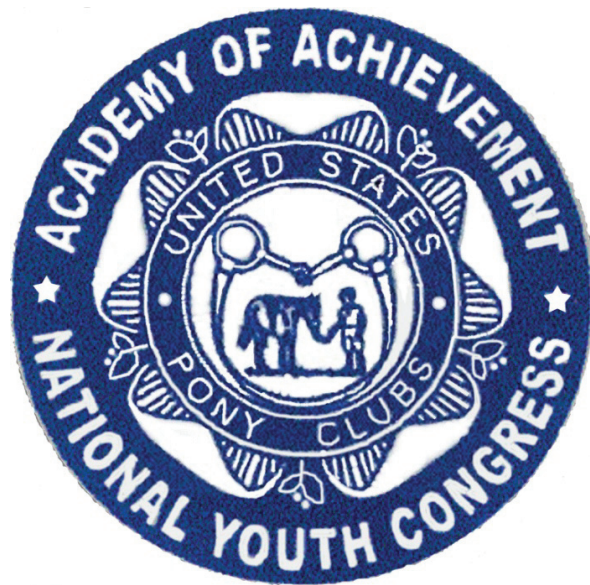


Welcome to  
**U.S. Pony Clubs**  
Where it all begins

*USPC National Youth Congress  
Academy of Achievement  
2011 Alumni Honorees*



*Lola Blackwell Chambless, M.D.*

*Janell Goode Hoffman*

*Sondra Russman Marshall*

*H. Jerry Schurink*

*Melanie Smith-Taylor*





## ***Lola Blackwell Chambliss***

Lola Chambliss was born in Birmingham, AL but spent most of her childhood living outside Nashville, TN. She is a graduate “A” from the Middle Tennessee Pony Club who Lola began riding as a toddler and competed in dressage throughout her early childhood. She rode her first training level test at the age of 5 on a Shetland pony named Foggy Dew.

Lola later developed an interest in eventing, and joined the USPC when she was 11 years old. She learned the fundamentals of starting and training young horses from her mother a long-time horsewoman and a graduate “B” pony clubber. Lola has competed in dressage, eventing, equitation, jumpers, and point-to-point. Riding anything she could get her hands on!

As a 13 year old C-2 Pony Clubber, Lola began riding a feisty thoroughbred named Kris Kringle. Kris and Lola learned together, and using pony club clinics as their primary educational source they moved up to preliminary within 2 years. Lola also trained under Jim Graham who polished her skills and encouraged her to compete nationally. Lola and Kris placed in the top 5 in the US Young Rider 3-Day Event Championships as well as a number of other intermediate/advanced horse trials. She also represented Area III at the NAYRC CCI\*\* during her senior year of in high school. As a Pony Clubber, Lola has participated in the visiting instructors program, coached at rallies and volunteered within Pony Club. Following High School, she and Kris were long-listed for the US Equestrian Team for the World Equestrian Games, although a paddock injury forced Kris’ retirement.

Lola attended college at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA, double-majoring in Biology and International Relations. She originally planned to pursue a research career in cancer biology, but changed her focus to medicine. In her senior year, her mother sent a sales project, a 5 year-old named “Harry”. In 2001, Harry and Lola returned to Nashville where Lola concentrated on learning anatomy at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine while taming Harry. Medical text books traveled alongside the stud kit, as Lola and Harry advanced from novice to the CCI\*\* level. In 2002, the pair won the US Senior 3-Day Championship. Lola also took and passed the first stage of her medical board exams that year.

Lola graduated from Vanderbilt Medical School in 2005, and a month later started her residency in Neurosurgery at Vanderbilt. Currently, she is completing the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the 7 year program. Her specialty is Neurosurgical Oncology, and her favorite cases involve complex brain tumors. She has published numerous manuscripts and presents frequently on the subject. She has been accepted into a prestigious 6 month fellowship in minimally invasive intracranial surgery at Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney, Australia, and hopes to return to the U.S. to a position of assistant professor of Neurosurgery at an academic hospital after completing the fellowship.

Lola is married, and with her husband Sid she cares for her mother’s farm. She has 6 horses, including the retired Kris Kringle. She has continued to ride when possible, competing through preliminary on several young horses. She is currently “on break” from competition while she concentrates on her work, but continues to ride for pleasure whenever time allows.





### *L. Janell Hoffman, RN BSN*

Janell Hoffman graduated from the Loudoun Hunt Pony Club with her “A” rating in August of 1980. She then spent the next seven years under the instruction of Bruce Davidson at Chesterland Farm in Unionville PA. One of the most important things that Bruce Davidson taught her is a solid work ethic. No matter what the job is, do your best and work hard. Janell went on to compete at Intermediate level and was ready to move up to the Advanced divisions, when life dealt her a difficult decision. Her father died and she decided to go back to college to pursue a nursing career.

Janell graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Shenandoah University in Winchester Virginia, in spring 1991. She is currently a practicing critical care nurse who that has dedicated significant time and energy to advancing the care giving skills of clinical staff in order to improve the quality of care, reduce length of hospital stays, and lower the risk of secondary health conditions. She is currently the Chairman of the Board for the Loudoun Healthcare Foundation. She sits on the Inova Healthcare Systems Foundation Board of Trustees and the board of directors for the Inova Loudoun Hospital.

Professionally, Janell has served as the Director of Patient Center Care at Inova Loudoun Hospital and managed eight teams to implement a Patient Center Care Work Flow operations plan, to move into a new hospital at the Lansdowne Campus. It was in this role that her passion for clinical education developed. While working with the clinical staff at the bedside, the need for continuing clinical education to improve the quality of bedside care became very apparent. One of Janell’s dreams is to create a Clinical Education Endowment Fund to support continuing education programs for all clinical staff. Her belief is “The higher the clinical skill level at the bedside, the higher the quality of care delivered to the patient population and the lower the mortality rates and length of stays”. Janell’s passion for education also led her to join the Board of Trustees at Shenandoah University where she serves on the Planning and Development committee.

Pony Club and the guidance of Bruce Davidson taught Janell how to work with others, how to work hard, and how to get the job done with attention to detail while always striving for perfection. Her current favorite horse is “Strap,” an Irish Sport Horse that she hunts and tries to encourage enjoyment of dressage, but he truly loves his hunting job. Janell and her husband Michael (who was inducted in the USPC Academy of Achievement in 2010) currently have several field hunters that they both enjoy foxhunting together. They started eventing again in spring 2009 in the lower divisions. They both enjoy the work, companionship and goals that horses bring to people’s lives.







## Sondra Russman Marshall, Ph.D.

Sondra is a licensed pediatric neuropsychologist specializing in assessments to detect developmental and learning disabilities including attention deficit disorders, autism spectrum disorders, head injuries, epilepsy and other neurobiological problems. She also develops and implements intervention strategies. Since her beginnings as a school psychologist in Salt Lake City, UT, Sondra has since developed a private practice in Bend, OR that offers a range of psychological services to children, adolescents, and adults. She currently practices as part of St. Charles Medical Center where she is developing specialized psychological assessment and treatment clinics including one for children who were prematurely born. In collaboration with a local neurosurgery center, Sondra is also designing and implementing a “best practices” model for managing concussions, and assisting patients in their return to athletics, work, and school. In this capacity, she oversees

1500 athletes in a community based concussion program, and works at the state level developing policy. On the side, Sondra has held several adjunct professor positions through which she taught college courses and developed curriculum for graduate programs. She has given numerous presentations for medical centers, school districts, and at national conferences, she has published articles in peer-reviewed journals, and has received competitive grants to support her work.

Sondra received her Bachelor’s degree in French and Education, with a minor Psychology from the University of Vermont. After receiving her Master of Science in Counseling, she attended graduate school at the University of Utah to earn her doctorate in Educational Psychology.

Sondra grew up in Glastonbury, Connecticut. She was a member of the Glastonbury Pony Club. Prior to this her family moved around a bit, and at one point found themselves in Mountain Home Idaho where she was introduced to horses. Since then, horses have been Sondra’s guide. As an undergraduate at UVM she helped to start the school’s equestrian team. After graduation she taught French at a local school, served as the riding director at a camp in Vermont, and achieved her ‘A’ rating (Thank you Betsey Reeves). With travel beckoning again, Sondra deferred her Master’s studies to travel in Nepal with her mother. During this time she also made contacts with pony clubs in Australia, New Zealand, and Kenya and later decided to spend time in New Zealand where she taught pony club and groomed for a national rider for 5 months. She returned to start her Master's degree but took another leave to travel through the Pony Club “Traveling A Riding Instructor Program”, which landed her in Jackson Hole, WY where she fell in love with the West. After finishing her Master's degree, Sondra loaded up her car and drove to Ogden, Utah. Once again, Pony Club gave her a focus; she served as instructor for the Wasatch Pony Club while also working with at-risk youth in a middle school.

Throughout her years of education, Sondra rode a lot, saved horses from the meat pens turning them into capable riding horses, and taught a lot of Pony Club members. After moving to Oregon, Sondra decided it was time to buy the horse of her dreams. She purchased Dylan, a Connemara cross from Chris Knox’s farm. She focused on her riding while developing her psychology practice. Later she bought Pioneer, a pony for her two boys, ages 9 and 12....who instead are soccer players, gymnasts, cross country runners, and skiers. Sondra has had the support of her wonderful husband Mike and her boys who, at every opportunity, buy her gifts with horses of some sort and put up with her wanting to see Secretariat over and over.





## H. Jerry Schurink

H. Jerry Schurink (actually Hendrickus, affectionately known as "Hans" by his UMass students) grew up on Doornhof Farm in Shaftsbury, Vermont. Jerry's parents, Henry and Janet founded the Bennington Pony Club (BPC) in 1968 with Henry the acting DC for 40 years. BPC is currently lead by Jerry's sister, Renee VanderWerken. Doornhof also hosted one of the largest horse trials and dressage shows on the east coast, serving as selection trials for the Pan Am Games in each of those disciplines respectively.

Jerry graduated from high school, and then worked at Klosterhof in Medingen, Germany, an auction facility

and stallion training center where Berierter candidates worked to develop their skills and knowledge before taking their national exams.

As a young rider, Jerry was a member of the 1979 Three Day Event Gold Medal Team for Area 1 and in 1980 was the USDF Young Rider of the Year.

While pursuing degrees in Pre-Veterinary Medicine and Resource Economics at the University of New Hampshire, Jerry attended three developing rider training sessions at the USET Eventing Headquarters in Hamilton Massachusetts under Jack LeGoff.

Jerry is the Director of Riding Studies in the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at the University of Massachusetts. He teaches riding and didactic courses in both the associates and bachelors degree programs, and is the Head Coach of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Equitation team.

Throughout his career with horses, Jerry has strived to develop his skills in eventing, jumpers and dressage. Jerry has trained, ridden and coached through the advanced level in eventing, and is a United States Eventing Association Instructor Certification Program Level 3 Instructor, Faculty, and National Committee member. Jerry has developed two advanced level event horses, two grand prix jumpers, and is currently working on finishing his first grand prix dressage horse, "Monticello".

Jerry has been blessed with the fortune to share his passion for horses and ability to reflect upon his daily experiences with his best friend and constant source of inspiration, his wife of more than 25 years, Rebecca, who is also an accomplished rider, instructor and coach.

Aside from his equestrian pursuits, Jerry's other interests include open sea fishing, golf, skiing, mountain biking and motorcycle riding. The latter of which he is most active (and thankfully most successful with), and often shows up to do riding clinics on one of his three motorcycles. Admittedly the motorcycles satisfy his never ending desire for excitement and "need for speed".







## **Melanie Smith Taylor**

Melanie Smith Taylor lives in Memphis, Tennessee. She and her late husband, Lee raised and trained thoroughbreds for polo, hunter/jumpers and pleasure on their Wildwood Farm in nearby Germantown. Melanie's show jumping achievements are well known. From an early childhood on a farm in her home state of Tennessee, she went on to gain international recognition as both a competitor and a trainer.

While training with George Morris in the early 1970s, Melanie was successful in amateur/owner jumper classes before graduating to the Grand Prix level. In 1978, she earned the American Grandprix Association's Lady Rider of the Year title, and she was also named the AGA's overall Rider of the Year. Her wonderful record that year convinced the AGA that women could perform on completely even terms with men, leading to a decision to discontinue the separate Lady Rider award. To cap off her year, Melanie's mount Val de Loire was named AGA Horse of the Year.

Melanie became one of only two riders ever to win the "Triple Crown of Show Jumping" by winning the American Invitational, the International Jumping Derby and the American Gold Cup. Melanie was part of the USET's Gold Medal team at the 1979 Pan American Games in Puerto Rico.



At the "Alternate Olympics" in 1980, Melanie won the individual Bronze Medal aboard her beloved horse Calypso. She also placed second that same year in the World Cup Final. She was named the United States Olympic Committee Sportswoman of the Year after winning the World Cup Final in 1982. She was also inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame that same year.

Riding Calypso, she capped her show jumping career with a team Gold Medal in the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984, a year in which she was a finalist for the Sullivan Award which is given to the nation's top amateur athlete.

Melanie retired from active competition in 1987 and continued to serve the horse world as a television broadcaster for events including the Olympic Games and World Championships. She is a recognized judge for hunter/jumpers, hunt seat equitation and hunter breeding, designs jumper courses and teaches clinics around the country.

In 2006 and 2007, Melanie coached the Developing Rider Tours that won numerous competitions and Nations Cups throughout Europe. In 2009 she developed the Emerging Athlete Program with the US hunter Jumper Association. She now travels the country year round identifying and training talented young riders through the EAP clinics. Melanie is currently writing a book documenting her lifelong experiences with horses.

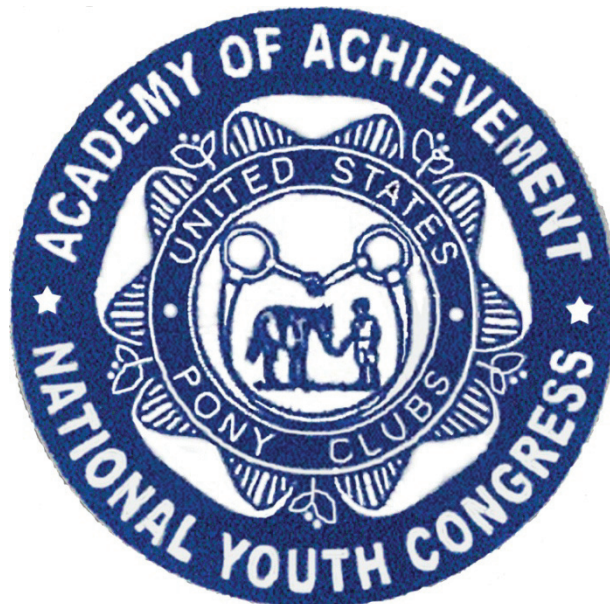




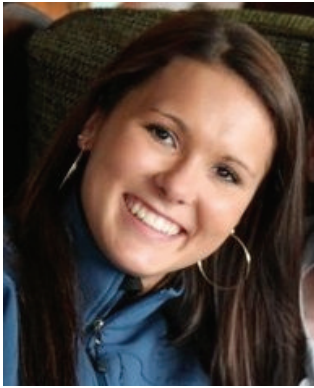




USPC National Youth Congress  
Class of 2011  
Delegates







**Kimber Achorn**

B, White Mountain Region

[t.achorn@comcast.net](mailto:t.achorn@comcast.net)

Activities: Senior at Bow High School; competes her horse Fernhill Colin at the Preliminary level; Loves spending time with her family and friends, skiing, running, and being in the sun.

Future Plans: Hopes to be working as a Physician’s Assistant with a husband and children. Plans to still be riding and competing, and hopes her role in Pony Club involves having her children participate in Pony Club.

Favorite Horse(s): Her favorite horse was her second horse Ordinary Magic who was recently retired.



**Stephanie “Stell” Bahrami**

B TRAD, C-3-Dressage, Middle California Region

[moosesncream@gmail.com](mailto:moosesncream@gmail.com)

Activities: Attends the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) majoring in Anthropology as a pre-med student; Enjoys Eventing, Jumpers and Dressage; Chosen for the USEA Area VI CC1\* Team in 2004; Competed at the CIC\*\* level; Is focusing on dressage with her horse “Marley.

Future Plans: Include a life full of horses and operating a breeding farm and show barn.

Favorite Horse(s): “Roxy” or “On the Rox”



**Stacia Lynne Arnold**

C-3, Camino Real Region

[3dayer@charter.net](mailto:3dayer@charter.net)

Activities: Attends Mt. San Antonio Collage; Works at PepperGlen Farms as a rider and Assistant Trainer.

Future Plans: Hopes to own and operate a Equestrian facility; Ride at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event; Give back to Pony Club by being a National Examiner.

Favorite Horse (s): Good Time Charlie, a 12 year old Oldenburg and Some Like it Hot (Greta), a 4 year old Oldenburg.



**Elliott Blackmon**

B, North Central Prairie Region

[pooka1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pooka1@sbcglobal.net)

Activities: Attends Central Florida College majoring in Equine Exercise and Physiology; Has competed up to the Preliminary Level in Eventing; Other than horses, she is an avid swimmer.

Future Plans: compete in the Upper Levels of Eventing and achieve the A rating.

Favorite Horse(s): Pooka, a spitfire of a pony, Prince Caspian II, and Tully Cross Prescott a Irish Draught.



**Katie Brewer**

H-B, Sierra Pacific Region  
[eventergirl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eventergirl@sbcglobal.net)

Activities: Reading; Drawing; Photography; Attending California State University, Sacramento

Future Plans: Become a Pony Club Volunteer

Favorite Horse(s): Seamus, an Irish Sport Horse.



**Noel Brown**

C-3, Sunshine Region  
[dishkydo@yahoo.com](mailto:dishkydo@yahoo.com)



**Abby Cline**

C-3, Great Lakes Region  
[aacline@cedarville.edu](mailto:aacline@cedarville.edu)

Activities: Attends Cedarville University in Ohio, pursuing a degree in elementary education.

Future Plans: Not sure about horses and Pony Club; Is truly excited to become an educator.

Favorite Horse(s): Mary Poppins; Arty; Dancer



**Jaqueline Coplen**

C-3 TRAD, Maryland Region  
[jcoplen@hotmail.com](mailto:jcoplen@hotmail.com)

Activities: Enjoys competing in Eventing and Dressage; Volunteering for Pony Club; active in youth government and political organizations such as Youth and Government and National High School Model UN; Enjoys writing, reading, adventuring outdoors, and watching the TV series "Gossip Girl."

Future Plans: Plans to attend college and major in Political Science, Pre-Law, or Literature; Study abroad in Spain to further perfect her Spanish; Obtain a Masters degree or Law degree; Spend a year in the Peace Corps; Run for office; Horses will always remain a part of her life, as she highly regards riding as a lifetime sport.

Favorite Horse(s): Justin, Boston, Piper, Luna, and Casper—equally.





**Michelle Eld**  
H-B/C-3, Intermountain Region  
[elk911@citlink.net](mailto:elk911@citlink.net)

Activities: Eventing; Volunteering with Pony Club; Honor Society, Spanish Club, the Rotary Club, 4H; The McCall-Donnelly Cross Country team; Working at a show barn where she is the assistant trainer and barn manager; snowboarding; skate skiing; training for a marathon; trail rides, and moving cattle.

Future Plans: Obtaining a Master's in business marketing/managing with a minor in Spanish; Pony Club.

Favorite Horse(s): Seamus IV a 16.2H Canadian Sport horse.



**Kathryn Fischer**  
H, Camino Real Region  
[fangsndatail@aol.com](mailto:fangsndatail@aol.com)

Activities: She is a Biology major at Santa Barbara City College; Enjoys dance, singing, reading, studying toxic plants, and getting out into nature; Eventing, Dressage, Games, horse soccer, Vaulting and Foxhunting.

Future Plans: transfer to Cal Poly SLO to continue studies in biology; Remain involved in Pony Club

Favorite Horse(s): Tippie, her first pony; Classic Symphony, and Tiva.



**Connor Giesselman**  
H-B/C-3, Heartland Region  
[cgiesselman@indy.rr.com](mailto:cgiesselman@indy.rr.com)

Activities: Senior attending Zionsville High School, Drama Club, French Club; Lacrosse, Bowling; Eventing; skiing and snowmobiling.

Future Plans: Go to college; be a riding instructor; continue to volunteer for Pony Club.

Favorite Horse(s): Rueger, and The Expressionist



**Meagan Harp**  
H-A, Virginia Region  
[meg.harp@verizon.net](mailto:meg.harp@verizon.net)

Activities: Attends Northern Virginia Community College; Show Jumping and Dressage;

Future Plans: Plans to transfer to either George Mason University or Sweet Briar College in the Fall of 2011; Obtain a Bachelor Degrees in The History of Art, and Studio Art with concentrations in Modern Art and Drawing respectively; A Masters in Teaching and a Doctorate in Art History; Work in museum or an art gallery or become an Art History professor; Achieve her A rating; continue to volunteer for Pony Club.

Favorite Horse(s): Chantilly Lace (Addy)



**Emily Hart**

C-3, Rio Grande Region

[emilyjane48@att.net](mailto:emilyjane48@att.net)

Activities: Senior in high school enrolled in six Advanced Placement courses, including Physics and Calculus; Photography.

Future Plans: Hopes to achieve her traditional B rating; Study chemical engineering in college; Remain involved with Pony Club.

Favorite Horse(s): Cruiser



**Andrea Herndon**

H-A, Hawaii Region

[aherndon@rams.colostate.edu](mailto:aherndon@rams.colostate.edu)

Activities: Sophomore at Colorado State University working towards a degree in Biological Sciences with a dual minor in Biomedical Sciences and French language; Enjoys hunters/jumpers, dressage, western and polo; Snowboard; Hiking; Swimming; Running; Playing intramural sports.

Future Plans: Be a Veterinarian; Remain involved with Pony Club.

Favorite Horse(s): Hambone a 17.1 Canadian Warmblood.



**Heather Hays**

C-3, Deep South Region

[heatherbhays@gmail.com](mailto:heatherbhays@gmail.com)

Activities: Is currently attending Mississippi College, a member of the Mississippi College Equestrian Team, a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and recipient of the 2010 Spanish Award.

Future Plans: Wherever life takes her, there will be horses and hopefully pony club kids that she can share the knowledge that she gained over the years with USPC.

Favorite Horse(s): Skyler a 16.2 hand dapple gay Thoroughbred



**Nadine Janecek**

B, Rocky Mountain Region

[njanecek@mymail.mines.edu](mailto:njanecek@mymail.mines.edu)

Activities: Attends Colorado School of Mines pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Bioengineering; Pi Beta Phi Sorority; Eventing; Enjoys reading, baking, and traveling.

Future Plans: Wants to be a prosthetics practitioner; Plans on continuing her involvement in the Pony Club community.

Favorite Horse(s): Enjoys all of her horses.



**Hannah Jarvis**

H-B, Southern California Region  
[hjarvis17@aol.com](mailto:hjarvis17@aol.com)

Activities: Attending UC Davis and living/working at the UC Davis Equestrian Center as a Resident Barn Supervisor and Riding Instructor as well as a member of the UC Davis Event Team; Majoring in Animal Science and Management with an emphasis on Equine Science; Enjoys eventing, dressage, trail riding

Future Plans: Veterinary school and opening her own veterinary practice; remain involved with Pony Club.

Favorite Horse(s): Precious, a Morgan mare named Kelsey, and her current horse Sofia Dolce.



**Alex Johnson**

H-B, Midwest Region  
[insanejumperman@aol.com](mailto:insanejumperman@aol.com)

Activities: Hunter/Jumper shows, Horse Trials and Fox Hunting; Earned his colors from the Mission Valley Hunt; Recipient of a Citizenship Award for community volunteer work, as well as Presidential Bronze Award for over 100 hours, and Gold Award for over 250 hours of community service; Participated in the NYLC, a national leadership organization; Enjoys theater and cross country; has

Future Plans: Teaching; remaining involved with Pony Club.

Favorite Horse(s): first pony, Jefferson, and Oliver.



**Nicole Ligon**

C-3, Eastern PA Region  
[Nicole.ligon@gmail.com](mailto:Nicole.ligon@gmail.com)

Activities: Attends West Chester University studying Elementary Education; Rides for West Chester Univ. Equestrian Team; Volleyball, Photography, and skiing.

Future Plans: Envisions still riding horses; Have a family, a couple dogs and a few fat barn cats; Being a teacher.

Favorite Horse(s): Prince her first pony, and Aspen a 17h gray Thoroughbred



**Chelsea Loub**

C-3, Tri-State Region  
[loubcl@westminster.edu](mailto:loubcl@westminster.edu)

Activities: Attending Westminster College working towards degree in Biology with a business minor; Participates in the College chemistry club; Is a sister in Kappa Delta Sorority; enjoys playing the piano, gardening flowers, climbing trees and doing any activity outdoors.

Future Plans: becoming a doctor of obstetrics and gynecology; a leader; hopes to teach many children how to ride and care for horses.

Favorite Horse(s): Precious, a 13.2 h Welsh pony



**Alison Mayer**

H-B, Hawaii Region  
[amayer11@punahou.edu](mailto:amayer11@punahou.edu)

Activities: A senior at Punahou School; is a school peer tutor and counselor and a Psychology TA; Participates in the organization of self-development camps for her high school; Enjoys show jumping.

Future Plans: Hopes to attend college on the East Coast; possibly majoring in Education; Becoming a trainer and riding instructor.

Favorite Horse(s): Blaze



**Kelcie Erin Meeks**

H-B, Alaska Region  
[lil\\_miss\\_meeks@hotmail.com](mailto:lil_miss_meeks@hotmail.com)

Activities: attends Midway College on a volleyball scholarship; rides on the college Dressage team; is a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree black belt and a member of the World Tang Soo Doo Association.

Future Plans: Become an "A" Pony Clubber, and National Examiner.

Favorite Horse(s): Blue Eyes, a Morgan mix.



**Devyn Merritt**

H-A, Western NY Region  
[dm6827@uncw.edu](mailto:dm6827@uncw.edu)

Activities: English major at the University of North Carolina Wilmington; Enjoys Eventing and Dressage; rides dirt bikes, ATV's, and plays paintball.

Future Plans: Envisions herself working as an advocacy lawyer for developmentally disabled children; Plans on continuing to be active in Pony Club; Become a National Examiner.

Favorite Horse(s): Connor, a 15.1 welsh TB cross.



**Emily Mixon**

H-B, Rio Grande Region  
[emily\\_elizabeth192@yahoo.com](mailto:emily_elizabeth192@yahoo.com)

Activities: Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin; A leader in her High School student government, Freshman Orientation Advisor, and Editor in Chief of the high school's yearbook; Enjoys Eventing, theater, backpacking and exploring national parks.

Future Plans: Remain involved in Pony Club.

Favorite Horse(s): Aztec and Snickers.





**Jenessa Olson**

C-3, Oregon Region

[jenessarolson@hotmail.com](mailto:jenessarolson@hotmail.com)

Activities: Attends Washington State University in Vancouver studying biology; H.S. Equestrian Team, 4-H; Enjoys playing soccer, and playing the trumpet in the band.

Future Plans: Hopes to achieve her "B"; Plans to stay connected in Pony Club, become an instructor and examiner.

Favorite Horse(s): Rocky and Kosmo.



**Susan Pogue**

H-A, Midsouth Region

[susanpogue@rocketmail.com](mailto:susanpogue@rocketmail.com)

Activities: Attends Maryville College; Enjoys Three Day Eventing and Dressage;

Future Plans: Achieve an "A" rating, possibly become a National Examiner, and volunteer for Pony Club.

Favorite Horse(s): Dapper Dan, a Connemara cross, Napoleon, and Belle Cheval.



**Hailey Powers**

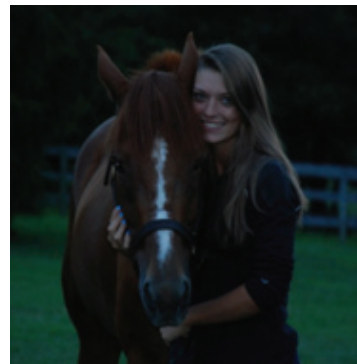
H-B, Northwest Region

[justplainjack@gmail.com](mailto:justplainjack@gmail.com)

Activities: Senior at Bonney Lake High School; Senior Class President and Varsity Wrestling Manager; Active in the school's National Honor Society and ASB; Enjoys reading and travel; Teaching and volunteering with Pony Club.

Future Plans: Plans to attend the University of Montana, and is interested in Forensic Psychology, Sociology, and Criminal Justice. Goal is a career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Favorite Horse(s): Jake and Pinga.



**Kaleigh Quinn**

B TRAD, New Jersey Region

[Mquinn1@hvc.rr.com](mailto:Mquinn1@hvc.rr.com)

Activities: A senior at the Port Jervis High School, involved with many school activities and is in all honor and AP classes; Enjoys Eventing, snowboarding, running, swimming, and working out.

Future Plans: Go into physical therapy and pursue a career in that field; Continue as a member of Pony Club and achieve an "A" rating.

Favorite Horse(s): Toy Story



**Jackson Roberts**

B, Mid-south Region

[jroberts12@yhoo.com](mailto:jroberts12@yhoo.com)

Activities: Graduate of Franklin High School; Currently a full time working student for Phillip Dutton; Eventing at the Preliminary level.



**Lija Siltumens**

H-B, Lake Shore Region

[siltumens@wisc.edu](mailto:siltumens@wisc.edu)

Activities: Attends the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Majoring in Animal Sciences; Member of University of Wisconsin Equestrian Team;

Future Plans: Attend Madison School of Veterinary Medicine and receive D.V.M. degree; Become a certified equine acupuncture and chiropractic; Practice as an equine veterinarian (possibly specializing in surgery or neonatal care); Become a National Examiner.



**Lindsay Smith**

C-2, Sierra Pacific Region

[april@apmgrassvalley.com](mailto:april@apmgrassvalley.com)

Activities: Attending Sierra College to obtain a degree in early childhood education with plans to become an elementary school teacher; Works for a yogurt shop; Active community volunteer for the Chamber of Commerce, a real estate association and the Tevis Cup 100-mile ride; Currently competes Dressage at first level.

Future Plans: looking forward to a successful career working with children. Plans to continue to remain involved with Pony Club.

Favorite Horse(s): an Oldenburg mare, named Claudie.



**Theresa Smrt**

C-3, Mid-California Region

[horseloversierra@gmail.com](mailto:horseloversierra@gmail.com)

Activities: Is in her third year of college working on a Biology Degree; Eventing; An organizational partner in the Santa Cruz County Pony Club annual D camp; enjoys music, movies, and reading. She has worked at a Veterinary Hospital for 4 years and wishes to become a veterinarian.

Future Plans: Sees herself involved in Pony Club as an instructor and volunteer.

Favorite Horse(s): Calvin



**Allison Spivey**

H-A, Old Dominion Region

[aspivey@vt.edu](mailto:aspivey@vt.edu)

Activities: Is currently majoring in Animal and Poultry Sciences at Virginia Tech; Is a member of the Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club; Is a working student for a Dressage Trainer; Participates on her family's farm and show both Simmental cattle and sheep; Currently she is focusing on Dressage, but also competes in Hunters, Jumpers, and is an avid foxhunter.

Future Plans: Sees herself as a top level professional competing, training, and teaching.



**Katherine Paige Sunderland**

B, Capital Region

[cvsunderland@chesapeake.net](mailto:cvsunderland@chesapeake.net)

Activities: Is majoring in Biology and Pre-Veterinary Science at Towson University; Enjoys competing in Eventing and Show Jumping; Last year, she and "Southern Tango" competed in CCI \*\* at Fair Hill International; In addition to equestrian sports she enjoys rock climbing and working out.

Future Plans: Hopes to have her own equestrian facility, where the next generation of Pony Clubbers can come to ride, learn and just have fun together.

Favorite Horse(s): Southern Tango, a 10 year old 15.1 hand Thoroughbred



**Jordon Stordahl**

C-3, Northeast Region

[jmstordahl@my.uri.edu](mailto:jmstordahl@my.uri.edu)

Activities: attends the University of Rhode Island; Enjoys swimming, tubing, sailing, going to the beach, as well as playing lacrosse.

Future Plans: Hopes to achieve her "A" rating; Participating in Pony Club as a Regional Instruction Coordinator or possibly a District Commissioner and teaching clinics.

Favorite Horse(s): Roxy and Trooper



**Emily Urban**

B, Eastern PA Region

[eru5006@psu.edu](mailto:eru5006@psu.edu)

Activities: Attends Penn State University majoring in Animal Science; Participates on both the dressage and hunt seat college equestrian teams; Enjoys competing in games, show jumping, and dressage, but focuses on Polocrosse and Eventing.

Future Plans: Hopes to have her own boarding and training facility

Favorite Horse(s): Skippy and Dieter



**Ariel Wyatt**

H-A, Tri-State Region

[djwyattsm@windstream.net](mailto:djwyattsm@windstream.net)

[equine24@savvyquestrian.com](mailto:equine24@savvyquestrian.com)

Activities: Attends Kent State University majoring in Early Childhood Education; Enjoys painting and sculpture; Focus strictly on Dressage. Was a member of the USPC Quadrille Team that performed four demonstrations at the 2010 World Equestrian Games.

Future Plans: Envisions herself as a teacher; Plans to be riding, teaching lessons, training and competing.

Favorite Horse(s): first pony, Peanut and D'artagnon (Duke).



**Kiersti Wylie**

B TRAD, Southern California Region

[kierstisandiacreek@yahoo.com](mailto:kierstisandiacreek@yahoo.com)

Activities: 3 Day Eventing at the ½\* level , medals and dressage; competes in Modern Pentathlon and enjoys anything outdoors; Works with Scripps Research Center presenting research to the public and making the 3D protein models. Was selected for the International Foxhunting Exchange; Participated as a demo rider with Pony Club at WEG.

Future Plans: Hopes to go to vet school as well as attain her "A" rating and she wants to ride in the Olympics.





## 2011 National Youth Congress and Academy of Achievement Committee Members

\*Present at 2011 Congress

**\*Nancy Ambrosiano** is a senior public information specialist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, focusing on media relations in the areas of nuclear nonproliferation, counterterrorism, intelligence and space science. She is a member of the US Department of Energy's Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST). She has been a reporter, columnist and freelance writer since graduating from George Mason University with a degree in English. She has written extensively for *Equus*, *Horse & Rider*, *John Lyons Perfect Horse*, *Stable Management Magazine*, and is coauthor of the book Complete Plans for Building Horse Barns Big and Small, now in its third edition. She is a graduate A from Virginia Region, Regional Supervisor of the Southwest Region, president and occasional field master of Caza Ladron Hunt, and a lifelong eventer. Nancy has served on the Quiz Committee and judged Quiz phases at Western Championships and Festival for several years. In 2005 she was inducted in the Academy of Achievement and in 2006 she joined the Board of Governors, chairing the Communications Committee from 2008 to the present. She has a C-3 daughter who is was a 2007 NYC delegate and who graduated from Kansas City Art Institute majoring in 3-D animation, now studying at Canada's Vancouver Film School. She also has an awesome but non-riding son and her husband, a computational physicist, focuses on modeling and simulation and risk assessment for the department of Homeland Security. Nancy and her family live with a goofy Holsteiner hunt horse named Jellybean, her daughter's retired eventer Peachy Keen, a cranky Shetland, and a collection of large and small dogs, kitties and ferrets.

**\*Meredith Baker** is an "A" Pony Clubber from Redland Hunt Pony Club in the Maryland Region. She was a 2008 NYC delegate and was a member of a group of 2008 NYC delegates that created the National Youth Board. In 2009, she was elected as the first Chair of the National Youth Board. Meredith was one of the first two active pony clubbers elected to serve on the Board of Governors and the first Board of Governor member to receive their A rating while sitting on the Board. This year she joined the National Youth Congress Organizing Committee as the National Youth Board Representative. Meredith is a senior at Mount Holyoke College preparing to graduate with a BA in Neuroscience and Behavior. She has been a member of the Intercollegiate Dressage Team during her four years at Mount Holyoke and attributes her ability to ride unfamiliar horses to her Pony Club training. As for what comes after graduation, she hasn't a clue! Hopefully, it will include her 11 year old Hanoverian gelding, Wrabbit. Meredith and Wrabbit focus on dressage and currently compete at 3rd level. Meredith also loves running and completed her first triathlon last summer.

**\*Megan Dennis** is an HA from the New York / Upper Connecticut Region. She is currently attending Wilson College and would like to have a career in research biology. She played lacrosse, field hockey, and basketball in high school and was in the IDA, IHSA, Yearbook and represented her class as Treasurer. She hopes to have a small training barn someday and be a Pony Club volunteer. Megan was a National Youth Congress Delegate in 2010 in Houston, TX.

**Stephanie Noonan Drachkovich** is a B graduate who belonged to Fiddlers' Green (Fort Leavenworth, Kansas), Cornhusker (Lincoln, Nebraska) and Lake Oswego (LO, Oregon) Pony Clubs. She graduated with a Bachelors degree in Journalism from the University of Oregon in Eugene. Stephanie is now Executive Vice President/Co-owner of 44 Blue Productions, Inc., a television production and entertainment company she and her husband started in 1984. She has won both an Emmy and a Peabody Award (one of the most distinguished awards in broadcast television) for the PBS parenting series, "A Place of Our Own" & "Los Ninos En Su Casa," which she co-produced with Sesame Workshop and KCET in both English and in Spanish. She is executive producer for several other series, including the Emmy-nominated "Split Ends," "Peter Perfect" and "Family Court With Judge Penny." The company currently eight series in production, ranging from the long-running prison series "Lockup" on MSNBC to Animal Planet's newest hit, "Pitbulls & Parolees." Before rejoining 44 Blue in 2003, she was Senior Vice President of Programming at Warner Bros./Telepictures, where she launched "The Bachelor." As SVP of Programming at Disney/Buena Vista, she developed "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire." Stephanie has been married 25 years to Rasha Drachkovitch. They have three sons: Michael, 24 (The One Campaign in Washington, DC); Tommy, 19 (U of Colorado in Boulder), and Christopher, 17 (Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks). When not consumed with work, Stephanie loves to read, hike in the Los Angeles-area canyons, and to run, in addition to volunteering at her kids' schools.

### **\*Cathy Frederickson**

Cathy has been a National Examiner for about 19 years and became a graduate A Pony Club member in 1971. She joined Fresno Pony Club at the age of 7 years and was active as a member and then as an instructor until moving to the east coast in 1983 with her husband Allan. Growing up in the west meant riding western and bareback, as well as learning the disciplines of dressage and combined training. Her college years were spent at Fresno State University as a History major. Cathy's competitive experience encompasses CT/eventing through Advanced Level and dressage through 3rd Level. While living in England, she was able to study with Col. Wm Froud and take the BHS instructors exam, as well as a little competing. While living in NH, she and Allan worked in a private Hanoverian breeding and training operation. She then became Denny Emerson's assistant instructor at Tamarack Farm. She now trains and teaches professionally in Virginia, competing some young horses and fox hunting occasionally. Cathy's favorite thing about being a NE is the travel. She especially appreciates and enjoys the dedication and enthusiasm of the upper level candidates, and loves being able to see them progress through the levels. In the past few years, she has served on the committee for the National Youth Congress, Chair of the National Test Committee, V.P. of Instruction and has served on the USPC Board of Governors. She is a substitute teacher at the elementary level. She loves to garden, and is an avid history buff of the Virginia region and is a docent/tour guide in a local historical house. Her son Sam is active in school, plays soccer and rides with Mom and Dad!

**\*Ann Rickard Haller**

Ann's love of horses and commitment to Pony Club was fostered by her aunt, USPC Legend Tuke Shoemaker. A self-described "Army brat", Ann grew up riding in many different states and was a member of several pony clubs. She graduated in 1983 as an H-A member of the Hood Pony Club, Texas. For the last 20 years, Ann has been busy as a Chief Horse Management Judge, C-3 Examiner, a RIC and HMO for the Red River Region, and as a RIC for the South Region. She has also served on the USPC National Horse Management and C-3 Committees. Ann is an active rider, instructor and clinician, regularly giving upper level prep clinics across the country. In her spare time, Ann is a Nutrition Educator in a Cardiac Rehab unit at a local hospital. She lives in Oxford, GA, with her husband Roger, a graduate A, and their dog Maddie.

**\*Connie Denton Jehlik** joined the staff of the United States Pony Clubs National Office in June of 2010 as the Instruction Services Director. She holds a Masters in Education and teaching certificate in Agricultural Education and Middle School science from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA. She has taught middle school science and high school agriculture for a total of 22 years. Connie joined Contra Costa Pony Club when she was 11 years old and received her A rating from Morgan Territory Pony Club. Connie has stayed active in Pony Club through the years by being involved in the visiting instructors program for two summers after receiving her A rating and has been an active Chief Horse Management judge, DC of Hoofbeats Pony Club, and HMO for Sierra Pacific and MidSouth regions. Connie has been married to Michael since 1984 and they have two daughters, Molly a C2 and Mary aC1 who are attending colleges in Kentucky. Connie and Michael own a farm in Mount Sterling, KY where they enjoy the outdoors riding and hiking the Red River Gorge area and small town atmosphere.

**Lynn Miles** is a graduate of Lake Hunt Pony Club and worked in the USPC National Office for over 13 years, first as Program Services Assistant and then as Instruction Services Director. She graduated from Marquette University with a degree in Public Relations and managed an advanced level event barn before moving to Lexington to join the National Office team. Lynn is now enjoying raising her one year old son, Alex, and works part-time riding and teaching at a local Pony Club barn. She serves on the Board of the Midsouth Eventing and Dressage Association, as well as being their newsletter editor. Her other interests include football, cooking, travel and skiing.

**\*Kevin Price** is the Executive Director to the Chenango-Delaware-Otsego Workforce Investment Board. He holds a Master of Public Administration, Public Finance, but despite his formal education and training, he attributes many of the applied skills he has developed to his time spent in Pony Club and the larger horse world. Kevin is a graduate B from the Fox and Hounds Pony Club and an active volunteer; the list includes co-founding the former Leather Stocking PC in Western NY Region, HM judging, C-3 Examiner, coaching and teaching, and XC/SJ course designing. He is also a former Western NY RIC and Vice RS, and a current USPC SJ and NYC Committee Member. As a horseman, his background includes Eventing through the Intermediate Level, FEI Level Dressage, and Jumpers. He continues to actively ride and currently competes in Dressage. Kevin was inducted into the USPC Academy of Achievement in 2008.

**Sharon Turner** is a Primary Examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, specializing in fields related to biotechnology and chemistry. Sharon holds a B.S. degree in Biochemistry with a Minor in Chemistry from Virginia Tech, and a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Pittsburgh. Sharon is a Lifetime USPC Member and graduate A from the Difficult Run Pony Club, Virginia Region. Sharon is an enthusiastic horsewoman who makes room for riding, training and teaching, while filling other spare time skiing and mountain biking with her husband. Sharon was honored to be inducted into the USPC Academy of Achievement in 2008, and looks forward to continued service on this committee.

**\*Emily Wiley** is a molecular biology professor at Claremont McKenna, Pitzer, and Scripps colleges in southern California. After earning her PhD in Molecular Genetics from the University of Washington, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Rochester, then a Visiting Professor at Mount Holyoke College before joining the faculty in the Joint Science Department of the Claremont Colleges. Emily's research investigates mechanisms the cell uses to regulate the reading of genetic information – how genes are appropriately turned on or off, or finely tuned in their expression. She regularly publishes her work in this area, and she recently received a grant from the National Science Foundation to support both her research and the development of a national initiative to involve undergraduates in genomics research. Emily has kept horses, and particularly Pony Club, as a priority in her life. Since graduating as an 'A', she continues to compete in dressage and eventing. She has been a National Examiner for 11 years and devotes much of her summer to clinics and testings. Emily was inducted into the USPC Academy of Achievement in 2002, and is the former Chair of the NYC Organizing Committee. In addition to riding, she is enthusiastic about any activity that gets her outside enjoying nature.