Otterbein Equine Update

Otterbein to Build New Equine Facility

The Otterbein College Board of Trustees approved at its May 2006 meeting a plan to build a new facility for its Equine Science program on the former Kilgore Farms property in Westerville. Construction for the nearly $4 million project, to be funded totally through private donations, is slated to commence in spring of 2007 with occupancy occurring sometime during the 2007-08 academic year. The success of the project will depend upon securing the necessary funds to build the facility and approval for the use of the property by the City of Westerville. The facility is intended to replace the buildings and pastures leased for the past 25 years about 5 miles north of Westerville. The new equine center will be approximately 2 miles from campus on 111 acres of farmland owned by the College since 1962.

The new center will allow for a doubling of the enrollment over the next 10 years from 75 to 150 students, and provide up to 50 stalls from the current 25. A large indoor arena, classrooms, laboratory, offices, reception area, outbuildings and a small residence for caretakers will be included in the design. Currently, the College is working with the City of Westerville on the rezoning of the property and all the development plans. Fundraising for the project has commenced and is expected to take approximately one year.

For more information, contact Lucy Cryan at: lcryan@otterbein.edu

Instructor Spotlight: Kari Briggs

Kari (Mulherin) Briggs, another Otterbein graduate (2001) is in her fifth year as a member of the Otterbein Equine Science Department. As the Assistant Director of Equestrian studies her duties include teaching lessons, coaching the dressage and event teams, and teaching some of the equine labs. Kari stays busy throughout the year traveling to intercollegiate horse shows and competing her own horses in the sport of Eventing.

Her past achievements include riding at the Advanced level with her horse, Truman, and completing the prestigious Radnor Hunt CCI** twice. After her strong competition record throughout the 2004 show season, she was named to the USET’s eventing long list for future international competitions. Kari is also a graduate ‘A’ Pony Clubber and has ridden and competed extensively on the A rated hunter/jumper circuit.

Kari continues to enjoy learning and improving on her own riding and has had the opportunity to clinic with some of the best riders in the world, including: Captain Mark Phillips, Greg Best and Ian Stark. Currently, Kari is working on bringing along some young horses that will begin competition in the spring.

In Memory of Betty F. Kennedy (1919-2006)

Betty F. Kennedy, founder of the Otterbein College Equine Science program and extraordinary horseperson, passed away at age 87 on November 7, 2006. Mrs. Kennedy, an Equine Science Instructor from the late 1970’s until 1985, is survived by her 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. All that knew her remember her energy and enthusiasm associated with Otterbein and the Equine program. The Department of Equine Science acknowledges Mrs. Kennedy at the annual Academic Honors Convocation, awarding the Betty F. Kennedy Award for Academic Excellence to an outstanding graduating senior who has demonstrated academic excellence, service to the department, and service to the college.
Otterbein Welcomes Back Holly Jedlicka and Introduces PBJ Connections

The Otterbein College Equine Science Department will be welcoming PBJ Connections and Otterbein alumna Holly (Baker) Jedlicka (1997) into their facility this summer. PBJ Connections is a non-profit organization that provides emotional healing for at-risk youth and families through an awareness of nature and self, using equine-based experiential learning. A licensed therapist will partner with a certified equine professional as well as several Otterbein horses to provide brief therapy in a group setting.

PBJ Connections is excited to have the opportunity to operate in conjunction with Otterbein College to offer this alternative therapy for youth in the Westerville area. Four groups will be offered this summer, including two groups for middle school age youth and two for high school age youth. The groups will run for one and a half hours one time per week for eight weeks. Clients will be working during group sessions to improve social skills, work on self-esteem issues, and learn to utilize anger management techniques.

PBJ Connections will be offering this service on a sliding pay scale. Donations will be welcome to help support the cost of this innovative new program. If you know of a youth in need of alternative therapeutic services or would like to support this program, please contact Holly Jedlicka, Program Director, PBJ Connections: (614) 395-1395.

Protecting Mustangs from Overpopulation

Over the years, wild horses and burros, collectively referred to as mustangs and seen by many as an American icon, have struggled to survive in their rangelands. Responding to often cruel capture methods, such as using airplanes to chase down horses destined for slaughter, Nevada born Velma "Wild Horse Annie" Johnston started a crusade that ultimately led to the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. The Act both prohibited the use of motorized vehicles to hunt mustangs on public lands and provided venues for protecting, managing, and controlling these wild herds by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), established in 1946 to manage public lands.

As the now protected herds grew in size, competition for grazing land and water during dry months by livestock with mustangs, often resulted in mustangs either being killed or stolen by frustrated ranchers. Despite threats of fines and arrest, enforcement was and continues to be difficult due to the vast range size - malicious acts are often only discovered when horses are found dead during census studies.

The BLM has the authority to demand action to control excess animals via removal, sterilization, and monitoring natural controls on populations, if numbers are high enough to put environmental stability at risk. The 1971 Act gave the BLM permission to promote horse adoption and to humanely destroy old, sick, or excess animals not demanded by the public. One amendment allows sales to the highest bidder of excess animals over age 10, or those remaining unadopted for at least 3 times, thus defeating the original intent to protect mustangs and again allowing animals to go to slaughter. A bill to restore prohibition on commercial sale and slaughter has yet to be approved.

The BLM is permitted under federal regulations to gather mustangs using helicopters, considered humane and minimally stressful. The horses and burros are taken to a holding facility, inspected, and either released or sent to an adoption facility. The adoption policy has helped somewhat to control population, but it has been woefully inadequate, and there are currently about 31,000 horses and burros on BLM-managed rangelands in 10 Western states. To control herd size, which can double every 4 years, thousands of animals must be removed every year. Today, approximately 28,000 wild horses and burros have been captured and are maintained at short and longterm BLM supervised holding areas.

Recently, fertility control practices have been implemented, either via costly, time-consuming sterilization, or more effectively with the use of the porcine zona pellucida (PZP) vaccine, which is inexpensive, at least 90% effective, and can be given using a dart gun. Furthermore, it has no debilitating side effects on the health of the horse, and will eventually wear off. Finally, it is safe in pregnant mares and doesn’t affect social behavior.

As predation combined with PZP resulted in negative herd growth, treatments have been reduced to allow the population to recover and to reconsider effects of predation. Use of PZP may help to reduce the number of herd gathers in the future and lessen the burden on BLM holding facilities. Finally, PZP is allowing the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act to be executed to its fullest extent and follows its most basic principles, including managing the herds as self-sustaining populations in balance with the productive capacity of their habitat.

Kirsten Swenson, Equine Health Technology and Equine Facility Management major (2007)

Ruffian (1989-2006)

Ruffian was put to sleep on December 4th, 2006 due to kidney failure. After a long and illustrious career as an Otterbein Barn Cat, she was a wonderful part of the crew for many years. Ruffian will be fondly remembered, and she will be reunited with her old pal Bart!
This time last year I was preparing myself for a life changing opportunity that had become a reality. It had always been a goal of mine at Otterbein to travel abroad at some point in my studies and take part in an internship/work study program. Since I was an Equine Science Pre-Veterinary Medicine Major I had been looking into several different options in England. They ranged from laboratory research to interning at various equine hospitals in the country. With the help of my professors, advisors, and family our perseverance paid off, and I was asked to be a working student at Rossdale’s and Associates Equine hospital.

The equine hospital is located in the small town of Newmarket - yes that’s where the Newmarket rug originated - approximately one and a half hours northeast of London via train. The facility focuses primarily on Thoroughbred racehorses, but also deals with many referrals from local veterinarians in the area due to the current technological advances that the hospital has acquired and uses as common practice for both surgery and evaluation.

Throughout my stay in Newmarket, my area of work broadened and constantly diversified. Each day posed new problems and techniques that I had either read or learned about in class or was an altogether new topic. I found myself asking the same question as I would walk the stone walled streets toward work every morning, "What would today be like?" and that air of uncertainty made me want to learn, watch, and absorb more so that I could remember it later.

Like every hospital, there is a routine, and Rossdale’s was no different in that regard. The morning consisted of going through all of the inpatient and intensive care unit horses, reviewing medications, and then going on morning rounds checking all of the horses. As the day proceeded, there were scheduled surgeries in ‘theatre’ every other day, and then there were always the inevitable emergencies arriving as well.

On one such day, I was involved in the following procedures: I held a small pony with a broken tooth on her upper maxilla that also had an abscess draining down through her left mandible. For two and a half hours after X-rays were taken, the vet and I worked to remove three teeth, which had been impinging her ability to chew and caused the abscess. There was also a tieback surgery on a large gelding jumper. Post surgery I was able to watch Dr. Tim Greet, the head veterinarian, insert a laser endoscope up the horse’s nose and ‘caramelize’ one of the horse’s vocal chords by its laryngeal gland. It was an interesting procedure to observe. Every time he turned the laser on, smoke came pouring out of the horse’s nostrils and filled the air with the smell of dead tissue. Another surgery was performed later on a stallion with a pedal bone fracture, which needed to be pinned and set. I was able to hold and help the technicians get the horse ready for surgery. The final surgery of the day was an emergency case, a pinto gelding with impaction colic. The horse was unfortunately far along by the time he arrived at the hospital, and though he made it through surgery, there had been a lot of necrotic tissue that had to be removed and the surgeons were unable to reach in far enough to get all of the dead mesenteric tissue out, giving the horse an increased chance for adhesions in the future.

Some days were slower than others and sometimes it was 6pm, dark outside and the entire day had flown by without my knowing it. The technicians and surgeons at Rossdale’s were all helpful and informative with any questions or concerns that I had.

By the end of my stay I was going in to work early to help make up morning round medications for distribution, and helping in all aspects of pre/post-surgery. This included attaching the horse to the harness that took them upside-down into theatre, shaving and putting in urinary catheters, all aspects of post surgery cleanup, and staying late if needed or if another emergency arrived later.

Although my time in England was brief, it affected me more than any other single event that I have as of yet partaken. I will never regret missing Christmas here at home in Ohio, even though at the time I certainly had my doubts. The people I met and became friends with, the various surgeries, procedures and dialogues that I carried out with owners of horses all helped mold the way I regard the horse community. It doesn’t matter if it’s Newmarket, England or here at The Ohio State University, there will always be similarities and differences. It’s what I took from my own personal experience that has helped me make future decisions and lifetime goals. Whatever your holiday dream is, I hope that it becomes a reality for you, and have a happy holiday.

by Sasha Hill, Otterbein Alumni 2006

Happy Holidays
Senior IHSA Spotlight

Sadie Bartholomew  
Hometown: Swartz Creek, MI  
Major: Biochemistry and Chemistry  
Future plans: Graduate school for a Ph.D in Biochemistry  
Positions: Secretary (2004-2007)  
Competed at Regionals Junior year

How did IHSA prepare you for your future?  
“We depend on other people and circumstances beyond our control. We have to be there to support team members and be satisfied with doing the best job we possibly can and very much applicable in the work force with co-workers and job goals.”

What has IHSA taught you?  
“IHSA has been my outlet and proven to me that despite the stress of hectic schedules, horses and riding are what keeps me going, and the camaraderie formed, both between our own teammates and those on other teams, is a long-term bond. It has been such an integral part of my collegiate career that I cannot imagine life without it.”

Amy Lowry  
Hometown: Louisville, KY  
Major: Equine Facility Management/Equine Health Technology  
Future Plans: Graduate school for Masters in social work, recently engaged  
Positions: Historian (2005-2007); Supplier of team bourbon brownies all years  
Competed at Regionals Sophomore year, and qualified for Regionals Senior year

What has IHSA taught you?  
“I began IHSA and am ending IHSA in two different states of mind. In the beginning, I only focused on trying to win the blue ribbon. These days I don’t focus so much on getting that blue ribbon. I now focus on having fun, doing my best and being there for my team. IHSA has taught me a lot about myself and caused me to realize that riding and life, for that matter, is a lot more fun when you don’t base your happiness on winning.”

What is your favorite school to compete at and why?  
“Otterbein if the weather is nice. We have the greatest horses! But on a cold, snowy, winter day, I vote for Findlay. Yeah for large indoor arenas!”

Em Blankenship  
Hometown: Rocky River, OH  
Major: Equine Science/Equine Health Technology  
Future Plans: To get a job out west  
Positions: Treasurer  
Competed at Nationals Freshman year

What has IHSA taught you?  
“Take advantage of the opportunities and enjoy it because it goes by fast!”

Mandy Patterson  
Hometown: Hudson, OH  
Major: Physical Education, Equine Studies Minor  
Future Plans: Breeding farm and Sales  
Positions: President (2006-2007), Competed at Regionals Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior years and Zones Sophomore and Junior years

What has IHSA taught you?  
“It is not all about you; being part of a team means you are all working together to win and they (teammates) are there and are supporting you no matter the round you put in.”

What advice do you have to give to underclassmen team members?  
“You may not always get the horse you wanted, but always ride your best. Sometimes these challenges are what make us better riders, physically and emotionally.”

The IHSA team would also like to acknowledge its other graduating seniors: Allison Applegett & Julie Deuschle.
**Dressage Team Update**

Otterbein College was one of the first members of the Intercollegiate Dressage Association, which began in 2001. Since its founding the IDA has grown quickly and Otterbein is lucky to be in the largest and fastest growing region of the country. The tremendous growth brings along with it strong competition, motivated teams, and wonderful horses.

The Intercollegiate Dressage Association is modeled after the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association, which hosts both hunt-seat and western competitions. The dressage competitions are open to all levels of riders and the team scores are dependent on all of the riders equally. Students draw a team of horses provided by the host college. Students then have only have ten minutes of warm-up time to become familiar with their particular mount and be prepared to ride their dressage test. The unique and sometimes challenging format provides the opportunity for collegiate level riders to be actively involved in the sport of dressage throughout their academic career.

The Otterbein Dressage Team has continued to be a leader and a strong contender within their respective IDA region for the past several years. During the 2005-2006 school year Otterbein earned a spot at the National Championships and the team has continued its winning ways finishing as Reserve Champion Team at two competitions this year. The team is looking forward to the winter shows and they are working hard to repeat their successes of last year.

**Senior Salute**

The Dressage team would like to thank it’s senior members, Allison Applegett and Beth Hyatt, for their dedication to the team. Without their leadership and team spirit the Dressage Team wouldn’t be the same. Allison joined the team her sophomore year and with her strong riding and great horsemanship skills she made her presence known. Most recently, Allison brought home the reserve high percentage rider from Lake Erie College. Beth Hyatt has been a member of the team during all four years of her collegiate career. Beth began riding at the introductory level and has moved up the levels and with strong results. She had the opportunity to represent Otterbein at the 2006 IDA National Championships. The IDA team will miss these two great riders and would like to congratulate them on all their success.

**2006 IDA National Championships**

The Dressage Team made their first appearance at the IDA National Championships last spring. Nationals was held at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, North Carolina. Congratulations to all of the riders who qualified.

**Event Team News**

Otterbein continues to be on of the few colleges throughout the nation that encompasses eventing into their equestrian teams. The Otterbein Event team is made up on both equine majors and non-equine majors that share a passion for eventing. The team competes together during the spring at United States Eventing Association recognized horse trials. Look for us this spring at Area VIII events!
Alumni Update

**Dr. Kimberly Keeton DVM (2001)**
Kim is currently working at Covered Bridge Equine, a 3 doctor, all equine ambulatory practice in Watkinsville, GA, just outside of Athens. She is riding as much as possible, and owns 4 horses. She even competed with a 14 hand pony in a one star event in Kentucky last fall!

**Dr. Brandi Snedden DVM (2002)**
Brandi is currently working at Ridgeview Equine, a 2 doctor, all ambulatory practice in Fredrick, Maryland. She still owns her lovely horse Abra, and hopes to do some competing this spring.

**Jenifer (Garstecki) Prusa (1999)**
Jenifer has been with Gypsy Woods Farm in Richwood, Ohio since graduating in 1999. Following an Otterbein internship at the farm, Jeni was hired into a full-time position as assistant trainer. Jeni’s primary responsibility is riding and training the young horses under the direction of International Grand Prix Competitor, George Williams. Jeni also owns two of her own horses, Shadow a retired 28 yr. old Quarter horse, and her young horse Bodi.