

WITH PONY CLUB ON MY MIND...THE 2002 USPC ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

2002 Academy of Achievement Inductees Were:

LIESL CLARK, *Brighton, MA* – Liesl grew up in a Pony Club family in Maryland and Massachusetts and rode until the age of 13, reaching a C rating. After graduating from Harvard University, and after a few years of making a living as a sports fashion model, Liesl learned about the outdoor filmmaking industry through her contacts in editorial photography. She landed a job in Aspen, Colorado, working on a documentary film series for ESPN, entitled Expedition Earth. Liesl has been writing and producing for film and television ever since and has traveled the globe to produce and direct some of the world's most extreme documentary expeditions. She is a producer, director, and writer at NOVA, the award-winning science series on PBS.

TREMAINE COOPER, *Hardwick, MA* – Tremaine is a Graduate A from Sleeping Giant Pony Club in Connecticut. He graduated with a BA in Geology from Colby College in Maine, and had convinced himself that he wouldn't get a "horse job" after graduation. While training with Bruce Davidson during the summers of his college years, he found himself building cross-country courses, something he had done growing up on his parents' farm in Connecticut. He owns his own business, Cross-Country Designs, and has been doing more designing than building in recent years. He is currently designing a number of the top courses in the United States, including Millbrook, Morven Park, Poplar Place, and most recently Camino Real in Texas, along with a number of others outside the United States. His first



Back row, l to r: Dorothy Smith, Mary Kahan, Leisl Clark, Tremaine Cooper, Tom McLaughlin and Anita Corl Huntsman. Front row, l to r: Lorelei Wilson Coplen, Laurie Penfield-Fichter, Emily Wiley.

priority has always been safety, and he characterizes his courses as "natural," to look as if they belong where they are built.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL LORELEI COPLEN,

Woodbridge, VA – Originally a member of Fiddler's Green Pony Club in Kansas, Lorelei was affiliated with several Pony Clubs before earning her H-A rating from Blue Mountain Pony Club. Lorelei joined the USMA Equestrian Team while at West Point and became a member of the West Point Pony Club. Eventually, she was permitted by the Academy to test for her A rating in 1984, with the caveat that she wear her cadet uniform! Lorelei says earning that rating remains one of the highlights of her life. Lorelei graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in International Relations and a commission as a lieutenant in Army Aviation. She participated in military events throughout the United States and as well as in Honduras, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. During the Gulf War, she commanded an

aviation company and earned the Army Air Medal, then returned to the United States Military Academy as an Eisenhower Fellow and earned her Masters of Arts in Organizational Leadership.

Laurie Penfield FICHTER,

Putney, VT – While a member of Upper Valley Pony Club, Laurie benefited from instruction from the likes of Denny Emerson, George Morris, Heather Davis, Essie Perkins, Jessica Ranshousen, Lockie Richards, Michael Page, Tad Coffin, and many more of the early eventing greats that took turns coming to help aspiring, but young and inexperienced, riders. Without Pony Club, Laurie would never have had the chance to work with these incredible riders. Laurie made her way through Young Riders, a 'B' Pony Club Rally, and Preliminary, Intermediate, and Advanced levels of eventing. Until she competed at the Advanced level, she and Royal Jester consistently placed in the top three places. In 1978, Laurie trained with Jack LeGoff at the USEA Headquarters in Hamilton,

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and was the leading intermediate event rider in Area I during 1979. She was long-listed for the U. S. Olympic team in 1980 and competed at the advanced level in England and Holland. In 1985, she went to France to write an article for *Practical Horseman*, and ended up riding with the French three-day eventing team and traveling with them to The World Championships in Australia.

MARY KAHAN DVM, Byfield, MA – Mary was a member of Musketaquid Pony Club in Concord, Massachusetts and achieved her B rating. She also competed as a Young Rider in the North American Young Riders Championship in 3-day eventing as a member of the first place team, and placed second individually. She credits Pony Club with starting on her path to veterinary school, and says it was very important to her training. Mary graduated from Brown University with a BS in Neuroscience, and earned her DVM from Tufts University Veterinary School. After graduation, she spent 5 years as a racetrack veterinarian, a field where women vets are scarce. She currently has her own sport horse practice in Massachusetts.

ANITA CORL MILLER HUNTSMAN, Elverson, PA – Anita was a member of Bridlewild Pony Club and achieved her A rating. She taught Pony Club members from Bridlewild and Pickering Pony Clubs, and currently teaches riding as her profession. Anita graduated from Ohio State University, where she is a member of the Ohio State University Hall of Fame. She went on to coach the 1979 National Collegiate Champion Field Hockey Team from California State University, Long Beach. This was the first time a West Coast team had ever won the National Championship.

She qualified for and joined the U. S. Olympic Field Hockey Team in 1980 and won a bronze medal in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. She is a member of the California State University, Long Beach Hall of Fame as well as the U. S. Field Hockey Hall of Fame, and had the honor of carrying the Olympic torch for the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. She received the Olympiad award from the U. S. Olympic Committee for expertise in field hockey and service done with field hockey.

TOM MCLAUGHLIN, JR., Middleburg, VA – As a member of the Middle Tennessee Pony Club, Tom achieved his A rating in August of 1970 before moving to Lexington, Kentucky to attend the University of Kentucky, where he started riding on the racetrack in his senior year. After graduation, he spent three years on the backstretch of Keeneland Race Track exercising thoroughbred racehorses. Tom rode in the Iroquois Hunt Cup, both breaking his maiden as a steeplechase jockey and retiring the winner all in 11 minutes. Tom is founder and owner of Catchwork Consulting, a Bookkeeping & Computer Service business located in The Plains, Virginia. Catchwork Consulting provides bookkeeping and payroll services to local horse farms, legal offices, churches, The Upperville Colt and Horse Show, (the oldest Hunter Show in America) and numerous small businesses and personal accounts.

DOROTHY SMITH, Broad Run, VA – Dorothy graduated as a B rated Pony Club member from the Casanova-Warrenton-Old Dominion Pony Club. Dorothy attained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater from George Mason University. She spent one year at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and studied Shakespeare at the Folger Conservatory.

She also traveled to England to study acting for a summer at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. After she graduated, she remembers loading up a large steel horse that she had welded for a dance she choreographed at college into her pickup and driving around Middleburg, Virginia looking for an art gallery. The Wisdom Gallery took a liking to the piece and sold it for \$1,200, thus launching her career. She casts equestrian bronzes and makes jewelry in addition to the steel welded pieces, and her work can be found on her website <http://www.horse-sculptures.com>. She is also currently employed as an actress, and has appeared in many “cop shows” as she calls them. These include spots on *Unsolved Mysteries, America's Most Wanted, Arrest and Trial and Homicide, Life on the Street*.

EMILY WILEY, Ph.D., South Hadley, MA – Joining Pony Club at age 5, Emily went on to pass her A rating while a member of Olympus Pony Club on Vashon Island, WA. She continued to stay involved and teach her way through college as head instructor for several clubs in the Northwest region, as well as becoming a C-3 examiner and Chief Horse Management Judge. She is now also a National Examiner. Emily graduated from Princeton University and went on to earn her Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics from the University of Washington. She was then awarded funding from the National Institute of Health to carry out cancer-related postdoctoral research at the University of Rochester and at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. She is currently a Visiting Professor at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts where she teaches Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. ■