



Pony Club



Academy of Achievement
National Youth Congress

Where it all begins

Academy of Achievement 2012 Alumni Honorees

Loranne Ausley

Laurie Chapman-Bosco

Parker Pearson

Yvette Seger, PhD

Jennifer S. Welter, PT, DPT, CERP, RVT





Lorraine Ausley

Lorraine Ausley is the Southern Director for Project New America, a political research and strategy firm. She is “of counsel” to the Hollimon PA Law firm, and owns and manages her own consulting firm. Ausley is an attorney who served as an elected Member of the Florida House of Representatives for 8 years. In 2010, she ran as the Democratic nominee for Chief Financial

Officer of Florida, one of Florida’s four statewide elected Cabinet positions.

While she gave up horses many years ago, she spent her formative years as an active member of the Tallahassee Pony Club – eventing in the southeastern United States, going to Pony Club rallies and “knowdowns”. Lorraine spent two summers training with Major Jeremy Beale in Pennsylvania, where she ultimately earned her “B” rating. She attended college at Randolph-Macon Woman’s College where she was active for several years with the Bedford County Hunt.

After college, Lorraine entered the world of politics and law, working on the campaign and staff of US Senator Bob Graham, and later attending Washington & Lee University School of Law. After law school, Ausley dedicated her career to the service of others ranging from senior positions in the Clinton Administration to her work with some of Florida’s most respected leaders including US Senator Bob Graham and Governor Lawton Chiles. As a Democratic leader in the State House, Lorraine established herself as an independent-minded leader unafraid to take on tough problems and find real solutions. Ausley developed a policy expertise in health care, and in 2008 was selected to oversee Florida’s \$300 million child health insurance program.

Today, Ausley remains active in a number of local and statewide organizations. She was instrumental in creating Whole Child Leon, a community based initiative focused on young children and their families, and she continues to serve as Founding Chair. She serves on the Board of the United Way of the Big Bend, is an appointed member of the



Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, a member of Leadership Florida’s Class XX, and PTA Treasurer at her son’s elementary school in Tallahassee.

Lorraine credits her Pony Club background with instilling the values that she still holds today: hard work and discipline, the love of competition and the importance of teamwork. The love of competition led her to another three phase sport – triathlon. Since 1999, Lorraine has completed 9 marathons and over 50 triathlons. She completed the Boston Marathon in 2006, Ironman Florida in 2007, and the Escape from Alcatraz triathlon. She is currently training for the Tallahassee marathon in February of this year.

Lorraine lives in Tallahassee, Florida with her husband Bill Hollimon, their 8 year old son and their dog Remy.



Laurie Chapman-Bosco

Since early memory, Laurie Chapman-Bosco's annual Christmas list featured a pony or horse. It wasn't until her senior year in high school that the dream was realized. During her junior year in high school her family moved to New Hampshire to a house with a small barn in the back yard, on one acre. She was offered a free horse during the next year and she rushed home to share the wonderful news with her

parents. The horse was free, the barn was already built; how expensive could horse ownership be?

Laurie got that first horse as a 17 year old with NO prior horse experience. Neither did her parents, or they never would have allowed that first horse.

Pony Club was joined for safety reasons. Since the first horse was a rather inappropriate ex-racehorse who didn't deal well with a rank beginner, much time was spent at the local hospital getting radiographs in the early years. Laurie's mother heard about Pony Club and thought that might be a cost effective tool in staying out of the emergency room.

Laurie had to really explore other avenues of participation in USPC in her first two years of membership. Owning a horse with minimal carpal flexion and uneven, bouncy gaits and that was often unsound necessitated that. Pony Club offered the reasons to hone one's skills at paying attention to detail. If riding was a bit tricky, then excellence in horse management was a reasonable goal. Pony Club also offered a large group of very generous members and their parents, willing to loan sound horses when necessary.

Fortunately, while attempting to compete at a local horse show, she met the judge, Susan McLean, a graduate A from Groton, Massachusetts. Again, Laurie's mother assessed the situation and asked Susan if she would instruct Laurie, then a D-2. Under Susan's tutelage, Laurie became a functioning C-2 within 10 months of regular instruction, both unmounted and mounted.

During her sophomore year at the University of New Hampshire, her mother suggested that Laurie should consider going to Porlock Vale Equestrian Centre in Great Britain for the British Horse Society Assistant Instructor program. Two other club members were going and that might be a shared life experience.



Upon returning from Great Britain, Laurie continued to learn and ride, and competed on her own horse through Training Level in Eventing. The sport is expensive, so creativity in employment was necessary, and it had to fit into the schedule of a commuting college student. Employment ranged from groom and stablehand for Runnymede Racing stables, where weanlings grew up and racehorses came to rest and rehab; to construction laborer on the backfill crew, to becoming the first woman member of the United Association of Pipefitters and Plumbers, Local 138, out of Salem, Massachusetts. She was also a nuclear certified welder for four years and probably the only DC of a local club in the then Eastern New England region who was.

During one National Examiner seminar, Laurie heard about a job at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) teaching equine conformation. She got the job and taught while attending UNH to finish the Bachelor of Science in Animal Science. At the end of the semester, she was asked to teach another class called "Light Horse Tech" and so designed that class content based on the applied skills needed to successfully pass a B rating.

The Thompson School applied equine management specialization has morphed over the years and several equine classes became the base for most of the options for the Equine Science major at UNH. After earning a Master's degree in Adult Education, Laurie's position has morphed along with it, from teaching a few classroom classes and some riding classes to becoming a Professor of Applied Animal Science and the Applied Animal Science program chair.

Laurie is married to an incredibly understanding man and has two grown children, neither of whom ride. Her family lives on a small farm in New Hampshire with a horse, dog, cat, many chickens and Franklin, the resident Muscovy duck. She credits USPC with showing her that excellence can be striven for and that the journey itself is an amazing and rewarding experience, especially while working with the people she has been blessed to work with.



Parker Pearson

Parker Pearson is the Vice President of Marketing for Advanced Logic Industries, a privately held IT integration & software development firm. She has held this position for the past twelve years. A graduate of Sweet Briar College (VA) Parker also shows successfully today in the Adult Amateur Hunter division and in some equitation, having previously won the Southwest

Virginia Hunter Jumper Association (SWVHJA) Older Adult Equitation Medal Final and medaled 3 times at the Virginia Commonwealth Games (2 silver, 1 gold). She is a former SWVHJA Board member.

Parker is a graduate of the Somerset Hills (NJ) and the Vale of Aylesbury (UK) Pony Clubs. She was awarded her colors from the Essex Fox Hounds (NJ) and grew up competing in eventing at the Young Rider level, dressage, combined driving including several top 10 finishes at Gladstone, along with success in equitation, hunters and jumpers. As a junior she trained with a number of wonderful teachers including Sally Ike, Michele & Tim Grubb and Emil Spadone. She also free-lanced as a groom for many of the top U.S. hunter/jumper barns, eventing teams and combined drivers. She was honored to have the opportunity to work at the U.S. Equestrian Team (Gladstone) working for Chrystine Jones Tauber.

Over the years, Parker has realized the challenges and important life lessons learned from competitive involvement with horses. Here is Parker's short list of key life lessons:

- **First:** There are no shortcuts. Really. There is nothing like a green horse to show you that shortcuts can have disastrous long-lasting results.
- **Next:** Success is 90% showing up – and working really hard, even when no one is watching. To attain our own "success," our pursuits must become a practice unto itself: show up and work hard, even on the details no one else may appreciate.



- **Lastly:** Have a plan – and be ready to deviate from it. Just like courses and horses, "riding the plan" is only the first step. Real power comes from developing the flexibility to calmly improvise when Plans A and B don't work. Good horsemen don't panic; they react and revise.

These pieces of wisdom have been a guiding force in Parker's professional life as well. Regarding the last piece of advice, in Parker's own words: "Learn to do this: ideally with your sense of humor and patience intact, and you'll be prepared for success at whatever lies alongside or beyond your journey with horses."



**Yvette Seger,
PhD**

An interest in the intersection between science and public policy resulted in Yvette Seger abandoning her lab coat and moving to Washington, D.C., where she is currently a Senior Scientific Analyst with Thomson Reuters. This role allows Yvette to combine her doctoral training in cancer genetics with the

Federal government's need for methods to effectively assess research investments. Her efforts are focused on conducting quantitative evaluations of programs funded by the National Institutes of Health using a combination of measures, ranging from demographics to bibliometrics. Yvette is also the subject matter expert for the development of public-facing web tools, such as the National Cancer Institute's Interactive Budget Analysis Tool, and Research In View, a proprietary faculty data collection tool.

Yvette's transition from the lab bench to the Beltway began during her undergraduate studies at Ohio Wesleyan University, where she double-majored in Zoology and Politics and Government. Her studies culminated in Honors theses in both majors – one identifying genetic markers of equine cryptorchidism and the other on the need for genetic non-discrimination legislation in the age of genetic testing. Following completion of her BA, Yvette chose to pursue a PhD in Genetics at SUNY-Stony Brook, and conducted her doctoral research at the internationally renowned Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL). Her research – funded by a pre-doctoral fellowship from the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program – sought to elucidate the genetic elements required to convert a normal human cell into one that is cancerous. Her work showed that this "transformation" could be accomplished via a combination of three oncogenes, and specific mutations in these genes helped elucidate potential therapeutic targets. It also showed that telomerase – the enzyme that confers cellular immortality – is not required for the actual transformation process as

had been thought previously, but does play a role in tumor maintenance and disease progression.

During the last two years of her doctoral studies, Yvette represented CSHL at several "Capitol Hill Days" in which scientists met with members of Congress to discuss the importance of Federal research funding. These experiences prompted her to pursue a career in science policy. Following graduation, she received a Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellowship from the National Academy of Sciences, during which she conducted analysis on the appointment of Presidential science and technology advisors. Prior to her current position at Thomson Reuters, Yvette has also served as a policy associate with the research advocacy group, FasterCures, and as a senior policy analyst for the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society.

Yvette is a graduate H-A member of Lake Shore Pony Club (Tri-State Region), and was a recipient of the USPC Calvary Association trophy in 1994. She took an eight year hiatus from riding during graduate school, but the presence of a lint roller in her desk drawer "outed" her as a former Pony Clubber to a client, and she once again found herself actively volunteering with USPC. She currently serves as a Chief Horse Management Judge, Horse Management Organizer for the Capital Region, and Co-Chair of the national Horse Management Committee, and is better known as her alter ego, "the Crazy Sock Lady." Thanks to generosity of Pony Club families, Yvette returned to eventing in 2007 on Roger Rabbit, with sport pony Finders Keepers joining the mix in 2010. When she's not writing, riding, stuck in traffic, or on a conference call, Yvette can be found shopping for very un-Pony Club footwear.



**Jennifer S.
Welter, PT, DPT,
CERP, RVT**

Jennifer is a graduate C-3 from the Redwoods Pony Club in the Sierra Pacific Region. After high school,

Jennifer attended college at the University of California, Davis and earned her B.S. in Animal Science with an emphasis on equine science. She then spent the next nine years working for UC Davis' Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital as an equine intensive care veterinary nurse and became licensed as a Registered Veterinary Technician. Jennifer had the opportunity to provide nursing care for horses recovering from a wide variety of neurological and musculoskeletal problems and ultimately specialized in equine neonatal intensive care. She also engaged in teaching veterinary students and assisting with a variety of research projects at the university. During her years at the veterinary school, Jennifer began to explore options to enhance the healing of her patients to improve their outcomes. After several successful bouts of physical therapy herself due to riding and work related accidents, Jennifer became very aware of physical therapy's integral role in the rehabilitation of human athletes. At the time, equine physical therapy was just emerging as a field of practice. Jennifer entered a program for veterinary and physical therapy professionals offered by the University of Tennessee Veterinary School to become a Certified Equine Rehabilitation Practitioner. She is now one of only a handful of individuals who have completed this program, which provides specialized training in equine specific rehabilitation techniques. Following her certification, Jennifer decided to dedicate herself fully to the field of physical therapy. She continued her education at Samuel Merritt University where she obtained her doctorate in Physical Therapy and is now a licensed human Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Jennifer now divides her professional time between her busy human physical therapy practice and her equine rehabilitation work. In her human practice, she specializes in pediatrics with an emphasis on treating children with developmental delays and neurological disorders. Jennifer credits her years of horsemanship developed through Pony



Club for her ability to work effectively with children, since both children and horses require keen observational skills and patience to work with. Jennifer started her company Equine Therapeutic Solutions in 2007. She provides physical rehabilitation and performance enhancement services for equine athletes and their riders along with educational programs on rider biomechanics and a variety of equine topics such as prevention of back pain and pilates for horses. As one dedicated to the service of both youth and horses, Jennifer has also donated her time to Ride to Walk, a therapeutic riding center for children with neurological disabilities, as well as to Pony Club.

Currently Jennifer resides in Vacaville, California with her husband and their new baby boy Connor. In this new chapter of her life as a mother, Jennifer is looking forward to introducing her little boy to the joys of horses and is already on the lookout for a good pony! Despite a busy home and professional life, Jennifer has managed to continue riding intermittently through the years, focusing on her first love, dressage. She is currently enjoying her Iberian Warmblood mare, Isabella, whom she plans to breed in the next year or two in hopes of bringing along her next dressage prospect.

Jennifer feels exceptionally lucky to have had the opportunity to grow both as an individual and as a horse person through USPC. She credits her success in her business and educational pursuits to the work ethic and horsemanship skills she learned in Pony Club.



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National Youth Congress Class of 2012 Delegates



2012 National Youth Congress and Academy of Achievement Committee Members

**Present at 2012 Congress*

Nancy Ambrosiano*

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 2007 to the present. She has a graduate C-3 (trad) daughter who was a 2007 NYC delegate and who graduated from Kansas City Art Institute and Vancouver Film School majoring in 3-D animation and modeling and who now works for NerdCorps Entertainment animating the Nickelodeon show "Monster High." Nancy 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 two hunt horses, her daughter's retired eventer plus a Newfy, two kitties and ferrets.

Megan Dennis*

Megan Dennis is an H-A 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.

Ann Rickard Haller*

Ann Rickard Haller is a well-travelled "Army Brat" with a passion for people, horses and the outdoors. A graduate H-A pony clubber from Hood Pony Club (Texas), Ann was a member of more than half a dozen pony clubs. She has continued to be involved in Pony Club for over 25 years as an instructor, clinician, coach, National Examiner, Chief Horse Management Judge, past member of the USPC national eventing and horse management committees, and past member of the USPC Board of Governors. In 2004, Ann was asked to coach the USPC International Show Jumping Exchange Team that went to Johannesburg, South Africa. In 2006, she was inducted into the USPC Academy of Achievement.

Ann is a USEA nationally-certified instructor (ICP Level II) as well as being a USPC Level IV National Examiner (examining candidates through the A level). She is also a current competitor herself, bringing along her young TB-Paint cross, "Master of the House" in eventing and dressage competitions. Ann's education in communications and (human) nutrition give her a diverse background strongly grounded in teaching in a positive tone. She received several commendations and awards for her outstanding work in the production of integrated nutrition campaigns, including nutrition workshops, television and radio programming, and television PSAs. Other "hats" that Ann wears include Show Manager for local schooling dressage and eventing competitions; Cross Country controller for USEA recognized events; and Media and Press Relations for national events including Rolex, Fair Hill, Rebecca Farm, NAYRC (Young Riders), and most recently, the World Equestrian Games, where Ann was the Chief Press Officer for the disciplines of Reining, Vaulting, and Eventing. Ann lives in Oxford, Georgia, about 35 miles east of Atlanta, with her husband Roger and a yellow Labrador, "Miss Maddie". Roger, a graduate A pony-clubber, was an international-level event rider and now judges, officiates, and does course design in the US and other countries.

Connie Denton Jehlik*

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 C-2 and Mary a C-1 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.

Sharon Turner

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

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.

H. Jerry Schurink

H. Jerry Schurink grew up on Doornhof Farm in Shaftsbury, VT. Jerry's parents, Henry and Janet founded the Bennington Pony Club (BPC) in 1968 with Henry the acting DC for 40 years. After high school, Jerry worked at Klosterhof in Medingen, Germany, an auction facility and stallion training center where Bereiter candidates develop their skills and knowledge before taking their national exams.

Currently, Jerry is Director of Riding at Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, VA, after spending 22 years as the Director of Equestrian Studies in the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at the University of MA. While there, he taught riding and didactic courses in both the associates and bachelors degree programs, and was the Head Coach of the IHSA Equitation team.

Jerry has trained, ridden and coached through the advanced level in eventing, and is a USEA Instructor Certification Program Level 3 Instructor, Faculty, and National Committee member.

Jerry has been blessed with the fortune to share his passion for horses 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.