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IEA Executive Director
Roxane (Lawrence) Durant / email

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US Largest Youth Equestrian Association
Founded in Ohio

The Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) entered its 15th season when competition began this month. Membership enrollment for young equestrians, in grades 6-12, remains open until November 1st. The non-profit organization (501(c)3) was founded in Willoughby, Ohio in 2002 and has stayed true to its mission: Introduce students in private and public middle and secondary schools (primarily ages 11 through 19) to equestrian sport.

Beginning with 250 riders, the IEA now has over 12,500 members and is the largest youth equestrian association in the United States. The uniqueness of the IEA, and primary reason for the organization’s growth, is the fact no rider needs to own a horse to participate in the IEA. The IEA provides a mount and tack to each youngster at every event -- from local shows to the National Finals. In addition, should any rider not be able to pay for IEA involvement, or any coach meet with a hardship, financial assistance is available for those who qualify through the IEA Benevolent Fund.

The IEA will celebrate the 15th Anniversary in many ways throughout 2016-2017. A special new logo, a “throwback” issue of Take the Reins magazine (you’re reading it!), expanded membership offerings, extraordinary sponsorship discounts and a host of interactive events through the IEA social media network are among the celebratory items.

“The IEA founders were enthusiastic when they met in a barn north of Columbus, Ohio to start an organization to ‘introduce students in private and public middle and secondary schools to the equestrian sports.’ Now, we are simply gratified that we have been able to bring this concept to over 30,000 young people and be affiliated with world-renowned equestrian organizations including: IHSA, NRHA, AQHYA, USEF, USHJA and CHA,” stated Roxane (Lawrence) Durant, IEA’s Co-Founder and Executive Director.

“We would also be remiss not to note that much of our success is because our riders’ families and friends who play an important role in supporting their children and volunteering at events.”

How it all started:
Two coaches, Roxane (Lawrence) Durant and Wayne Ackerer, thought that middle and high school students should receive the same respect as their fellow athletes who participate in other sport activities. Thus, they developed an equestrian competition concept so that younger equestrians could gain recognition. They thought these exceptional athletes should have the ability to earn letter jackets and trophies and, most important, gain the learning experience that comes with team sports, while also excelling as individuals.

In 2000, Durant and Ackerer presented the interscholastic competition idea to two adult riders—Myron Leff, a business and marketing consultant, who also now serves as IEA’s Chief Operating and Marketing Officer and Timothy Boone, a Central Ohio lawyer. The latter two composed a business/marketing plan, legal organization and show rules with equestrian guidance from Durant and Ackerer. Two years later, the first official competition was held.
at the Andrews School in Willoughby, Ohio where Durant was the Equestrian Director. Initially, the focus was solely on the Hunt Seat discipline, but in 2006, Ollie Griffith, renowned Western horseman, judge and Ohio State University equestrian coach, joined as IEA’s Western advisor and Board member.

Because there is no need for any rider to own a horse, the IEA offers an affordable format and a level playing field for each participant. In every competition, there is a blind-draw for horses, as each rider will compete on an unfamiliar horse and supplied tack. Most of the mounts are lesson horses donated for use during the competition and returned to the stable of ownership.

Riders compete in the Hunt Seat flat and over fences classes, as well as Western horsemanship and reining classes. Competitions are held throughout the school year. Riders and teams accrue points by placing in events, and become eligible for regional competitions. Those winning at the Regional Finals move onto Zone Finals, and those top riders move onto National Finals.

After fourteen years, the IEA is now experiencing a second generation of participants. Several riders, who placed in the very first IEA National Finals at The Andrews School Equestrian Center are still part of the organization. Alexandra Linsheid-O’Toole, rode with Stoneleigh-Burnham team in Greenfield, Massachusetts, and placed in the Varsity Open Over Fences Individual and Team competition. Today, she is the owner and trainer of Wisteria Farm IEA Team in Monroe, Georgia. Lindsay Skully was a young rider in 2003, competing in the Future Beginner Flat class. Now, Skully is the coach of Little Glen Equestrian Team in Chardon, Ohio. Corrine Obarski also competed at the 2003 show and is now coach of Camargo Stables IEA team in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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**IEA PRESENTS THE...**

**Collegiate Connection**

JOIN IEA IN COLLABORATION WITH NCEA, IHSA AND THE ANRC FOR OUR FIRST COLLEGIATE CONNECTION WEBINAR SERIES.

**WHO:**

* NCEA Executive Director, Dr. Leah Fiorentino
* IHSA Region President, Jennifer Smith
* ANRC Chair, Board of Directors, Patte Zumbrun

**What:**

Connect and ask questions during three Interactive Webinars and Twitter Takeovers with NCEA, IHSA & ANRC.

**Why:**

*Find college teams, how they recruit, where they recruit, what they look for, and plan your college timeline.*

**When:**

* NCEA Webinar: September 22 @ 6:30pm EST
* NCEA Twitter TakeOver: September 29 @rideiea
* IHSA Webinar: October 6 @ 6:30pm EST
* IHSA Twitter TakeOver: October 13 @rideiea
* ANRC Webinar: October 20 @ 6:30pm EST
* ANRC Twitter TakeOver: October 27 @rideiea

The IEA started as a “chip on my shoulder” that grew into a dream and ultimately a reality.

I loved animals as a kid, and although I always wanted a giraffe, the biggest animal that I could legally have was a horse. I planned, saved and begged for a horse that could live in our backyard, but that was pretty unrealistic in the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia. When I turned 12, my parents finally got me a horse, and I started the 8th grade at my new school, Westminster.

Westminster was an excellent school, and I am grateful for my experience there. The barn was on the school’s campus, and each day I would just walk over and ride after school. But even with a riding program on campus, our equestrian accolades were not recognized like other sports. We did not get our team photo in the yearbook; we did not get any athletic recognition, letters, or banquets; we did not get to stand up in the morning assembly and announce our victories. In fact, the school was apparently phasing out the equestrian program, and just a few years after my graduation, the barns were razed, and soccer fields were installed over the riding ring areas.

I always thought my dream job would be to go back to that school and prove to them how incredible a riding program can be, but when the school tore down the equestrian facilities, I had to adjust my vision. I spent several years in teaching, training and managing horse shows, and was honored with an offer to manage a newly-built equestrian facility on the campus of a small girls school in Willoughby, Ohio. I immediately jumped at the opportunity!

With a multi-million dollar facility and a school that was supporting equestrian athletics, I was on my way to the dream coming true. But I quickly realized that our “college prep” curriculum was great in the classroom, but totally wrong in the equestrian program. The students were intimidated by the draw-based format of intercollegiate programs, and a majority of students seemed to quit riding after 12th grade! We needed a program that would introduce them to the format and give them the expertise to get on a college team!

I asked Bob Cacchionne (founder of the IHSA) to help me with a presentation to the school’s Board of Directors. I wanted to do an “Interscholastic Invitational” for the schools that had riding programs and tap into the IHSA format at a lower level. Bob “wowed” the audience with the history of the IHSA and its continued growth and popularity. The Board unanimously approved the idea, and we held the first Invitational on April 29, 2000.

I paged through “Peterson’s Private Secondary Schools” guide, and I invited every school with the word “equestrian” in their description. We ended up with seven schools with a total of 46 riders. We did the same Invitational again in 2001 and 2002, and asked the coaches to take the idea and format home to try a few similar events in their locations. Then we borrowed the IHSA rulebook as a starting point and began to develop the details that would make us into the “Interscholastic Equestrian Association”!!

Fast forward, and here we are today!! Welcome to the 15th Anniversary of the IEA!! Thank you to all the past, present and future members who continue to make this dream a reality!
How did you get involved with the development of IEA? You can see my Director’s letter on page 5 to see the deep roots of how I got involved, but the shorter answer is that I am proud to say that I hosted the first “Interscholastic Invitational” in 2000. Wayne Ackerer was one of the stewards at that event, and then through Wayne, I met the other co-founders: Tim, Myron and Ollie. This motley crew ultimately started the IEA, and each person brought something different to the initial meetings. Vision, perseverance, timing and luck all hit at the right time to initiate the IEA!

What were your expectations then? My personal expectations were minimal. I just wanted to have an annual horse show with a draw-based format that would give my own students an opportunity to prepare for collegiate formats. Then it seemed like something that other schools and programs might benefit from also, so we invited them to share the concept. I thought that we might become a small organization, but nothing like the size and scope of what we have become in 15 years!

What do you think looking back on the 15 years of IEA? We’ve come a long way, baby... and be careful what you wish for ;-)

What would you like to see from IEA in the next 15 years? I’d like to see long-term sustainability and IEA offerings in all 50 states. I also look forward to seeing past members of the IEA as they move up through the ranks and ultimately “take the reins” of our industry!

What’s your favorite story over the past 15 years? Hmmm...lots to choose from—lots of memories and moments, but I’ll share one that is relatively personal and seemingly insignificant. The moment when I knew it was all coming true—when it all started to hit me that this was going to be real...

I had been at one of our regular meetings in Columbus (OH). All of the other founders lived in Columbus, but I was in Cleveland, so I always drove down to meet on their turf. Just before I left, Myron said he had a surprise for me. He brought out a single box of IEA letterhead that was all printed up with a logo at the top—500 sheets in box and envelopes to match! Somehow that letterhead just struck me as, “You know you’ve made it, when you get your own letterhead!” I called everyone I knew on the drive home and joyfully told them that we were really kicking off this IEA thing! That moment has stood out for me as the moment we really started.

What’s the one thing that surprised you about the IEA? I’ve certainly had some good and bad surprises along the way, but I think the most wonderful thing is the incredible dedication and support from the PEOPLE in the IEA. We have this incredible core of dedicated staff, volunteers, coaches, riders and parents. It feels like a personal support system—a network—a community, and we all share a common love for the horses and the sport and through that comes a lot of great friendships and fun!
wayne ackerer  1990

How did you get involved with the development of the IEA?
I was judging at a horse show for high schoolers at The Andrews School where Roxane was the Equestrian Director. Roxane shared her idea of a scholastic competition, and that matched a long-time goal of mine. We decided to take the idea forward.

What were your expectations then?
In the beginning, I told Myron that it could be one of the largest children’s programs in the nation but never really expected it to happen this fast.

What do you think looking back on the 15 years of the IEA?
The rapid growth is what amazed me the most. Growing at this rate would not have been possible without the PEOPLE who believed the idea and put in all of the hard work. We are truly indebted to the many volunteers, parents, and passionate horseman that made the organization the success that it is today.

What would you like to see from the IEA in the next 15 years?
At the end of the day, the organization is always about the kids. I want to be able to financially support more kids in our organization and provide more scholarship money to a larger amount of riders. The more we can help each other, the more we are helping the industry as a whole.

What is your favorite story over the past 15 years?
There was a horse-loving teen I knew who struggled with depression and had several times attempted suicide. I was able to get her involved with the IEA, which guided her to turn her life around. She is now a nurse and is able to help others.

What is the one thing that surprised you about the IEA?
What surprised me the most is how IEA team members grew in confidence by competing, working as a team, wearing team jackets to school and by being recognized as an athlete.
The IEA has changed thousands of lives.
How did you get involved with the development of IEA?
I was riding in Wayne’s (Ackerer) barn in my usual Monday night lesson. Wayne said there is a lady he knows from the Cleveland area who is really involved in kids’ equestrian sports and asked if I would meet with her (Roxane Lawrence Durant) the following Monday after class. At that meeting, Roxane and Wayne presented the concept of an equestrian association for kids who gain recognition for their athleticism. In addition, we would provide the mount and tack, so more kids would be able to join our sport.

What were your expectations then?
Other than realizing this was a large undertaking, I had no idea of the potential at the first meeting.

What do you think looking back on the 15 years of IEA?
Wow! From a 9:00pm barn meeting with Roxane, Wayne, Tim (Boone) and me wondering if this was a viable concept to the largest youth equestrian association in the United States is overwhelmingly special.

What would you like to see from IEA in the next 15 years?
I would like the IEA to reach its ongoing potential of bringing more youngsters into the sport. I would also like the IEA to grow internationally, support therapeutic riding and increase our equestrian education programming.

What’s your favorite story over the past 15 years?
My favorite story is a story—actually an article—when Cody McMillion and Ariana Moto became the first IEA riders to be recognized for their athletic accomplishments in Sports Illustrated magazine (May 23, 2011).

What’s the “One Thing” that surprised you about the IEA?
The camaraderie among the people connected to the sport at every age.
How did you get involved with the development of IEA?
I was riding at Wayne’s barn (in the same class as Myron) when Roxane and Wayne presented the IEA concept to us in the barn after our Monday night lesson.

What were your expectations then?
We thought the Interscholastic Competition, especially with the barns providing the mount and tack, was a great idea that would really be successful in Ohio.

What do you think looking back on the 15 years of IEA?
Compared to the introduction meeting to now—what an accomplishment! When you step back and look at the effort of the founders, coaches, families, sponsors and most important, the KIDS, you can really appreciate the growth and meaning of the IEA to the equestrian industry.

What would you like to see IEA from IEA in the next 15?
Continued success.

What’s your favorite story over the past 15 years?
When it was announced that the lifetime achievement award was created in my honor—and quite an honor it is! It’s really special to see such extraordinary and talented people who believe in equestrian sports and the IEA to earn recognition and have my name attached to this symbol of excellence.

What’s the one thing that surprised you about the IEA?
Again, it was the surprise of the Timothy J. Boone Lifetime Achievement Award.
ollie griffith
1999 / with daughter Ashley

How did you get involved with the development of the IEA?
I believe my involvement with the IEA occurred due to my activity with the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association, (IHSA). Being on the executive board, associate national steward, and chairperson of the western committee made me very familiar with “riding the unfamiliar horse.” Also coaching The Ohio State Equestrian Team made the transition to middle and high school students a natural.

What were your expectations then?
My expectations in business as well as the IEA have been to give people the opportunity to learn on horses. As a professional, I understand it is expensive for many to get going in the horse industry. I expected to get people that start in the industry at an affordable price.

What do you think looking back on the 15 years of the IEA?
The IEA is certainly meeting my expectations. We have students that have won national championships that would never have the opportunity, due to financial or time constraints, to show horses on a national level.

It is amazing to see IEA students move on and win nationals at the college level. We are seeing them turn into professional horse trainers and exhibitors in major equine associations such as the National Reining Horse Association, American Quarter Horse Association, and the United States Equestrian Federation.

We aren’t just giving life long memories, the IEA is giving our students career opportunities. I am proud to be a part of the IEA.

What would you like to see from the IEA in the next 15 years?
In the next 15 years I would like to see our association continue to grow across the country. With so much opportunity for our students to travel and experience different parts of our country, I think it would be wonderful to see our nationals moving from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, and from Canada to Mexico. With college, work, and careers beginning, we should provide memories that are unobtainable without the help of the IEA.

What is your favorite story over the past 15 years?
I taught a young lady who rode at Autumn Rose Farm. I told her parents that she should join the IEA and work toward showing on the team. They were only somewhat interested to compete but decided to try it.

Standing for photographs after nationals, her mother told my wife that “they would have never won a national championship if it weren’t for Ollie pushing us to join”...Thanks IEA, for a great success story.

If you only knew how much it meant for that family to have the experience. That’s why we all should do it.

What is the one thing that surprised you about the IEA?
My biggest surprise in the IEA has come from development and sponsorship. When I talk to potential sponsors, it’s not just what they can do for us, it’s what we can do for them. We are NOW seeing previous students working for associations, as trainers, managers and assistants in horse related industries.

It’s not just what the equine industry can do for us, it’s what we are providing for the industry now. The IEA is opening up huge avenues for their riders.

The IEA is truly fulfilling our mission statement.
The Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA), in conjunction with the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA), awards a student-rider the National Sportsmanship Award each year. This year’s award was presented to Kate Coffey, a sixteen-year-old from Westford, Massachusetts.

The national award winner is selected from a group of riders who earned a Sportsmanship Award at a local, regional or zone IEA show during the 2015-2016 season. These winners were then invited to submit an application for the National Sportsmanship Award. The student-riders submitted a resume, composed a 250-word essay explaining how horses and/or equestrian competition have influenced her/his life and three letters of recommendation.

Kate Coffey, a rider on the North Gate Equestrian Team of Sudbury, Massachusetts, received a five hundred dollar ($500.00) scholarship from the IEA, a lifetime membership to the IEA and a nomination by the IEA to affiliate sportsmanship award programs. The IHSA awarded Coffey a keeper trophy and her name engraved on a perpetual Sportsmanship Award trophy. Coffey placed third in the National Sportsmanship rankings for the 2014-2015 season.

“Good sportsmanship is a tenant in the IEA and this award is held to high regard. Choosing the National Sportsman from the pool of amazing candidates seems to get harder each year. Kate is an outstanding equestrian and her sportsmanship is something to be envied.” commented Roxane (Lawrence) Durant, IEA executive director.

Founder and IHSA Executive Director, Robert E. ‘Bob’ Cacchione said, “Throughout the history of IHSA, I have always been impressed by the caliber of sportsmanship and teamwork exhibited by our student athletes, who strive to succeed in the arena as well as the classroom. Our partnership with IEA is rooted in our shared values and a commitment to recognize athletic excellence, integrity and service.”

Nearly 750 IEA riders were eligible for the National Sportsmanship Award. Among the 140 finalist applicants, the top eight winners are:

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<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kate Coffey</td>
<td>Westford, MA</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Jada Fields</td>
<td>Castle Pines, CO</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tori Brunvand</td>
<td>Durango, CO</td>
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<td>Olivia Tencer</td>
<td>Unionville, CT</td>
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<td>Mikayla Hay</td>
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<td>Lauren Rinda</td>
<td>Malvern, PA</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Mia Gibson</td>
<td>Chesapeake, VA</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Hannah Nandor</td>
<td>Simi Valley, CA</td>
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There I was, a little sixth grader embarking on what I thought would be simply a fun way to ride in the harsh New England winters, but little did I know IEA would change my life. Horseback riding has been one of the most important things in my life from as early as I can remember. Each day at the barn whether it be riding, feeding, mucking stalls or just visiting was a dream come true for me. IEA brought about an entire new aspect to the riding world that I knew. The things that IEA has taught me are indispensable life lessons, that will help me throughout my entire life. Every long horse show day taught me to be patient and prepared at all times. Every single difficult horse or mistake while showing taught me the determination needed to be competitive. Each success taught me the value of hard work. All the different horses taught me their own individual lessons. Riding different horses educates us to be better riders, but also to be better people. As equestrians we must learn to accept that the horse has their own agenda, and it requires teamwork to compete to the best of our abilities. The most important thing IEA has taught me over the past five years is how to be a teammate. This program fosters amazing friendships and the opportunity to learn and grow as a leader within my team and community.

My team has become my family; together we can conquer any feat we put our combined efforts into. I would not be the girl I am today without IEA, and for that I will forever be grateful that twelve year old me began this amazing journey.
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MARKETPLACE SALE
Thursday, December 3

FUTURITY PROSPECT SALE
Friday, December 4

SELECT YEARLING SALE
Saturday, December 5

Level 4 Open Champions
Casey Deary and Shesouttayourleague

Level 4 Non Pro Champions
Tish Fappani and Legend Slides Wright

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Welcome to the IEA’s 15th anniversary year. It’s hard to fathom that 15 years have passed since the formation of what has quickly become the largest equestrian youth organization in the country. As I reflect back on the early years of the organization, I am humbled by the realization of what the IEA has accomplished for our members in such a short a time. This organization has grown from a small group of hunt seat coaches and teams from only a few areas of the country to one supporting more than 1,100 coaches, 1,350 teams and 12,500 members in both hunt seat and western from eight zones around the US. The IEA will, no doubt, continue to evolve. Our commitment to serving an ever growing membership and providing competitive and educational programs is as strong as ever.

While draw format competition and preparing riders for collegiate team riding is central to our organization, there is so much more to developing the next generation of horsemen. As such, the IEA will continue to develop programs encouraging the love and appreciation for the magnificence of the horse along with our principal equestrian competition. Scholarship programs at the local and national level, horsemanship knowledge quizzes, cover art contests and C.O.R.E. clinic opportunities are among our additional offerings.

Having spent the large part of my career involved with coaching students, I know winning feels good. Really, really good. However, satisfaction with one’s effort can, and should be, its own reward. Whether it is because you’ve made the best of a difficult draw, because you remembered the answer to a difficult question during a horsemanship quiz, or because you’ve learned something from watching and listening to others, there is a great deal of gratification from striving to be an improved version of ourselves.

Through this period of time I’ve come to know many familiar faces who’ve been involved with and committed to the IEA from the beginning. New friends and professional associations have been made along the way. I’ve watched former IEA members mature into life-long equestrian enthusiasts some of whom who have joined this industry as trainers, coaches, judges – in short, the next generation of stewards of our sport. For me, personally, there is no greater reward than knowing the future of our sport will be in the hands of dedicated, prepared horsemen like you.

Where will we be fifteen years from now? I don’t have the answers, but I do know this… “It’s Your Future, Take the Reins.”
And the Winners Were...

The Andrews School hosted three previous Interscholastic Invitational Horse Shows, but 2002-03 was the inaugural year of the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA). To participate in IEA competitions, teams and individuals had to become members. Points from regular season shows were tracked by the National Office and only those qualified were eligible to compete in the year-end National Finals. Once again, The Andrews School served as the host for the event, but this time there was an air of greater importance and intensity. After all, teams and individuals were in contention for bragging rights to the first official IEA National titles.

Many prominent independent schools with strong riding programs made it through to the finals. Among them was Stoneleigh-Burnham from Greenfield, Massachusetts: a dominate force at the time, having
won team competitions in the 2001 and 2002 Interscholastic Invitationals. Stoneleigh-Burnham coach, Mina Payne Williams, remembers thinking that entry numbers at that first National Finals were small but the organization was already growing: “I never dreamt IEA would become as big as it has! Roxane came up with a wonderful idea for high school riders, mimicking the IHSA. The kids love it!”

Team competition was robust, but Stoneleigh-Burnham again came out on top, claiming the first official title as IEA Upper School National Champions! Mina remembers those riders fondly and proudly reports, “Many top riders from Stoneleigh-Burnham have remained active in the sport.” From that first National Championship team, Jessica Elliott went on to become a successful professional, training and showing horses for several different farms in New England. Alex Linscheid O’Toole signed on as one of the first scholarship athletes for the University of Georgia’s NCAA Equestrian Team. Competing on their Division 1 squad, Alex was a member of the SEC Championship Team and the NCAA Championship Team. After college she became a professional, opening Wisteria Farm in Monroe, Georgia. She has developed an active group of clients and horses, competing in USEF shows as well as a strong IEA team. Recently she was appointed Assistant NCEA coach for her alma mater, University of Georgia. On top of all that, Alex has almost completed requirements to become a licensed USEF judge in Hunters, Equitation, and Jumpers.

As in the IHSA, team and individual classes ran separately at the IEA Nationals. Counting points from just the Individual Varsity Open flat and jumping classes, the top eight riders qualified for the Varsity Challenge to determine IEA’s National Leading Rider.
Qualifiers were asked to navigate an intricate jumping course with tricky rollbacks and broken lines before being tested on the flat. The top four were called back to jump a second round. Two riders, both seniors from The Madeira School in McLean, Virginia, stood out above the rest. Elizabeth (Bess) Smith and Diana Glenney were asked to exchange horses and jump a third round. Both were equally impressive, but Bess pinned as Leading Rider with Diana in Reserve. An avid equestrienne during high school, Bess always assumed she would continue in the horse industry and become a professional trainer. However, after just one year at the University of South Carolina competing on their NCAA team, Bess transferred to Georgetown University where academics took priority. Although she’s gone off course from her anticipated career with horses, Bess is happy and successful working for a recruiting firm in New York. Recently married, she is now Bess Strzelecki. Together with her husband, they are fixing up an old farm house and just welcomed their first child. Diana attended the University of Kentucky where she proved to be a prominent member of the IHSA team competing in the Open Division. Returning to her hometown of Lexington after graduation, she worked for several top trainers. Between starting young horses and attending shows, Diana met her match, married, and is now Diana Conlon. In 2013 she branched out on her own to start Olive Hill Sport Horses, which has quickly developed a reputation as a quality boarding, training, and sales facility. Along with coaching the University of Kentucky’s IHSA team, Diana also coaches the successful Select Equestrian IEA team. Some of the finest hunt seat horses in the draw at IEA National Finals this year were supplied by Olive Hill Sport Horses.
One of the few public school systems represented in 2002-03 was the Olentangy District Equestrian Team from Columbus, Ohio. A proponent of high school riding, coach and IEA Co-Founder, Wayne Ackerer worked diligently to persuade local school officials to recognize riders as varsity athletes. His determination and work ethic were reflected in the Olentangy team. Identified by their bright blue and gold team jackets, Olentangy riders could be spotted helping in the ring and cheering along the rail. Their enthusiasm, which was contagious, earned them the Team Spirit Award. At the conclusion of competition the Olentangy Team had cause to cheer extra loud when they claimed the title of High-point Futures Team. As one of IEA’s five founding members, Wayne likes to remind everyone, “We do this all for the kids!”

Another coveted award was the Sportsmanship Award. The Andrews School’s open rider, Emily Kohn, experienced a little mishap with her mount while on course. She was granted a re-ride on the alternate, which just happened to be the notoriously wonderful Billy White Shoes. Handling the situation with considerable grace and dignity, Emily was recognized for her good sportsmanship. Although she went on to major in accounting at John Carroll University, Emily is now enjoying a successful career as a professional in the equine industry working in the Cleveland area.

Alumni classes were fun offerings in the early years but were eventually eliminated as participation numbers increased in the other divisions. Representing The Madeira School, Alex (Malin) Schumann, class of 1998, claimed the blue ribbon in Alumni Over Fences: “Riding in the IEA as an Alum was such a natural for me, after competing extensively in the IHSA while at Tufts, and then returning to Madeira to work. It was a fabulous way to continue competing with the spirit of a team. I was pleasantly surprised at the caliber of riding and quality of the event that was executed so early on in IEA’s existence. Alex and her family recently moved to Paris where she hopes to find a place to start riding again.
Regardless of placings, all of the teams and individual riders who participated enjoyed the event and learned important lessons in hard work, determination, and teamwork. “No longer just an Invitational, that first National Finals marked the start of something significant,” recalls Roxane (Lawrence) Durant. “It was obvious even then that IEA would quickly outgrow the hometown venue.” With each subsequent year, the Association has grown in membership numbers and expanded opportunities for young equestrians. IEA National Finals has become a grand event held at impressive venues with top riders and teams from across the country, major sponsors, demonstrations, seminars, college recruitment, and vendors galore. It is the premier event for middle and high school Hunt Seat and Western riders!


**Varsity and JV Team Champion**
Stoneleigh-Burnham
Greenfield, Massachusetts

**Middle School Team Champion**
Olentangy Equestrian Team
Columbus, Ohio

**Championship / IEA Leading Rider of the Year**
Elizabeth Smith
Madeira

**Alumni of/**
Alexandra Malin
Madeira

**Team Spirit Award**
The Olentangy District Team

**Sportsmanship Award**
Emily Kohn
The Andrews School

**Varsity and JV Team Champion**

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**Middle School Team Champion**

- **Championship / IEA Leading Rider of the Year**
  - Elizabeth Smith
  - Madeira

**Alumni of/**
- **Alexandra Malin**
  - Madeira

**Team Spirit Award**
- The Olentangy District Team

**Sportsmanship Award**
- Emily Kohn
  - The Andrews School

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Scholastic Memberships for IEA Members and Coaches

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- Educational Resources
- Governance
- USHJA/IEA CORE Clinics
- Awards

Join at www.ushja.org/membership
**IEA timeline**

- **[2000]**
  Roxane (Lawrence) Durant and Wayne Ackerer present the IEA concept to Myron Leff and Tim Boone.

- **[2002]**
  253 members
  
  = 50 members

- **[2003]**
  IEA held its first National Finals at The Andrews School in Wiloughby, Ohio

- **[2005]**
  1000 members
  
  = 100 members
Western discipline was added with the help of co-founder, Ollie Griffith. Trevor Dare—first champion rider.

Tim Boone receives first Lifetime Achievement Award

1st issue of Take the Reins

Cody McMillion and Ariana Moto become the first IEA Champions to appear in Sports Illustrated

5000 members

= 100 members
**[2012]**

IEA celebrates its 10th anniversary. The Benevolent Fund is established to help IEA members in need of special financial support.

---

**[2014]**

10,000 **members**

---

**[2016]**

IEA has over 12,500 members on more than 1,300 teams in 42 states. National Finals held in Lexington, KY at Kentucky Horse Park.
1. In what year was the IEA established?
2. Which Upper School team won the 2003 IEA National Finals?
3. Which Middle School team won the 2003 IEA National Finals?
4. In what year did the IEA host the first Western National Finals?
5. How many members did the IEA have in its first year?
6. Which team took Champion in both the Upper School and Middle School team competitions at the first IEA Western National Finals?
7. Who was the recipient of the Sportsmanship Award at the 2003 IEA Hunt Seat National Finals?
8. Where was the 2002 IEA National Finals held?
9. In what year was the IEA Benevolent Fund established?

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4. Use the IEA Horsemanship Journal to track your progress
5. Score 75% or better on the Final Horsemanship Knowledge Quiz
6. Submit a Horsemanship Program Completion Form

Learn more online at:  
http://www.rideiea.org/opportunities/horsemanship.html
In remembrance of Medhi Kazemi
2016 IEA Coach Sportsmanship Award Recipient.

Read Mehdi Kazemi’s obituary on PortCity Daily

THROWBACK ISSUE / design inspiration & history

[by Scott de Fasselle]

For the 15th Anniversary “Throwback Issue” of Take the Reins, we designed it as it might have looked if it had started when IEA was founded in 2002.

The iMac, the Internet, and the rapid improvement of software like Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator had a profound influence on design. Graphic designers experimented with layouts and effects that previously weren’t possible or practical.

The original iMac was introduced in 1998 (the five colors above were released in 1999). By the early 2000s, black and white plastic products everywhere were copying the colorful and translucent plastic of the iMac. These iMac colors (Blueberry, Grape, Tangerine, Lime, and Strawberry) were used extensively in this Throwback Issue.