



HOOFBEATS

Lake Erie College George M. Humphrey Equestrian Center
440.375.8000 www.lec.edu/equine

Nov/Dec 2011

Quarter Horse Congress Judging Competition

In This Issue

QH Congress
IHSA Results
Clinic Update
Bone Project

Newsletter Staff

Nicole Sauer
Dr. Pam Hess

Photo Credits

Fairfield Photography
Ron Schwane
Michelle Heinz
Rachelle Mosholder
Dr. Elisabeth Giedt

Michelle Heinz, a senior Equine Facility Management major, recently represented Lake Erie College at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress by participating in the Inter-collegiate Horse Judging Contest. Michelle participated in the Limited Division (for students who attend universities without judging teams or who have never judged before), and competed against 33 contestants from other schools, including Ohio State, Texas A&M, Penn State, and the University of Findlay.

Contestants had to judge 12 classes of Quarter Horses in two different divisions: halter and performance. Each class consisted of four horses and professional judges scored the class at the same time as the contestants. After judging the 12 classes, the participants prepared their explanations for the placings they assigned. Michelle had to give two sets of reasons, one on hunters under saddle and one on two-year-old stallions. The reasons must be given from memory in less than two minutes.

Contestants are scored on their placings, reasons and overall, all of which are added up for the cumulative score. Michelle placed 13th in halter, 6th in performance, 16th in reasons, and 6th overall! All of her scores were within 20 points of the leader, and there were many ties. It should be noted that none of the contestants from The Ohio State University, Penn State, Michigan State, or Findlay placed higher than Lake Erie College's representative! LEC was well represented at a nationally recognized competition, and Michelle was very excited to compete one last time in her collegiate career.

By Michelle Heinz



The Power of Horse Sense Update

In October's issue of Hoofbeats, there was an article about the recent 'Power of Horse Sense' clinic that took place at the college. Since then, a video of some of the exercises that the students took part in has been posted on YouTube, highlighting the purpose behind the exercises and the student participation. If you would like to view this video and learn a little more about the clinic and demonstration, you can go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ri6rmsEdlBo>.

LEC IHSA Results

The LEC English and Western IHSA teams have been doing great this semester! Both teams have had shows this past month, with IHSA English competing on November 12-13, and IHSA Western competing on November 5 and November 19.

The IHSA English team showed their talent at their last show of the semester, which took place at the University of Findlay. A total of 10 classes over both days were won by LEC riders. Stephanie Papais, Bonnie Payson, Chelsea Stair, Courtney Newby, Emily Eckenberger, Maddie Weiman, Jacqueline Linden, and Shelbie McCoy each won at least one of their classes over the two-day show. Jacqueline Linden, a freshman, also took home Reserve High Point Rider honors. As a team, LEC IHSA English achieved Reserve High Point Team on Saturday the 12th, and on Sunday they were the High Point Team!



Jacqueline Linden



Chelsea Stair

The Western IHSA team traveled to University of Findlay twice during November to compete, with many new members on the team. Against tough competition, LEC came in 3rd place as a team, and already has several riders qualified for regionals. Shelbie McCoy, RickiLea Murphy, and Emily Eckenberger all placed first in their classes. With their success at these shows, RickiLea and Emily have already qualified for regionals! Julie Mramor has also begun reining and placed third against the University of Findlay. Great job girls, keep up the good work! A big thanks to our coach Stephanie for all of her hard work!

Congratulations to both of the teams! All of the riders should be very proud of how well they've done this semester and how hard they have worked, and we look forward to what's in store for them next semester!

By Nicole Sauer and Anne-Marie Morgan

Foal Bone Project

On Saturday November 5th, Dr. Giedt took a group of students: freshmen Rebekah Smoldt and Rebecca Sibinga, sophomore Jessica Meyer, and senior Jillian Misenko out to the site of the decomposed bones from a foal that passed away last spring. After the necropsy, Dr. Giedt laid the foal in a private area at a friend's house and surrounded the body with cement blocks and a metal mesh on top to allow bugs in, but not any other creatures. That's it! That is all that was needed to let the body decompose naturally. Seven months later, we find just a skeleton, almost completely intact.



Our next task was to extract the bones without damaging or breaking them. Some of the structures were lying right on top, but others were stuck deep in the mud. It took a careful effort to pull out those structures, like some of the ribs and the smaller vertebrae structures, without damaging them. It was very interesting to see the bones that we would see in a normal skeleton, except smaller and in more pieces. In the foal there is a lot more cartilage, therefore the body is in more pieces because the cartilage disappears as the body decomposes.

Once we got the bones back to school, we began to rinse them off with water. We got to see all the structures even more clearly. We were able to match all the ribs and the symmetrical bones together. We have a long way to go to put the skeleton together because of the smaller bones that are somewhat unidentifiable, but this project is going to be a real learning experience for those involved.

By Jessica Meyer