor rider for the U.S. Show Jumping Team at the Olympic Games, Fellers and Flexible helped the Team place sixth. They also returned to the arena for the individual competition, finishing eighth as the highest placed American duo.

Fellers and Flexible will continue to compete in 2013 and hope to return to the FEI Show Jumping World Cup Finals to defend their winning title. ■

— Rebecca Walton

GOLD MEDAL CLUB MEMBERS

Recognized at USET Foundation Reception

On Friday, January 25, 2013, the United States Equestrian Team Foundation hosted the Gold Medal Club (GMC) Reception where they recognize GMC Members that have made the USET Foundation a priority in their charitable giving for 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years. 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.

The GMC members have been a vital and essential source of support to the U.S. equestrian teams. Receiving their 10 year award were the following: Ms. Florence Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Burke, Mr. Orlando N. Di Rienzo, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dolan, Ms. Penny Howe Gallo, Mr. and Mrs. David L. Gribbons, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hunter Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. James D. Meyer, Dr. and Mrs. Richard D. Mitchell, the National Horse Show Association, Ms. Wendy O'Brien, Karin Reid Offield, Ms. Betsy Rebar Sell, Reeves International, Mrs. Patricia A. Stempel and Mr. and Mrs. Leslie H. Wexner.

Receiving the 15 Year Award were Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bazaar, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Domencich, John H. and Barbara Fairclough, Ms. Nonie B. Ramsay and Mr. Jack Wetzel.

The 20 Year Award was presented next, and the recipients were Mrs. Alison C. Jones, Miss. Linda A. Mars, Mr. Robert Morris, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Patton, Jr. and Mr. David Teiger.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Tucker S. Johnson have been members of the Gold Medal Club for 25 years.

Receiving the USET Foundation's 30 Year Award was Miss. Carlene C. Blunt.

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. ■ – *Rebecca Walton*



Jane Forbes Clark and Carlene C. Blunt



Mason Phelps, Jr., Karin Offield, Anne Gribbons, Betsy Rebar Sell, Jane F. Clark, Rick Mitchell, Julie Mitchell, Hunter Harrison, and Jane Burke

NEW OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Elected to USET Foundation Board

On Saturday, January 26, at the Annual Meeting of the USET Foundation Board of Trustees in Wellington, FL, the Trustees elected Brownlee O. Currey, Jr. Chairman of the Board, S. Tucker S. Johnson, President & CEO, R. Bruce Duchossois, Vice President, Philip E. Richter, Treasurer and Eric L. Straus, Secretary. These individuals will serve as the Officers of the corporation through 2014.

"This is an exciting time for me to become President of the USET Foundation," said Tucker Johnson. "I have been fortunate to have been both an athlete who has competed and medaled at the World Equestrian Games, as well as served on the Federation's

Board and as Treasurer of the USET Foundation, so I know how important the funding is to our athletes in their preparation and at international championships. I am committed, in partnership with the tremendous Board of the Foundation, to do everything we can to continue to provide funding that will make this country a force to be reckoned with at the 2014 World Equestrian Games and 2016 Olympic Games."

Newly elected trustees were William Coleman, Jr. (VA), E. Hunter Harrison (FL), Elizabeth Johnson (MA), Elizabeth Miller (NY) Jeannie Tisbo (IL) and ex-officio Chrystine J. Tauber, USEF President (FL).



William Coleman, Jr., Gordonsville, VA, worked for Drexel Burnham in New York. He was Managing Director in charge of U.S. Government securities trading. In 1989, he re-located to a farm outside Charlottesville, VA. to raise his three sons. He has been an active participant in the Amateur-Owner Show Jumping division and enjoys the countryside with the Keswick Hunt Club and Piedmont Fox Hounds. His son, William Coleman, III, was a member of the 2012 United States Eventing Olympic Team and has represented the United States on several occasions internationally.



E. Hunter Harrison, Ridgefield, CT and Wellington, FL, is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Pacific (CP). He joined CP in 2012. Harrison served as President and Chief Executive Officer at Canadian National (CN) from 2003-2009 and as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer from 1998-2002. He served on CN's Board of Directors for 10 years. Harrison, with his wife Jeannie, own Double H. Farm, LLC a world class jumper and breeding operation with two facilities, one in Ridgefield, CT and the other in Wellington, FL. Double H Farm is managed by Harrison's daughter Cayce and her husband Quentin Judge.

Elizabeth R. Miller, New York, NY and Wellington, FL, is a member of Grant Road Partners, LLC, which owns of several top international grand prix horses including Antares F., a member of the 2012 London Olympic Equestrian Team ridden by McLain Ward. Her daughter, Katie Dinan, is a successful Grand Prix rider and has represented the United States on a Nations Cup team. Elizabeth serves on several boards including the Washington International Horse Show, and the Ladies Committee of the National Horse Show, Harvard Business School Dean's Board of Advisors, Smith College President's Committee and Board of Directors of the School of American Ballet. She was the recipient of the USHJA Jumper Owner Recognition Award in 2011, 2012 and USEF ranked leading jumper owner of grand prix horses during that period. Elizabeth is married to Jamie Dinan, who has recently entered into the jumper ring. They also have two sons, Zachary and Michael, both of whom ride for pleasure.



Elizabeth Johnson, Boston, MA is proprietor of Louisburg Farm, located in Wellington, FL. Louisburg Farm owns horses that compete at all levels of show jumping and has represented the United States at numerous international competitions including Nation Cups and World Cup finals. She is also an amateur equestrian. In addition to her equestrian activities she divides her time among numerous nonprofit organizations in the greater Boston area.



Chrystine Jones Tauber, Wellington, FL, is an accomplished equestrian with an extensive equine business and industry background. She is President of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). Her previous positions include Secretary of the USEF, and a member of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and the Licensed Officials Committee. A founding member of the U. S. Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA), she served as Vice President and was a member of the Planning, Emerging Athletes, High Performance Hunters, and the Trainer's Certification Committees. Tauber is a Board member of the Show Jumping Hall of Fame, and was appointed to the Kentucky Governor's Advisory Commission for the 2010 World Equestrian Games. She was previously the U.S. Equestrian Team's Director of Show Jumping Activities, and served as Manager of all disciplines at the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Teams and the 1983 and 1987 Pan Am Teams, and for the Show Jumping World Championships in 1982 and 1986. She instituted the USET Medal Finals, and working with Jack LeGoff, created the USET Talent Derby. She has served on the Board of Directors of the U. S. Olympic Committee, the Gladstone Equestrian Association, the USET, and as Executive Director of the American Horse Shows Association and the National Horse Show.



Jeannie Tisbo, resides in Barrington Hills, IL. Since 2006, Jeannie has acted as the managing partner of Tequestrian Farms, LLC. When she is not traveling in support of her daughter Lauren and the horses, she is actively involved with the Women's Board of the Field Museum of Chicago and various philanthropic endeavors. With a degree in education, Jeannie recognizes the necessity of comprehensive programs to develop and support the elite horse and rider alliance. Jeannie's husband, Tom, is the CEO of Suncoast, a major sponsor of WEF, Spruce Meadows and other horse show venues. They have one other daughter, Tracy, of Los Angeles, CA.



Team USA Enters New Era with Chef d' Equipes **ROBERT RIDLAND** and **DAVID O'CONNOR**

Show Jumping



Robert Ridland

As the United States looks ahead to major championships such as the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France, and the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the teams for Show Jumping and Eventing will be under new guidance. Beginning in 2013, Robert Ridland has taken over the role of Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe, while David O'Connor will be the Eventing Chef d'Equipe.

For Ridland, winning the Olympic Gold medal in Rio de Janeiro, of course, is the ultimate goal. Ridland, of Irvine, CA, comes to the post with a vast range

of knowledge and experience. He represented the United States on two Olympic teams, he is a world-class course designer, a competition manager and has served on the FEI Jumping Committee and the USEF Board of Directors. His company, Blenheim EquiSports, manages top-rated horse shows in California and Nevada in addition to having run three highly successful World Cup Finals in Las Vegas.

Looking ahead, Ridland has proposed a four-year plan to make the country competitive internationally by incorporating a system that bonds the rising young stars of the sport with the top veteran riders. Leading up to the Olympic Games, Ridland said the team will focus on the Nations Cup Finals in 2013, the World Equestrian Games in 2014 and then the Olympics in 2016.

"We have to have our eye on the ball and on our long range plans," he continued. "We have to do the absolute best we can when we compete at those shows, but keep the long range plan in mind all of the time, with the 2016 Olympic Games at Rio and also the World Championships in Normandy in 2014."

An essential component of Ridland's development strategy is to create a system that includes an 'A' list and an 'A-30' list of riders. For the Nation Cups, he would like to see a blend of the best of the A list and the 'A-30' list. "I would love to see teams of three veterans and two riders off the 'A-30' list."

But before anything is fully decided, it's time for a rethinking and possible revamping of the selection process. "The

discussion about the selection process should start now so that by April 1st we have a system in place for the selection procedure for Normandy in 2014 and the system we want for the next four years for championships and for Nations Cups."

"We all know as horseman that every horse has only so many jumps in them, and more importantly, only so many peaks in them," he said. "When you ask a horse to peak too many times, you finally get to the bottom of the well."

As American show jumping advances, Ridland feels an honest assessment of where we've been and where we're going is vital.

"Leading up to London, we heard from all the press reports how great we were. But, when you look back at those two Gold medals, the first wasn't even won on the field. That was lost by the Germans. And," he reflected, "after sending out one of our great, all-time, all-star teams and Will Simpson, the 'sixth man of the year,' why didn't we win by three rails? In reality, we were forced into a jump-off by the Canadians. So, it was one of the all-time great wins by our team and will always remain that way, but we have to look at it honestly and realize that we didn't have this huge edge that we thought we did."

Strengthening the sport here in this country ranks high on Ridland's priority list. He would like to see a possible incentive program to improve the sport here in the United States, and to make it more worthwhile for the riders to stay here and compete. "Germany has great sport, a very strong sport—in Germany. They don't have to go anywhere."

"We have to strengthen our sport across the board," he said, speaking of increasing prize money and for more FEI designated shows here in this country. "The added expenses to do that are considerable. They're not overwhelming, but they are considerable." He said he would challenge the USET Foundation and the USEF to work with him on possible corporate sponsorships to help bridge the gap between the costs of producing a USEF event as compared to an FEI sanctioned event.

Ridland concluded, "The plan can work for us as long as we know it's a four year plan and not an immediate plan. When I spoke with the riders I tried to express the importance of buying into my four-year plan."

Robert Ridland on Almost Persuaded



Photo Courtesy of the USET Foundation

Eventing



Photo by Phelps Media Group

David O'Connor

David O'Connor, who is taking over the role as Eventing Chef d'Equipe also has a plan in mind, and although it starts with a four-year plan, it goes much farther than that. O'Connor is taking over the role as Chef after serving as USEF President since 2005. In 2010, O'Connor successfully coached the Canadian Eventing team to a Bronze Medal at the World Equestrian Games, and also coached the team at the 2012 London Olympics. As a rider, O'Connor won an Individual Gold medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games and an Individual Gold medal at the 2002 World Equestrian Games in Jerez, Spain.

O'Connor is very excited about his new title, and looking forward to the work ahead. "It's very exciting for me," he noted. "This is something that I've always had in the back of my mind. I'm very patriotic, so it's fantastic to be able to wear red, white and blue again, even though I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Canadian team. I'm excited about the future of it and what is possible."

Reflecting on his most recent roles as USEF President and Canadian Chef d'Equipe, he feels ready to take on this new challenge. "I am able to think about a whole program across a whole nation, and our long term goals of development over five or six years. I think that's very important. The focus is going to be going back to the basics and starting to make sure that the fundamentals are correct and building on that. We did that with Canada and it worked."

O'Connor continued, "The level of Eventing has really risen here in the last number of years. We have very good instinctual riders here in the States. Countries that also have good instinctual riders are beating us at this point, but they have a very strong educational structure to get them there. We need to be strong in our educational standpoint just because our country is so big. I think if we can go back and try to put an educational structure behind the riders, then the competitive instincts will take us back to a place where we are competitive against whomever."

The educational program will start with a clinic structure, and also put more emphasis on educating Young Riders. The senior riders will participate in longer training sessions, and the relationships with coaches at home will also be a focus, to make sure that good fundamentals are taught every day. The next focus will be competing in Europe.

"Our competitions in Europe are going to be much more targeted towards specific competitions, instead of just Burghley or Badminton," explained O'Connor. "We are going to use the new Nation's Cup Series because it is a very good opportunity for us to be able to work and ride as a team instead of having an individual approach."

O'Connor added, "I've got some big ideas and I think it's going to take a little while before we really start to be in the top two or three countries consistently, every time that we go out. I am really looking ahead and thinking we will qualify for the World Equestrian Games and I think we will win a medal there. I think by Rio, four years down the road, that the system will really start to have some traction and have some longevity to it. I hope at Rio we will win two medals. We have to look beyond even Rio though. Rio feels very close to me, being only four years away. We need to be looking that the structures we set up to be long lasting after Rio and into the next quadrennial."

"It's about raising the game of the sport in the discipline of Eventing all the way through so many of the different aspects of it, from competition, to owners, to education programs. It's multifaceted," stated O'Connor.

"I am very excited," concluded O'Connor. "I think people have to be patient with us because we are trying to build a long term program. I think we are going to have successes, but sustained excellence is going to take a little while

to create. This is the start of the route and the journey. It's going to take some time, and it's going to take some patience, but we're really enthusiastic about what the possibilities are."

The teams for Show Jumping and Eventing are looking ahead to a new era with new success on the horizon, bringing home winning honors to the United States. ■

— Rebecca Walton and Kenneth Kraus



David O'Connor winning the Individual Gold Medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games

Photo by Peter Llewellyn/PhelpsSports.com



*Patrik Kittel, Tinne Vilhelmson-Silfven,
and Steffen Peters
Antonia Ax:son Johnson,
Noreen O'Sullivan, and John Flanagan*

World Dressage Masters CDI5* Palm Beach

RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Swedish Olympians Tinne Vilhelmson-Silfven and Patrik Kittel were the big winners at the 2013 World Dressage Masters CDI5* Palm Beach January 24-26. Vilhelmson-Silfven and Don Auriello, an 11-year-old bay Hanoverian gelding owned by Lovsta Stuteri, won the championship in the Grand Prix Freestyle on Saturday, January 26, while Kittel and Watermill Scandic H B C, Kittel's own 14-year-old chestnut KWPN stallion, took second. The previous day, they swapped spots when Kittel placed first in the Grand Prix and Vilhelmson-Silfven took the second place honors.

In Saturday evening's Freestyle, Vilhelmson-Silfven and Don Auriello rode the momentum from an enthusiastic crowd to claim the championship. Vilhelmson-Silfven collected a personal best score of 84.075% for her electrifying Freestyle performance and received a standing ovation from the crowd as she exited the ring.

"It's just such an honor to ride a horse like Don Auriello," she said. "He is so fun to ride. He was enjoying himself with me, enjoying the time, enjoying the energy. It was a great atmosphere." She credits the Florida dressage circuit as a catalyst for the horse's development. "Florida's been very important for Don Auriello," she said. "He has made a lot of his best starts here, I think."

International Judge Stephen Clarke, who was recently elected the FEI Dressage Judge General, spoke highly of Vilhelmson-Silfven's Freestyle ride. "Tinne's horse, for me, is absolutely what dressage should be about," Clarke said. "It's all the talk about horses that should be uphill and in balance and in complete

harmony with the rider. The picture that she presents is truly outstanding, and I think that we were very lucky to witness that tonight."

Kittel, Sweden's No. 1 rider, and Watermill Scandic H B C scored 82.525% for their Freestyle. Their high placing capped a successful string of performances at Jim Brandon Equestrian Center in Palm Beach County. Along with their Grand Prix victory on Friday, Kittel and Scandic took home wins in both the Gold Coast Opener CDI-W Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle January 18-20.

Kittel broke into a wide grin at the completion of his winning Grand Prix test, and his confidence was rewarded when the scores flashed on the board. A member of the Swedish team at the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games as well as the 2010 World Equestrian Games, he rode Scandic to victories at Falsterbo CDI5*, Rotterdam CDIO3* and Lingen CDI4* last summer.

"It was my personal best score, and I'm very, very happy with that," Kittel said of the 80.745% awarded by the French judge at "H," Isabell Judet. Kittel emphasized his horse's improvement, explaining that Scandic is in much better shape now after their hard work over the past months. "After the Olympics, I thought a bit, and I changed a bit, and I worked a bit more on getting my horse more uphill in the canter, and that was much better," he added.

Kittel said he's a big fan of World Dressage Masters as well as swapping the cold winter in Sweden for South Florida's warmth. "It's an amazing show," he explained. "We've been treated so

well here. The people here are friendly, the crowd is really nice, lovely weather. What more can you want?

"It's been a fantastic event here," Kittel added with a smile. "I mean, look at the crowd, and look at the riding. It's unbelievable."

Vilhelmson-Silfven and Kittel defeated two-time WDM Palm Beach champion Steffen Peters, who notched consistent third place finishes for the United States in Saturday's Freestyle and in Friday's Grand Prix. Peters said both he and Legolas 92, an 11-yr-old Westphalian gelding owned by Akiko Yamazaki, enjoyed the Freestyle. "I love it when I have fun, but I can guarantee you he had a lot of fun tonight too," he said after the ride.

Heather Blitz and Paragon, the 2012 U.S. Olympic team alternates, took the fourth place spot in the Freestyle and a fourth in the Grand Prix with extravagant extensions and fluid tempi changes. "He was really electric from the crowd and the energy in here," Blitz said of Paragon, her own 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding. The elegant pair finished second in the Grand Prix Special at the 2012 World Dressage Masters Palm Beach CDI4*.

Five-time Danish National Champion Lars Petersen rode Mariett, a 15-year-old Danish Warmblood mare he co-owns with Marcia Pepper to take fifth place in the Freestyle and fifth in the Grand Prix. Petersen, a local favorite who bases his training operation in Loxahatchee, FL, earned cheers from the crowd with his upbeat Freestyle, a technically difficult routine set to a circus-music theme.

U.S. Olympian Adrienne Lyle and Wizard, a 14-yr-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Peggy and Parry Thomas,

*Tinne Vilhelmson-Silfven
and Don Auriello*



Photos by SusanJStickle.com



winners of the Grand Prix Special CDI4* at the 2012 WDM Palm Beach, rounded out the order of finish in the Freestyle. The pair rode in their first WDM Palm Beach appearance last year and won the Grand Prix Special. Lyle's big grin and pat for Wizard, was a crowd pleaser, and the duo passaged out of the arena after their test. A crowd favorite, Lyle trains with Debbie McDonald the Thomas's River Grove Farm in Idaho. Lyle said she loves coming to the area and added that she appreciates the array of opportunities to show in South Florida during the season. "He's a fantastic horse and I was so happy to have the chance to compete here," Lyle said.

In Saturday's Grand Prix Special, Mikala Gundersen added a victory at World Dressage Masters to a growing list of accomplishments at Jim Brandon Equestrian Center this winter. Gundersen, a Danish rider based out of



Adrienne Lyle and Wizard

WORLD DRESSAGE MASTERS

continued from page 13

Wellington, FL, and My Lady, a 13-year-old Danish Warmblood mare owned by Janne Rumbough, placed third in Thursday's Wellington Classic Dressage Sunshine Challenge Grand Prix CDI3* and also finished just out of the top eight in Friday's Grand Prix CDI5* at WDM Palm Beach.

U.S. rider James Koford rode Rhett, the 13-year-old KWPN gelding owned by Shirley McQuillan, to a second place finish in the Grand Prix Special. Koford, whose recent successes include wins in the Grand Prix at the 2011 International Horse Sport Champions Cup CDI3* and the Grand Prix Freestyle at the 2012 Wellington Dressage CDI-W, also competed at last year's WDM Palm Beach.

Koford said his horse was amazing in the Grand Prix Special. "He was so with me today, and it was really just a fun ride," he said. "So it was a win-win: I came out with a grin and the horse came out with a grin, and the judges also."

The judges, officials, competitors, spectators and sponsors praised the 2013 World Dressage Masters Wellington. From the organization of the show by producers Wellington Classic Dressage to the facilities to the friendly atmosphere to the appreciative crowd, there were rave reviews all around for the high-performance dressage.

Antonia Axel Johnson, title sponsor of World Dressage Masters series, agreed. "We don't know of any show in the world where when you ride in, the rider coming out says 'Have a good ride.' And that is really unique, I think, for the WDM show here," she said. "It's really extremely exciting and nice to be here."

— Sue Weakley



Mikala Gundersen and My Lady



Steffen Peters and Legolas 92



Patrik Kittel and Watermill Scandic H B C

WORLD DRESSAGE MASTERS

TEAM USA PEP RALLY

Boosts Team Spirit at CSIO Wellington

How jumping teams from seven countries gathered in Wellington, FL, on Friday, March 1, at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center to compete in the CSIO Wellington, \$75,000 Furusiyya 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 Special Events Pavilion to bring together the U.S. fans and supporters and generate team spirit among the group. Many of the guests also showed their confidence in the American team by pledging their support for each clear round a U.S. rider jumped during the evening's Nations Cup, raising over \$27,000 for the Show Jumping High Performance programs.

During the Pep Rally Reception, USET Foundation President, S. Tucker S. Johnson, and USEF President, Chrystine Tauber, set the stage and pumped up the crowd for an incredible night. The U.S. team horse owners were recognized, as well as the riders who would be competing the following night on the Children's, Junior

and Young Rider Nations Cup Teams for the United States. Guests enjoyed cocktails and an All American Picnic Dinner, as well as festive red, white and blue decorations. Prior to the Nations Cup, over 30 pony riders created posters for the "Team USA Poster Contest," featuring two poster contest divisions. The winner of the Favorite Team Horse category was Sidney Saltamacchia for her poster of Reed Kessler's Cylana, while Abbegail Molea picked up the award for her Team USA Spirit poster.

The Young Rider, Junior and Children's Nations Cup teams served as the judges of the contest, and all winners received a signed copy of *Hunter Seat Equitation* by George H. Morris, as well as a USET Foundation blanket and USEF shirt.

Emily Riden, TEAM USA Poster Contest Coordinator, commented, "The children really enjoyed making the posters, and it also presented a wonderful opportunity for them to learn more about the Nations Cup and the history for the United States Equestrian Team. They were very excited to support our riders on such an important night." ■ – *Emily Riden*



Chrystine Tauber and Bonnie Jenkins



Michael Bombar, Bruce Duchossois and George Tauber



S. Tucker S. Johnson and Robin Parsky



Frank Zeiss, Chrystine Tauber and Caryl Philips



Margaret Duprey and Jim Wolf



Robin Parsky and Murray Kessler



Melanie Smith Taylor, Tim Dutta and Leslie Howard



Dennis and Mary K Shaughnessy, Agneta and Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.

Top Row: Gabriella Mershad, Katherine Strauss, Abigail McArdle, Sydney Shulman, Spencer Smith, Lillie Keenan, Liza Finsness, Mattias Tromp, Wilton Porter and Brett Burlington
Bottom Row: Chloe Reid, Sydney Chase, Michelle Grubb, and Lucas Porter

Photos by Christian Palmer/Phelps Media Group

Photo by Emily Riden/Phelps Media Group





All Photos by Kenneth Kraus/PhelpsSports.com

United States Captures Wellington CSIO NATIONS CUP VICTORY

The United States produced a dominating victory in front of a home crowd during the \$75,000 Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup in Wellington, FL. Held on March 1, the team of Kent Farrington with Uceko, owned by RCG Farm, Reed Kessler riding her own Cylana, Laura Kraut aboard Cherry Knoll Farm's Cedric, and Beezie Madden with Abigail Wexner's Simon rang in new Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland's reign with a major victory and a score of only four faults over the two round competition. The win has given the United States a valuable 100 points towards a spot at the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup Finals in September.

The United States took the lead early on with no faults at all in the first round. Leadoff pair Farrington and Uceko had a single error at the last oxer, but they ended up with the drop score after Kessler, Kraut, and Madden were clear. Madden and Simon's round was not without a little drama after they pushed the stone front of the open water into the obstacle, but Simon's feet never grazed the water and they finished without fault.

"I probably had the most interesting round," admitted Madden. "Other than the water jump, he felt great and it was fantastic. I looked at the scoreboard after the double and knew he was clear, I knew

the first qualifier for the Nations Cup Final. We made it a huge priority to try to win this, it's our Nations Cup, but also to be in a good position for the Final, because that's where we want to be."

Ridland continued, "I had incredible support from the riders, not just these four, but from other riders too. We have a great future in front of us. The owners of all four of the horses immediately said 'yes', and that sure makes my job a lot easier. This was a whole lot of fun!"

Kessler and Cylana were the leading duo for the U.S. with two clear rounds to their name. "This is my fourth Nations Cup, but my first win and my first double



Beezie Madden
and Simon

"I had incredible support from the riders, not just these four, but from other riders too. We have a great future in front of us. The owners of all four of the horses immediately said 'yes', and that sure makes my job a lot easier. This was a whole lot of fun!"

he hit the box, probably putting it mildly. I was just happy he recovered and finished off with a clear."

Farrington and Kessler started off the second round right, each leaving all the fences intact as they traversed the track. Kraut dropped the first fence in the vertical-vertical double combination at the end of the course, but their round created just a four fault total for the United States, sealing their victory without Madden having to return.

"For me this has been a long journey and it's great to get here," commented new Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland after his first victory. "We knew this was going to be a really big deal coming up, being

clear so I'm really excited about that," she expressed. "To ride on the home team in front of the home crowd is a really big honor. I'm thrilled that it went the way that it did."

"Cylana was awesome," added Kessler. "She's shown pretty lightly all during the circuit to prepare for this. She gets so animated and so wild when she hears the crowd scream, but when she heads to the first jump she's so focused. She couldn't have jumped better."

Farrington commented. "I thought Uceko started out a little wild and our first round wasn't our best. Towards the end he got too strong coming towards the whole last line. We sort of got through

the double and then he took over at the last oxer. I was actually pleased how he came back in the second round and performed more like himself, more relaxed, and jumped a solid round."

Nations Cup veteran Kraut stated, "I was thrilled with Cedric tonight, I thought he jumped both rounds fantastic. The second round I was maybe over cautious coming down the last line. He had such a light rub that I think he thinks he was double clear, so he's pleased right now. Normally I would be very tense about riding in front of the home crowd, but when you have three horse/rider combinations like these guys going with you, I felt pretty comfortable that if I did something stupid, they were there to back me up. I'm thrilled that we won and I'm very happy for Robert because he was really nervous."

The event marked the first leg of the new Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup to be held in North America, and has led to a close race between the United States, Canada and Mexico. Only two teams can qualify for the Finals in September, which will be determined during the second event at Spruce Meadows. The USA's victory means that they now have 100 points, while Canada has 90, and Mexico trails with 65 points after finishing seventh, but they are not out of contention yet.

The USA continued their winning ways on Sunday during the \$150,000 CSIO 4* Grand Prix, presented by Wellington Realty. In an outstanding star-studded jump-off of the best riders on tour, it was the United States' Kent Farrington and Blue Angel, owned by Robin Parsky, edging out teammate Beezie Madden and Cortes C, owned by Abigail Wexner, by a razor thin 1/100th of a second to take the top prize.

The CSIO Week also included the \$10,000 FEI Young Riders Nation Cup presented by Hollow Creek Farm where the U.S. completed a dominating performance to win on home turf with a score of 10 faults. The American Juniors demonstrated consistency as they cruised to fourth place in the \$2,500 FEI Junior Riders Nations Cup presented by Hollow Creek Farm on a 12 fault total. The Children's Nations Cup Riders also displayed talent in a fourth place effort to finishing with a total of 13 faults in the FEI Children's Nations Cup presented by Hollow Creek Farm.

The U.S. Young Rider Team included Catherine Pasmore and her own Z Canta, Mattias Tromp riding Baeyaert Farm Inc.'s Casey, Abigail McArdle aboard David McArdle's Cosma 20, and Liza Finsness riding her own Ormsby Hill. In the Junior Riders Nations Cup the United States was represented by Sydney Shulman and Back Country Farm's Little Lady D'Elle, Lucas Porter riding Sleepy P Ranch, LLC's Phineas, Chloe Reid aboard her own Damascus, and Lillie Keenan with Chansonette Farm, LLC's Londinium. Finally the Children's Nations Cup included McKayla Langmeier with Missy Clark's Looping Star, Jordyn Freedman and her own Swag, McKenzie Kasper riding her own Tum Tum, and Brett Burlington aboard her own 'Tis Picobello Z. Chef d'Equipe Michelle Grubb commented, "This has been a great week. This is the start of something really special." ■

— Rebecca Walton

Laura Kraut and Cedric



Kent Farrington and Uceko



Reed Kessler and Cylana





Photo by Kenneth Kraus/PhelpsSports.com

RISING STARS SHINE

at 2013 George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Session



Photo by Corri Wirth/PhelpsSports.com

As a renowned trainer, rider and former Chef d'Equipe of the United States Show Jumping Team, George H. Morris possesses an overwhelming wealth of knowledge, and his teachings are second to none. The opportunity to train with the "founding father" of hunt seat equitation is an incredible one for any young rider and can help serve as a springboard to further his or her own equestrian career.

For five days in early January, Gabrielle Bausano, Claudia Billups, Olivia Champ, Stephen Foran, Ana Forssell, Frances Land, Meg O'Mara, Abigail McArdle, Kilian McGrath, Jacob Pope, Dana Scott and Catherine Tyree joined Morris for the 2013 George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Session at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, FL. The riders worked through concentrated flatwork, gymnastic exercises and over courses of gates, water jumps, verticals and oxers. Throughout the week, the clinic participants also participated in daily sessions with top clinicians including Anne Kursinski, U.S. Show Jumping Team Veterinarian Dr. Tim Ober and numerous others.

Following dropping their irons for an intensive day four of the Horsemastership Training session, riders gathered at the beautiful home of Karen Lloyd for a dinner hosted by Lloyd and the USET Foundation. "We are so grateful and appreciative to Karen for continuing the Lloyd family's support and involvement with the USET Foundation. Karen's late husband was highly instrumental in the establishment of the Foundation in 2004 and served as Chairman of the Board," said Bonnie Jenkins.

The goals of the George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Sessions are directly in line with the goals of the USET Foundation, helping to build and develop and teach the young riders of the future, and the organization is proud to support these efforts.

"The USET Foundation's mission is promoting international excellence, supporting athletes and building for the future. Clearly this week was building for the

future. The future is very, very bright," Jenkins stated following the dinner.

Jenkins congratulated each of the riders in the star-studded lineup for earning their way into the prestigious session, and Jenkins and Morris called on each rider one by one to present them with mementos from the USET Foundation to commemorate their experience.

USEF President-Elect Chrystine Tauber also took a moment to emphasize the importance of the program and what it teaches, as well as thanking the USET Foundation for all that they do.

"I am very excited about the future of show jumping. I thanked you earlier, and I am going to continue to thank you all my life," Tauber said to Morris. "I want to thank you, Bonnie and for all that the USET Foundation does. I want to stress how critical this organization is to the funding and success of our High Performance athletes and programs. We could not do it without you."

Tauber continued, "I am really excited about this program. I feel very strongly about developing depth and developing strength in the disciplines and we have to pony up at all times if we want to be a really strong contender in international competition. I want to thank you, your officers, your board, your wonderful donors and supporters for what you do."

The dinner concluded with encouraging words for the riders going forward, and the dessert left them with one final parting question to keep in mind as they head down the road. Scrawled neatly across the cake were the words "What would GHM say?" ■ — *Emily Riden*



Some of the country's top young riders participated in the George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Session
Photo by Kenneth Kraus/PhelpsSports.com

SALUTE TO DRIVING

Raises Critical Funds for High Performance Driving Program



Photo by Lisa Singer

Michael Freund and Wendy O'Brien's ponies

Featuring a beautiful dinner and auction, multiple driving clinics and a Combined Test Competition, the Salute to Driving weekend once again went off without a hitch. For the third year in a row, the fun and informational event in Windsor, SC, March 1-3, 2013, was held for the benefit of the United States Equestrian Team Foundation and the United States Equestrian Federation's High Performance Driving program.

A highlight of the weekend was the successful Saturday night dinner and auction, which was hosted at organizing committee member Bev Leshner's Courage to Lead Farm. The evening event was put on to raise funds for the USET Foundation that will be specifically dedicated to helping train the best drivers and equines to represent the USA in World Driving Championships.

During the decadent Berry Catering dinner, organized by Wendy O'Brien, attendees bid on fabulous live auction pieces. Auctioneer Paul Martin donated his time to handle the Live Auction of six special items. A sampling included a week at Hilton Head SC in a top resort condo for four including free greens fees, a dinner for six in Aiken in Jack Wetzel's restored Log Cabin, three nights for two (including breakfast) in Boston at the prestigious Union House, Stabling and a B&B for two nights in Maine at the wonderful Acadia National Park in Maine, and a week's stay in a four-bedroom home on Block Island in Rhode Island. In addition to the Live Auction, a Silent Auction ran at the event from Friday morning through Saturday night and came to a close following the dinner.

Prior to the benefit dinner and auction, the weekend long Salute to Driving kicked off with dressage clinics by Michael Freund and Sterling Graburn at Chateau Log and Courage to Lead Farms. Freund led the USEF long listed drivers through the clinic, while Graburn worked with developing drivers. Other special events included a hazard demonstration and clinic, har-

nessing demonstrations, farrier demonstrations and a carriage exhibit. All of the weekend events served to help raise awareness and educate different audiences about the discipline of driving.

"We helped educate more people about the driving discipline, and at the same time raised funds for the USET Foundation, specifically for the driving discipline," Leshner said. "We received many compliments about the dinner and the whole organization of everything. Everyone really enjoyed themselves."

The weekend concluded on Sunday with the Combined Test Competition. Drivers at the preliminary through advanced levels had the opportunity to showcase their skills in both dressage and cones. For the first time since its inception three years ago, the Salute to Driving also welcomed 'Very Small Equines' (VSEs) in the combined test. The VSEs were also showcased doing a quadrille driving performance organized by Janelle Marshall. To the tune of "Flight of the Bumblebees," eight drivers decked out in yellow and black bumblebee style put their VSE's through their paces and got huge appreciation from the crowd.

For more information about the Salute to Driving, please visit salutetodriving.com — Emily Riden



Lisa Singer with the Long Listed Drivers at the Salute to Driving

SAER COULTER

Presented 2013 Maxine Beard Award

The USET Foundation is pleased to announce the winner of the 2013 Maxine Beard Award is 21-year-old Saer Coulter of San Francisco, CA. As a top young rider, Coulter has demonstrated that she has the talent and skills to compete at the top levels of show jumping, and to represent the United States. In 2012, Coulter advanced to the highest levels of the sport, competing during the 2012 Olympic Selection Trials and also showing in multiple World Cup Qualifiers and Global Champions Tour events.

Coulter's selection for the prestigious award was based on her competitive record and future potential to represent the United States in international competition. The award provides Coulter the opportunity to be credentialed and travel with the U.S. delegation to the 2013 FEI World Cup Finals in Gothenburg, Sweden, from April 24 – April 28. 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, Robert Ridland.

"It's a really big honor to receive this award," expressed Coulter. "Looking at the people that have won it in the past, it encourages you to keep continuing jumping at the high level and try and make the upper levels of the computer list and the senior teams. I tried to qualify for World Cup Finals and I just missed it, so it's really exciting to be able to go and be a part of the team."

Coulter's international success began in 2010 when she and Chalan represented the United States during its victory at the CSIO Buenos Aires in Argentina. In 2011, Coulter placed second in the \$50,000 HITS World Cup Qualifier in California aboard her Dutch Warmblood gelding, Springtime, and also placed second in the \$40,000 Blenheim Spring Classic II Grand Prix.

After finishing 10th in the Olympic Selection Trials and being named to the USEF Long List for the U.S. Show Jumping Team for the London 2012 Olympic Games, Coulter and

Springtime finished third in the \$100,000 Hermes Grand Prix of Del Mar. Throughout the summer, she traveled to Europe to compete during the Global Champions Tour.

"Last year was a big learning experience for me in a lot of ways," admitted Coulter. "I jumped more 1.60m rounds than I have ever jumped in my life. I was really lucky to have the opportunity to compete in those events. My horse, Springtime, was unbelievable for me. He taught me a lot. It was hard for us at first, because I didn't totally get along with him, but we took our time with him and we've really grown together."

Coulter continued, "The Trials were an unbelievable experience. I think being able to jump a championship format against those riders was a great opportunity. It taught me a lot about riding my horse through different rounds, and how he starts and how he feels by the last day. I also got a lot of experience this summer getting to jump in the GCT events."

The Stanford University senior rides out of her family's Copernicus Stables, while training with Markus and Meredith Michaels Beerbaum. Coulter recently added new mounts to her string including Don V.H.P. Z, Carmena Z and Graciella 50.

"Last year, the focus was on gaining experience at the 1.60m level, and now I am focused on staying more consistent at that level," explained Coulter. "One of my main goals is to get my new horses jumping consistently at the 1.60m level. I'll do the GCT this summer, and I hope to make a few more second rounds and get a few good ribbons. I'd love to be a part of the World Equestrian Games process next year, whatever that may be, and maybe the 2016 process for Rio a few years from now. I just hope to continue getting the right experience in order to be a part of those events."

With the talent, drive, and determination to be a top-notch competitor, Coulter has proven that she will be a part of the future for show jumping in the United States. ■

– Rebecca Walton



Talented Young Rider

CONNOR HUSAIN

Receives Amanda Warrington Grant

This winter, the 2012 Amanda Warrington Grant was awarded to Eventing rider Connor Husain of The Plains, VA, the first male rider to win this prestigious grant. The Amanda Warrington Grant is awarded through the USET Foundation Amanda Pirie Warrington Fund. Earlier this year, Husain won the North American Young Rider Championship and the Fair Hill CCI** with his talented mount Piece of Hope.

The Amanda Pirie Warrington Fund was established by Amanda's family in her memory for the purpose of providing financial assistance to a developing Eventing rider who has been identified as having great talent and the ability to represent the United States in the future.

The Grant Committee recommends a recipient that they believe will benefit from the opportunity to continue their training with top coaches and compete against the world's best horse and rider combinations in eventing, one of three Olympic equestrian disciplines. The USET Foundation Executive Committee then ratifies the nomination.

"It is such an honor to receive such an amazing grant," expressed Husain. "To get this kind of recognition from USET Foundation is really a dream come true. I've had a really good season with my horse and I hope it continues."

As the recipient of the grant, Husain will receive up to \$5,000 to help offset expenses associated with his training over the next year.

"For 2013, I applied for the Developing Riders list, so I would love to be a part of that," noted Husain. "I plan on going to Aiken, and the grant will help with some of those travel expenses. I plan on moving up to Advanced some time in the spring and hope to do a few three-day events during the season. I think the grant will help me do a few three days that I would not have been able to do otherwise."

The past year has been whirlwind for Husain, who partnered with Piece of Hope in the fall of 2011 after purchasing the talented 13-year-old gelding from Germany's Christoffer Forsberg. The pair won the Open Intermediate at Morven Park in May, and then went on to win the 2012 North American Young Riders Eventing Championship followed by the Fair Hill CCI** in October.

"My trainer, Skyeler Icke Voss, has helped me with getting to know my horse and focusing on a strong foundation," said Husain. "Our partnership has really flourished. He is a class act in all three phases. Piece of Hope is an incredible horse and he has the best attitude."

Husain is currently a sophomore at George Mason University studying Business Management. His parents recently purchased Morningside Training Farm, and following graduation, Husain plans to become a professional and start his own training center alongside Sarah Voss.

"My dream is to be on a team, whether it is the Pan American Games, the Olympics, the World Equestrian Games, or any internationally recognized event," commented Husain. "I am taking it one step at a time, but I would love to be on an Olympic Team, that is the end goal." ■ – Rebecca Walton

Connor Husain
and Piece of Hope



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Your Donor Dollar\$

The 2012 international competition year shows that, in broad strokes, Team U.S.A. consisted of

**93 HIGH PERFORMANCE ATHLETES IN EIGHT DISCIPLINES
TRAVELING WITH 77 HORSES TO EIGHT COUNTRIES**

along with their necessary support staff with hundreds more benefitting from High Performance clinics and training sessions. Their globetrotting covered England, Germany, United Arab Emirates, The Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, France and Portugal. USEF Foundation funding to the United States Equestrian Federation provided approximately 55% of the expenses, with grants totaling \$2,860,000.

The following provides a summary report of 2012 and how donors helped provide the comprehensive USEF High Performance Program with the support necessary for our United States Equestrian Teams to participate and achieve excellence in international championships. In compliance with donor wishes, Foundation gifts that were restricted to a specific discipline were allocated to that discipline. The USEF expenses cover training sessions, coaching fees, developing rider tours, farriers, veterinary care, competition fees and transportation for athletes, staff, horses and equipment.



Dressage High Performance Programs

With a focus on the 2012 Olympic Games, Dressage gave a total of nine grants to individuals. Two of the grants supported Shawna Harding with Come on III and Jan Ebeling with Rafalca in the Reem Acra/FEI World Cup Final in 's-Hertogenbosch (NED). In preparation for the Olympic Games, seven grants were given to riders for domestic preparation for the Selection Trials. Of those seven grants given, three horse/rider combinations were named to the short list and traveled to the Pre-Games training in England. Dressage sent six horses to England in preparation for the Olympic Games; four horse/riders competed in the Olympic Games. Team USA finished in 6th place after both FEI Grand Prix and FEI Olympic Grand Prix Special tests; one combination moved to the final test FEI Grand Prix Freestyle with Steffen Peters on Ravel in finishing in 17th place. Tina Konyot with Calecto V finished in 25th place; Jan Ebeling with Rafalca finished in 28th place. Individual rider Adrienne Lyle with Wizard contested only the FEI Grand

Prix, with a placing of 37th. In addition to the grants, Elite Dressage rider Training Sessions were held and twenty two riders total took part in the USEF Developing Dressage Program with Developing Dressage Coach Debbie McDonald; riders benefited from Developing Dressage clinics on both the East and West coasts.



Driving High Performance Programs

The Four-in-Hand drivers each received two grants for training and transportation. The USEF shipped ten horses to Europe with two drivers and the third driver leased a team in the Netherlands and campaigned there in order to get qualified. Training sessions were held with the U.S. coach Michael Freund in Germany and he traveled to competitions with the drivers that were in Europe early to train. The Four-in-Hand team of three competitors, Chester

Weber, James Fairclough and Joseph Yoder, came home with a Team Bronze and Chester Weber came home with the Individual Silver medal from the World Championships in Riesenbeck, Germany.

The Singles drivers also each received two grants for training and transportation costs. Four horse/driver combinations traveled to Europe to train with Michael Freund prior to the World Championships in Portugal. Those drivers were Sterling Graburn, Leslie Berndt, Donna Crookston and Sara Schmitt. Sara Schmitt had to return home after an accident during training. The U.S. team of three drivers finished 6th, which was our best finish in the last several World Championships. Sterling Graburn finished 22nd, Donna Crookston finished 32nd and Leslie Berndt finished 36th.

Also, the first Developing Driver and Trainers clinic was held in October in Kentucky and there were 12 participants in the two clinics.

at Work in 2012



Endurance High Performance Programs

Funding was provided for athletes to compete at the Young Riders World Championship in the UAE. The Team of Kelsey Russell, Mary Kathryn Clark and Kelsey Kimbler finished 4th in the team competition. Individually, Kelsey Russell with Gold Raven finished 6th, Mary Kathryn Clark with DA Al Capone finished 37th and Kelsey Kimbler with Cody Canuck finished 38th.

In August 2012, the U.S. Endurance Squad competed at the 2012 FEI World Endurance Championship in England. Funding was provided to cover the athlete's expenses. The team of Valerie Kanavy, John Crandall III, Heather Reynolds and Jeremy Reynolds finished 4th in the Team standings. Individually, Meg Sleeper with Syrocco Reveille finished 11th, Valerie Kanavy with Reach For The Gold finished 20th, Jeremy Reynolds with A Kutt Above finished 21st and Heather Reynolds with Riverwatch finished 36th.



Eventing High Performance Programs

Eventing funded winter training grants for 16 horse/rider combinations for specialized coaching to prepare for the Olympic Games. Riders spent time in Wellington, FL for show jumping and dressage practice. They also participated in training sessions throughout the winter and spring with Capt. Mark Phillips. Eventing then funded 12 horses to travel to the United Kingdom to train for the Olympic Games. They were there for a month before the Games at one of the finest facilities in the world, Eddy Stibbe's Lavender Hill Stud, where they trained with Capt. Phillips. The team finished 7th. Karen O'Connor and Mr. Medicott finished 9th individually on a score of 53.8, Phillip Dutton and Mystery Whisper finished 23rd on a score of 81.1 after an uncharacteristic stop in the show jumping. Will Coleman and Twizzel were 37th on a score of 84.7, Tiana Coudray and Ringwood

Magister were 40th on a score of 88.6 and Boyd Martin withdrew Otis Barbotiere at the final horse inspection. The highlight of the year was that two of the horses that were short-listed finished in the top six at the Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials in September. Sinead Halpin and Manoir de Carneville were 2nd and Allison Springer and Arthur were 6th. They both benefitted tremendously from their time spent in Europe.

The final major USEF Eventing trip was the Eventing Developing Rider Tour to the Boekelo CCIO3* (NED). Clark Montgomery finished 22nd on his individual horse, Universe, on a score of 61. Jon Holling and Downtown Harrison were 31st on a score of 65.4; Jennie Brannigan and Cambalda were 46th on a score of 70.4; Clark Montgomery and his team horse, Loughan Glen, were 55th on a score of 76.6. Phillip Dutton was eliminated on the cross country after a fall with Atlas. The importance of this event on the international calendar continues to grow and the U.S. put in a credible 6th place effort with a mixture of experienced riders on green horses and developing riders. This event will become a fixture on the calendar for the U.S. Eventing Team. It has become an unofficial annual 3* championship.

Para Equestrian High Performance Programs

Four athletes and four U.S. horses competed on the U.S. Team at the London Paralympics. The team placed 7th overall. Dale Dedrick (Grade II) placed 17th in the individual test and 5th in the team test. Rebecca Hart (Grade II) placed 11th in the individual test and 4th in the team test. Donna Ponessa (Grade Ia) placed 6th in the individual test and 5th in the team test. Jonathan Wentz (Grade 1b) placed 4th in the individual test, and 5th in the team test.

Three drivers using horses borrowed in Europe competed at the Para World Driving Championship, Breda (NED) – August 30 – September 2, 2012. The team placed 4th. Individually, Diane Kastama placed 14th, Pam Johnson, 19th and Karen Gorham retired.





Reining High Performance Programs

The Reining Program consisted of support to the U.S. Open Reining Championship at the Ariat Tulsa Reining Classic August 31, 2012. Awards were as follows: 1st for Shawn Florida, 2nd for Pete Kyle, tied for 3rd were Michael McEntire and Jarvis Anderson, 5th for Casey Hinton and 6th for Tom McCutcheon.

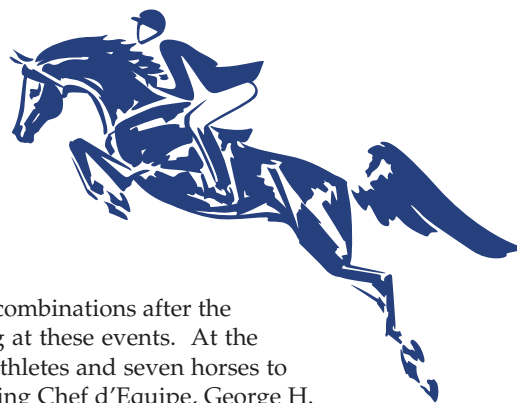
In addition to the support provided for the Open Reining Championship, support of other CRIs was furnished in order to qualify more Reining Athletes for FEI Championships.

Show Jumping High Performance Programs

The 2012 competition year for USA Show Jumping started out well when Rich Fellers won the FEI World Cup Final in 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands on Harry and Mollie Chapman's Flexible. This was the first win for a U.S. combination at this prestigious individual championship in twenty five years. Funds supported ten combinations at this championship with a team leader, veterinarian and a chef d'equipe.

The path to the Olympics Games for the Jumping Team took a bit of a different route in 2012. After four rounds of Selection Trial jumping in Wellington, FL, 35 Long Listed athlete/horse combinations headed to Observation Events in North America (Del Mar, CA, Lexington, KY, Devon, PA and Calgary, Canada). Show Jumping provided grants to the top ten ranked combinations after the Selection Trials to cover the horse transportation costs associated with competing at these events. At the conclusion of the Observation Events, Show Jumping provided funding for five athletes and seven horses to ship to The Netherlands to prepare for the Olympic Games with U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe, George H. Morris. Show Jumping then shipped six horses to England; five horses moved into the venue including alternate combination Charlie Jayne and Chill R Z and four combinations competed. Team USA (Fellers/Flexible, Kessler/Cylana, Madden/Coral Reef Via Volo, and Ward/Antares F) beat out jumping powerhouses Belgium, France and Germany to make it into the Final Round of the Team Competition and finished tied for 6th place. In the individual competition Rich Fellers and Flexible finished in the Top 10 in 8th place; McLain Ward and Antares F finished in 29th place; Reed Kessler finished in 43rd place.

2012 was the third year of the Show Jumping Young Rider Tour and again it was a success. Five Young Riders (16-21) and two individual Junior Riders (14-18) competed with fourteen horses at three European Nations Cup competitions: CSIOY Bonheiden (BEL), CSIOY Reims (FRA) and CSIOY Hagen (GER). The Young Rider team consisted of Annie Cook, Navona Gallegos, Jennifer Goddard, Alise Oken and Lydia Ulrich. They were very competitive against their European counterparts, finishing 4th at CSIOY Bonheiden, 2nd at CSIOY Reims and 2nd at CSIOY Hagen. The Junior Riders were Chloe Reid and Sydney Shulman. This Tour provides valuable Nations Cup and European experience for our up and coming Team athletes. Funding was provided for the chef d'equipe and team veterinarian as well as grants to three Young Riders.



Vaulting High Performance Programs

Five individual, two Pas de Deux and two teams of eight members each competed in Aachen CVI 3* Aachen (GER) – June 29 – July 1, 2012. The Pas de Deux combination of Devon Maitozo and Rosalind Ross earned 2nd place. The Pas de Deux combination of Blake Dahlgren and Megan Benjamin earned 3rd place. The Mt. Eden Team placed 3rd and the Woodside Vaulters placed 5th. Individually, Alicen Divita placed 10th, Mary McCormick 11th, Katharine Wick 14th, Gabe Aniello 6th, and Kristian Roberts 8th.

Six Individual, two Pas de Deux combinations and one team of seven vaulters competed at the Vaulting World Championship, Lemans (FRA) – August 13 – 19, 2012. The Pas de Deux combination of Megan Benjamin and Blake Dahlgren placed 3rd, earning the Bronze medal. The Pas de Deux pair of Devon Maitozo and Rosalind Ross placed 4th. The 2012 Vaulting World Championship was the first World Championship to

include the Pas de Deux competition. The Woodside team placed 5th. Individually, Alicen Divita place 11th, Mary McCormick 15th, Gabe Aniello 10th, Kristian Roberts 12th, Patrick Stevens 13th.

The significant cost to support the U.S. equestrian teams would simply not be possible without the support and generosity of the donors to the USET Foundation. These gifts (see pages 25–28 for donor list) are a demonstration of their loyalty and dedication to the sport and their perseverance in the promotion of excellence for the United States Equestrian Teams.

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Don Burt Passes Away

On November 25, 2012, equestrian sport lost a wonderful innovator, ambassador and leader in Don Burt. For over 50 years, Burt served the discipline of Reining and equestrian sport as a whole, heading the effort to secure the approval of Reining as the FEI's first Western discipline. He was a cherished member of the United States Equestrian Team Board of Trustees from 1999-2003 as the Vice President of Reining.

Burt also served on the USEF Reining and High Performance Reining Committees, and is best known for his presidency of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA). In 2004 he was inducted into its Hall of Fame. His



influence reached outside the Reining and Quarter Horse circles as Burt showed and judged in almost every major breed division.

In 2007, Burt was awarded the USEF Jimmy A. Williams Lifetime Achievement Award for his decades of services to the equestrian industry. He was also added to the Honor Roll of Distinguished Officials in 2011.

"I had the honor and pleasure to work with Don for many years, both at the AHSA/USEF and the USET Foundation," commented former USET Foundation President Jane F. Clark. "His contributions to the sport will leave a lasting legacy. Don always had a smile and a kind word for everyone. He was a true equestrian icon and very good friend; he will be greatly missed." ■

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Patricia Murphy and Tish Stuebe



The Vincent B Murphy, Jr. Tack Room at Hamilton Farm



On Sunday, November 23, 2012 the Murphy Family gathered at Hamilton Farm to honor and toast the family's late patriarch Vincent B. Murphy, Jr., USET President, from 1983 to 1989 with the dedication of the tack room. In attendance were his wife Patricia, and their children and grandchildren. The tack room is now proudly called the Vincent B. Murphy, Jr. Tack Room. "The Murphy family embodies the very essence of "team" and their generous gift has established a lasting legacy in honor of a great man and team leader," added USET Foundation Executive Director, Bonnie B. Jenkins.

The Hamilton Farm stable continues to be an important venue for this country's High Performance programs hosting numerous training sessions and national championships annually. The tack room is centrally located in this magnificent facility. ■



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America's equestrian athletes are achieving excellence around the world **THANKS TO SUPPORT FROM THE USET FOUNDATION AND GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS LIKE YOU.** We have created a program to help your support make an even greater impact. Our *Achieve Excellence!* monthly giving program allows you to make a secure, recurring gift each month through automatic debit from your checking account, or by credit card — just as you may do now with many bills and payments, or with other charitable giving.

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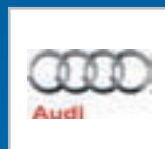
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