

WHAT IHSA MEANS TO ME

More than 10,000 strong, IHSA members hail from across the United States and Canada, and regardless of their financial status, gender or riding experience, during their college years they have the opportunity to participate in equestrian team competition. "We are proud that the IHSA holds such a significant meaning in our members' lives," said Peter Cashman, IHSA executive director. "We share along in their journey to better their horsemanship and we want to continue to share the stories of their successes after they graduate." From the life-long friendships forged during practices and competitions to the personal growth and horsemanship knowledge gained, each member has a story to tell that's as unique as they are.

Connor Ashely recently completed his first year as a member of the SUNY Cobleskill hunter seat team and he's said the IHSA has already changed his life. Not only has he made new friends that he says are always willing to lend a helping hand, but he's honored to now call them family.

Here is his story:

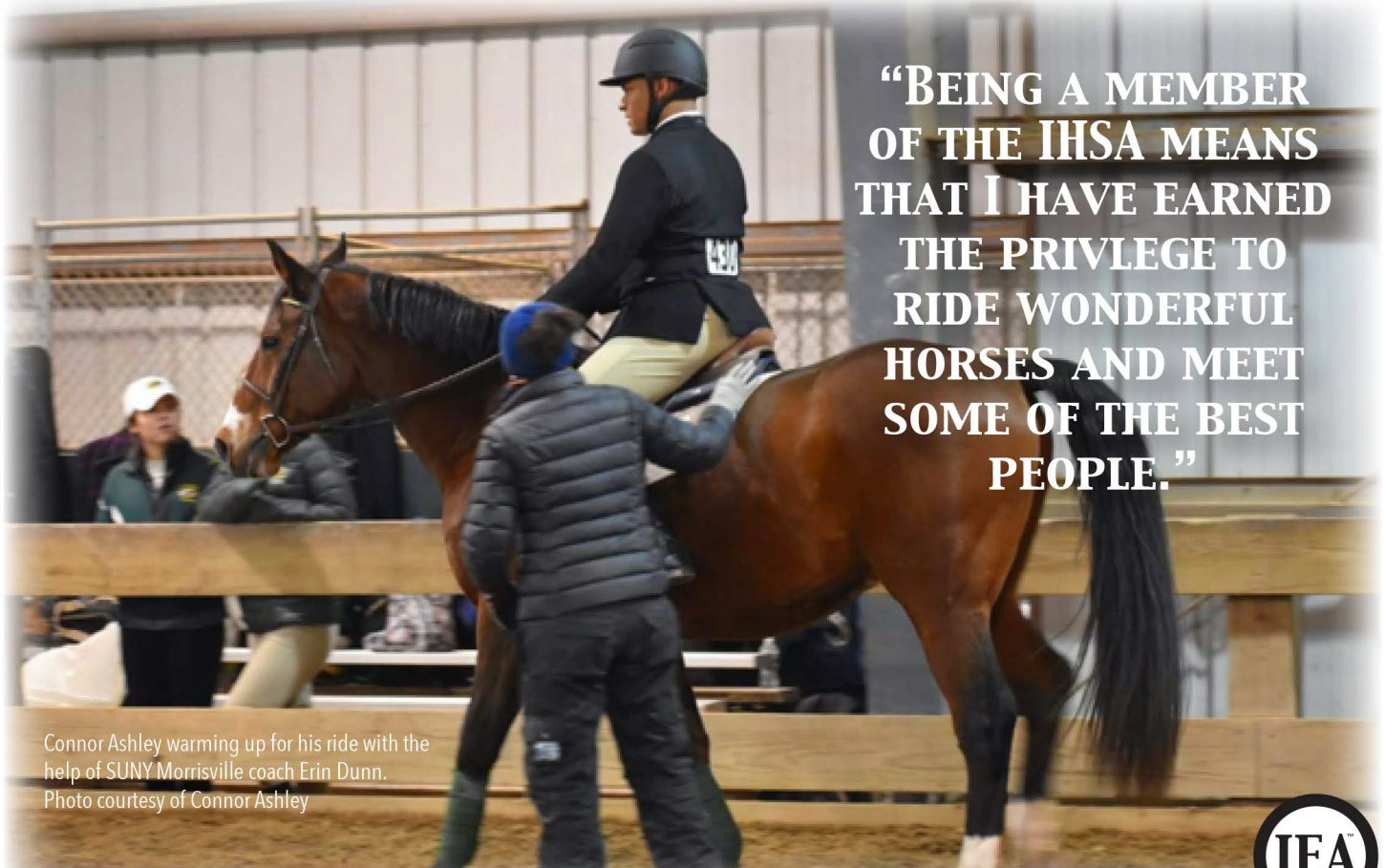
I recently completed my first year as a member of the SUNY Cobleskill hunter seat team and the IHSA has already changed my life.

My first year in the IHSA has been incredible and I have not only made new friends, but I am honored to say that those people are now considered family to me.

At a SUNY Morrisville show, someone captured an image that depicts the IHSA family at its finest. At this show I received help from an unexpected person, the SUNY Morrisville coach Erin Dunn. My coach, Ray Whelihan, was busy getting our other Walk-Trot riders ready and Coach Dunn assisted me in getting ready for my ride. The horse I rode that day, Rex, is truly one of the most incredible horses I have ever met.

Being a member of the IHSA means that I have earned the privilege to ride wonderful horses and meet some of the best people. The IHSA family is very welcoming and always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need.

Read more about what the IHSA means to other members like Connor: www.ihsainc.com/along-the-rail/how-ihsa-membership-changed-my-life ★★



**“BEING A MEMBER
OF THE IHSA MEANS
THAT I HAVE EARNED
THE PRIVILEGE TO
RIDE WONDERFUL
HORSES AND MEET
SOME OF THE BEST
PEOPLE.”**

Connor Ashley warming up for his ride with the help of SUNY Morrisville coach Erin Dunn.
Photo courtesy of Connor Ashley