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Newsletter Committee Editorial Staff

Dixie Crowe

Do you have an article or story idea you'd like to submit?
Please email it to
vcrowe@rams.colostate.edu

Our goal is to strengthen relationships between faculty, staff, and industry professionals by providing CSU Equine Sciences students a collection of information pertaining to the industry and undergraduate program.

Disclaimer: Under Colorado law, no expression made by students in the exercise of free speech or freedom of the press shall be deemed to be an expression of school policy. No student, employee, or officer of CSU shall be held liable in any civil or criminal action for expression made or published by a student.

Alumni Spotlight

Question & Answer with Kristen Wheeler by Dixie Crowe

Originally from Alamo, Calif., Kristen Wheeler received her undergraduate degree in Equine Sciences in 2013 and a master's in Equine Sciences in May 2015. She has been involved in the equine industry through a variety of avenues including horse ownership, as a competitor, as a judge, as a



Photo by CSU alum and former Miss Larimer County Rodeo Queen, Kodi Youngheim.

student, and as an employee. She is the owner of Colorado Equestrian Academy located in Loveland. The Colorado Equestrian Academy is a discipline and age inclusive horseback riding lesson program focused on developing strong horsemen and women. Her experience as a rider and competitor includes competitive trail, hunter/jumpers, Arabian horse show circuit, competitive mounted drill team, and most recently, combined driving. Additionally, she has received professional instruction in dressage as well as cow work.

Why did you choose to study equine sciences at Colorado State?

It honestly boils down to something that isn't easily expressed on paper, but there was just something that "felt right" when I toured CSU and the equine center. Certainly the program's reputation and the variety of team and club activities were the major reasons that I applied in the first place, but after touring the campus there was just something about CSU that felt right. It certainly turned out to be the absolute right choice for me!

What activities did you participate in as an undergraduate and what was your favorite?

Well I was involved in a co-ed community service fraternity on campus, but within the equine program specifically, I was committed largely to the horse judging program. I took ANEQ 352 spring of 2010, and continued through my master's degree and into the fall of 2015. With CSU, I personally competed at the APHA Spring Sweepstakes Contest, the All American Quarter Horse Congress, the Larimer County Community College Contest, and the US Arabian Nationals Contest. I continued on with the Arabian team as the assistant coach and eventual head coach. The horse judging program had an enormous and hugely positive influence on my overall experience at CSU, and I would have to classify as

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my favorite activity. The experiences and connections made through that tremendous program continue to provide me with countless opportunities, even after graduation.

When did you start coaching the horse judging teams and why did you decide to continue coaching while getting your master's degree?

I was the assistant coach to the Arabian team in 2012 and stepped up as head coach during my masters, beginning in the fall of 2013 continuing through 2015. I decided to continue coaching while I was completing my master's for a few reasons: for one, I absolutely love the program and have a passion for teaching, I enjoy being able to share my love of horses and judging, I also greatly enjoy the strong relationships built within each team. So many terrific memories and relationships were made each and every season.

I also grew up owning and showing Arabian horses and although I have strayed into other breeds and disciplines, I will always hold a strong appreciation for the Arabian breed. Most of the students I coached had no real previous experience with Arabians, so I loved having the opportunity to spread greater understanding and appreciation of this breed and yet another diverse segment of the equine industry.

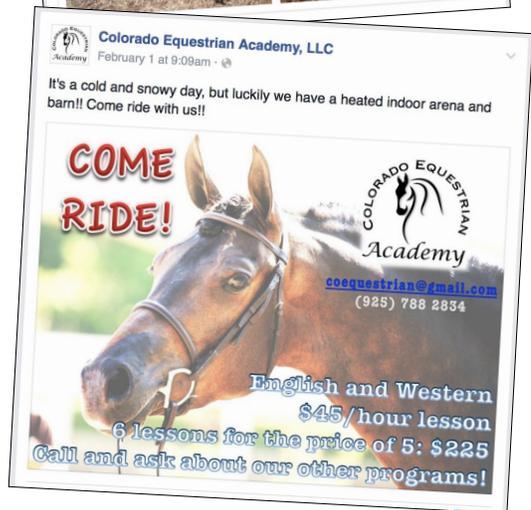
Why did you decide to pursue a master's degree in equine sciences?

Getting my masters was always a goal of mine. I originally assumed that I would pursue a master's in reproduction but after getting into my undergraduate degree, I learned that equine reproduction wasn't really where my heart was. So as I neared graduation and was debating between jumping immediately into a master's program or going out into the workforce first, I was informed of the Equine Industry Leadership Program. It sounded like the ideal fit for me and my dual interests of education and business. It turned out to be perfect for me and gave me the tools needed to properly establish a business plan, which I immediately implemented upon graduation into what is now the Colorado Equestrian Academy.



Can you describe your teaching philosophy for Colorado Equestrian Academy, what your goals are for your students, and the role that Certified Horsemanship Association played in your life?

My main goal as an instructor is to establish strong horsemanship within my students while striving to help each rider achieve their own personal goals. I try to challenge my riders and help them find reward in their successes all while maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment. CHA has played an enormous role in my safety awareness of my students while they're around the horses. It also helped me better understand how to adjust my teaching styles to different age groups based on their stage of development. Overall, it assisted in the development of my skills as an educator, inside and outside of the arena. I went through the CHA clinic twice, once to earn my certification and a second time to test as an assistant clinician. The second time was then essentially all about teaching how to teach. That really opened my eyes to various styles and methods and their effectiveness with different personalities and situations.



What is the age range of students you teach at CEA, the types of horses you match riders to in your lessons, and a little about the facilities?

Currently my students range from 12 years old to some students into their 50s. I would accept a greater age range of students though. The horses that I use are my own, my family's, and my students' personal horses. They range from Arabian to Appaloosa, Quarter Horse to grade horses. All go comfortably English or Western. I match my riders to my horses based on their skill set and their style as a rider. I have some more docile horses for my beginners or my riders working on improving their confidence, and on up to some advanced horses that require a very controlled and finessed touch.

The facility we are located at is called Raptor Ridge Equestrian. It is owned by my family and I manage the equine operations. It is 326 acres, 41 of those specifically dedicated to the equine facilities, the rest to conservation and haying. We are renovating and improving the existing facilities at this time. There is a heated indoor arena, two outdoor arenas, two round pens, a racetrack, trail systems, and a dressage field in the making to be used for driving. My father and I drive horses as

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well, and he is currently building obstacles around the property to be used for the marathon portion of combined driving events. We aim to host these driving events someday.

How can CSU students who want to take lessons at CEA get in touch with you and what are your rates?

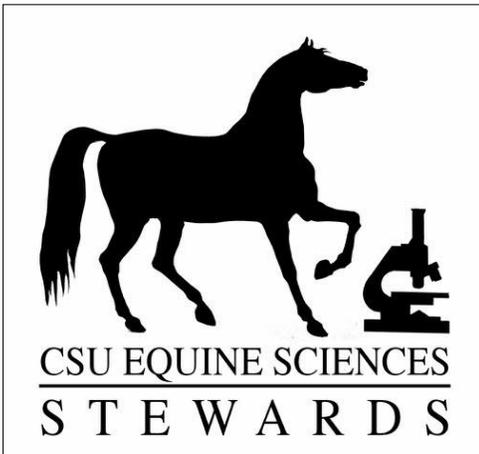
The majority of my students are in fact CSU students! But if anyone is interested, they may reach me by email at coequestrian@gmail.com or call me at (925) 788 2834. They can also check out the Colorado Equestrian Academy, LLC Facebook page to see some of my horses and students in action!

My rates are \$45/hour lesson, but I also offer a package of lessons, six for the price of five, which comes out to \$225 up front. For anyone with their own personal horse looking for lessons or perhaps interested in a training program, give me a call. Those rates are adjustable based on the specific interests and needs of the client and their horse. Give me a call and come ride!

NOTES OF INTEREST

Upcoming Career Panel & Luncheon for Students

By Dixie Crowe



The Equine Sciences Stewards, led by Dana Ratcliffe, have been putting together a career panel to benefit all equine science majors. Prospective panel members will broadly represent the equine industry from a veterinarian, farrier, barn manager, horse judge, event planner, ranch manager, business owner, and trainer. Each member of the panel will answer questions about their work from typical day's work, how they've used their education, and other questions prepared by the stewards.

In addition, students will have the opportunity to apply to be part of a smaller group that will have lunch with the panel speakers. Applications will be available at the equine center on February 25 and due March 7 for review by the selection committee.

It's a fantastic way to learn more about different areas in the industry as well as a great networking opportunity.

Save the date: Equine Sciences Stewards Career Panel & Luncheon 10:00 a.m. March 26, Luncheon with panelists by application only to follow at 11:45 a.m.

Rams Competing in NRCHA Collegiate Invitational

Photos by Magda Lane

After an overnight stop at the historic 6666 Ranch in Guthrie, Texas, coach John Snyder took three students from the versatility ranch horse team to compete and represent the program at the NRCHA Collegiate Invitational Show being held in conjunction with the Worlds Greatest Horsemen event in Fort Worth, Texas. The competition starts Saturday, February, 20. Go Rams!



Equine Students + Snow = Skijoring

By Maddy Pielage

When you give skiers and horseback riders a snow day, we put it to good use! Skijoring has been something that I've wanted to do for awhile and finally the weather was just right. This was my first time trying to skijor behind my horse China. We attached a rope to the horn of the western saddle and the girth of the English saddle. Then we made a jump and off we went! The horses were wonderful as Angela Giovagnoli's horse Ralphy has done this before and China puts up with my shenanigans all the time. Angela and I are not new to skiing as we both compete on the CSU Alpine Ski Racing team on the weekends. However, getting pulled behind a galloping horse is a very different feel than racing down an icy mountain.

We are hoping to take skijoring to the next level as there are competitions for this crazy sport. Participants are judged on the skiers picking up rings, going off jumps, and how fast the horse can pull the skier down the groomed streets. There is a competition in the last weekend of February in Vail and another the first weekend of March in Leadville. You can catch us there.

From left to right: Maddy Pielage, Angela Giovagnoli, Marlena Harvey (in red) riding Ralphy, Rachel Wertheimer riding China. Photo by Alex Stevens.



Mountain Riders Horse Club

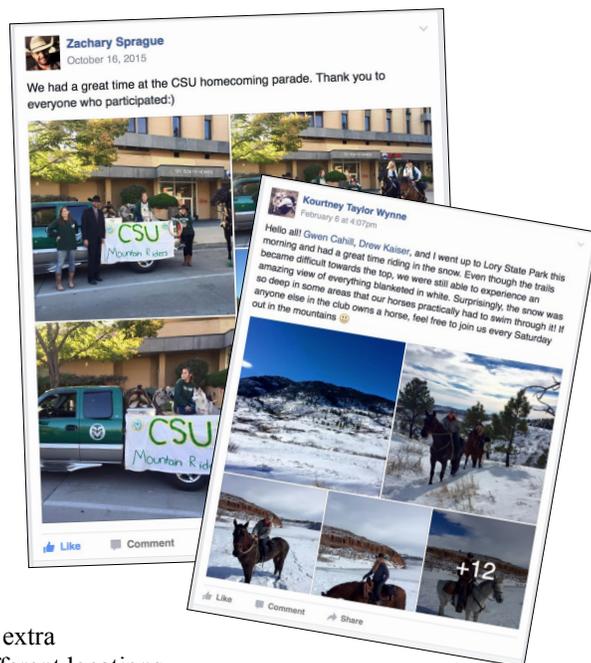
By Zachary Sprague

Every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m., the CSU Mountain Riders Club meets at the equine center in order to learn skills that are needed for handling horses in rough environments. They become well equipped to handle horse-related treks through the wilderness by learning horsemanship, trail etiquette, camping do's and don'ts, survival skills, and first-aid. Experienced speakers like veterinarians occasionally drop in to meetings to offer professional advice and give hands-on lectures.

To gain even more experience, the club officers plan trail rides, camping trips, and/or packing trips that involve both trail riding and camping deep into the mountains. Owning your own horse is not required to participate in these trips! Outfitters, businesses that basically "rent" out horses, supply trail-ready mounts that are matched to your particular riding level.

Once each semester, the club officers perform rider evaluations to determine this level. No previous riding experience is required either! Members who own their own horses are welcome to trailer them out to meetings and bring them on trips if they're deemed safe enough. Proof of Coggins and seasonal vaccinations are mandatory.

Then every Saturday, if weather permits, one of the club officers provides the extra opportunity for those horse-owning members to join them on a trail ride at different locations around northern Colorado. With only a membership fee of \$20, new members are welcome at any time of the year so become a part of the CSU Mountain Riders Club and join the page on Facebook for more information. Happy trails!



Mark your calendar's now, you don't want to miss all the excitement of the student competition, the new Futurity and Maturity show and of course the 11th annual Legends of Ranching Performance Horse Sale!

Wagonhound Land and Livestock Student Competition	Saturday April 16, 2016
Legends of Ranching Futurity and Maturity Show	Friday April 22, 2016
Legends of Ranching Performance Horse Sale	Saturday April 23, 2016

Legends of Ranching Sale Class Update

By Alissa Knoll

The equine sales production class (ANEQ 359) is unique, because instead of having traditional lecture and exams during class we are working on planning the 11th Annual Legends of Ranching Performance Horse Sale. The class is part two of Equine Event and Sales Management (ANEQ 358). We are learning to write catalog notes, as well as planning the horse show and sale.

We do everything from designing programs for the student competition and horse show, to taking photos of the horses in the colt training class. It's also a great networking opportunity, because we are constantly getting in touch with different equine professionals that make the sale possible. By taking this class, you are really doing something hands-on and real, and it's a great feeling to be part of such an important CSU event.

Colt Training Class Update

By Emily Hartman



The colt starting class has been moving forward in leaps and bounds. All the colts have been assigned stalls in the Adams Atkinson barn and blanketed. In addition, we just completed taking pictures and videos of our colts for the sale catalog. Every day the colts are taking another step to prepare for the Legends of Ranching Sale on April 23.

We have been improving on loping and steering in combination with introducing the colts to new obstacles such as poles and serpentine. I believe that this year's sale will be the best one yet and hope to see all of you there!

A colt that was in last year's sale watches John Snyder, colt training instructor, adjust the rope on his arm. Photo by Dixie Crowe .

CSU Polo Schedule

By Claire Hobika



Come cheer on your CSU Polo Team at the Equine Center. The men's team won the 2015 Polo Championship, you don't want to miss this fun fast-paced sport. This is the schedule for the remaining home matches. However, these dates are subject to cancellation for weather, so please check the CSU Polo Facebook page to confirm matches at CSU Polo or by email at coloradostatepolo@gmail.com. Parking is free, students \$3, adults \$5, and children are free.

February 20th CSU Women vs. Oklahoma State 7:00 p.m.

February 26th CSU Men vs. UCONN 7:00 p.m.

March 25 CSU Women vs. TBA 7:00 p.m.

April 30-May 1 CSU Polo Alumni Appreciation weekend features an Alumni All-Star game Friday, April 30 7p.m. and a Round Robin Rocky Mountain Polo Tournament Saturday, May 1

Stay up-to-date on all the CSU Polo Team activities by liking us on Facebook!



Support your team and show your #RamPride by purchasing CSU Polo logo gear including t-shirts, tank tops, and stickers at all home matches and from the front desk at the equine center.

BARN NOTES

Equine Students Making a Living While in School

By Dixie Crowe

Many equine sciences students work to offset their college expenses. Some train horses, trade labor for barn space for their horses, work at feed and tack stores, are employed at other on- or off-campus jobs, and some sell their wares. Amanda Stinemetze of Flat Hat Rags and Emily Hartman of Emily's Mohair Cinches fit this last category.



Amanda had a booth at the National Western Stock Show this year selling wild rags and custom embroidered jackets with her hand drawn horses. See Amanda's products on Facebook/Flat Hat Rags, www.flathatrags.com, or call her at 970-222-1283. Emily has just started her mohair cinch business and prices with silver hardware are \$120, brass hardware \$130, and are available in different colors. She can be contacted by email at ehartma@rams.colostate.edu or call her at 970-520-3451.

