



HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS SET SIGHTS ON FUTURE MEDALS

With the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, now in the rearview mirror, US Equestrian has turned its attention to the future with a performance plan for the eight US Equestrian FEI disciplines. While constantly changing and adapting, the program seeks to provide a transparent pathway, along with services and support, for U.S. athletes and horses, which will subsequently enable them and enhance their ability to win more medals at future championships.

Across the spectrum, US Equestrian hopes to identify the very best horses, athletes and ultimately athlete/horse combinations within each discipline. Having the U.S. teams on the international stage in itself is not the priority or the goal of the High Performance Programs. The goal of US Equestrian and the High Performance Programs is to bring home medals and be at the top of the sport in each discipline. In line with the new strategic plan, the programs

will use the success from medals won internationally to benefit the entire equestrian community in the United States and continue to grow its base.

The primary targets over the next four years are the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games for the Olympic and Paralympic disciplines as well as the 2018 World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Tryon for all eight disciplines. In the long-run, medals are always the ultimate goal for the United States Equestrian Teams, but WEG also offers the first of only two opportunities to qualify teams for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Pan American Games in Lima in 2019 are also important for Olympic qualification in addition to seeing U.S. athletes on the podium. Annual championships at all levels are also a key target, especially in driving where only one of the disciplines competes at WEG.

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James R. Wolf Appointed USET Foundation Deputy Executive Director

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation is pleased to announce that James (Jim) R. Wolf has been named deputy executive director.

Wolf has been involved in equestrian sport governance and marketing for over 20 years. Most recently he served as the president of Wolf Sports Group, LLC (WSG), a sports/entertainment agency specializing in sponsorship, business development and event management. WSG has provided consulting services to the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), International Equestrian Group, Equestrian Sport Productions, the Tryon International Equestrian Center, Jet Set Sports, Solera Capital, the National Steeple Chase Association, the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. WSG has worked with over 40 corporate sponsors including Rolex, Land Rover, BMW, JetBlue, Coca-Cola, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, JW Marriott, Luitpold Pharmaceuticals/Adequan, Hearst Communications Inc. and a host of equestrian specific companies. WSG was involved in the creation and organization of the Rolex Central Park Horse Show, the Land Rover Wellington Eventing Showcase and assisted in the successful bid for the 2018 World Equestrian Games in Tryon.

Prior to that, Wolf held the position of executive director of sport programs for USEF having served in the role from 2004-2013. Wolf also served as the U.S. chef d'mission at five Olympic Games, five World Championships and four Pan American Games. He was responsible for all high performance and national programs related to the eight international high performance disciplines. Wolf was also responsible for sponsorship sales and activation, development and administration of the Rolex Grand Slam of Eventing and coordinated the production and ad sales for the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, among others. Prior to this, Wolf held the positions of assistant executive director/director of games preparation and athlete



programs and director of eventing activities with USEF.

"We are very excited to have a person of Jim's caliber joining the USET Foundation as deputy executive director," said Bonnie B. Jenkins, USET Foundation executive director. "His expertise and depth of knowledge of high performance equestrian sport, his broad range of relationships throughout the country and among the equestrian disciplines, as well as his experience in event management, will directly impact our fundraising efforts and help the Foundation continue to grow and expand throughout the country. Jim's professional experience combined with his love of our United States Equestrian Teams makes him the ideal person to fill this new position. I could not be happier to welcome Jim to the team."

Wolf's philanthropic interests include the El Buen Samaritano Hospital in La Romana, Dominican Republic, where he and his wife Molly organize an annual medical mission that provides services to Haitian workers. Additionally, he serves as a member of the board of directors for Brooke USA, an animal welfare charity.

Wolf, his wife Dr. Molly Bliss (former U.S. eventing team member) and daughter Josselyn live in Lebanon, New Jersey.

High Performance Goals

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In order to achieve these goals, the overall program will:

- ◆ Identify and support the development of athletes so when the appropriate horse is acquired they can maximize the potential of that horse; in essence, making sure the athletes have the “tools in their toolbox.”
- ◆ Identify and support the development of the horses that have the inherent ability to be championship-level horses if they are correctly produced.
- ◆ Work with the athlete/horse combinations identified as having the potential to deliver medal-winning performances presently and in the near future.



McLain Ward and HH Azur

Photo by Cathy Tetley



Steffen Peters and Rosamunde

Photo by Mary Adelaide Brakenridge for Phelps Media Group



Boyd Martin and Blackfoot Mystery

Photo by Shannen Brinkman

The overall program, as well as each discipline-specific program, is built on five key pillars, which include talent, vision, environment, commitment and resource. The program and the governance structure that supports the program will address each of these areas, delivering support, guidance and information across the five pillars.

The aim of this plan is growing the number of cross-discipline programs, but also continue to improve everything the team does and how funding is utilized in order to generate top performance. Within the discipline-specific programs, the plan addresses specific achievements and who is involved with achieving those goals in the hopes of being far clearer in regards to who the team is working with, why the team is working with them and what's expected in return.

“That is one of the key aims with this plan — to define who is communicating with who, when, how and why,” explained US Equestrian director of sport programs, Will Connell.

He continued, “What we had in the buildup to Rio — each discipline was working on their own plan and there wasn't a clearly identified, articulated plan that covered and connected all eight disciplines, or in terms of Rio, three Olympic and one Paralympic discipline. If you ask what development was in one discipline it was very different than what it was for another discipline. Part of the aim of this plan is to better articulate what we mean by high performance — that has never been defined. We are now trying to define what the pathway is and how we will develop and grow the pathway in each discipline.”

Each discipline-specific program will be different, but they all address key issues and will be structured to identify elite, developmental and emerging athletes. Each discipline will have key performance indicators, which will allow the progress of each program to be measured. Each discipline will also continue to grow and expand, specifically in the para equestrian disciplines where para driving and para reining will become a focus.

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High Performance Goals

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In addition to the discipline-specific programs, cross-discipline programs are being developed as the resources become available. These include: the Human Sports Science and Medicine Program, the Equine Sports Science and Medicine Program, Coaching and Coach Development, Continuing Professional Development and Athlete Development.



Chester Weber

Photo by Shannon Brinkman



Annie Peavy and Lancelot Warrior

Photo by Lindsay Y McCall

Supporting the cross-discipline programs will not be at the expense of the discipline-specific programs as US Equestrian works to focus on how funding is used and whether it is for a program or an athlete. It is also hoped that by clearly “packaging” the programs it will be far clearer to potential sponsors and donors what US Equestrian seeks to achieve and how they can support the aims.

The core aim of the Human Sports Science and Medicine Program is to deliver athletes who are fit for purpose in body and mind and able to make lifestyle decisions that will enhance their ability to maximize their potential. It is vital that there is full under-

standing of the athletes’ needs and the effect that physical change in the athlete can have on the horse. The program also seeks to assist athletes with their off horse decisions; the ability of an athlete to develop a string of horses, giving them strength in depth, will often run parallel with their ability to run their equine business.

The aim of the Equine Sports Science and Medicine (Equine SSM) Program is multi-faceted and covers the whole spectrum from challenging the scientific community, to finding answers to performance enhancing questions to delivering direct support to athletes and horses.

The program subdivides in a number of areas:

- ◆ Support to athletes by program/team discipline-specific Equine SSM practitioners.
- ◆ Enhance communication between all program/team discipline Equine SSM practitioners with the aim of enhancing support and identifying areas where there can be a performance gain.
- ◆ Challenge the scientific community to identify ideas that will enhance performance and equine/human welfare.
- ◆ Develop a network of leading experts in their fields who can help, through research, to identify performance enhancing opportunities that can then be communicated through the team Equine SSM staff to the athletes.

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The Coaching and Coach Development Program will ultimately seek to link with a wider federation program for trainers and coaches, which might include development, certification and recognition. The aim is to work with affiliates that are already running programs, provide opportunities for coaches/trainers to develop their skills and abilities and ultimately run a program that identifies and helps develop the elite coaches for the future.

The Athlete Development Program will seek to provide opportunities for athletes to develop the skills that will underpin the professionalization of their chosen sporting career. It will also help those who support athletes early in their careers to understand

the pathway, challenges, business needs and pitfalls that might lie ahead.

Each year, the plan will undergo an annual review, which will be for all US Equestrian FEI discipline sport staff, chefs d'équipe, athlete representation and staff that regularly support the teams and program. During this review, attendees will address the previous 12 months and identify performance enhancing opportunities going forward, discuss targets and confirm program and competition plans for the next 12 months. There will also be an opportunity for continual professional development and an opportunity to exercise the mind.

As a whole, this plan represents the vision; the commitment will come from the implementation and ability to remain focused on the milestone targets through the inevitable ups and downs. The plan is resource dependent and will take months if not years to fully implement. The plan will continue to develop through honest, open and regular communication and willingness by all to work together for the betterment of the US Equestrian teams.

"I think what we have is a more structured plan in terms of how we are going forward as a sport and for each individual discipline, clearly laying out what it takes to be at the top end of the sport," noted Connell.

"Each discipline will have a variation of differences within their plan because each discipline has different levels of funding, and also has a different form of development. For example, show jumping is primarily a competition-based program at the top end, while in dressage they may not compete quite as much, so everything has to be fit within that discipline's needs. It still needs to be structured under one plan however, so we are also going to effectively say this is what it takes to be elite, and this is what it takes to win medals and we're going to put funding in against short-term and long-term goals," he concluded.

Through this plan and the support of the USET Foundation and its donors, the federation membership and the team sponsors, the U.S. Equestrian Team can strive to achieve greatness on the international stage for each of the eight FEI disciplines. 🐾



Photo by Rebecca Walton for Phelps Media Group

Shawn Florida and Spooks Gotta Whiz



Photo by Digshots.nl

Alicen Divita



Photo by Becky Farman Photography

Stephen Rojek and Kyle Gibbon on Roadrunner and Tupelo

Loyal Gold Medal Club Members

Recognized at 2017 Gold Medal Club Reception

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation is pleased to recognize the generous support of their Gold Medal Club (GMC) members. The GMC is the lifeblood of the USET Foundation, accounting for nearly 80 percent of individual contributions each year and is comprised of members who contribute a minimum of \$1,000 or more annually. On Friday, Jan. 20, the USET Foundation hosted the Gold Medal Club Reception, where GMC members who have made the USET Foundation a priority in their charitable giving for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years were recognized.

GMC members have been a vital and essential source of support to U.S. equestrian teams. For the last 10 years, the following GMC members have continued to generously support the USET Foundation: Kathleen A. Connelly, Winifred P. Gray, Jean I. Jacobsen, Lara Gay Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Jack R. Meyer, Thom R. and Adele B. Mitchell, Jeanne L. Morency, Robert, Nancy and Sarah Segal, Kimberly Van Kampen, Louise A. Wrinkle, Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ziegler.

Receiving the 15 Year Award was Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Feldman, Marcia R. Phillips and Karen Ramsing-Bixler.


The 20 Year Award was presented next, and the recipients were Jean B. Baum, Cara A. Raether Carey, Marsha F. Dammerman, James H. Fairclough, Mr. and Mrs. Walter McPhail, Heloise B. Power, Wendy and Paul Raether, Janne Rumbough and Mr. and Mrs. John E. Runnells III.

For a remarkable 25 years, Sally Ike and the United States Dressage Federation have been members of the Gold Medal Club.

Receiving the USET Foundation's 30 Year Award were Mr. and Mrs. Brownlee O. Currey, Jr. and Joyce H. Williams.

Lastly, the 35 Year Award, the most prestigious honor presented to a GMC member, was awarded to the United States Eventing Association.

The USET Foundation would not be able to achieve their 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 US Equestrian without the generous support of each and every member of the Gold Medal Club.

– Taylor Renner 



Kasey Perry-Glass, Laura Graves, Claudine Kundrun, Robert Dover, Betsy Juliano, Roxanne Trunnell (seated), Kai Handt, Rebecca Hart, Becky Reno, Lucy Davis, Margaret McIntosh (seated), Beezie Madden, Laura Kraut and Robert Ridland



Gerald Parsky, Jacquie Mars and Robin Parsky



Cara Raether Carey and Marsha Dammerman



Elizabeth Johnson, BG and Suzanne Porter



Harry Reid, My Weber, Juliet Reid, Chloe Reid, Chester Weber and Sam Reid



Claudine and Fritz Kundrun



Betsy Juliano, Laura Graves, Debbie McDonald and Curt Maes



Lucy Davis, George H. Morris and Chloe Reid



George Tauber, Becky Reno, David Folden and Chrystine Tauber



Brownlee and Agneta Currey



Anne Kursinski, Michael and DD Matz



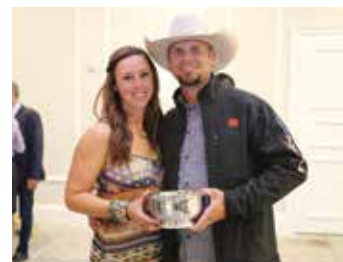
Rebecca Hart, Fernando Ortega and Margaret Duprey



Beezie and John Madden



Mark and Katherine Bellissimo



Kasey Perry-Glass and Dana Glass



Philip Richter, Juliet Reid and Tucker Johnson



George H. Morris, Chris Kappler, Darrin Mollett, Bill Ballhaus and Sarah Segal



Libby and Sam Edelman



Joyce Williams and Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.



Kimberly Van Kampen, Jack Meyer, Kathy Connelly,
Beth Meyer, Sarah Segal and Carlene Ziegler



Sally Ike and Betsy Juliano

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elects W. James McNerney, Jr., President and CEO and William H. Weeks, Vice President

NEW TRUSTEES ALSO ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

At the annual meeting of the United States Equestrian Team Foundation on Jan. 21 in Wellington, Florida, the Board of Trustees elected W. James McNerney, Jr. as President and CEO and William H. Weeks as Vice President. The newly-elected Trustees are Richard DeMartini, William Craig Dobbs, Louis Jacobs, Fritz R. Kundrun and Tommy Nusz.

W. JAMES MCNERNEY, JR.

Jim McNerney had previously served as the USET Foundation's Vice President prior to election as President. He is active in the equestrian community through his family's long-standing involvement in show jumping. Jim and his wife, Haity, have supported show jumping advancement and events, with a focus on young rider development. In addition, the McNerneys have owned young and grand prix-level mounts ridden by Kent Farrington. Their daughters, Julia and Hilary, are active competitors in the hunter and jumper divisions.

Jim joined Boeing as Chairman, President and CEO in 2005. He served as President until 2013, CEO until 2015 and Chairman until 2016.

During his tenure, the company recaptured the global lead in commercial airplane deliveries with steady increases

in production and a comprehensive update of its product line; maintained a strong position in defense markets despite a downturn in U.S. military spending; restored Boeing's historic leadership in human spaceflight with major new program wins; and expanded its engineering and manufacturing footprint inside and outside the United States.

With a relentless focus on internal productivity to fund investments in innovation and growth, Boeing's financial performance steadily improved under Jim, with revenue rising 73 percent to a record \$90.8 billion in 2014 from \$52.5 billion in 2004, the year before he became CEO.

Before Boeing, Jim served as Chairman of the Board and CEO of 3M, then a \$20 billion global technology company. He joined 3M in 2000 after 19 years at General Electric.



Jim was named the 2015 CEO of the Year by *Chief Executive* magazine and the 2008 National Management Association's Executive of the Year. He received the Juran Medal from the American Society for Quality (ASQ), the Wilson Center's Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship, the inaugural Turning Point Award from the U.S. Army War College Foundation, the Semper Fidelis

Award from the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and the John W. Dixon Award from the Association of the U.S. Army.

Appointed by President Barack Obama, Jim serves on the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees. He previously chaired the President's Export Council and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, a bipartisan, nonprofit organization that seeks to advance global security and prosperity.

He is a past chair of the Business Roundtable, an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies, and of the U.S. - China Business Council.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Jim earned a B.A. from Yale University in 1971 and an MBA from Harvard University in 1975.

Jim and Haity reside in Wellington, Florida, and Lake Forest, Illinois.

WILLIAM H. WEEKS

Bill Weeks is a long-time horseman and owner of Sasco Creek Farm in Southport, Connecticut, and Wellington, Florida. Sasco Creek Farm is the home of grand prix mount Madison, a two-time Grand Prix Association Horse of the Year. Bill has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the USET Foundation, serves as the

Second Vice President on the National Horse Show's executive board and is the Director and Chairman at Taylor Harris Insurance Services. Bill's wife and three daughters are all avid equestrians who compete on the national and international levels. Bill also has years of experience as a successful businessman as the

general partner of fresh fruit growers L&S Cranberry, and Director of Vermont Spirits, a premium vodka distillery. He was part-owner of the Buffalo Sabres hockey team throughout the 1990s and is a highly respected horseman in the hunter and jumper industries. Bill resides in Wellington, Florida, with his wife, Olivia.



RICHARD DeMARTINI

Rich DeMartini joined Crestview as a partner in 2005 and is a member of the investment committee. He is also the head of Crestview's financial services strategy. Prior to Crestview, Rich served as President of the Bank of America Asset Management Group from March 2001 until December 2004.

While at Bank of America, Rich was responsible for all the wealth and asset management activities and oversaw approximately \$400 billion in assets under his management. He was also a member of Bank of America's operat-

ing committee. Prior to Bank of America, Rich retired from Morgan Stanley, where he served as Chairman and CEO of the international private client group. His 26-year career at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter included roles as President of individual asset management, Co-president of Dean Witter & Company, Inc. and Chairman of Discover Card. He was also a member of the Morgan Stanley management committee.

At the present time, Rich is a Director of Capital Bank Financial, Arxis Capital Group, Fidelis Insurance Holdings and Victory Capital Management.



Rich currently serves as a Director of Partners Capital and is a Trustee and President of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. He has also served as Chairman of the Board of the NASDAQ Stock

Market and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.

Rich, operating through his Elm Rock, LLC, sponsors highly-respected and successful show jumping rider Margie Engle, who has represented the United States on horses owned by Elm Rock, LLC on numerous Nations Cup teams around the world. Elm Rock, LLC also supports his daughter, Leah DeMartini, who rides in the amateur-owner jumpers and is a graduate of Vanderbilt University.

Rich resides in Bronxville, New York, with his wife, Jenny Brorsen.

WILLIAM CRAIG DOBBS

Craig Dobbs is a managing director of investments for the Dobbs Group at Graystone Consulting, a business unit of Morgan Stanley. Dobbs earned his bachelor's degree in finance from Ball State in 1986.

Craig and his wife, Teneen, support a range of religious,

scientific, literary and educational causes through the William Craig and Teneen L. Dobbs Charitable Foundation, which the couple established in 2010 along with the Children's TherAplay Foundation in 2001. Craig also joined the Ball State University Foundation in fall of 2015.

The Dobbs', who live in Carmel, Indiana, have four children twins Kirstie and Kiefer along with Kassie and Calvin. Rising talents Kirstie and Calvin compete in the amateur-owner and grand prix jumpers.



LOUIS JACOBS

Lou Jacobs is Co-chief Executive Officer of the 100-year-old Delaware North, a hospitality and food service company. Lou provides stewardship to the company and its subsidiaries, which include industry leaders in food and retail operations at airports and sports venues, sports facility ownership and management, operations of parks and major tourist attractions, hotel ownership and management and gaming operations. Lou is responsible for long-term



strategic direction, determining mergers and acquisition candidates, positioning the

company in emerging markets and working with financial institutions on overall business strategy. In addition to his senior management post with Delaware North, Lou serves as alternate governor for the six-time Stanley Cup winning Boston Bruins of the National Hockey League. Lou is active in equestrian sports and has represented the United States in numerous international events. He currently serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors for the National Horse Show as well as Vice Chairman of the Board for

the Lake Placid Horse Show Association. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Hampton Classic Horse Show and is a member of the finance committees for the United States Hunter Jumper Association and its charitable foundation.

Lou has an MBA in business administration and a B.A. from Harvard University. He resides in East Aurora, New York, with his wife, Joan. They have two children, Louis Jr. and Charlotte, who is a successful competitor in the jumper divisions.

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Board of Trustees

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FRITZ R. KUNDRUN

Fritz Kundrun, an investment professional, is Chairman and CEO of American Metals and Coal International, Inc. (AMCI) Capital L.P. which he cofounded in 1986 and has led ever since.

Prior to founding AMCI, Fritz was employed for 26 years by the Thyssen Group, where he served as Executive Vice President of Thyssen, Inc. and President of Thyssen Carbometal, where his responsibilities included overseeing the international trading activities of Thyssen in the Western Hemisphere, Asia and certain

markets in Europe. He also served as Thyssen's chief delegate in Pakistan, Iran and Iraq. Kundrun has been a Director of ANR Holdings since March 2003. He served as a Director of Alpha Natural Resources Inc. from November 2004 to October 2006.

Fritz, along with his wife, Claudine, have a long history of involvement in equestrian sport, are passionate dressage enthusiasts and have owned such notable equines as Flim Flam, who represented Team USA with Susan Blinks in the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games,



1998 World Equestrian Games in Rome and won team silver at the 2002 World Equestrian

Games in Spain. The Kundruns also sponsor Allison Brock on a top string of horses including Rosevelt, who was a member of the bronze medal dressage team at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. The Kundruns are also major contributors and active in The Brooke, an international charity that protects and improves the lives of horses, donkeys and mules which give people in the developing world the opportunity to work their way out of poverty.

Fritz and Claudine reside in Wellington, Florida, and Charlottesville, Virginia.

TOMMY NUSZ

Tommy Nusz is the chairman and CEO of Oasis Petroleum Inc. He cofounded the company in 2007 with private equity sponsorship. Oasis is an oil-weighted, upstream, independent operator with approximately 500,000 net acres in the Williston Basin.

Tommy has been in the oil industry for over 30 years, including over 20 years with Burlington Resources, Inc.

Prior to his time with Burlington, Tommy worked for Mobil, Superior Oil and Halliburton Services.

While with Burlington, he was responsible for the corporate planning group, which led the strategic assessment and portfolio repositioning initia-



tives starting in 1998.

He has held various engineering and management positions at Burlington including President of the International Division; Vice President of Acquisitions and Divestitures; Vice President of Strategic Planning and Engineering and Chief Engineer. Tommy led

the Canadian expansion strategy and subsequent acquisitions including both Poco Petroleum and Canadian Hunter.

Overall, both the strategic initiatives and the acquisitions contributed to Burlington being consistently one of the leaders in total shareholder return in its E&P peer group in the years leading up to the \$36 billion purchase of Burlington by ConocoPhillips in 2006. Since then, Tommy and his team have built Oasis into a top tier, pure Williston player focused on drilling in the Bakken/Three Forks formations with production of approximately 62,000 net barrels of oil equivalent per day.

Meagan Nusz, Tommy's daughter, is a highly success-

ful amateur-owner and grand prix rider, and his Amalaya Investments owns Voyeur, who Kent Farrington rode to a team bronze medal at the 2014 World Equestrian Games and a team silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

Tommy graduated with a degree in petroleum engineering from Mississippi State University in 1982. He is a member of the National Petroleum Council, a federal advisory committee to the Secretary of Energy. Tommy is involved in several charity organizations including OneGoal Houston, the Mississippi State University Foundation and the Mississippi State University Bulldog Club.

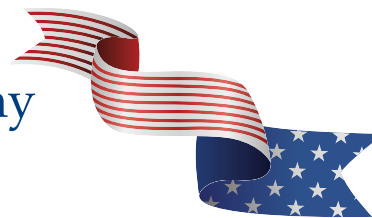
Tommy resides in The Woodlands, Texas, with his wife, Terri.



2017 Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy

Awarded to Young Talent

CHLOE REID



The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation is honored to name the accomplished young show jumper, Chloe Reid, of Washington, D.C., as the recipient of the 2017 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. At only 20 years old, Reid spends the summer training and showing in Germany under the tutelage of Markus and Meredith Beerbaum. In the spring, she heads to south Florida to attend school at the University of Miami and to compete at the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) in Wellington, Florida.

Reid accepted the prestigious award on Friday, Jan. 20, at the USET Foundation's Gold Medal Club Reception in Wellington.

Some of Reid's many successes in 2016 include being chosen to represent the United States on the Nations Cup team in Samorin, Slovakia, aboard TNT Explosive. Reid also piloted Codarco to a third place finish in a CSI3* grand prix and a top ten finish in a CSI5* grand prix in Wellington.

Looking ahead, Reid says she will return to Germany upon completion of her spring semester at the University of Miami to continue her training with the Beerbaums. Her ultimate goal during the summer is to make it onto more Nations Cup teams and represent the United States.

At the Gold Medal Club Reception, Reid accepted her award and said, "I have been blessed to have been able to ride so many incredible animals. This is as much my award as it is theirs, if not more. I would like to dedicate this award and all I have achieved



Photo by Taylor Renner for Phelps Media Group

James Sarnelli, Hermès representative, Chloe Reid, W. James McNerney, Jr. and S. Tucker S. Johnson

to my family. Looking forward, I am eager to represent the United States of America in team competitions. I promise to do my very best to help bring home many team medals, preferably of the gold variety. There is nothing I enjoy more than seeing our country's flag being raised. Thank you again for this kindness, I can only hope this is just the beginning." – Lauren Baker

2017 Whitney Stone Cup Recipient

LAURA GRAVES

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation is pleased to announce that dressage star Laura Graves is the recipient of the 2017 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.

Completing a major milestone in her career, Graves was selected to participate on the 2016 U.S. dressage team at the Rio Olympic Games with her talented mount Verdades. In addition to contributing to the team's bronze medal finish by scoring their personal best, the duo also placed fourth individually. Past accomplishments include a fourth place finish at the 2015 FEI World Cup™ Dressage Finals in Las Vegas, Nevada, and a fifth and eighth place individual finish and fourth place team finish at the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Caen, France.

Graves was presented with the award during the USET Foundation's Gold Medal Club Reception on Jan. 20 in Wellington, Florida.

"Thank you to the USET Foundation for recognizing me," said Graves. "This is an honor, and more so a reflection; a reflection of



Photo by Taylor Renner for Phelps Media Group

S. Tucker S. Johnson, Laura Graves and Betsy Juliano

our community and the fact that what Verdades and I achieved this year would not have been possible without the generosity of the USET Foundation. This award is for all of you, and my amazing horse." – Lauren Baker



GEORGE H. MORRIS HORSEMASTERSHIP TRAINING SESSION

Develops Next Generation of U.S. Equestrian Team Talent

The mounted sessions of the 11th annual USEF George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Session kicked off at The Stadium at Equestrian Village, home of the Adequan Global Dressage Festival, in Wellington, Florida, on Thursday, Jan. 5, and culminated on Saturday, Jan. 7. Olympians Anne Kursinski, Beezie Madden and Laura Kraut coached intensive lessons on the importance of correct flatwork and gymnastics and ended the clinic with a mock Nations Cup competition on Saturday.

The 12 young riders who earned invitations to the three-day educational clinic were: TJ O'Mara, Brian Moggre, Coco Fath, Taylor St. Jacques, Cooper Dean, Madison Goetzmann, Maya Nayaar, Gracie Marlowe, Emma Marlowe, Caroline Dance, Halie Robinson and Michael Williamson.

The reoccurring theme throughout Thursday's lesson, coached by Kursinski, was the importance of improving the rider's feel for correct connection and giving with the aids when necessary. "Basic equitation position is to be in the right place at the right time on the horse's back," said Kursinski. "A sign of a great rider is a happy horse."

Madden took the reins as the participants returned for the second day of instruction and began by demonstrating various flatwork and gymnastic exercises aboard her young grand prix mount Breitling LS, touching on Kursinski's talking points from the previous day as the 12 participants looked on.

Later, Madden had the riders work on flatwork and over ground poles. After mastering the ground pole exercises, rid-

ers then added a curved line of cavaletti bounces before advancing over two liver-pool oxers. Next, the jumps were raised and the riders were asked to jump all of the lines in succession. Madden patiently and methodically helped each of the clinic participants understand that, as they continue to grow as competitive athletes, they would need to use every opportunity to school their horses and get to know them if they wanted to succeed.

"You have to practice instinct and riding off of your eye," Madden explained. "It is great to learn to jump by the numbers, but at the same time you have to learn to ride by feeling and doing what is best for your horse."

Participants switched things up on the final day, learning how to effectively ride and be part of a team in a mock Nations Cup competition with Kraut. Saturday's lesson divided the 12 young riders into three teams (blue, red and white) with four on each team, with Kursinski (blue team), Madden (red team) and Lauren Hough (white team) acting as chefs d'équipe. The tricky course consisted of technical and demanding fences reaching 1.30m in height and proved to be challenging for many. During the first round of the mock Nations Cup, Kraut emphasized having an energetic and determined ride.

"A great lesson for you, and for your horses, regarding a difficult course is that you've got to attack it and be aggressive," Kraut told the riders. "You need to create energy and you have to put leg on to help your horses out in order to give them that reach."



Madison Goetzmann and Prestigious

In the final results, it was the blue team, consisting of O'Mara, Nayyar, Robinson and Goetzmann, who stood victorious with a total of 13 points.

At the conclusion of the 2017 George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Session, the 12 young riders left with a deeper understanding of basic flatwork, jumping and teamwork, which will help build a foundation for success as they continue to move up in the ranks of show jumping and go on to potentially represent the United States in international competition one day.

— Taylor Renner 



Lauren Hough, Caroline Dance, Emma Marlowe, Cooper Dean, Coco Fath, Laura Kraut, Halie Robinson, Madison Goetzmann, TJ O'Mara, Maya Nayyar, Anne Kursinski, Gracie Marlowe, Brian Moggre, Taylor St. Jacques, Michael Williamson and Beezie Madden



Laura Kraut

ROBERT DOVER HORSEMASTERSHIP CLINIC

Focus on the Future

Eager junior and young riders from around the United States gathered in Wellington, Florida, from Dec. 26-30, 2016 to participate in the sixth annual Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic. Each morning the students worked hard in fitness sessions with personal trainer Mike Barthelemy, before they made their way to the Van Kampen Arena to soak up more knowledge from Robert Dover, Debbie McDonald, Allison Brock, George Williams and Michael Barisone.

The five-day clinic, sponsored by Dressage4Kids' Emerging Dressage Athlete Program, consisted of four days of riding, with one day in the middle of the week being reserved for rest and lectures. Eighteen riders and seven participating auditors for the clinic were selected from the top competitors at the North American Young Rider Championships, the USEF National Championships, the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals and from the Emerging Dressage Athlete Program Clinics. The theme of horsemastership flowed throughout the clinic with lectures from a number of top experts on topics ranging from sports psychology to tack fitting to working with the media. On their unmounted day, participants took a field trip to 2016 U.S. Olympic bronze medalist Allison Brock's farm.

Each trainer stressed the importance of the basics of dressage to the young riders, including roundness, forwardness, suppleness and engagement. Barisone noted that learning the fundamentals of the sport of dressage is the basis of horsemanship and horsemastership.

"You ride into that horse what you want," Barisone said. "You teach him to be available to you, that you can control his roundness, his suppleness, his focus, his energy, his forwardness. You do those things and the sky is the limit."

In each of her lessons, McDonald taught the riders the importance of their horses' sensitivity to the aids to increase their maneuverability. She reminded riders to keep a steadier, more consistent contact so their mounts may feel even the smallest of movements from the hand, as well as small shifts in seat and leg position. She urged her students to "whisper" to their horses with the aids and to only apply a stronger aid if they did not answer with the proper reaction. When the horse responded, the pressure was taken away.

Instructors also stressed how paramount forwarding thinking is for each basic gait, movement and complex exercise. McDonald discussed how each rider should be teaching their horse to step up from their hind legs and into the contact in everything they do. Dover emphasized how momentous collection was as a basis of all movements. He explained that you can be collected while maintaining forward motion.

"You should feel the opportunity of all things from a collected walk. You should be able to think it and feel like anything you ask will happen," Dover stated.

Applicable advice for all levels was not in short supply during riders' lessons. Common themes throughout the week included exercises to improve their horse's attentiveness to the aids, straightness, forwardness and ability to collect. All three instructors also stressed the importance of becoming horse trainers and not just riders in order to mold the students' mounts into accessible dressage partners. — Sarah Harper



Hannah Irons and My Lucky Charm with Allison Brock



Juliet Hess and Diano with Allison Brock



Kerrigan Gluch and Brio HGF with Robert Dover

Photos by Sarah Harper for Phelps Media Group

JENNIE BRANNIGAN AND STELLA ARTOIS

2016

Connaught Grant Recipients

Jennie Brannigan and Stella Artois are the 2016 recipients of the Connaught Grant from the USET Foundation. The grant announcement was made at the United States Eventing Association (USEA) annual meeting.

"I'm very, very excited to have been chosen," Brannigan said. "I think the first job I ever got working for Phillip Dutton was to go out into the field and catch Connaught, so it's special in that I worked for Phillip and actually got to ride that horse."

The Connaught Grant was established by Caroline Moran in honor of the late R. Bruce Duchossois, and awards \$25,000 to a CCI* or CCI2* horse in the U.S. that is seen as a potential candidate to represent the U.S. Equestrian Team on an international level. The grant helps offset the cost of competitions, travel in relationship to competitions, training and horse care.

The grant is named after the famous event horse Connaught, who was owned by Duchossois and ridden by Dutton. Connaught, who also passed away, won Rolex in 2008, was second in 2007 and represented the U.S. at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Brannigan currently operates Brannigan Eventing and is based in Unionville, Pennsylvania, in the summers and spends the winters in Ocala, Florida. Originally from Galena, Illinois, Brannigan became interested in eventing at the age of 13 and became a working student for Allison Springer. She then moved on to positions working for Natalie Rooney and show jumper Susie Hutchinson. Brannigan then made the move to Georgia to work for Mike and Emma Winters in order to go back to concentrating on eventing full time. It was from here that she moved to Unionville to work for Phillip Dutton at True Prospect Farm where she was the assistant trainer until November 2013 when she struck out on her own with Brannigan Eventing. Since then, Brannigan has had considerable success at the upper levels of the sport. She and Cambalda were even named as traveling alternates for the U.S. team at the 2015 Pan American Games.

Brannigan acquired Stella Artois, now 8, along with half-owner Beth Battel as a 5-year-old young horse in Germany. The Holsteiner/Thoroughbred mare began competing at the 2* level earlier this year, impressively winning the CCI2* division at the Dutta Corp. Fair Hill International in October.

"I put every penny I had in my savings account to buy half of Stella Artois," Brannigan said. "It was really special to have her win Fair Hill and have the year that she's had. I always had the feeling that she was a bigtime horse, and hopefully this is a good omen for the future."

Brannigan said with the help of the grant, she hopes to travel to Europe to compete with Stella Artois, furthering the mare's experience at the 2* level before hopefully stepping up to 3* competitions later in the year.

"I am just determined to do the right thing by this mare," Brannigan said. "Receiving this grant is a big honor, and hopefully we'll live up to the expectations." – Sarah Harper



Jennie Brannigan and Stella Artois

Photo Shannon Brinkman

JACQUELINE B. MARS

Honored with

R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award

In 2015, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation announced the creation of the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award in honor and recognition of the late Bruce Duchossois. On Jan. 20, Jacqueline B. Mars was presented with the 2017 award during the USET Foundation's Gold Medal Club Reception in Wellington, Florida.

"I am very honored to be receiving this award, and I'm very emotional about having Bruce's name on it," said Mars. "We all miss him so very, very much. This organization, through the years, has done more for me than I ever could have contributed. The experiences, friendships and events that I've been a part of have been wonderful. All I can say is, thank you all so much for what you have given me."


The R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award was created in recognition of Duchossois' leadership, generosity and outstanding character. His life was celebrated in 2015 as the first recipient of the prestigious award, and the example he set lives on in others as the award is presented annually to a USET Foundation trustee who exemplifies exceptional leadership, philanthropy and character.

For over four decades, USET Foundation Honorary Life Trustee, eventing horse owner and long-time loyal supporter of equestrian sport, Mars, has lent her wisdom, passion and philanthropy to the United States Equestrian Team and the USET Foundation. Mars has served as vice president, member of the executive and investment committees and co-chaired the Campaign for Continuing Our

Competitive Excellence, which raised \$36.5 million for the United States' high performance programs. Mars is also the benefactor of the USET Foundation's Jacqueline B. Mars Competition and Training Grant, which helps offset the costs of competing and training at the highest levels and is awarded to an eventing athlete for their impressive record and potential to represent the United States in future international competition.

Mars has guided the careers of not only some of the United States' most successful and elite riders, but she is also continually ensuring the next generation of team riders and horses are being prepared and ready to step up when their time comes.

As an owner, Mars has owned such notable equines as Giltedge, Prince Panache, Mr. Medicott and Hannah Sue Burnett's Pan American team gold medal winning mount, Harbour Pilot, among others. Mars generously established "The Giltedge Challenge" in 2012 on behalf of the USET Foundation, which raised \$1.5 million for eventing programs and honored the truly extraordinary career of Giltedge, who so proudly represented the United States on medal-winning eventing teams at the 1996 Olympic Games, 1998 World Equestrian Games, 1999 Pan American Games, 2000 Olympic Games and 2002 World Equestrian Games.

A true champion, Mars' commitment and distinguished service through excellence in leadership, philanthropy and character has positively impacted the Foundation's mission of supporting athletes, promoting international excellence and building for the future. – *Taylor Renner* 



S. Tucker S. Johnson, Jacqueline B. Mars and Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.

Photo by Taylor Renner for Phelps Media Group

PEYTON WARREN

Wins Talent Search Finals West



The Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals West are always a test of mindfulness and skill, with four phases illustrating the demands on a show jumping athlete. Nineteen qualified riders began the finals on Friday, which after three phases were narrowed down to a final four who then demonstrated their abilities to ride a course on four different horses. Sitting on top going into the final phase was Peyton Warren of Rancho Murieta, California, who emerged as the 2016 champion under the tutelage of Jan and Jill Humphrey. Riding Casmir Z, Warren's style and experience gave her the edge to secure the win.

"It means the world to me to win a final like this because I'm passionate about the jumpers, and that's what I ultimately want to do as a career," Warren stated. "I have a lot of respect for this final because I knew the goal was to have my horse prepared to jump the final round to the best of his ability and I could feel us accomplishing that."

The challenges commenced on Friday morning with Phase I, when riders entered the ring in small groups showing their skill with the required flat questions asked by judges Cynthia Hankins and top U.S. rider Schuyler Riley. Riders worked their horses



Peyton Warren and Casmir Z

Photo by Amy McCool

at all gaits, showing collection and extension, and movements such as haunches-in, shoulder-out, half pass and counter canter on a circle. Warren led that phase with a score of 97, with Megan Hilton of Seattle, Washington, and Michael Williamson of Loomis, California, following in a very close second and third, with scores of 96.5 and 96 respectively.

With a new format this year, judge Riley developed the Phase II course, which

included three of eleven gymnastic exercises designed by Beezie Madden and Anthony D'Ambrosio as well as some of her own exercises. D'Ambrosio was present as technical delegate, and helped set the courses to the correct specifications. Hilton topped this phase with a 91; and with a 90 for Warren, she was still quite close to the lead.

Phase III asked a number of questions of the riders over a 16-effort track, designed by Hankins with D'Ambrosio building the course. Once again, Warren commanded the track, riding Casmir Z beautifully to a score of 92 — the only ninety score of the round. Serena Anand of Coto de Caza, California, Williamson and Hilton scored 84, 80 and 79 to finalize the top four going into the final phase.

The nine-jump effort of Phase IV tested the final four riders' abilities to not only catch-ride three different horses but to try to bring out the best in each mount. Warren, who has a plethora of catch riding miles, executed solid tracks on each mount, and once again earned impressive scores in the nineties. Warren's final score of 374 was unbeatable. Second to Warren was Anand, with an overall total of 340, followed by Hilton at 326 and Williamson in fourth with 319. — Jackie McFarland



Peyton Warren with Casmir Z, Jill Humphrey, Candido Luna, Allison Sherad, DiAnn Langer, Casey Easley, Melissa Brandes, Ransome Rombauer, Schuyler Riley, Cynthia Hankins and Caitlin Dick

Photo by Amy McCool



TJ O'MARA

Makes His Mark at Talent Search Finals East

October was a great month for TJ O'Mara as he not only claimed top honors at the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals East, but he also rode to victory the following week in the Pessoa/US Hunter Seat Medal Final, both aboard his trusty mare, Kaskade. In the first major equestrian final of the season, O'Mara, as well as his fellow competitors, were challenged by judges Karen Healey and Kirsten Coe through a series of phases, navigating their mounts over a jumper-style course, while maintaining a forward style of riding. Riders were expected to demonstrate correct equitation in addition to speed and precision, staying true to the goal of the Talent Search program.



TJ O'Mara and Kaskade



Photos by Elaine Wessel for Phelps Media Group

TJ O'Mara with Kaskade, Lauren Eberle, Kirsten Coe, Karen Healey, Max Amaya, Stacia Madden, Krista Freundlich, Heather Senia Williams, Katie Haley, DiAnn Langer, Casey Easley and Lizzy Chesson

"It has always been a goal of mine to get a top placing in this final," expressed O'Mara. "So many top professionals have come out of winning this class. The USET class really showcases a jumper style of riding, and it carries on into the grand prix and in other similar classes, which is where I'd like to be someday."

O'Mara, who is trained by Max Amaya of Stonehenge Stables and Stacia Madden of Beacon Hill Show Stables, finished the first day of competition with a score of 223.25, just 6.25 points and four places behind the leader, 15-year-old Daisy Farish, after two rounds of competition. Two years ago, Farish found herself in a similar situation when she led the field after the first day of competition during her first USET Finals in 2014. During the gymnastics phase, those who managed to pilot their mounts around the 23-effort track with minimal error were rewarded accordingly, with scores in the upper eighties and low nineties, and Farish bested the field with a score of 92, matching her flat phase marks to secure the lead.

With only a handful of points separating the top tier of riders

headed into the second day of competition, there was no room for mistakes during phase three if competitors intended to earn a ribbon following the final phase. Solid performances Saturday kept O'Mara in contention, as he sat in fifth place, but it was his stellar performance Sunday that propelled him into the final ride-off, where he continued to shine both on Kaskade as well as on the mounts of the other three competitors.

With blank slates, riders Farish, Vivian Yowan, Sophie Simpson and O'Mara first navigated their own horses around the abridged course, then subsequently took turns riding each of the other three horses during the final four work-off. Though Farish entered the day in the lead, she would lose it in the work-off due to both a refusal and a downed rail, and while Yowan and Simpson both laid down strong performances, it was O'Mara who rode to the top score of 350 to claim the tricolor. Simpson followed with marks of 345, trailed by Yowan and Farish with scores of 347 and 246, respectively. – Elaine Wessel



Gladstone Challenge Trophy and Markham Trophy

Awarded at USEF CCI3* Fall Championship

The USET Foundation awarded two prestigious trophies at The Dutta Corp. Fair Hill International event held in Fair Hill, Maryland, Oct. 13-16, 2016. Marilyn Little and RF Scandalous, owned by Jacqueline Mars, Michael and Phoebe Manders, and Robin Parsky, were the recipients of the Gladstone Challenge Trophy, which is presented to the highest placed U.S. rider. Little and Scandalous won the USEF CCI3* fall championship with a double-clear show jumping round, earning them the winner's spot as well as the trophy. Jenny Caras and Fernhill Fortitude won the Markham Trophy as the highest placed U.S. young rider.

Little rode to a one-two finish in the USEF CCI3* placing first with RF Scandalous and second with RF Demeter. She and RF Scandalous led the field after the dressage phase with a score of 41.50. A scant 4.80 time faults in the cross-country phase dropped them into second place, moving her other mount RF Demeter, owned by Jacqueline Mars, Patrick Witte and Raylyn Farms, into the first place spot. In the show jumping phase, RF Demeter had an unlucky rail, dropping the pair from first to second and ending with a 48.60. Little rode a clean round on RF Scandalous, cementing the win with an overall score of 46.30. With rails causing problems for the top horse-and-rider combinations, Hannah Sue Burnett piloted Under Suspicion to a clean round to move them up to a third place finish with a score of 49.60.

"I feel honored to ride such wonderful horses, and am fortunate to have a strong group of incredible owners standing behind them," Little said. "Fair Hill always provides an atmosphere of top competition in a legendary and historically significant setting for our sport. I was thrilled to have a successful finish amongst such an elite group of competitors. On behalf of all of the competitors, I wish to thank Fair Hill and all of those that are a part of this special event for continuing to provide eventing sport with a competition of such quality. Many thanks also to the entire RF team for their hard work and support of our incredible horses, for it is their dedication that makes weekends such as this possible."

Caras and Fernhill Fortitude were the top placed U.S. young rider combination, finishing on their dressage score of 53.50 and taking home the sixth place ribbon in addition to the Markham Trophy.

"Winning the Markham trophy is an incredible honor, especially amongst such a talented group of competitors," Caras said. "Thank you to Fair Hill for putting on a top notch competition, and to everyone who makes this award possible. My success is the result of having a great support team and I would also like to thank them for all they do on a daily basis."

Caras had a successful 2016 season in addition to winning the Markham Trophy at Fair Hill. She was chosen for the fourth consecutive year as one of 10 top riders in the United States to be named to the USEF

Eventing 25 Training List. She was also named as one of the recipients of the 2016 Karen Stives Endowment Fund for High Performance Eventing Grant. With the grant she received, Caras traveled to Great Britain to represent the United States on the international stage at the 2016 Bramham International CCI3*-U25, finishing in ninth place.

— Sarah Harper



Marilyn Little and RF Scandalous



Jenny Caras and Fernhill Fortitude

USET Foundation Honored During CP National Horse Show

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation was honored to be the beneficiary of Saturday night's proceeds at the 133rd edition of the CP National Horse Show, which was held Nov. 1–6, 2016, during the \$250,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Lexington CSI4*-W.

For the second year in a row, Kent Farrington and Voeur, a 14-year-old KWPN gelding owned by Amalaya Investments, won Saturday's World Cup qualifying event. After helping the U.S. Show Jumping Team clinch the team silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games last summer, the duo proved they remain as one of the best in the world with Saturday night's big win in Lexington.

The USET Foundation enjoyed being a part of Saturday's festivities at the 2016 CP National Horse Show and congratulates Farrington on his win as well as on an outstanding year representing Team USA! – *Taylor Renner*



Kent Farrington aboard stand-in presentation mount Gazelle

Photo by Taylor Renner for Phelps Media Group

U.S. Capital Honors USET Foundation and Olympic Athletes at WIHS

The capital of the United States was once again filled with more than 500 of the world's top horses and riders vying for half a million dollars in prize money as the 58th installment of the Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) got underway Oct. 25–30, 2016. In addition, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation was honored to once again be the beneficiary of the

President's Cup Party on Saturday during the week-long event.

Olympian Lauren Hough took home top honors in the \$130,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Washington, presented by Events DC. During the evening, a special presentation was also held to recognize the 2016 Rio Olympic show jumping team as well as a tribute to the late legendary Frank Chapot.

In the Acela Club of the Verizon Center, WIHS and the USET Foundation invited guests to wear their best equestrian chic and join Washington D.C.'s elite business, diplomatic and community leaders, as well as athletes, for a night of socializing, sophistication and show jumping to benefit the USET Foundation. The USET Foundation would like to thank everyone who came out to show their support! – *Rebecca Walton*



Photo by Shaun McMillen Photography

Family and friends joined in a ceremony to honor Frank Chapot, who was inducted into the WIHS Hall of Fame, including: WIHS Manager David Distler, Bezie Madden, McLain Ward, Joe Fargis, WIHS President Vicki Lowell, Wendy Chapot, Laura Chapot, George Morris, Anne Kursinski, Robert Ridland, Laura Kraut and Kent Farrington

STEVE WILSON DRIVES TO VICTORY

at Hermitage Classic CDE for USEF Pair Horse Driving National Championship

The annual USEF Pair Horse Driving National Championship spanned three days on Oct. 21–23, 2016 at the historic Hermitage Farm, where Steve Wilson earned the championship title at the Hermitage Classic CDE. With a final score of 160.59, the Louisville, Kentucky, native drove away with his second consecutive victory.

Wilson had an impressive dressage test to start off the competition, taking an early lead with a score of 49.79. “I really had one of the best dressage tests I’ve ever had,” Wilson expressed. “Regardless of the score, I felt really good about it. I was able to keep the impulsion up and they have got beautiful extension.”

The victor added a new pair of horses to his roster. He explained, “I’ve got a new young pair of Dutch Warmbloods that I found in Hungary. One of them is hotter than the other.” Under Wilson’s guidance, the mixed KWPN and Lipizzaner pair navigated through the tough marathon course designed by Barry Hunter (GBR) and won the phase with a total of 95.67 penalties. Wilson secured the fastest times in four of the seven obstacles.

“In the marathon, I put in a different horse, a Lipizzaner I have had for quite some time and a real powerhouse, taking the youngest and most sensitive horse out,” Wilson clarified. “I had a really good marathon; I had one bobble in obstacle six, but I felt really good about my time and how well they responded.”

His lead going into the final phase proved to be essential, as he dropped three balls for nine penalties and suffered 6.13 time penalties over the difficult track. He ended the weekend with a score of 160.59 to seal the victory. “During the cones phase, I put the two Dutch Warmbloods back together, and Dario was really hot and really wanted to go,” Wilson said. “If I could’ve had just a bit more control, I think I could have kept from hitting a couple of balls. I had a nice lead and I knew I could afford three [balls].”

“In one year he achieved the same goal with three different horses, which in my mind is the toughest part to work out,” said



Photos by PiesOfYou

U.S. driving coach Thorsten Zarembowicz. “Normally you change one horse out and get another one in, but Steve has come so far that he can drive a different pair just as well.”

Chet Halka of Millstone, New Jersey, received a dressage score of 54.51 to start off the competition, and followed with a strong marathon performance. He and his KWPN and Oldenburg pair collected 101.66 penalties and had the quickest time in three obstacles. In the third phase, Halka left all of the balls in place and won the cones phase despite 7.59 time penalties. Halka earned the reserve champion title with a final score of 163.76.

The Murrieta, California, native, Joan Fernandez, and her pair of talented Friesians began the weekend with a solid dressage score of 67.55. With a marathon score of 174.82 penalties and a total of 32.8 penalties in the cones phase, Fernandez finished third with a final tally of 275.15 penalties. – *Devaney Iglesias*



PARRY THOMAS

Leaves a Lasting Impression on the Sport of Dressage



Parry Thomas, 95, passed away Aug. 26, 2016 at his River Grove Farm in Hailey, Idaho. Although well-known in the dressage world as the owner of the legendary mare Brentina, Parry was first a businessman who had a large impact on Las Vegas casinos and the development of the city.

In retirement, Parry and his wife Peggy became deeply involved in horses, a passion of Peggy's which became one for Parry as well. He loved developing high performance horses from a young age, and enlisted trainer Bob McDonald to help him. McDonald's wife Debbie later paired with Brentina, Parry's 1991 Hanoverian mare, and went on to win team and individual gold at the 1999 Pan American Games, team silver in the 2002 World Equestrian Games and a victory at the 2003 World Cup Finals.

"Parry was the most giving man who loved the process of developing and training the horses — it was one of the things we appreciated the most about him," Bob McDonald said.

Parry saw his hard work pay off when Debbie and Brentina participated in the 2004 Athens Olympics for dressage, taking home a team bronze medal. They later earned another team bronze at the 2006 World Equestrian Games, and competed in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Parry had not one, but two horses make it to the Olympic Games. Ridden by Debbie's protégé, Adrienne Lyle, the Oldenburg gelding, Wizard, earned a place on the London Olympic dressage team in 2012 after winning the USEF Young Adult 'Brentina Cup' National Championship, named after Parry's Brentina, in 2008.

Parry's passion for the sport of dressage and developing horses was unparalleled. He supported his riders relentlessly, even watching a livestream of Lyle riding in the 2016 Markel/USEF Young and Developing Horse Dressage National Championships the day before he passed away. Lyle swept the championships that day, earning an overall score of 74.272 percent.

"Today's ride was special," Lyle explained. "Parry has been incredibly influential and a huge supporter of U.S. dressage. Just on Friday he was watching the livestream of us competing while

he was in bed. He was still loving dressage, right up until the day he went. I told Debbie I think he's watching over us and we are going to ride for him today."

"I wouldn't have the life I have today without Parry Thomas," Debbie added. "He was not just a sponsor, he was a father. There are no words to describe a man who gave so much. I think Adrienne and I feel very much that he is our little angel up there looking down on us."

Parry's loved ones, including Lyle and Debbie, came together to honor the influential man at his beloved River Grove Farm in early October. Debbie explained Thomas' role in her life and his long-lasting impression in an emotional recount, and Lyle ended the memorial by riding the stallion Salvino to Frank Sinatra's song "I Did it My Way" to honor him.

"There was something about Parry, his character and his being, that you never forgot," Bob McDonald explained. "When you meet someone and he leaves that lasting impression on you from the first time you meet him, that was Parry." — Emma Miller

"He was not just a sponsor, he was a father."

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