

A full-page background image showing a jockey in a light blue and green uniform riding a brown horse. The horse is in motion, kicking up dust. In the background, another jockey in a white and blue uniform is visible, also riding a horse. The scene is set outdoors during a race.

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

RACE TRACK INDUSTRY PROGRAM

OVER FIFTY YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

HOW THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA'S RTIP SHAPED THE FUTURE OF HORSE RACING

Since its founding in 1974, the Race Track Industry Program (RTIP) at the University of Arizona has been a pioneer in horse racing and racetrack management education. Spearheaded by Frank Vessels Jr. of Los Alamitos Race Course, the program was created to formalize training in an industry once driven solely by experience and tradition. Over five decades, the RTIP has evolved with the sport while staying true to its passion for racing, equine management and operations.

BUILDING A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

From the start, the RTIP earned a reputation for hands-on learning and deep industry ties. Through internships, guest speakers and the Global Symposium on Racing, students gained practical experience and lasting connections. Alumni now lead across every facet of the sport—from track management to regulation and training. Built on a curriculum blending business, legal and equine studies, and shaped by icons like Jack Goodman, Stan Bergstein and Joe Harper, the program flourished under leaders including Lonny Powell, Dave Hooper, Doug Reed and Wendy Davis.



DRIVING INNOVATION IN A CHANGING INDUSTRY

Today, under Program Chair Robert Hartman, the RTIP continues to evolve with courses that reflect the realities of racing, racinos and sports wagering. The annual Global Symposium on Racing remains a marquee event for professionals and students worldwide. With a focus on safety, technology and integrity, the RTIP prepares graduates to strengthen a more transparent and engaging industry.

EDUCATING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

As racing embraces new technology from artificial intelligence to data analytics, the RTIP will continue to integrate these innovations into its curriculum. Future plans include expanded global partnerships, more internship opportunities, and deeper engagement with sports gaming and media. By cultivating leaders who honor tradition while driving progress, the RTIP remains at the forefront of horse racing education.



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**RTIP STUDENTS
ARE UNITED
BY PASSION
FOR THE HORSE
FOR RACING
FOR MAKING
THEIR OWN
MARK**



Jaemin Jung, KRA Executive in Residence

BREEDERS' CUP

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM, **ALONGSIDE CHAMPIONS**

The Breeders' Cup World Championships brought together the world's best Thoroughbred racehorses for two days at Del Mar this Fall. RTIP students had the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience by working at the event.

Students started their days well before sunrise, arriving at the track early enough to watch morning workouts. In the crisp Del Mar air, the horse's breath was visible with each stride. There was also a palpable sense of anticipation setting the tone for the upcoming two days of racing.

RTIP students served as Owner Hosts, guiding connections of Breeders' Cup runners to the paddock and ensuring they were comfortable

throughout the pre-race process. Standing just feet away from the world's finest Thoroughbreds, students watched horses as they prepared to compete. They also had the chance to meet and talk with some of the sport's most influential owners and trainers. They celebrated together when "their horse" crossed the finish line first. When results fell short of expectations, students offered genuine support. For two days, students found themselves immersed in the industry they one day hope to join.

One RTIP student took on a more specialized role with the Equine Security Team, performing barn-area patrols and helping maintain order



Forever Young, Breeders' Cup Classic winner takes to the track in the morning

on the front side. The position offered a hands-on opportunity to apply classroom concepts while working alongside seasoned security professionals. It offered a first-hand look at the systems and coordination that keep a world-class racing event running smoothly.

RTIP students were able to live their passion on racing's biggest stage. Their time outside of the classroom strengthened their sense of purpose and helped clarify the paths they hope to follow as future leaders in the racing industry.

—Jaemin Jung

EQUINE SECURITY

During the 2025 Breeders' Cup at Del Mar Racetrack, I had the privilege of working with the Equine Security Team led by Don Ahrens. Each morning, I arrived at 6 a.m. to join a veterinarian in observing and assisting with the medical procedures used to care for horses competing at this world-class event. The Equine Security Team implemented rigorous protocols to ensure the health and welfare of every participant throughout the week.

In addition to assisting with veterinary oversight, I helped monitor the quarantine barns housing European runners, ensuring all safety and biosecurity standards were strictly maintained. I also worked with Equine Security on the front side, helping protect the horses and control access to restricted areas. Once racing began, I was responsible for ensuring that only authorized personnel entered the paddock during the Breeders' Cup races.

This experience provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the coordination, professionalism, and dedication required to uphold the highest standards of equine safety and welfare in elite Thoroughbred racing.

—Jacob Roberts-Even

Jacob Roberts-Even checking paddock credentials





Tashua Antoinette and Don Ahrens, supervising investigator with the Breeders' Cup Equine Security Team

MY 2025 BREEDERS' CUP EXPERIENCE

This year at the Breeders' Cup, I had the incredible opportunity to take part in several special events. One morning, I spent time on the Del Mar backstretch with the Equine Safety Team. It was fascinating to learn about their duties during the Breeders' Cup, hear how they each found their way into equine security field, and to catch a glimpse of a few Breeders' Cup Classic superstars, including Forever Young! I also had the chance to spend time with Dr. Karen Hassan and the Exercise Associated Sudden Death (EASD) team. Dr. Hassan serves as HISA's Compliance and Research Veterinarian, and it was an invaluable learning experience to shadow her.



Griffin Johnson and Tashua Antoinette

The following day, I attended the Horse Racing Women's Association Networking and Handicapping Event. The day began with an inspiring panel of California horsewomen who spoke passionately about leadership, purpose, and the future of women in racing. Alexa Zepp and Shona Rotondo then led a handicapping session before the day's races. We were also able to watch a race from the Winner's Circle and take photos with One Smokin Dude, the winning horse. Throughout the day, I connected with so many incredible women and to top it off, I did the RTIP proud by winning the event's handicapping contest!



That evening, I attended Bash at the Breeders' Cup, an event supporting the Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA). The Bash was hosted by Griffin Johnson and Zoe Cadman, both of whom I had the pleasure of meeting. My table was filled with RTIP alumni, including Margaret Ransom, Christina Gindt, Marilee Herrera and others.

The entire Breeders' Cup week was an inspiring experience that deepened my excitement and passion for a future in Thoroughbred racing.

— Tashua Antoinette





FIELD TRIP TO TURF PARADISE

WHAT TO DO WHEN THINGS DON'T GO ACCORDING TO PLAN?

This Spring, students were introduced to a different side of horse racing. Instead of waking up early to catch workouts and attend a day of races, we had a front-row view of a horsemen's meeting discussing whether to race or not. It had rained half an inch the night before. For some tracks they might have been able to race, but Turf Paradise's track surface is like a cactus. General Manager Vince Francia described how the racing surface has a high percentage of clay, which helps retain moisture. This is great for our desert climate but not great when it rains so much so fast.

The final nail in the coffin was the concerns of the jockeys, who

thought the track was too slippery. And so, live racing was canceled. While initially disappointing, it provided a great opportunity for us to see in real time how racetrack officials handled the situation. We took the opportunity to visit every area of the racetrack that most wouldn't see, especially on a race day. We began with a tour of the jockey and silks room, saw the equipment used to maintain the track, and then traveled up to the top of the grandstand, where the stewards operate.

Time was also spent watching light workouts on the training track and speaking with outriders and meeting their horses, several of whom were retired off track

Thoroughbreds. A visit to the barns led to an encounter with trainer Stacy Campo of Campo Grande Racing Stable. We learned about the many personalities of her horses and all the effort that goes into rehoming them when they retire. It was hard for us not to want to take one of her horses home, but we resisted.

We wrapped up the day with a conversation with Mr. Francia and his Assistant GM over lunch in the clubhouse. Overall, while the trip didn't go according to plan, we made the most of the experience learning about how racetracks handle difficult situations.

—Nathan Klein, Tashua Antoinette

A CONVERSATION WITH RETIRED JOCKEY FLOYD CAMPBELL

During the recent RTIP field trip to Turf Paradise, we also had the opportunity to speak with Floyd Campbell, a retired jockey with a career spanning over four decades. He competed in races at tracks across the country for 45 years before his current role in the silks room where he has worked for the past ten years.

Beyond being a stakes-winning jockey himself, Campbell has also mentored aspiring jockeys. Notably, he played a significant role in the early development of Amelia Hauschild, one of the youngest female jockeys on the West Coast. Campbell first met Hauschild when she was six years old at Tucson's Rillito Park. He recalls her early determination saying "She always told me she was going to be a jockey." Their mentorship continued over the years, with Campbell providing guidance as Hauschild pursued her racing career.

Campbell's enduring presence in the horse racing community, both as a competitor and mentor, underscores his dedication to the sport. —Tashua Antoinette



Floyd Campbell



Students and Coach Lloyd's Legacy pose with trainer Stacy Campo

ATBA SALE

MY ATBA HORSE AUCTION EXPERIENCE

On October 16, I had the opportunity to attend the Arizona Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ATBA) horse auction with my classmates from the Race Track Industry Program. Upon arriving the morning of the sale, I assisted in preparing CoachLloyd'sLegacy by giving him a bath and grooming him to ensure he was presented in the best possible condition to attract potential buyers.

Throughout the morning, my classmates and I practiced proper showing techniques that we had learned from Professor Rogers, reinforcing the practical application of our classroom instruction. Around midday, I presented CoachLloyd'sLegacy

to a prospective buyer, and later that afternoon, he sold at auction for \$10,000.

This experience provided valuable insight into the full scope of auction-day operations—from the early preparation of horses to the completion of the sale and transfer of ownership. While classroom instruction provided a strong foundation in the proper procedures of auction management, participating directly in the event allowed me to apply those concepts in a real-world setting, deepening my understanding of the commercial aspects of the Thoroughbred industry. — *Jacob Roberts-Even*



John Campo III with CoachLloyd'sLegacy

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

Named after the University of Arizona's head basketball coach Tommy Lloyd, CoachLloyd'sLegacy was purchased by John Campo III, a familiar face in Arizona breeding and racing circles. Campo is also the owner of the horse's sire, Arizona Moon, who campaigned primarily in Arizona and was trained by Campo's daughter, Stacy Campo. When CoachLloyd'sLegacy reaches the track, he will be racing for the same connections keeping it in the family, so to speak.

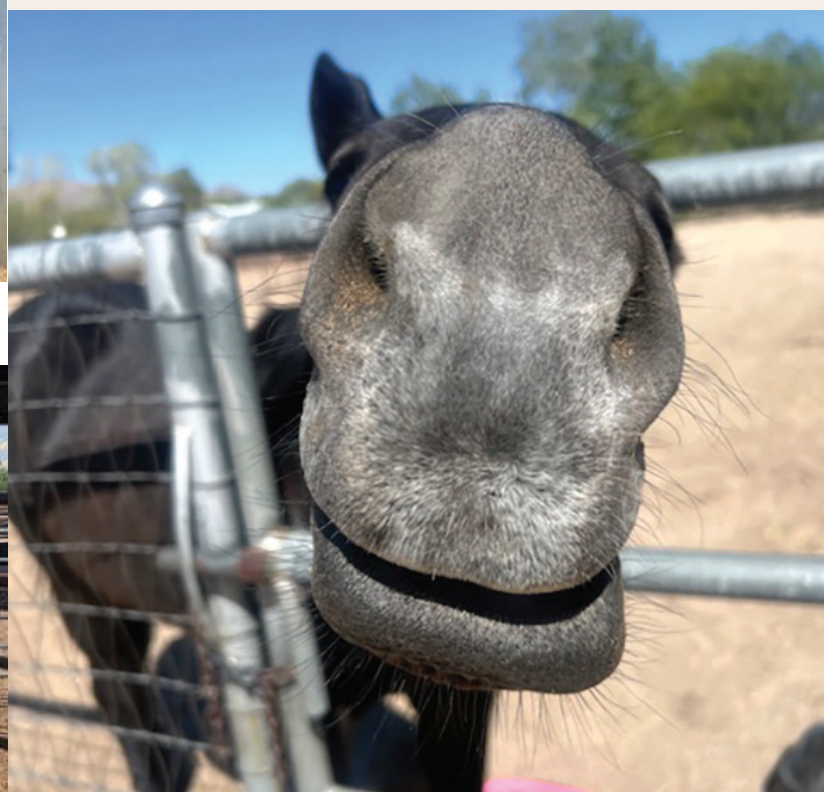
The Race Track Industry Program is grateful for the support shown by the Campo family and others who were involved in the bidding action at this year's sale. The support of the local racing community allows us to continue providing opportunities and experiences to our students each year.



CoachLloyd'sLegacy takes center stage



Diana Alcantar showing CoachLloyd'sLegacy



BOOP!

You know you want to!



RTIP TAKES ON THE LITTLE BROWN JUG

For the first time in RTIP history we had the opportunity to attend the Little Brown Jug, the third jewel of the pacing Triple Crown and arguably the most popular harness race in America. For the three of us, it was a completely new experience. The top-tier harness racing was only the beginning of an entirely different world, one that felt both familiar and wonderfully unique. We arrived on race day bright and early and by the end, we had explored every inch of that half-mile track.

Our day began with the speaker series, where we listened to the life story of Roger Huston, the legendary “Voice of the Jug,” who announced that after more than five decades, he would not be calling this year’s race. He was passing the torch to his protégé, Jason Settlemoir. It was a touching moment that reminded us how rich and historic this event is. From there, we dove into fair life.

As the races began, we toured the paddock with on-track investigators, visited the Jug Barn to see the 14 elite contenders (including heavy favorite Louprint), and met the dedicated crew of the Test Barn responsible for post-race testing. One of the day’s most memorable moments was sitting in the starting gate truck, an experience unique to harness racing. Watching the horse’s pace at 30 miles per hour just feet away from us was breathtaking.

The grandstand itself is a piece of history, with wooden benches packed with thousands of excited fans. It was abuzz with activity: lawn

chairs lined the track, horses stabled nearby, food trucks served customers, fans mingled freely with trainers, and grooms led horses through the crowd. The casual openness was a refreshing change of pace and everyone we met was eager to share their world with us. Despite the crowd of 40,000, it was surprisingly easy to find a great view.

During the afternoon, we visited the grandstand rooftop for a behind-the-scenes look at how the judges oversee each race. We next went to the infield where we were invited for a live on-air interview with Frank Fraas, Executive Director of the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association. We shared our RTIP experiences and insights in front of the 40,000+ fans at the track. It was a surreal and proud moment for all of us.

The day culminated with the 80th running of the Little Brown Jug, where Louprint lived up to his reputation by dominating both his heat and the finals. Watching a horse win twice in one day was a thrilling first for us.

Before heading back to Tucson we met up with Dave Basler, Executive Director of the Ohio HBPA. We also visited a few more Ohio racetracks including Dayton Raceway, Scioto Downs, and the long-gone Beulah Park, now a neighborhood with a commemorative plaque and metal sculptures of racing horses breaking from the starting gate.

The best advice we received on our trip came from Frank Fraas. He said, “take it all in,” and we did.

— Nathan Klein, Tashua Antoinette, Emerald Kwinn



Top L-R: Students visit with USTA's Mike Tanner | Frank Fraas discusses the Little Brown Jug | Jason Bluhm of Dayton Raceway introduces students to the harness racing office

FAVORITE STUDENT MOMENTS AT THE LITTLE BROWN JUG

TASHUA

“Getting to see harness racing live and how a humble fairground brings out so many fans, many who have been attending for generations.”

EMERALD

“Getting to connect with real professionals in the racing world — it helped me break out of my shell.”

NATHAN

“Circling the racetrack’s half-mile perimeter — it felt like being transported back to another era. There wasn’t a dull moment anywhere on that oval.”



Dance the Dust Off (Dusty) with students and jockey Nakia Teeter



Students and Robert Hartman with Izzy Trejo

AQHA CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Izzy Trejo speaking to students in the Test Barn

During our two-day visit to the AQHA Challenge Championships at The Downs at Albuquerque, we had an incredible opportunity to shadow Marc Jungers and Ed Hardy, two respected Quarter Horse trainers. Even with our hundreds of questions, both trainers graciously shared their knowledge and insights, making the experience especially meaningful given it was Challenge Championships weekend.

One of the highlights of the trip was visiting the Test Barn, where we observed the chain-of-

custody process in action. We also met RTIP alum Izzy Trejo, the Executive Director of the New Mexico Racing Commission. Izzy explained how the state has strengthened its safety and integrity protocols. He described the progress made through increased blood and urine testing, hair sampling, and the use of Stewards' list to significantly reduce anti-doping violations in New Mexico. We also had the opportunity to participate in the AQHA Racing Committee meetings to hear conversations about the key issues facing the sport. We then got to see it all come together by visiting the stewards' stand and watching the Challenge Championship races.

This trip gave me a deeper appreciation for the hard work, collaboration, and dedication that keeps our industry moving forward. It was an unforgettable learning experience that broadened my understanding of the sport and its commitment to fairness and safety. Thanks to Janet VanBebber and the AQHA for their continued support, allowing us to gain greater insight into quarter horse racing.

— *Mohanad Almokhadm*

HORSING AROUND

Students from the Race Track Industry Program joined Equine Science and Horsemen's Association student members for a leisurely horseback ride at the White Stallion Ranch during the Fall 2025 semester. Students bonded over their shared passion for horses as they enjoyed an hour-long ride through the Tucson mountains.



DIANA ALCANTAR



Diana is a junior from Phoenix, Arizona majoring in Equine Science. She has a strong interest in animal health and hands-on care within the racing and equine industry. During winter break, Diana travels to Mexico to work alongside a veterinarian who treats both small and large animals, giving her valuable field experience and exposure to real-world veterinary work. She also volunteers with the Humane Society of Arizona and volunteers with organizations that support low-income communities in accessing veterinary care. Diana's long-term goal is to become a racetrack veterinarian, combining her passion for horses, racing, and equine medicine to make an impact within the industry.

MOHANAD ALMOKHADM



Originally from Saudi Arabia, Mohanad Almokhadm holds a B.S. and an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Inspired by Arrogate's Dubai World Cup win, he shifted careers to pursue horse racing. While completing his academic journey in the Race Track Industry Program, he gained hands-on experience at Rillito Park and served as Host Manager at the 2024 Breeders' Cup World Championships. This led to a new opportunity with Churchill Downs as part of the 2025 Kentucky Derby Host Program. Mohanad aims to apply his diverse background to strengthen and modernize the horse racing industry in Saudi Arabia.

TASHUA ANTOINETTE



Born and raised in Tucson, Tashua Antoinette is a junior at the University of Arizona majoring in Animal Sciences with an emphasis in the Race Track Industry Program (RTIP).

Her lifelong passion for horses began as a youth through 4-H and the Southern Arizona Arabian Youth Association.

In May 2023, she purchased her first off-track Thoroughbred, *Scheffler*, from Turf Paradise. This milestone introduced her to the Thoroughbred racing world and solidified her dedication to the breed and sport. Inspired by this experience, Tashua aspires to pursue a career in the racetrack industry while also establishing an aftercare program for off-track Thoroughbreds (OTTBs) and incorporating a therapeutic component to benefit people as well.

Beyond her academic studies, Tashua is engaged in biomechanical research at the University of Arizona's Al-Marah Equine Center (AMEC) under Dr. Laura Miller. Her work focuses on equine locomotion, analyzing gait and heart rate data to generate insights into performance and welfare. This blend of hands-on industry experience and scientific research has reinforced her commitment to advancing horse welfare through innovation, integrity, and responsible oversight.

2025-2026

STUDENT PROFILES

ALEX CARABALLO



Alex is a junior from Potomac, Maryland, just outside of Washington, D.C. Growing up, some of his most meaningful memories were the weekends he spent at Laurel Park with his grandfather, who bred, owned, and raced Thoroughbreds. Those early experiences standing by the rail, watching horses break from the gate, listening to his grandfather talk about bloodlines, trainers, and race strategy, shaped his appreciation for the sport long before he ever realized it. Ironically, when Alex first came to the University of Arizona, he didn't plan on working in the racing industry at all. He enrolled as a business major and spent his first two years focused on management and marketing. But, the more time he spent in those courses, the more he felt a pull toward something that felt more personal and purposeful. This past summer confirmed that feeling. He spent countless hours on his family farm in Virginia learning the hands-on side of horsemanship: handling horses, feeding, cleaning stalls, and observing everyday routines. Alex also spent time at Colonial Downs and Saratoga, watching morning workouts, talking with trainers and grooms, and seeing how a live racing operation works behind the scenes. Those experiences gave him a new level of respect for the sport and deepened his commitment to building a career within it.

BOBBY DE LA ROSA



Bobby was born in Tucson, Arizona to Mexican immigrant parents whose sacrifices shaped every opportunity he has today. When his mother was deported and his father later suffered a stroke, Bobby and his sister became caregivers long before they understood what that meant. Through the challenges of growing up in a Section 8 apartment and balancing school with adult responsibilities, Bobby found his escape and direction in horses.

Bobby's father was a rancher, bull rider, and would break yearlings. The ranch he passed down to Bobby in Santa Cruz, Mexico, became a place where Bobby felt connected to him and to his culture. Working with horses and cattle grounded him and helped him discover a passion that would guide his future.

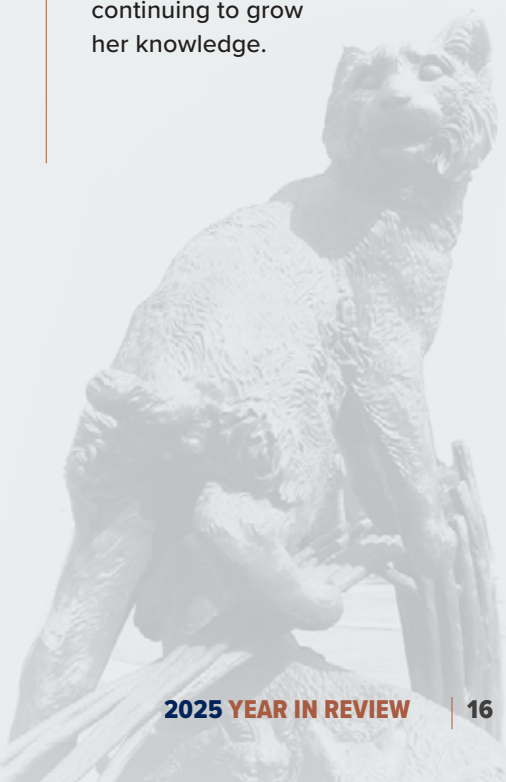
Bobby pushed himself academically, graduating in the top 10% of his class, and today he is an Animal Science major with an Equine emphasis at the University of Arizona. Through the Race Track Industry Program, Bobby has gained hands-on experience in the horse racing world, including volunteering as an Owner Host at the 2025 Breeders' Cup.

Bobby's goal is to build a career in the equine and racing industries, honoring his family's resilience while helping shape the future of a sport he loves.

CIARA DOMINGUEZ



Ciara is a freshman from Tucson, Arizona, majoring in Animal Science. She has been involved in the quarter horse racing industry since childhood and has gained experience in many areas of the sport. In recent years, she has developed a strong interest in the bloodstock and reproduction side of racing, especially the process of watching foals grow and eventually make it to the racetrack. In her spare time, she enjoys riding horses and primarily rides western. One of Ciara's most memorable moments is watching her family's first homebred (who was out of their first horse) break his maiden. Ciara is excited about the opportunities the Race Track Industry Program offers and looks forward to continuing to grow her knowledge.



RACE TRACK INDUSTRY PROGRAM STUDENTS ENGAGE IN A VARIETY OF HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, ENSURING THEY ARE DAY ONE READY UPON GRADUATION

JAEMIN JUNG



Jaemin joined the RTIP for the 2025-2026 academic year as part of the Executive-in-Residence Program with the Korea Racing Authority (KRA). He was appointed as a Stipendiary Steward with the KRA in January 2025, contributing to the integrity of horse racing in South Korea. A licensed veterinarian, he previously worked as a regulatory veterinarian at the Seoul and Jeju racecourses.

His primary interests lie in enhancing integrity, safety, and welfare in racing, particularly through the study and comparison of rules across jurisdictions. While his racing experience has been focused in East Asia, including South Korea, Japan, and Hong Kong, he came to Tucson to broaden his understanding of North American racing. Through the RTIP's programs and projects, he aspires to become an internationally engaged steward.

NATHAN KLEIN



Nathan is a senior who calls Chapel Hill, North Carolina, home. Some of Nathan's fondest racing memories were watching racing on TV, sound muted, as he practiced race calling himself and learning horse racing history any way he could. In his time in the program, he has learned and done more than he ever could have imagined. He's called over 175 races at 15 racetracks – Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, Standardbred – as well as calling international races remotely for 1/ST BET. He spent two summers at Colonial Downs in the marketing department. Most recently, he completed a marketing internship at Horseshoe Indianapolis. Nathan's ultimate goal is to be a racetrack announcer.

EMERALD KWINN



Emerald is a sophomore and a local from Tucson, Arizona. During her time at the University of Arizona, Emerald switched her major from Equine Science to the Race Track Industry Program. She realized her career goals and passions reflect more with that emphasis. She continues to ride western through a university club and volunteer at local animal shelters. Over the summer she spent a month at the Kentucky Horse Park working with horses at a youth camp. She is still inspired by all the opportunities the race track industry has to offer, so she is still undecided about her career goals upon graduation.

ALESSANDRA MEJIA-RODRIGUEZ



Alessandra Mejia-Rodriguez is very passionate about becoming a jockey and working with horses. During her childhood, her family owned a few horses, and she has been amazed with the formality and strength of these incredible equine athletes from a young age. She likes to ride horses in her spare time, and the biggest thrill of riding is building the connection between her and the horse. In the future, she plans to combine her passion for the horse industry with a strong commitment to understanding equine behavior and improving her riding skills. She hopes the Race Track Industry Program will offer her the opportunity to learn and grow in these areas.

MATTIE RICHARDS



Mattie Richards is a junior at the University of Arizona majoring in Agriculture Technology Management and Education. A former Arizona State FFA Officer (2023–2024), she has carried a lifelong passion for agriculture into college life. After taking a class through the University's Race Track Industry Program, she quickly fell in love with the horse racing industry and has been hooked ever since. In 2024, she attended the Breeders' Cup, an experience that deepened her excitement for the field. Looking ahead, Mattie hopes to complete an internship in the horse racing industry during the summer of 2025. While originally aspiring to become a stock contractor, she now sees that dream evolving into a future within the fast-paced, exhilarating world of horse racing.



GIANNA RINALDO



Gianna is a fourth-year student at the University of Arizona studying Veterinary Science and the Race Track Industry Program. After graduating, she hopes to go to Vet School to earn her DVM and become an equine veterinarian. She hopes to make a difference in the life of every horse she meets and fill the need for equine vets. Her interest in the racing industry stems from her own off-track Thoroughbred, *Ink Can Do (Inky)*. In her free time, she enjoys competing in dressage with *Inky*.

JACOB ROBERTS-EVEN



Jacob Roberts-Even, was born in Puerto Rico and grew up on *Hacienda Siesta Alegre*, a Thoroughbred farm that breaks two-year-olds. He developed a lifelong passion for horses and racing from an early age. In 2001, he joined the U.S. Navy, serving until 2005 before returning to the track to work for trainer Todd Pletcher as an exercise rider. In 2007, he began riding steeplechase races, earning recognition as both leading amateur and leading apprentice. He is currently earning his bachelor's degree in Animal Science through the University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program (RTIP) to further his career in the Thoroughbred industry.



THE RTIP STUDENT BODY IS COMPRISED OF A DIVERSE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS. MUCH LIKE THE MAKE-UP OF THE EQUINE INDUSTRY, OUR STUDENTS REPRESENT MANY DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Our mission is to provide collegiate horsemen of all experience levels with the knowledge, opportunities, and connections needed to thrive in the Equine Industry.

2025 OFFICERS

President: Megan Schwarz

Vice President: Elizabeth Banks

Treasure: Kiera Thompson

Director of Marketing: Nathan Klein

Secretary: Elyssa Vella

Representative: Tashua Antoinette



Horse decorating contest for Halloween



Students greeting the horses of Al-Marah Equine Center





Scott Chaney and KRA Executive in Residence Jaemin Jung



Todd Pletcher greets students

Each semester, the RTIP brings guest lectures into the classroom to provide students with exceptional networking opportunities with industry leaders. These professionals bring together their expertise and real-world experiences and provide students a diversity of knowledge that enhances the program experience.

REAL WORLD MEETS THE CLASSROOM

SPEAKER SERIES: TODD PLETCHER

Hall of Fame Trainer Todd Pletcher took a trip to his alma mater, the University of Arizona, in February to receive recognition as the 2025 CALES Alumnus of the Year. The Race Track Industry Program is housed within the College of Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences (CALES) at the University of Arizona. Every year, CALES recognizes a single alumnus forming an elite group of individuals who have found significant success and made an important impact within their industry.

While visiting, he returned to the classroom as a guest speaker to pass on his knowledge and experience to future generations. Students in the

class had been learning about the conformation of the equine athlete and how it translates to suitability for athletic performance. Pletcher shared invaluable insight into his ideals for racehorse conformation and how a horse's heart and determination can overcome many faults.

Students took full advantage of his time asking questions about training, conditioning racehorses, knowing when a horse is ready for more, and knowing when it's time for a break.

Before leaving, Pletcher left students with some career advice, "the one thing that I've learned from everyone that I've worked with over the years, from Wayne Lukas to his son Jeff, the way that I try to run my business is there is just no substitution for hard work, dedication, passion, and just giving it everything you can on a daily basis."

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 GUEST SPEAKERS

DON AHRENS

Racing Investigator,
ORI Integrity and
Consulting Services

JASON BLUHM

Director of Racing/
Racing Secretary, Dayton
Raceway; Racing Secretary,
Miami Valley and the Red
Mile

SCOTT CHANEY

Executive Director,
California Horse Racing
Board

ERIC DECOSTER

Racing Secretary, Prairie
Meadows

CHRISTINA GINDT

Bloodstock Agent and
Consultant, Equisport

DR. SCOTT HANSEN

Equine Sports Medicine
Veterinarian

LUIS JAREGUI

California Horse Racing
Board Steward

CHRIS KNEHR

Stallion Seasons & Shares,
Lane's End Farm

KATHY LENHARDT

Compliance and Risk
Manager, Mahoning Valley
Race Course

J. CURTIS LINNELL

Thoroughbred Racing
Protective Bureau (TRPB)

DARLENE MARDOCK

Sporthorse Farm Manager

FRANK MIRAHMADI

Race Track Announcer,
New York Racing
Association

DOUG O'NEILL

Thoroughbred Trainer

TODD PLETCHER

Thoroughbred Trainer,
Todd Pletcher Racing

ALEXA RAVIT

Director of
Communications,
Horseracing Integrity &
Welfare Unit (HIWU)

SAM REINHARDT

Assistant General
Counsel, HISA

HAILEY SHIFFER

Trainer, Shiffer Racing

BRIAN SKIRKA

Marketing Manager,
Monmouth Park

GREG STILES

Accreditation Manager,
Horseracing Integrity and
Safety Authority

MIKE TANNER

Executive Vice President/
CEO, USTA

SHURAN WRIGHT

Thoroughbred Racing
Protective Bureau (TRPB)

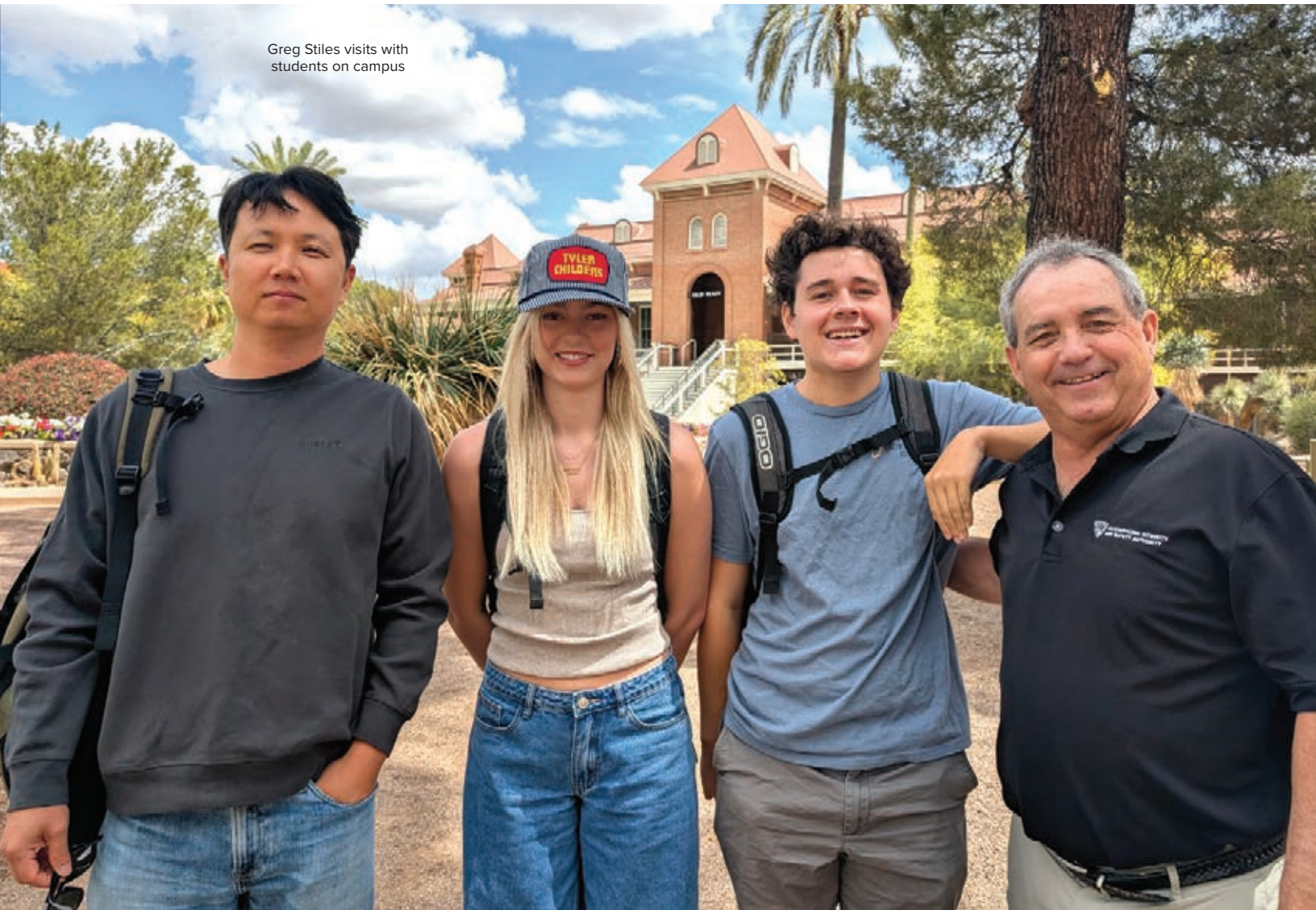
PHIL ZEIGLER

President, Emerald Downs
Racetrack

AMY ZIMMERMAN

Senior Vice President &
Executive Producer,
Santa Anita

Greg Stiles visits with
students on campus





RTIP alum Erin Doty-McQuaid meeting with students at the Mentor Luncheon

Each year during the Global Symposium on Racing, students have the opportunity to participate in the Mentor Luncheon. This event brings students together with industry professionals who put scholastic knowledge into context. The opportunity to be in a one-on-one setting with industry leaders allow the students to gain insights and focus on their personal goals

MENTOR LUNCHEON



Won Ho Shin with mentor Joseph Taylor



Mentor Alexa Ravit with Gianna Rinaldo



Eric Halstrom mentoring students



Mattie Richards with mentor Janet VanBebber

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 MENTORS

REMI BELLOCQ

Equine Industry Workforce Liaison, Bluegrass Community & Technical College

ERIN DOTY

Intake & Office Manager, New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program

MATT FEIG

General Manager, NYRA Bets

AARON GRYDER

SVP Racing Operations, 1/ST Racing & Gaming

ERIC HALSTOM

VP and General Manager of Racing, Caesars Entertainment

JASON KLOUSER

Director of Enforcement, PA State Horse Racing Commission

ANNISE MONTPLAISIR

Executive Director, Amplify

TED NICHOLSON

Vice President of Racing, Kentucky Downs

ALEXA RAVIT

Director of Communications & Outreach, Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU)

DR. MARY SCOLLAY

Chief of Science, Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU)

JOSEPH TAYLOR

Thoroughbred Advisor, Taylor Made Sales Agency

SARAH TREGONING

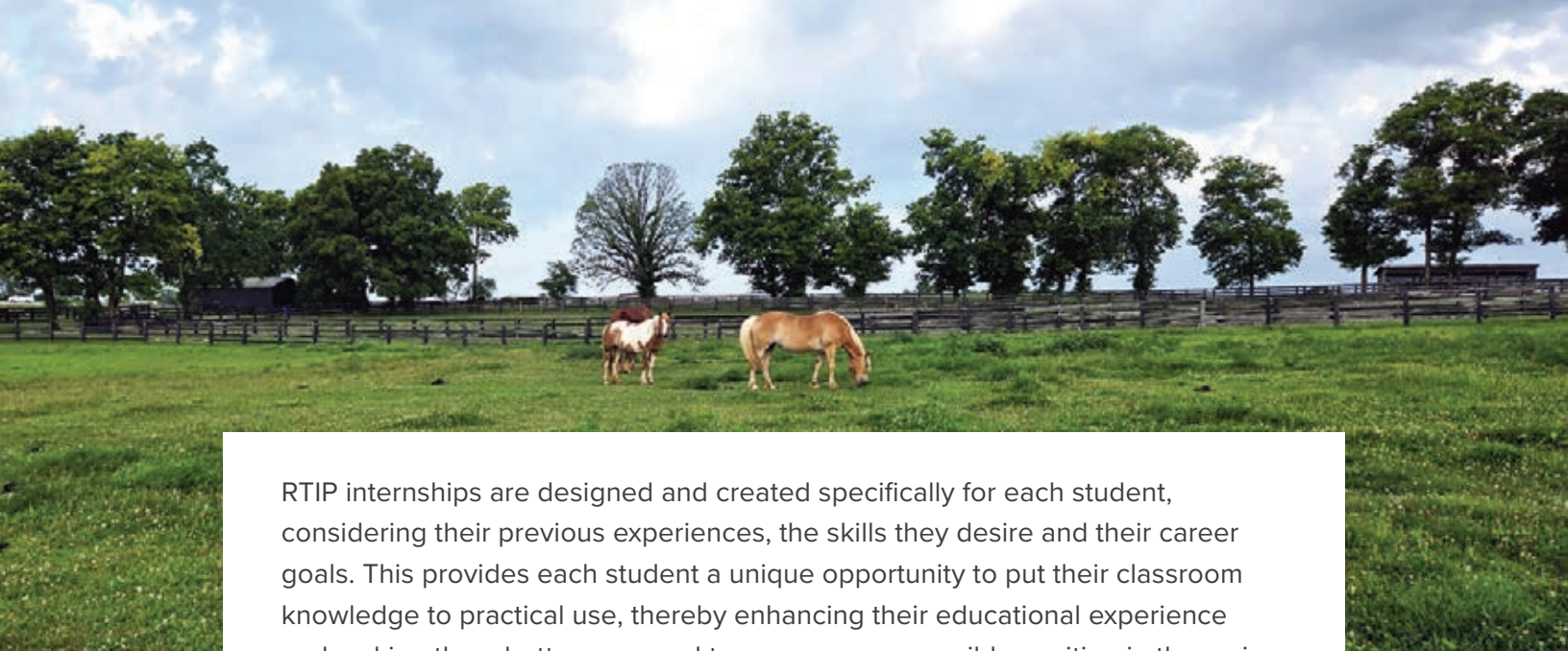
Director of Media and Communications, Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia

JANET VANBEBBER

Chief Racing Officer, American Quarter Horse Association



Alonso Peña with mentor Jason Klouser



RTIP internships are designed and created specifically for each student, considering their previous experiences, the skills they desire and their career goals. This provides each student a unique opportunity to put their classroom knowledge to practical use, thereby enhancing their educational experience and making them better prepared to assume a responsible position in the racing industry after graduation.

RTIP INTERNSHIPS

SUMMER 2025



Emerald Kwinn welcomes students to the Kentucky Horse Park

EMERALD KWINN

This summer, I served as an intern for the Kentucky Horse Park's 2025 Youth Riding Program and Mustang Troop summer camps. During my internship, I took on a wide range of barn duties and responsibilities, including daily catching and grooming horses, cleaning stalls, assisting children in the classroom, and handling horses during riding sessions. I also had the opportunity to mentor the campers and support their learning throughout the program.

I highly recommend this internship to other students. From the very first day, I gained valuable hands-on experience and expanded my knowledge of horse care and horsemanship. I especially enjoyed working closely with the horses, participating in training techniques, exploring different areas of the park, and constantly learning something new. This internship was both educational and rewarding, and I'm grateful for everything it taught me.

NATHAN KLEIN

My internship at Horseshoe Indianapolis was the most rewarding of my three college internships. I served as a Marketing Intern under the guidance of Marketing Manager Tammy Knox. I learned an incredible amount about both horse racing and life. Tammy's philosophy includes "do one nice thing for someone" and "learn something new every day." Her words shaped my experience and the way I approached my work.

Thanks to her mentorship, I gained firsthand experience in creating effective marketing strategies and events. I learned how to develop an idea from scratch, coordinate its moving parts, run the event on the ground, handle post-event teardown, and then immediately start preparing for the next project. Beyond marketing, I was able to observe nearly every aspect of Horseshoe's operations, from track maintenance on the dirt and turf courses, to wagering, security, and more.

I also expanded my skills in racing media. I hosted a weekly one-minute segment called *Nathan's Horse Racing History Minute*, regularly practiced calling live races, and contributed to horse racing journalism by gathering quotes and writing press releases for Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses, and Standardbreds.

I was given an incredible amount of freedom to learn, explore, and challenge myself. I'm proud of how much I accomplished and grateful for the talented, supportive people I had the privilege of working (and laughing) with.



Nathan Klein promoting Nathan's Minute



Nathan featured on the big screen at Horseshoe Indianapolis

TASHUA ANTOINETTE

This summer, I had the honor of serving as the first Accreditation Intern for the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA). Over the course of eight weeks, I gained valuable exposure to every department within HISA, with a particular focus on the accreditation process and the HISA Portal. Although the position was remote, I actively participated in weekly Zoom meetings including full staff briefings, accreditation sessions, and meetings with the National Racehorse Safety Commission. I also assisted with office tasks, such as contacting track managers for missing information, which allowed me to gain firsthand insight into the accreditation process.

A highlight of my internship was traveling with the Accreditation Team to Presque Isle Downs, where I shadowed each step of the on-site evaluation. The team of five field experts worked diligently to ensure the racetrack was in compliance with safety regulations and to provide guidance to track officials when needed. I was inspired by their commitment and the racetrack's dedication to prioritizing the safety of both horses and jockeys. This experience

solidified my career goals in the racing industry, with an emphasis on safety, integrity, and long-term sustainability. I aspire to one day work with HISA and continue advancing the sport, especially through my passion for Off-Track Thoroughbred (OTTB) aftercare.

In addition, I pursued a second internship with Dr. Laura Miller at the *University of Arizona's Systems Biomechanics of Horses Lab* at Al-Marrah Equestrian Center (AMEC). Our work focuses on analyzing equine gait and heart rate data to provide meaningful insights into performance and welfare. Beyond research, I actively contributed to herd management by assisting with daily feeding, care, and administering medications to the 11-horse herd, which includes three OTTBs. This experience directly supports my career goals in aftercare.

A special highlight of this summer was when my own horse, *Jett*, joined the study. Collecting data on him as a gaited horse not only enriched the research but also gave me a personal connection to the work, making the experience even more meaningful.



Tashua Antoinette at Presque Isle Downs during HISA Accreditation



Dr. Miller presents her research to the Tucson equine community at AMEC



Jamie & Jackson AMEC Research OTTB's



AMEC Jett with Bernadette during research testing



Pony riders lining up at Presque Isle Downs



Jen Perkins and Andrew Offerman

ANDREW OFFERMAN PRESENTED WITH THE EARLY ACHIEVER AWARD

In recognition of his professional achievements and outstanding representation of the University of Arizona RTIP, Andrew Offerman, class of 2010, received the CALES Early Achiever Award.

Andrew Offerman has rapidly risen to prominence in thoroughbred horse racing, becoming a leading American voice in the sport. At 39, he serves as the senior vice president of racing and operations at the New York Racing Association (NYRA), where he manages the stakes program, marquee events and daily live racing at Aqueduct Racetrack and Saratoga Race Course. He is also deeply involved in the \$455 million renovation of Belmont Park, home to the Belmont Stakes, the final leg of the American Triple Crown.

Before joining NYRA, Andrew was the senior vice president of racing operations at Canterbury Park in Minnesota. He holds a bachelor's degree from Gustavus Adolphus College and a master's degree from the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program (RTIP). His influence extends to advisory roles with the RTIP and the Thoroughbred Racing Associations of North America.

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845 N. Park Avenue, Ste. 370, Tucson, Arizona 85721 | 520.621.5660 | rtip.arizona.edu