



# Backside News

JULY 2009

## JULY EVENTS:

**JULY 9TH**— VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PARTY 5-7PM

**JULY 17TH**— ATLANTIS WATER PARK FIELD TRIP 11:30AM-6PM

**JULY 21ST**— VOLUNTEER MEETING 7PM

**JULY 24TH**— ELECTRONIC GAME NIGHT 5:30PM-8PM

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**AUGUST 11TH**— ZOO DAY

**AUGUST 13TH**— STUDENT & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PARTY 5-7PM

## JULY CENTER-HOURS:

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**  
CHURCHILL 11:30 AM-8PM

**SUNDAY**  
SOCCER AT GEORGE ROGERS CLARK PARK 6:30PM-8PM

## A Day in the Life of a Student

*Written by: Rebecca Hall*

It is 4:00 a.m. and, while most people are still tucked comfortably in their beds, Otto Gutierrez is waking up in his room above the barns to start his day as a groom for David Carroll Racing Stable. Otto begins work at 4:10 a.m., filling the hay rack, cleaning the stall, and filling buckets with water for his horses to drink. By 4:30 a.m. the horses are fed and it's time to get them ready for practice.

Before the horses practice in the morning, Otto brushes them clean. While they practice, Otto continues cleaning the stalls and getting new straw for his horses to eat. When his four horses arrive back from practice he bathes them, one at a time, for about 10 minutes each. Sometimes the sweaty horses fight with Otto but he eventually has them clean and proceeds to bandage their legs.

By now it is 10:00 a.m. and the horses are ready to be fed again. After changing their water buckets, Otto is finished with work for the morning.

At 10:30 a.m., when most people are just starting to wake up, Otto is mostly finished with his work day. He eats lunch, takes a shower, and makes his way to the Learning

Center.

Otto spends two or three hours a day at the Learning Center. He attends Intermediate English Practice, and sometimes attends English class in the evening. He also completed the Groom Elite 101 program this spring and became a Certified Groom Elite.



Otto (left) washes Indy Summer after a race.

In addition, Otto enjoys listening to music on the computers, occasionally attends movie night and art class, and plays soccer on Sunday evenings.

Even though his favorite days are those when he is off in the afternoon, Otto must return to work at 2:00 p.m. every other day. In the afternoon he repeats the morning tasks, changing the buckets of water and feeding the horses by 4:00 p.m.

Race day for Otto and his horses is a little different. He goes through his usual tasks but he has the horse

ready two hours prior to race time.

Before walking his horse one or two rounds in the paddock, Otto puts a muzzle on the horse to prevent biting, as well as puts the bridle on the horse. The jockey then gets on the horse and Otto hands the reigns over to the pony rider. Then Otto watches the race from the chairs around the finish line.

If his horse is a winner, the horse is rewarded with grass or a peppermint. But Otto's day isn't done quite yet; he still must walk, wash, and get his horse settled into the barn.

Although he works everyday, 365 days a year, over 50 hours a week, Otto still finds time to have fun. He plays in a soccer tournament, goes to Kroger to buy groceries, and sometimes takes a trip to Wal-Mart. He even practices soccer in the barns; the horses usually sit soccer practice out.

By now it's 10:00 p.m. The horses have been well cared for, the stables have been cleaned, the track is getting dark, and Otto heads to his room above the barns where he lays down his head to rest after a long day. He must fall asleep quickly, because the morning comes very early on the backside.

## JULY CLASS SCHEDULE:

### MONDAYS:

1 PM-2PM: ENGLISH TUTORING HOUR  
5PM-7PM: ENGLISH CLASS

### TUESDAYS:

11:30AM-1PM: BEGINNING & INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH PRACTICE

1PM-3PM: ADVANCED ENGLISH PRACTICE

5PM-7PM: ENGLISH CLASS

6:30PM-8PM: CITIZENSHIP CLASS

### WEDNESDAYS:

11:30AM-1PM: BEGINNING & INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH PRACTICE

1PM-3PM: ART CLASS

1PM-3PM: ADVANCED ENGLISH PRACTICE

5:30PM-7PM: SPANISH CLASS

6PM-8PM: COMPUTER CLASS

### THURSDAYS:

11:30AM-1PM: BEGINNING & INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH PRACTICE

1PM-3PM: ADVANCED ENGLISH PRACTICE

6PM-7PM: GUITAR CLASS

6PM-7PM: BILINGUAL CONVERSATION TABLES

### FRIDAYS:

1PM-3PM: ADVANCED ENGLISH PRACTICE

5:30PM-7:30PM: MOVIE NIGHT

## Student & Volunteer Profile

### Interviews by: Volunteer Ben Jenkins and Student Edgar Cano

The following interview was done during Bilingual Hour, a time when volunteers learning Spanish can practice Spanish and students learning English can practice English. Benjamin has been volunteering at the Learning Center for a little over a year now and Edgar has been attending classes at the Learning Center since 2006.



Benjamin and Edgar participating in Bilingual Hour, interviewing each other for the newsletter

**Edgar:** ¿Qué haces en tus ratos libres? (What do you do in your free time?)

**Ben:** Escuchar música, mirar la tele y estar con amigos. (Listen to music, watch TV and hang out with friends.) Do you like Churchill Downs? What is your favorite racetrack?

**Edgar:** Yes, this is the favorite. ¿Qué países de habla hispana has visitado? (Which Spanish speaking countries have you visited?)

**Ben:** He visitado México. (I have visited Mexico.)

**Edgar:** ¿Cuánto tiempo has estudiado el español? (How long have you been studying Spanish?)

**Ben:** Seis años. (Six years.) How long have you been studying English?

**Edgar:** For two and a half years.

**Ben:** What is your favorite Learning Center activity or program?

**Edgar:** Reading and writing classes. ¿Te gusta leer? ¿Cuál es tu libro favorito? (Do you like to read? What is your favorite book?)

**Ben:** No me gusta. Mi libro favorito es Casino Royale y otros de James Bond. (I don't like to read. My favorite book is Casino Royale and others

about James Bond.) What is your favorite type of music?

**Edgar:** Dance music. ¿Cuál tipo de música te gusta? (What is your favorite type of music?)

**Ben:** Me gusta la música rock. (I like rock music.) Do clowns scare you?

**Edgar:** Yes, because they look funny. ¿Te asustan los payasos? (Do clowns scare you?)

**Ben:** No tengo miedo. (I'm not afraid of anything.)

## Team Notes

*Written by: Melissa Johnson*

The Learning Center is keeping busy this summer. We have so many exciting events coming up.

The first event is the Volunteer Recognition Party on Thursday, July 9th. The Volunteer Recognition Party is an annual event that allows us to give back to our amazing volunteers and recognize their contributions to the Learning Center.

On Friday, July 17th, we are taking the students on a field trip to Atlantis Water Park in Southern Indiana. We will need drivers, so if you are free to help out, let us know!

On Friday, July 24th, we are going to have the first-ever

Electronic Game Night at the Learning Center. Someone is letting us borrow their Wii but we would really like to include a Rock Band or Guitar Hero game.



Students and Volunteers hanging out at the Student and Volunteer Recognition Party in June.

If you have one that you wouldn't mind letting us borrow that night, contact Rachel.

Frank Agrisoni from the KY Horsemen's Benevolent and

Protective Association (HBPA) is planning a Zoo Day this year for the backside workers and we are looking forward to going with our students on Tuesday, August 11th.

We are happy to announce that Rachel will not be leaving at the end of July. Her end-of-service date has been extended to Friday, September 4th. We will have a Goodbye Party for Rachel on Thursday, September 3rd for her. Please make plans to attend and help us wish her well!

We are excited about all of these upcoming events and the opportunity to build relationships with our students. If you have any ideas about future field trips, let us know!

# Special Events Update

## Groom Elite 101

The Groom Elite 101 class for Spring 2009 was a huge success! Congratulations to Enrique Rodriguez, Dennis Espinosa, Otto Gutierrez, Ramiro Campos, Yuri Amaro, Juan Ramirez, Gerson Gutierrez and Mauro Santizo. These students



became Certified Groom Elite after completing the 30 hour equine care program. Special thanks to Sara Dorman, Jan Margerum, Marty Hisle, Todd Boston, Marcelino Jacuinde and Nate Koval for teaching the class. Also, special thanks to Elias Perez, Tomas Martinez, Roberto Soto, Roberto Gonzalez, Jose Arriaga, and Gelfer Cardona for interpreting!

## Groom Elite Lunch Donation Acknowledgment

**J Gumbos:** May 11  
**Bearno's Pizza:** May 12  
**Rally's:** May 18  
**Domino's Pizza:** May 19  
**Clement's Catering:** May 26

**Los Aztecas:** May 27, June 1  
**Levy's Restaurant:** June 8, 9, 15  
**Texas Roadhouse:** June 16  
**Whole Foods Market:** \$25.00 Gift Card

## Lyndon Area Fair

We sold leftover Derby Gift Shop merchandise at the Lyndon Area Fair and we also had the opportunity to inform the community about the Learning Center. Special thanks to Laura Humbert, Teresa Burkhart and Nikie Ward for volunteering to help out!



## Bilingual Legal Clinic

On June 24th, the Learning Center hosted a Bilingual Legal Clinic for the backside workers. Lawyers and interpreters came to answer any questions the backside workers had. Ten workers took advantage of the services. We have provided a Bilingual Legal Clinic in the past and plan to continue doing so every year. Special thanks to Kate Lindsay, the organizer from the Louisville Bar Association, and to all the lawyers and interpreters who volunteered their time.

## Student & Volunteer Recognition

### Volunteer of the Month

Lucy Anne Kuhn has been our library assistant since last year. She does a wonderful job of managing the library by cataloguing new book donations, shelving & organizing books, creating book displays, and updating the bulletin board. During May, she was a big support during our Derby gift shop. She volunteered for the afternoon shifts on Oaks & Derby, working right through the races. She was one of the few volunteers who mastered the cash register, and she showed great initiative in jumping and helping customers or doing whatever needed to be done.

### ESL Level Promotions:

#### From Beginning to Intermediate

Edwin Moran    Martha Cruz    Bertila Quinteros  
 Esvin Cardona    Uriel Bravo

### Golden Pencil Awards

These are given to students to recognize remarkable dedication or contribution to their classes or to the Learning Center community. Students are nominated for a Golden Pencil by their teachers, tutors, volunteers, or a team member.

Vickie Young    Jose Herrera    Estuardo Morales  
 Carlos Gonzalez    Miguel "Mike" Lopez  
 Dennis Quezada

Special thanks to the Outrider's Society, the Kentucky Derby Museum's volunteer organization, for donating gift cards to give to each Student of the Month this year. Because we were not able to provide a prize in the past for Student of the Month, we are opening the Student of the Month award to all students, including students who have been recognized as Students of the Month in the past.

### Student of the Month

### English Student of the Month

Diego Zacarias is our English Student of the Month because he is one of our most dedicated students. In May, he participated in every one of our English services, including evening classes, afternoon English practice, tutoring, and bilingual hour. He has been working with his tutor, Cassie Kocher, since our tutoring program began last fall. When he started attending the Learning Center last year, he barely spoke any English, and through his hard work he is now in the intermediate class.



Left: Jennifer and Diego  
 Right: Juan and Rachel



### Participation Student of the Month

Juan Ramirez is our Participation Student of the Month because of his effort and attendance in Groom Elite. He actively participated, paying excellent attention, always coming prepared, and asking good questions. He also frequently uses the computer lab to study independently, taking advantage of the many websites for studying English, and he occasionally comes to movie nights.

**FEATURED  
WISH LIST:**

- 2 wall clocks
- Notebooks
- 2 2009 Road Map Atlases
- Headphones for the computer lab

# Class in the Spotlight



*Written by: Jacqueline Massouda*  
 Since the summer of 2008, I have been leading a Spanish class at the Learning Center that provides education for horsemen to develop their communication with their Hispanic coworkers and employees. Since then, the class has been expanded to welcome any member of the Churchill Downs community who wishes to learn the Spanish language and examine its cultural impact in Louisville, Kentucky.

In a typical class period, I introduce a topic (it may be grammatical, cultural, etc.) and make sure every student understands. Then myself and my assistants, José Arriaga and Roberto Gonzalez, help engage the students in a Spanish conversation by either reading an article and discussing it as a group, or by creating scenarios and acting them out for each other. It doesn't end there, sometimes our classes include games or story writing. I do whatever is necessary to keep every student interested and make sure they leave the class with new skills.

Recently, the Learning Center and I have developed three-week sessions for students. Anyone is welcome to enroll at the beginning of the month, no experience or previous knowl-



Jackie teaching Spanish class in Spring 2009.

edge necessary. For three weeks we learn about a particular topic. The next month, we explore a new topic, once again the class is open to anyone who is interested.

Most of my students like learning about Spanish associated with the barn and horseracing, but they also enjoy learning about the Latino experience and culture in the United States. Practicing conversation is the most challenging aspect of the curriculum, but

it is the part that truly pays off in the end. One of my very loyal students, Alayne Wright, recently took a trip to Peru and was able to communicate with many of the locals and even order at a Peruvian restaurant!

As a student myself, leading this class has helped me develop my language skills even further. I have learned to communicate with others from multiple cultures at a level a textbook could never teach me. By learning and using Spanish, my students and I are helping every employee and volunteer feel comfortable and welcome at work. It is a wonderful feeling to know that the Learning Center, my students and I are helping the Churchill Downs community to overcome the communication gap that exists on the backside. Hopefully our efforts will extend into the city of Louisville to create an atmosphere that feeds the desire for education and diversity in culture.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** Contact Rachel Brokaw at the Learning Center if you are interested in volunteering.

**ESL TUTOR:** Provide personalized instruction, encouragement, and support to an adult English language learner. Plan lessons and work one-on-one with your student. Time commitment: Two hours a week, Mondays at 1pm.

**CONVERSATION LEADER FOR BILINGUAL CONERSATION TABLES:** Plan bilingual conversation prompts for multiple levels of language ability. Assist in matching conversation partners and adult ESL students. Act as a conversation partner when needed. Time commitment: one to two hours a week, Thursdays from 6-7pm.

For more information, visit the Volunteer Corner on our website!

**QUILTER NEEDED:** Someone has generously donated materials for a quilt. We need a talented quilter to put these materials together and make a quilt for us to sell for a fundraiser.

**RECOGNITION PARTY SPONSORS:** We need 2 sponsors for every party to bring drinks and party snacks for about 20 people. Parties are usually the second Thursday of the month from 5-7 PM, starting in May.

**SOCCER DRIVERS:** Sign up to drive students to soccer on Sundays. This is a very flexible volunteer opportunity. Talk to Jack Cox or Rachel Brokaw for more information.

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PARTY:**  
**THURS. JULY 9TH** - Let us celebrate

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR  
HARD WORK AND TIME!**

**YOU!** The party starts at 5pm at the Learning Center. Dinner is on us!

**VOLUNTEER MEETING:  
TUES. JULY 21ST**

**THE OUTRIDER'S SOCIETY**

The Outriders Society is the volunteer organization of the Kentucky Derby Museum. Since we are a Derby Museum program, all Learning Center volunteers are eligible to join, and your volunteer hours count towards Outriders benefits. For more information, contact Julie Henry at 637-1111, x336 or online at:

<http://www.derbymuseum.org/>