



Pony Club
Academy of Achievement
National Youth Congress *Where it all begins*

Academy of Achievement
2018 Alumni Honorees

Rob Burk
Dorothy Crowell
Kat Drake, PhD
Tim Leithead





Each year several USPC alumni are inducted into the Alumni Academy of Achievement, and join the current members during the 2-1/2 day National Youth Congress. The alumni honorees play a vital role in the Congress because they bring the voice of experience into the

discussions. They listen, encourage, laugh, and commiserate with the young people, and share personal stories of success and failure, helping the youth delegates to recognize that life is filled with the unexpected and that flexibility and a sense of humor can be as important as excellent goals and plans.

Class of 1999

Sophie H. Pirie, J.D.
Stirlin Harris
Tracy Moore Jarman
Pat Maykuth, PhD
Paula Parker Raye
Henry S. Taylor

Class of 2000

Susanna Colloredo-Mansfield
Ian M. Grant
Lendon Gray
Jill Hassler-Scoop
Donald B. Hebb
Marian Zerfoss Kessler
Jean Swank, PhD

Class of 2001

Sally Garner
Sali Gear
Tad Leithead, Jr.
Catherine Stoppioni-Johnson
John Strassburger

Class of 2002

Liesl Clark
Tremaine Cooper
LTC Lorelei Copen
Laurie Penfield Fichter
Anita Huntsman
Mary Kahan, DVM
Tom McLaughlin
Dorothy Smith
Emily Wiley, PhD

Class of 2003

Georgia Gerber
Patti Jo Hassler
Gary Keating
Richard Lamb
Kelly Wycall Phillips
LTC Stacy Yike

Class of 2004

Beth Clarke, JD
Ben Duke
Dorothy Eisenberg
Dr. Anthony Patt, PhD
Rhonda Rathgeber

Class of 2005

Nancy Ambrosiano
Gillian Clissold
Christine Harris
Donald McLean, Jr.
Michael B. Richardson
Catherine Scott, MD
Peter Zimmerman

Class of 2006

Jillian Dunham
Ann Haller
Christine Knox
Mary Beth Larsen
Brian O'Connor
David O'Connor

Class of 2007

Tom Eversole, DVM
Susan Knox, JD
John A. Kosanovich
Linda Miller
Carol Ripple, PhD

Class of 2008

Erika de Papp, DVM
Russell Gilfus
Liz Halliday
Kevin Price
Sharon Turner, PhD
Carey Williams, PhD

Class of 2009

Holiday Banta
Jim Hamilton
Caroline McCabe
John Staples
Kate Sweeney

Class of 2010

Conrad Adams
Stephanie Drachkovitch
Janell Hoffman
Michael Hoffman
Gina Miles

Class of 2011

Lola Blackwell Chambless, M.D.
Janell Goode Hoffman
Sondra Russman Marshall
H. Jerry Schurink
Melanie Smith –Taylor

Class of 2012

Loranne Ausley
Laurie Chapman-Bosco
Parker Pearson
Yvette R. Seger, Ph.D.
Jennifer S. Welter, DPT

Class of 2013

Heather Bell
Dr. Mary Sarah Bergh, DVM
Margaret “Meg” Johnson
Dr. Amy Story, Ph.D.

Class of 2014

Stephanie Church
David Courreges
Katharine Devereaux Byron, MFH
Mark Lloyd

Class of 2015

Jennifer Goss
Heather Rosenker
Brian Sabo
Lisa Sabo

Class of 2016

Marc Donovan
Linda Zang

Class of 2017

Kathleen Carr, DVM, MS, PHD
Jennifer Lord, MD
Lisa Roskens
Sara Williams

Rob Burk



In December of 2015, Rob Burk took over as the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Eventing Association (USEA). Prior to his appointment as CEO, he served as the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Director of Programs for the USEA. Rob previously served as an Executive Director and Senior Adviser within the U.S. Department of Agriculture and as the Executive Director of a Governor appointed statewide equine industry advisory board and stable inspection/licensing program within the Maryland Department of Agriculture. He has provided advice and guidance to four Secretaries of Agriculture and two Governors on equine and agricultural matters.

Rob has competed in Hunter/Jumpers, Dressage, Reining, and Evented throughout his life with notable success as a Young Rider in California. Through his childhood Rob's family moved approximately 8 times. As a result, Rob was a member of three different Pony Clubs (Fresno, Diablo, and Morgan Territory) in California. He graduated from Otterbein University with a B.S. in Pre-Veterinary Medicine/Pre-Graduate Equine Studies and earned a M.S. from Virginia Tech. He served as an equestrian team coach for Otterbein University and the United States Naval Academy. Rob, a graduate H-A, attributes his successes to his upbringing through Pony Club and his trainers and mentors based in California, Ohio, Maryland, and Ireland, as well as his family. He is married to Dr. Amy Burk of the University of Maryland Equine Studies Program, and he has two daughters.

Dorothy Crowell

Dorothy Crowell, and her Horse of A Lifetime, Molokai, were World Equestrian Games (WEG) Silver Medalists, 2 Time Olympians, the first US 4* Champions at Rolex Kentucky Three-Day, top ten finishers at Badminton and Burghley. Radio Flyer, another TB she got directly off the track, took Dorothy back to the 4* level in her 40's, after she had "retired" to start a family and her own farm. They competed at the Rolex Kentucky Three Day and Pau, in France. Dorothy is a Level IV instructor in the U.S. Eventing Association's Instructor Certification Program, a C-3 Traditional graduate from Keeneland Pony Club and is currently the Coach of the Area VIII's North American Junior Young Rider Championships Team. Though she has definitively retired from competing at the highest levels, she still loves to bring along Off-The-Track Thoroughbreds.



Kat Drake, PhD

Kat grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, spending most of her Pony Club years in the Great Lakes Region before moving to San Francisco. She graduated as an H from Portola Valley Pony Club while completing her Masters in Epidemiology from the University of California Berkeley and Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Science and Pharmacogenomics from the University of California San Francisco.

After grad school, Kat started working in the Biotech/Tech start up world. Initially she worked as a Bioinformatics Scientist at diagnostics companies developing biomarker blood tests for inflammatory bowel disease and early detection of lung cancer. Now she's working as Director of Informatics at Cytobank, Inc., a software startup whose aim is to make machine learning easy for biologists to help them rapidly analyze the large datasets they collect to monitor immune system function.

Kat has continued Eventing and currently has a young TB she's hoping to move up to Prelim next year, but also takes care to prioritize being active and spending time in the mountains doing things like backcountry ski touring for a week in British Columbia or hiking 23 miles and 11k vertical feet in one day in Southern California.



Tim Leithead



Tim Leithead is a graduate H-A from Eastern PA Region and son of the late USPC President, Margo Leithead. He is a fine example of what Pony Club can produce in using skills "beyond the horse world."

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, Tim worked as an IT developer and business strategist for "The Purchasing Group", at one point heading up their sole European Office. After working for them for 10 years, he did 2 and 6 years, respectively, with MedRisk and JP Morgan Chase. Tim was then involved in the start-up Moven where he lead the creation of a financial savings app before becoming a lead and principal consultant for Finvention, a world wide tech-innovation network and conference, that also fosters global entrepreneurship among students.

Tim's professional life has certainly been strong, but he has been strong as well as he is a cancer-survivor and also the father of two children, his first being born 16 weeks premature. The experience of his family with Cailin led them to become major advocates for the March of Dimes.

In addition to these things, in life past horses Tim also competes in autocross racing and has served on the Board of the University of Pennsylvania for the past two years. He comes from an amazing Pony Club family with 4 siblings who are also USPC grads. Brother, Tad, was one of the first inductees into the Academy of Achievement and their father was a USPC Vice President and National Examiner.