

# NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of the AAEP Foundation



## Hiscox Foundation USA unveiled as AAEP Foundation's "mystery" donor

Thanks to a final push from the AAEP membership, the AAEP Foundation surpassed its \$250,000 fundraising goal to meet the Mystery Match Challenge during the 55th Annual AAEP Convention. C. Wayne McIlwraith, BVSc, Ph.D, chairman of the AAEP Foundation Advisory Committee, announced Hiscox Foundation USA as the program's generous "mystery donor" during the Dec. 6, 2009, opening session of the convention.

\$250,000  
**MYSTERY MATCH CHALLENGE**



Duncan Alexander, former president of American Live Stock Inc., Joe Carr, vice

president of equine mortality – Hiscox USA, and Alexandra Arciola, head of US agency – Hiscox USA and Hiscox Foundation, presented Dr. McIlwraith with a \$250,000 check.

Thanks to the support of Hiscox Foundation USA, more than 780 donors responded to the challenge during the 13-month period, contributing nearly \$395,000 to all Foundation programs.

"We can't thank our long-time friends at Hiscox Foundation USA enough," said Dr. McIlwraith. "This challenge did exactly what it was intended to do by raising the level of awareness and participation of AAEP members."

"The other very positive note from this is that more than 250 of these donors were first-time donors to the AAEP Foundation," Dr. McIlwraith added.

Based in Geneva, Ill., Hiscox Insurance Inc./American Live Stock Inc. is a licensed

insurance carrier in all 50 states and is primarily involved in livestock mortality. Coverage is also provided in other parts of the world with special emphasis on Australia and South Africa. Hiscox Insurance Inc./American Live Stock Inc. is the proud recipient of the A+ (Superior) rating from the independent analyst, A.M. Best & Company.



*From left: Alexandra Arciola, Dr. Wayne McIlwraith, Joe Carr and Duncan Alexander during the presentation of the Mystery Match donation check at the 55th Annual AAEP Convention in Las Vegas.*

The efforts of the Foundation don't end with this challenge. You can join the AAEP Foundation in its mission to preserve the health and welfare of horses in 2010. Students, benevolent organizations and the horse are in need of the Foundation's aid now more than ever.

Again, the AAEP Foundation thanks the Hiscox Foundation USA for prompting the AAEP membership to action through the Mystery Match Challenge.

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## Horse owner's wish to keep horses healthy honored through the work of the AAEP Foundation

A long-time racing enthusiast's concern for the welfare of retired racehorses lives on through a portion of her estate, which helped give rise to the AAEP Foundation.

Mrs. Halina Leonard of Chino, Calif., who passed away in 1993, left her entire estate to charities that support the welfare of horses and animals. Thanks to her friendship with AAEP member Wes Williams, DVM, she made an initial \$225,000 gift to the AAEP Foundation in 1994. As the trusted caretaker of her horses, Dr. Williams was able to advise Mrs. Leonard to donate to charitable groups like the AAEP Foundation.

Dr. Williams, an AAEP member since 1986 and now the owner of Lone Star Park Equine Hospital in Grand Prairie, Texas, feels honored to have played a role in opening the door for the Foundation's original estate gift. It all started while he was practicing in Southern California during the late 1980s. While providing care for Mrs. Leonard's horses, he developed a strong friendship with this gracious client, which allowed him to help direct her estate giving to organizations dedicated to the welfare of animals.

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*"I think knowing her as a person gave me this opportunity," Dr. Williams said. "Practitioners should take time to find out about clients – their interests and who they are."*

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In addition to her deep commitment to her horses, he learned of her great love for her deceased husband and her fascinating past.

Mrs. Leonard's husband A.J. had been a successful trainer of racehorses in Southern California. The couple enjoyed Thoroughbred horses, race meets, spending long hours together at the track and the assortment of people associated with the sport. After Mr. Leonard passed away in 1981, Mrs. Leonard decided to reconnect to racing and purchased several horses. Although these racing prospects never developed into stars, she always made sure they received proper health care. When their racing careers were over, she



*AAEP member Dr. Wes Williams advised Foundation donor Halina Leonard to give to organizations that benefit the welfare of horses.*

made it her mission to find happy, comfortable homes for her horses.

She also shared with Dr. Williams highlights of her life that began in Russia. When she was very young, she and her father fled the country because of the Russian Revolution. Her father, a commander in the Czar's Navy, escaped with Halina on one of the last trains leaving Russia. Initially he was forced to leave his young daughter in Istanbul in a convent. He then made his way to America, returning for Halina some years later and bringing her to the United States.

Dr. Williams recalls that Mrs. Leonard was very proud of her immigration to America. He feels fortunate to have had the opportunity to get to know her, her interests and her background.

Thanks to Mrs. Leonard's initial donation 15 years ago, and the many years of loyal commitments from a number of AAEP members, their clients, corporations and others, today the AAEP Foundation is a respected leader in providing help for horses through equine veterinary student scholarships, educational programs, equine research and benevolent projects worldwide. Since 1994, the AAEP Foundation has provided more than \$1.5 million for education, outreach and research.

Including the AAEP Foundation in a will or trust is easy, very thoughtful and a practical addition to estate plans. It can also be a wise decision for tax purposes, depending on how the commitment is structured. The gift, whatever it may be, will not only be an investment in helping horses and equine research, but also an investment in helping young veterinary and research students and all the horses they touch. It can be named as a tribute to a loved one or special mentor. An estate gift can eventually fund scholarships, research projects, educational or benevolent programs or other interests of the donor that support the mission of the AAEP Foundation.

For more information, please contact the AAEP Foundation office at (859) 233-0147. Remember, contributions to the Foundation – a 501(c)(3) – are tax-deductible. Operating costs are paid by the AAEP, so 100 percent of each commitment is used to support programs as soon as possible. For more information about the AAEP Foundation's efforts and those who benefit, visit the Foundation's Web site at [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org).

## Rodeo, music and auctions highlight 2009 Foundation Celebration

Nearly 1,300 AAEP members, industry representatives and friends of the AAEP Foundation joined together for the successful 2009 AAEP Foundation Celebration held Dec. 8, 2009, at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. By attending the Celebration and participating in the auctions as either a donor or buyer, these gracious friends helped to raise more than \$93,000 for the Foundation during the event. In addition to the stellar auctions, guests enjoyed watching the National Finals Rodeo live on the big screen and a performance by country recording artist Tracy Lawrence, who also donated an autographed guitar and backstage passes to help us help horses.

The AAEP thanks all the donors and buyers who participated in the auctions. We want to send our deepest thanks again to AAEP Educational Partner Pfizer Animal Health for their support of the 13th Annual AAEP Foundation Celebration.



*Above: Country recording artist Tracy Lawrence performs at the Dec. 8 Foundation Celebration. Left: An impressive selection of items were available during the Foundation Celebration silent auction.*

## Golf tournament raises \$19,000 to benefit the Foundation

AAEP member Dr. John Weatherston of Dundas, Ontario, won't forget the 2009 AAEP Foundation Benefit Golf Tournament held at The Legacy Golf Club in Las Vegas. Dr. Weatherston, who arrived late and almost missed the Dec. 4 tournament, made a hole-in-one. The team of Drs. Rick Mitchell (Newtown, Conn.), Cooper Williams (Hempstead, Md.), Corey Orava (Manchester Center, Vt.) and Wayne Browning (Redwood City, Calif.) took top honors at this year's event.

The AAEP Foundation extends a special thanks to AAEP Educational Partner Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health for again stepping up to host the tournament, which was held in conjunction with the 55th Annual Convention. AAEP members and golfers who played enjoyed the day on the links, even with it being unusually cold for Las Vegas. Thanks to a generous donation by Intervet/Schering-Plough, hole sponsors and the 50 players that participated, more than \$19,000 was raised during the tournament for the AAEP Foundation.



*Brett Whitehead (far left), director of Equine/Ag Business for Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health, presents a \$15,000 donation to AAEP Foundation Committee members.*

## AAEP Members respond to Equine Memorial Program Matching Challenge

Each year, hundreds of veterinarians and veterinary clinics offer sympathy to bereaved clients with Equine Memorial tributes through the Foundation. These contributions help the Foundation's mission to support cutting-edge research, educational programs, scholarships and benevolent efforts.

In 2009, these tributes were matched thanks to a "matching challenge" supported by Pfizer Animal Health. The Foundation extends a special thanks to Pfizer Animal Health for its generous donation and for the development of the Matching Challenge. We also extend our thanks to our many members and their practices that have made the Equine Memorial Program an ongoing and automatic part of their client relations protocol.



*Pfizer's donation made during the 2009 Foundation Celebration includes \$25,000 towards Equine Memorial Program Matching Challenge. From left: Jeannie Jeffrey (Pfizer Area Sales Manager - Central), Dr. Wayne McIlwraith (AAEP Foundation Chairman), Dr. Harry Werner (2009 AAEP President), George Fennell (Pfizer Vice President - Companion Animal Division) and Sally Amtmann (Pfizer Area Sales Manager - West).*

## Gluck Center researcher named 2009 AAEP Foundation Past Presidents' Fellow

The AAEP Foundation introduced Jennifer G. Janes, DVM, a doctoral candidate at the University of Kentucky, as the recipient of the 2009 AAEP Foundation Past Presidents' Research Fellow at the 55th AAEP Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

The \$5,000 research grant is awarded each year to a doctoral or residency student who has excelled in the field of equine research. Dr. Janes was recognized during the Dec. 7 Frank J. Milne State-of-the-Art Lecture.

Dr. Janes is an anatomical pathology resident at the University of Kentucky's Gluck Equine Research Center investigating diagnostic imaging techniques to identify musculoskeletal diseases in horses. Her thesis project accesses new techniques and technologies to identify the genetic determinations that contribute to the etiology and pathogenesis of cervical stenotic myelopathy, or Wobbler

Syndrome. She collaborated with Drs. James MacLeod, doctoral advisor, Stephen M. Reed, Neil M. Williams, Katherine S. Garrett and Michael Voor while conducting the project.

Dr. Janes is a graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed an internship at Wisconsin Equine Hospital in 2007 and externships at Saratoga Equine Veterinary Service and Kendall Road Equine Hospital. She received the Morris Animal Foundation Fellowship Training Grant in 2009.

The AAEP Foundation established the Past Presidents' Research Fellow in 2006. The award is made possible through monetary contributions of AAEP past presidents.

The Foundation is currently accepting applications for the 2010 Past Presidents' Fellow. The deadline to apply is July 30.



*Dr. Jennifer Janes*

For more information about this program and other scholarships offered through the AAEP Foundation, please visit the Foundation's scholarship section at [www.aepfoundation.org](http://www.aepfoundation.org).

## Veterinary students bound for equine practice are awarded Hiscox Insurance Inc./American Live Stock Inc. scholarships

Eight veterinary students have been selected to each receive a \$2,500 scholarship from Hiscox Insurance Inc./American Live Stock Inc. and the AAEP Foundation. These scholarships are presented annually to selected fourth-year veterinary students who plan to pursue a career in equine veterinary practice.



**HISCOX**

Veterinary students are nominated

for the scholarships by their individual schools with supporting references from AAEP members and clinical instructors. In addition to academic excellence, recipients are evaluated on leadership ability and involvement in activities

that benefit the health and welfare of the horse.

Since 1989, the AAEP has collaborated with the Hiscox Insurance Inc./American Live Stock Inc. to offer these scholarships. Since that time, nearly \$300,000 has been allocated in financial assistance to veterinary students through this scholarship program.

To learn more about this scholarship or other scholarship programs for veteri-

nary students, please visit the Foundation's Web site, [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org).



*Top, from left: Vanessa Gant Bradley, University of California-Davis; Erin Contino, Colorado State University; Hayley Lang, Western University of Health Sciences; Rachel Roemer, Cornell University; Johanna Rosenfield, The Ohio State University; Kathryn Smith, University of Illinois; Jill Westerholm, Auburn University; and Gabe Young, Iowa State University.*

## Thirty-three veterinary students receive Winners' Circle scholarships

Thirty-three students studying equine veterinary medicine in 25 American states, four Canadian provinces and one school in the West Indies will continue their education with a financial boost from the Winners' Circle Scholarship Program.

Through a partnership of The Race For Education, Platinum Performance and the AAEP Foundation started in 2007, each recipient will receive a minimum of \$1,500 and a maximum of \$5,000, depending on their financial needs.



“When we help future equine veterinarians reach their goals, we are helping to protect the health and welfare of the horse for decades to come,” said C. Wayne McIlwraith, BVSc, Ph.D, AAEP

Foundation Chairman.

“The Foundation is delighted to collaborate with such outstanding organizations as The Race For Education and Platinum Performance to support the best and the brightest in their pursuit of a rewarding career as an equine veterinarian.”

### Congratulations to the 2009 recipients:

**United States:** Linx Alexanderson, Oregon State University; Susie Baker, Mississippi State University; Laura Bartle, North Carolina State University; Ashlee Brown, University of Georgia; Nimett Browne, University of Tennessee; Erin Cassidy, Western University of Health Sciences; Hannah Cavendar, Louisiana State University; Erin Contino, Colorado State University; Abby Coodin, University of Minnesota; Kevin Donnelly, University of Missouri; Ashlee Ederer, Auburn University; Rebecca Fitzgerald, Tuskegee University; Amy

Fousek, Kansas State University; Lisa Fultz, University of Florida; Grace Hale, Oklahoma State University; Ryan Heaton, University of Illinois; Jennifer Janes, Washington State University; Amanda Johnson, The Ohio State University; Miki Kedo, Michigan State University; Rachel Levine, Tufts University; Audrey Morrissey, Texas A&M University; Lindsay Neist, Virginia-Maryland Regional College; Abigail Roemer, Cornell University; Magda Rosol, Iowa State University; Koko Shishida, University of California-Davis; Megan Snyder, University of Pennsylvania; Caroline Van Tassel, Purdue University; and Corinne Wade, University of Wisconsin.

**Canada:** Sarah Brown, University of Montreal; Jordan Cook, University of Guelph; Hayley Lang, University of Saskatchewan; and Thais McCoy, University of Prince Edward Island.

**West Indies:** Kyle Schroeder, St. George's University.

For more information about The Race For Education and this scholarship program, visit [www.raceforeducation.org](http://www.raceforeducation.org).

We extend a special thank you to Platinum Performance and The Race For Education for their continued support and dedication to equine veterinary student education.

## Putting your gifts to action: Helping horses and their caretakers in 2009

One of the important tasks the AAEP Foundation Advisory Committee faces each year is recommending projects and programs to receive funding to the Foundation board. As a result of a successful year of fundraising in 2008, the AAEP Foundation was able to distribute more than \$300,000 in 2009 to help reach the Foundation's mission.



*AAEP member Dr. Johnny Haffner watches in the background as Mongolian veterinarians practice catheter placement and IV fluid therapy during the 2009 Fast Horse seminar in Mongolia.*

### Veterinary Student Education & Outreach

As mentioned previously in this newsletter, more than 43 scholarships were awarded during 2009 through programs with partial or full funding coming from the AAEP Foundation including:

- Hiscox Insurance Inc./American Live Stock Inc. scholarships
- Winners' Circle Scholarships
- Past Presidents' Research Fellow
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Congressional Fellow

Additional support targeted at growing the equine veterinary profession came in the form of:

- Individual student travel stipends to attend the 55th Annual Convention, supported in part by Purina
- Student chapter travel stipends to attend the 55th Annual Convention
- Student chapter activity stipends
- AAEP board member visits to student chapters

- Student chapter farrier short courses, supported in part by Purina
- Student chapter equine dentistry short courses, supported in part by Pfizer Animal Health
- Opportunities in Equine Practice Seminar (OEPS), an annual seminar hosted by Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital designed to promote equine practice as a viable and rewarding career option

### Veterinarian, Horse Owner Education & Benevolence

Since 2006, the Foundation has helped to support the Christian Veterinary Mission's Fast Horse Seminar in Mongolia, aimed at educating the herdsman of this country on equine health and welfare. The Foundation also assisted the following programs in 2009:

- Unwanted Horse Coalition
- Georgetown College Equine Scholars Program
- Friends of Sound Horses Conference
- American Youth Horse Council Leadership Symposium
- North American Riding for the Handicapped Association Annual Convention
- World Equine Veterinary Association (WEVA) Congress
- Alleghany Trail Blazers to support therapeutic riding saddles
- Equestrian Benevolent Outreach Session at the 55th Annual Convention

### Research Programs & Outreach

The Foundation continued its support of the Equine Research Coordination Group's (ERCG) efforts as well as other research coordination programs including the popular 2009 Equine Research Priorities Study and the 2009 Equine Laminitis Research Workshop. In addition, the Foundation supported the efforts of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association's Safety and Integrity Alliance and the development of an equine diagnostic terms system for the industry.

Additional support was provided to the American Quarter Horse Foundation, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and Morris Animal Foundation, which each received \$5,000 to assist with equine research projects. Funding for speakers and sponsorship also was provided to support a National FFA Annual Convention Student Workshop focusing on careers in equine research. This program was developed in collaboration with the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation.

Support from the Equine Disaster Relief Fund was provided to the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service. Funds were used to assist with the purchase of a horse rescue mannequin to be used for emergency preparedness training.

One hundred percent of all donations directly help horses and their caretakers through the support of education, research, benevolence and the equine community. Funds are distributed as soon as possible each year so donors can see the fulfillment of their active participation and support.

Funding decisions are made on an annual basis during the summer with applications for support due May 1 each year. To learn more about the Foundation's funding efforts, programs, or to apply, visit the grants section of the Foundation's Web site, [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org).

*Support was provided to a regional therapeutic riding program to purchase custom saddles for disabled adults and children. AAEP past president and Foundation Committee member Dr. Ben Franklin (far left) made the donation on behalf of the Foundation.*



## AAEP Foundation identifies equine research needs

*Study points to musculoskeletal system, laminitis, colic and horse-side lab tests as research and funding priorities*

Last fall, the AAEP Foundation conducted a study assessing the opinions of AAEP members regarding priorities in equine health care research. The second study of its kind, the 2009 AAEP Membership Equine Research Study was conducted to assist the equine industry in directing its financial support of equine research projects.



Photo by Larry Wadsworth, Media Resources. Courtesy of Texas A&M University.

Study results indicated that the equine body systems of highest research priority are musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, respiratory, endocrine and nervous system, ranked respectively. Respondents also ranked laminitis, colic, arthritis, tendon injuries and navicular disease as the five priorities in the category of equine disease or condition. Regarding new technologies that require more funding,

horse-side laboratory tests, regenerative medicine and imaging were considered the most important.

The study also polled members about their key sources of information for new research. Eighty-three percent of AAEP members indicated they learn new information from the annual AAEP Convention, followed by *Compendium Equine* magazine, the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, *Equine Veterinary Journal* and *Equine Veterinary Education*.

“The 2009 AAEP Membership Equine Research Study is a valuable tool in determining where the industry should direct support for equine research in the future,” said Dr. Wayne McIlwraith, chair of the AAEP Foundation. “With this updated study, we are able to identify the areas of equine research important to veterinarians, thus enhancing the industry’s ability to make important decisions as to where time and resources should be directed to help horses through research.”

To view the complete 2009 AAEP Membership Equine Research Study, visit the research section in Programs/Events at [www.aepfoundation.org](http://www.aepfoundation.org).



### Specific conditions cited most commonly by AAEP members that require further research:

Laminitis	63%
Colic	52%
Arthritis	49%
Tendon Injuries	44%
Navicular Disease	36%
Racing Injuries	34%
Suspensory Ligament Injuries	32%
Foot Problems	31%
Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD)	28%
Rhinopneumonitis (Herpes Virus)	26%
Recurrent Lower Airway Disease	24%
Foal Pneumonia	23%

## Students benefit from scholarships provided by the EQUUS Foundation, Inc. and the AAEP Foundation

The AAEP Foundation, through a \$9,000 donation from the EQUUS Foundation, Inc. in 2009, granted three \$3,000 AAEP Foundation/EQUUS Foundation, Inc. Scholarships to the following veterinary schools: University of Pennsylvania, Oklahoma State University and Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

Through the AAEP Foundation’s Named Scholarship program, scholarships are awarded to second- through fourth-year members of AAEP national and student chapters who demonstrate a financial

need and are interested in pursuing a career in equine practice.

The AAEP Foundation congratulates recent scholarship recipients Nick Johnson, a third-year student at Oklahoma State University, and Olivia Lorello, a second-year student at the University of Pennsylvania. This is third consecutive year the EQUUS Foundation, Inc. has donated Named Scholarships through the AAEP Foundation. The AAEP Foundation thanks the EQUUS Foundation for its dedication to equine veterinary education.



To learn more about how you can make a Named Scholarship donation to your school of choice, visit the scholarship section of the Foundation’s Web site at [www.aepfoundation.org](http://www.aepfoundation.org).

## Thank you to our 2009 donors

With appreciation and gratitude, we thank all those who contributed to the Foundation's efforts in 2009. We are grateful for the generosity of AAEP members, as well as their clients, partners and friends, who have shown an incredible commitment to the mission of the AAEP Foundation. Your gifts make the difference in the lives of many horses and their caretakers.

*We have made a sincere effort to accurately honor each and every contributor to the Foundation from 1-1-09 to 12-31-09. If you notice an error, please accept our apology and notify us so that we may correct the error and our records.*

### Individual Donors

(1/1/2009 – 12/31/2009)

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*AAEP student chapter equine dentistry short courses are supported by the AAEP Foundation and AAEP Educational Partner Pfizer Animal Health.*

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*“Randy,” a horse rescue mannequin, was purchased for the University of Florida’s VETS, with partial support from the AAEP Foundation’s Disaster Relief Fund. AAEP member Dr. Tomas Gimenez is seen here conducting a training class on equine emergency rescue.*

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## MISSION STATEMENT:

The AAEP Foundation's mission is to improve the health and welfare of the horse through support of research education, benevolence and the equine community.

## Thanks to committee members who ended their service in 2009

The AAEP Foundation wishes to thank the following Foundation Advisory Committee members whose terms ended in 2009. Your service and dedication are greatly appreciated:

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One hundred percent of your donation goes directly to the Foundation's support of research, education, benevolence and the equine community. To learn more about the AAEP Foundation and how you can help us help horses, visit [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org).

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