Navigating through the different collegiate equestrian opportunities can be as difficult as narrowing the choices of which college to attend. By choosing to compete in the IEA, riders give themselves an added advantage in collegiate equestrian competition. Whether a rider has competed in one, three or seven IEA seasons, he or she has experienced competing in a draw-based format. IEA riders know what it feels like to introduce themselves to a horse they have only seen from a distance moments before the riders are invited to mount up for their class, cheering on teammates and how to balance competing with a busy school schedule. For IEA riders who may not compete for a college team, their leadership, problem solving skills and being a member of a team will pave the way to great experiences in the college classroom and beyond.

The Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA), National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA) and the Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA) are member partners of the IEA. Through this inaugural collegiate e-newsletter, the IEA hopes to help connect our riders, parents and coaches with our collegiate riding association partners who continue to provide the IEA and its members with great support. In this issue, Maddy Keck, senior team captain of the nationally ranked Savannah College of Art and Design Equestrian Team discusses how being a team captain during a season severely altered by COVID-19 has reiterated a great lesson she has learned at SCAD, which is adaptability. Debbie Bell, the Regional Director of Admissions and Undergraduate Travel for St. Andrews University gives her top 5 tips to help during the Admissions process. Hollins University Assistant Riding Coach, Kayleigh Burke offers helpful advice on utilizing social media to help navigate a college search. Kara Walcher, a student at the University of Findlay and member of the nationally ranked UF Western Equestrian Team, shares how her experiences guide her personal and professional growth. If you plan to compete in the IHSA or the NCEA western discipline, there is a very good chance that you may ride in a Bob’s Custom Saddle. Bridget Grobosky from Bob’s Custom Saddles, the Official Western Saddle of the IEA, shares valuable information into what makes these saddles great for personal, IEA and collegiate competition. Continue on for all of this and much more.