A Message from the Director

As a graduate of Otterbein, I am often asked by students to describe my undergraduate experience in the equine department and how my professional role at the college has evolved over the years.

I first visited Otterbein back in the mid 1980’s. I was impressed by the warm, friendly atmosphere on campus, and by the genuine, caring attitude displayed by the faculty and staff. That first fateful day I met with Professor Larry Cox and Dean JoAnne VanSant. That was when I knew Otterbein was the right choice for me. After a wild ride to the stables with Equine Chairperson Betty Kennedy (driving her bright red sports car a little faster than the average race car) and a formal introduction to the striking and slightly intimidating Equestrian Team coach A. Joanne Coyle, I signed on the dotted line and never looked back. While attending Otterbein, the equestrian team became my life. Upon graduation and a short stint teaching at Otterbein Stables, I married and moved away. Eight years later I was back at my alma mater teaching and coaching full time. I was thrilled to be a part of the College and the team that I loved so much. Sixteen years later, I am still happy being here.

This year saw many changes at Otterbein. Our College became a University, we welcomed a new president and two new vice presidents, and the equine department settled in at the new Center of Equine Studies. Through all the changes, I am happy to report that the warmth and compassion I encountered from the faculty and administration are still here and as strong as ever. What I hear from professors and administrators is their shared desire to make our students’ experience positive, fun, and transformative. At Otterbein, students are encouraged to discover their strengths and tackle challenges from the world around them.

This year, Otterbein introduced the five cardinal experiences http://www.otterbein.edu/5cardinalexperiences/, another development to help students become “engaged members of our global society”. These include: Community Engagement, Internships and Professional Experience, Leadership and Citizenship, Undergraduate Research and Creative Work, Global Engagement and Intercultural Experiences.

Are we heading down the right path? I certainly think so.

As my life has evolved at Otterbein, my goals are still driven by the students, and of course the horses. After 15 years of teaching, I relinquished my responsibilities in the arena and with the equestrian team and became the full time director and manager of the Center. I have become more involved with the Otterbein community at large and have enjoyed re-acquainting myself with faculty and staff, sitting on committees, working closely with marketing, advancement, and admission, and looking at the Otterbein beyond the fences of the Equine Center. I have learned a great deal about the budget, the vision, and the role of the University. I have enjoyed working with the Westerville community in endeavors ranging from local group tours, to mentoring, and new program development. The Equine Center is proud to be hosting a second winter of job training opportunities for Westerville City School students with disabilities, and we continue our partnership with PBJ Connections, a program that provides emotional healing for at-risk youth and families through equine-assisted activities.

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Message from the Director

Although time once spent in a saddle has been replaced with sitting at a desk, and time with students in lessons is now replaced with time in meetings, the horses are still a primary daily concern. Even if it is just a quick walk through the barn to check on them in the morning, their well being is still a huge part of why I do what I do. Passion is the only word to describe my need to spend time with my equine teachers and companions. Our students share that lifetime’s passion and are here to earn the right to be a part of this wonderful equine world.

We now have over 110 equine majors and minors, and this year’s freshman class set a new mark with 42 incoming students. Our magnificent new facility is bursting at the seams with ten horses on the waiting list to board, and there are not enough hours in the day to fit in all the lessons. We have been favored with such a constant stream of potential horse donations that we have had to turn away many more animals than we have been able to accept. In view of the challenging economic climate, I feel fortunate to be faced with the luxury of these “difficulties”.

So, where are we heading at the Otterbein Center for Equine Studies? I am pleased to report that while we are growing, we are nevertheless staying close to our roots and continue to fulfill our primary goals of mentoring our students and caring for our horses. And just like every university program out there, we will continue to require more financial support, lots of volunteers, and a bit of luck. I am blessed to be able to work with exceptional faculty, staff, students, and of course, our horses. I am confident that our students are receiving a quality education and our horses are enjoying an enviable quality of life. Though I do miss the “old days” of teaching, I have learned that there is life beyond the barn. Otterbein’s unique qualities will remain through thick and thin, so long as the success of our students remains our guiding purpose. Realistically there will never be enough time (or money) to accomplish all we set out to do, but if we continue to focus on our concern for our students and our horses, lead by example, and maintain our values, we will have done our job.

Happy Holidays!!
Lucy H. Cryan

In Memory

This year Otterbein lost a beloved and talented schoolmaster, ‘Buzz Lightyear’. Buzz arrived at Otterbein in 2003 and was a hit from day one. Though he was no longer going to be able to jump, Buzz came to us with an advanced level background in Eventing. His exceptional dressage work and clever attitude made him a challenge and a treat to ride. I remember a student making a snide remark about Buzz because he wouldn’t canter when she asked. I am sure Buzz was snickering to himself when I informed her that he knew far more than she did. Of course the minute I got on we cantered off with the greatest of ease! Buzz is attributed with advancing the education of many talented dressage riders. One rider in particular made an unbeatable team with Buzz in the show ring. Buzz and Greg Schmid were mesmerizing to watch and the judges always appreciated the ride by awarding the pair blue ribbons. In 2009 Buzz colicked and underwent surgery. We were fortunate to have another wonderful year with him, but regrettably lost him November 28th after another tragic case of colic. He will be deeply missed by students, staff, and faculty.
Employee Spotlight

Otterbein Graduate Returns as Employee
Reneé Buchele ’10

After graduating from Otterbein with an Equine Business degree in June 2010, I rejoined Otterbein in August 2010 as part of the crew at the Equine Center. It wasn’t difficult to start work at the barn – to be honest, I was saddened by the thought of leaving the barn after graduation – all the horses, the academic environment, the professors. But there is a very big difference in being a student and being an employee. As a student, I just came and went as I needed; I was in the barn for a few classes and riding lessons, completely unaware of how the stalls stayed clean or who even fed the horses. Every once in a while, I’d be in the barn to see some of the employees but I really had no clue what their job entailed. What went on in the barn on a daily basis was kind of a mystery to me; I just had a small snapshot from seeing what went on while I was in a lesson or a lab.

As I student, I was concerned with making sure my horse was cooled down after a lesson, or that my project horse was well-groomed. But what I’ve noticed about myself as an employee is that the horse’s care is priority and I’m much more concerned about the horse’s daily health. I am not saying that I wasn’t before, but I had the mindset that someone else would take care of this horse’s injury or that he gets his dinner after I left the barn. Now, I’m that “someone”. I’m the one responsible for making sure this horse gets his proper supplements, and this horse gets its legs wrapped, and checking for injuries, lameness, or sickness.

The appreciation I have for the barn employees has really grown, particularly for those who were employees while I was a student. If it weren’t for the staff at the barn and their round-the-clock care for the horses, I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to learn from our lovable 4-legged professors in lessons and in the numerous classes they taught. And even though the job requires me to be up before the sun, I feel good giving back to the horses who have taught me so much, while ensuring that other students have the opportunity to learn from them as well.

Otterbein University Welcomes New Riding Instructor, Riyad Gandhy

Riyad Gandhy graduated from Otterbein College in 2000 with an Equine Management major. He then spent 3 years as an assistant trainer riding under the tutelage of Jim Graham, a top U.S. rider/coach, and selector for the U.S. Olympic Team. Never having owned his own horse, Riyad gained valuable experience training and competing several horses in dressage, eventing and showjumping. Riyad went on to serve as the head trainer at farms in Kentucky and Maryland. Besides helping clients train their show horses, Riyad has had years of experience helping owners and trainers from several disciplines (polo, racing, dressage and others) deal with behavioral issues with their horses, both in the U.S. and overseas. He has also worked closely with several top equine professionals in the area of complementary/alternative health and equine therapies. In January 2010, Riyad returned to Otterbein as a riding instructor. Besides teaching lessons and coaching the hunt seat team, Riyad plans to develop courses in Equine Behavior and Equine Wellness.

Alumni Update

Heather Holl ’09 recently published a 3 page article on a case study she had early on in the year - a spotted Thoroughbred colt from two solid parents. She will also be presenting some work on second generation sequencing in Appaloosa horses at the Plant and Animal Genomics Conference coming up, and there are a few other publications in the works. Heather is a graduate student at Cornell University studying Animal Breeding and Genetics.
Fond Farewells

Retirements

After many years at Otterbein, Voodoo (Turbulence) has been retired and will be living out his final years being spoiled by his adoptive owner Carol Norris. At 22 years young, Voodoo was developing arthritis and suffering from Insulin Resistance (IR). IR is a condition where cells do not respond to insulin, the hormone primarily responsible for transporting glucose into the cells. It is sometimes referred to as “Equine Metabolic Syndrome” “Pre-Cushings” or “Cushingoid”. In this volatile economic climate, Voodoo is certainly one of the lucky ones, finding a forever owner to care for him. Voodoo had a retirement ceremony during the IHSA Zone competition spring 2009. The judge, Skip Thornbury, had found Voodoo many years prior for client (and donor) Courtney Cummings. The ceremony brought tears to the eyes of many spectators since Voodoo was a regular at many IHSA competitions in Zone 6 Region 3. Voodoo’s cantankerous attitude was matched by his skill and grace in the show ring. He was always a popular draw for the over-fences divisions, winning many classes for riders from across the country. Although Voodoo will be missed by Otterbein students and staff, he has settled nicely into his new home with his best friend, the pinto pony named ‘Leo’.

Vinny (Envy) has retired and is living with a radiologist in Powell, Ohio. Also retired to live with students and grads: Fresco, Starbucks, LaBamba.

Sabbatical Report

I had a wonderful sabbatical experience this past Fall Quarter, visiting 3 different equine or partly equine veterinary practices. My first visit was at the Ohio State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, where I went on rounds, and was able to observe upper airway endoscopy on the treadmill, a CT scan, and a variety of surgical and medical cases being worked up and treated. Woodland Run Equine Veterinary Facility was my second host practice. This fast-paced and well-managed practice provided me several opportunities to observe arthroscopic and upper airway surgeries and lameness evaluations. The OSU Large Animal Services in Marysville, Ohio provided me the ambulatory experiences of the sabbatical. Here, in addition to observing several equine surgeries, such as a check ligament desmotomy, I was exposed to some food animal adventures, such as an expertly performed standing c-section in a cow. A big thanks to all three veterinary hospitals for my experiences. Happy Holidays to all! Maria S. Calderone, DVM
Holiday Cheer

’Twas the night before Christmas when all through the barn,  
the horses were stirring and marching around.  
The hay was all bundled and swept up with care,  
in hopes that some goodies soon would be there.  
**Abe** was restless and nickered out loud,  
So **Bela** jumped up in a sawdusty cloud.  
**Glenn** in his Rambo and **Jag** in his Dover,  
pranced all around and crushed up their clover.  
When out in the field there arose such a clatter,  
**Cisco** looked out to see what was the matter.  
Away from the window he spun in a flash,  
while **Jackers** slammed his buckets and made quite a splash.  
Alas **Jerry** admired the new-fallen snow,  
And **Kenny** snorted at the luster below.  
When, what to **Jet’s** wondering eyes should appear,  
but a beautiful sleigh and eight horses not deer.  
With a handsome skilled driver that smelled of fresh spruce,  
they new right away that it must be Chair **Bruce**!  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
he whistled and shouted and called them by name;  
"Now **Devon** now **Magnum** now **Rudy** and **Trip,**  
on **Mason** on **Kitty** on **Monty** and **Kermit!**  
To the back of the ring and the snow covered wall,  
“dash away, dash away, dash away all!”  
So up to the barn the horses they flew,  
with a sleigh full of tack and Bruce Mandeville too.

And then in a twinkling, **Poppy** heard far away,  
Dr. s Birmingham and Calderone in the vet bay.  
As **Rocky** looked back swinging his big head around,  
Riyad and Kari snuck in with no sound.  
They were bundled up from their heads to their feet,  
bringing in treats they bought out on the street.  
A bunch of orange carrots and peppermints too,  
the doctors brought alfalfa and more yummy food.  
A bundle of tack Lucy had flung on her back,  
she looked like a peddler just opening her sack.  
The saddles and bridles how merry!  
Halters and blankets the color of cherry!  
**Moose**’s velvety muzzle was drawn up like a bow,  
And **Oz**’s coat was sparkling as white as the snow.  
The edge of the bucket **Pedro** held in his teeth,  
The mist of the night circled his head like a wreath.  
**Wyatt**’s broad handsome face and **Shorty**’s little round belly,  
excitedly shook while we all said "whoa Nelly!"  
**Ted** was tired and happy and stared down the aisle,  
as **Vegas** and **Trip** walked in, single file.  
**Socks** helped the staff pass out treats and new tack,  
While **Rudy** enjoyed a massage on his back.  
What a special night for the horses and staff at the ‘bein,  
a hopeful year ahead, what a good sign.  
With Buzz, Watson, and Hattie, the stars shining bright,  
Happy Holidays to all and to all a good night.
Equestrian Team News

Otterbein Equestrian Team Fall 2010 Season Highlights

The start of our IHSA show season was filled with anticipation as we competed for the first time in a new region. Our first two day show was held at Miami University, October 23 and 24. The first day of competition we came in second with 32 points placing two points behind Ohio University. Rebecca Gross (senior) received Reserve High Point rider with 14 points. The second day of competition we also received the reserve ribbon with an impressive 40 points. Our next two day show was hosted by The Ohio State University on November 20 and 21. The shows were a bit crazy, but we managed a second place finish both days behind Miami University. The highlight of the two day show was Julia Spatt (freshman) receiving the High Point Rider award with 12 points.

Our season has been full of excitement and luck. We have had four riders point up and qualify for the Regional Championship Horse Show. Those people are: Jacqueline Farrell (sophomore) in Advanced walk trot canter, Jillian Blades (sophomore) pointed in Novice Flat, Annie Garrett (junior) in Intermediate Flat, and Rebecca Gross (senior) in Intermediate Flat. We can’t wait for our next horse show at Ohio University February 12 and 13 and we invite everybody to come and watch. If you can’t make it to Ohio University just wait two weeks and come watch us compete at the Otterbein Center for Equine Studies February 26 and 27.

The Otterbein Dressage team is off to another great year. The show season started out at the Otterbein Equine Center on November 6th & 7th. The team did a tremendous job in both hosting a great show and putting up some very strong placings. Saturday the riders finished the show as the Reserve Champion team and then followed this up on Sunday with a Team Championship. This is a wonderful accomplishment for the team and a great way to start the show season. Annie Garrett, Colleen Grant and Iris Morrison each won their respective divisions throughout the weekend. Iris Morrison, a freshman, also had the honor of winning high percentage rider on Sunday.

After just one short week the team then headed up to the University of Findlay for a show on November 13th. As always, Findlay hosted a wonderful show and we had the awesome experience of riding outside in the middle of November. The dressage team finished the weekend with another Reserve Championship. Sophomore, Anna Beckman, won the introductory division and helped secure a top team placing.

The winter months will allow for the team to continue preparing for several upcoming shows. They will also have the opportunity to help host and participate in a dressage clinic taught by Elizabeth Madlener. Elizabeth is a well known horsewoman throughout North America and Europe and holds her USEF “S” judge’s license.

The team is very dedicated and continues to work toward their yearend goal, IDA Nationals. This year national’s hold the added bonus of a little bit of Florida sunshine. No matter how the year finishes the team can be proud of their riding, sportsmanship and team spirit. Great job team!

IHSA Winter/Spring Schedule, 2011:
- IHSA Horse Show
  Ohio University
  Saturday, February 12 at 8:00 A.M.
- IHSA Horse Show
  Ohio University
  Sunday, February 13 at 9:00 A.M.
- IHSA Horse Show
  Otterbein University
  Saturday, February 26 at 9:00 A.M.
- IHSA Horse Show
  Otterbein University
  Sunday, February 27 at 9:00 A.M.
- IHSA Regional Championship Horse Show
  Ohio University
  Sunday, March 13 at 1:00 P.M.
- IHSA Zone Championship Horse Show
  Otterbein University
  Saturday, April 9 at 9:00 A.M.

IDA Winter/Spring Schedule, 2011:
- IDA Horse Show
  University of Findlay
  Saturday, February 12
- IDA Nationals Horse Show
  April 30—May 1 at Canterbury Equestrian Showplace, hosted by University of Florida

Dressage team with our favorite school horse, “Buzz.” We will always appreciate what he taught us. Thank you Buzz. We miss you.