



Academy of Achievement 2014 Alumni Honorees

Katharine Devereaux Byron, MFH

Stephanie Church

David Courreges

Mark Lloyd

Katharine Devereaux Byron, MFH



Coming from a horse-sporting family, where everyone rode and foxhunted, Katharine started early in Pony Club, showing, eventing, trail-riding and fox-hunting. She achieved her USPC A rating and rode on the IHSA team while at Mount Holyoke College. At Mount Holyoke she also taught riding and several of her students went on to show on the IHSA team and even to win at Nationals.

Following college she hunted and taught riding at Oldfields School in Baltimore County. This was a fantastic experience and introduced her to many of the local horsemen/women which led to a job riding for a timber-racing trainer. After a second major riding accident in two years, it was time to get a “real job” with good health insurance! Katharine made the “sensible” decision to go into the Financial Services industry and started in the Management Associates program at a mid-size bank in Maryland. Finally, she landed in the merchant side of the credit

card industry, in several different departments for over 13 years.

In 2009 she was elected to serve as Joint MFH of the New Market Middletown Valley Hounds. Her husband loves hunting and horses as much as she does and is willing to help at the kennels and their farm!

Katharine feels blessed in knowing so many great people, horses, hounds, and places through Pony Club and horse sports. Her wish is for others to have a similar appreciation for its traditions and to experience its excitement and pleasure.

Stephanie L. Church

Stephanie is a C-3 graduate of Deep Run Hunt Pony Club, near Richmond, Va. During her Pony Club years she participated in camps, many mounted and unmounted rallies, several Eastern Championships, two National Championships/Festivals, and the 40th Annual Meeting. She was also very active in 4-H, the Commonwealth Dressage & Combined Training Association, and USCTA (now USEA), and she and her off-the-track Thoroughbred were Area II Training Championship winners.

Stephanie graduated from Averett University (then College) in Danville, Va., in 1999 with degrees in journalism and equestrian studies, along with a minor in studio art. She served on the Student Government Association three out of her four years in college (elected president her senior year). In the meantime, she evented her own horse and college-owned horses, taught kids’ riding lessons, and worked in retail. Additionally during her college years, she traveled to France to compete on the first U.S. team in the world championships of TREC, a European sport with orienteering on horseback as its central feat.

A winner of the American Horse Publications’ (AHP) student award in 1998, and a participant in the organization’s internship program. *The Horse* hired her after graduation in July 1999 as an editorial assistant, and since then she has served in the roles of staff writer, news editor, copy/features editor, managing editor, and her current position as editor-in-chief.



David Courreges

David is a graduate H-A and former District Commissioner of the Huaco Pony Club in Waco, TX. Now a resident of Austin, he is the founding shareholder of Courreges, PC, and an adjunct professor of political science at St. Mary's University. His practice includes legislative and governmental affairs, administrative law, association law and mediation. He has over a decade of direct experience in government law, working as the legislative director for two high-ranking state representatives, general counsel for two non-partisan legislative caucuses, as well as a consultant for several entities dedicated to the research and promotion of sound public policy.

David is the current president of the Austin Young Lawyers Association, Immediate Past President of the St. Mary's University Law Alumni Association – the youngest in the school's history – and past vice president of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. He was named the 2013 Lawyer of the Year and a finalist for the Austinite of the Year by the Austin Under 40 Committee, the 2013 Distinguished Young Alumnus of St. Mary's University School of Law, and was recognized by the publishers of Texas Monthly as one of two Texas Rising Stars in government relations in 2011, 2012 and 2014.

David earned his J.D. and MPA from St. Mary's University in May of 2005, and his B.A. in Government and History from the University of Texas in December, 2000. He and his wife Erin have been married for 8 years, and have a 3 year old daughter, McKenna.



Mark Lloyd

Each morning Mark wakes up fighting. That is an odd statement for a Pony Club alumnus to make, perhaps but he is a husband and a father, a scientist and a CEO and now he is a cancer researcher. He graduated with a pair of undergraduate majors in biochemistry & molecular genetics and biology. Mark was interviewed at the Lombardi Cancer Center at Georgetown University in Washington, DC., and took a position as an entry level technician. He worked three years in that lab as a pathology assistant and histo-technologist. This was a position that his time as a Pony Club member had trained him well for as it took patience and attention to detail. In 2003 he moved to work in a lab at the Moffitt Cancer Center where after more than 10 years he has contributed his heart, soul and weekends (a characteristic that was first planted in Pony Club) to patient's need for better treatments and better outcomes.

He was not willing to stop there. Last year he re-enrolled in school and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He retained his full-time position at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, but for 32 weeks last year he commuted weekly to Chicago to work with a brilliant evolutionary ecologist, Joel Brown.

Mark's goal is that his wife and daughter do not have to have the same experiences with cancer many of our parents and grandparents have had and this motivates his daily fight.





National Youth Congress
Class of 2014
Delegates



Ashley Alexander

C-3 Traditional, Intermountain Region

Activities: Eventer, loves to travel and eat exotic foods.

Future Plans: Become a research biologist.

Favorite Horse(s): Jasmin



Courtenay Collins

H-B, Intermountain Region

Activities: Attends University of Nevada and part of the WiSE (Women in Science and Engineering) program.

Future Plans: Become a Pediatric Endocrinologist

Favorite Horse(s): "How can you choose just one of such an incredible species?!"



Carissa Campbell

H-B, Sierra Pacific Region

Activities: Junior at William Jessup University in Rocklin, CA. Majoring in Business Management.

Future Plans: Get her A and a degree in business.

Favorite Horse(s): Tarzan



Rachel Cooper

H-B, Camino Real Region

Activities: Student at Los Angeles Harbor Community College and juggles classes with riding.

Future Plans: Pursue more Certifications!

Favorite Horse(s): Pariemo M (aka Pari)



Caitlin Edwards

C-3 Traditional, Great Lakes Region

Activities: Senior at Grand Valley State University studying clinical exercise science.

Future Plans: Physician Assistant with a side career in riding.

Favorite Horse(s): Russian Roulette



Cara Goode

H-A, Virginia Region

Activities: Sophomore at Elon University in NC. Working student at a farm near Elon and on the intercollegiate dressage team.

Future Plans: Get her A and complete a CCI* in 2014.

Favorite Horse(s): George



Aislinn Finn

C-3 Traditional, Middle CA Region

Activities: Freshman at Modesto Junior College, majoring in Agriculture Business.

Future Plans: Transfer to a four year university. Stay involved and achieve her H-A.

Favorite Horse(s): Devon



Caroline Johnson

H-B, MidSouth Region

Activities: Attends Auburn Veterinary School.

Future Plans: Become a Veterinarian

Favorite Horse(s): All are favorites!



Carly Klohs

C-3 Traditional, Hawaii Region

Activities: Attends University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

Future Plans: Have an active role in Pony Club.

Favorite Horse(s): Ele Ele and Souffle



Katherine Macdonald

H-B, Southwest Region

Activities: Competes at second level, volunteers at Church and enjoys studying fitness and nutrition.

Future Plans: Start her own Pony Club Riding Center

Favorite Horse(s): Sam and Honey



Chamisa Kolk

B Traditional, Southern CA Region

Activities: Studies web design at Academy of Art University. Hobbies are reading, photography and drawing.

Future Plans: Compete in a full format three-day event.

Favorite Horse(s): Slick



Abigail Marincin

C-3 Traditional, Northwest Region

Activities: Assist with HM judging; teach HM at C preps and horse management at regional camp.

Future Plans: Degree in Business Management with an emphasis on Law. Abigail wants to achieve her H-A certification.

Favorite Horse(s): All are favorites



Shannon McCarley

H-B, Middle CA Region

Activities: Freshman at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. Studying biology, public health and Spanish.

Future Plans: Career in Public Health, riding and share Pony Club with other children.

Favorite Horse(s): Libby



Rio Mowbray

H-B, Northwest Region

Activities: Attending Eastern Washington University, studying biology and pre-physical therapy.

Future Plans: Attain her A certification and be a Physical Therapist and Dressage Trainer

Favorite Horse(s): Ice Man and Jonny B Dreamy



Kasey Moore

A Traditional, Oregon Region

Activities: Senior at Oregon State University. Studied abroad in Chile and recently in East Africa for a wildlife management studies program.

Future Plans: Wildlife Management working on predator conservation projects.

Favorite Horse(s): Tiger and Vegas



Helen Olmi

H-A, Carolina Region

Activities: Biology major at Honors College of College of Charleston.

Future Plans: Veterinary School and become a National Examiner

Favorite Horse(s): Arabian mare and Whinnie



Taylor Oxley

H-B, North Central Prairie Region

Activities: Senior in High School, participates in Speech and Drama Club.

Future Plans: Career in Medical field

Favorite Horse(s): Piper



Mara Sackman

C-3, Sierra Pacific Region

Activities: Sophomore at Chico State University and active in her sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta.

Future Plans: Study aboard and Law school.

Favorite Horse(s): Peter



Rebekah Polacek

H-A, Oregon Region

Activities: Junior at Oregon State University, double majoring in English and Education.

Future Plans: Avid competitor and a small riding center to host Pony Club events.

Favorite Horse(s): Barlow and Emma



Emma Schmitz

H-B, North Central Prairie Region

Activities: Iowa State University, majoring in biology and Pre-Med focus.

Future Plans: Attaining her C-3.

Favorite Horse(s): Ni Hala, Flare, and Titan



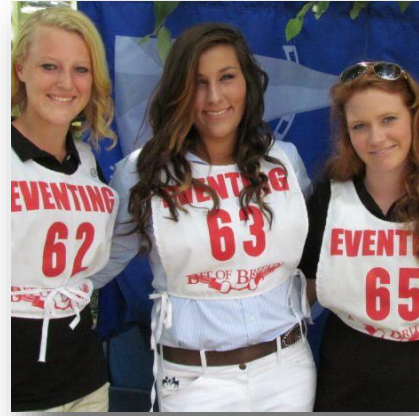
Dan Shaw

H-A, Eastern PA Region

Activities: Senior in High School who loves math and science.

Future Plans: Go to college to study engineering and work on energy systems to provide cleaner energy.

Favorite Horse(s): Joey



Cady Marie Solomon

C+ Traditional, South Region

Activities: Senior at George Walton Academy in GA. Loves to compete in 3-Day Eventing in the USEA Area III competitions.

Future Plans: Get that next certification!

Favorite Horse(s): First pony and her new mare.



Kristin Short

H-B, Lake Shore Region

Activities: Junior at University of Wisconsin-Green Bay studying Cell and Molecular Biology.

Future Plans: Not sure but would love the chance to share Pony Club with others.

Favorite Horse(s): many



Gabbie Van Scoy

C-3 Traditional, Tri-State Region

Activities: Freshman at Youngstown State University studying Biomedical and Electrical Engineering.

Future Plans: Be hired as an electrical engineer while remaining active as an Eventer.

Favorite Horse(s): Whitchit



Kirsten van Solinge

C-3 Traditional, Camino Real Region

Activities: Animal Science major at Fresno State University. Currently Evening at training level.

Future Plans: Veterinary School

Favorite Horse(s): Oliver



Eric Wright

C-3 Traditional, Carolina Region

Activities: Senior at Clemson University studying Bioengineering with a concentration in Biomaterials.

Future Plans: Pursue a Master's degree and possibly a career in research.

Favorite Horse(s): Gemini

Committee Member Biographies

***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.

***Heather Bell** is a graduate A, National Examiner, 4th Level Dressage and Preliminary Event rider who has now settled down to riding with her son either exploring the Rocky Mountains or firing six shooters from a galloping horse in a sport called Cowboy Mounted Shooting.

She has always found it exhilarating to buck tradition and embrace change - from developing her own major in college (Evolution and its theories) to reinvigorating and modernizing a carriage driving tradition during my term as Director of Riding at the University of Massachusetts; to starting American Airlines onboard recycling program after being told it would never work to traveling in and conducting biological research in countries hostile to women. In her current position as an endangered species biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, she has been dubbed an "agent of change" and is charged with reinventing the way a very stodgy government agency does business – her biggest challenge yet!

While invigorated by change she has also found comfort in studying the past -from studying evolution in species and our earth, to sharing American history with her son, and collecting antiques with her husband. Heather currently reside in Conifer, Colorado, with four horses, a hound, and a couple of lively cats.

Heather was inducted into the Academy of Achievement in 2013.

***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 USPC National Examiner. 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 PSA's. Other "hats" that Ann wears include stewarding for NCEA National Equestrian Championships, 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, Tilly. 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.

Committee Member Biographies

Megan Dennis Hinkle is an H-A from Brumbies Pony Club (New York). Megan graduated from Wilson College with a double major in Biology and Chemistry and a minor in Equine Training. She is an Environmental Biologist for an environmental and engineering firm in Harrisburg, PA. She is studying for her Master's Degree in Biology at Shippensburg University. Megan enjoys competing her OTTB Lucky Duck in both dressage and eventing. Megan was a National Youth Congress Delegate in 2010 in Houston, TX and has been on the NYC Committee since 2011.

***Cathy Frederickson** Cathy has been a National Examiner for over 20 years and became a graduate A Pony Club member in 1975. She joined Fresno Pony Club at the age of 7 where she was active as a member and then as an instructor until moving to the east coast in 1983 with her husband Allan. Her college years were spent at Fresno State University as a History major. Cathy's competitive experiences encompass 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 Instructor's exam, as well as doing a little competing. Cathy now trains and teaches professionally in Virginia, based at Millwood Farm, specializing in educating horses and riders. She competes young horses and fox hunts regularly, and coaches aspiring competitors. Her favorite thing about being an NE is the travel and she especially appreciates and enjoys the dedication and enthusiasm of the upper level candidates as she watches them progress through the levels. Cathy's son, Sam, is an H-B Pony Clubber and currently is a Steeplechase jockey.

***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.

***Connie Jehlik (staff liaison)** joined the staff of USPC in June of 2010. She holds a B.S. degree and teaching certificate in Agricultural Education and Middle School Science from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA. She also holds a Masters of Education in Instructional Design. Connie taught middle school science and high school agriculture for a total of 22 years. She 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 as a 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 May Adams (recently married in August) and Mary a C2-HM who is attending college in Kentucky and finishing her senior year playing basketball for Campbellsville University. Connie and Michael own a farm in Mount Sterling, KY where they enjoy the outdoors, riding, hiking, and going to basketball games.



Pony Club



Academy of Achievement
National Youth Congress

Where it all begins