

## A REPORT OF THE 2003 USPC ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION



skits were hilarious and I wish someone had taken a video. I would have to say that the best one was of Erin riding Mike and cutting the “cows” in the conference room!

Then as quickly as it had begun, we were pledging our moral code and getting ready for the banquet. I have to thank Nancy Todd for the slide show at dinner. She took pictures of all of us through the NYC and created a slide show with those pictures, as well as with the pictures of each of our horses and us submitted with our application.

It turned out that some of us had such a hard time saying goodbye that we just ended up staying all weekend. Because of our great new friendships, we were surrounded by FUN, friendly

people all weekend. Those of us who stayed made a few side trips. We went to a local dance club and then all hung out after getting to know each other. There were also trips over to the HUGE mall across the street and some of us attended the Annual Meeting seminars and educational sessions.

I believe that I speak for all of the National Youth Congress delegates in saying thank you to the NYC sponsors, donors, Alumni, and everyone involved in the Annual Meeting. We all made wonderful friends, and we will never forget how much fun this trip was. And hopefully next year we will meet with representatives from every region. ■

### NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS 2003

Sandra Ahearn, Anna Baltikauski, Lauren Baumgardner, Brittany Brooks, Anna Clarkin, Morgan Clay, Becca Cook, Ashley Ferreira, Jamie Ferry, Gail Gorman, Sarah Hale, Brooke Longacre, Pauline Maietta, Natalie McGowan, Catherine McLeod, Meghan Moran, Sally Mumper, Casey Murphy, Laura Naas, Jessica Ni, Meghan Pittman, Isabel Price, Sarah Reese, Alicia Marie Richie, Erin Risso, Laura Marie Ross, Kristin Schlachter, Melanie Smith, Katie Spannaus, Kira Steins, Mike Sullivan, Melissa Tonini, Morgan Webber, Lindsay Wells, Julia Wiley.



### 2003 ACADEMY OF ACHIEVEMENT INDUCTEES

GEORGIA GERBER attended Bucknell University, where she focused on her life-long love of art, and sculpture in particular. After earning a Bachelor of Arts, she stayed on for two to gain the technical knowledge that enabled her to later operate her own bronze foundry. She traveled west to Seattle for graduate work at the University of Washington, completing the Masters of Fine Arts program in 1983. With help from the down payment on her first major public commission, she and husband Randy Hudson built a home, studio, and foundry, and Georgia began her career as a professional sculptor.

Georgia works primarily with life-size animal and human figures. A career emphasis has been the creation of accessible public artwork that encourages viewer interaction. She has nearly 50 public sculptures permanently installed throughout the Northwest, the United States and Japan.

Georgia was born in New Jersey and raised in Eastern Pennsylvania. Her earliest years were with Abington Hills Pony Club, then with Pickering Hunt Pony Club. Georgia has a twin sister who was just as involved with Pony Club as she was. They spent countless hours riding, training, foxhunting, and pursuing all available Pony Club activities. Both Georgia and her sister achieved their A rating at the same test when they were freshmen in college.

Georgia learned a tremendous amount from “budget horses” – those that were difficult to ride but affordable.

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*Members of the 2003 National Youth Congress pose with the Academy of Achievement Delegates.*

*Seated l to r: Richard Lamb, Patti Jo Hassler, Georgia Gerber, Kelly Wycall Phillips, Stacy Yike, and (standing behind Stacy) Gary Keating*

*Photo courtesy of Stacey Reap*

She credits the experiences with them as helping her to achieve her A rating.

During the years that Georgia was pursuing her art career she actually thought that she was through with horses altogether (her husband claims she promised as much!). However, when her daughter, Laura, turned about 6, potent memories of the joys of her own Pony Club years nudged Georgia back into the world of horses – partly for her daughter and partly for herself. Laura became a fine rider with the South Whidbey Pony Club, achieving C-1 rating before switching to her sole pursuit of riding dressage at the FEI Junior level. Meanwhile, Georgia was actively involved in the Club, coaching for many rallies and ratings, and introducing them to one of her favorite activities, the Pony Club Games.

Georgia believes that much of her success in life has roots in the positive values and ethics learned in Pony Club.

**PATTI HASSLER** – After graduating from Smith College, Patti moved to New York, worked briefly in the theater, and then joined the staff of CBS News. She worked as a receptionist in the fall of 1978 for *60 Minutes*, which started that year. It became the most watched television show that year, and has gone on to unprecedented success, being one of the top ten highest-rated programs on TV ever since. She worked her way up to producer, and has produced nearly 60 stories for *60 Minutes* correspondents Harry Reasoner and Morley Safer. Her investigative stories run the gamut of topics, from one that led to the release of an innocent man on death row, to the effect of mercury in dental fillings, to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in a cold case where a child had disappeared.

In April of 1996, Patti became the Executive Producer of *Biography: This Week*, an award-winning cable TV series

that CBS NEWS produced for the A&E Television Network. Her production teams made over 50 documentaries about the lives of people, ranging from the Unabomber to the Dalai Lama. In 1997, Patti also became Director of Programming for CBS News Productions and helped launch a new cable channel, *CBS Eye on People*, creating 14 new shows and over 800 hours of programming. Since she helped to launch this critically acclaimed newsmagazine in 1998, the show has been honored with every major award in broadcast journalism including two George Foster Peabody awards, two Columbia-duPont awards, the Edward R. Murrow award, and numerous Emmy awards. She is currently the Executive Editor of *60 Minutes II* at CBS News.

Patti grew up on a horse farm in the Amish country of Pennsylvania and actively competed and participated in Pony Club events all over the East

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Coast. Patti participated in the Visiting "A" program and traveled to Pony Clubs around the East Coast and Canada. She is grateful for her Pony Club experience and feels it prepared her in a unique way for the work she does today.

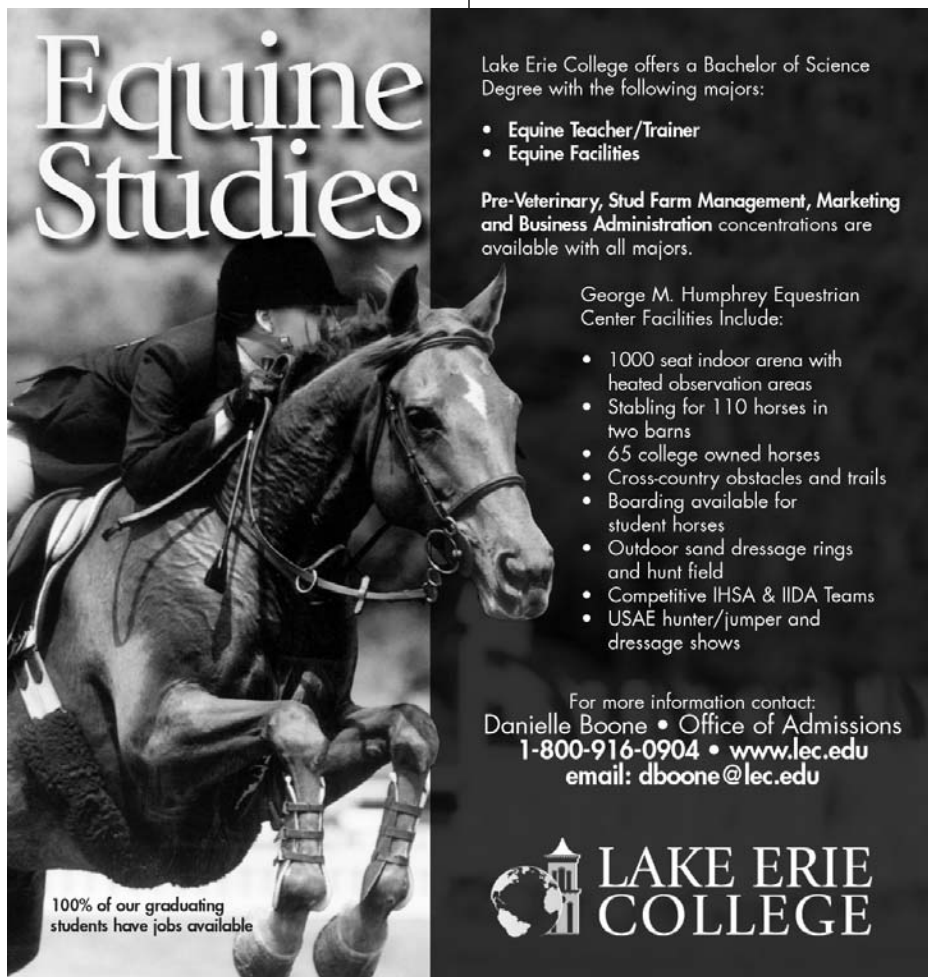
**GARY KEATING** has undergraduate degrees in Animal Science and Music Education from the University of New Hampshire. Following his college years, Gary was Director of Music for a school system in New Hampshire for four years. After that, he entered graduate school at the University of Miami and completed his Masters of Music degree in Choral Conducting in 1981. He decided to settle in South

Florida, and he says fate took a turn as he began a career in arts management and development (fund raising). He has worked for arts organizations, performing arts centers, and social service organizations for 23 years. Through this period he also was a certified AIDS Education specialist doing programs in elementary through high school levels as well as in corporate settings. For the past 18 years, he has conducted a men's and mixed community chorus, which presents two major concerts a year. Gary is currently a full-time Doctoral Candidate at the University of Miami in Choral Conducting as well as the Associate Conductor of the Miami Oratorio Society.

Gary says that his years doing fundraising and education for an AIDS organization changed his life because it gave him a very strong perspective on what is important in life. This experience gave him a realization that life, friendship, family, personal growth and accomplishment are the things to value most as they can be gone all too quickly.

A graduate B Pony Club member from Monadnock Pony Club in New Hampshire, Gary's favorite horse was named Poor Joe's Dandy, who took him through most of his Pony Club years. He was a big, roman-nosed bay that forged, but was very honest and was truly his best friend throughout high school.

Gary says his Pony Club experience was much more valuable than most would ever believe and has had a great influence on his life and the way that he interacts with others. He has a reading disability which also affects skills like knowing left from right; a problem for taking written tests but also for riding lessons, jump courses, and dressage tests. The support, patience, and flexibility shown to him by his Pony Club teachers gave him confidence and a "feeling of accomplishment" that has remained with him his entire life. Gary thinks that even more importantly, it influenced him as a teacher, both in the classroom and the ring. Each of us learns in slightly different ways and responds to different ways of explaining topics. If each of us has value, he feels it is incumbent upon him as a teacher to learn more than one way to teach or explain.



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RICHARD LAMB attended St Lawrence University in Canton, NY where he majored in American and British literature. He rode through college, competing in Intercollegiate shows and other competitions.

Richard was born in Sheridan, Wyoming, but his family moved to Woodstock, Vermont when he was very young. There, along with his brother and four sisters, he helped run the summer riding camp and the winter ski lodge. It was a great way to grow up – riding all summer and skiing all winter. All of them were members of the Upper Valley Pony Club. Richards and his siblings all rode and rallied during those years until his father needed more help on the farm with the riding camp that had up to 60 participants during the summers. He thinks that some of his sisters got their B rating, and he achieved the equivalent of the C-3 rating at the time.

One of his fondest memories learning to ride on Chiclet, a 12-hand gray pony that was just good enough and just bratty enough to make them all better riders. He and his brother and sisters all rode in hunter and jumper shows, dressage shows and events as well as in Pony Club activities.

He now lives near Tryon, North Carolina on a small farm with horses. He travels all around the country to teach, train and give clinics. He loves to work and considers himself lucky because he gets to teach all disciplines and all ages and levels. He also designs show jumping courses from beginner novice up to the 3\*\*\* level and from pony jumpers up to the USPC championships.

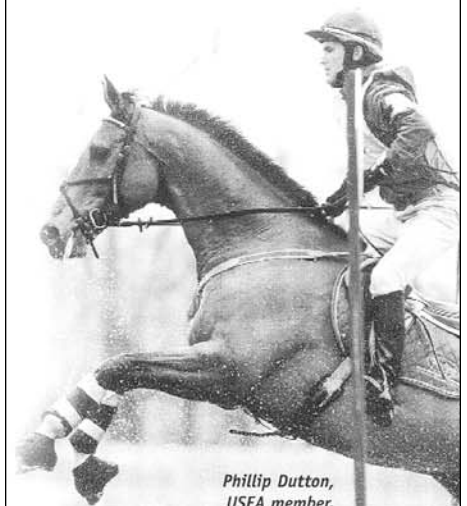
During the last 5 years or so, Richard started learning and studying Qi Gong (Chi Gong), which is a type of meditation practice that helps one to become more aware of life and energy inside and outside of our bodies. He finds that Qi Gong applies to his horse life as well as his personal life.

Richard's Pony Club connections are stronger than ever, and he credits some friends he had while living in Ireland with starting him on his second Pony Club career. They asked him to help out with Quiz and then some ratings and that was it. After 5 years of Foxhunting, Eventing, Show Jumping, and riding racehorses, he moved back to America to West Chester, PA. USPC National Headquarters were located close by, and he started helping out locally and



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regionally. He became a national examiner, a member of national committees, he designed courses for the national championships, and recently became a member of USPC board of Governors.

Richard now finds himself a member of the Alumni Academy of Achievement. He says, "I am not sure that I deserve this honor, but I do appreciate being asked to join this illustrious group and I hope to live up to the standards set by them."

### KELLY WYCALL

PHILLIPS graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Richmond in 1986 and earned her Master of Computer Science degree from the Engineering School at the University of Virginia, where she graduated at the top of her class. She completed her Doctorate course work in Computer Science at the College of William and Mary.

Kelly's professional career has taken many exciting paths. Kelly worked for GE Fanuc and Robertshaw for several years. In 1993 Kelly branched out into the entrepreneurial world and was hired as Vice President of MedSys, Inc., a consulting firm. Through MedSys, she began working on a project within AT&T that later became Amteva Technologies. Amteva was acquired by Cisco in April of 1999, and she became the Director of Engineering.

In April of 2002, Kelly decided to leave the telecom industry and try out a new field. She accepted a position as an IT Director at CapitalOne, one of the top credit card companies in the United States. She continues to enjoy working with this company today, and is responsible for the testing and management of the company's software.

Kelly grew up in Salisbury, Maryland, where she was a very active member of the Chesapeake Pony Club. She participated in many events, rallies, competitions, parades, clinics and camps. She graduated with a B rating.

In 1986, Kelly married Todd Phillips, a Nuclear Engineer. After the birth of their second son, Todd decided to become a stay-at-home dad. Their two sons, Todd Jr. (TJ), 11, and Trevor, 6, keep Kelly and Todd very busy.

Kelly's life today does not include horses, but she feels that her experience in Pony Club was fundamental in helping her get to where she is today, as it wasn't just about riding, or competing, it was about taking care of the horse, learning the fundamentals and applying them, being part of a team, respecting others, helping others, and enjoying what you were doing. She feels these lessons are the keys to success.

### STACY YIKE, MAJOR, USAF,

graduated from Clemson University with a B. S. in Mechanical Engineering. She continued her education by earning an M. S. in Aero Engineering from California Polytechnic, and an M. S. in Strategic Intelligence from the Joint Military Intelligence College. She also studied International Relations at the University of Coimbra in Portugal.

Stacy has been an officer in the Air Force for 13 years. Her assignments took her first to Los Angeles, CA to build, test, and launch satellite systems. She then continued her space career at the National Reconnaissance Office in Washington, DC. An Olmsted Scholarship took her to Portugal for two years with a brief stint in Monterey, CA for language training. Stacy returned to

the Pentagon in June 2002, first as the Congressional Liaison for Space Programs, and now as a Country Desk Officer for the Joint Staff. Her responsibilities include providing military advice to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Portugal, Spain, Italy, Malta, and the Holy See.

Stacy is a graduate A, and was a member of the Bath Pony Club in Ohio and the Pine Trace Pony Club in Georgia. She says that Pony Club formed the foundation for almost everything she has done in life. The long list of acquired skills includes communicating, studying, training and conditioning, and perhaps, most of all, perseverance. She says every horse was her favorite, and should you ask her, be prepared for a 30-minute discourse on how wonderful they were. "Each one was special, each one taught me something new, and each one took me someplace I had never been before." Stacy comes from a solid Pony Club family. Her parents, Roger and Marilyn have long been focal members at the regional and national level in Pony Club, as has her sister, Brenda.

For the past eleven years, her favorite four-legged friend has been Hobbs, a white shepherd cross who has kept her company on both coasts and two continents. When asked what she would like to do or try, she says "Most everything! I want to learn to ski jump and ride a Grand Prix Pas de Deux to a compilation of Star Trek soundtracks. I want to hear the National Anthem play for my gold at the Olympics. I want to make a landing on an aircraft carrier and then take a flight in space. But most of all, I want to help make the world a better place." ■