

NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of the AAEP Foundation



Winner's Circle Scholarship Program to benefit equine veterinary students

The AAEP Foundation, The Race for Education, and Platinum Performance have established a one-year scholarship designed to support veterinary students intending to enter equine veterinary medicine. The scholarship also will reward leadership and participation in Student Chapters of the AAEP (SCAAEP). While providing financial aid to students in their fourth year of veterinary school, the Winner's Circle Scholarship will help to offset the escalating cost of veterinary education and minimize debt load at graduation. The Race For Education will administer the scholarship program.



The Winner's Circle Scholarship program will award one scholarship, for a minimum of \$1,500 and possible \$5,000, if the applicant meets additional financial need requirements, to a deserving student at each of the 34 colleges of veterinary medicine throughout North America and the West Indies that sponsor a national chapter of SCAAEP.

"Each year we receive hundreds of applications from students in veterinary school and their financial burden is enormous. The Winner's Circle Scholarship program allows us to address this need at a national level," said Elisabeth Jensen, vice president of The Race For Education.

This program is being provided through a collaboration of donations of \$17,000 by each partner: Platinum Performance, AAEP Foundation and The Race For Education. This program aims to foster

loyalty to the AAEP, the AAEP Foundation, Platinum Performance, The Race For Education, and the Thoroughbred racing and breeding industries. However, most importantly these scholarships will assist veterinary students dedicated to helping horses in their careers.

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The Winner's Circle Scholarship eligibility requirements include being a national AAEP student member and a student at a college of veterinary medicine. Applications will be made for this scholarship during a student's third year in school, with funding occurring during the student's fourth year of their veterinary curriculum.

"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 Dr. Doug Corey, AAEP Foundation president. "The Foundation is delighted to collaborate with such outstanding organizations to support the best and the brightest in their pursuit of a rewarding career as an equine veterinarian."

"Platinum Performance is committed to improving the health, performance and longevity of the horse. We can think of no better way of furthering this mission than by investing in the future of veterinary medicine. Our participation in the Winner's Circle Scholarship Program lets

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Winner's Circle, continued

us do this," said Mark Herthel, president of Platinum Performance, Inc.

Each SCAAEP can nominate up to three students to receive a scholarship. Applications for the Winner's Circle Scholarships can be found at www.racingscholarships.com. Applications must be submitted to the student's SCAAEP chapter by Feb. 28, 2008. Nominations must be made by the SCAAEP, with approval by the chapter advisor, for a maximum of three students to The Race For Education by March 15, 2008.

The Race For Education (www.racing-scholarships.com) enables children of

low-income horse industry families, as well as children who want to pursue a horse-related career, to obtain a college degree by providing tuition support; financial literacy training to help students minimize their debt load; mentoring services to provide students with emotional support; and assistance in finding career-related internships during college and permanent jobs upon graduation. To date, the organization has awarded nearly \$1.5 million to students in 22 states.

Since 1997, Platinum Performance (www.platinumperformance.com) has been a leader in the development of fresh, high-quality, factory-direct food supplements

uniquely rich in Omega-3 essential fatty acids, antioxidants, trace minerals and branched chain amino acids. The Platinum Performance product line is a result of extensive, continuing research by the company's founder, Dr. Doug Herthel, who brings 38 years of experience in biological medicine to human and animal nutrition. In addition, the family-owned and operated company offers a complete line of health support supplements aimed at prevention, intervention and health maintenance for animals and humans.

AAEP Foundation supports equine practice seminar

More than 500 future equine practitioners attended the 2007 Rood & Riddle Opportunities in Equine Practice Seminar (OEPS), held in Lexington, Ky., over Labor Day weekend. Students participating in the three-day seminar represented 34 veterinary schools throughout the United States, Canada and the West Indies. OEPS offers students the extraordinary chance to explore career opportunities associated with equine veterinary practice. In addition to attending lectures given by experienced practitioners, students toured local equine hospitals, visited Bluegrass horse farms and Keeneland Racetrack.

The AAEP Foundation joined with 40 other equine-related industry leaders as sponsors of the OEPS. The program provides third-year veterinary students the opportunity to view aspects of equine practice, from the large animal hospital setting to the independent practitioner. The weekend is designed to benefit the entire equine veterinary community and is vital to the future of the equine industry.

A record 528 students attended the OEPS event this year.



Dr. Charles Vail challenges former CSU classmates and establishes first AAEP Foundation Named Scholarship

Equine veterinary students attending Colorado State University will soon be able to apply for the AAEP Foundation Richard Rezzonico Memorial Scholarship. Dr. Charles Vail, wanting to honor his dear friend and former CSU classmate, contacted the AAEP Foundation to establish a scholarship in honor of Dr. Richard Rezzonico, who recently lost his battle with pancreatic cancer.

In order to generate the funds he wanted for this new scholarship, Dr. Vail made a sizeable donation to kick start his efforts and then challenged his former Colorado

State classmates to donate. The money raised will be used to support equine veterinary students at CSU in the name of Dr. Richard A. Rezzonico, a long-time AAEP member and practitioner of veterinary medicine for 43 years in the Phoenix, Ariz. area. The new scholarship is designed to encourage and support equine veterinary studies and at the same time minimize student debt at graduation. The scholarship provides financial aid to students in their second through fourth years of veterinary school that meet the AAEP Foundation eligibility and criteria guidelines. One hundred percent of the

funds raised will be applied to the scholarship.

To learn more about how you can establish a Named Scholarship to honor a friend, colleague, family member, company, practice, etc., visit the AAEP Foundation Web site at www.aepfoundation.org, and click on the Grants/Scholarships drop-down menu or contact Robin Hollar, foundation development coordinator, at (859) 233-0147, (800) 443-0177 (within the U.S.) or e-mail rhollar@aaep.org.

Foundation helping educate future veterinarians, owners and others on horse health and more

One of the important tasks that the AAEP Foundation Advisory Committee faces each year is that of making recommendations to the Foundation board on what projects and programs it should fund. During the committee's most recent meeting the following projects and programs were recommended and subsequently approved by the board to receive support in 2007 and into 2008.

The American Quarter Horse Association Foundation, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and Morris Animal Foundation have each received \$5,000 for equine research. A \$5,000 scholarship for the AAEP Foundation Equine Research Fellow was also approved again. This was awarded for the first time at the 2006 AAEP Annual Convention.

Scholarships to support veterinary education in partnership with the American Livestock Insurance Company were again approved. A total of eight, \$2,500 scholarships are awarded annually to deserving fourth-year veterinary students who plan to enter private equine practice. In addition, the Foundation will partner with The Race For Education and Platinum Performance for the new Winner's Circle Scholarship program offering \$1,500 scholarships to one student at each of the 34 veterinary schools that have a student chapter of the AAEP.

The Foundation also will support veterinary student education through various other efforts including partnerships with Purina Mills to host 16 farrier-veterinary short courses and Pfizer Animal Health to host 12 dentistry short courses and a minimum of eight lectures on emergency and disaster preparedness at various veterinary schools. Plus, the Foundation will continue to support the student chapters with continuing education efforts by providing funds for chapter, student convention travel stipends and chapter activity fees. These fees allow the chapters to host additional on-campus labs and other equine educational events.

Other funding will support the Rood & Riddle Opportunities in Equine Practice Seminar and the American Veterinary Medical Association through a \$1,000 Congressional Fellow. The Foundation also supports the following educational programs: the Student AVMA Symposium; the Unwanted Horse Coalition; North American Riding for the Handicapped Association; American Youth Horse Council Leadership Symposium; and the first ever Friends of Sound Horses for a Sound Horse Conference.

Projects that received funding earlier this year include the Foundation's Equine Lameness Research Meeting and Panel; the Mongolian Project, an effort to edu-



Student dental short course sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health and the AAEP Foundation.

cate horsemen and horsewomen in Mongolia organized by the Christian Veterinary Mission; and continued support for the efforts of the Equine Research Coordination Group. In addition, the Foundation, along with matching funds from a previous \$10,000 donation through the Aringo Fund, made a \$20,000 donation to the Morris Animal Foundation The Equine Consortium for Genetic Research.

In all, the Foundation has committed to support various projects and programs totaling more than \$200,000 in funds during the rest of 2007 and into 2008.

It's not too late to support the AAEP Foundation

Your 2007 year-end donation to the AAEP Foundation is much more than tax brackets and charitable deductions. Your donation makes an important difference in what we are able to accomplish in the support of research, education, benevolence and the equine community at-large. As you are contemplating your year-end tax planning, we hope you will consider making a donation to the AAEP Foundation. Your 2007 year-end gift can greatly reduce your income taxes, while providing meaningful support to help us improve the health and welfare of the horse.

Consider these ways to donate:

- You can donate to the AAEP Foundation through an annual gift, memorial or honorary gift, planned gift or through a cash contribution toward next year's live or silent auctions.
- Take advantage of the benefits of rolling over an IRA as a donation. *(Consult your financial or legal advisor for specifics.)*
- Set up a named scholarship in the name of your company, farm, practice or to honor someone you know including a horse or person. These scholarships go directly to the school of your choice.

Please use the enclosed postage-paid return envelope for your donation. We thank you for your support in "Helping Us Help Horses."

Own Responsibly: Spread the word; Latest from the Unwanted Horse Coalition

The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC), a group funded in part by the AAEP Foundation, told more than 100 industry professionals and horse enthusiasts at a Nov. 2 American Horse Council National Issues Forum in Lexington, Ky., that no one currently knows how many horses go unwanted each year in the United States and that educating owners to “own responsibly” is a primary goal of the coalition.

Katy Carter of the UHC, Kristin Hix of The Jockey Club, and Sally Baker of the American Association of Equine Practitioners shared in a presentation that in order to “spread the word about unwanted horses and responsible ownership” the UHC has created a number of new public education tools, pamphlets and materials. Everyone is encouraged to visit the UHC’s web site for details and downloads: www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org. New to the Web site is a listing of facilities that can take unwanted horses. The group has also created advertisements to promote responsible horse ownership. These are publications that can be used in reprint.

Earlier this year, members of the UHC met during the American Horse Council’s National Issues Forum in Washington, D.C. on June 21, to develop future plans to raise awareness and share their work with horse industry leaders and participants.

“It was great to come back to the 2007 American Horse Council’s Issues Forum only one year after being folded into the

AHC with so many accomplishments such as our Web site and awareness brochure,” said Dr. Tom Lenz, chairman of the Unwanted Horse Coalition. “It was important for us to have an audience with industry players so they can help us educate current and prospective horse owners on owning responsibly.”

During the AHC Forum, members of the Unwanted Horse Coalition made several plans for the next year including publishing the “Own Responsibly” handbook on the Web site, developing a rescue and retirement facilities listing and providing promotional items such as pens, decals and lapel pins to help raise awareness of this issue.

The Coalition is asking facilities that will accept and/or place horses to list themselves on the UHC Web site. “This is an important step for the coalition,” said Dr. Tom Lenz, UHC chairman. “We have received many inquiries not only from horse owners who are seeking retirement homes or second careers for their horses, but also from people who are interested in adopting a horse or volunteering at equine placement organizations. We expect that this online directory will furnish valuable information to all these people and in so doing be good for the horses.”



The coalition hopes that its Web site will be another important bridge between people who are seeking alternatives for their horses and the many facilities that will accept them. Such facilities include rescue, retirement and retraining facilities; therapeutic riding programs; colleges and universities; police and military organizations; public stables; and government and park service programs. “If you are a facility that will help with the care, training and use of these horses, we hope you will sign on,” said Katy Carter, UHC coordinator. “The UHC has organized its Web site so that these facilities can list themselves.”

Any facility that wishes to be listed can go to the UHC Web site and complete a brief questionnaire. To complete the questionnaire or view the facilities in the directory, go to www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org, click “Resources,” follow the link to “Facilities that Accept Horses” and fill out the short questionnaire.

The UHC is a broad alliance of equine organizations that have joined together under the American Horse Council to reduce the numbers of unwanted horses and help horse owners understand the various options, services and assistance available to them when they are considering what to do with a horse they can no longer care for.

Long-time Foundation chair Nat White selected as 2008 AAEP vice president

Nathaniel A. White II, DVM, of Leesburg, Va., has been selected as the American Association of Equine Practitioners’ next vice president. Dr. White will ascend to the AAEP presidency in 2010.

A board-certified surgeon and a renowned researcher, Dr. White is the Jean Ellen Shehan Professor and director of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. He received his doctor of veterinary medicine (DVM) at Cornell University in 1971. After completing an internship and residency in surgery at the University of California-Davis, he spent a year in prac-

tice before graduating with a master of science in pathology at Kansas State University in 1976. Dr. White has served on the faculty of Kansas State University, the University of Georgia and Virginia Tech. He was the Theodora Ayer Randolph Professor of Surgery as an eminent scholar at Virginia Tech from 1987 to 2003. Dr. White also is an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland.

Dr. White has a long history of active involvement in the AAEP. He is currently the chair of the AAEP Foundation Advisory

Committee, and is a past chair of the Student Relations Committee and a former member of the board of directors. Dr. White organized the Equine Research Summit in 2006 as part of the AAEP’s effort to highlight the need for equine research. He was recognized for his contributions to the AAEP and the profession in 2004 when he received the AAEP Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. White’s service on the AAEP Executive Committee began at the association’s 53rd Annual Convention in Orlando, Fla., Dec. 1 – 5, 2007.



Lameness experts meet to discuss upcoming research; funding

The AAEP Foundation hosted a Lameness Research Meeting and Panel Aug. 1, 2007 in Fort Collins, Colo. Researchers and lameness experts from around the world met to prioritize future lameness research needs. The group also explored specific questions about the direction and cost of future lameness projects.



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Similar to other research panels organized by the AAEP Foundation, the lameness meeting and panel was designed to share collective knowledge, current studies and future plans among a diverse group of equine lameness researchers to help develop strategic priorities to most effectively

and economically address important diseases that cause lameness. Furthermore, the panel was challenged to develop plans for collaboration between investigators and to identify specific priorities in lameness research for the next 5 to 10 years.

The participants identified numerous aspects of lameness that require more research and concluded that information on the incidence and economic importance of specific diseases is needed to help prioritize research funding. At the same time, studies that track these diseases can help define the risk factors. Once identified, these risks can be used to devise preventive measures to decrease incidence and morbidity. Veterinary specialists, practitioners and researchers in specific areas of lameness such as joint disease, kinematics, imaging and therapeutics will need to collaborate to tackle the problems listed by the panel. In some cases, more specific panel discussions will be necessary to further focus the priorities.

To see the complete report from the 2007 Lameness Meeting and Panel, visit the AAEP Foundation Web site, www.aaepfoundation.org.

This research meeting and panel would not have been possible without the support of the following sponsors: AQHA Foundation, Boehringer Ingelheim



Vetmedica, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, IDEXX Laboratories and Morris Animal Foundation. This cooperative effort is helping to identify priorities for the equine industry and will benefit the owner, veterinarian, supporting industries and, most importantly, the horse.

Success stories needed to help promote equine research

In an effort to promote awareness of equine research, as well as the need to increase funding for it and attract more students to become involved with research, the AAEP Foundation and the Equine Research Coordination Group (ERCG) are asking AAEP Foundation donors to help by supplying "success stories."

The goal is to collect case studies that illuminate the connections between research and breakthroughs in veterinary care with saving more horses' lives and/or

returning them to health and maybe to their previous level of activity.

We hope that you will share the cases with which you have been involved. Contact Anne Dadds at the AAEP Foundation (adadds@aaep.org) for more information or to supply her with a story or two. If you have someone you would recommend the AAEP Foundation call, please send that person's name and phone number to Ms. Dadds.

This is just one of the efforts that the AAEP Foundation is coordinating on behalf of the equine industry through the ERCG. For more information about the ERCG and its efforts, visit www.aaepfoundation.org. (Note: All contacts related to any story will remain confidential until written permission is obtained to promote the story.)

Calendar and greeting cards make valuable marketing tools and client holiday gifts

AAEP members have come to rely on the AAEP Horse Sense Calendar and Greeting Card Programs to promote their practice, while at the same time supporting the AAEP Foundation and its mission. Each month in the calendar is depicted by its own beautiful high-quality photograph representing many of the world's favorite breeds and equestrian disciplines. Monthly health notes help to educate your clients about basic horse health care and remind them to seek your medical expertise. In addition, the 2008 calendar also contains diagrams of equine anatomical landmarks and the digestive system. When you send your clients the AAEP Calendar, you are putting your name and contact information in front of them 365 days a year.

The AAEP Greeting Cards Program offers an economical way to send holiday wishes to your clients, while advertising your practice. With the choice of three different equine designs and your choice of sentiments, your clients will know that you took the time to acknowledge how much you value them. As always, your name,

address and telephone numbers are prominently imprinted on the AAEP Horse Sense Calendar and Greeting Cards, making it easy for you to advertise your practice and for your clients to contact you.

To place your order, download the calendar or holiday cards order forms on the Foundation Web site at www.aaepfoundation.org and click on either "Calendar Program" or "Greeting Card Program" under the Program/Events drop-down menu. All orders must be

mailed or faxed to Global Publishing and Marketing. Please visit the Global Publishing booth at the AAEP Convention trade show for additional information if you haven't made an order by convention time.

A generous portion of the proceeds from the 2008 Horse Sense Calendar and Greeting Cards will be donated to the AAEP Foundation.



Research Fellow Scholarship winner announced

The Foundation has named Ashlee E. Watts, DVM, as the recipient of the 2007 AAEP Foundation Research Fellow. Chosen from a select group of very qualified applicants, Dr. Watts will be recognized at the Frank J. Milne State-of-the-Art Lecture on December 3, during the AAEP 53rd Annual Convention in Orlando, Fla.



Dr. Watts is currently a resident in large animal surgery at Cornell University. She received her DVM and BS

at Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in Ft. Collins, Colo. After completing her residency at Cornell University, Dr. Watts will begin a Ph.D. program in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences at Cornell University with a concentration in cellular and molecular medicine.

The AAEP Foundation established the Research Fellow in 2006, to emphasize the importance of equine research and to reward a researcher for his

or her contributions. The scholarship is made possible through the monetary contributions of AAEP past presidents and is for AAEP member graduates and residents who are completing their residency or a graduate program while participating in equine research.

For more information about this Research Fellow program or other scholarships offered through the Foundation, please visit the scholarship section of the AAEP Foundation's Web site at www.aaepfoundation.org.

Genome Research Project receives support from the AAEP Foundation

The AAEP Foundation is among the contributors to the Morris Animal Foundation's Equine Consortium for Genetic Research, a five-year, \$2.5 million-dollar project, the goal of which is to improve equine health. Led by University of Minnesota professors Dr. Jim Mickelson and Dr. Stephanie Valberg, the consortium includes 32 scientists from 18 elite academic institutions in nine countries. The recent sequencing of the equine genome will help these scientists make major health breakthroughs for horses.

Equine scientists will develop unique research tools that will lead to major advances in the health of horses worldwide. The first of these tools, SNP chips, will allow researchers to define underlying genetic factors that influence highly inheritable as well as common equine diseases, such as tying up, heaves, laminitis and osteochondrosis. With these chips, the consortium members will take the first step in reaching their long-term goals of understanding inherited diseases as well as the influence of genetics in the development of non-inherited equine diseases. This study will impact the health of horses by developing new ways to diagnose, treat and pre-

vent disease. In addition, the genetic information gained will serve as a valuable tool for managing breeding programs and preventing disease.

Dr. Jim Mickelson, the consortium's director, said, "This project will benefit the entire horse industry, offer new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to reduce animal suffering, and promote equine health and welfare. We will be able to do for the horse what we already can do for human and canine research."

Phase one of this project is possible in part through generous donations from the AAEP Foundation, including The Aringo Memorial Fund; the ASPCA; the Keeneland Foundation and generous individual donors.

"An explosion of knowledge about human disease occurred after the human genome was sequenced in 2001. These rapid advances can now be paralleled in the horse with the sequencing of the equine genome in 2007 and the support of the Morris Animal Foundation Equine Consortium," Valberg said.

New Foundation Development Coordinator named

Robin Hollar has joined the staff of the AAEP as Development Coordinator for the AAEP Foundation. She will coordinate the Foundation's programs and fundraising efforts.

Robin brings more than 15 years of financial development and equine industry experience to the AAEP. Her most recent position was that of executive director of Camp Horsin' Around, a 200-acre camp facility under construction in Central Kentucky designed and built to serve children with chronic illness and disabilities. Previously, she served as director of development for the United States Pony Clubs, the American Heart



Association, and the American Red Cross, and director of marketing and communications for the United States Dressage Federation.

"The AAEP Foundation has done many great things over the years to help horses, horse owners, veterinarians and students," Hollar said. "I am very excited about joining the AAEP and I look forward to the opportunity to play a major role in advancing the Foundation to the next level and beyond."

Robin can be contacted in the AAEP office at rhollar@aaep.org.

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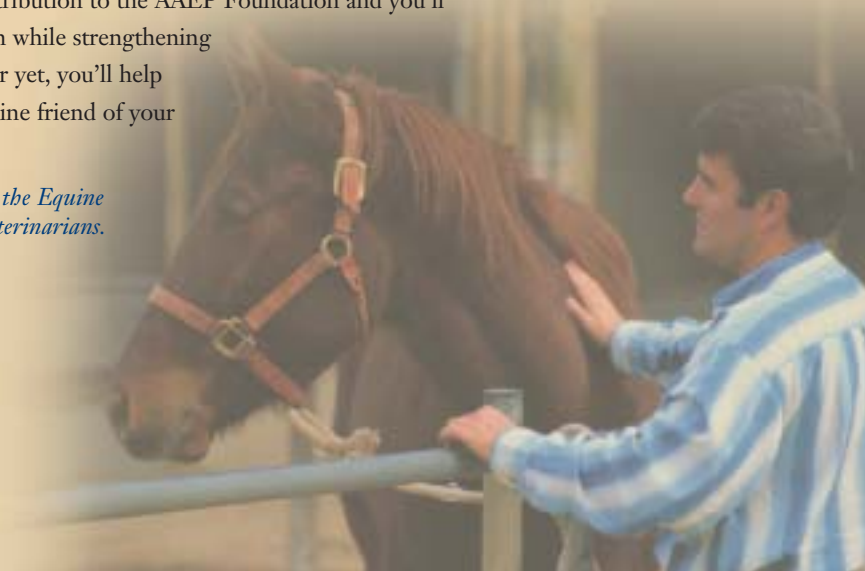
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