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U.S. Team Triumphs in \$770,000 Longines League of Nations™ Ocala

The U.S. Jumping Team of Lillie Keenan, Laura Kraut, Aaron Vale, and McLain Ward made history on home soil with a glorious win in the \$770,000 Longines League of Nations™ Ocala CSIO5*-LLN on March 22, 2025, at World Equestrian Center – Ocala (WEC) in Ocala, Florida.

A total of 10 teams competed in the opening round of the Longines League of Nations™ Ocala — the only leg held in North America — with the top eight teams returning for the second round, each with only three riders and no drop score.

At the halfway point, the U.S. held the lead with a perfect score of zero faults, while Germany was second with one time

fault. Ireland, the defending champions, were tied for third with Great Britain on eight faults.

Returning for the second round under the lights in front of a packed WEC Grand Arena crowd, the pressure on each team was immense. Without the safety net of a drop score, every fault counted over the testing course set by Ireland's Alan Wade.

By the third and final rider rotation, a battle was shaping up between Germany and the U.S. Lead-off riders Christian Kukuk and Keenan, of New York, New York, had both produced double clear rounds for their respective countries, while



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Newsletter Editor

Dear Friends,

While the excitement we experienced from the U.S. equestrian teams' performances at the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games feels hard to top, the achievements of U.S. equestrian teams in the first half of 2025 showcased the breadth and depth of our horse and athlete talent. It offers every indication that we'll have much to celebrate in the coming months and years leading up to the 2026 FEI World Championships in Aachen, Germany, and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

In this newsletter, you'll read about three U.S. athletes — Olympic jumping athlete Kent Farrington, Olympic eventing athlete Boyd Martin, and Paralympic dressage athlete Fiona Howard — all of whom were ranked number one on their respective discipline's world ranking lists in May, as well as other notable U.S. equestrian team and athlete placings. Though the future looks bright, a new quadrennial is not the time to rest on our laurels.

Consistently achieving podium finishes on the greatest stages in equestrian sport means we need to back our senior team athletes while simultaneously investing in a strong pathway for the next generation. With this in mind, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation asked for your help during our organization's Giving Day on April 17. Thanks to your extraordinary support and a generous match from the USET Foundation's Board of Trustees and National Advisory Committee members, the USET Foundation's 2025 Giving Day highlighted the dedication of the U.S. equestrian sport community by raising more than \$140,170, exceeding the \$110,000 goal.

Funds raised during this year's Giving Day will support the High Performance Developing Athlete Fund, which fuels US Equestrian (USEF) High Performance Pathway Programs. These pathway programs provide critical training, competition, and educational opportunities for up-and-coming human and equine athletes in the Olympic and Paralympic disciplines. Examples of these programs featured in this issue include the USEF Dressage Training Series, the USEF Jumping Horsemastership Training Series, the USEF Eventing Development Training Series, and the Para Dressage Symposium.

Direct athlete grants are also important in developing horse and rider talent. To date, in 2025, the USET Foundation has awarded three eventing grants: the Connaught Grant, the Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant, and the Jacqueline B. Mars National Competition and Training Grant. We also proudly launched the USET Foundation Performance Pathway Grant Program. This initiative will provide financial assistance to young jumping athletes who have earned the opportunity to compete as part of a U.S. jumping team or participate in a specific USEF High Performance Program.

It goes without saying that high level equestrian sport is a costly endeavor, and unlike some other countries, the U.S. does not provide government funding for our programs. That's why, as the philanthropic partner of USEF, the USET Foundation's mission is to raise funds, through generous donor contributions, that go to USEF to support its High Performance Programs. Since the USET Foundation's inception in 2003, the organization has given more than \$60 million to USEF high performance programs to support international competition, pathway programs, training sessions, horse and athlete transport, veterinarians, farriers, physiotherapists, and more.

Thanks to you, the USET Foundation consistently provides athletes and teams with the resources necessary to succeed against the best in the world. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to bolstering the success of our U.S. equestrian teams. Every gift has an impact, and I'm proud to work alongside you. I look forward to our continued partnership and camaraderie as we cheer on the U.S. teams this summer!

Sincerely,

Bonnie B. Jenkins
Executive Director



Photo by William Hauser

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation is the 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.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS™ OCALA

continued from page 1

Andre Thieme and Kraut, of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, had each incurred four faults, keeping them neck and neck.

Only one fault separated the jumping powerhouses as their final riders entered the arena. Sophie Hinners impressed by producing another clear with Iron Dames Singclair, one of only four double clears on the night, to keep the pressure on the U.S. Riding in the anchor position, as he has on so many occasions, Ward from Brewster, New York, delivered another clear round for the home side to clinch victory.

The U.S. won with a total of four faults, while Germany settled for second with five. Belgium completed the podium with 13 faults, while the Irish, also on 13 faults, placed fourth when its three riders clocked in with a slower combined time. France finished fifth with 16 faults, just ahead of Great Britain in sixth with 16 faults in a slower combined time.

"I love the League of Nations format, specifically for the excitement," said long-time U.S. Jumping Team Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland. "Of course, it's always nice to be on the right end of the excitement, and it was great that Laura added to that just to make sure McLain had some real pressure on him going out there, but how things can



Laura Kraut and Dorado 212

change in that second round. We have a veteran team here, and these are horses that have done it before. There's a reason we picked this team. We had some incredible competition that we had to beat. It doesn't get better than that."

For the U.S. team, the victory on home soil was especially sweet after finishing third in last year's inaugural event. As he has done so many times

in his illustrious career, Ward delivered under pressure. A clear was needed to clinch the win; a single time fault would have forced a jump-off with Germany. Riding his Paris 2024 Paris Olympics partner Ilex, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding by Baltic VDL x Chin Chin, the world number eight came through when it counted most. Ilex, who is cared for by Virginie Casterman, is owned by Ward in partnership with Bonne Chance Farm.

"I think the drama at the end is a testament to the format; it makes for excellent sport and competition," said Ward. "I don't know how many times now I've been in that position of having to jump clear. I'd be lying to tell you it isn't filled with some nerves and anxiety. I was going down the ramp, and when Sophie jumped clear, I got a smile on my face and my thought was, 'Okay, game on. This is what we do.' You focus. That's what you live for."

Keenan rode in the lead-off position in both rounds for the U.S. aboard Argan De Beliard, a 15-year-old Selle Français gelding by Mylord Carthago x Ahorn owned by her family's Chansonette Farm and looked after by Cory Tual.

"Any time I get to ride alongside these riders who I've looked up to for as long as I've ridden is pretty special,"



Aaron Vale and Carissimo 25

LEAGUE OF NATIONS™ OCALA

continued

said Keenan, who trains with Ward and is currently ranked number 25 on the Longines World Rankings. “To win on home soil and to have everyone see one of the best venues in the world and the best venue in America is so special because we all share an incredible sport. It’s wonderful to be able to celebrate it with a home win.”

For her part, U.S. Olympian Kraut was especially pleased with the performance of Dorado 212, a 12-year-old Oldenburg gelding (by Diarado’s Boy x Chacco-Blue) owned by St. Bride’s Farm and cared for by Margo Thomas.

“I’m extra proud of him for the performance he put in tonight,” said Kraut of the horse that carried her to a team gold medal at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile.

“The horse is just outstanding, and I’m so fortunate to have him. His first round was impeccable. In the second round, I was really worried about my time because I was only 0.25 under the time allowed in the first round, and I thought the place to make it up was to the wall, and clearly, that was a bad idea. I apologized to McLain because we did it to him again, but he thrives on that,” she concluded.

Hometown favorite Vale, of Wiliston, Florida, and Carissimo 25, a 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding (by Cascadello x Clinton) owned by the Carissimo Group and cared for by Nicky Cook, had four faults in the opening round, which would prove to be the drop score when his three teammates all jumped clear.

“Obviously, it’s a great facility and wonderful to have it here in my backyard, but it’s really special when you get an opportunity to jump against the world’s best here,” said Vale, who was also a member of last year’s team with Carissimo 25 (see feature, p. 40).

Ocala was the second leg of the Longines League of Nations™ series, which comprises Abu Dhabi (UAE), Ocala (USA), Rotterdam (NED), and Gassin – St. Tropez (FRA) before the prestigious final takes place in Barcelona, Spain, on October 2-5, 2025.

— By Jennifer Ward 



McLain Ward and Ilex



Lillie Keenan and Argan De Beliard

All photos by Jump Media



USET Foundation Exceeds Giving Day Goal, Raising More Than \$140,000


The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation raised more than \$140,170 during this year's "Building for the Future" Giving Day on April 17, surpassing its \$110,000 fundraising goal. With extraordinary support from individuals and a generous match from the USET Foundation's Board of Trustees and National Advisory Committee members, the USET Foundation's 2025 Giving Day showcased the dedication of the U.S. equestrian sport community.

Funds raised during the 2025 Giving Day will support the High Performance Developing Athlete Fund, which fuels US Equestrian (USEF) High Performance Pathway Programs. These programs provide critical training, competition, and educational opportunities for up-and-coming human and horse athletes in the Olympic and Paralympic disciplines.

As the philanthropic partner of USEF, the USET Foundation plays a pivotal role in ensuring that U.S. equestrian athletes have the resources necessary to compete and succeed on the world's greatest international stages. Grants from the

USET Foundation, through philanthropic contributions, go directly to USEF to support its High Performance Programs.

"This Giving Day demonstrated how committed our community is to the future of equestrian sport in this country," said USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins. "Thanks to every individual who gave, shared, and supported, we not only met but exceeded our goal. Your generosity will have a real and lasting impact on our talented rising stars who are working tirelessly with the goal of representing the United States at the highest level."

"The USET Foundation's continued support is fundamental to the success of high performance equestrian sport in the United States," added USEF Director of FEI Sport Hallye Griffin. "Thanks to initiatives like Giving Day, US Equestrian can build stronger pathways to support our athletes as they progress through the High Performance Programs, while also ensuring our teams remain competitive and successful in international equestrian sport for years to come." 



Zayna Rizvi, Taylor Kain, and Raleigh Hiler at the 2024 Nations Cup in Vejer de la Frontera, Spain.

Photo by Mackenzie Clark

US EQUESTRIAN AND USET FOUNDATION

Fueling Dreams, Forging Champions

US Equestrian (USEF) and the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation are celebrating the ascension of U.S. athletes to world number one in eventing, jumping, para dressage, and vaulting rankings and acknowledge the key role played by both organizations in bolstering the pathway for developing athletes. With four U.S. equestrian athletes ranked world number one, the U.S. continues to prove its strength on the global stage.*



Olympic jumping athlete Kent Farrington, Olympic eventing athlete Boyd Martin, and Paralympic dressage athlete Fiona Howard all hold the top spot in the FEI World Rankings for their respective disciplines. In addition, Ana Schult has topped the FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Standings for females, to add to the United States' accolades.

The inspiring success of these athletes, the first three of whom were selected for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, France, is the result of years of training and commitment, an incredible support network that includes dedicated horse owners, and robust US Equestrian (USEF) High Performance Programs that foster the development of horse and human athletes.

Achieving and maintaining this level of excellence on the global stage requires opportunities to nurture talent, which is where the collaboration between USEF and its philanthropic partner, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation, plays a crucial role.



Photo by Morgan Froment

Kent Farrington and Greya

Unlike some other countries, the U.S. does not receive government funding for its equestrian teams and programs. As a result, the USET Foundation's primary mission is fundraising to ensure athletes and horses have the resources necessary to successfully compete among the best in the world. Funding from the USET Foundation, through donations of all levels, goes to USEF to support USEF's High Performance Pathway for horses and riders competing in the seven FEI disciplines. These funds help ensure USEF Pathway Programs offer opportunities such as training sessions, developing athlete international competition tours, horse and athlete development grants, travel grants, and more.

"At US Equestrian, we strive to consistently develop and field the best equestrian teams in the world," said US Equestrian Director of FEI Sport Hallye Griffin. "Achieving this requires more than supporting our elite athletes — it also means investing in a strong pathway for the next generation. The annual funding we receive from the USET Foundation plays a vital role in making both possible and is a cornerstone of our High Performance budget each year."



Photo by Devyn Tretheuway/US Equestrian

Fiona Howard and Diamond Dunes

Farrington, Martin, and Howard have all benefitted from USET Foundation-backed funding from USEF, whether through a pre-Olympic or Paralympic training camp, horse development grant, or simply the means to ship a horse overseas for team competition, for example, and this funding has been integral in helping aspiring U.S. equestrian team athletes achieve their dreams.

"Kent is a fierce competitor and has shown us time and time again that he is an incredible horseman with a remarkable focus to train, compete and win, always with the best interests of his horses at heart," said U.S. Jumping Team Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland. "As a young athlete, Kent participated and excelled in pathway opportunities like the North American Youth Championships. To watch him develop his string of horses and then earn world number one for the second time in his career will be motivating for younger athletes currently working to achieve success in our programs. The funding provided by the USET Foundation to support the jumping Pathway Programs, alongside the dedicated commitment of USET Foundation donors, helps athletes develop and achieve their aspirations to join the ranks of the absolute best of the U.S. in our sport."

"It is an incredible achievement to hold the title of world number one, and I know it's a moment Boyd has been working tirelessly toward for many years," said U.S. Eventing Team Chef d'Equipe Leslie Law. "There are several factors that help athletes achieve results and it's our job to ensure they have the opportunities and support to make their mark on the global stage. We're grateful to the horse owners and the USET Foundation for their dedicated support. It takes tremendous sacrifice and financial support for athletes to achieve their goals at this level. Boyd's success continues to set the standard as we build momentum around our programs."

"Being part of an athlete's journey to the top of their sport is special," said U.S. Para Dressage Team Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline. "Fiona has overcome so many challenges in her commitment to excellence for our team and her performances last year in Paris are a testament to her determination and competitiveness as an athlete."

"The opportunities we were able to provide to expand her international competition experience and compete against the best in the world were a vital piece of the journey to her world number one ranking in para dressage," added Assouline. "The USET Founda-



Photo by Shannon Brinkman Photography

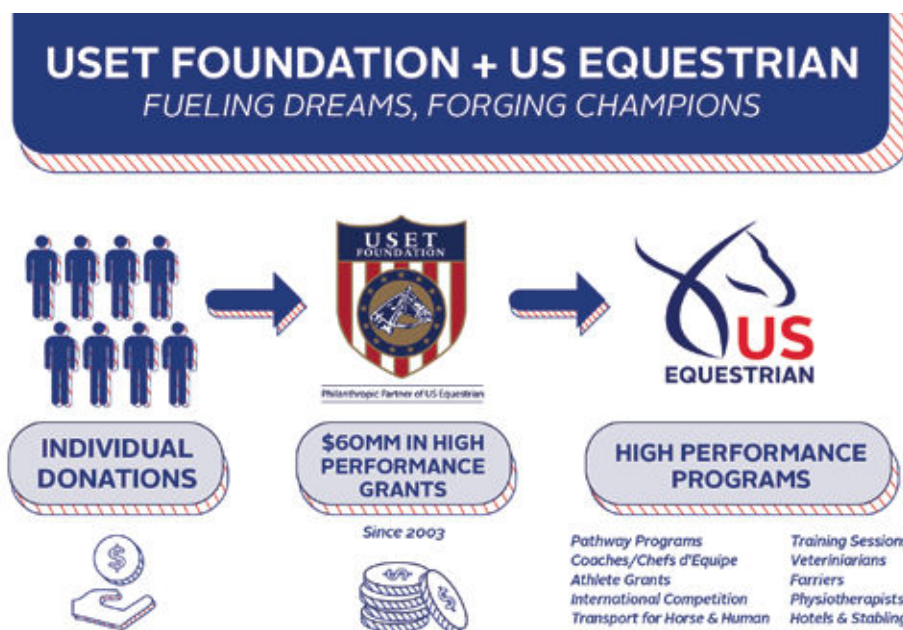
Boyd Martin and Fedarman B

tion has been strongly committed to providing more support each year for the athletes in our programs and it is exciting to see the energy building around para dressage."

Support in Numbers

Since its inception in 2003, the USET Foundation has provided over \$60 million to USEF High Performance Programs, including a \$4 million grant to USEF in 2024. This funding, made possible thanks to USET Foundation donors, helps enable USEF to provide financial support to athletes. For example, in 2024, USEF awarded nearly \$2 million in direct athlete grants, benefiting at least 119 individual athletes across all seven FEI disciplines.

"Seeing U.S. equestrian athletes progress from developing to elite ranks showcases the power of philanthropy," said USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins. "Behind every champion is a journey paved by opportunity, guidance, and belief. Our donors play a critical role in making those journeys possible through their support of U.S. equestrian teams and the USEF High Performance Pathway."



Together, USEF and the USET Foundation are building a legacy of equestrian excellence by supporting senior team athletes while simultaneously offering a pathway for future success made pos-

sible through generous donor support and a shared vision for U.S. equestrian greatness.

*All ranking information in this newsletter is correct as of May 2025.

U.S. Jumping Team Claims Gold With Dominant Performance in WEF Nations Cup

The U.S. team of Carly Anthony, Natalie Dean, Charlotte Jacobs, and Laura Kraut took the Nations Cup gold medal at the first jumping team event of the season, the FEI Jumping Nations Cup Wellington CSIO4*, on March 1, 2025.

The U.S. team's performance in the Nations Cup at the 2025 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) was so dominant that anchor rider Laura Kraut — making her 90th Nations Cup appearance — did not need to jump in the second round to secure the home nation's 10th win in the Wellington, Florida, leg of the competition.

The U.S. finished atop the podium on five faults. The Irish claimed second on a two-round total of 12, followed by Belgium in third on 17. The team was headed up by Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland and US Equestrian (USEF)



Natalie Dean, Charlotte Jacobs, Robert Ridland, Laura Kraut, and Carly Anthony



Carly Anthony and Heavenly W

Managing Director of Jumping and Team Leader Lizzy Chesson.

"It's very rare the anchor rider on any team gets to sit out the second round," said Ridland. "We obviously put together a team we thought would be competitive, but this Nations Cup, in particular, is an opportunity for athletes and/or horses coming up who need this level of experience in a competitive team environment. We had three of our younger riders and Laura with a younger horse, which was what we intentionally set out to do, and it worked out."

The team was drawn third of the nine nations that tackled the challenging track designed by Nicholas Granat (USA) and Steve Stephens (USA).

Natalie Dean of Wellington, Florida, was the team's pathfinder on Acota M, Marigold Sport Horses LLC's 12-year-old Toulon-sired Oldenburg mare cared for by groom Theo Simpson. Their precise first round notched the first clear

of the evening in 65.46 seconds.

In her senior team debut, Carly Anthony, also of Wellington, rode Portfolio Horses LLC's 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, Heavenly W. The son of Calvaro F.C. x Quidam De Revel, cared for by Pauline Holmer, delivered a second clear.

Charlotte Jacobs, another athlete based in Wellington, showcased her partnership with the 10-year-old Playboy JT Z. She secured the third consecutive clear round for the team on North Star's Zangersheide gelding by Presley Boy x Plot Blue, cared for by Denisa Kiss, keeping a clean sheet for the team going into round two.

Laura Kraut of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, rode St. Bride's Farm's 10-year-old Toulon gelding Tres Bien Z, cared for by Alex Tyler-Morris, in the first round as anchors, but were the drop score.

In round two, the U.S. came back last in the team order after finishing on

top in round one. Dean and Acota M dropped just a single rail for the team's first four faults of the evening.

A determined Anthony guided Heavenly W to another impressive round, securing the U.S.'s only double clear. Jacobs's talented mount Playboy JT Z delivered a nearly foot-perfect performance, finishing just over the time allowed of 69 seconds to add a single time fault. With three quality rounds on the board and victory sealed, Kraut was not required to jump in the second round.

"This was incredible," said Kraut. "When Robert told me who the team was, I was really pumped. These three amazing riders have been on fire, not just recently but working for years to get here. The way they rode in the first round was textbook and so impressive. To come back in the second round and do the same — I'm grateful to them and proud of them for being great riders and tough competitors and for letting my horse have the night off."

— Adapted from US Equestrian press release 🐾



Charlotte Jacobs and Playboy JT Z



Laura Kraut and Tres Bien Z



Natalie Dean and Acota M



Charlotte Jacobs and Playboy JT Z, Laura Kraut and Tres Bien Z, Natalie Dean and Acota M, Carly Anthony and Heavenly W, and Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland

All photos by Jump Media

Olympians and Paralympians Honored on Thrilling Night for U.S. Jumping

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation and US Equestrian (USEF) hosted a reception at Wellington International to cheer on the U.S. team and, between the two rounds of competition, honored the U.S. 2024 Olympic and Paralympic

equestrian teams for their successes in Paris. They also recognized the recipients of two of the USET Foundation's prestigious annual awards: the 2025 Whitney Stone Cup and the 2025 Lionel Guerrand-Hermés Trophy (see p. 13).



The 2024 Olympic and Paralympic equestrian teams from the U.S. were recognized for their performances in Paris, as well as the recipients of two of the USET Foundation's prestigious annual awards.



USEF's Managing Director of Sport Logistics Steven Morrissey and Director of FEI Sport Hallye Griffin were honored for their roles as Paris 2024 Assistant Chef de Mission and Chef de Mission, respectively, alongside USET Foundation Chairman Jim McNerney, USET Foundation President and CEO Kristi Mitchem, and USEF President Tom O'Mara.



The fantastic results of U.S. para dressage athletes at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, as well as the horse owners and team leaders, were celebrated in Wellington.



U.S. Para Dressage Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline with Paris 2024 Paralympic gold medal-winning athletes Rebecca Hart and Fiona Howard



Guests included Akiko Yamazaki (right).



Camille and Tony Branca with USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins



Luciana and Sophia Pessoa, granddaughters of USET Foundation Vice President Bill Weeks and daughters of Alexa and Rodrigo Pessoa



The unwavering spirit of U.S. team supporters was evident at the event.



USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins with Rebecca Burnside and Amelia Burnside

2025 USET FOUNDATION AWARDS

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation presented the organization's three most prestigious awards to Patti Scialfa Springsteen and Zacharie Vinios, Rebecca Hart, and Kat Fuqua at its Gold Medal Club reception held on January 17, 2025, at the National Polo Center in Wellington, Florida.

The USET Foundation presented the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award to both Patti Scialfa Springsteen and Zacharie Vinios for 2025. The honor pays homage to the late Mr. Duchossois by annually recognizing a member or members of the USET Foundation Board of Trustees who embody his leadership, generosity, and outstanding character. His life

was celebrated by becoming the first recipient of the prestigious award at its inception in 2015.

Scialfa Springsteen of Colts Neck, New Jersey, and Vinios of Wellington, Florida, have made outstanding contributions to the USET Foundation's philanthropic efforts since joining the Board of Trustees.

Zacharie Vinios

Vinios' love for horses was ignited at a young age. Her daughter Christina shared her equestrian passion, winning the U.S. Small Tour Championship dressage title in 2015. That same year, Vinios and her husband, Louis, decided to permanently relocate from the Northeast to Wellington, Florida, and built the impressive riding and training facility Five Rings Farm — a nod to their Olympic ambitions. The venue hosted "Victory in Versailles" in 2024, helping the USET Foundation raise more than \$2 million ahead of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

"I'd like to thank the USET Foundation for this award," said Vinios, who was elected to the USET Foundation Board of Trustees in 2020. "I also want to recognize the past recipients who have distinguished themselves as unwavering supporters of the USET Foundation, US Equestrian [USEF], and of all equestrian sports. I am proud to be in esteemed company."

Vinios generously continues to open Five Rings Farm to USEF and USET Foundation programs and events, including young and developing horse clinics and team training camps.

Patti Scialfa Springsteen

A renowned singer and songwriter, Scialfa Springsteen's involvement in high performance equestrian sport began by supporting the career of her daughter, Olympic jumping team silver medalist Jessica Springsteen.

"I am deeply grateful to the USET Foundation for this recognition," said Scialfa Springsteen. "To receive this award in memory of R. Bruce Duchossois, a remarkable horseperson and steward of the sport, is truly humbling, and I sincerely appreciate it."

Since joining the USET Foundation Board of Trustees in 2010, Scialfa Springsteen's generous endeavors have raised nearly \$4 million for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic teams.

"Supporting high performance equestrian sport is a family affair, and it has been a privilege to give back to a community that has brought us so much joy over the years," Scialfa Springsteen added. "The USET Foundation plays a vital role in ensuring our U.S. equestrian teams and athletes have the training and resources they need to sustain excellence."



USET Foundation Chairman Jim McNerney, Zacharie Vinios, and USET Foundation President and CEO Kristi Mitchem

Photo by Jump Media



Patti Scialfa Springsteen

Photo by Danny Clinch

Rebecca Hart

The 2025 Whitney Stone Cup was presented to the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games triple gold medalist Rebecca Hart.

The award acknowledges the para dressage athlete as an active competitor whose consistent excellence in international competition and sportsmanlike conduct as an ambassador for the sport and for the USET Foundation exemplify the USET Foundation's and USEF's highest ideals and traditions.

Hart of Loxahatchee, Florida, rode Floratina, a 17-year-old Hanoverian mare by Fidertanz owned by Rowan O'Riley, to a clean sweep of gold medals in Paris, France, marking the rider's fifth consecutive Paralympic Games. She rode to a personal best score of 83.534% in the freestyle test to seal the triple and claim her final gold medal in Paris.

"I am incredibly honored to be selected for this trophy," said Hart, a Grade III athlete. "It is an incredible testament to just how far para dressage has come as a discipline. I have loved helping to bring adaptive sport forward and hope to be able to continue to do so. It's an honor and a privilege to represent the USET Foundation, USEF, and my owners and sponsors on the field of play. I love having this platform to celebrate para sport and our success on the world stage.

"I'd like to acknowledge my personal support team and the amazing horse owner and sponsor Rowan O'Riley," stated Hart. "We wouldn't have enjoyed these results without her dedication not only to me but the entire discipline of para dressage. Team success comes when we plan and work together, and Rowan was an integral part of that."

Kat Fuqua

The 2025 Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy was presented to rising dressage and jumping athlete Kat Fuqua. The award is presented annually to a junior or young rider in an Olympic discipline who exemplifies USET's ideals of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

"I'm really excited because the riders that have received the award previously have gone on to achieve unbelievable accomplishments as professionals," said Fuqua. "The fact that I'm on that list alongside those athletes is really special."

Fuqua enjoyed a stellar year in 2024, including claiming triple Young Rider dressage gold at the FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) riding Dreamgirl, her 17-year-old Dutch-bred mare by Spielberg. Fuqua was also named the 2024 U.S. Dressage Federation Young Rider of the Year.

Fuqua is grateful for the career-boosting opportunities her experiences in the USEF High Performance Pathway Program have offered and the trajectory it has set her on.

"The European Young Rider Dressage Tour was one of the most transformational programs for my career. I got to meet so many people and made so many connections," continued Fuqua, who was on the U.S. Dressage Young Rider Team that earned bronze in the Future Champions CDIOY Hagen Nations Cup in Germany in June 2023. "The USEF Dressage Training Series is also great. I'm thankful to USEF and the USET Foundation for the support and opportunities."

Fuqua — who is based between Atlanta, Georgia; Wellington, Florida; and Tecklenburg, Germany — stepped up to

Hart is focused on seeing the U.S. Paralympic Dressage Team on the top step of the podium again at the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games facilitated by the continued growth and interest in the discipline and fueled by the team's success.

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



Photo by Jump Media

Rowan O'Riley and Rebecca Hart

U25 Grand Prix level in 2024 with Rigoletto 205. She also rode numerous horses in FEI jumping competitions, including grand prix mounts Columbcille Gipsy and Nate Archibald.

The Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy was established in 1983 by Patrick Guerrand-Hermès in memory of his son, Lionel, an Olympic hopeful who tragically died at age 18.

— by Alice Collins 



Photo by Jump Media

USET Foundation Chairman Jim McNerney, Kat Fuqua, and USET Foundation President and CEO Kristi Mitchem

USET FOUNDATION HONORS STEADFAST

Gold Medal Club Anniversary Donors

Established in 1980, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation's Gold Medal Club honors individuals who contribute at least \$1,000 annually to the organization. These supporters' contributions provide a base that helps ensure the USET Foundation is able to provide an annual grant

to US Equestrian (USEF) for its high performance programs, including pathway programs that support developing athletes.

"We are incredibly grateful to these donors who have made meaningful, long-term financial commitments to the USET Foundation," said Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins.



USET Foundation Chairman Jim McNerney, Robin Parsky, and USET Foundation President and CEO Kristi Mitchem

Celebrating 40-Year Anniversaries

Jane MacElree
Robert C. Ridland/Moore Memorial Trust

Celebrating 35-Year Anniversaries

Linda Sue Harrison
Mary Alice D. Malone
Triple T Foundation

Celebrating 30-Year Anniversaries

Mary Ferguson
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Dinah and Stephen Rojek
Adrian and Eric Straus



Jim McNerney, Robert Ridland, and Kristi Mitchem



Jim McNerney, Alexandra Storm, and Kristi Mitchem

Celebrating 25-Year Anniversaries

Greg W. Gingery
Elizabeth L. Johnson
Louis G. Piancone Charitable Foundation
H. Donnan Sharp

Celebrating 20-Year Anniversaries

Cornelia W. Bonnie
Karen Long Dwight
Karen Reid Offield
Alexandra Storm
Olivia and Bill Weeks



Jim McNerney, Eric Straus, Adrian Straus, and Kristi Mitchem

Celebrating 15-Year Anniversaries

Carol Cohen Hodess and Rebecca Cohen
Karen S. Cunningham
Susie and Tim Dutta
Nina and Timothy Gardner
Kathleen and Francis X. Hope
Elizabeth Miller and Jamie Dinan
Melanie Smith Taylor
Kathleen and Katie Whaley

Celebrating 10-Year Anniversaries

Sarah and Nicholas Armentrout
Mary Chapot
Diane and Robert Holtaway
Michele and Richard Powers
Karen Pritzker/Seedings Foundation
Karen Sullivan Scovil
Christopher L. Schoals
Wendy and Michael A. Smith
Vicky and Ken Sroka



Jim McNerney, Tim and Susie Dutta, and Kristi Mitchem



Jim McNerney, Elizabeth L. Johnson, and Kristi Mitchem

James Alliston and Karma

Awarded USET Foundation's 2025 Jacqueline B. Mars National Competition and Training Grant

In May, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation awarded the 2025 Jacqueline B. Mars National Competition and Training Grant to eventer James Alliston of San Ramon, California.

The national grant is provided by the USET Foundation through the generosity of USET Foundation Honorary Trustee Jacqueline B. Mars, with the aim of supporting preparation and attendance at a competition located more than 1,500 miles from the athlete's home base.

The grant is designed to assist athlete-and-horse combinations' progression to the USEF Eventing Pre-Elite or Elite Program. The goal of the grant is to provide training and competition resources for athletes who have never competed on an Olympic or FEI World Championship eventing senior team.

The grant was awarded to Alliston with Karma, an 11-year-old North American-bred Oldenburg mare (by Escudo II x Lavita) owned by Alliston Equestrian and Ric Plummer, for the 2025 Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event presented by MARS Equestrian™ CCI5*-L, in which they placed ninth.

"It was a very challenging course, and the galloping was challenging too," said Alliston. "It was a true five-star test. I was really happy with Karma, and finishing in the top 10 was great."

They also received the Mars National Competition and Training Grant in 2023 when they traveled to Europe as part of the U.S. eventing team for the FEI Eventing Nations Cup Netherlands CCIO4*-NC-L, where the team placed fourth. In 2024, the pair finished 12th at the Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event presented by MARS Equestrian™ CCI5*-L and ninth in the CCIO4*-S in Aachen, Germany, where they helped the U.S. team win the silver medal in the SAP Cup.

Alliston began riding Karma as a five-year-old when her previous owner, Andrea Pfeiffer, asked for his help in getting her started. Although she was



James Alliston and Karma

difficult, it was clear that she had plenty of jumping talent. Instead of selling the horse, Pfeiffer kept Karma with Alliston until he bought her in partnership with Plummer.

"It was clear she had something different," remembered Alliston. "The first time I did a cross-country school, she was incredible. I want to give the horse a chance and hopefully fulfill its potential."

A short-term goal for Alliston is competing at CHIO Aachen in Germany this summer in preparation for his longer-term goal of representing the U.S. on the team at the FEI World Championships for Eventing in Aachen, Germany, in 2026.

"I need to show good form and that we're improving and can be a competitive score for the team, but that would be a dream," he said.

Alliston has lived in California for 15 years, so traveling to Kentucky, the East Coast, and Europe for events requires considerable planning and financial backing. He is grateful for the assistance provided by the Jacqueline B. Mars National Competition and Training Grants.

"It falls on me to fund trips across the country," he acknowledged. "It's expensive for me to leave my teaching business at home, fuel up the truck, and handle all of the expenses that come with traveling. To get the grant is massive; it makes it possible."

"I have to say a big thank you to Mrs. Mars and the USET Foundation, and I'm extremely grateful and really appreciate being chosen for this grant," he continued. "It's an honor, and I love riding for the USA."


— By Jennifer Wood 

Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

Julie Wolfert Receives the USET Foundation's 2025 Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant

In March, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation awarded the Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant for 2025 to eventing athlete Julie Wolfert of Bucyrus, Kansas.

The Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant is awarded annually through the USET Foundation's Amanda Pirie Warrington Fund, which was established in her memory to provide financial assistance to an eventing athlete identified as having the talent and ability to represent the U.S. on senior teams.

The grant is intended for a recipient who will benefit most from the opportunity to continue their training with top coaches and to compete against the world's best. Wolfert will receive up to \$5,000 to help offset expenses associated with her training throughout 2025.

In October 2024, Wolfert and SSH Playboy, a 13-year-old Irish gelding by Cit Cat that she co-owns with Sheri Gurske and Renee Senter, won the CCI4*-L at Morven Park in Leesburg, Virginia, in the rider's first year competing at CCI4*-L level.

"I was shocked to receive the Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant," said Wolfert. "I was in the middle of a show and had just laid down my personal best FEI dressage score when I got the call. I got a little teary eyed because it felt like the universe was rewarding me.

"I'm honored to receive this grant. It means the world to me that I was chosen from what I'm sure was a long list of high-caliber riders," she added. "As we all know, riding and training professionally can be quite difficult at times and being recognized in this way will help push my riding to another level. I would like to thank the Warrington family for this opportunity, and I will do my best to honor Amanda's memory."

"Julie is an extremely deserving recipient of the Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant. Her performance in the CCI4*-L at Morven Park showcased the dedication and effort she has invested into her partnership with SSH Playboy," said Leslie Law, the Chef d'Equipe and High Performance Manager for the Defender U.S. Eventing Team. "I was particularly



Julie Wolfert and SSH Playboy

Photo by Lindsay Berreth/USEA

impressed by the progress she demonstrated during our Development training session this past January, and I look forward to seeing their continued success this season."

Wolfert grew up in Overland Park, Kansas, and dabbled in several disciplines before finding her calling in eventing. She owns and runs Chaps Equestrian Center in Bucyrus, where she teaches predominantly adult amateurs and trains horses for eventing, hunter/jumper, and dressage.

SSH Playboy is Wolfert's only current upper level horse, and Wolfert plans to use the grant to help them both gain exposure and show experience.

"My goals for 2025 include being selected for the Developing European Tour, which includes representing the U.S. in the Nations Cup at Bicton in the U.K., then competing in the five-star at Luhmühlen in Germany," stated Wolfert. "I'm so grateful for this grant, which enables me to maintain my riding at the highest level, and I can't wait to soak up as much knowledge as possible.

"Winning at Morven Park has been

the highlight of my accomplishments so far. It has opened the door to many opportunities including securing a spot on the USEF Eventing Development Athlete Program list and receiving the Rebecca Broussard National Developing Rider Grant," she continued. "The training opportunities the program has provided have been invaluable, and I already notice a difference in my riding. Without help from the USET Foundation and USEF I wouldn't have had these career-changing opportunities. I am forever grateful and excited to see where this takes me on my quest to represent the United States on the world stage.

"I would like to thank Renee Senter and Sheri Gurske, the other owners of SSH Playboy, for the opportunity to ride such an incredible horse," added Wolfert. "Three years ago, we came together to form Team Pivot, and it has been such a joyous ride together. I'd also like to thank my mom, Susie Wolfert, for always being my biggest supporter and believing in me all these years."

— by Alice Collins 

Sharon White & Jaguars Duende

USET Foundation's 2025 Connaught Grant Recipients

In December 2024, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation named Sharon White and her eight-year-old Westphalian mare Jaguars Duende (by Jaguar Mail x Lancaster) the recipients of the 2025 Connaught Grant.

Each year, the USET Foundation administers up to \$25,000 to a developing horse seen as a potential future candidate to represent the United States eventing team at the international level. The grant was established and is funded by Caroline Moran in memory of her dear friend, the late R. Bruce Duchossois, who was dedicated to encouraging the development of event horses in the U.S. The grant is named after Connaught, a horse owned by Duchossois and ridden by Phillip Dutton at the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games and 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

White, of Summit Point, West Virginia, was a member of the U.S. eventing team that won the silver medal at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. White has represented the U.S. in several FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ competitions and was also a reserve athlete for the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games.

White bought Jaguars Duende ("Jag") from German Olympic event rider Dirk Schrade as a four-year-old and imported her. Together, the pair have made nine international starts, placing in the top three in every outing and winning four of them.

"It brings me unspeakable joy to accept the 2025 Connaught Grant with my special horse, Jaguars Duende," said White. "Bruce [Duchossois] was such a contributor to our sport, and to have the opportunity to continue his legacy is an honor I am proud to carry. I hope that Jag and I can make him proud."

Over the years, White has been named to multiple US Equestrian (USEF) Eventing High Performance Training Lists. Her experience tells her that Jaguars Duende has talent in spades.

"She may have the best mind I've ever had in a horse, and this has made it so enjoyable to develop her," com-



Photo by Megan Delisle/USEA

Sharon White and USET Foundation Trustee Ellen Ahearn

mented White. "She really excels at all of the eventing phases. My focus has been taking time to produce her, not rushing her, and choosing competitions wisely. I believe this mare is a future team horse, and I will continue to produce her with this in mind."

After a very successful 2024 season at Intermediate and CCI3* level, White intends to step up to Advanced in 2025.

"While she's very much ready for this next step, I'm also aware that Jag is still young. Her attitude and athleticism make her a real prospect for my next five-star horse, but my focus between now and whenever that day comes is to keep her confident, strong, and feeling good. She's a serious team prospect for the future, and with the World Championships in 2026 and the 2028 Olympics coming up, my goal will be to produce her with team performances in mind," added White.

White is particularly thankful for the grant as she is the sole owner of Jaguars Duende and therefore responsible for all of the mare's expenses.

"It's important to me to have skin in the game," she explained. "This means more financial responsibility,

which makes receiving the Connaught Grant unbelievably meaningful to me. I'm grateful for the support offered by the USET Foundation to up-and-coming eventing talent. My appreciation for this grant is deep, and I hope I will help inspire others to contribute to our sport and its future."

White is also keen to give back to the sport she loves and is actively involved as a member of multiple USEF and U.S. Eventing Association committees. As an athlete owner, she is very aware that it takes a village to bring horses to their competitive pinnacle.


— by Alice Collins 



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Sharon White and Jaguars Duende



“Building the Pathway”

Event Educates Emerging Talent

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation and US Equestrian (USEF) hosted two days of educational and inspirational sessions for developing jumping athletes at its “Building the Pathway” reception and course walk at Desert International Horse Park in Thermal, California, on January 31 and February 1, 2025.

USEF Managing Director of Jumping Lizzy Chesson led a panel discussion with U.S. Jumping Chef d’Equipe Robert Ridland, U.S. Jumping Development Program Chef d’Equipe Anne Kursinski, and Olympic jumping team gold medalist Laura Kraut. They discussed the role of the high performance pathway in ensuring that top young athletes have access to training, competition, and educational opportunities.



Photo by Megan Giese/Desert International Horse Park

USEF Managing Director of Jumping Lizzy Chesson with her fellow panelists, Olympians Laura Kraut and U.S. Jumping Development Program Chef d’Equipe Anne Kursinski



Following the panel session, the young riders had the opportunity to speak with the panelists and other senior athletes in attendance, including the 2024 Paris Olympic team silver medalist Karl Cook, 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic team silver medalist Kent Farrington, and 2016 FEI Nations Cup™ Final bronze medalist, Lillie Keenan.

On the second day, Ridland and Kursinski led a guided course walk for 25 young riders around the \$340,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Thermal track. They explained the differences between regular grand prix classes and Nations Cup team competitions, as well as the role that Nations Cup shows play in developing athletes at the highest levels.

“The U.S. Jumping High Performance Pathway Programs aim to provide talented up-and-coming athletes with the tools they need to succeed in team competition,” said Chesson. “Connecting with and educating young athletes who are eager to progress along this pathway is a key part of what we do.”

USET Foundation Director of Development Lisa Munro said, “Looking ahead to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and beyond, we are committed to partnering with USEF as we aim to inspire the next generation of U.S. equestrian athletes.”

— Adapted from Jump Media press release 



Photo by Emily Randolph/Desert International Horse Park

Lillie Keenan, Karl Cook, USET Foundation National Advisory Committee member Vani Khosla, and USET Managing Director of Jumping Lizzy Chesson

The young participants at “Building the Pathway” enjoyed a guided course walk around the \$340,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Thermal track in California with U.S. Jumping Chef d’Equipe Robert Ridland and U.S. Jumping Development Program Chef d’Equipe and five-time Olympian Anne Kursinski in which they discussed the differences in format between regular grand prix classes and team competitions.

Photo by Emily Randolph/Desert International Horse Park





THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IS RARELY TRAVELED ALONE

How USEF Pathway Programs Support Developing Athletes

Reaching the pinnacle of equestrian sport is a complex journey that requires more than just natural talent; it takes a combination of hard work, discipline, and a well-rounded support system. The road to success is rarely walked alone. It involves a dedicated team of trainers, grooms, veterinarians, farriers, and many others, each playing a crucial role. When it comes to athlete development, access to specific training, competition, and educational opportunities is a key piece of the puzzle.

This is where US Equestrian (USEF) and the United States Equestrian Team

(USET) Foundation come in. As the philanthropic partner of USEF, the USET Foundation plays a vital role in providing funding for USEF High Performance Programs, including USEF High Performance Pathway Programs. These discipline-specific programs identify up-and-coming athletes as well as nurture and refine talent, helping athletes and horses reach their full potential on their own timeline with the goal of representing the U.S. at the highest levels.

Because the USET Foundation's mission is to ensure high performance U.S. equestrian athletes and teams have

the resources necessary to maintain excellence on the international stage, the organization provides grants and funding, through philanthropic contributions to USEF, to help support Pathway Program initiatives for developing athletes such as training sessions, European tours, competition grants, and more.

Here, four up-and-coming athletes in the Olympic and Paralympic disciplines share their experiences progressing along USEF's High Performance Pathway and how the unique opportunities provided are helping them reach their goals.

Jumping

CAROLINE MAWHINNEY

Q

You were a gold medalist at the FEI Jumping North American Youth Championships (NAYC) and an integral part of the U.S. junior team at the 2022 FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Youth Final. How have these programs assisted your development as an aspiring U.S. team rider?

“

USEF's Jumping Pathway has played a critical role in my progression from the Children's division through Young Rider teams and hopefully senior teams in the future. The development programs offered along the pathway teach you what you cannot learn solely by competing as an individual. Each time I stepped into the ring representing my zone or my country, I matured as a rider because it was about accepting a collective responsibility for success and holding myself accountable for the whole team's performance. As a team member, you experience more than your own successes and failures, and that is what makes team competition so uniquely demanding and rewarding.



Photo by Sportfot

Caroline Mawhinney and Carsey Z

[Growing up playing different sports, I learned] that mental strength comes with conditioning, and that is exactly what the USEF Pathway Programs provide. That is why these pathway experiences are so valuable. Through NAYC and Nations Cup outings, I learned what routine works best for me and how to perform at my best when it matters most. I think it is important to underscore that a team is very different than a typical three-, four-, or five-star class. The idea that others (and your country!) are relying on you changes the game.

I can't thank the USET Foundation enough for providing the funding that has allowed me to ride in four Nations Cups teams. I also owe a special debt of gratitude to USEF for providing coaches who, despite their incredible individual successes, generously share their time and wisdom with the next generation.

What advice would you give up-and-coming athletes who aspire to progress along USEF's High Performance Pathway and ultimately represent their country at the highest levels?

The most important advice I could give is to engage and learn about the programs and opportunities that are offered. USEF's High Performance Jumping Pathway is not a pipeline because it's not static; the pathway is a journey that may have twists and turns along the way. It is important to do what is right for you at the time, and USEF's Pathway provides opportunities and guidance without requiring you to stick to a timeline.

Dressage

LEXIE KMENT



You're a six-time medalist at the FEI Dressage North American Youth Championships (NAYC). How has that program — and other USEF Pathway Programs — assisted your development as an aspiring U.S. team rider?



In my first year competing at NAYC, I was so excited about the entire experience. I had never gone to a team competition before. I loved building different friendships, and the overall support provided by USEF throughout the show played a huge role in my development as a rider.

This year, the Children's division will be added to the NAYC competition. That's exciting because my first baby step into the international world of dressage was through the FEI Children's division at the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions in 2019 and 2020, where I finished as national champion both times. It was an incredible first glimpse of what I could expect from international competition. Including this division at NAYC provides another great entry point into FEI competition for young riders in the U.S.



What are you focusing on to take your performance to the next level?

I'm heading to Europe this summer with my trainer Jessica Mendoza and very much hoping to be selected for a three-star team. Whether or not I ride in a Nations Cup, the summer will be about growing my connection with Hallilea and Carsey, two relatively new rides for me. My strategy for getting to the next level is centered on a combination of hard work, extraordinary care for my horses, and time in the ring. My love of horses is what allows me to pursue my goals inside and outside of the jumping world.

I'm also focused on increasing my overall experience at the three-, four-, and five-star levels. As a freshman at Cornell University, I'm always aiming to improve how I balance my education and riding. I leaned into school this year, so maximizing my summer is critical for my continued progression on the jumping pathway. Longer term, I'd love to ride on a five-star Nations Cup team, and, if I can find the right horse and be ready, to be a contender for the Olympic Games.

Ultimately, I'd like to express my gratitude to both USET Foundation and USEF. The USEF Pathway Programs have been a crucial part of my development as a rider and as a person. Through team competition, I have learned that pressure is a privilege and that the best wins are shared. I also want to thank the amazing team of Triple M Farms, my family, and my amazing horses because I truly owe it all to them. ■



Lexie Kment and Montagny Von Der Heide

Also, having USEF as part of my support team, and knowing that the USET Foundation helps back USEF programs, is huge. I'm so grateful for Kristen Brett, USEF Director of Dressage Special Events. She's amazing and always does an

Photo by Leslie Potter/US Equestrian

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

continued

incredible job with the USEF Dressage Training Series [see p. 34]. I am so thankful for the connections I have made with accomplished U.S. dressage riders throughout the six years I have ridden in that clinic.

Progressing along the USEF Dressage High Performance Pathway has also enabled me to work with top coaches like George Williams. His support, expertise, and feedback on my riding have been beneficial in my development.

What advice would you give to up-and-coming athletes who aspire to progress along USEF's High Performance Pathway and ultimately represent the U.S. at the highest levels?

There are a lot of things I've learned, but most of all: enjoy it! Always strive to be your best and don't take it for granted. There are so many people that make up your support team, from parents, to coaches, to farriers, to vets, to sponsors, and if you're in school, teachers, principals, and so many more.

I want to emphasize that I'm just so incredibly blessed and thankful for USEF, the USET Foundation's support of

USEF High Performance Programs, the owners and sponsors, my mom, Jami Kment, who is my trainer, and my family. I am learning with my young horse that not every horse is on the same journey, so some things that come easily and quickly to some horses are a little more challenging for others, just like us humans. Always have the horse's best interest at heart and do everything you can possibly do to make their life as happy as possible.

What are your goals for 2025 and beyond?

I've always dreamed of going to the Olympics and representing my country. The last several years of having a young horse have taught me the importance of letting the horses have time to grow and develop on their own schedule, so I have shifted my focus to the behind-the-scenes work that goes into maintaining these horses at this stage in their career. I aim to continue growing my partnerships with the horses and to continue learning what it means to be a rider, a professional, and an athlete who can represent the U.S. to the best of my ability. ■

Para Dressage

HANNAH KINGSLEY



You made your U.S. Para Dressage Team debut in the CPEDI3* at the 2025 Adequan Global Dressage Festival. Tell us about that experience.



It was such an honor and accomplishment, a validation of all my hard work. It was great having such wonderful teammates, Ellie Brimmer, Cynthia Screnci, and Kate Shoemaker.

Cynthia and Kate are veterans in representing the U.S., and they were great role models. Being on the team gave me the biggest sense of responsibility. I am excited to continue my education and to learn to represent the U.S. to the very best of my ability.

What advice would you give to up-and-coming athletes who aspire to progress along USEF's High Performance Pathway and ultimately represent the U.S. at the highest levels?

Make sure you have a coach who believes in you and can help you get where you want to go. Do your homework, know



Hannah Kingsley and Eragon VF

Photo by Susan J. Stickle

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Eventing
COSBY GREEN



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In 2026, I have my eye on making it to the FEI Para Dressage World Championships in Aachen, Germany. Finally, I hope to spread awareness about the discipline and ultimately shift how people view para dressage by emphasizing that “para” stands for parallel to able-bodied dressage, not paralyzed. ■



Photo by First Class Images

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— Eva Fisherman 

PERFORMANCE PATHWAY JUMPING GRANT PROGRAM

Provides Funding for Talented Jumping Athletes

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation, the philanthropic partner to US Equestrian (USEF) has launched the new USET Foundation Performance Pathway Grant Program, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder American equestrian athletes from representing the U.S. on the world stage. This program will empower talented jumping athletes to pursue their dreams of competing at the highest levels.

The USET Foundation Performance Pathway Grant Program is designed to provide critical financial support to jumping athletes who have earned the prestigious opportunity to compete as part of USEF teams and competitions or participate in specific high performance programs.

From elite international championships to key developmental opportunities, the costs associated with representing the U.S. — including travel, transport, coaching, and training — can be significant. This program helps bridge that gap by offsetting the costs, ultimately ensuring that deserving athletes can focus on their performance rather than expenses.

“We are thrilled to offer a program that will have a meaningful impact on the next generation of U.S. jumping athletes,” said USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins. “The Performance Pathway Grant Program will enable riders to focus on their training and competition without the added burden of financial constraints. We are excited to support many more high-achieving young athletes as they strive to represent the U.S. on the greatest world stages.”

USET Foundation President and CEO Kristi Mitchem also expressed her enthusiasm for the program. She stated, “The goal of this new program is to pave the way for up-and-coming, talented athletes to pursue their dreams by minimizing financial barriers that too often stand in the way. It is our hope that this program will assist in fostering excellence and access in high performance jumping, ultimately bolstering the future of U.S. equestrian sport.”

This need-based grant program has been made possible thanks to Jennifer Gates Nassar, Nayel Nassar, and their team at Evergate Stables.

Eligibility and Selection Process

To qualify for the USET Foundation Performance Pathway Grant Program, applicants must:

- Be an active USEF member in good standing
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Have been invited or named to participate in a select USEF High Performance Jumping Program or team
- Demonstrate financial need, providing relevant documentation as part of the application process
- Compete in one of the following FEI categories: Children (CH) Ages 12-14, Juniors (J) Ages 14-16, Young Riders (YR) Ages 16-21, or Under 25 (U25) Ages 16-25

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis by the USET Foundation Performance Pathway Grant Committee, consisting of USET Foundation Trustees and National Advisory Committee members knowledgeable about high performance sports and the associated costs of competing, individuals well-versed in financial aid, and USEF sport leaders serving as advisors. To apply, visit [USET.org/performance-pathway-grant-program](https://uset.org/performance-pathway-grant-program) or scan the QR code.



Clinician Anne Kursinski gives a flat demonstration for USEF Horsemastership Training Series participants. The USET Foundation supports a variety of USEF Pathway Programs, including learning clinics, for youth athletes in the Olympic and Paralympic disciplines.

KARA PINATO SCRO

Joins the USET Foundation

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation welcomes Kara Pinato Scro to the organization in the new role of Assistant Executive Director. Reporting to Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins, Scro oversees the delivery of the organization's programs and ensures its goals are met.

Scro will play an integral role in the USET Foundation's fundraising initiative, "Pathway to the Podium," which has a \$55 million goal to propel USEF athletes to podium placings at the upcoming 2026 FEI World Championships, the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and beyond.

A lifelong equestrian, Scro brings more than 15 years of experience in public relations and integrated marketing, having held several vice president roles and leadership positions at public relations agencies.

"I am absolutely thrilled to welcome Kara to the USET Foundation as

our new Assistant Executive Director," said Bonnie B. Jenkins, Executive Director, USET Foundation. "Kara's deep connection to equestrian sport, coupled with her extensive experience in public relations, marketing, and strategic communications, makes her an exceptional addition to our team."

"I am very excited to blend my professional expertise with my personal passion for high-performance equestrian sport," stated Scro. "Having the chance to make a tangible impact within the sport I love is a full-circle moment in my career. I look forward to working alongside the incredible team at the USET Foundation, its dedicated donors, and our USEF partners to support our talented U.S. athletes and teams — including those who might not have the opportunity to represent the country without the funding provided by the USET Foundation — in our collective journey toward ensuring U.S. equestri-



Photo by William Hauser

an prominence on the world stage."

Scro received her Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Communications and Media Arts and Design from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She resides in New Jersey with her husband, son, and dog. 

USET Foundation Awards Grant To Assist Horses Affected by California Wildfires

In the wake of the devastation caused by the wildfires in Southern California in January 2025, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation awarded a \$25,000 grant to Fleet of Angels to support relief efforts for the equestrian community that has been impacted by this disaster.

Funds from the grant helped the nonprofit Fleet of Angels to provide hay and shavings as well as assist in offsetting costs related to fencing repairs and veterinary fees.


"We are deeply grateful to the USET Foundation for the generous support," said Elaine Nash, Founder and Executive Director at Fleet of Angels. "The wildfires displaced countless horses and owners and have contributed to increased logistical difficulties and financial strain. This grant will allow us to continue our vital work providing immediate relief to these horses and their owners."



Photo by Martene Dodge

The USET Foundation's \$25,000 grant helped Fleet of Angels provide critically-needed resources to horses affected by the wildfires in Southern California.

"The team at the USET Foundation believes in the importance of community support during times of crisis, and these wildfires have posed significant challenges for Southern Californian horses

and their owners," stated Bonnie B. Jenkins, Executive Director, USET Foundation. "We are grateful that organizations like Fleet of Angels exist to provide direct relief to at-risk equines." 

USET Foundation Elects Four New Trustees Who Bring Passion and Experience

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation elected Ellen Ahearn, Terri Kane, Rowan O’Riley, and Angela Vogel to its Board of Trustees at the Annual Meeting of the Board in January 2025.

“We are thrilled to welcome Ellen, Terri, Rowan, and Angela as new members of our Board of Trustees,” said USET Foundation President and CEO Kristi Mitchem. “Their passion, expertise, and dedication to high performance equestrian sport will undoubtedly strengthen our mission of supporting athletes, promoting international excellence, and building for the future.”

Ellen Ahearn

Prior to joining the USET Foundation’s Board of Trustees, Ellen Ahearn served on the USET Foundation’s National Advisory Committee since 2024. Ahearn’s involvement in elite equestrian sport began in 2009 through the eventing career of her daughter Alexandra Ahearn. When Alexandra went to college in 2015, U.S. high performance eventing athlete Tamie Smith took over the ride on her horse, Mai Baum. The pair was the reserve combination for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, and went on to a historic win in the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event CCI5*-L in 2023.

In addition to Ahearn’s work with the USET Foundation, she has served as a member of the US Equestrian (USEF) Eventing High Performance Owners Task Force. For more than 35 years, Ahearn held senior leadership roles in organizations operating in regulated and competitive markets.

Ellen holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from The State University of New York at New Paltz and a Master of Business Administration from Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, New York. She resides in La Quinta, California, with her husband, Eric Markell. ■



Photo courtesy of Ellen Ahearn

Terri Kane

Terri Kane is a passionate and dedicated supporter of equestrian sports. In 2002, she and her late husband Richard acquired Diamante Farms in Wellington, Florida, with the vision of creating a premier dressage facility for their daughter Devon. Under her guidance, Diamante Farms has become a hub for high performance dressage, developing several young horses that have gone on to compete at grand prix level.

Kane is deeply committed to fostering excellence in both dressage and para dressage. She actively supports athletes in these disciplines, including proudly sponsoring Paralympic dressage rider Sydney Collier, as well as her daughter Devon and son-in-law Kevin Kohmann. Diamante Farms also hosts events and training sessions for high performance equestrian athletes.

Kane currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Wellington Community Foundation and serves as its secretary. She is also involved with the Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center, where she previously served on the Board of Directors.

Additionally, Kane is instrumental in the Challenge of the



Photo by Lena Lottsfeldt

Americas, a unique fundraiser supporting the Breast Cancer Research Foundation through the disciplines of dressage and jumping. ■

Rowan O'Riley

Prior to joining the USET Foundation's Board of Trustees, Rowan O'Riley served on the USET Foundation's National Advisory Committee since 2018. A supporter of high performance U.S. equestrian sport, O'Riley is passionate about para dressage and is the proud sponsor of five-time Paralympic dressage athlete Rebecca Hart. With O'Riley's horse El Corona Texel, Hart won team bronze at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. O'Riley currently leases the mare Floratina for Hart, and the pair was unbeaten at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, earning team gold and two individual gold medals.

As an adult amateur dressage competitor, O'Riley earned her USDF Gold Medal in dressage in 2018 and was Region 8 Adult Amateur Champion at Grand Prix in the same year. O'Riley owns two dressage training facilities in Wellington, Florida: Fair Sky Farm and Roasis Riding Oasis.

A graduate of Wellesley College, in Wellesley, Massachusetts, O'Riley serves on the National Council of McLean Hospital in Boston and supports various health and international welfare organizations. She is also an amateur portrait artist, the mother of three daughters, and grandmother to four grandchildren. ■



Photo by Melissa Fuller Photography

Angela Vogel

Angela Vogel brings her lifelong passion for horses and a deep commitment to the pursuit of equestrian excellence to the Board. Her involvement in horse sport grew through her daughter Ashley Vogel, an internationally ranked U25 jumping athlete who earned a team gold medal in the Young Rider division at the 2021 FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC).

Recognizing the significance of strong development pathways for aspiring athletes, Vogel and her husband Bill have dedicated themselves to supporting the high performance programs that foster U.S. equestrian talent and continued success at the highest levels.

In addition to her passion for equestrian sport, Vogel is an avid supporter of dogs and animals. Prior to her involvement in the equestrian world, Vogel was a senior art director, blending her love for the arts and graphic design. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and now resides in Wellington, Florida, with Bill and their dogs. The couple has two children. ■

— by Alice Collins 



Photo by Bridgette Ness Photography

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION

Supporting Athletes
Promoting International Excellence
Building for the Future

BOYD MARTIN AND COMMANDO 3 ARE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS AS TOP U.S. PAIR IN CCI5*-L AT DEFENDER KENTUCKY THREE-DAY EVENT

U.S. athlete Boyd Martin marked the extraordinary feat of finishing in second, sixth, and seventh with his trio of talented horses earning him a one-two-three finish in the US Equestrian (USEF) Eventing National Championship.



Boyd Martin and Commando 3

The thrilling show jumping phase brought the 2025 Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event presented by MARS Equestrian™ to a close on Sunday, April 27, with Germany's Michael Jung and the Contendro I gelding Fischer-Chipmunk FRH finishing atop the podium in the CCI5*-L with 25.0 following a record-breaking dressage score of 18.6.

Second-placed Boyd Martin and Commando 3 finished as the top U.S. combination and earned the Defender/USEF CCI5*-L Eventing National Championship title, presented by MARS Equestrian™. Martin was awarded the USET Foundation Pinnacle Cup as the highest-placed U.S. athlete.

His incredible results vaulted him up the FEI Eventing World Rankings from 10th place. He now sits atop the list as world number one for the first time in his long and illustrious career, which includes four Olympic Games appearances. He is the first U.S. athlete to top the eventing rankings since Kim Severson two decades earlier.

Michael Jung and FischerChipmunk FRH, individual gold medalists from the 2024 Paris Olympic Games and Kentucky winners in 2022, added another win to their trophy case. The pair had one rail down in the show jumping, but it was enough to secure the win. It marked Jung's fifth Kentucky Three-Day Event win. Great Britain's Harry Meade and Et Hop Du Matz finished third with a double clear on the final day. They finished on their dressage score of 34.2.

Martin from Cochranville, Pennsylvania, pulled triple duty once again in the CCI5* finale. He was the first to contest the CCI5*-L show jumping track, designed by Steve Stephens (USA), notching a clear round aboard Luke 140 (by Landos), the Luke 140 Syndicate's 14-year-old Holsteiner gelding, earning an overall seventh place finish and the pair's second consecutive top 10 finish at the CCI5*-L level. His tidy round aboard Luke 140 set up a stellar performance with fan-favorite Fedarman B (by Eurocommerce Washington), a 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by the Annie Goodwin Syndicate, who showed off his impressive scope and power, adding just 0.4 to their score. They finished sixth overall on a final three-phase total of 40.6.


Martin concluded the day riding Yankee Creek Ranch's 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding Commando 3 (by Connor). The pair, who held second place heading into the final phase,

jumped a spectacular double clear that was rewarded with a roar from the crowd in the Rolex Stadium. In the pair's first CCI5*-L finish as a combination, they completed on a final score of 32.8.

"I wasn't sure what I was in for this weekend," admitted Martin. "Commando was my direct reserve horse for the Olympics last year. After going through this event, I think he could be a career-changing horse. He's got such quality, he's beautifully bred with plenty of Thoroughbred, and he's strong in all phases. I think this is just the beginning."

Martin's trio of horses scored a one-two-three in the Defender/USEF CCI5*-L Eventing National Championship, earning Martin the third National Championship win of his career at the CCI5* level.

James Alliston of San Ramon, California, and Alliston Equestrian's Karma, an 11-year-old Oldenburg mare by Escudo II, moved up to fourth place among the National Championship competitors, taking ninth overall on a score of 44.3 after an excellent clear round in which they broke the timing beam just over the time allowed. Rounding out the top five in the National Championship standings was Emily Hamel of Aiken, South Carolina, and her veteran five-star partner, Corvett. Black Flag Option, LLC's 18-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Corrido added a rail and 6.8 time faults to complete on a final score of 60.2 and a 12th place overall finish.

— Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Boyd Martin and Commando 3 with The Pinnacle Cup Trophy



Boyd Martin and Luke 140



Boyd Martin and Fedarman B

All photos by Sharrion Brinkman

WILL COLEMAN

Tops Cosequin Lexington CCI4-S For Second Straight Year*



Will Coleman and Off The Record



Phillip Dutton and Possante

In the Cosequin Lexington CCI4*-S, Will Coleman and Off The Record clinched the top spot, marking the athlete's second victory at the event in a row. In 2024, he won on Diabolo and finished third riding Off The Record.

Coleman and Off The Record began their 2025 Kentucky campaign with a new career-best dressage score of 21.8, and from there proved unsailable. A clear jumping round across country with just 10.4 time penalties to add kept them in pole position on a day in which clears inside the time proved elusive.

On the final day, 37 combinations tackled Steve Stephens' (USA) show jumping track in the Rolex Stadium.

Coleman from Ocala, Florida, and Off The Record had a rail in hand thanks to time penalties incurred by the second-placed combination of Phillip Dutton and The Possante Group's 12-year-old KWPN stallion, Possante.

Coleman and the 16-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding by VDL Arkansas, owned by the Off The Record Syndicate,

maintained their top position on the leaderboard to finish with four jumping faults, bringing their final score to 33.0.

"He's often been a bridesmaid in my barn," said Coleman of Off The Record. "If I have two horses at an event, I often have Off The Record be my first to go, because he's such a reliable cross-country horse. He's sort of like an old shoe; I know him so well, and he gives me a great feel for the course."

"Being in that position a lot, he doesn't often get to come home as the winner," he added. "But this weekend he was sensational, and I'm pleased he gets a chance to wear the crown. He's more than deserving. Even at 16, he still has a remarkable work ethic."

Dutton of West Grove, Philadelphia, and Possante (by Namelus R) showcased their potential as a combination, leaving all the jumps up and completing the weekend on a score of 33.9. Canada's Jessica Phoenix and Freedom GS secured third with 38.0.

— Adapted from US Equestrian press release 

USET Foundation Intern Spotlight:

EVA FISHERMAN

In January 2025, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation welcomed FEI Under 25 jumping athlete and University of Maryland senior Eva Fisherman as its winter intern. The 22-year-old from Brookline, Massachusetts, balanced an expedited three-year college plan with a competitive riding schedule and ultimately graduated in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts double major in History and Economics and a minor in Sustainability Studies.

As a junior athlete, Eva successfully competed in US Equestrian (USEF) High Performance Pathway Programs including the FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) for Jumping and the USEF Jumping Talent Search Finals - East at the USET Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey, where she notably placed ninth.

During her internship, Eva supported USET Foundation marketing, communications, and event efforts, including interviewing athletes for the article on page 20, and participating in USET Foundation events. Throughout, Eva gracefully managed the demands of college studies and high-performance sport. Here, she lends insight into how she balances both and what she gleaned as an intern with the USET Foundation.

How did you get involved with horses?

When I was four, I watched a neighbor's riding lesson, which prompted me to try it. I grew up riding at Mor Linn Farm in Walpole, Massachusetts. I rode there for 13 years, with a lot of opportunities to ride amazing and competitive horses. For the past five years, I've been with Missy Clark and John Brennan of North Run, and I respect Missy, John, and Maggie [Gampfer] so much. I feel very privileged to learn from them.

How have USEF Jumping Pathway Programs supported your riding career?

NAYC was my first championship and team experience. The team element adds a different kind of pressure and excitement that makes you want to perform well, which is great practice for the pressure of bigger FEI classes. The Children's, Pre-Junior, and Junior divisions are helpful stepping stones leading up to international competition.

In terms of the USEF Jumping Talent Search program, I appreciate how, in the final, you are judged across three different phases: flat, gymnastics, and jumping. It's an equitation final that truly rewards horsemanship and well-rounded riding.

Why did you decide to intern at the USET Foundation?

Having competed at NAYC and the USEF Jumping Talent Search Finals, I was aware of the importance of the USET Foundation in supporting these programs that help developing athletes.



Eva Fisherman and Casallvano

Photo by Nadia Suto Photography

I wanted to learn more about the business and fundraising side of the sport, and [USET Foundation Executive Director] Bonnie Jenkins was lovely and seemed like a great person to help me explore that.

What were some highlights of your USET Foundation internship?

The internship showed me how technical and important marketing is for the USET Foundation and USEF. It became clear that without the support of the generous horse community, these programs wouldn't be possible. I realized that social media and marketing campaigns are crucial aspects of ensuring the USET Foundation succeeds in its mission of supporting USEF High Performance and Pathway programs.

How did you balance the demands of college and competing and how would you advise others doing the same?

I got a taste of juggling education and riding during high school, which I can do because I care a lot about both. It doesn't have to be one over the other. It's more about having good time management skills and being self-disciplined. It's a privilege to do both, and I'm appreciative of my parents and the team at North Run for making this possible.

I'm an advocate for going to school if you can and it's right for you. Attending college gives you skills transferable to riding. If I hadn't gone to school, I probably wouldn't have the communication, networking, and time management skills or attention to detail that have been beneficial in my riding career.

2025 USEF EVENTING DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SERIES

Two educational sessions were held in January for the 2025 US Equestrian (USEF) Eventing Development 25 Program and the Development Program in Ocala, Florida, helping to shape future success for the participating athletes.

Combinations rode in a multi-day clinic with U.S. Eventing Chef d'Equipe Leslie Law and Olympian Ian Stark, who provided valuable coaching and guidance to enhance their skills in preparation for the competitive season and the next Olympic cycle. Athletes also participated in educational workshops to expand their knowledge and refine their horsemanship skills as emerging professionals.

USEF Eventing Development 25 athletes Alexandra Baugh and Maddie Temkin of Lexington, Kentucky; Olivia Dutton of West Grove, Pennsylvania; Lizzie Hoff from Gig Harbor, Washington; Meg Pellegrini from Wayne, Pennsylvania; and Cassie Sanger of Wilmington, Delaware; all participated in the first session.

The USEF Eventing Development athletes Mia Farley and Cornelia Fletcher of Ocala, Florida; Alyssa Phillips of Fort Worth, Texas; and the 2025 Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant recipient (see p. 12) Julie Wolfert from Bucyrus, Kansas; participated in the second session.

Both four-day sessions included two individual dressage lessons at Shady Oaks East and a cross-country session. The senior development athletes rode with Ian Stark at Okonokos Farm, while all participants finished the mounted portion with a day of jumping at Notting Hill Farm with Law and renowned course designer Chris Barnard.

The unmounted educational sessions covered a range of topics directly impacting the performance and lifestyle of professional equestrian athletes, including an in-depth discussion on course design led by Barnard, a talk on human nutrition and the role of diet in optimizing performance, a session with former U.S. Olympic team farrier Kenny Bark, and one on injury prevention with physiotherapist Dr. Jo Frantz.

— Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Cassie Sanger and MT Luxaan

Photo by Devyn Ivy Media



Olivia Dutton and Autumn Leaves

Photo by Devyn Ivy Media



Meg Pellegrini and Don Dante

Photo by Devyn Ivy Media



Alex Baugh and Hubert Des 3 Arbres

Photo by Devyn Ivy Media



Maddie Temkin and Fernhill Fairytale

Photo by Devyn Ivy Media



Cornelia Dorr Fletcher and Romeo

Photo by Devyn Ivy Media



Mia Farley and DA Nixon

Photo by Devyn Ivy Media



Cornelia Dorr Fletcher, Tom O'Mara, Alyssa Phillips, and Mia Farley

Photo courtesy of Tom O'Mara

2025 USEF DRESSAGE TRAINING SERIES

Young dressage athletes participated in the annual US Equestrian (USEF) Dressage Training Series — previously known as the Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic Week. The youth-restricted segment of the 2025 series included two sessions, held on the East and West Coasts. The East Coast event was held January 2-5 at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival venue in Wellington, Florida. The West Coast session took place February 20-23 at the HITS Del Mar Horsepark in Del Mar, California.

East Coast

The 2025 USEF Dressage Training Series – East Coast, presented by Zen Elite Equestrian Center, hosted 19 youth athletes aged 13 to 25 and provided insights into various aspects of the sport, both in the saddle and on the ground.

Top professionals including U.S. Dressage Team athlete Katherine Bateson Chandler, Olympic bronze medalist Ali Brock, U.S. Dressage Team athlete Olivia LaGoy-Weltz, and Olympian Marcus Orlob shared their expertise during the mounted sessions, emphasizing the importance of soft, connected riding.

Top FEI groom Carly Muma pro-

vided education and hands-on learning about barn and horse management, while former U.S. Team farrier Kenny Bark presented an overview of hoof care fundamentals. U.S. Dressage Team veterinarian Dr. Laura Faulkner educated the participants on how to properly present a horse at an FEI inspection prior to competition, a necessary skill for international competition.

Additionally, the participants attended learning sessions with several sports professionals who emphasized the importance of mental and physical well-being for elite athletes. These sessions included a human physiotherapist, a sports psychologist, a nutritionist, and insights from Olympic owner/sponsor Betsy Juliano.



Photo by Emma Claire/US Equestrian

Alex Troutman on Mondo
with Olivia LaGoy-Weltz



Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

Kat Fuqua on Rigoletto
with Marcus Orlob



Photo by Emma Claire/US Equestrian

Autumn Vavrick on Alice Tarjan's Ice Princess
with Katherine Bateson Chandler



Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

Ali Brock coaching Darian Kauk
and Celoso TA

West Coast

The West Coast segment of the USEF Dressage Training Series welcomed 15 young athletes for an immersive learning experience. Former Chef d'Equipe George Williams, Olympic team silver medalist Sabine Schut-Kery, and 2024 NAYC Region 7 Chef d'Equipe Benjamin Pfabe led the clinic, offering expert guidance on harmony, balance, suppleness, and engagement.

Each clinician worked one-on-one with five riders, and every under-saddle session was open to the public, attracting local barn groups eager to gain knowledge.

In addition to top-tier instruction in the saddle, athletes participated in a series of unmounted sessions designed to enhance their preparation both on and off the horse, with topics including sports psychology, anti-doping regulations, and nutrition, plus a



Photo by Terri Miller

Miki Yang on Grey C Carrus with Sabine Schut-Kery

media training workshop with USEF Senior Director of Social Media and Sport Communications Carly Weilminster, Olympic owner/sponsor Akiko Yamazaki, and a dressage theory lecture from Williams.

Throughout the clinic, athletes were responsible for all aspects of horse care, reinforcing the importance of horsemanship alongside training.

— Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Photo by Terri Miller

West Coast participants Olivia Martz, Emma Schneider, Samantha MacDonald, Hannah Johnson, Emme Chisholm, Ryder Mosqueda, Mia Folk, Sage Chacon, Jessica Nordqvist, Miki Yang, Haley Smith, Finn Kriess, Trinity Schatzel, and Taylor Allen

2025 USEF JUMPING HORSEMASTERSHIP TRAINING SERIES



US Equestrian Director of Jumping Development Programs Erin Keating and U.S. Jumping Development Program Chef d'Equipe and five-time Olympian Anne Kursinski shared advice from the ground.

Aspiring jumping riders participated in the first segment of the enhanced annual US Equestrian (USEF) Jumping Horsemastership Training Series. For 2025, the series offers both in-person and online instruction with selected athletes throughout the year and is designed to assist in the development and identification of the next generation of top U.S. jumping team athletes.

The first section was held January 2-5, 2025, in Wellington, Florida, and featured four days of mounted and unmounted educational sessions with top athletes and experts in the equine industry.

Athletes aged 16 to 21 were invited to participate based on their results at U.S. Jumping Pathway Programs, along with selected wild card riders. Athletes from the pathway programs include winners of the FEI North American Youth Championships, Platinum Performance/USEF Talent Search Finals East/West, and the Neue Schule/USEF Junior Jumper National Championships. These athletes have been successful in competition at 1.40m and above.

Participants Taylor Cawley and Olivia Sweetnam of Wellington, Florida; Avery Glynn of Petaluma, California; Avery Griffin of Austin, Texas; Maggie Jacobs of Vernon, Ohio; and Clara Propp of New York, New York; began the mounted portion of the training with a flatwork session led by U.S. Jumping Development Program Chef d'Equipe and five-time Olympian Anne Kursinski. The lesson included work on turn on the forehand and shoulder-in, and Kursinski emphasized the importance of a correct basic way of going through clear aids



Maggie Jacobs tackles a combination.

that improve engagement. This approach proved effective for the participants, who were mounted on a mix of their own and borrowed horses.

Day two's ridden session with Olympic team gold medalist Bezie Madden began with a reminder about correct mounting procedures. It included lessons on the importance of adjustability and gymnastic exercises in which the riders had to control the number of strides between fences.

On the final day of the training series, the last mounted lesson was conducted by six-time Olympian McLain Ward. He began the session by discussing tack and his preference for more conservative equipment before sharing his recommendations for warm-up tactics. He set up a series of jumping courses for the participants, posing different questions in each, with the parallel goals of training the horses while also preparing them for competitive success.

— by Alice Collins 



Avery Griffin



The horses and riders soaked up the knowledge on offer at the training series.



Avery Glynn with Anne Kursinski



Athletes Clara Propp, Maggie Jacobs, Avery Glynn, Avery Griffin, Olivia Sweetnam, and Taylor Cawley

All photos by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

U.S. Para Dressage Team Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline Leads **PARA DRESSAGE SYMPOSIUM**

In March, the U.S. Para Dressage Program hosted the first Para Dressage Symposium of 2025 in Wellington, Florida, offering access to judging and feedback from the judges for combinations within the program. The two-day symposium was a key development opportunity in the continued progression of the program under the leadership of Chef d'Equipe and Technical Advisor Michel Assouline.

The symposium, which featured ride-a-test opportunities with Level 4 FEI judge Sarah Leitch (GBR), allowed both newer and seasoned combinations to receive valuable insight and feedback from Assouline and Leitch. Assouline and Leitch focused on each combination's way of going, outline and profile, as well as suppleness and rhythm. Participants included Paralympians Rebecca Hart, Fiona Howard, and Kate Shoemaker, team athletes Eleanor Brimmer and Cynthia Screnci, and Marie Vonderheyden.

Under Assouline's tenure, the U.S. Para Dressage Program has produced tremendous results. Assouline emphasized the importance of continued development opportunities, particularly with the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games on the horizon.

"The plan for the next four years will be geared towards the target of the 2028

Los Angeles Paralympic Games," said Assouline. "We are currently the leading country in para dressage, so we must keep a high profile and commitment to excellence throughout. It will take careful, strategic planning; we will do a combination of West Coast shows, training camps, and some European shows, all of which I'm very much looking forward to."

— Adapted from US Equestrian press release



*World number one Fiona Howard
and Diamond Dunes (Grade II)*

Rebecca Hart and El Corona Texel (Grade III)



Marie Vonderheyden and Fan Tastico H (Grade I)



Kate Shoemaker and Supreme (Grade IV)



*Eleanor Brimmer and
My Moment (Grade II)*

*Cynthia Screnci and
For Memory 4 (Grade V)*



All photos by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian



A LIFE-CHANGING PARTNERSHIP

Carissimo 25 and Aaron Vale

Aaron Vale has been one of the U.S.'s most successful show jumpers for decades, with more than 285 grand prix victories. While he is well known in the U.S. for his riding ability, empathy for the horse, and the guts to go all out in a jump-off, Vale didn't have the same kind of international and championship career as some of his contemporaries. He competed on a U.S. team in Europe for the first time in 2001 in Drammen, Norway, and was double clear to help the U.S. win, plus went on to win the grand prix. In 2022, he competed in the FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final for the first time at the age of 53.

Since 2010, Vale has had 789 starts in FEI competition on 40 different horses. However, one horse stands above the rest. He is currently ranked 35th in the world and is vying for spots on teams for championship events thanks to Carissimo 25, a super talented 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding (by Cascadello x Clinton). Now owned by The Carissimo Group, the chestnut was nicknamed “Ducky” by his last owner, Debbie Smith, who purchased the horse with the goal of making it to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Before that, Ducky was brought along for two years by U.S. show jumper Mavis Spencer. Previously known as “Curly” in the barn, his extravagant jumping style caught the attention of many on social media.

“Lots of people knew the horse; his talent was well thought of, and he had some nice results already,” recalled Vale. “I knew he was a horse with top-level ability, but I didn’t know a ton about him other than that.”

With the help of trainer Don Stewart, Ducky went to Vale

in July 2023. While that first jump “felt super,” Vale knew there was work to do riding on the flat and with groundwork on a line to make that unconventional jumping style consistently successful over a 1.60m course.

“He’s a long-moving, slowish-moving horse, so there’s still flat work that we’re working on improving,” he explained. “It’s about getting his canter organized so it can shorten and maintain energy, which we have improved to some extent, but it’s still a task that needs more work. When I have time to do good groundwork, it really seems to help with his transitions, so I try to keep that as part of our routine.”

Vale described Ducky as “very sweet, but a little shy and reserved.” Over time, he has become more outgoing and shows more personality. “He still has the tendency to be quiet and sometimes stand in the back of his stall and keep to himself a bit, which we respect,” he added.

After one national show outing, the pair immediately went to the five-star



Aaron Vale and Carissimo 25 in the victory gallop as part of the winning U.S. team at the 2025 Longines League of Nations™ Ocala at World Equestrian Center – Ocala

level at the 2023 Hampton Classic Horse Show in New York and then on to the Spruce Meadows ‘Masters’ CSIO5* in Canada. They won their first class together that December, a four-star grand

prix at Wellington International. Their first team effort was in February 2024, halfway around the world at the Longines League of Nations™ in Abu Dhabi, and they helped the team to third place in the next Longines League of Nations™ qualifier in Vale’s hometown of Ocala, Florida. They contributed a double-clear effort at the Nations’ Cup in Rome, Italy, and rode on teams in La Baule, France, and Falsterbo, Sweden.

“Being chosen for U.S. teams has allowed us to compete at the top competitions in the world,” acknowledged Vale. “That has led to the development of our partnership, and it has been really good to get that exposure.”

In addition to the experience, Vale appreciates the support that the USET Foundation provides to the USEF High Performance Programs, which includes supporting team tours in Europe. “Having the funds to put toward the trip is certainly helpful,” he agreed. “If you go on your own to Europe or Calgary for the summer, you can do top jumping, but it’s very nice to be on a team where you’re getting some funding to help you along the way.

“That’s huge and it’s what helps get riders and their horses the exposure and experience to bring home medals,” he added. “It’s super for the individuals, but also great for those who are U.S. horsepersons and supporters. That’s part of our success, and without that financial support, it’s quite difficult to do.”

All of their accomplishments led to



Vale has fostered a strong bond with Carissimo 25, and he includes both groundwork and ridden work in the 12-year-old Cascadello gelding’s regular training.



Photo by Jump Media

Aaron Vale and Carissimo 25 showed in their second-ever team effort for the U.S. at the 2024 Longines League of Nations™ Ocala.

the pair being named as the first traveling reserve for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

"We were sitting only 45 minutes away from Versailles the morning of the jog and didn't get the final phone call, but we were close," said Vale. "It was nearly a complete success."

The Carissimo Group was formed in July 2024 to purchase Ducky to keep him with Vale, who is a member of the group and owns a percentage of the horse. "I have at least a stake in him, more than just throwing my leg over. I actually have more ownership of him than someone in my position really should have, but that's what it took to get the job done to keep him," stated Vale.

Since that ownership change, the pair has been on the winning U.S. team in the Nations Cup at the Dublin Horse Show in Ireland, placed third in the

Rolex Grand Prix CSIO5* there, and was on the team at the Longines League of Nations™ Final in Barcelona, Spain. They finished second in the \$1 million grand prix in Thermal, California, in December 2024, and just this past March, they were on top of the podium at the Longines League of Nations™ in Ocala, Florida.

Vale has set a new goal with Ducky to be on the U.S. team for the 2026 FEI World Championship for Jumping being held in Aachen, Germany, and to compete at the famous venue this summer at the CHIO competition.

Ducky has been a special partner for Vale, helping him compete at more shows around the world and giving him newer, bigger career goals than he had previously entertained.

"It's pretty special to have a horse

like him," admitted Vale. "I've had nice horses that have won a lot during my career, but they have never really been top international-level mounts. We have snuck into a World Cup class or a team here or there over the years, but I've never had a horse that was good enough to do that consistently.

"It's a real opportunity for me, even though I've been doing it for a while," he continued. "I appreciate the opportunities he's brought and the idea of me doing top-level competition. Also, thanks to Ducky, we've been able to acquire some young horses at a similar talent level coming up behind him before I get too old to do this. He has jump-started me to a new level in my career. Hopefully, we can capitalize on all of that in the next few years."

— by Jennifer Wood



RODNEY JENKINS DIES AT 80

Legendary show jumper and Thoroughbred trainer Rodney Jenkins died in his sleep on Thursday, December 5, 2024, reported the Daily Racing Form. He was 80.

Jenkins grew up on the back of a horse, as his father, Enis Jenkins, was the huntsman for Manly Carter's private pack in Orange, Virginia, before taking a position at the now-defunct Rapidan Hunt. Rodney spent his early years in the hunt field, whipping in for his father, and along with his younger brothers, Dale and Larry, helped care for the horses and hounds.

He got his start in the show ring on field hunters as a teenager, and upon graduating from high school in 1961, he took a job with Gene Mische, where he showed up and down the East Coast for three years. Afterward, he returned to his family's farm, where he trained racehorses and whipped in on the hunt-ing field.

Jenkins continued showing in the hunter divisions, riding for owners such as Peggy Steinman, Kathryn Clark, and Mrs. A.C. Randolph. But as the jump-er ring became more popular, Jenkins found a niche there. He piloted horses such as Idle Dice, Number One Spy, Playback, Coastline, Czar, Gustavus, and The Natural to grand prix victories, winning the American Gold Cup three times as well as the grand prix at the National Horse Show and the Wash-ington International Horse Show three times each.

He represented the U.S. on 10 win-ning Nations Cup teams, placed eighth in the 1974 World Championships at Hickstead, England, and earned sixth in the 1980 FEI World Cup Final with Third Man. In 1987, he won both the American Grandprix Association's Rider of the Year and American Horse Shows Association's Horseman of the Year awards.

For much of his career, he was un-able to ride on Olympic or Pan Amer-ican Games teams, as the Internation-al Olympic Committee restricted the Games to amateur athletes. But when those restrictions were lifted, Jenkins rode Czar at the 1987 Pan American Games, where he won team and indi-vidual silver medals.



U.S. team silver medalists Greg Best, Katherine Burdsall, Lisa Jacquin, and Rodney Jenkins at the 1987 Indianapolis Pan American Games

Photo by Karl Leck

"There wasn't a horse he couldn't ride," Rodney's brother Larry told *The Chronicle of the Horse* in 2011. "He could change his riding style to adjust to the horse, and he'd get the best out of all of them. Horses really liked him."

Jenkins was involved in one of the

most famous warmblood imports at the time when he and a partner bought *The Natural* in 1985. Jenkins won the American Gold Cup on him before they sold the gelding for a storied \$1 million. The *Natural* went on to win the 1987 FEI World Cup™ Final in France with Katherine Burdsall.

Jenkins was inducted into both the National Horse Show Hall of Fame and the Show Jumping Hall of Fame. In his 40s, he chose to hang up his show cap.

"I promised myself that when I got to the point where I didn't think I was as good as I was, I'd give it up. I wasn't going to ride until I was old. I felt like the time to get out was when I did," he told *The Chronicle* in 2011.

At that point he transitioned to training racehorses, first steeplechas-ers and then on the flat, winning more than \$24 million in his career.

In 2003, he was named most out-standing trainer by the Maryland Thor-oughbred Horse Association. According to the Daily Racing Form, Jenkins re-tired from training earlier in 2024 due to deteriorating health.

— by Kimberly Loushin, originally published in *The Chronicle of The Horse*



Rodney Jenkins with U.S. jumping team coach Bertalan de Némethy

Photo by Sue Maynard

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

KENTUCKY INTERNATIONAL CSI5*

Kent Farrington topped the \$400,000 Kentucky International CSI5* Grand Prix on home soil in front of packed stands with a superb performance on the 11-year-old Colestus daughter, Greya. The duo jumped a blazing double-clear in 42.93 seconds. After his victory, Farrington rose to world number one on the Longines FEI Jumping Rankings. Fellow U.S. athlete Mimi Gochman rode Inclen BH into third with another double clear.



Kent Farrington and Greya

Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

WELLINGTON CPEDI

In March, the U.S. Para Dressage Team continued its winning streak, topping the CPEDI3* held at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival in Wellington, Florida. The team, composed of Fiona Howard and Diamond Dunes, Hannah Kingsley and Sir Chipoli, Cynthia Screnci and For Memory 4, and Marie Vonderheyden with Fan Tastico H, delivered standout performances across all grades. Howard set a new personal best of 77.299% in the Para Grade II Grand Prix A Test, then went on to set a new world record of 83.267% in the Freestyle. She is now the world number one in her grade.



Fiona Howard and Diamond Dunes

Photo by Susan J. Sickle

DRESSAGE NATIONS CUP

At Wellington International in Florida in February, the U.S. team of Devon Kane and Vamos, Kevin Kohmann and Giulietta, Erin Nichols and Elian Royale, and Jennifer Williams and Joppe K claimed the silver medal behind Germany in the FEI Dressage Nations Cup USA CDIO3* on a collective score of 201.565. Kane went on to secure the bronze medal in the Grand Prix Freestyle with 75.125%.



Chef d'Equipe Christine Taurig, Devon Kane, Erin Nichols, Jennifer Williams, and Kevin Kohmann

Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

LONGINES LEAGUE OF NATIONS™ ABU DHABI

The U.S. Jumping Team faced a challenging start in the first round of the 2025 Longines League of Nations™ at Abu Dhabi CSIO5* in February, finishing 10th and missing out on qualification for the second round. Ireland took the win with a clean sheet, while the home nation, the United Arab Emirates, finished second and France claimed third. The U.S. team comprised Kaitlin Campbell with Castlefield Cornelious, Taylor Kain on Jirenze, Skylar Wireman and Tornado, and Lucy Davis-Kennedy with Ben 431.



Lucy Davis-Kennedy and Ben 431

Photo by Avery Helen Cruden

FEI JUMPING WORLD CUP™ FINAL

Katie Dinan and the Verdi mare Out Of The Blue SCF were the highest-placed U.S. combination in the FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final in Basel, Switzerland. Dinan jumped the only double clear in the third and final round to secure eighth place. Lillie Keenan and Kick On took 11th, while both Kristen Vanderveen aboard Bull Run's Jireh and Kaitlin Campbell on Castlefield Cornelious rounded out the top 20 placings.



Katie Dinan and Out Of The Blue SCF

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

FEI DRESSAGE WORLD CUP™ FINAL

Kevin Kohmann and Diamante Farms' 16-year-old Dancier gelding Dünensee were the highest placed U.S. combination in the 2025 FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final in Basel, Switzerland, in April. They finished 10th in the Grand Prix Freestyle with 75.535%. Geñay Vaughn scored 73.765% in the Freestyle on Gino to complete their first World Cup Final. Adrienne Lyle and Helix worked through some nerves, resulting in a Freestyle score of 71.225%.



Kevin Kohmann and Dünensee

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

FEI VAULTING WORLD CUP™ FINAL

The U.S. athlete Kimmy Palmer finished in overall fifth at the FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final in Switzerland. Palmer's performance in the Individual Women's Freestyle with Rosenstolz 99 earned a score of 8.227. Their routine received a 9.0 and a 9.113 for the two technical components from the judges. Caroline Morse and Rey Rubino finished eighth in the Women's Freestyle, with Daniel Janes and Caretes Auhorn repeating the placing in the Men's division.



Kimmy Palmer with Rosenstolz 99

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Celebrating the Careers and Contributions of Michele Cotter, Mary-Ellen Milesnick, and Clif Cotter

This spring, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation celebrated the remarkable careers and well-earned retirements of three individuals whose commitment and service have shaped the organization and its headquarters at Hamilton Farm in Gladstone, New Jersey, in immeasurable ways: Michele Cotter, Mary-Ellen Milesnick, and Clif Cotter.

Michele Cotter began her journey with the USET 40 years ago, stepping into her role with enthusiasm and a fierce commitment to the organization's mission. In her most recent position as the Director of Annual Support, she built the program into a cornerstone of the USET Foundation's fundraising efforts. When the USET transitioned into the USET Foundation in 2004, Michele

remained a constant presence through a pivotal chapter of growth and change. Although she is stepping back from her full-time position, Michele will continue to share her expertise part-time as Manager of Stewardship.

Mary-Ellen Milesnick, who retired after 35 years with the organization, was an indispensable presence. As Database Manager and Campaign Coordinator, she has ensured the accuracy and integrity of all gift recording and donor recognition — often unseen work that is vital to the success of any nonprofit. Her behind-the-scenes efforts have been a driving force behind the USET Foundation's ability to engage and steward its generous community.

Clif Cotter, Michele's husband, spent 20 years as the USET Foundation's

Director of Facilities. Whether overseeing renovations, preparing for events, or responding to the facility's day-to-day needs, Clif took deep pride in ensuring that the USET Foundation's property remained beautiful and functional for the athletes and supporters it serves.

These three individuals have served the USET Foundation with skill and dedication. Notably, Michele and Mary-Ellen were stalwarts during the organization's pivotal evolution from the USET — an organization responsible for fielding international equestrian teams — to the USET Foundation, a fundraising organization and the philanthropic partner of US Equestrian (USEF). Michele, Mary-Ellen, and Clif have each made valuable contributions, leaving behind unique legacies.



Michele Cotter

When did you start working at the USET Foundation, and how did your role evolve?

★ I started working at the USET in 1984 as a receptionist. I answered an ad in the newspaper and was offered the job. I was thrilled because I had been to the USET for events and was in awe of the building and what it represented. Even after 40 years, I still feel that when I walk through the stable.

Over the years, I held the roles of Membership Coordinator and Associate Director of Annual Support before landing in my most recent position as Director of Annual Support.

What has been your favorite part about working at the USET Foundation?

I have loved being involved in a sport so close to my heart. Athletes I had read about or watched, like Bertalan "Bert" de Némethy, would ride at the Gladstone facility. For someone in the equestrian world, it was like meeting Hollywood stars! Over the years, I've grown to truly value the mission of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and I have loved supporting our athletes' journeys to the Games and many other major international competitions. I think my favorite part is the lifelong friends I've made. The people I've worked with over the years have seen me through many highs and lows; they are my second family, which is unique and special.

Do you have any fond or funny memories to share?

There are too many to share, but my fondest memory is the day I met my husband, Clif. He was managing the construction of the Hamilton Farm Golf Club, which sits on the same property as our facility. I was introduced to him, and the rest, as they say, is history! We've been together for 25 years and have a beautiful daughter who graduated from Sacred Heart University this spring. You really can't top that!

How would you describe Hamilton Farm in Gladstone to someone who hasn't visited?

I would start by describing the magnificent main stable: the tiled, vaulted ceilings, the 54 stalls with brass fittings, the brick floors, the trophy room with its display cases, Tiffany-style skylights, and a glass floor open to the rotunda below. That's the easy part. The difficult part is conveying the feeling you get when you walk through the door. It happens when you think of the human and horse athletes that have passed through and stayed in these stalls. I swear, if it is quiet, you can hear the hoofbeats.

If you have never visited Gladstone, plan a trip. Come when there is an event and the facility comes alive. You can plan ahead by looking at the schedule of events on USET.org. You will love it!

Mary-Ellen Milesnick

When did you start working at the USET Foundation, and how did your role evolve?

★ I began working at the USET in 1990 as the assistant to Pat Tone, who oversaw corporate sponsorship. After that, I supported other directors, including Bob Standish, Sally Ike, and Jim Wolf. Over time, I became the equestrian liaison for the then-USOC. After I had my third child, I worked part-time for three years. I came back full-time in 2001 and worked as Bonnie Jenkins' assistant. After the USET became the USET Foundation, the philanthropic partner of USEF, I worked for USEF for a year before moving back to the USET Foundation as the Database Manager, a position I have held for 21 years.

What has been your favorite thing about working at the USET Foundation?

My favorite part is that my job involves horses. I've ridden most of my life. I did the equitation, hunters, and jumpers for 16 years, galloped horses at the track for six years, and fox hunted for three years. I've known most of my colleagues for 35 years, so they've become my second family. I somehow feel that this organization chooses us to work here. Everyone fits in here perfectly.

Do you have any fond or funny memories to share?

Most of my memories are of the milestones shared by the staff, such as marriages and children. We've watched each other's children grow up, many of whom now have children of their own. I don't think there are many work environments like ours. We truly are family.

How would you describe Hamilton Farm to someone who hasn't visited?

Hamilton Farm is an equestrian landmark. I remember coming to the USET facility when I was in high school in the 1970s and watching riders train with Bert de Némethy — I even rode in one of Bert's clinics when I was competing in the equitation. You can feel the history of Hamilton Farm when you walk into the rotunda of the stable building, and you can envision all the amazing riders and horses that have walked through here. Although I can't wait to retire, I will sorely miss this place. I'll be visiting often!

Clif Cotter

When did you start working at the USET Foundation, and how did your role evolve?

★ I worked for a construction management company in Connecticut and was sent to New Jersey as a project manager and superintendent overseeing the build of the Hamilton Golf Club complex. The USET Foundation's roads, trails, and fields intertwine with the Hamilton Farm Golf Club property, so after the golf course was complete, I was hired for a USET Foundation project. That was in 2005, and it was the start of my 20 years at the USET Foundation.

As Director of Facilities, I fixed "whatever needs attention!" Over the past 20 years, we have significantly updated



Clif Cotter, Mary-Ellen Milesnick, and Michele Cotter

the main stable, built in 1913, along with other buildings and the grounds. My goal has been to help preserve and maintain the USET Foundation building for another 100 years.

What has been your favorite part about working at the USET Foundation?

My favorite part about working for the USET Foundation is the people. From the athletes and guests walking through the archway of our main stable for the first time, to the returning smiles of riders from years past, the excitement is palpable. I have also worked with amazing people who are committed to preserving this historic property, just like I am. But, most importantly, the USET Foundation is where I met my beautiful wife, Michele.

Do you have any fond or funny memories to share?

Among the many great memories, the one that makes me chuckle when I think of it is this: One day, I was planting flowers at the back entrance to the main stable ahead of a dressage final. Former facilities manager Patrick Lynch walked by and said in his welcoming yet grumpy voice, "What are you doing? Trying to make this place look like Disneyland?" I just laughed and carried on. That project was actually the beginning of a major irrigation and planting plan around the main stable.

How would you describe Hamilton Farm to someone who hasn't visited?

It's a magical place for horse people and should become a museum one day! 🐾



USET Foundation News

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