

The Dressage Foundation Young Rider Olympic Dream Program Completes its 9th Trip!

The Olympic Dream Program offers an opportunity for gifted Young Riders to enhance their understanding of dressage theory through an intensive European tour. John Boomer, past President and CEO of TDF said, "The committee was very impressed with the quality and quantity of this year's candidates, and they have selected a wonderful group of young riders." The program is funded and administered by The Dressage Foundation.

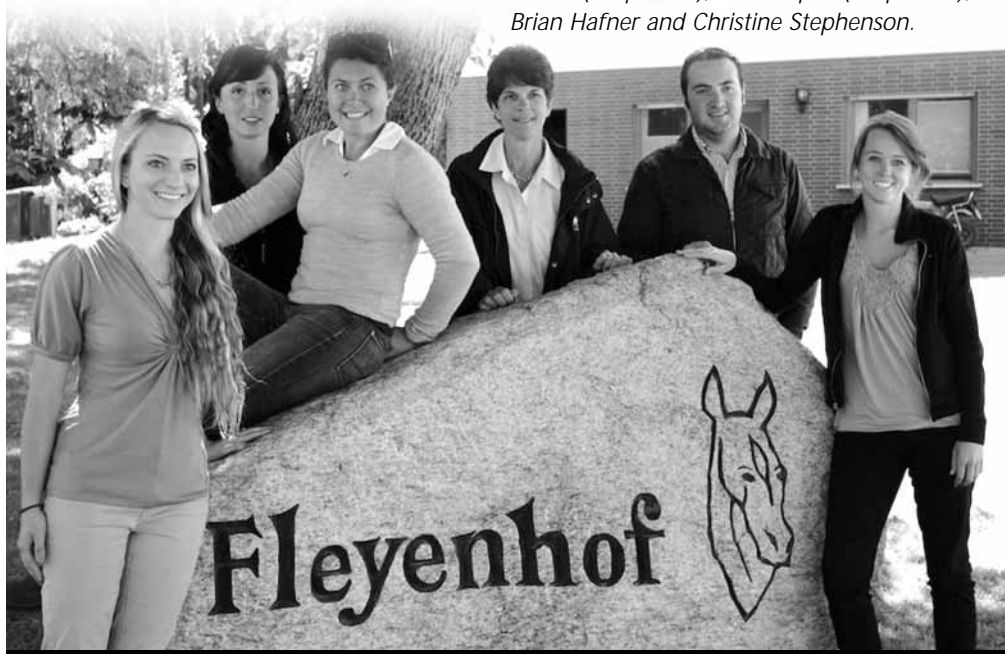
Join the 2010 participants and chaperones as they tell the story of their trip! To read complete journals from the travelers, visit our website, www.dressage-foundation.org.

Day 1: Monday 28 June 2010: Travel Day

We began our journey together in JFK, congregating from all over the country: Mimi Stanley from North Dakota, Brian Hafner from California, Christine Stephenson from California, Kristin Schwaegerle from New Hampshire, Ann Guptill (the primary chaperone) from Connecticut, and myself from just north of NYC. We were there with a purpose, having walked away from our busy schedules to immerse ourselves in the German train-

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2010 Olympic Dream participants from left: Mimi Stanley, Kristen Schwaegerle, Annie Morris (chaperone), Ann Guptill (chaperone), Brian Hafner and Christine Stephenson.



Melissa Filipi (left) and Jenny Johnson discuss upcoming Foundation projects at their new office.

New Staff, Expanded Programs, Big Gifts... and a New Home!

What a year it's been! John and Lynn Boomer retired. Two new staff members, Melissa Filipi and Jenny Johnson, took over the reins. Several funds have been expanded, either in the amount of the grants or the number of grants being awarded. The Foundation received a very generous donation, and now...a new permanent home!

"It has been my father's wish to anchor The Dressage Foundation permanently in Lincoln, to secure the future of Foundation as a 'stand alone organization, which is neither enmeshed in the organizational structure, nor entangled in

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President's Message

The Next Chapter

This issue of The Dressage Foundation News is filled with information on what we do, how we do it, and who we are. You will read stories of “donor dollars at work” – helping adult amateurs, young riders, judges, instructors, and GMOs. We provide support from grass roots to high performance, and everything in between. Some of these funds and programs have been part of our “menu” for some time now, some are new.

And you no doubt have heard about our new staff members, Jenny and Melissa. They are truly stepping into their new roles and running the daily business of the Foundation, John and Lynn Boomer have left TDF in very capable hands.

Speaking of John and Lynn, after 12 years with the Foundation, they are now enjoying their retirement! They

worked hard to develop an appropriate business model for the Foundation and to establish numerous funds and programs. And as we look to the future, the plan is to expand on these funds and programs, both increasing the number and amount of some grants and scholarships as well as adding new funds to our “family.”

Our vision continues to be to steadily increase the asset base of The Dressage Foundation so that we can turn ever more “dreams into action!” The \$1 million gift from Mr. Cadwgan (page 27) has helped us down this path, we still have a journey ahead of us, a journey we hope you will take with us.

We want to make sure that every donor, grant recipient, and clinic participant feels connected to, and part of our mission. It takes more than just large contributions and high perfor-



Clay Teske

mance grants to advance Dressage at all levels. All donations help and your gift WILL INSPIRE others to give too!

If you'd like more information on giving to the Foundation, contact Melissa Filipi at (402) 434-8585 or Melissa@dressagefoundation.org. She will be happy to discuss the many ways of charitable giving, ways that are mutually advantageous to you, to the Foundation, and to dressage!

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Clay Teske". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'C' and 'T'.

Clay Teske

President and Chief Executive Officer

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The Olympic Dream Trip 2010

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ing system by observing the top riders in the country (and the world) at their home barns. The group was four of the top young riders in the country who had filled out a rigorous application for the program in a year of record applicants. I am a young professional and assistant trainer to Lendon Gray in NY and Ann is a professional as well as faculty member of the USDF Instructor Certification board. We became close friends, spending the night all together in the airport lobby... (Annie Morris, chaperone)

The plane lost auxiliary power after we had boarded and in the end our flight was cancelled until morning. We spent an uncomfortable night in JFK airport, but this brought our group together more quickly than would have happened without this delay. (Mimi Stanley)

Day 2: Tuesday 29 June 2010: Travel Round Two

We found our rental car, later named "Bunny," a VW van; we soon understood why we had been limited to one suitcase and a carry-on because we had to load the back just right in order to make everything fit. (Mimi Stanley)

Day 3: Wednesday 30 June 2010: Ann Kathrin Linsenhoff's Schafhof at Kronberg

We spent a wonderful time at Ann Kathrin Linsenhoff's stable Schafhof today. Ann Kathrin is a 1988 German gold medalist and daughter of Liselotte Linsenhof, a multiple Olympic medalist and wife of Klaus Martin Rath, trainer at the facility and father of Matthias Rath, current German team

member. (Ann Guptill, chaperone)

This barn was absolutely stunning. Cobble stone walkways, gorgeous old white buildings covered in ivy, a pack of friendly Rhodesian Ridgebacks to greet us at the gate. As we walked through, I couldn't help thinking that this was the kind of barn everyone dreams about having. (Christine Stephenson)

The grounds are quite literally fit for royalty they are so beautiful. Flowers are everywhere and the buildings have beautiful old architecture. Klaus Martin Rath gave us a tour of the barn and introduced us to some of the more noteworthy horses (they were all nice enough to be noteworthy to me) like Wahyama Ann Kathrin's lovely international competition mare that is now carrying her first foal. (Mimi Stanley)

Throughout the day we were fortunate enough to see Ann Kathrin ride in addition to her husband and trainer, Klaus Martin Rath and her stepson Matthias Alexander Rath. There were several things that I learned from observing these great riders, but the two biggest ideas that I took with me were the importance of rhythm and also the importance of having eyes on the ground. There was no guessing on whether or not what the rider felt from the saddle also looked the same from the judge's perspective because they have someone on the ground who is able to tell the rider how it looks. This is a great technique and after spending the day observing and absorbing training techniques it is no wonder why these horses were some of the best trained horses I had ever seen. (Brian Hafner)

The riders, particularly Matthias and Klaus-Martin showed tremendous core strength—their upper body never moved, no matter what they were doing – and a correctness of seat. The position and balance of their seat not only allowed but also encouraged the horses to lift their backs and swing thereby increasing impulsion. It was interesting to watch Klaus-Martin get on Matthias' horse at one point – while Matthias has an exceptionally good seat, the horse offered a little more expression and effort under Klaus-Martin's more experienced seat. This exemplified the fact that seat development – and the elusive "feel" – is something that can only come from years and years of development and time in the saddle. It was nice to see Matthias at one point remove his stirrups – even top riders still take time to focus on developing their seat. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

From here we went north to Munster where we would be staying for

Ann Kathrin's horse.



three nights. Ann and I tried to entertain the young riders, but as they fell asleep from the jet lag we spent the time entertaining each other looking into the countryside for the occasional “schloss” (castle) and plentiful windmills. (Annie Morris, chaperone)

**Day 4: Thursday 1 July 2010:
Michael Klimke, Warendorf State
Stud, Muenster**

After an impressive first day, we made our way to visit Michael Klimke just on the outskirts of Muenster. We pulled into the riding club where Michael is based and again we were able to witness some really great riding throughout the day. The biggest idea that I took from visiting and learning from Michael was to focus on the long-term goal for the horse. For Michael he seemed to be always looking towards the Grand Prix. Because Grand Prix demands so much physically from the horse, it takes years for horses to be able to compete at that level. Michael realizes this and will start working on movements such as piaffe when the horses are as young as five years old to get them developing the strength and the concept of the movement. (Brian Hafner)

We spent the morning at Michael Klimke’s stable, son of the legendary Reiner Klimke. The depth of knowledge of trainers here is immense. We have seen generations who have grown up in this culture and heritage, immersed in the knowledge of the training scale, and the discipline of applying it in daily work. (Ann Guptill, chaperone)

We were happy to meet Jim Koford



Twelve stallion quadrille demonstration at the Westphalian State Stud.

there. Jim is an American working there now and he gave us the stable tour and kept us involved in discussions w/all the horses in training sessions. (Ann Guptill, chaperone)

Jim explained that here, they like to take the horses out on the track before working them in the ring for a walk or gallop. Jim made the observation that dressage horses in Germany are kept extremely fit, which is why they can go into a show warm-up and “practice, practice, practice” and still have a horse that is electric in the ring. American horses are often viewed as being overweight and under fit. Jim noted that they do very little to no joint maintenance here; they just keep the horses super fit, which in turn keeps them sounder, longer. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

Dressage is “an entirely different sport here,” he said, and you can’t just come over for one competition and expect to do well. You have to earn the respect of the other competitors and judges, and that requires being in Germany for some time. Jim said performance expectations such as test accuracy are much higher. The intensity of training is also very high – if you are asked to do a movement, you do it now and accurately, even if it’s not set

up perfectly. No extra circles. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

After lunch, we headed towards the Olympic Training Center, making a quick gas station stop for fuel and water. After the DOKR, we headed around the corner to visit the Sattelkammer Warendorf, which happened to be down the street from the Westphalian State Stud. The State Stud is another huge facility with beautiful stone building laced with ivy vines. There were several large riding areas and a track all surrounded by neat rows of trees and precisely trimmed hedges. The 12-stallion quadrille was practicing in one of the outdoor rings. In terms of risk level, I would put this activity up there with skydiving or cliff jumping. Not kidding. Twelve testosterone-filled stallions were being ridden nose-to-tail and stirrup-to-stirrup (I think only one rider wore a helmet) while doing complex movements at the direction of the whistle-blowing coach. Many of the stallions appeared less than thrilled with the activity (i.e. double bridle + draw reins). It was an impressive feat, made more impressive by the fact that by the end (somehow) everyone stayed in line (more or less) and all riders were

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still mounted. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

The twelve stallion quadrille demonstration at the Westphalian State Stud WAS as crazy as it sounds. Their coach was booming commands in German over a loud speaker for a solid hour. The stallions were expected to work hard and behave appropriately with each other. (Some of which did so only marginally.) It was an amazing sight to see and definitely worth the watch. (Christine Stephenson)

Though I was absolutely enjoying every moment of the horses, I was glad to have time to experience a little of the local food and sights. The stone churches throughout the town were breathtaking with their impressive size and stained glass windows. The small city was bustling with activity, and it was really great to be a part of it for a short time. (Christine Stephenson)

Day 5: Friday 2 July 2010: Ingrid Klimke and Helen Langehanenberg

The entrance was dark with heavy tree cover and led to a black iron gate

Helen Langehanenberg's 3 year old mare, Spectacular.



set in a stone wall which opened to a large, bright cobbled courtyard. The wide driveway wound between old stone buildings and pastures as it made its way towards two outdoor rings, an indoor and more stables. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

We were struck again by the fact that over here we see not only layers of knowledge about training but also generations of knowledge about horse breeding. This morning we went to the stable of Ingrid Klimke, daughter of Reiner Klimke and Olympic medalist in eventing plus a GP dressage competitor. She showed us pictures of her father and spoke of how far the breeding of sport horses has come since he was first competing. (Ann Guptill, chaperone)

When we met Ingrid Klimke I was struck with her completely congenial nature. She must be one of the sweetest people I've ever met! I think it runs in the family, because her brother, Michael, had been the same way the day before. It was extremely interesting to me how she incorporated caval-

letti work into her training of each horse. She explained how the use of cavalletti will help the horse A) strengthen his hind end and B) get him thinking about regulating his own rhythm. We all took home a few exercises to try! (Christine Stephenson)

All of the trainers spent a great amount of time walking the horse before and after work; fitness is

more of a focus than we often see in the states. Several of the stables have galloping tracks that are used for conditioning, plus the horses go on treadmill in the afternoon after working in the dressage ring in the a.m. Often they have a gallop on the track before going to the dressage session. (Ann Guptill, chaperone)

I was impressed to see the amount of cross training that Ingrid did with all of her horses. Not only is this great for the rider but is also great for the horses to get out of the arena. (Brian Hafner)

She talked to us about how every horse she rides, no matter what age, she is planning the ride around what will train the horse for future success in the Grand Prix. She showed us a particularly fancy young stallion and during her ride she would occasionally canter over four raised cavaletti on the curve of a circle to improve the focus and the engagement of the hind legs. (Annie Morris, chaperone)

When evaluating a horse to purchase or train, Ingrid looks for ones with natural balance and rhythm, and whose hindquarters track straight (not wide) and under the body. Even more importantly is the temperament or mind of the horse. "You can change the body but not the mind," said Ingrid, the nature of the horse always stays the same, i.e. heavy, spooky, etc. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

Ingrid went on to explain to us that some horses can be taught piaffe and passage together as the same type of activity. Other horses who have a really natural passage, you want to keep the piaffe a completely separate exercise when beginning to train it.

Otherwise, it can ruin the already natural passage. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

A big idea that I took from Ingrid's training methods that I have started using in my own training is to use geometry and exercises to help train the horse. For example a great exercise that Ingrid showed us to help with pirouettes is to half-pass towards X and at X you ride your pirouette; if you are doing a full pirouette you then half-pass out. Lateral work helps collect the horse, so by doing this exercise, the added collection from the half-pass helps the horse with the pirouette. Another great exercise that I have started using is to use the wall/track of the arena to help straighten flying changes. By getting the changes straight on the track you can take that feeling and try to duplicate that onto the diagonal line. (Brian Hafner)

One other suggestion from Ingrid: never allow a horse to stop to "make apples." (Kristen Schwaegerle)

Day 6/7: Saturday/Sunday 3-4 July 2010: Langenfeld/Rheinland Horse Show

Trundling Bunny down the Autobahn at a pace that was her comfortable max (but still within a reasonable American highway limit), drivers in even small cars would pass by going so fast that the whole van would shudder with the draft. It was definitely an experience! (Kristen Schwaegerle)

When we arrived at the show, cars lined the roadway in all directions. After driving (slowly) for quite a ways, we found a parking lot down the road across from the public pool/people pasture (a large park-like area).

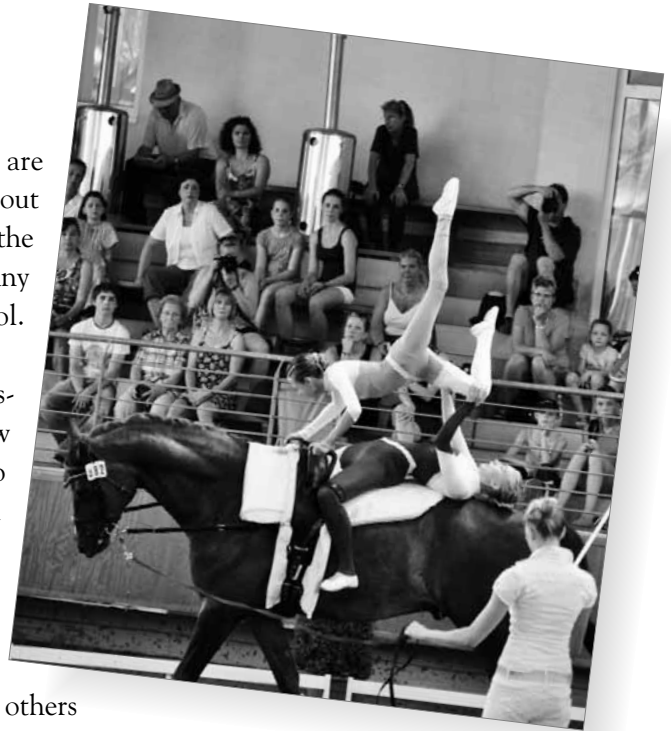
Apparently Germans are much less concerned about body image based on the number of old dudes in tiny Speedos. Not cool. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

There were two dressage rings, one show jumping ring and also vaulting, and even though that doesn't sound too big, it was a huge social event. There were people of all ages, their significant others and families all watching and cheering the rides. Vendors were set up for tack and food all over the grounds including a Haribo Gummy cart with all different gummy things (a German staple). (Annie Morris, chaperone)

Most of us had never seen vaulting in real life, and it was so cool. The strength, balance, grace, and bravery that it takes is amazing. It was like moving art on the back of a horse. (Mimi Stanley)

When watching the team [vaulting] competition, I noticed some of the teams were missing numbers in their lineups. I also noticed that off to the side were a number of vaulters (based on the upper arm muscle development) who had arm, leg, and other injuries. Based on the impressive moves these young people were doing on top of a tall, moving horse, I am not entirely surprised to observe that it is also quite dangerous. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

We met Peter Fuss, the show organizer, this afternoon along with Christoph Hess. We stood and talked to them both during the hold for the



Team vaulting competition

thunder & lightning (!) (Ann Guptill chaperone)

Most of our time was of course spent watching dressage, going back and forth from the warm-up arena to the show arena which was very interesting to see. You can get a great feel for the level of riding by looking at how a person warms a horse up. It was great to be able to see the horse before they got into the show arena and then compare that to how they performed in the test. The level of riding was very high even at the young rider level. All of the riders seemed determined and very focused which was great to see. (Brian Hafner)

We were able to watch a dressage rider class for young children, developed by Nicole Uphoff. Its main focus is on the seat, correct posture and effective aids. Children as young as 8 years old were riding school ponies to rider scores of 9! It was adorable to watch, but also provided an insight into

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why Europe produces such great young riders. (Christine Stephenson)

Mid afternoon we took the taxi back to the Hotel am Wald, packed up Bunny, and made the drive to the Landhotel Hermannshohe in the tiny town of Holtwick. The hotel was situated in a lovely, tiny town out in the countryside. The hotel itself was actually a farm and was surrounded by expansive fields. Our nice "triple" was made up of two beds and a couch, which, once we obtained another pillow and sheets, worked out fine. The only other thing that needed to be worked out was a third bath towel. Using our handy dictionary, we sent Mimi to the front desk to ask for a towel. When one of the girls who worked at the hotel knocked on the door, Christine answered, taking the towel and turning around to face me with... a hand towel. Oops. I grabbed the towel and ran down the hall to intercept the girl who brought the towel, using hand gestures and the word "grosse." She figured out what the silly Americans were asking for and brought a bath towel. The next night the couch was set up as a bed, and there was a mini bag of gummy bears on all three pillows. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

We chose to have dinner at the hotel restaurant, as it appeared to be the only restaurant of substance or size within a reasonable distance. The outdoor patio area was lovely in the warm evening, and we were all starting to get a little giggly from exhaustion. The waitress was nice enough to bring all three English menus in the restaurant to our table. The menu translations

were priceless, using terms and phrases that equated to what a German menu would have looked like if I had translated it from English. If I could have taken one thing home from Germany, there is an excellent chance I would have taken that menu. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

Day 8/9: Monday/Tuesday 5-6 July: Klaus Balkenhol

There were some distinct differences I noticed being at the barns in Germany versus the ones I know in the US. Every weekend there are several options of shows nearby to compete in. You can apparently give the secretary a heads up maybe the month before the show, and then the day before, just call him and let him know which horse you want to enter in which class. The times are posted early in the morning so just show up and ride. The classes are cheap, something like \$20 at a regular show and there is prize money so you have the opportunity to make money or at least break even. Also, whenever anyone introduced a horse to you they mentioned his or her bloodlines. Whether you are walking through a barn or listening to the announcer at a show you can keep track of any qualities you recognize in certain lines. It is clear the breeding has been organized for many generations and that the Germans are reaping



Dressage rider class for young children, championship round.

the benefits of impeccable crosses. The overall quality of the horses was astronomical. (Annie Morris, chaperone)

It was great to see the family working together to get the best out of the horses. I loved the fact that they always explained each of the different horses' stories, ages and training. It made the training techniques we were viewing all the more relevant and we could really see the various problems being corrected. (Christine Stephenson)

To see Klaus Balkenhol schooling the Grand Prix and making it look effortless was inspiring. He had the right feel and timing to influence the horse perfectly. (Annie Morris, chaperone)

When Klaus rode, it was easy to see that he really is a master at piaffe and passage. I could not completely figure out why his horse did such good work because he was so subtle. His seat was impeccable and his timing was superb. (Mimi Stanley)

As a rider, Klaus is very quiet and deliberate in his movements. Nothing is quick or harsh. He is clearly a very strong rider, and as such, he sits, asks,

and the horse complies. Part of this, too, is just how relaxed and confident his horses are – they look like clay in the hands of a sculptor. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

The next morning we looked forward to another fascinating day. We saw many of the same horses and as an extra treat we saw Klaus ride Günter Seidel's horse U2. Günter joked that you come to Klaus's, fall off and make sure you get hurt, and then Klaus trains your horse. His positive attitude was a good lesson in making the best of things even when the situation is unfortunate. (Mimi Stanley)

Klaus said they don't start horses here until the age of 4 (not 3) and are much less concerned with the FEI young horse tests. "They need time, time, time," he said. They prefer to go slow with the young horses until the age of 6 when they really start to work. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

Around noon we said our thanks and parted ways, making the drive even farther into the countryside to the Hotel Rustemeyer in Borchten-Etteln. We stopped once on our way at a rest stop with bathrooms and picnic tables. Every single toilet seat had been stolen. Classy. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

Day 10: Wednesday 7 July: Hubertus Schmidt

Today was spent at Hubertus Schmidt's and Herr Schmidt is a master at half pass. I have never seen so many engaged half passes on one day! The connection he & his riders have is inspiring! To watch the horses change in the time from warm up to work and the exact system with which he rides

and expects his riders to use was truly educational. (Ann Guphill, chaperone)

The indoor was not very big, and with 65 horses, the flow was non-stop. The interesting thing about watching this many riders together is just how clear it became that brilliance and expression of the horse is a direct result of the correctness and development of the rider's seat. The horses of the more advanced and experienced riders showed more expression because they were able to use their backs better due to a strong, harmonious seat. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

We also saw Hubertus ride "Vinci," a 10-year-old chestnut mare owned by the Balkenhols. Vinci was too difficult for Anabel to ride, so they sent her to Hubertus. Over here, Hubertus is known as the trainer's trainer. He has developed a reputation for being able to take horses that were deemed too difficult or unable to perform certain movements and training the horses to perform the movements. Under his riding, Vinci looked lovely – relaxed and expressive. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

One last important piece of advice I picked up at Hubertus': In daily training, never make a correction you wouldn't do in the show ring. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

Day 11: Thursday 8 July 2010: Home

Learning all that I did on this trip, some of the things I want to focus on in my own training are improving the correctness of my position so that it never wavers and my aids can be quieter yet more effective. I want to incorporate more stretching (long, low, round)

work into my daily routine. To achieve better lightness and expression, my horses must be respectful of the contact and half-halt, and respond to my leg by engaging the hind legs. For my young horse, here come the cavaletti! (Kristen Schwaegerle)

After picking up our luggage we said goodbye. It was weird and sad to part ways with these people that I had spent so much time with. (Mimi Stanley)

If I have the opportunity to come back again, my German needs to be at the conversational level. While you can get around on just English, it makes a big difference when you can really understand and communicate with people. Communicating in their own language also shows respect towards their culture and being in their country. (Kristen Schwaegerle)

We spent the ride back to the airport trying to collect our thoughts and organize all the amazing sights we had witnessed over the course of the last several days. Some of us were glad to be almost home where "sparkling mineral water" was not confused with "water." Others were looking forward to eating something besides German and Italian food (we found a whole bunch of authentic Italian places, but how much cheese does one really need in a week?) We all were ready for a soft bed. We discussed the training scale in many ways, and tried to ingrain the beauty of it in motion for our lives after the plane ride home. I know that this trip, thanks to The Dressage Foundation, has made a difference not only in the lives and training of the six participants but also in our home barns and states. (Annie Morris, chaperone)



Additional Funding Opportunities from The Dressage Foundation, Provided Directly to the United States Dressage Federation

Continuing Education for Judges and USDF "L" Education Program Graduates through the Edgar Hotz Judges Endowment Fund

We are proud to fund up to \$7200, permitting USDF to offer one grant in the amount of \$800 in each of nine USDF Regions. Participants have consistently rated these programs at the highest level. In the last few years, some of the clinicians have been Janet Foy, Marilyn Heath, Melissa Creswick, Sandy Howard, and Joan Humphrey.

USDF FEI Jr/YR Clinic Series

We provided \$13,000 for funding of these clinics in 2010. This money came from the "Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund" at the Foundation.

USDF/USEF YR Graduate Program

USDF in conjunction with USEF hosts a weekend educational seminar for recent graduates of the USDF Young Rider Program. The program is filled with information on crucial topics to introduce young riders to the reality of the adult equestrian world. The YR Graduate Program is planned, organized, and administered by USDF in liaison with USEF. We provided \$15,000 in funding support for this fine program in 2010, thanks to a very generous donor who designated their gift for this purpose.

The Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund

Helping Those in Need, Teaching the Value of "Giving Back"

The Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund was originally established to provide help to Young Rider applicants to the USDF FEI Jr/YR Clinics who are in need of a financial boost in order to attend (if qualified and accepted). The Fund continues to serve this purpose, providing up to nine grants of \$800 each, one for each of the nine USDF Regions.

In addition to this core purpose, the Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund also provided \$13,000 in funding support to the USDF Jr/Young Rider Clinic Series for 2009-2010.

The Fund has provided miscellaneous grants as needed and as appropriate, determined by the Selection Committee. 2010 Grant recipients include Hilary Moore, Mary Bahniuk Lauritsen, and Shannon Dueck.

Renee created this fund to help young riders advance in the sport, and to teach them the many ways to "give back" to those who support them, to their communities, and to

their sport.

In 2009, Olympian Courtney Dye and (O) Judge Anne Gribbons were the featured clinicians for a fundraising event to benefit the Renee Isler

Dressage Support Fund. This educational forum took place on May 1 - 3, 2009. Eight Junior and Young Riders had the opportunity to work with Dye, and the symposium was open to auditors on Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday featured open warm-ups with Dye and a judged test by (O) Judge, Anne Gribbons. Auditors were provided with immediate test results and an explanation of the scoring.

A dinner and dancing, open to the public, was held on Saturday evening. Dye, Lendon Gray, Gil Merrick and Isler were featured speakers. Raffle and silent auction items were available for purchase. All proceeds from the symposium and dinner supported the Fund.



Renee Isler with her Fourth Level schoolmaster, "River."

Photo courtesy of Brigitte Voelk.

Amanda Ward Jr/YR Memorial Award Continues!

The Amanda Ward Jr/YR Memorial Award was established in 2007 in special remembrance of Amanda, who had devoted her life to the pursuit of excellence in dressage. The purpose of this scholarship is to inspire future young dressage riders to pursue their dressage dreams. It is awarded annually to the highest scoring Junior/Young Rider at the Third Level and above at the New England Dressage Association Fall Festival.

Micaela Mabragana was the 2007 recipient, Kassandra Barteau received the 2008 Award, and Kristen Schwaegerle was presented the 2009 Award in Saugerties, NY. Kristen received the \$1000 award for her high score of 69.545% in a Fourth Level class aboard her mare, Diwandre.

Kristen Schwaegerle said "I look forward to continuing my training with the goal of competing in the Brentina Cup and at Grand Prix. The Amanda Ward Jr/YR Memorial Award means a great deal to me, and I am deeply honored to have received it."

Unfortunately, the future of this Award was uncertain. Original donations had provided the funding for the past three years, but new gifts were slow to materialize. As of June 1st, there would have been insufficient funding to make the \$1,000 Award this fall.

With the help of Melinda Johnson, the future of the Amanda Ward Memorial Fund seems much, much brighter! Melinda made a sizable donation herself, as well as providing



Amanda Ward

the information necessary for her employer to issue their matching gift. Melinda has also volunteered to help Foundation staff raise additional money in memory of Amanda Ward so that this fund can continue.

This award is about inspiring young dressage riders. The prize money helps to offset show costs, but it's not just about winning money. It's about recognizing achievement and providing encouragement. We know that young riders have different demands placed on them, to be successful. For a young person to be serious enough about riding, to have the mental discipline it takes for dressage, and to put in the days, months and years of work that happen long before show day, it's just an incredible achievement! When all the hard work comes together, and a young rider wins a high point score at a major year-end competition, they

deserve special recognition! Let's continue to give young riders the recognition they deserve by funding this award.

If you were ever a young rider, or know a young rider who devotes themselves to pursuing excellence in dressage, then you understand why this award is important, so please help to fund this award. Even a small donation will add up, especially if people will collectively step forward.

If you don't know a young rider, then just consider for a moment the challenges a young person must overcome to arrive in the winners circle. It's a long journey, with many sacrifices. Young riders must balance their riding commitments with their school work. In addition, many young riders barter or work to pay for their lessons and other related costs. Perhaps the biggest challenge for a young person is foregoing social activities among their non-riding peers.

So what does it mean, for a young dressage rider to win a \$1,000 award and have national press releases announcing their achievements? We hope it recharges their batteries, and fuels their fire! Let it serve as a boost, to commend them for a job well done, and to inspire them to continue on their journey, to strive for even larger achievements. We hope that the recognition received from winning this award might even lead to opportunities such as sponsorships, or the opportunity to ride and compete higher level dressage horses.



The Michael Poulin Fund Provides “Dream” Funding!

In May 2010, we announced that Isabelle Leibler, Greenwich, CT, was awarded a \$6,000 grant from the Michael Poulin Dressage Fund to train and show in Germany with her two FEI ponies, Going West and Depardieu. Based on her current scores in CDI competition, Isabelle was invited to compete at the International Youth Festival in Hagen, Germany from June 15-20, 2010.

“Competing and training in Europe has always been a dream of mine, since the day that I began my international career,” said Leibler. “With the support from The Dressage Foundation, I am able to go to the next level. I am ready to represent the United States in the best possible way I can!” Along with competing at the International Youth Festival, Isabelle spent time training in Germany with Cornelia Endres.

ISABELLE’S BLOG EXCERPTS:

Day 1: The first day of riding! After a nice breakfast at the hotel, we made our way over to the stables at about 11 am. I took the horses out for a handwalk...which proved to be not only a handwalk, but also a battle of strength between me and the wild beasts at the end of the line. They were crazy after over 24 hours of traveling...I can understand. After letting the horses cool off from their crazy handwalks, Guffy and I went to the Riding Hall for a short ride with Frau Endres. It was just a short ride, but he was a bit crazy! There was much rearing, bucking, and spinning

“Isabelle is a truly remarkable young lady — she came to me at age five and said she wanted to learn Dressage — not riding, DRESSAGE... Isabelle watched some dressage at Wellington at age five and that was what she wanted. From the beginning she was an amazing student and competitor and at a very young age won some terrific awards. I am proud of what she has accomplished,”

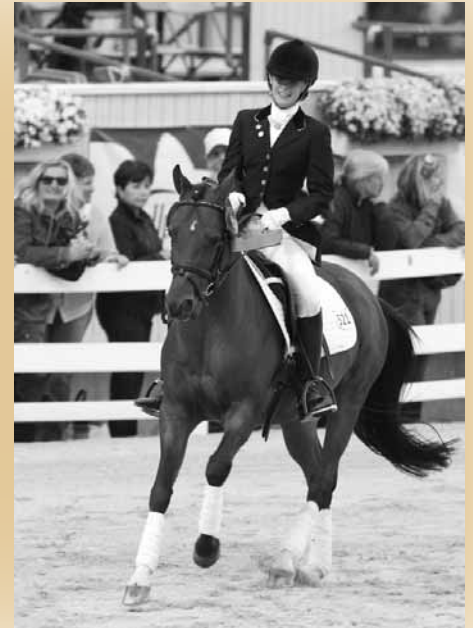
— Lendon Gray.

Isabelle and Depardieu at Dressage at Devon.

going on...including a huge bronco leap right in front of Frau Endres! I guess he took stretching his legs to a new level.

We finished our work at around 5:30, and then we went to search for a supermarket and some dinner in the town. We ended up going to a place called Das Real, which is so cool! It is like a bigger, better, German Target. The town is so cute here! It’s very small with cobblestone streets and a little town center with outdoor shops and restaurants. It is asparagus season here, so everything you order comes with an automatic side of asparagus, or auf deutsch: spargel.

Day 2: It began with breakfast at the hotel as usual. Breakfast here in Germany is a very different experience than at home. At least for me! I am used to grabbing a quick bowl of hot cereal and a fruit drink and then out



Courtesy of Susan J. Stickle

the door after 5 minutes. Here, however, it is quite different. It is very quiet, very laid back, and you are supposed to take your time before you start the day. I like it!

Frau Endres really helped me find the rhythm of the trot by telling me to wait for his rhythm to come...and to stop trying to create it. That helped me to quiet my upper body and my lower legs. Another interesting thing that I learned had to do with the lower legs. Frau Endres said to me to let the lower leg “breathe” after you add pressure for an aid, correction, etc. She said to let the leg “just be there.” I learned a lot on my second day!

I have really surprised myself with my German. I thought that I would not understand a thing and be really nervous, but I am actually doing pretty well...

Day 3: The Germans do have some delicious food here, but the sand tastes the same. I guess Guffy recovered from yesterday's fatigue, as he decided to throw me off in the outdoor. I knew he was fresh when I began grooming him, but I definitely was not expecting THAT! He is a funny horse. When he is feeling good, his eyes get very shiny and wide, he will try to snap at you a little bit, and he will do a HUGE cat stretch on the cross ties when you brush his withers. He's always been the wild one of the bunch, but he is very talented and smart.

When I got back on as soon as we caught him, he knew that what he did was unacceptable, but he still tried to be naughty. However, he was really hot and light on my aids after the whole incident, so our whole lesson ended up really well. After I finished with him, Frau Endres suggested that I put him in the sand paddock so that he could get some bucks out and relax his body. He certainly did that!

Next was Dewey, and he was very good. Frau Endres had me practice some trot work from the team test, and gave me some pointers on how to perfect it. We also worked on the straightness and fluidity of the canter walk transitions on the center line. And of course, we also worked on waiting for the rhythm and enjoying it when you get it instead of pushing for more.

After an eventful morning, the rest of the day was very quiet. We finished the work at the stable, went for dinner, and finally washed the sand out of my

helmet from today. Everyone said that Guffy's buck was so big, that his hind feet were over my head. The annoying thing is that I wasn't coming off with that buck, but it was when he landed and did a complete 180 turn. Then, I came off. Oh well!

Day 5:

Tomorrow we will go to the International show at Lingen, about an hour away. We will get to see some great riders show tomorrow....Laura Bechtolsheimer, Christoph Koschel, Isabell Werth, etc. It should be awesome!

Day 10: This weekend we show at Duisburg. We drive there Saturday morning at 10 am, ride the team test in the big indoor ring, and then the top six will go on to the freestyle under the lights outside at 9pm! So exciting. We better get our corners down so we make the top 6!!!

Day 14: Duisburg was interesting this past Saturday. I had two good, steady rides with no mistakes on both of my ponies which was very good... Because the show, the riders, and the judges were all local, the girl from the USA seemed very strange to them and maybe a little uncomfortable for them....this was to be expected. It was a very good experience and a great warm up for Hagen.

I just have to work hard, focus, and stay relaxed at the same time. That's the hard part of preparing. You want to

work so hard and really feel like your work is going to pay off, but sometimes you make yourself so crazy about it that maybe it's not worth it to think that way. Maybe the way to succeed is to not think of it as "work" but as an inch of "progress." This is what I am going to think about tomorrow, because today I made myself too intense and even though my work did get better...I wasn't satisfied in my head, and that's not good. The question is: "How do we take that winning/determined attitude and coat it with a little relaxation, focus, and fun?" How do we keep that winning drive, but take the edge off of the stress or the frustration? I think that every athlete must face this question many times in their life, as it is a very important question.

Day 16: Today we arrived at Hof Kasselmann in Hagen for the show. Farm Kasselmann is an absolutely gorgeous showgrounds with so much going on and beautiful places to show! It was really exciting to arrive here today. All of the riders, both show jumpers and dressage are in nice long, spacious tents. It is so cool because when you walk down the aisles of the tents, you see banners and flags for so many different countries and you hear a mix of so many different languages buzzing through the air. It was so much fun to see so many young people all here for what is basically a Jr Olympics. I can't wait to meet some of them over the weekend!!

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The Michael Poulin Fund Provides “Dream” Funding!

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Day 21: Wow! What a weekend! The show turned out to have early mornings, long days, late nights, and SO MUCH FUN!!! I still can't believe that I got to go.

The first day was the jog Thursday and that was certainly interesting! I rode both of the ponies before the jog so they could warm up (and be a little tired because they can sometimes be wild). They were both super and I was confident that we would have a normal, uneventful jog. WRONG! Guffy was very naughty! As we were doing our practice jog, he kicked up, reared, and took me out with his hind legs! I was dragged through the dirt for a couple of seconds until the reins broke and he was loose!!! Luckily we were in an indoor and there was no where for him to go. Needless to say I was very dirty! But the horses were healthy and ready to compete....

The next day was the first day of competition. Guffy was very good in the warm up that day, but got very scared in the ring and felt like he climbed into the snail shell to hide. It was too bad because he felt so good in the warmup, but I had another chance with the horse that counted for a score. Dewey was very good. We put down a test with no mistakes, great collection, and good precision.

The next day, Saturday was the individual test which qualified you for the finale which was the kur. This test was not quite as good as the one before, but we still managed to make it into the kur. I was so excited, because that was all that I wanted to do....get into the kur. We were all so excited and we went to

the big gala on Saturday night for all of the riders and had so much fun. Dancing, talking, and having fun with all of the other riders, show jumpers and dressage was so much fun! We were out very late!

The next day was Sunday. Day of the finale. It was the freestyle so I was loose and confident. This was where I wanted to be, and I got there. A lot of people came to watch me that day. Supporters from the USA, really close friends, and people I had never met before came to watch my kur. It was so much fun! Dewey and I rose to the occasion and laid down a really nice kur. Dewey performed his grand prix half passes with ease and accuracy, and the highlight was definitely the canter work which was awesome! A lot of people that I met here that came to watch said that they had me in the low 70s! And they know their stuff!!!! It was so cool though! Seeing all of those great riders and knowing that I came here and competed with them and came to play ball. I now realize that for your first time in Europe, it's not all about the scores. This is what it is all about:

1. Having Fun
2. Riding well
3. Feeling confident
4. Making friends
5. Living the dream

This weekend was absolutely amazing. I learned so much from dressage and jumper riders. I made friends with people of both disciplines, and even reunited with some old European jumper friends that I had met in Florida last year! The scores and the “first time politics” are not important right now.

Right now I am just so excited that I got to be there. That I got to live it and breathe it all the way through. Instead of breaking down, we stepped up and laid down our very best. I gained the respect of a lot of people, made new friends, and I am ready to continue my education as an up and coming dressage rider. Being here was the most amazing experience, and I don't think that I would have changed anything.

Day 28: Ponies are going very well and I have been learning so much every day! The other day Frau Endres was out of town, so the girls and I decided that we would take all of the horses on the farm including mine, and jump them. Poor Guffy was so confused, so we had to work on his striding. His signature move is to take little strides up until the jump, and to make the very last stride HUGE!!! Apparently he thought it was fun! He was adamant about doing it his way, but he was finally convinced to jump like a normal horse. It was really cool to do because Guffy is a pony that naturally moves a little slower behind, and the jumping made him really quick behind and attentive. His program is now jumping at least once a week!

These past couple lessons we have really been focusing on relaxation, flexion, and quick hindlegs in all collected movements. Frau Endres has been teaching me that the key is in using quicker, sharper aids and not to push for the collection for long periods of time to get the collection. This stresses the horse too much and shuts down the hindlegs because you prevent the movement from moving through

the horse's back.

Day 38: The ponies have been great! Guffy is enjoying his program of jumping at least once a week, and Dewey and I continue to develop a better tempo in the trot. The jumping has made Guffy so nice though. He is much quicker on the hind leg and it feels like he is having more fun. I like doing all of the work on my own. Even though there is a lot to do and can be stressful at times, it is always nice at the end of the day to know that everything was done exactly the way it should be. I love that feeling of accomplishment. This is the least of my problems though. What might be a problem is when I have to do my laundry. I hope that one of the staff members will be around to help me because my German does not cover washing machine settings!

Day 69: Things have been amazing here! The ponies have been so great. Dewey and I have really found a clear, powerful, and cadenced rhythm in the trot work. Guffy has become so powerful and quick in his hind legs than ever before. Our walk pirouettes are so good now. I have also been able to do a little jumping with Guffy which has been a fun release from the dressage work every once and a while.

I am so happy to have internet right now because I can watch our USA selection trials and I 1 champs online from Gladstone. Definitely a place I hope to be in the future!

Day 71: Today the ponies got a nice jumping day while Frau Endres was



away in Warendorf. Guffy jumped really well. He is really getting used to the exercises. We jump on a circle to engage the hind end and quicken his reflexes for collection, and then we jump regular verticals and crosses. He has so much fun doing these exercises....especially the bounce jumps where he has to be really fast and light on his feet. Dewey and I just worked some ground poles to loosen his back. When we go over ground poles, he really starts to loosen in his back and swing more in his body, creating more cadence and relaxation. This is good for him because his personality is a little tense, which can carry over to the concept of cadence. When he is loose, then he really grows and swings in his gaits.

Day 73: Today I made the most amazing personal discovery ever. Sometimes for me, I have trouble balancing my position. Sometimes when I focus too hard on having a really straight and solid position, I lose ability to sit with the rhythm because my seat becomes hard. Or sometimes, when I think of being loose and going with the rhythm, I am not straight enough and I

am not sitting up. It's all about finding the happy medium, and today I found it. It really helped me to feel like I was pushing the hind legs down and under in the collection with my shoulders. This means that not only did I push my shoulders back, but I pushed them down too. This makes you arch your back kind of where your shoulder blades meet... then your shoulders are back, your neck is tucked in, your core muscles automatically go to work, and your seat becomes not hard on the back but "softly solid" so that you can still allow the back to come up. It was like a chain of events after I did that....my seat was quiet but solid, my hands were quiet, my legs had a soft but solid connection with the sides of my horse, and a quiet, active, and loose collection was found.

This weekend I am going to Aachen to watch the German National Championships!!! I am so stoked. I am going to watch both jumping and dressage, because there is so much to learn from everything. The best of the best Germans will be there, and it's at gor-

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The Michael Poulin Fund Provides “Dream” Funding!

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geous Aachen! I will be sure to report back about the championships!

Day 77: The Aachen showgrounds are absolutely gorgeous....and of course the big stadiums. Talk about atmosphere! Saturday, we watched the pony dressage, the young rider dressage, and the junior and young rider jumping classes. For the dressage, everyone was extremely accurate in their test riding. It was amazing! The rider positions were ok. We saw a lot of riders with either slouched upper bodies or really loose and wobbly backs. However, every single rider had excellent leg positions. The jumping was great too. I watched the jumper warm up for a while and saw one rider do the most perfect walk and canter pirouettes before beginning with jumping to get his horse on the hind leg. It was really cool to see.

We went back on Sunday to watch

the junior and young rider kurs, and the final jumping competition. There were some that were really nice. My overall impression was that the choreography was very well put together and flowed for all the riders, but the choice of music and ability to interpret it in the ring was not good for all the riders. Most of the riders were off of their music by a lot, and their choice of music was a little boring....kind of like background music. The points were won because of the great technical accuracy in the movements, definitely not artistically. It was really awesome to see rides with perfectly executed movements and no mistakes, even if the music was a little off.

Overall it was a great, inspiring weekend. I can't wait until I can show there myself one day!

Day 80: These past couple days have been all about position...how to achieve

it, how to maintain it, and how to use it. This has become such an important part of my lessons. Having the right position in the movements really does get you the extra points. Not just because it looks nice, but also because when the rider is balanced and riding from the core, the horse is balanced and can maintain collection and swing.

Things have been really nice here. The weather is a little cold and rainy now, but it's nice to have a break from the heat. The horses have been loving the cool weather. The only bad part is that Guffy rolled in the mud the other day out in the field, and it's too cold to give him a bath! Even though I brushed him for an hour, he is still dirty! Of course he had to roll directly in the pit of mud, right!? Oh well, that's Guffy!

Isabelle returned September 2nd. To read more about her experience, visit her blog at www.isabellenml.blogspot.com

The Michael Poulin Dressage Fund was established at The Dressage Foundation in 2003, to provide support for innovative programs that enhance the sport of dressage. Michael's friends, family, and admirers established the Fund in his honor. In previous years, this Fund awarded a grant to Kaitlyn Hamilton (MI) to represent the United States at the 2005 FEI Young Rider World Cup Dressage Final in Frankfurt, Germany, and a grant to two-time Brentina Cup winner, Elizabeth Austin (VT) to train with Klaus Balkenhol in Germany.

2009 Gifted Scholarship Recipients Talk about their 2010 Training Experiences!

For complete reports from all 9 Regions, visit our website, www.dressagefoundation.org.



Photo courtesy of Pattie Kirkland

Deborah Howard, Region 1

How often does a busy mother get to really take time to pursue her "obsession" as my thirteen year old often describes my horse passion? The answer would have been rarely without all this wonderful help.

Summary of plan success: I told Debbie Rodriguez I wanted to "fiddle" (aka: Half-halting) less with Dollar and have him stay with me more. It turns out that I need to "fiddle" more and communicate more through half-halts (my seat, my fingers, counter-bend) constantly with Dollar to keep him with me.

I'm feeling that "bounce" I like that equals cadence and suspension according to Debbie. I thought I had prepared for the sitting trot; however, I had the angle of my pelvis all wrong! I liken it to water-skiing (which, unfortunately, I prefer) to the correct snow-skiing angle. With the corrected angle of pelvis, the shoulders and chest come up, legs actually sink down 2 leather holes, and base of spine has a

defined hollow. My entire position came under attack: My legs became quieter with the leg under body, heel under hip, shoulders over hips. Incredibly, Dollar's front came up with the various "fiddling" described.

Tonight at Debbie's is Dressage Movie Night. About ten women attend, bringing movies and lots of fattening food. Debbie points out various Olympiads using half-halts—who would have noticed? Could this be any better?

Debbie teaches me how to use yarn to button-braid Dollar's mane and shows me how to correctly wrap Dollar's legs. This lesson is invaluable: People just assume you know the basics, but you often don't when you have your first riding lesson at age 39. I'm 49 now and I still often fish for basic showing information.

Words cannot describe how much I appreciate this learning opportunity from Carol Lavell and The Dressage Foundation.

Barbara Bern, Region 2

Thank You so much to The Dressage Foundation and to Carol Lavell for making this trip possible! I am so grateful for the opportunity to go away for a week to be totally immersed in training with my equine partner!

I used my scholarship money to go to Wellborn, Florida to train with Eugene Abello.

My horse Gisele is a 5 year old Hanoverian mare. I started her myself, very slowly allowing her to mature mentally as well as physically. At almost 6 she was ready to go away for a week of real Dressage school.

At the end of the week there was a noticeable difference in both Gisele and I. My seat was more stable and quiet. I was looking up again, shoulders relaxed, softer wrists and longer legs. Gisele was more forward, supple, much more willing to move off my leg and steadier in the bridle.

This week was absolutely wonderful! It took me away from my daily life stressors and gave me a lot more time to bond with Gisele. It was a treat to watch her in the field, spend more time brushing and massaging her. The experience made a huge difference in our Dressage Education and my mental state. Thank you again for making this possible for Adult Amateurs!



Barbara and Gisele training with Eugene Aballo

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2009 Gifted Scholarship Recipients Talk about their 2010 Training Experiences! *(continued)*



Katharina, Klaus, and Olympia

Katharina Nowotny-Boles, Region 3

Transitions, Transitions, Transitions - My Gifted Weekend with Ed Rothkranz

How many transitions can you fit into a 50 minute dressage lesson? 100, 500, 1000? I still don't know for sure and stopped counting mid-way. As Ed says - you have to feel how many is enough. And when in doubt, do 50 more. And even though it sounds very tedious, the results were magical as the horses come on the bit "without knowing it." After transition 100 the horses start listening and chewing quietly. After transition 300 they come under in the back and up in the front. And by the time we made it to canter/walk, they are so fine-tuned to my aids, that I just have to think about the transition and it happens. And it was all so easy!!!

But let's start at the beginning: I am a typical middle-aged adult amateur with a full-time job as supply chain project manager, a house, a garden and of course my horses. For a couple of

years I have been working towards Second Level, and even though we made progress in the lessons we took, I did not feel confident that I really knew when we were "correctly" collected nor how to reliably get there.

I walked away with my head spinning after these 5 intensive days, but I also made great progress with each of the horses and got a clear game plan for the immediate future. It involved lots of transitions for all....

I am very grateful to The Dressage Foundation and the Gifted Fund that afforded me the opportunity to work with Ed and I know I will carry these lessons with me for the rest of my life. I also want to thank my friends who helped achieve this dream: Nancy Spear, who encouraged me to apply and proofread my Gifted application; Pam Bullington, my trainer and friend, whom I stayed with; Ed & Helga Rothkranz, who were gracious hosts; Marie Lloyd, owner of Murphy; and finally my husband Mike. **THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING THIS WEEKEND POSSIBLE!!!**

Randi Phillips, Region 5

When the realization that I had been awarded the Carol Lavell Gifted Grant for Region 5 set in, I wanted to do my training immediately.

I had organized my goals into two buckets: those for Livvie and those for me.

Olivia:

- To have her work over her back and

come through from behind

- To increase strength in her hind end
- To obtain more self-carriage at the canter

Me:

- To learn how to engage an effective half-halt every time by using my core muscles
- To learn how to use my leg aids without gripping and without being a limp noodle
- To learn how to have an independent seat at the sitting trot

We discussed other issues that had developed between the application and the start of the program and determined that learning how to effectively use the warm-up would be invaluable. Ulla suggested we start with unmounted work using the I-Gallop and large Pilates ball. We used the I-Gallop, an electronic simulator of horse gaits, to allow me to feel the exact movement in my body while at the walk, trot and canter. The I-Gallop was great because I experienced the movement without any concern to control, make round or keep the horse forward. I discovered that, without the horse



Randi and Olivia

underneath, my body could actually relax and follow the movement. The Pilates ball helped me to find my balance without gripping and develop a soft draping leg.

Our last day was filled with both sadness to see the week come to an end and great joy at what we had accomplished. We reviewed the week and developed a plan so that I can continue making progress while working on my own. My final gift of a great week --- the First Level test; sitting to the trot, smooth canter departs and riding my horse rather than her riding me!!!

Small simple changes make a world of difference. Something clicked and both Livvie and I finally got it. I am well on my way to understanding the mystique of the illusive half-halt. Receiving the Carroll Lavell Gifted Grant was an amazing experience. Repeated exposure to what is right, encouragement to go for it and the opportunity to practice with a watchful eye has changed my riding. Thank you everyone for making this happen.

Paula Pugh, Region 6

If I were to think of a dream outing for myself, it would be to take my horse and work with an inspiring instructor for a week, away from the distractions of work, domestic duties and activities – immerse myself in the equine world. I could never do that – too much time away from home, too much money, too much effort to get away. Little did I



Paula with Andy and Jeremy Steinberg.

know when a friend told me about the Gifted grant that my dream might come true.

I read over the qualifications and decided to accept the challenge. I am a 64-year-old grandma, a little out of shape, a little chunky with a new right hip, but dedicated to learning more about dressage. I wasn't able to start riding until my children went away to college. I spent many mom years involved in our local Pony Club, where I received my basic horse training, even though I didn't realize that at the time. To the dismay of my husband, who thought that phase of our lives was fini, I took over the horse, saddle, trailer and all the horsey items the children left behind.

Since we scheduled six days of consecutive lessons, Jeremy, Andy and I had the luxury of easing into our routine – taking steps to build a solid foundation. We started with getting Andy in a relaxed trot, fixing a few position items for me and feeling out the situation. The pace was perfect for building our confidence.

Jeremy is a gifted instructor, offering imagery to go with the work to make it understandable. His keen eye doesn't let horse or rider get away with anything that isn't working towards harmony. He is professional in his attitude towards his clients and his horses, yet still has a warm personality - a special combination.

I am grateful to my regular instructor, Lisa Boyer of Boyer Dressage on Whidbey Island. She started me so many years ago and has encouraged my riding as an older beginner. Her support allowed me to move beyond my comfort level to apply for the grant. She will be there for me as we integrate the pieces of the work with Jeremy back into daily life.

My thanks to Carol Lavell for providing this opportunity of a lifetime to a serious amateur, who will never go to Europe.



Cyndi Craig, Region 9

I have been seriously training and competing in dressage for more than 20 years. I have definitely taken the

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2009 Gifted Scholarship Recipients Talk about their 2010 Training Experiences! *(continued)*

“long, hard, winding road” but have learned an amazing amount along the way.

It is not easy to teach a horse to do flying changes (even with very good coaching) when you’ve never even ridden a horse that was already trained to do flying changes!

I am secretly hoping for an ‘epiphany’ for the flying changes this week, but realistically, such epiphanies don’t happen very often. More than likely, Marta will help me fix the underlying issues involving the flying changes, and that will allow me to go back home, apply those, and over time, the changes will improve.

I learned a lot and I am sure this is going to help me with all my horses. I am very grateful to The Dressage Foundation, Carol Lavell and the “Gifted” fund for this opportunity. I never would have even thought of taking a week off work to train ‘full time’ if I had not read about this special grant.

Adult amateurs are the backbone of dressage, we salute their dedication and spirit! We are so very pleased to have been chosen to administer the Gifted Fund and award these meaningful scholarships to such deserving people. Carol Lavell is truly the mother of “giving back,” she has been an enthusiastic supporter of dressage and of The Dressage Foundation. We could not do what we do without her, and our many other donors!

Funding Support Available for Dressage Instructors

Expanded Grants for Dressage Instructors Available from The Dressage Foundation.

Beginning in 2011, additional grant funding will be available from the Continuing Education for Dressage Instructors Fund, originally created by Maryal Barnett.

The Continuing Education for Dressage Instructors Fund will continue to offer annual grants of \$1,000 (up to five per year) to USDF GMOs for instructor education, which can include the USDF Instructor Certification Program workshops and testing, as well as other educational programs for Dressage instructors.

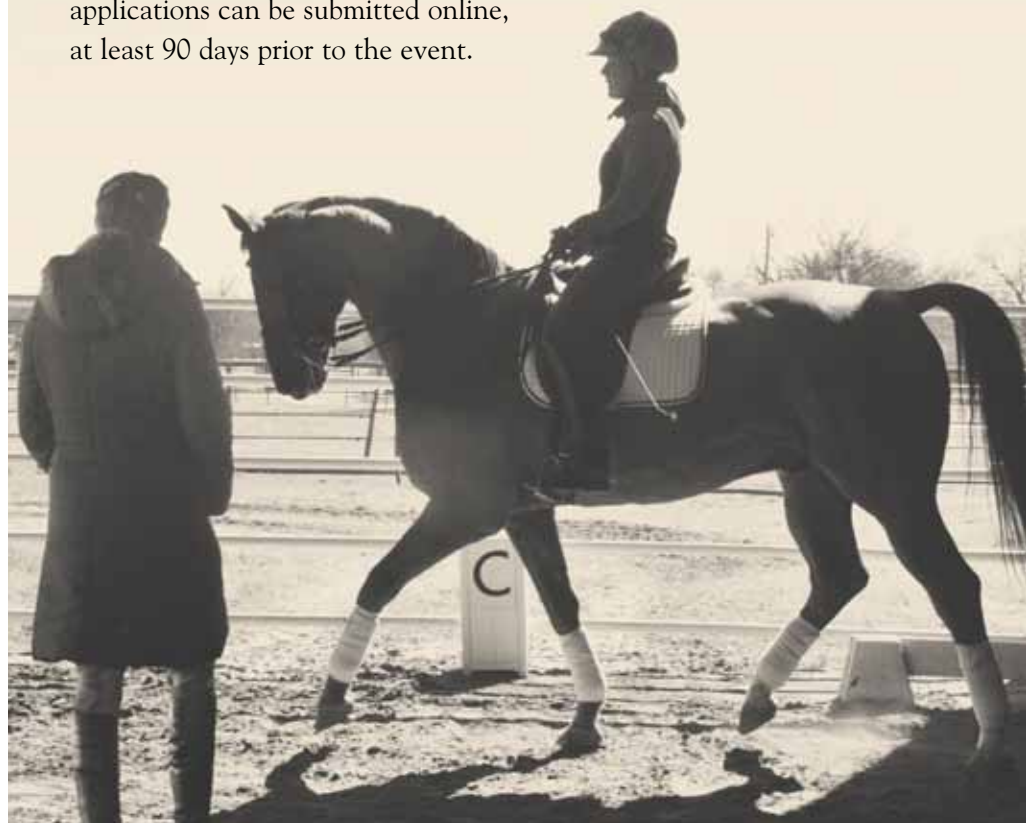
In addition to the ongoing funding for USDF GMOs, this fund will now also offer grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 to individuals to attend USDF Instructor Certification workshops, pre-certification, and/or testing.

There will be two deadlines per year for the individual grants. Applications will be due no later than February 1st and July 1st for individual grants only.

GMOs may continue to apply for the annual grants throughout the year, applications can be submitted online, at least 90 days prior to the event.



Maryal Barnett



2010 Trip Harting Fund Grant Recipient

Major Anders Lindgren Scholarship

is available annually to a Dressage Instructor, especially those in the USDF certified pool, Training through Fourth Level. New for 2010 – this Scholarship has been increased to \$10,000! The application deadline is September 30th every year, all materials must be in our office by September 30th in order for your application to be considered. Visit our website for more information on the process and application forms for next year.



Major Anders Lindgren

USDF Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award

is a \$5,000 annual grant to recognize and honor an outstanding Region 9 Dressage Instructor. The 2010 nomination period ended on July 1st, nominations for the 2011 Award will be accepted beginning January 1, 2011.

By Betsy Labelle

The L Program has been quite a wonderful experience. Tracy Lert taught the 30 participants at CFCC - in Ocala, Florida and then we watched many fantastic horses at Charlotte Trentelman's farm. Biomechanics of the Dressage Horse was chief on the discussion topic. It was an eye-opener to watch so many horses with my very green judge's eye, and to listen to the why's of so many different, "in the competition arena" circumstances. There were tools there that I put into my riding/coaching/pony club Dressage Committee work toolbox...and the opportunity introduced a whole new world of judging to me.



The second session took place in Lake City, Florida with Marilyn Heath, and her wonderful laughs helped us learn even more. The horses in Wellborn/Lake City were outstanding, with super uphill qualities, and lots of great riding. The Magnolia Dressage indoor made the Florida summer not melt the awesome enthusiasm and enormous amount of dialogue.

The work to know the USEF Rulebook backwards is apparent. But, the way to learning what is needed to know is openly shared in such a positive way, with the floor open to all.

I would highly recommend the L Program to anyone, especially auditing for young riders to learn how to polish what the judge wants to see and why. Meeting other riders who have worked so hard for so many years has also been quite a nice opportunity, as our discussions have brought the camaraderie of our sport together in such a positive light.

A special thanks to The Dressage Foundation for their support and a special thanks to Trip Harting and all those involved in his life, as he would be so proud. And thanks Judy Downer and Charlotte Trentelman for letting 30 of us go through this program in Florida this summer.

Betsy Labelle



The Violet M. Hopkins Fund

A Grand Legacy from a Grand Lady

The Violet M. Hopkins Fund was established at The Dressage Foundation in 1996 to help support educational programs of USDF GMOs. The objective of the Hopkins Fund is to give financial assistance to USDF GMOs to help provide quality and effective instructional dressage programs to riders at all levels.

In 2009, the Violet M. Hopkins grants helped provide educational opportunities for...

- 9 USDF Regions
- 13 States
- 18 GMOs
- 255 Riders
- 789 Auditors/Attendees

Over \$24,000 was awarded in 2009

Visit www.dressagefoundation.org for application details.



Vi Hopkins

Reaching More People:

Ideas for Grant Applicants to Increase the Number of Auditors at Freestyle Clinics

One of the purposes of The Dancing Horse Fund is to increase awareness of and participation in musical freestyles. As most freestyle clinics can only accommodate a limited number of riders, increasing auditor participation is an important part of educating the dressage community about the fun and beauty of riding to music, as well as the practical issues involved in designing and riding musical freestyles. In addition, auditors enhance the riders' clinic experience, as spectator reactions to the music are important for riders to consider in selecting music.

The following are some ideas The Dancing Horse Fund committee members suggest you consider for increasing auditor participation at your clinic. These are based on successful freestyle clinics the members have participated in and can be applied to other types of clinics as well.

1) Invite a top level freestyle rider from your area to give a demonstration of their freestyle at your clinic. Ask them to share their experience in creating and performing a freestyle.

2) If possible, have a judge in your area who has judged freestyles come and give their perspective.

3) Host the educational part (the non-riding session) of your freestyle clinic in a pleasant area or a home so auditors can get "up close and personal" with the clinician.

This can be done the evening before the clinic or one of the mornings of the clinic. Offer a hot meal such as lasagna, salad, garlic bread and dessert.

4) Consider a raffle or silent auction as part of your clinic. This adds to the fun and makes it more of an "event."

5) Freestyle clinics are also social events, so market it as such. Make it fun!

6) Expenses associated with the above suggestions should be nominal (rider and judge volunteer their time, donations for the raffle/auction, volunteers prepare food). The auditor fees to cover additional expenses should be reasonable so those attending feel they received "value for their dollar."



Jennifer Williams and Wistar to Train in Germany!

The Anne L. Barlow Ramsay Annual \$25,000 Grant was established by Dr. Ramsay through a Charitable Remainder Unitrust. It has been Dr. Ramsay's vision to enhance the sport of Dressage, in particular, she wanted to provide financial support for talented American-bred horses. Dr. Ramsay worked closely with us to create this special award, which was started in 2009.

The purpose of the Anne L. Barlow Ramsay Annual Grant is to showcase talented American-bred horses ridden by United States citizens, by providing funds to train and compete in Europe. The recipient must demonstrate an ability to be an ambassador for the

American-bred horse in Europe. Additionally, the horse and rider team must show the ability to move forward in High Performance competition.

On Saturday July 24th, at Dressage at Lamplight in Wayne, Illinois, Maryal Barnett, Board Member of The Dressage Foundation presented the 2010 Anne L. Barlow Ramsay \$25,000 Grant to Jennifer S. Williams, of Yelm, Washington. Jennifer is to be commended for having been chosen as the winner from a group of strong applicants, by a Selection Committee comprised of distinguished dressage leaders.

This fall, Jennifer will use the \$25,000 award to take her American-bred horse, H.S. Wistar to Germany to

train with Catherine Haddad. Jennifer also plans to compete Wistar while in Germany. Jennifer said "Training and competing in Europe will give Wistar and me experience in how the European show system works, will give us experience with larger crowds and venues, and will help acclimate us to the highest level of competition - international competition. The Anne L. Barlow Ramsay Grant will allow me to experience and learn from competing abroad, something I only dreamed about before the award."

The Board and Staff of the Foundation congratulate Jennifer and wish her all the best this fall in Germany!



Maryl Barnett (right) presenting the Ramsay Grant plaque to Jennifer S. Williams. Paula Helm (left) also attended the presentation.



Carol Lavell *Advanced* Dressage Prize

Application Deadline December 13, 2010—Two Prizes Available!

Who Should Apply

- ~ A talented, committed, qualified rider whose plan is to reach and excel at the elite, international standards of high performance Dressage.
- ~ A rider who shows merit and need.
- ~ A model of both horsemanship and sportsmanship - a person who actively demonstrates the 3 C's: Courteous, Considerate, Cooperative.
- ~ A rider who respects horses and humans alike.
- ~ Someone who will use the funds for further education of the horse and rider team.
- ~ A rider whose horse teammate has potential to grow and succeed at High Performance Levels.

Applicants can re-apply for the Prize each year. The Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize winner will be announced in February each year.

How To Apply

The following list of subject categories **must** be included in your application, which is to be typewritten or computer generated.

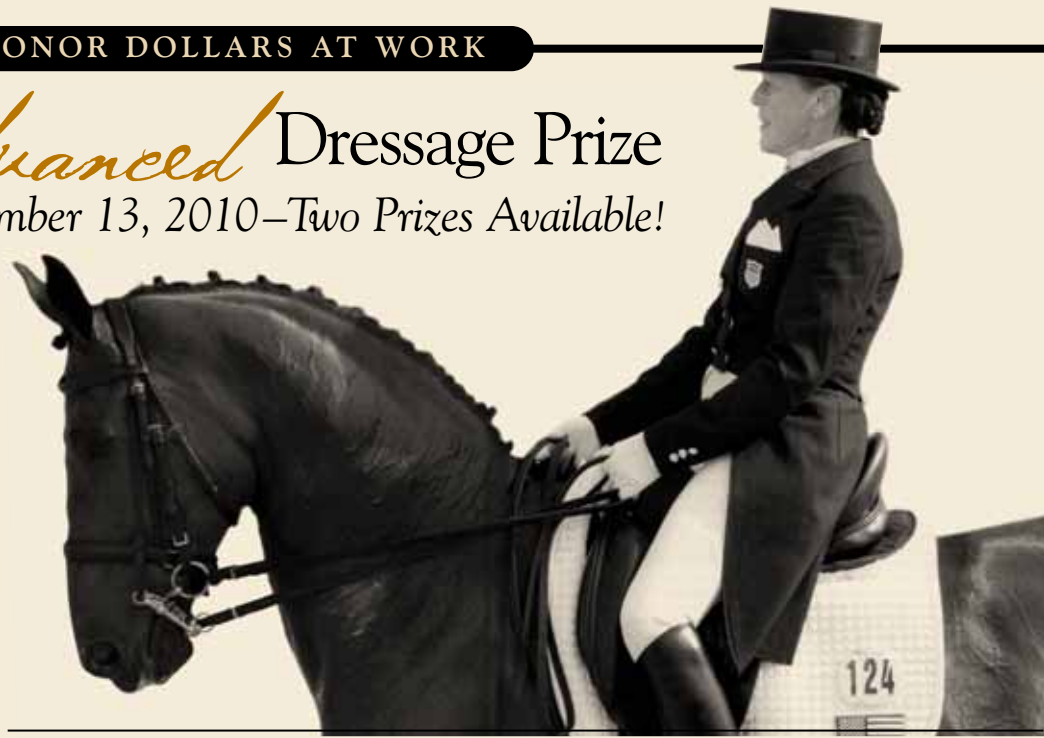
No handwritten applications will be accepted. Visit our website, www.dressagefoundation.org, for complete instructions and an application form.

- 1. Personal Information:** Complete and sign an application form. Include this as your cover sheet.
- 2. Education Record:** Outline your general education history, schools attended, location, and undergraduate, graduate degrees, along with any special courses, training or continuing education you have taken.

- 3. Employment Record:** Outline your employment history, working from the present backwards, giving us employer name/s, location, dates of employment, and brief descriptions of your work.
- 4. Your Dressage Plan:** Please give us your Plan for progression to competitive excellence at the high performance levels of Dressage. Be thorough, but succinct.

- 5. Your Dressage Resumé –History, Background, Training, Performance:** Please give us a complete resumé of your Dressage history to-date. This should include your training, instruction, competition record, levels at which you are riding, scores, clinics/symposia in which you have ridden, details of instructor or judge certification, your national ranking by USDF, USET Foundation, USEF, awards, honors, and recognition you have received. Describe your horse(s), who will be your team-mate(s) carrying you to the upper ranks of our sport, and will help you reach your Dressage goals and objectives. Name your primary horse along with other horses that you are currently training.

- 6. Financial:** Tell us about your financial needs, and how this \$25,000 Prize will help to translate your Dressage Plan into action. What kind of financial assistance and/or sponsorship have you received to get where you are now?
- 7. Required Application Attachments:**
 - a) Recommendation letters from one (1) "R" Judge, one (1) "S" Judge, and one (1) "I" Judge. Do not request and submit reference letters from "O" Judges.
 - b) Two (2) letters of personal recommendation from Dressage Professionals who have high performance credentials.
 - c) DVD of you and your horse(s) that include training progress made in piaffe, passage and collected canter work.
- 8. Mailing Instructions:** The Dressage Foundation requires that **seven (7) complete sets of your application** be sent to the Foundation office by **December 13th** each year. We will not accept applications after this date. Application items will not be returned to you.



"I Just Love The Dressage Foundation!"

Charitable Gift Annuity is Not Just About the Lifetime Income

So said Shirley Jones, when she signed a \$25,000 Charitable Gift Annuity Agreement with The Dressage Foundation last year.

In exchange for a \$25,000 cash gift, we will pay to Shirley an annuity at the annual rate of 6%, or \$1,500 each year for as long as she lives. Payments are sent quarterly (but could be any frequency Shirley had wished), at the rate of \$375 every three months. The annual annuity rate of 6% is fixed for her lifetime, and will never change.

The Internal Revenue Service allows two solid tax advantages for making a charitable gift in this form. The first is a charitable contribution income tax deduction in the amount of \$10,119, which may be taken in the year of the gift up to 50% of Shirley's adjusted gross income, and with five additional years allowed by the IRS over which to spread any unused balance if needed.

The second tax advantage is that, of the \$1,500 that we will pay to Shirley each year, \$1,078.50 (71.9%) will be tax-free until 2022, and she will report \$421.50 as ordinary income each year. We will also provide the IRS Form 1099R each January, reflecting these figures, which can then be given to tax advisors for preparation of annual tax returns.

These two tax advantages bring

Shirley's effective rate of return on the Charitable Gift Annuity Agreement to 8.7%

The Charitable Gift Annuity is unique among all of the charitable giving

instruments, in that it is a regular debt obligation against the charity. Shirley holds a signed piece of paper bearing our promise to pay a fixed-rate lifetime income. The Charitable Gift Annuity will pass outside of her estate, so there are no probate, gift or estate tax consequences. With the Charitable Gift Annuity, Shirley has made an important charitable contribution, secured a fixed-rate lifetime income, received a sizable charitable contribution income tax deduction now, and gained some tax-free income.

The gift is irrevocable in order to obtain the tax advantages. We will

invest the money during Shirley's lifetime, at the end of which time the money is freed up for use in carrying out our mission to advance the sport of dressage.

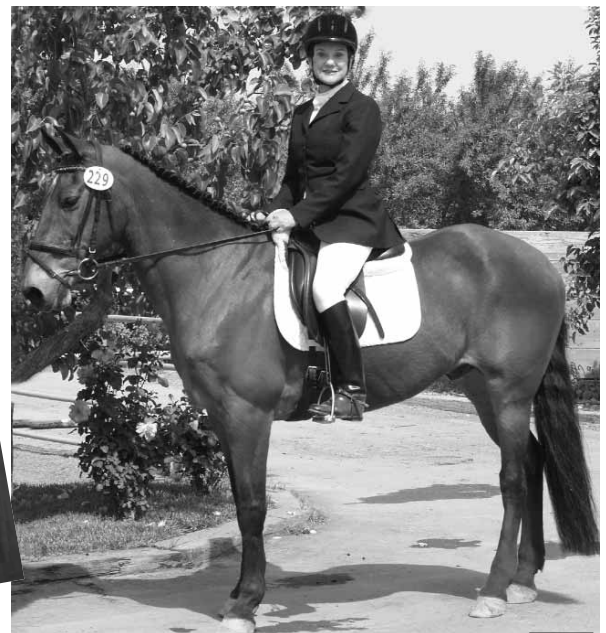
Shirley said about her Gift Annuity, "The permanent lifetime income checks are great, the tax advantages are also welcome, but basically I'm so proud to be helping The Dressage Foundation, an organization I greatly admire."

If you would like a personalized Charitable Gift Annuity proposal prepared, please contact Melissa at (402) 434-8585, or by email at Melissa@dressagefoundation.org. You can also visit www.dressagelegacy.org to create your own presentation using our Gift Legacy website.

Sherry Harker is the owner of Dust Buster and Shirley's trainer and coach. For more about the Century Club, visit www.dressagefoundation.org.

These two tax advantages bring Shirley's effective rate of return on the Charitable Gift Annuity Agreement to 8.7%

Shirley Jones and Dust Buster pictured on their "Century Club" ride in 2008, and the plaque that was presented to them.



Estate Planning Changes – *Are They Coming?*

Death and taxes. They're supposed to be the two certainties in life... 2010 has been filled with uncertainty in the realm of estate planning.

First, a little background: In 2001, the estate tax rate was reduced from 55% to 45%, and the exemption has been steadily increasing from \$675,000 (in 2001) to \$3.5 million in 2009. That same legislation allowed the estate tax to lapse in 2010.

Few people expected Congress to let the estate tax lapse, most expected some action prior to this year. However, Congress did not act and the estate tax was repealed January 1, 2010.

If Congress does not act this year, the estate tax will return January 1, 2011 at the same rate as in 2001 – a top rate of 55% with a \$1 million exemption. This jump would be the largest increase in a major tax and would potentially affect eight times as many tax payers.

The math is not pretty. The tax consequences of dying January 1, 2011 instead of December 31, 2010 are significant (a \$2 million difference on an estate of \$5 million for example). This kind of uncertainty makes estate planning increasingly challenging.

Congress is facing a long list of items to tackle, elections this fall, and very little time. Will they act? Will they make any changes retroactive to the beginning of 2010? If they do that, it will most likely be challenged by the estates of some very wealthy people who have died this year.

It is unlikely that the current estate tax situation will continue, but what the future holds is unclear.

Estate Planning 101

So how do you start?

Consider these questions:

- **Who?** Who do you want to carry out your final wishes? Who do you want to care for minor children? Or your horses or pets? It is a good idea to have backup choices and to discuss this with everyone before you include them in your will.
- **What?** Make a list of everything you own with the current value - real estate, cars, collectibles, bank accounts, insurance policies. Then list your financial liabilities - who you owe and how much. These lists can save you time and money when you meet with an attorney.
- **Where?** Where do you want your assets to go? Your spouse? Your children? Other family members? Friends? Charitable organizations? How do you envision these changing in the course of your life?

Creating a will takes time and thought, but if you take that first step and consider these three basic questions you will be well on your way to a well-crafted will. Most importantly, you will have the satisfaction and peace of mind that goes with knowing you're your wishes will be carried out.

No matter how large or how small, don't you want and deserve to decide who receives what you have worked a lifetime to build?

Everyone needs a will. Some may need a more complex estate plan, but we'll start with the basics.

The size of your estate does not matter. By not preparing a will or other estate plan, you hurt those people and causes who depend on you. You also allow someone else to determine how your assets will be distributed. Do you want the state to decide who gets what (and who gets left out)? Most would answer "No!"

Estate planning is always difficult, there are the tax consequences to consider, family relationships and needs, not to mention the thought of facing your own mortality. It's no wonder that so many people put it off. For all the reasons to procrastinate, there is one very good reason to start the process now: a properly executed legal document is the only way to guarantee that your wishes are carried out.

IN ADDITION TO THE ESTATE TAX ISSUE, Congress has also not acted on the Charitable IRA Rollover as of this printing. The original Pension Protection Act (and subsequent extenders) have allowed taxpayers age 70 or older to direct up to \$100,000 annually from their individual retirement accounts to eligible charities, without having to count the distribution as income for tax purposes. These extenders ran out as of December 31, 2009. While provisions for a retroactive extension have been included in other bills, none have been passed at this time.

Fortifying the Financial Future of the Foundation

The Dressage Foundation received a very large and generous contribution of \$1 million this summer from Mr. Gordon Cadwgan, Sr, father of Olympian Carol Lavell. Cadwgan has been a long-time supporter of several funds at the Foundation and of our work in general. This most recent gift was “to be used where needed most, and as the Foundation best sees fit to carry out its mission.”

Our mission is to cultivate and provide financial support for the advancement of dressage.

Our staff and Board of Directors have spent several years accumulating ideas in a “Targets of Opportunity” file, projects that would benefit the sport of dressage and further our mission. However, as with many good ideas, they awaited funding.

With this gift, we will be able to pursue some of these projects as well as expand a number of our present funds.

Carol Lavell, her family, friends and donors established “The \$25,000 Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize,” awarded annually to provide financial assistance for coaching and training to a talented, committed, qualified rider whose plan is to reach and excel at the elite, international standards of high performance dressage. We will now be able to award **TWO** \$25,000 Prizes each year, if the Selection Committee deems that there are two qualified applicants.

Lavell also established the “Gifted Fund” at the Foundation, providing nine scholarships annually to help



Pictured left to right: Olympian Carol Lavell, Gordon Cadwgan, Sr, father of Olympian Carol Lavell, Major General Jonathan Burton (Chairman, The Dressage Foundation Board of Directors), and Jan Brons (2009 Recipient of the \$25,000 Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize).

adult amateurs set aside quality time in concentrated training with a horse they own, away from the daily pressures of job and family. With her father's gift, the amount of the scholarships has been increased to \$1,000 for 2010 grants (for training in 2011).

Cadwgan and Lavell have also regularly supported various other funds at the Foundation, such as Michael Poulin's “Olympic Dream Program,” through which four top young American dressage riders, accompanied by two adult chaperones, are taken to Europe each year for a 10-day introduction to international dressage, trainers, riders, facilities and events. This recent gift will provide additional support to this program in the years to come.

Carol Lavell and her family are exceptional examples of “giving back” in our sport. They have created machinery that will keep giving far into the future, their gifts provide a continuous stream of funding that will assist current and future dressage enthusiasts

for as long as we can foresee!

Cadwgan has said that his gift was motivated by the good works of the Foundation, the respect it has in the equestrian field, and the current estate tax uncertainty. In the last ten years, the estate tax exemption has been steadily increasing until 2010. Effective January 1st this year, the estate tax was repealed. This legislation, and Congressional inaction, has resulted in numerous consequences and concerns to estate planners. Most believe that Congress will take action to reinstate the estate tax at previous, higher levels, and will attempt to make this action retroactive to January 1, 2010. For regular updates on issues such as this, visit www.DressageLegacy.org and sign up for our free e-newsletter.

The Dressage Foundation staff and Board of Directors are truly grateful for this gift and look forward to working with Lavell and Cadwgan to promote dressage at all levels, to all participants!



New Staff, Expanded Programs, Big Gifts... and a New Home!

(continued)

the politics of any other equestrian organization,” said John Boomer, retired President and CEO of The Dressage Foundation.

After running the Foundation for over 10 years, John and Lynn Boomer felt it was time to enjoy their retirement. They created and implemented a well-thought out and thorough Transition Plan. They hired replacement staff (although Jenny and Melissa question if anyone could ever “replace” John and Lynn!), trained them and introduced them to the Board of Directors, staff and key figures in dressage. John worked diligently with Karin Reid Offield on the recent Working Capital Campaign to provide funding for several key initiatives. The final piece of the transition plan was the permanent office space.

“With this final piece in place, Lynn and I can retire knowing that the Foundation is secure and in very capable hands,” said John Boomer. “There were many ideas and plans that crossed my desk during the last ten years. Several of these have now been



Jenny Johnson, John Boomer and Clay Teske (l to r) discuss the new office space.

handed off to Jenny and Melissa. I felt very strongly that securing a permanent home in downtown Lincoln, Nebraska was one item that needed to stay on my list until it became a certainty. This is the ultimate testimonial to the work my father began in 1989.”

“With the help of a small, select group of donors, we have been able to bring this dream to reality,” said Melissa Filipi, Development Director for the Foundation. “We worked closely with Nebraskans, or former-Nebraskans – those whose families studied and trained with Lowell – as well as long-term, close personal/equestrian friends of his to get this job done. We are very excited to be moving to our new home, it’s a wonderful way to honor Lowell Boomer, as well as being a very smart financial decision for the future of the Foundation.”



Lynn and John Boomer

We would like to offer the sincerest of THANK YOUS to the following donors for their support of this project. A permanent listing will be on display at the new office as well as on the website at www.dressagefoundation.org.

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(continued on page 30)



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Henrietta Siodlowski
Katherine Smith
Rebecca Snell
Melissa Snitzer
Hannah Soderstrom
Martin and Toni Sosnoff Foundation
Nancy Spear
John and Mary Beth Stanek
Frances Steinwedell
Theresa Stephens
Elizabeth Sterling Family
Maggie Stonecipher
Elizabeth Stokes
Libby Stokes
Sheldon and Judith Streisand Fund
Amy Stuhr
Wm and Carolyn Sullivan
Theodore and Judith Sunder
Ted and Judy Sunder
Margene Swarts
Lisa Abicht-Swensen
Cindy Sydnor

Robert and Claudia Tarlov
Emily Tears
Thomas and Jennifer Tears
Telesis Inc.
Melanie Tenney
Clay & Carol Teske
Sharon Teply
Christine Theriault
Judith Thompson
Tony & Maywin Thoreson
George and Prudence Thurston
Timken Super Precision
Tri-State Dressage Association
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Evie Tumlin
Karen Tyrer & Family
Enrique and Ann Unanue
USPC Middle California Region
Julie Van Horn
Van Kampen Foundation
Guy Vaughn
Jean Vinos
Nicholas Vinos
Joan and Richard Waak
Theresa Wagner
Monique Waldron
Butch and Lorraine Walker Jr.
Melanie Ware
Howard & Nancy Webber
Kyle Webber
Shelley and Simon Welch
Barbara Westerlund
Judi Whipple
Jocelyn Wiese
Karen & Paul Wiesner
Kindra Wilson
Wisconsin Dressage & CTA
Wolfson Estate
Beth Wood
Sylvia Workman
Cindi Wylie
Lois Yukins



The Dressage Foundation is excited to announce that the Century Club will reach 80 Teams this fall!

What an incredible milestone for this program recognizing Dressage riders and horses whose combined age totals 100 years or more.

To join the growing Club, visit our website at www.dressagefoundation.org and click on "The Century Club" for instructions and an application form. You can also call our office at 402-434-8585 and we can mail the information to you.

The Century Club was formed at The Dressage Foundation in 1996, at the suggestion of Max Gahwyler (CT), who with his horse Prinz Eugen, became team # 2 in the Century Club.

The first "Century Club" ride, held in 1996, featured Lazelle Knocke and her teammate Don Perignon. Lazelle's ride came after her extensive 'three year vacation' away from riding due to surgery and rehab time. As she said,

"hopefully the Century Club will be in the forefront of a very interesting opportunity for Seniors and Dressage as Recreational and Therapeutic riding. It really is challenging and has long-term goals and benefits."

This is a wonderful group, not only experienced in horsemanship, but in the various and unique life experiences.

Join our Monthly Giving Program Today!

Your gift can help an adult amateur spend dedicated time in training without the worries of work and home. Or send a Young Rider to Europe for the inspirational trip-of-a-young-lifetime. Or enable GMOs across the country to host educational clinics for riders, judges, and trainers. Or promote Freestyle at all levels. Or reward our best and brightest teachers. Or send an instructor to Europe to improve their skills. Or any number of our other programs.

Most importantly, your gift WILL INSPIRE others to give too!

As a valued supporter of The Dressage Foundation (TDF), we make it easy and convenient for you to support the funds and programs at TDF through our monthly giving program.

It's easy to enroll. You simply, fill out and sign this form and return it to us. The rest is automatic.

Yes, I want to join The Dressage Foundation monthly giving program.

I would like to make a contribution each month of:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \$ _____

Please charge this gift on the ☐ 15th ☐ 30th day of each month (or the next business day if the 15th/30th falls on a weekend or holiday).

Credit Card Please charge the above amount to my credit card each month.

My signature is below. ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Name as it appears on the card _____

Monthly Pledge Authorization

I authorize The Dressage Foundation to charge my monthly contribution to my credit card (as indicated above). I understand I may cancel or change my monthly pledge at any time by notifying The Dressage Foundation in writing. A record of each payment will appear on my monthly statement and will serve as my receipt.

Please Print

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Signature (required) _____

Date _____

Return this completed and signed form to: The Dressage Foundation
1314 'O' Street, Suite 305
Lincoln, NE 68508

Or you can fax your credit card monthly authorization to us at 402-436-3053.