



Backside News

JUNE 2009

JUNE EVENTS:

JUNE 4TH - STUDENT MEETING 12:45PM

JUNE 6TH— QUARTERLY OUTFRIDER'S MEETING 10 AM AT KDM

JUNE 8TH —KY KING-DOM DAY 3PM-8PM

JUNE 15TH & 16TH — GROOM ELITE 101 ASSESSMENT

JUNE 18TH— STUDENT/VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PARTY AND GROOM ELITE 101 GRADUATION PARTY 5-7PM

JUNE 19TH & 20TH — INFORMATIONAL BOOTH AT LYNDON AREA FAIR AT ROBSION PARK 4PM-10PM FRIDAY AND 10AM-10PM SATURDAY

JUNE 24TH— BILINGUAL LEGAL CLINIC 6-8PM

UPCOMING EVENTS:

JULY 9TH—STUDENT/VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION MEETING 5-7PM

JULY 21ST— VOLUNTEER PARTY 7PM

JULY 23RD— GOODBYE PARTY FOR RACHEL

JULY 27TH— RACHEL'S LAST DAY

JUNE CENTER-HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY CHURCHILL
11:30 AM-8PM

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

Equine Training for Grooms Teaches Horse Sense from the Ground Up

Written by: Monica Parcell

At an hour of the day when most people are racing to work, trainer Mark Danner is taking a break in his barn while his horses—already exercised, bathed, groomed, and fed—are munching on hay in their stalls while his grooms are neatly raking the shed row aisle. They're basically done for the morning. But things haven't always gone as smoothly as they look today. For Danner, who jokes that he only speaks Taco Bell Spanish, the language barrier has always posed obstacles in training new grooms and running a barn. The difference these days is that his two current grooms, brothers Arturo and Hemeregildo, are both graduates of the Groom Elite program offered free to backside workers at The Backside Learning Center. Before then, he says, "I was in a quagmire. When you're dealing with a language barrier, it makes things three times as hard. It's an invaluable tool—a godsend for people you can't communicate with."

Groom Elite founder Susan O'Hara-Bates started the program in 2001 at Lone Star Park and Sam Houston Race Park in Texas to address Danner's and so many trainers' challenges: for new grooms with little or no experience working with horses, the learning curve is steep and training is strictly on the job, often with grooms teaching other grooms. Even so, grooms spend more time with a horse than anyone else, and busy trainers rely on them to spot

problems. What was needed, she reasoned, was a structured program taught in English and Spanish that would give horse workers the basic knowledge they need to have more competence and confidence on the job. The result is Groom Elite 101, a 30 hour course that has expanded in the last eight years to 17 tracks across the country.



Juan and Instructor, Sara, check horse's pulse.

In a ten-class course (classes are held twice a week, on non-racing days) divided between classroom lecture and hands-on instruction in the barn, grooms learn from the ground up -- from how to apply a polo wrap correctly to tongue tying to the English words for parts of the horse's anatomy. For Elías Perez, just having the vocabulary made a significant difference. He said that before he took the course, "When my boss would ask me, 'What's happening with this horse?' the only thing I answered was 'I don't know' because I didn't know the parts of the horse." Groom Roberto Gonzales recalls noticing one day that one of his horses "turned his head funny" when he put the bridle on. Because he had

learned that the horse's reaction could indicate a dental problem, he told the trainer he thought the horse's mouth should be checked and sure enough, an equine dentist had to be called in.

Equally valuable are the less mundane, more nuanced things, like learning how the horse communicates, whether it is recognizing the signs of colic, or when a horse might just be nervous as opposed to really sick. "There's a lot of new grooms on the backside," says Gonzales, who serves as an interpreter for Groom Elite classes. "They know how to clean the stalls and groom the horses but they don't understand the horse."

During one of the first classroom lectures, Groom Elite Executive Director C. Reid McLellan, who teaches several of the classes at Churchill Downs, began by giving grooms a horse's view of the world, literally explaining how even their line of sight affects their behavior. The ultimate aim of the course is to give grooms the steady hand and manner that a herd leader exhibits, which makes everyone more confident—and makes everyone's job easier. "The herd leader," said McLellan, "is the quietest horse in the pasture."

Back at Danner's barn, the veteran trainer couldn't be happier with the leadership skills that the course has instilled in his grooms. "They know what they're doing and take pride in their work. Since they've been there, everything runs on cruise control."

Student & Volunteer Profile

JUNE 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

12PM-2PM: 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: BILINGUAL CONVERSATION TABLES

FRIDAYS:

1PM-3PM: ADVANCED ENGLISH PRACTICE

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

GROOM ELITE 101:

JUNE 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 & 16
11:30AM-2:30PM

Interviews by: Volunteer Ron Orwick and Student Elías Pérez

Ron: Where are you from?

Elías: I am from Guatemala.

Ron: Santa Rosa.

Elías: Exactly. Where are you from?

Ron: I am from Louisville, KY.

How long have you been coming to the Learning Center, Elías?

Elías: Well...I have been coming to the Learning Center for about five years. How long have you been coming to the Learning Center?

Ron: About five years so we were both here when it began.

Elías: Exactly.

Ron: So we have gotten to know one another very well.

Elías: That's right.

Ron: How did you first get involved at the Learning Center? How did you find out about it?

Elías: Well, I found out about the Learning Center from a friend who told me about the Learning Center.

Ron: What programs are you involved in at the Learning Center?

Elías: Well, I have been involved in many programs. Of course, I am in the English class, Groom Elite class program...I have been involved in those programs.

Ron: Computers?

Elías: Yes, computers for a while.

Ron: Did you take music lessons for a little bit?

Elías: Yes, I took music lessons.

Ron: I just tutor in the afternoons mainly. I get involved in a lot of the other things. Sometimes I take people out to eat and we just go have fun and things. I do little bit of soccer. You do the soccer?

Elías: Yeah, I do the soccer too.

Ron: Mainly, we just love one another and have fun with one another and try to help one another out.

Elías: Yes, that's right.

Ron: How has the Learning Center helped you?

Elías: The Learning Center has helped me with my English. I have learned a lot of things from the Learning Center.

Ron: And besides English maybe we've just learned to care about one another and learn more about each other's country.

Elías: Exactly.



Ron Orwick and Elías Pérez

Team Notes

Written by: Jennifer Hoert

The more things change, the more they stay the same

While the barns aren't as full as they have been in past years and we have one less day of racing, our student population continues strong as does our programming. Our afternoon tutoring has around 20 students attending regularly, as do the evening English classes. Additionally, we have 15 students enrolled in the Groom Elite 101 class. Our computer class had 15 students and the lab is often full with a group waiting. We had about 15 horsemen at our most recent movie night, and our weekend soccer outings have had around 25 participants. In addition to our regularly sched-

uled programs, we are adding a field trip to Kentucky Kingdom, bilingual hour, and a bilingual legal clinic in the month of June.



Advanced English Practice

Raising awareness and getting feedback

We will spread the word about our work at a booth at the Lyndon Fair June 19-20. This is the first of several booths

that we have investigated, and if it goes well we may do others. We are also seeking to get some feedback from the horse's mouth, so we've hosted a student meeting and are surveying the barn workers. At the student meeting we asked what we were doing well, what we should change, and what we should add. The 25 students that were present agreed that we are doing a great job, that the Learning Center offers more than any other track, and they couldn't ask for more. We are still working our way through the barns, so we will let you know the survey results in a later newsletter.

Special Events Update

Derby Gift Shop

The Derby Gift Shop this year was a big success. We have not yet subtracted taxes and cost of the product, but we brought in more than \$25,000. We anticipate that we will receive at least half that amount. A special thank you to everyone who helped out! Without the support of our volunteers, our Derby Gift Shop would not have been successful. Also, special thanks to All Pro for helping us set-up, National City for letting us use their parking lot, Churchill Downs for parking passes and permission to host the fundraiser, Sav-a-Lot for donating drinks and Value Market for donating snacks.

Sponsor & Donation Acknowledgment

The Blood-Horse: 2 One-Year Subscriptions for Raffle
Breckinridge Inn: Free One-Night Stay
Churchill Downs: \$1000.00 Refreshments on the Course Sponsorship
Hidden Creek Golf Club/Elliott Phillips: \$400.00 team sponsorship and \$100.00 donation
Holiday Inn Lakeview: \$100.00 for Hole Sponsorship
Keeneland Association: 6-15" X 10-3/4" photographs from the 1930's and 1940's valued at \$25.00 each or \$150.00 for the series
National HBPA: \$200.00 for two Hole Sponsorships
Shulthise Farms: \$100.00 Hole Sponsorship
University of Louisville Equine Program: \$100.00 Hole Sponsorship

Horsemen's Golf Scramble

The first annual Horsemen's Golf Scramble was a success! Ronny Werner's team took first place and Bart Stark and Craig Tschudi won the Closest to the Pin contests. We brought in more than \$2000.00. Special thanks to all of our sponsors and the teams that played. Also, a special thanks to Steve Hargrave who helped us plan and organize the event!



Student & Volunteer Recognition

Sally Troutman was recognized as Volunteer of the Month for April. She has continued to work as a GED tutor, in addition to putting in many hours at the Derby gift shop. And, in April, she recruited two new volunteer tutors.

We are now recognizing students for being promoted from one level of English class to another, and a number of students received a certificate for this:

From Beginning to Intermediate

Edgar Cano
 Juan Ramirez
 Arturo Garcia Perez
 Hermeregildo Garcia Perez
 Otto Gutierrez
 Estuardo Morales

From Intermediate to Advanced

Gelver Cardona



Top-left: Gelver & Jennifer
 Left: Juan & Rachel
 Bottom-left: Rachel & Arturo
 Top: Estuardo & Jennifer
 Bottom: Jennifer & Otto



CENTER WISH LIST FEATURED ITEMS:

- Any book for adults written in Spanish
- Bilingual books
- Audio books with accompanying texts, particularly shorter or easier books, poetry or adult-appropriate learning-to-read books
- Spanish-English dictionaries
- 2 Kaplan GED 2009-2010 Edition textbooks
- 2 Kaplan GED en Español textbooks 2008
- 10 Pimsleur Inglés: English for Spanish Speakers with Audio CD textbooks
- 2 wall clocks
- Notebooks

Class in the Spotlight



Written by: *Cindy Williams*

The Citizenship class, taught by Cindy Williams, meets each Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8:00. The purpose of the class is to prepare those students whose goal is to become a citizen of the United States for the Naturalization process. This class is taught entirely in English and requires a lot of hard work. Students learn about the history of the United States, the importance of The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution and the structure of the federal government, the three branches of the federal government and what they do, the election process, civil rights, important historical figures, the rights and responsibilities of American citizens, geography, national holidays as well as the names of today's federal, state and local leaders. Each student is given his/her

own workbook containing the lessons, exercises, review questions and tests. Students may take their workbook

as a group to complete the exercises during class and take turns reading the questions and answers out loud. Students work individually to complete each review test. Once everyone has finished the test, the answers to the review test questions and answers are read out loud. Those Citizenship students who are also taking the Advanced ESL Class taught by Norma Gruen get extra writing practice during Norma's class.

As mentioned the class is to help prepare students for the Naturalization process; however, applying for Naturalization is not a requirement to participate in this class. Anyone wanting to learn more about the United States, its history and government, is encouraged to attend.



Roberto Soto, graduate of the citizenship class, was naturalized April 17, 2009.

home, but are asked to bring it with them to class on Tuesday evenings. Each lesson is broken down into five parts; discussion, exercises, review test, interview practice and writing practice. The students work

VOLUNTEER CORNER

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

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR
HARD WORK AND TIME!

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.

ESL CLASS SUPPORT: Provide instruction to new and/or struggling adult English language learners. Use class curriculum in a one-on-one or small group setting to prepare students to enter (or re-enter) the classroom. Time commitment: Two hours a week, or every other week.

CONVERSATION PARTNERS FOR BILINGUAL CONVERSATION TABLES:

Converse with adult

English language learners during bilingual conversation tables. Use both English and Spanish to affirm students' knowledge and create a non-threatening environment. Conversation prompts will be provided. Time commitment: One hour a week, Thursdays from 6-7pm.

CONVERSATION LEADER FOR BILINGUAL CONVERSATION 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.

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.

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. Contact Julie Henry at 637-1111, x336 or online at:

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

Next Quarterly Outriders meeting is on June 6 with Guest Speaker Alexa King, the Barbaro sculptress