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Dedication of Austin E. Knowlton Center

On September 22, 2012 Otterbein University celebrated the dedication of the Austin E. Knowlton Center for Equine Science. The $1.5 million gift from the Knowlton Foundation secured the naming rights of the facility. It has been placed into an endowment for the support and maintenance of the Knowlton Center and its programs.

Mr. Knowlton died in 2003 but he knew of our program from his assistant, Betty Campbell. We credit her for getting the ball rolling, as she made the connection between his love of horses and Otterbein’s equine program. Mr. Knowlton owned and operated a successful construction business that was responsible for hundreds of educational buildings in Ohio. His passion for horses was best displayed at Emerald Farms, where he raised American Saddlebreds and Thoroughbred race horses. Through the gift of the Knowlton Foundation and the effort of our Institutional Advancement Department here at Otterbein, our equine program will continue to thrive.

The ceremony was a very special occasion for everyone. Stable assistants, student workers and equestrian team members cleaned the arena and barn for our special guests from the Knowlton Foundation. Equestrian team members put on wonderful jumping and dressage demonstrations in the indoor arena. Riders included seniors Gabby Angelico, Jillian Blades, Annie Hankins; juniors Kelsie Bricker, Julia Spatt, Jane Sarosy; sophomore Sarah Choate; and Alum Mary Evert. The horse “stars” of the day were Otterbein’s Jerry, Rico, Pedro, Ace, Mason, Shannon and Lenny.

Chairperson Sheri Birmingham. D.V.M, herself an Otterbein alum, and Senior Savannah Byrne did a wonderful job speaking at the ceremony, despite the high winds and dropping temperatures! During dinner, held at the Medallion Club in Westerville, we were entertained by students from the Otterbein Music Department and a heart-felt speech by Senior Jackie Moog. Everyone enjoyed meeting the trustees of the Knowlton Foundation and getting to know Betty Campbell. “Thank you” only begins to describe how appreciative we are for this generous gift. We will keep showing it in the way we love and care for our horses, facility and students.
Winds of Change

This past year has ushered in some significant changes at the Knowlton Center. Not only did we receive a name for our center, but we restructured the staff to establish a new management team. As the new Chair of the department, Dr. Sheri Birmingham works closely with the new Manager, Emma Heald, and Business Manager, Kari Briggs.

Emma, a 2011 graduate of the Equine Veterinary Technology program will soon be licensed as a Registered Veterinary Technician in the State of Ohio. She is a perfect fit as she had just completed a yearlong internship with us. Although she misses her family in New Hampshire, we are glad she is an official Ohioan now. She continues to bring her young horse Lucy along, and hopes to compete her more in the summer.

Kari ’03 completed her MBA from Otterbein in the winter of 2011. As the new Business Manager, she is looking to extend our connections in the equine industry through clinics, horse shows and vendor partnerships. She continues to teach lessons and coach the Intercollegiate Dressage Association team. Her competition goals for 2013 include competing her horse, Buddy, at the intermediate level of eventing.

Kari is also mentoring our new riding instructor Tenley Struhs, a 2012 graduate of the Equine Business Management program. We are thrilled to have her back in the arena. With her professional attitude and intuitive nature, she has settled right into the position and has had great success coaching the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association team. Tenley will also be running the summer camp programs with the seasoned professionals, Bela, Patch and Moose.

Rob Burk Otterbein Alum is Honored

A special award was given to J. Robert Burk ’00 on September 21, 2012. He received the Young Alumni award for Leadership and Citizenship. The award is given in recognition to graduates 40 and younger whose contributions exemplify one more of Otterbein’s Five Cardinal Experiences: Community Engagement, Global and Intercultural Engagement, Professional Achievement, Leadership and citizenship, and Research or Creative Achievement.

Rob earned his Master’s degree in Animal and Poultry Sciences at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA, in 2005, and his bachelor’s degree in Pre-veterinary/Pre-graduate Studies in Equine Science in 2000. He currently serves as a senior advisor to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture in the Research, Education and Economics (REE) Mission Area based in Washington DC. For many reasons, Rob was selected for this prestigious award and celebrated at Otterbein with his wife, Dr. Amy Ordakowski Burk, and close friends.

Students Learn Bandaging

These are some of the students in the Standard and Medical Bandaging practicum with Otterbein University horse Patch. The multi-layered Robert-Jones bandage with splints is used on the horse with a lower limb fracture, before there is any attempt to move him. This type of stabilization helps minimize soft tissue and further bone damage, as well as easing the anxiety of the horse, so he can be safely shipped to a surgical facility.
Internship Incorporates Double Major

Lindsay Paulsen, a junior, double major in Equine Business Management and Journalism, is on the equestrian team (IDA and Eventing) and boards her horse, Kat, here throughout the school year. She is the news Editor for Otterbein’s Tan and Cardinal Newspaper and is always taking pictures at our horse shows, capturing memories to share with her team. In the summer of 2012, she went to Maryland to intern with the magazine *Dressage Today*. Below are excerpts from her letter to us at the end of the summer.

“This opportunity to intern for *Dressage Today* has been surreal on a number of levels. For starters, the fact that I have my own desk, complete with a super trendy (but more importantly, functional) Mac computer and a phone with my own extension number makes me feel like I’ve reached a new level of legitimacy. Of course, I’m a long way from reaching Carrie Bradshaw status, but I am thrilled to be stepping outside of the realm of high school and university newspapers.”

“Although the idea of working for *Dressage Today* has seemed a little unreal up until this point, I can’t help but laugh at the fact that I already feel quite at home here, 611 miles away from my actual home in Savannah, GA. I’ll attribute this to the fact that I’m not only surrounded by fellow equestrians, but due to my experience with the Tan and Cardinal Newspaper, I feel like I’m in familiar territory. Everyone seems to speak the same language here, as a blend of equine and journalism terms are the staples of the vocabulary!”

“Another exciting aspect of this internship in Maryland is that I’ve had the opportunity to take advantage of being stationed in prime equestrian country. My advisor and professor Bruce Mandeville helped to connect me with a great trainer in the area, so that I can refine my riding skills, as well as my writing skills while I am here!”

We’ve Foaled!

It is so exciting to have not one, but TWO new babies in the department! We all enjoy Lyla and Claire when they come to visit because having the “foals” around is a sure sign of renewal and growth. I know we will have horsey adventures to share each year, especially from Claire who has been to no less than 3 horse shows already!

**Lyla Ann Birmingham** was born on December 7, 2011 to Sheri and Brad Birmingham. She is almost walking now but is still at a sweet little baby stage! She loves to play on the computer keyboard and eat her “puffs”. Lyla is a true beauty and just as well-dressed as her mom!

**Claire Kathryn Briggs** was born on May 13, 2012 to Kari and Aaron Briggs. She just turned 6 months and is nearly crawling, so look out! She loves to walk cross-county courses and sleep in her fancy camper at horse shows. In the picture with her are her “big brothers” Sam and Otto.
Alison Vossmore Studies in New Zealand over Summer

This summer I traveled to New Zealand and Australia with the School for Field Studies. This trip was an experience of a lifetime! We studied natural resource management and ecology during our trip. Part of our studies included contrasting the differences between the countries by their conservation policies, community knowledge and engagement. While in New Zealand we stayed with a Maori family. We were able to learn about their culture and traditions while also learning how they are still struggling with the government to get equal rights and representation. In Australia we were welcomed into country by an Aboriginal family. This experience emphasized their struggles to gain equal rights in Australia, while also allowing us to learn about their culture, traditions and the lost generation.

For field lectures we traveled through parks, restoration plots and the rainforest corridors, where we would learn about endemic species, conservation policies and conservation methods. To conduct population surveys we would spotlight for fauna in different forest ages and types. We also conducted morning songbird surveys to listen and spot native birds.

Alison is an Otterbein senior working toward both an Equine Pre-veterinary degree and a Life Science Ecology degree. She is also studying “Garlic Mustard’s Allelopathic Effect on Native Woody Species Seedling Germination” with Dr. Jeffrey Lehman.

PBJ Connections at Otterbein

PBJ Connections continues to grow and our partnership with them is as strong as ever. They have provided Otterbein students with internship experiences over the years and has become a mainstay in the Westerville community. For more information or volunteer opportunities with PBJ Connections, visit their website www.pbjconnections.org or email Holly Jedlicka holly@pbjconnections.org
Meet Our Horses

The Stable Assistants at Otterbein University handed out their superlative awards to the “senior class” of school horses! Read about our talented and charismatic friends as their horse-alties are anthropomorphized into silly (but accurate?) accounts.

Abe – best dressed
Ace – best smile
Bela – Miss Congeniality
Calli – biggest flirt
Cisco – lady’s man
Darby – most likely to travel
Eve – most temperamental
Glenn – clumsiest
Jackers – most likely to keep a secret
Jag – the boy next door
Jerry – best athlete
Kermit – class clown
Lee – most photogenic
Lenny – life of the party
Lilly – Drama Queen II
Magnum – the most paranoid
Mason – most likely to be in fortune 500
Miss Kitty – most likely to live with their parents
Monty – most likely to be in summer school
Moose – best eyes
Annie – biggest tattoo
Oz – most independent
Patch – has the most school spirit
Pedro – best dancer
Pete – most likely to be a politician
Regal – best hair
Rico – most talented
Rocky – most likely to rule the world
Shannon – Drama Queen I
Socks – pickiest eater
Ted – Most Popular
Trip – teacher’s pet
Vegas – most likely to be in GQ magazine
Wyatt – Mr. Nice Guy
Equestrian Team News

In September 2011, the Otterbein Center for Equine Studies played host to the Tournament of Champions Pre-Season Classic, a show managed by Jim Arrigon from Beck- ett Run, Inc. Eighteen teams from Wisconsin to Virginia participated in a fun and competitive hunt seat show that resulted in a 5th and 6th place for the Otterbein teams and a solid 5th place in the Medal Class for freshman, Madi Rohl. This year we will host the Tournament of Champions Holiday Classic on December 8, 2012. GO TEAM!

2012/2013 Equestrian Team
Officers: Presidents – Jackie Moog (hunt seat) and Gabby Angelico (dressage)
Vice Presidents – Anna Beckman (hunt seat) and Savannah Byrne (dressage)
Secretary – Anna Beckman (hunt seat, dressage and eventing)


Coaches
Kari Briggs, Eventing and Dressage
Tenley Struhs – Hunt Seat

Adjunct Instructors and Co-Coaches
Krystin Schmid – Dressage
Lindsay Yinger – Hunt Seat

Cardy and Patch

Dressage at Otterbein 2012

Winona Horse Trials May 12, 2012

Hunt Seat Fall 2012