

HOOF BEATS

Penn State Equine Research Team

Spring 2012

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Second Annual Research Symposium Success

For those of you who may not have known, last year PSERT joined forces with Virginia Tech to start an annual research symposium. Last year it was held in

Virginia and it was our turn.

Along with Virginia Tech, Cornell, and Ohio State were able to join us for the weekend in March. We started Saturday with



a welcome and introduction session by all the instructors, followed by facility tours. We then took some time to listen to presenters from the other schools about research they conducted. After a quick lunch and poster session, we headed back to the Ag Arena for hands on research labs in foal growth, standard exercise

tests, and fecal counts.

The day was followed by a great evening with a catered dinner and a fantastic

speaker, Dr. Sue McDonnell, a specialist in equine behavior at University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Medicine.

Sunday was a showcase

of Pennsylvania's horse industry including demonstrations of PSU Quarter Horses, Endurance Riding by Mrs. Corcoran, and Next Level Horsemanship's Suzanne Myers.

This Symposium was a great success, Thanks to all whom participated and planned the event.



Symposium Success 1

Featured Alumni 1-2
Natasha Repard

President Farewell 2-3

New Officers 3

Special points of interest:

Find **P.S.E.R.T** on Facebook

Check out the new website:

<http://wp.tlt.psu.edu/psert/>

Featured Alumni Natasha Repard

While at PSU I majored in Animal Sciences and minored in Equine Science. I was an active member of Block& Bridle and PSERT.

I was a co-leader in PSERT's Teff Hay study.

During my junior and senior year I completed an

Equine Management summer internship at The Miner Institute, which is an Agricultural Research Farm located in upstate NY. I worked mostly with their Morgan horse herd, taking care of the horses, learning breeding practices, and

training them to be sold.

The research done at Miner Institute is focused mainly on the their dairy herd, looking mainly at dairy nutrition and behavior studies. Research is done on the horses as well, but less frequently.

Natasha Repard Continued

While there as a summer student though, Dr. Staniar teamed up with Dr. Samantha Brooks out of Cornell University and we completed a research trial on the horses that looked at microbial hindgut populations based on the diet fed. After I graduated in May 2010 I went back to The Miner Institute to complete the year-long Equine Management Internship. I practiced what I had learned as a summer intern, but in greater detail as I had much more one-on-one time with my boss, and I also had many more responsibilities. While there, I helped out with a few dairy research trials and experienced my first winter in upstate NY. It was a great experience for me and I learned a lot from it.

I am currently working at Lane's End Farm in KY as a groom. I am learning a lot about the

Thoroughbred industry as a whole and it's been good so far. Its definitely an eye-opening experience working on a farm as big as Lane's End after working on small farms. I am in the midst of my first foaling season here right now, and we are a little over half-way



through our about 140 pregnant mares. I have had a lot of sleepless nights but am learning a lot from those hours spent awake. Honestly before PSERT I didn't know much about the world of equine research, but the club helped my broaden my horizons and learn a lot more about the equine world. It was very

influential in my path so far because seeing the word "research" in the description at The Miner Institute was one of the main reasons I applied to the summer program, which led me to my year-long internship, which led me to Kentucky and Lane's End Farm.

My advice for graduating students is to not be afraid to get out of your comfort zone. There are many opportunities out there, you just have to find them, and getting out and meeting new people is the best way to find them.

Also, but no less important, is to try not to get

discouraged when job searching. I had a gap of unemployment and endless job searching myself, but you just need to keep your head up and keep looking. And of course cherish your last months at PSU!

WE ARE..

Final thoughts from your 2011 – 2012 PSERT President Courtney Moskios

This year sure has gone by fast. It feels like just a few weeks ago Andrew was



handing me his PSERT binder and giving me advice for the upcoming year. Although in reality, just a few days ago I was passing down my binder to our new

president, Samarah LaFoca. We sat down over Chipotle, flash drives, binders and papers. It was a bitter sweet moment. My excitement for Samarah was accompanied by knowing I would miss the countless meetings with Dr. Staniar, late nights of PSERT paperwork, officer meetings and signing all of my emails 'La Prez'. I can't begin to tell everyone how thankful I am for this

past year. It hasn't been easy, but my officers have all extremely helpful and hardworking. I've learned more from Dr. Staniar than I ever thought I would (and maybe more than I wanted to). I've seen so much enthusiasm from our under classman and I've had a wonderful time in the midst of it all.

Continued on Page 3...



Farewell Continued...

More importantly, I've watched PSERT grow and develop. We've found our community service niche with 4H, successfully hosted the second annual undergraduate research symposium, and planned a trip to California all while learning

about equine research. I anticipate wonderful things happening for PSERT next year and wish the new officers the best of luck. Thank you so much for letting me serve as your President this year!



Meet the 2012-2013 Officers

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Kira Hydock



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