



APPLAUDING AMBASSADORS OF U.S. EQUESTRIAN SPORT

On January 22, 2023, during the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation's Gold Medal Club Reception held at The Wanderer's Club in Wellington, Florida, three prestigious USET Foundation awards were presented to longstanding ambassadors of equestrian sport. Will Coleman, Christian Simonson, and Margaret Duprey were the 2023 recipients of the Whitney Stone Cup, Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, and the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award, respectively.

WHITNEY STONE CUP

Will Coleman

The Whitney Stone Cup is awarded annually by the USET Foundation to an active competitor whose consistent excellence in international competition and whose standard for sportsmanlike conduct and contributions as an ambassador for the sport and for the USET Foundation exemplify the Team's highest ideals and traditions.

"It's a tremendous honor to receive the Whitney Stone Cup," said Coleman, who was ranked fifth on the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) World Eventing Athlete Rankings at the end of 2022. "The competitors that have received this award are and were some of the greatest horse people in the world — many of whom I've looked up to my entire life. Some of the people I most admire in our sport have won it, so to be that person and to be given this award is humbling. I've never thought of myself as being the type of person to receive this award, so it's really gratifying.

"Success in eventing is often at the end of a very long and challenging road," continued Coleman of



Will Coleman (center) received the Whitney Stone Cup from USET Foundation Chairman, President, and CEO Jim McNerney (left), and USET Foundation Vice President of the Board of Trustees Bill Weeks (right).

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Dear Friends,

We are already well into an important year for our U.S. equestrian teams. With the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, taking place in October 2023, followed by the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, France, it's critical that we ensure our athletes and horses remain in peak performance condition.

In the first quarter alone, we've had the opportunity to celebrate notable senior-team achievements such as the Adequan® Para Dressage Team's gold medal at the CHI Al Shaqab CPEDI3* in Ar-Rayyan, Qatar, and the Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team's second-place finish in the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) Dressage Nations Cup™ USA CDIO3* in Wellington, Florida.

At the same time, we cannot lose sight of training and competition opportunities for our country's developing athletes. The US Equestrian (USEF) High Performance Pathway Programs, which are supported by the USET Foundation, are integral to the development of our horses and riders. Several of these programs have taken place this year and it has been motivating to witness the breadth and depth of young talent that exists across disciplines. In January, up-and-coming dressage and jumping riders participated in USEF Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic Week and the USEF Jumping Horsemastership Training Series, which offered our nation's next generation of riders with opportunities to learn from the best in the sport. The Under 25 (U25) Division is also key to providing our country's promising talent with international team experiences and our young dressage athletes certainly made the most of it with two U.S. U25 teams topping the podium in the FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ USA CDI0U25 in Wellington, Florida, in February.

Unlike other countries, the U.S. government does not provide funding for our teams, so USET Foundation funding plays an important role in giving athletes and horses the experiences they need to successfully represent the U.S. Eventing star Caroline Martin and her mount HSH Blake received the USET Foundation's Connaught Grant for 2023 and U25 eventing rider Meg Pellegrini received the USET Foundation's Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant also for 2023.

It goes without saying that none of these High Performance Pathway Programs and opportunities would be possible without unwavering support from our equestrian community. At the USET Foundation's Gold Medal Club Reception in March we applauded key anniversaries of Gold Medal Club members and honored recipients of three USET Foundation awards. Eventing Olympian Will Coleman was presented with the Whitney Stone Cup, high performance dressage pathway participant Christian Simonson received the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, and longtime equestrian sport supporter Margaret Duprey was honored with the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award.

In this issue, we also recognize eventing athlete Dan Kreidl for earning the Gladstone Challenge Trophy and jumping and para dressage teams that contested the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ CSIO4* and the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival Week 3 CPEDI3*, respectively, in Wellington, Florida. In addition, we welcome four new members — Shelby Bonnie, C. Clay Green, Christa B. Schmidt, and Mike A. Smith — to the USET Foundation Board of Trustees. Finally, we honor and remember four legends of our sport — Kevin Freeman, Dr. Meg Mullin, Judy Richter, and Jimmy Wofford — all of whom have left legacies that motivate us to continue the tradition of greatness.

Our U.S. equestrian teams have always been synonymous with resilience and fortitude. This comes to life in the stories we share in this issue. We hope they inspire your ongoing support of our athletes in this critical year.

I look forward to sharing in the excitement we will all feel as our teams work toward the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Your continued patronage is greatly appreciated and also deserves to be celebrated.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Jenkins
Executive Director



The United States Equestrian Team Foundation (USET) is a philanthropic partner of US Equestrian (USEF). The USET Foundation funds U.S. teams and programs through charitable gifts and donations and makes grants to USEF annually.

APPLAUDING AMBASSADORS

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Gordonsville, Virginia. “For every great experience and achievement, there are many disappointing and formative moments. You go through these ups and downs many times and at many different levels throughout your career. It is thanks to the support from organizations like the USET Foundation, and from your owners and sponsors, that you can continue to climb the ladder and reach your fullest potential. Hopefully that is at an event like CHIO Aachen or the FEI World Championships, but wherever you have success on an international level, the USET Foundation certainly helps you to get there.”

An athlete on US Equestrian’s (USEF) High Performance Training List since the age of 18, Coleman has taken advantage of the opportunities presented to him in order to reach his greatest potential. He was a member of the U.S. eventing team at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England, with Twizzel and at the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games in Tryon, North Carolina, with Tight Lines.

More recently, Coleman has produced top results with Off The Record, a 14-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by the Off The Record Syndicate. The pair won the 2018 Great Meadow International CCIO4*-S, the 2019 Jersey Fresh International CCI4*-S, and the 2021 Carolina International CCI4*-S. In September of 2021, the pair made history as the first American combination to win the CCIO4*-S division at CHIO Aachen, Germany.

In September of 2022, Coleman and Off The Record were part of the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team that claimed the silver medal at the FEI Eventing World Championship held at Pratoni del Vivaro in Rome, Italy, and qualified the U.S. team for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France. Going forward, Coleman hopes to continue to successfully represent the U.S. on the international stage.

“We have another big year in front of us,” he stated. Coleman and Off The Record were one the combinations selected to represent the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Squad at CHIO Aachen



Will Coleman and Off The Record

in 2023, and he is eager to repeat his success there. “We also have the Pan American Games, and I have a couple of younger horses who might be in the running for selection for that championship,” he continued.

The Whitney Stone Cup, which was presented to the Team by the

Officers and Directors of the USET Foundation, is given in honor of the late Whitney Stone. Stone served as President and Chairman of the Board of the USET and was instrumental in the creation of a civilian team when the Army retired from competitive horse sports after 1948. *Continued on page 4*

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

LIONEL GUERRAND-HERMÈS TROPHY

Christian Simonson

The Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy is awarded annually by the USET Foundation to a junior or young rider in an Olympic discipline who exemplifies the Team's ideals of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

Simonson, of Ventura, California, who has amassed an impressive list of accolades as a young rider, joins an elite group of equestrians that have successfully represented the U.S. on an international level.

"It is truly an honor to receive the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy and join an esteemed group of athletes," stated Simonson, 20. "I sincerely want to thank those around me including my trainer Adrienne Lyle and fellow rider Katie Duerrhammer. They are incredible role models that demonstrate what horsemanship truly means. Without them, this would not be possible. I plan to uphold the ideals of the USET Foundation and continue the journey of learning from both human and horse."

Taking advantage of the USEF High Performance Pathway, Simonson competed at the 2017 and 2018 North American Youth Championships (NAYC) earning the team gold medal and individual silver medal in the Junior division in 2017 and the team silver medal in the Young Rider division in 2018. Simonson was also awarded the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) bronze and silver medals in 2017.

In 2021, he won triple gold in the Young Rider division at NAYC riding Zeaball Diawind and he was also selected to represent the U.S. at the Future Champions Nations Cup in Hagen, Germany, where the team earned bronze. In the summer of 2022, Simonson and Son of a Lady had a third-place finish in the Young Rider Freestyle at CHIO Aachen in Germany.

Simonson credits the formative opportunities offered along USEF's High Performance Pathway for helping him progress and find success.

"My journey along the High Performance Pathway has been extremely worthwhile," he explained. "These initiatives implemented by the USET Foundation, USEF, and Discover Dressage, including the European Tour and NAYC, have provided me with invaluable experiences."

"Team experiences are rare in our sport," he continued. "These opportunities have shown me how vital it is to develop strong and supportive team dynamics in order to succeed on the international stage. These events have prepared me to represent my country, hopefully at the highest level. Without the USET Foundation's initial support, this wouldn't be possible."

Simonson recently made the transition to the professional ranks and was selected for team outings in Europe as well as made his debut in the Under 25 division with his new mount Harmony's Duval. Longer term, Simonson is focused on learning as much as possible with the goal of one day competing on senior teams at major venues such as the FEI World Cup™ Finals and the Olympic Games.

The Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Award was established



Photo by Jump Media

USET Foundation Chairman, President, and CEO Jim McNerney (left), Christian Simonson (center), and USET Foundation Vice President of the Board of Trustees Bill Weeks (right).

in 1983 by Patrick Guerrand-Hermès in memory of his son, Lionel, an Olympic hopeful trained by U.S. Eventing Coach, Jack LeGoff, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident at the age of 18. A perpetual trophy designed by Patrick Guerrand-Hermès is inscribed annually with the winner's name and permanently displayed at the USET Foundation's headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey.



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Christian Simonson and Son of a Lady

R. BRUCE DUCHOSSOIS DISTINGUISHED TRUSTEE AWARD

Margaret H. Duprey

The inaugural R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award was established by the USET Foundation in 2015. It pays homage to the late Mr. Duchossois' leadership, generosity, and outstanding character and is awarded annually to a USET Foundation Trustee. His life was celebrated by becoming the first recipient of the prestigious award for the 2014 calendar year.

"I'm deeply honored to receive this award in memory of Mr. Duchossois, who was such a well-respected horseperson," said Duprey, of Wellington, Florida. "This sport has brought me tremendous joy over the years and my hope, as a member of the USET Foundation's Board of Trustees, is to give back just as much as I've received. I aim to support initiatives that ensure the success of our U.S. high performance athletes and teams at major international competitions."

A lifelong member of the equestrian community, Duprey has served on the USET Foundation's Board of Trustees for more than 15 years, playing an integral role in supporting and donating to several fundraising campaigns.

Most recently, she spearheaded the "Trustee and National Advisory Committee (NAC) Challenge," that inspired USET Foundation Board of Trustee and NAC members to make contributions and pledge multi-year gift commitments. Thanks to Duprey's leadership, the Challenge exceeded its goal and raised more than \$3 million for high performance programs.

"Margaret has long been instrumental in supporting high performance equestrian sport in the United States, and I've been humbled by her generosity over the years," stated W. James McNerney, Chairman, President, and CEO, of the USET Foundation. "Her consistent and active participation on the USET Foundation's Board of Trustees demonstrates her unwavering commitment to ensuring prominence for our U.S. teams on the world stage."

In addition to her work with the



Margaret H. Duprey (center) received the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award from USET Foundation Chairman, President, and CEO Jim McNerney (left), and USET Foundation Vice President of the Board of Trustees Bill Weeks (right).

Photo by Jump Media

USET Foundation, Duprey and her husband Robert (Bob) own and operate Cherry Knoll Farm Inc., which is home to high performance dressage and show jumping horses that represent the U.S. in international competition.

Duprey has owned several mounts for high performance U.S. athletes across disciplines and it has been these experiences as an owner that have sparked her passion for supporting U.S. equestrian teams through the USET Foundation. Currently, she owns horses for Olympic show jumping gold medalist Laura Kraut and international dressage athlete Todd Flettrich. With Duprey's Otto, Flettrich was named alternate to the U.S. dressage team for the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England.

"Initially, I got involved with U.S. para dressage rider Rebecca Hart as part owner of Schroeter's Romani, a mare that represented the U.S. at the

2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and at the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games in North Carolina," explained Duprey. "I loved and respected Rebecca's passion, drive, and desire to win on the international level. That was exciting and led me to get involved with others. Luckily, I had the opportunity to purchase the horse Cedric, which introduced me to Laura Kraut. This all led me to support the USET Foundation."

"It's passionate individuals like Margaret who help our organization achieve its mission of providing the U.S. equestrian teams with the necessary resources to maintain international competitive excellence," said Bonnie Jenkins, Executive Director of the USET Foundation. "Margaret's efforts are commendable, and I'm very appreciative of her leadership and fortitude as a member of the USET Foundation's Board of Trustees." – By Kara Pinato Scro

PARA DRESSAGE TEAM GOLD

*Adequan® U.S. Para Dressage Team Clinches Gold at 2023 CHI Al Shaqab CPEDI3**

The Adequan® U.S. Para Dressage Team had strong performances at CHI Al Shaqab CPEDI3* held February 23-25, 2023, in Ar-Rayyan, Qatar. Under the guidance of Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline, the team of Beatrice de Lavalette with Sixth Sense, Fiona Howard with Jagger, and Kate Shoemaker with Quiana delivered several personal-best scores to secure their spot atop the podium. They finished on a score of 446.852%, while the Netherlands took silver with a score of 432.389%, and Belgium claimed bronze with 415.486%.

"It was actually phenomenal," Assouline said of the team's performance. "Not only to have high scores, but they also were consistent and increased their scores each day, which was amazing. I'm happy with the horses' performances as well. They are becoming more consistent. Personally, I'm not surprised with the result because the training has been going very well."

Three strong performances put the U.S. team into the lead after the first day of competition.

Shoemaker, of Wellington, Florida, and the nine-year-old Rheinlander

mare she owns with Craig and Deena Shoemaker got the team started with an impressive personal-best score of 76.250% in the Grade IV FEI Para Grand Prix A Test. Howard and de Lavalette then followed with a one-two finish in the Grade II FEI Para Grand Prix A Test. Howard, of Boston, Massachusetts, and Jagger, her own 11-year-old Westphalian gelding, scored a personal-best 72.931%. Finally, de Lavalette, of Loxahatchee, Florida, and Sixth Sense, a 13-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Elizabeth and Nicolas de Lavalette, were second on a score of 71.379%.

The second day of competition brought even more commanding rides for the team, but perseverance paid off. Shoemaker and Quiana had a decisive win in the Grade IV FEI Para Grand Prix B Test with a new personal-best score of 77.793%. De Lavalette and Sixth Sense earned top honors in the Grade II FEI Para Grand Prix B Test with a score of 74.555%, while Howard and Jagger were second with another personal-best score of 73.944%.

On the final day of competition, the U.S. combinations finished their



Photo by CHI Al Shaqab

Kate Shoemaker and Quiana

time at CHI Al Shaqab with the individual freestyle tests. Shoemaker and Quiana earned yet another personal-best score of 81.850% in their Grade IV FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle. De Lavalette and Sixth Sense had the top ride in the Grade IV FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle with a score of 77.722%, and Howard and Jagger were close behind in second place on her third personal-best score of the competition with 77.433%.

Assouline noted the high scores throughout the competition came from an educated group of judges. "We had a very advanced ground jury here," he said. "We had two five-star judges, both of whom judged the Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, and Herning [at the Fédération Équestre Internationale World Championships], so they have good insight and know their stuff. Good scores that we get from those judges are very meaningful." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Photo by CHI Al Shaqab

(Center) Gold medal-winning U.S. team, Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline, Beatrice de Lavalette, Kate Shoemaker, and Fiona Howard

Young Eventing Star Meg Pellegrini *Earns Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant*



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Meg Pellegrini and RF Eloquence

In February 2023, up-and-coming eventing athlete Meg Pellegrini of Wayne, Pennsylvania, was named the recipient of the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation's Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant. A current competitor in the Under 25 (U25) division, Pellegrini is progressing along the US Equestrian (USEF) High Performance Pathway with aspirations of representing the United States internationally.

The Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant is awarded annually through the USET Foundation's Amanda Pirie Warrington Fund. Pirie's family established the fund in her memory to provide financial assistance to an eventing athlete identified as having the talent and ability to represent the United States in the future. It is intended for a recipient that will benefit most from the opportunity to continue their training with top coaches and to compete against the world's best in eventing, one of three Olympic equestrian disciplines. As the recipient of the grant, Pellegrini will receive up to \$5,000 to help offset expenses associated with her training throughout 2023.

"I definitely want to thank the USET Foundation, my coaches at home, my family, and everyone who keeps my career running," said Pellegrini, 19. "I feel very fortunate to be chosen for the Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant this year. I think that it's vital for younger riders to be given an extra boost and level of support through the grant. I'm very, very thankful."

Pellegrini grew up eventing in California before relocating to Pennsylvania with her family in 2020. In Pellegrini's eyes, the move was a critical component to further her training.

"Once we arrived in Pennsylvania, I got started with my

coach Lillian Heard and she polished me up immediately," Pellegrini explained. "She helped me find my next couple of horses and has really been my guiding hand during the past few years.

"The initial move was overwhelming, with all of the big events on the East Coast and competing with people I'd only watched from afar," she continued. "I knew I wanted to compete at the highest levels, so I had to push myself to get better and keep learning. All of the opportunities since the move have been incredible, and I'm very lucky to be here."

Pellegrini has made the most of her recent opportunities, earning a number of top placings in Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) two- and three-star competitions in 2022. Competing in the CCI3*-L division at Rebecca Farm in Kalispell, Montana, in July of 2022, she placed second riding RF Eloquence, her 18-year-old Holsteiner gelding. In October of 2022, she won the CCIYJ2*-L division at Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, North Carolina, with Global Naxos, her 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding.

In addition to the support she has received since moving to Pennsylvania, Pellegrini also credits her experiences along the USEF High Performance Pathway for preparing her to one day compete at an elite level.

"Being a part of the U25 Pathway Program has acted like a jump start to my career," she explained. "Being able to work closely with [USEF's Eventing Emerging and Developing Athlete Coach] Leslie Law and other coaches that USEF has introduced me to has been huge for my riding. I definitely have the long view in mind in terms of competing on the big international stages." – By Kara Pinato Scro 

FIRST FOUR-STAR IS A CHARM

Dan Kreitl and Carmango: Gladstone Trophy Winners



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Dan Kreitl and Carmango were presented with the USET Foundation's 2022 Gladstone Challenge Trophy by Christina Vaughn, Director of Eventing Development and Emerging Programs at USEF; Cassie Holmes, Import/Export Director for The Dutta Corp.; Karin Ahlqvist, Vice President of Global Operations for The Dutta Corp.; and Sharon Decker, President, Carolinas Operations, Tryon Equestrian Partners.

On November 13, 2022, amateur eventing athlete Dan Kreitl of Muncie, Indiana, received the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation's 2022 Gladstone Challenge Trophy for his win in the Dutta Corp. USEF CCI4*-L Eventing National Championship at Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, North Carolina. The Gladstone Challenge Trophy was established in 1963 and is awarded annually to the winner of the fall four-star long national championship event. The trophy is inscribed with the winner's name and permanently displayed at the USET Foundation's headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey.

Not only had Kreitl never competed in a four-star event prior to his win, it was also a first for his mount Carmango, a nine-year-old Westphalian gelding owned by Kay Dixon, known as 'Fritz' in the barn.

"I've never been prouder of the effort my horse put out," said Kreitl of Fritz's performance over the three days. "I pushed him for all he had on the cross-country course, and he gave 110%. There were a few jumps where I didn't have a good ride, and he totally bailed me out. The thing I love most about this sport is the bond that's formed with the horse and, with Fritz, the level of trust I have in him. It's really fun. That bond between us got even stronger through this competition."

Kreitl, a husband, father of two, and owner of a student housing business near Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, always considered his riding a hobby. In middle school, he began riding dressage at a farm near his family's home and progressed up the ranks to ultimately compete at the 2008 CN FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships (NAYC) in dressage before going to college. It wasn't until he was 22 that Kreitl first tried eventing and, around that time, he became acquainted with Kay Dixon who offered to sponsor Kreitl's eventing pursuits. As Kreitl and Dixon began to build a small string of horses, Kreitl's dreams of competing at higher levels started to come into focus.

"Kay [Dixon] made this opportunity possible for me," explained Kreitl. "I knew my goal [was to compete at the highest levels] but I often wondered if I could actually do it. Kay and I took steps [to acquire and develop young horses], and we thought maybe this isn't just a pipe dream."

With his dreams in reach, the 35-year-old rider began adjusting his work schedule to better accommodate his riding. While a majority of his time is still dedicated to his day job, he's been able to concretely map out his long-term goals. As part of the prize for winning the CCI4*-L National Championship, Kreitl scored a ticket to transport a horse to Europe and back courtesy of The Dutta Corp., so he has just begun to think about what other dreams could become a reality.

"For sure the long-term goal is getting to do five-star events [with Fritz]," he stated. "Kay and I have talked about how fun it would be to compete at [CHIO Aachen in Aachen, Germany]. We didn't really think it would happen but now with this prize, we'd like to go to Aachen to compete in the four-star if it works out."

With his name now etched onto the prestigious USET Foundation trophy alongside Olympians and some of the world's best athletes such as David O'Connor, Bruce O. Davidson, Phillip Dutton, and Boyd Martin, Kreitl has a new aspiration beginning to take shape.

"Riding for the [U.S. equestrian] team is a dream, and one I thought wouldn't happen," he commented modestly. "But now that we're getting closer, I've had a couple of people encouraging me to go that path. Long story short, if it could be [a realistic] opportunity I'd go for it!"

Kreitl is quick to point out that his eventing journey is made possible by a tremendous team effort from his barn team and coaches. "Liz Carter has been helping me with the horses at home and has been grooming, and I definitely couldn't do it without her," he noted. "Julie Miller first introduced me to the sport of eventing, and she comes to different shows and grooms for me, so we've been on this journey together. My coaches have helped me dramatically, especially my eventing coach Sharon White and Bonna McCuiston who has been my dressage instructor for 12 years. In the past couple of years, I have also been working with Richard Rinehart for show jumping."

In addition to his team at the barn, Kreitl spoke to an equally supportive team at home. "I'm married to a non-horse person who is going through stage IV cancer treatments," he shared. "My wife Alyssa is super supportive, especially with the trials she's going through and [being home with our two young children]; it's incredibly impressive. She's really the heart and soul."

"Between running our own business, doing the horses as a hobby, and my wife with her health issues, we really could not do this without the help of our extended family," he continued. "It's been great that everyone is very excited [about the eventing] and wants to do it."

Kreitl is realistic about the highs and lows of the sport but is taking the time to enjoy his milestone achievement. "It's been a really fun journey, many days of hard work, and disappointments along the way and thinking [winning at the top level would] never happen. So, it's sure fun when it all comes together, and to get a big win was totally awesome."

His advice for other aspiring athletes? "I'd say 100% chase the dream," he concluded. "You just don't know [what can happen]. I had no idea when I met Kay that it was a dream of hers to own upper-level horses. Work really hard, and don't give up on the dream. When I think things aren't going to come together and I get discouraged, [I keep going and] after a while something good happens." – *By Kara Pinato Scro* 



Dan Kreitl and Carmango

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

USET Foundation Honors Recipients of Prestigious Annual Awards and Applauds Gold Medal Club Members



In addition to celebrating the recipients of three prestigious USET Foundation awards, the Whitney Stone Cup, the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, and the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award, the USET Foundation's Gold Medal Club Reception held on January 22, 2023, at the Wanderer's Club in Wellington, Florida, also applauded key anniversaries of Gold Medal Club members who are individuals that contribute more than \$1,000 annually to the USET Foundation.

All photos by Jump Media



Christian Simonson (right), recipient of the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, with his coach and Olympic dressage silver medalist Adrienne Lyle



Margaret Duprey, the recipient of the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award, with Olympic show jumping gold medalist Laura Kraut and Isabel Kurek



Olympic show jumping gold medalist Laura Kraut (right) with her mother Carol Kent



Carol Hoffman, Olympic show jumping silver medalist Anne Kursinski, William Coleman, and Mary Catlett



*Karin Flint, USET Foundation Chairman, President, and CEO
Jim McNerney, Nicolas de Lavalette,
and Elizabeth de Lavalette*



*R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award recipient
Margaret Duprey with Paralympic para dressage bronze
medalist Rebecca Hart*



Devon Kane, Terri Rollins Kane, Karin Flint, and Rowan O'Riley



Gloria Callen, Beth Meyer, and Betsy Juliano



*Pan American Games eventing gold medalist Marilyn Little
and Steve Williams*



*USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins,
Rowan O'Riley, and Celene Oken*

All photos by Jump Media

Caroline Martin and HSH Blake

Connaught Grant Recipients

In December 2022, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation presented rising eventing star Caroline Martin of Riegelsville, Pennsylvania, and her mount, HSH Blake, a seven-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding (Tolan R x Doughiska Lass) owned by Mollie Hoff and Sherrie Martin, with the Connaught Grant.

Each year, through the grant, the USET Foundation administers up to \$25,000 to a CCI1* or CCI2* horse that is seen as a potential candidate to represent the U.S. Eventing team at the international level. The grant was established and is funded by Caroline Moran in memory of her dear friend,

Martin, who runs a sport horse sales business, is grateful for the support offered by the USET Foundation and USEF to up-and-coming eventing talent. She was a recipient of the USET Foundation's Jacqueline B. Mars Competition and Training Grant in 2017 and the USET Foundation's Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund Grant in 2018, which enabled her to train and compete in England. Most recently, in 2022, she was the recipient of the United States Eventing Association (USEA) Foundation's Wilton Fair Fund and USEF's European Developing Rider Tour Grant, the latter of which enabled her to compete in the Houghton Hall

the barn, was acquired by Martin as a five-year-old with the intent of joining her sales program. The pair claimed victory in the 2020 Dutta Corp. USEA Young Event Horse East Coast Five-Year-Old Championship and went on to capture several Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) wins in his six-year-old year. Recognizing the gelding's enormous talent and potential for the greatest international stages, Martin decided to keep the ride on Blake but needed the support of an additional owner. Enter Mollie Hoff, who agreed to come on board as a partner with Martin.

"They're such a fabulous family," said Martin. "With Mollie's support, we went to England and had top-five placings in a number of FEI events, and we finished 2022 with a 10th-place finish in the three-star long event at the FEI World Championship for Young Horses in Le Lion d'Angers, France, on a score of 27.4. We were really, really proud of Blake, and it was very special to have the whole Hoff family there. I am so grateful that all the stars aligned."

In 2023, Martin plans to compete Blake in three-star-long and four-star-short events with an eye on the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile.

"It's always a long shot, but we're going to do everything we can to get there," stated Martin of her Pan American Games goal.

Whether or not Martin and Blake make the team for the Pan American Games, Martin is excited about the gelding's future and is looking forward to leveraging the grant in a way that will help Blake gain the experience necessary for him to be successful on the world stage.

"Hopefully I'll utilize the grant in a way that would make Bruce [Duchossois] proud, and I hope we'll represent the Connaught Grant well in his memory," Martin concluded. "I know Bruce always believed in young, talented horses, and I really think Blake is one for the future. I've been part of Nations Cup and developing teams, but I haven't been part of a senior team yet, so I hope he will be my first proper team horse." – By Kara Pinato Scro



Photo by Libby Law Photography

Caroline Martin and HSH Blake

the late R. Bruce Duchossois, who was dedicated to encouraging the development of eventing horses in the U.S., and is named after Connaught, a horse that was owned by Duchossois and ridden by Phillip Dutton at the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games and 2008 Beijing Olympics.

As the recipient of the Connaught Grant, Martin, who is an athlete on the US Equestrian (USEF) Eventing High Performance 2023 Development Training List with HSH Blake, will use the funds throughout the year to support further competition and training with HSH Blake with the aim of riding for the U.S. on the international stage.

CCIO4*-S in Great Britain as the anchor rider for the silver-medal winning Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team.

"I have such a great support staff and we're getting bigger and better, but it is still very challenging to balance making money [through horse sales] and having enough time to concentrate on my own upper-level competition horses," explained Martin. "Without these grants, I wouldn't be able to bring horses overseas. These grants have been life changing. They have given me opportunities to focus on improving myself and my horses and becoming a U.S. Equestrian Team rider."

HSH Blake, known as "Blake" in

U.S. Dressage Team Takes Silver in FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ USA CDIO3*

The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team claimed second place in the FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ USA CDIO3* on Friday, February 24, 2023, at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival in Wellington, Florida. The team finished on a final score of 427.285%. Germany earned the top prize with a final score of 437.844%, and Sweden took third on a team total of 414.498%. Debbie McDonald served as the Technical Advisor for the U.S. team, and George Williams was the Chef d'Equipe for the first outing of the 2023 season. The team was comprised of one big tour combination and three small tour combinations, with the big tour pair — Susie Dutta and Don Design DC — earning a 1.5% addition to their final scores in alignment with the FEI Dressage Nations Cup CDIO3* format.

"I'm really pleased with how all of our athletes and horses performed," said Williams. "We knew coming in to this competition that the awarding of bonus points for the Grand Prix would be a challenge given our three small tour combinations. They had to be at the top to earn every point for the team. In my mind, our athletes proved they were up to it, and overall, it was a great experience for some of our newer combinations stepping into senior team competition."

Christian Simonson of Ventura, California, and Son of a Lady, a 12-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding owned by Christina Morgan and Clifton Simonson received a 72.706% from the judging panel in the FEI Intermediate I for a second-place finish, marking a successful debut for the senior team in international competition.

"This was my first Nations Cup, and it was really exciting," commented Simonson, who has been steadily progressing along the US Equestrian (USEF) High Performance Pathway. "Being able to represent your nation is like nothing else I've felt. It's a real honor. It was an amazing competition."

"It was similar to a lot of the Young Riders Nations Cups, and I'm really grateful that USEF has invested in giving us that time and experience," continued Simonson. "I think this kind of weekend and my personal performance was a reflection of how much time and effort organizations [like USEF and the USET Foundation] are putting into young athletes. It's been an amazing competition. To be able to do it with such fierce competition, and also with friends, is really fun as well."

Dutta of Wellington, Florida, and the 13-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Susie and Tim Dutta, were the sole U.S. combination to compete in the FEI Grand Prix. They earned a score of 69.109% in the FEI Grand Prix and a 69.138% in the FEI Grand Prix Special.



Christian Simonson and Son of a Lady

Charlotte Jorst of Reno, Nevada, recorded a pair of top-three finishes aboard Zhaplin Langholt, a 10-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding owned by Kastel Denmark. The duo impressed in the FEI Prix St. Georges with a score of 72.353%, followed by a strong final mark of 70.824% in the FEI Intermediate I.

Anna Marek of Dunnellon, Florida, and Duvel, a 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Cynthia Davila, also posted solid scores. The combination placed fourth in the FEI Prix St. Georges after receiving a 70.029%, and they earned a top-five finish in the FEI Intermediate I, receiving a 69.118% from the judging panel.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release



L-R: AGDF Director of Sport Thomas Baur, Tyny Page of Stillpoint Farm, Chief Steward Cesar Hirsch, U.S. Chef d'Equipe George Williams, and U.S. athletes Christian Simonson, Susie Dutta, Anna Marek, and Charlotte Jorst

Photo by SusanStickle.com

Photo by SusanStickle.com

U.S. SHOW JUMPING PATHWAY PROGRAMS RECEPTION

*Hosted by the USET Foundation, USET Foundation
Board of Trustees Member Kristi Mitchem, and Tom Mawhinney*

US Equestrian (USEF) High Performance Pathway Programs assist up-and-coming athletes with their development and trajectory toward representing the U.S. on the greatest international stages. On January 20, 2023, young jumping athletes and their parents gathered at Triple M Farm in Wellington, Florida, to learn about the Pathway Program opportunities available to them. The conversation was led by U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, Chef d'Equipe for the U.S. Show Jumping Development Program Anne Kursinski, and USEF Managing Director of U.S. Show Jumping Lizzy Chesson.



Young jumping athletes with Anne Kursinski, Robert Ridland, and Beezie Madden.

All photos by Jump Media



U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland



*USEF Managing Director of
U.S. Show Jumping Lizzy Chesson*



*Olympic show jumping silver
medalist and Chef d'Equipe for the
U.S. Show Jumping Development
program Anne Kursinski*



Erin Gibbs, U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, and Dominic Gibbs



*Olympic show jumping gold medalist
Beezie Madden*



Caroline Mawhinney



*Carly Anthony, Coco Fath, Elizabeth Fath, USET Foundation
Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins, Robin Parsky,
event host Kristi Mitchem, and Carol Bonnie*



*Augusta Iwasaki, Caroline Mahwhinney,
Mimi Gochman, and Mia Albelo*

All photos by Jump Media

Welcoming New Members to the USET Foundation Board of Trustees

SHELBY BONNIE

Shelby Bonnie is currently the CEO of Pylon ai, Inc., and sits on the Environmental Defense Fund's Board of Trustees where he serves as the Chairman of the Finance Committee and previously served as Vice Chairman. An entrepreneur at heart, Bonnie co-founded CNET Networks in 1994 and held CEO and Chairman of the Board positions from 2000 to 2006.

In addition to his professional endeavors, Bonnie is an active member of the sport horse community and comes from a family of equestrians. His father was an equine lawyer and amateur steeplechase jockey and his mother was a successful amateur hunter rider. Both of Bonnie's parents were also involved in the governance of the sport, working with the American Horse Shows Association (the precursor to US Equestrian) with his father helping create the drugs and medication program. Additionally, his mother served as the Chairman on the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation's Board of Directors and continues to remain involved with the facility.

Bonnie shares his parents' passion for horses and is an avid foxhunter and a long-time Master of the Piedmont Fox Hounds in Upperville, Virginia. A University of Virginia and Harvard Business School graduate, Bonnie currently lives in Upperville, Virginia, and has continued his family's involvement with the Upperville Colt & Horse Show, the Loudoun Benefit Horse Show, the Middleburg Classic, and the Piedmont Jumper Classic. Bonnie's daughter, Virginia, is also an equestrian that has represented the U.S. at the North American Youth Jumping Championships and internationally at the FEI Jumping Nations Cup Youth Final in the Netherlands, winning gold.



C. CLAY GREEN

Born and raised on a small Thoroughbred farm in Lexington, Kentucky, C. Clay Green was exposed to Thoroughbred breeding, training, and racing and developed a passion for horses and equestrian sport at a young age. When his daughter, Cosby, began competing in eventing, Green became interested in improving the safety and welfare of human and equine athletes while also helping ensure that the U.S. equestrian teams continue to maintain their prominence by winning medals on the greatest international stages.

Green holds various governance roles in the equestrian community. He is currently the Chairman of the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation's Board of Directors and participates on several US Equestrian (USEF) committees including the USEF Member Services Council, the USEF Budget and Finance Committee, and the USEF Licensed Officials Committee.



CHRISTA B. SCHMIDT

Over the past 30 years, Christa B. Schmidt has made a difference in the lives of humans and animals through numerous philanthropic and entrepreneurial endeavors. Schmidt previously served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Mars, Incorporated. She also has extensive nonprofit governance experience having served on the Board of Directors for Opera Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Zoo and the Board of Trustees for the Pennsylvania Ballet.

Schmidt has been involved with horses throughout her life and has witnessed the exciting accomplishments her family's horses have had at the Olympic Games, World Championships and the Pan American Games for the United States.

Schmidt and her family are active supporters of U.S. eventing athletes including Hannah Sue Hollberg, Lauren Nicholson, and Lynn Symansky. They also own a promising show jumper being developed by Olympic show jumping gold medalist McLain Ward.



Additionally, Schmidt and her family are supporters of human and animal health organizations such as the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Nemours Children's Hospital, and Penn Vet University of Pennsylvania, where Schmidt serves on the Board of Overseers.

A Duke University graduate, Schmidt and her husband raise their three children on their farm in Pennsylvania.

MICHAEL A. SMITH

Michael Smith was the Vice Chairman of Valley Proteins, Inc. before it was acquired by Darling Ingredients Company in 2022. Smith remains involved in the industry serving as the Chairman of the North American Renders Association, a position he will hold until October 2023.

Smith is a lifelong equestrian who grew up foxhunting and riding in several disciplines. He is an active member of the Piedmont Fox Hounds in Upperville, Virginia, and competes in the High Adult Jumper division.

With a passion for the hunter, jumper, and equitation disciplines, Smith played an integral role as a board member and chair of many nonprofit organizations including the Upperville Colt & Horse Show. Along with his wife Wendy, the Smiths have owned international show jumping horses that have been ridden by U.S. equestrian team athletes including McLain Ward and Katie Monahan-Prudent.



ADEQUAN® U.S. PARA DRESSAGE TEAM STARTS STRONG IN 2023

The Adequan® U.S. Para Dressage Team had an impressive start to the 2023 competition season posting a total score of 434.813% in the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival Week 3 CPEDI3*. The team, led by U.S. Para Dressage Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline, included the four athletes that won team bronze at the Orifarm Healthcare Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) World Para Dressage Championships in Herning, Denmark, last summer.

Roxanne Trunnell of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, rode Fortunato H2O, a seven-year-old Oldenburg stallion owned by Lehua Custer, in the Grade I division. Beatrice de Lavalette of Loxahatchee, Florida, and Sixth Sense, Elizabeth and Nicolas de Lavalette's 13-year-old Oldenburg gelding, competed in the Grade II division. Rebecca Hart also of Loxahatchee, Florida, piloted her 2020 Olympic Games partner

El Corona Texel, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Rowan O'Riley in the Grade III division. Kate Shoemaker of Wellington, Florida, and Solitaer 40, a 16-year-old Hanoverian gelding she owns with Craig and Deena Shoemaker, represented in the Grade IV division.

While the U.S. fielded the only team at the competition, it served as an important experience where all combinations earned respectable scores from the international judging panel.

"It's a great start of the season, with all four riders scoring above 71% in the Grand Prix A and all scoring above 77% in the freestyle," said Assouline.

"We're a really cohesive group," added de Lavalette who placed first individually in her division. "We support and care about each other, so it's a nice little team that we have here."

— Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Beatrice de Lavalette and Sixth Sense

Photo by SusanStickle.com

U.S. Dressage U25 Athletes Shine in 2023 FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ CDI OU25

The U.S. Dressage U25 Stars and Stripes Team claimed top honors on Thursday, February 23, 2023, during the FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ USA CDI OU25 competition at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival in Wellington, Florida. The team was led by Chef d'Equipe Charlotte Bredahl and consisted of Ben Ebeling aboard Status Royal OLD and Callie O'Connell riding Eaton H. The two riders finished on a final team score of 139.736%.

The U.S. Stars and Stripes Team finished ahead of the U.S. Dressage U25 Star-Spangled Team, which earned a final score of 135.500%. The second-place team included Emma Asher with Elegance N, Kylie Dickinson riding Ibanero van de Vogelzang, and Erin Nichols aboard Elian Royale. The team representing Canada rounded out the podium on a score of 133.207%.

Ebeling of Wellington, Florida, and Status Royal OLD, a 13-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Ann Romney, were the highest-scoring pair on the team. Ebeling took over the ride on Status Royal OLD from his father, Jan, last year and has competed the gelding in the U25 division both in the U.S. and abroad.

"Competing on a team is always a blast," explained Ebeling. "There's a little bit of added pressure. It's really fun to do it at the Grand Prix level. I know that my horse gave me his all today, and I'm so proud of him."

The duo recorded a 70.647%, which was the top individual score of the day. The pair received particularly high marks in the extended canter.

"He was with me every step of the way," said Ebeling of his mount. "He was ready to go in the extensions. He was willing to go sideways in the half-passes. He was ready to collect when he needed to and ready to go forward. He was just really adjustable today."



Ben Ebeling and Status Royal OLD

O'Connell, who hails from Wilmington, Massachusetts, rode Eaton H, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Ruling Cortes LLC, to the day's second-best individual mark. The duo earned a personal best of 69.089%. Eaton H is a new ride for O'Connell and was recently purchased to help her gain valuable team experience at the Grand Prix level.

"It was probably the most rideable that Eaton has ever been," recalled O'Connell. "He just was really there waiting. I felt he was like, 'What do you want? What do you want?' It was a very special feeling to have in the ring."

The event marked O'Connell first Nations Cup team competition and she was thrilled that it was in a welcoming and positive environment.

"This is my first time on a [Nations Cup] team, and to be on it with Ben is pretty cool," commented O'Connell. "It was an amazing experience."

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release



*Top L-R: Emma Asher, Erin Nichols, Kylie Dickinson, Ben Ebeling, and Callie O'Connell
Bottom L-R: Terri Kane of Diamante Farms, Judge Isobel Wessels, and
U.S. Stars and Stripes Team Chef d'Equipe Charlotte Bredahl*

NetJets® U.S. Jumping Team Takes Fifth in FEI Jumping Nations Cup Wellington CSIO4*

The NetJets U.S. Jumping Team placed fifth in the \$150,000 FEI Jumping Nations Cup Wellington CSIO4* at Wellington International in Wellington, Florida, on Saturday, March 4, 2023. The team included Natalie Dean riding Acota M, Mimi Gochman aboard Celina BH, Mavis Spencer and Carissimo 25, and Adrienne Sternlicht on Faquitol-S. The team completed the competition on a final total of 32 faults after two rounds of competition, which featured 11 different nations competing under the lights. The team was led by Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland.

"Our plan has been set for months that we were going to use this home, four-star Nations Cup for our next generation of riders," explained Ridland. "We've got a major priority this year in qualifying for [the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France], so the five-star events will have more of our veteran riders. At this competition, it was intentional to give the riders of the future the experience in the electric environment [at Wellington International]. There's no question we had the youngest team out there. Our riders all learned something under immense pressure, and I'm very proud of them."

Dean of Palo Alto, California, and Acota M, a 10-year-old Oldenburg mare owned by Marigold Sporthorses, LLC, led the team in the order and jumped clean in their first tour of the course, finishing in 67.44 seconds.

"I knew she could take the pressure," said Ridland of Dean. "I thought that would be the best horse-and-rider combination for the time allowed, and it worked out exactly as planned."

Gochman of Palm Beach, Florida, and Celina BH, a 13-year-old Holsteiner mare owned by Gochman Sport Horse, LLC, came away with a good effort in their first round, with just four faults at the water.

Spencer of Somis, California, and Carissimo 25, a 10-year-old Holsteiner gelding owned by Georgy Maskrey-Segesman, finished their initial round on 16 faults.

In her 10th appearance for the U.S. jumping team and her first with Faquitol-S, a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Starlight Farms 1, LLC, Sternlicht of Greenwich, Connecticut, completed her first round on 17 faults.

"Adrienne was our only rider with championship experience, but she was



Natalie Dean and Acota M

on a young horse, and it was a great testing ground for her," commented Ridland of Sternlicht and Faquitol-S, a new pairing in their fourth month together. "The first round didn't work out the way she wanted, and she made a couple of adjustments and the horse jumped great in the second round."

Strong rounds from Dean and Gochman — the youngest athletes in the competition — helped the U.S. hold onto the eighth spot on 20 faults in the first round, qualifying the U.S. for the second round with seven other nations.

The U.S. performed strongly in round two, finishing on just 12 team faults, with Dean, Gochman, and Sternlicht finishing with four faults each.

"Nations Cups are all about the second round," said Ridland. "The second round never rides quite the same as the first round. It's a totally different type of pressure that's required for the riders. They really dug down deep, and the three four-fault rounds were very close to being clean. We were just a whisker away from three clean rounds." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Mavis Spencer, Natalie Dean, Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, Adrienne Sternlicht, and Mimi Gochman



USEF Jumping Horsemastership Training Series

On January 5-8, 12 young accomplished show jumpers rolled up their sleeves and learned from some of the nation's top jumping athletes at the 2023 US Equestrian (USEF) Horsemastership Training Series in Wellington, Florida. The week began with an introductory lecture from equestrian mental coach Annette Paterakis and continued with mounted sessions with instruction led by McLain Ward, Kent Farrington, and Anne Kursinski.

The USEF Horsemastership Training Series is an important USEF High Performance Pathway Program that helps identify riders as potential future U.S. jumping team athletes as well as provides athletes with a comprehensive educational experience to promote their development. This year, the training series will adopt an enhanced structure, offering the selected athletes both in-person and online instruction throughout 2023.

Riders were selected from the U.S. Jumping Pathway Programs and included winners of the 2022 Platinum Performance/USEF Talent Search Finals East/West and 2022 Neue Schule/USEF Junior Jumper National Championships, the top two U.S. athletes from the FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships, and several wildcard athletes.

Athletes selected for the 2023 USEF Horsemastership Training Series are listed below in alphabetical order:

Maya Aryal (Herndon, VA)
Emma Blumenkrantz (Colts Neck, NJ)
Elisa Broz (Freedom, CA)
Tessa Downey (Houston, TX)
Jake Endicott (Rancho Santa Fe, CA)
Emmanuelle Greenberg (Aspen, CO)

Kate Hagerty (Terrebonne, OR)
Luke Jensen (Denton, TX)
Alexa Leong (Sacramento, CA)
Taylor Madden (Wellington, FL)
Trent McGee (Granada Hills, CA)
Corinne Sweeney (Oyster Bay, NY)



Photo by Taylor Pence/ISG

Luke Jensen, Corinne Sweeney, Elisa Broz, Tessa Downey, Trent McGee, and Maya Aryal assist on foot.



Clinician McLain Ward looks on as Emmanuelle Greenberg and her mount jump the liverpool.



Alexa Leong receives instruction from Kent Farrington.



Emma Blumenkrantz



Taylor Madden



McLain Ward gives instruction to a group of athletes.



Anne Kursinki gives instruction from the saddle.

All photos by Taylor Pence/ISG



Robert Dover USEF Horsemastership Clinic Week

Every year, the country's top up-and-coming young dressage riders are invited to learn from the professionals at the Robert Dover US Equestrian (USEF) Horsemastership Clinic Week. The event is one of many USEF High Performance Pathway Programs designed to help identify and develop the next generation of U.S. dressage team talent.

The 2023 clinic, presented by Zen Elite Equestrian Center, took place January 3-8 at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival in Wellington, Florida. The week began with an introductory presentation from USEF-certified physiotherapist Joanna Frantz as well as a lecture and a demonstration ride from four-time Olympic bronze medalist Robert Dover. The week continued with under saddle instruction from clinicians Katherine Bateson-Chandler, Olympic bronze medalist Ali Brock, Katie Duerrhammer, Olivia LaGoy-Weltz, and Shelly Francis.

Automatic invitations to the clinic are sent to the winners of the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals, the top six overall winners from the Adequan®/USEF Junior Dressage National Championship, the Horsecare Ireland/USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship, and the champion and reserve champion from the USEF Children Dressage and Pony Rider Dressage National Championships. The remaining clinic spaces are open to wildcard applicants.

Athletes selected for the 2023 USEF Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic are listed below in alphabetical order:

Ellanor Boehning (Rancho Santa Fe, CA)
M.K. Connatser (Dallas, TX)
Kasey Denny (Williston, FL)
Korey Denny (Williston, FL)
Leah Drew (Lincoln, MA)
Ella Fruchterman (Woodbury, MN)
Tiggy Gates (Encinitas, CA)
Maryn Geck (West Linn, OR)
Josephine Hinnemann (Murrieta, CA)
Kylee Kment (Palmyra, NE)
Lexie Kment (Palmyra, NE)
Kayley Knollman (Maineville, OH)
Sydney Lipar (The Woodlands, TX)
Callie O'Connell (Wilmington, MA)
Marin Roth (Bloomington, IL)
Sophia Schults (Wellington, FL)
Gemma Starn (Putnam Valley, NY)
Madison Sumner (Wellington, FL)
Autumn Vavrick (Oxford, MI)
Virginia Woodcock (Atlanta, GA)



Clinician Shelly Francis observes a ride during the clinic.



Robert Dover led a demonstration ride prior to the attendees' riding sessions.



Ali Brock instructed athletes under saddle.



Clinician Katie Duerrhammer with Kayley Knollman and mount JP Zeppelin owned by Rebecca Stromatt.



Clinician Katherine Bateson-Chandler



Equestrian mental coach Annette Paterakis led a lecture for participants in both the Robert Dover USEF Horsemastership Clinic Week and the USEF Jumping Horsemastership Training Series.



A select group of up-and-coming dressage athletes honed their skills at the 2023 Robert Dover USEF Horsemastership Clinic Week.

All photos by Taylor Pence/ISG

Remembering Judy Richter

Hunter jumper trainer, instructor, and US Equestrian (USEF) Pegasus Medal of Honor recipient Judith “Judy” H. Richter passed away peacefully in Greenwich, Connecticut, at the age of 83 on November 30, 2022.

Richter was born on June 22, 1939, in Boston, Massachusetts, to Philip B. Hofmann and Mary K. Hofmann. She spent her childhood years on Windy Acres, her family’s home and horse farm in North Branch, New Jersey, and summers on Peri-Wahn, her family’s farm retreat in East Barnard, Vermont. Judy attended Kent Place School in New Jersey and Smith College in Massachusetts.

On August 19, 1961, she married Max E. Richter from Hamburg, Germany. Max and Judy moved to Manhattan, and Judy began her teaching career at Choate-Rosemary Hall in Greenwich, Connecticut. After teaching English for several years, she dedicated her focus to horses, her greatest passion.

In 1967, she and Max bought their own horse farm on Taconic Road in Greenwich, Connecticut, and thus began Judy’s illustrious career as a riding instructor and horse trainer. She named the property Coker Farm after her most beloved horse Mr. Coker. Her business boomed in the 1970s, and in 1977, Coker Farm outgrew its four-acre plot of land and relocated to a 104-acre farm in Bedford, New York.



Photo courtesy of the Richter family



Photo by Nancy Jaffier

In addition to numerous accolades and honors, Judy was named Horseperson of the Year in 1974 by the American Horse Shows Association (AHSA). She was inducted into the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame in 2004, and she received the US Equestrian (USEF) Pegasus Medal of Honor in 2020. Building upon her direct work with riders and horses, Judy

wrote a column for *The Chronicle of the Horse*, and was the author of several books about horses and riding, the most notable two being “Horse and Rider: From Basics to Show Competition” (1979) and “Pony Talk: A Complete Learning Guide for Young Riders” (1993).

“Judy was a truly special person, who mentored and inspired so many of us,” said USEF CEO Bill Moroney. “She will be truly missed, but her legacy will continue through all of us fortunate enough to know her.”

“We are saddened to learn of the loss of beloved life-long horsewoman Judy Richter,” said Bonnie B. Jenkins, Executive Director, USET Foundation. “A renowned hunter/jumper trainer and rider, Judy also had strong ties to the U.S. equestrian teams, the USET Foundation, and our Gladstone facility. As a child, Judy lived nearby and was able to spend time at Hamilton Farm in Gladstone, New Jersey, when it served as the training headquarters for our U.S. equestrian teams. Later she would join the USET Foundation’s National Advisory Committee, a position she held for 22 years. A stall at Hamilton Farm has also been named in recognition of her horse of a lifetime, Johnny’s Pocket. Judy’s contributions to equestrian sport were immeasurable and she will be greatly missed.”

Judy’s only sibling Carol Thompson, also an accomplished horsewoman, died in 2013, and her loving husband Max died in 2007. Judy is survived by two sons: Hans Richter of Encinitas, California, and Philip Richter of Wellington, Florida. She also has a daughter-in-law, Jennifer Richter, and two granddaughters, Maxine and Margot Richter. Richard Ten Dyke, her loving partner in recent years, remains on Coker Farm in Bedford, New York. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 🐾

Remembering Jimmy Wofford

A highly influential horseman, James “Jimmy” C. Wofford passed away at the age of 78 on February 2, 2023. Wofford had a profound impact on the shaping of equestrian sport as we know it today. He was the consummate equestrian, a focused and skilled competitor, and a “teacher’s teacher” who will be remembered for his humor, charm, and wit.

Wofford was born into an equestrian family on November 3, 1944, in Junction City, Kansas. His father, Col. John W. Wofford, competed for the U.S. Show Jumping Team at the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California, was a founding member of the United States Equestrian Team (USET), and continued to coach and mentor athletes in eventing and show jumping at the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland. Surrounded by equestrians, with both brothers Jeb and Warren riding for the U.S. in international competition, Wofford grew up immersed in the sport. The start of his distinguished career began as a 19-year-old athlete who arrived at Hamilton Farm in Gladstone, New Jersey, to train with the USET. He first represented the U.S. Eventing Team in 1965 and continued to compete internationally for the program through 1985, training with American coaching legends, Bertalan “Bert” de Némethy and Jack Le Goff. He was a graduate of Culver Military Academy and the School of Business at the University of Colorado.

Wofford had a brilliant career for the U.S., earning team silver medals riding Kilkenny in the 1968 and 1972 Olympic Games in Mexico City, Mexico, and Munich, Germany, respectively. He was also selected to the U.S. Eventing Team for the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, Soviet Union, before the Games were boycotted by the U.S. He medaled twice at the World Eventing Championships: once aboard Kilkenny in Punchestown, Ireland, in 1970, where they earned individual bronze, and again in 1978 in Lexington, Kentucky, aboard Carawich, earning team bronze. Additionally, he was a member of the gold-medal-winning team at the 1967 Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada.

Wofford also amassed several eventing national championship titles and claimed two wins at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event. While he was known for his nearly 30-year career representing the U.S. in eventing, he was also an avid foxhunter and steeplechase jockey.

After retiring from his riding career in 1986, Wofford transitioned to a coaching role where he helped dozens of athletes reach their goals on the international stage. His students were selected to countless U.S. Olympic, World Championship, and Pan American teams. As a testament to his results as a coach and mentor, he was named the United States Olympic Committee’s (USOC) Development Coach of the Year in both 1998 and 1999.

He was inducted into the United States Eventing Association (USEA) Hall of Fame in 2003 and was also inducted into the Culver Academies Horsemanship Hall of Fame. He received the prestigious US Equestrian (USEF) Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.



Jimmy Wofford and The Optimist

He maintained involvement in governance of equestrian sport throughout the years, serving as President of the American Horse Show Association (AHSA), Vice President and Senior Vice President of the USET, a member of the USET’s Board of Trustees, Secretary of



Jimmy Wofford

Photo by Chrissy Miller of Scenere Photography

the United States Combined Training Association, along with two terms on the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) Eventing Committee, including two years as Vice Chairman.

Wofford was a pivotal figure in shaping USEF as we know it today and played a leading role in the adoption of USEF’s Drugs & Medication Rules. Additionally, he was a key figure in bringing the national and international disciplines of the sport together to form a collaborative and united front for equestrian sport in the U.S.

“Jimmy is a legend among legends. His competitive career is only surpassed by his involvement in the sport. He shaped many of our lives, both in the competition ring and in our personal lives. That will guarantee that his legacy will go on forever as we try to pass on what he showed us — to be a good competitor and a good citizen,” said David O’Connor, USEF Chief of Sport, former USEF President, and Olympic gold medalist.

He is survived by his wife of more than 56 years, Gail Wofford; his two daughters, Hilary and Jennifer; sons-in-law, Tim Jones and Charles Ince; and four grandchildren, Walker, Hudson, Lewis, and Theo. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Remembering Dr. Meg Mullin

Notable equine veterinarian, avid polo player, and cherished member of the equestrian community, Dr. Margaret “Meg” Mullin passed away on March 9, 2023. Dr. Mullin suffered injuries that left her in a several-week coma following a tragic fall from one of her beloved polo ponies in late February 2023.

Dr. Mullin grew up riding hunters, jumpers, and equitation horses before completing her undergraduate studies at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. She graduated from Philadelphia’s University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1996, and after completing an internship, joined an esteemed group of equine sports medicine clinicians at B.W. Furlong and Associates, based in Oldwick, New Jersey, in 1998.

For nearly 25 years, Dr. Mullin traveled to Wellington, Florida, in the winter months, serving clients of B.W. Furlong and Associates who also spent the season in the area.

“She meant everything to us,” said Dr. Brendan Furlong, President and Owner of B.W. Furlong and Associates. “Meg was a force to be reckoned with. Her love of life and her dedication to the practice, to her colleagues, and to the horses was phenomenal. She leaves a huge hole, certainly in our lives and practice, and also in the horse industry.”

In addition to her work with B.W. Furlong and Associates, Dr. Mullin was passionate about U.S. equestrian sport and served as the U.S. equestrian team veterinarian for several disciplines including dressage, driving, para dressage, show jumping, and vault-



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Groom Molly O'Brien, Dr. Meg Mullin and Para Dressage Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline

ing at some of the most prestigious international competitions including the Olympic Games and World Championships. Most recently, Dr. Mullin served as the team veterinarian for the Adequan® U.S. Para Dressage Team that claimed the team bronze medal at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

“She dedicated her life to what she did and had fun doing it,” stated Will Connell, former US Equestrian (USEF) Director of Sport. “She was very much part of the team [that helped the] U.S. para dressage team [evolve and make it] to the podium at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo. That [accomplishment] is, without doubt, part of her legacy.”

Dr. Mullin, known to her friends as “Muggy,” had experience with

many types of sport horses, but her favorite equestrian pastime was playing polo with her string of ponies. She rode at the Cypress Polo Club in Lake Worth, Florida, during the winter, and at Tinicum Polo Club in Erwinna, Pennsylvania, near her home in Clinton, New Jersey, in the summer.

“She was always a horseman,” said her sister Jennifer Kovacich. “The night sky has one more star as Meg makes her way to heaven. Please carry a bit of her sparkle with you to share in abundance.”

In addition to Jennifer, Dr. Mullin is survived by her brother, Raymond (Miriam Pugh), her sister, Kumari (Kumara Frank), and her nephews, Mitch and Nicholas Kovacich. – Adapted from obituary by Nancy Jaffer



Farewell to Eventing Legend Kevin Freeman

The equestrian world lost one of its most distinguished members on March 10, as Kevin J. Freeman, three-time eventing Olympic silver medalist and Pan American gold medalist, passed away surrounded by his family in Portland, Oregon. He was 81.

"He'd get the most out of every horse he rode," said J. Michael Plumb, a seven-time U.S. eventing Olympian and member of the United States Eventing Association (USEA) Hall of Fame. "Kevin could get on anything and let it do what he needed it to do. He was such a natural."

Kevin's equestrian accomplishments are many. He won team gold and individual silver medals at the 1963 Pan American Games and helping the U.S. team win silver medals in the 1964, 1968, and 1972 Olympic Games. In 1964, Freeman was the U.S. National Three-Day Event Champion and won the Olympic Trials at the

current-day USET Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey. At the 1972 Olympics, he and his longtime equine partner, Good Mixture, posted one of only three clear rounds on cross country and finished fifth individually.

Kevin also excelled in other equestrian disciplines, winning the 1968 Iroquois Steeplechase in Tennessee, the 1969 Pennsylvania Hunt Cup, and the 1970 New Jersey Hunt Cup. He also placed third in the 1971 Maryland Hunt Cup, won several grand prix show jumping events across North America, was a Cornell University men's polo team letterman, and was inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame and the USEA Hall of Fame.

Kevin is survived by his wife of 52 years, Barrie; his four children, Eric Freeman (Stephanie); Peter Freeman (Anna); Kevin of Christchurch, Barbados; Wendy Freeman Gallo (Edgar); his brother Perk Freeman; sis-



Photo by Guill Photo

Kevin Freeman

ter Laurie Freeman; and his six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

– by Dallas Finn Calvert



2023 COMPETITION PARTNERS

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USET Foundation News

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