

Newsletter

Summer 2009

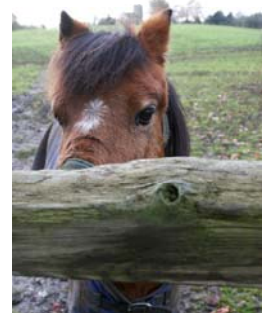
Hi!

Hopefully you will be enjoying your horses this summer, come rain or shine! We are having fun working with our youngsters—it is very satisfying seeing the foal you helped deliver develop into a strapping 3 year-old. Hopefully they'll fulfil their potential and go on to become successful competition horses.

We have a busy summer ahead of us, with several Study Weeks planned—we look forward to meeting more of our students. We are also busy preparing for our Open University validation meeting later this year.

We are about to send out the election forms and details of the candidates for TOCES' student representative—please do take the time to read the nominations and vote for one of the candidates. The student rep will provide a voice for the student body, and will have a say at Academic Board meetings.

We have just finished evaluating the feedback from the pilot of the first e-learning teaching materials and will soon be integrating the virtual learning environment (VLE) into the delivery of our programmes.



So, lots of exciting things happening here at TOCES—we'll keep you posted on progress!

Julie Brega
Director of Studies

TOCES adding top-up programmes for Open University approval

We are still working hard towards the validation of our HE programmes through the Open University (OU) and we are expecting the final Institutional Approval and Programme Validations to

take place in late November.

In order to provide our students with a wide range of choices and opportunities we have decided to add two top-up programmes to our list of qualifications to be validated.

The successful validation of these programmes will allow students who have studied an HND or Foundation Degree with TOCES or another institution the opportunity to carry forward the credits they have been awarded to-

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Open University approval continued...

wards a full BSc (Hons) programme in either Equine Science or Equine Behaviour, Welfare and Rehabilitation.

Students studying top-up programmes will complete a dissertation project in exactly the same way as students who are following the full BSc (Hons) route do.

If you have any questions about which TOCES' qualification would be best for you once you have completed your current qualification then please ring or email us and one of our Student Advisors will be very happy to give you some advice about your next logical step.



International Equitation Science Conference, Sydney 2009

Stephanie Valentin, a level three BSc (Hons) Equine Science student recently took a bold leap and emigrated to Australia! This move allowed Steph to attend the 2009 International Equitation Science Conference which was held in July in Sydney. Steph very kindly offered to provide us with a report on the conference to include in our Newsletter.

The 5th International Society for Equitation Science Conference 2009 was held at the University of Sydney, Australia. This year's conference theme was 'Ethical Equitation – A Sustainable Approach'. The chair of the organising committee, Dr Paul McGreevy said 'The ISES symposia represent a unique gathering of equitation scientists, industry leaders and policy makers to carve out a road-map for the future of the horse in the human domain'.

The opening plenary was presented by Professor Leo Jeffcott, which gave a great insight into the issues surrounding welfare of the horses competing at the Olympic Games and WEG, such as hypersensitisation in show jumping, heat stress in eventing, exhaustion in endurance, and soundness in dressage. The remainder of the morning included presentations such as equipment and training risk factors associated with behavioural problems, and the use of accelerometry and rein tension measurement in head carriage of the horse.

There was no stopping the organisers, with a lunchtime lecture by an American professional show jumper about the attitudes to certain head carriages and riding styles (including Rollkur) in the competitive world. This talk certainly provided a heated debate! The afternoon lectures covered behavioural topics such as the role of positive reinforcement in trailer loading and anticipatory behaviour in the domesticated horse. Poster teasers were part of the afternoon session, which were an excellent way for generating poster viewing interest, with a whirlwind two minute presentation to introduce each poster.

Overall, it was an informative day with a diverse range of speakers and delegates. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the second and third day of the conference due to work commitments, but I would highly recommend this conference to anyone with an interest in equitation science, especially behaviour. Next year the conference will be in Sweden, so a great excuse for a holiday and with some education thrown in!

Go to <http://www.equitationscience.com> for further information.

Email Contact

To ensure that you receive e-newsletters from TOCES please remember to check spam filters and add @equinestudies.co.uk as an acceptable domain name to receive e-mail. Please refer to your e-mail client's help section on how to add @equinestudies.co.uk to be accepted by the spam filters.

Word of the week ...

Borborygmi

... the gurgling sounds made by the movement of food, liquid and gas within the horse's gastrointestinal tract.



During the course of your studies you will read a lot of information, including course material, which has the potential to give you valuable knowledge. You may also attend Study Weeks during which time you will attend lectures from a variety of different teaching staff. In order to make the most of your reading time and the time you spend at Study Weeks it is important to make notes that will allow you to develop knowledge and understanding and help commit important concepts and facts to memory.

Strategies for note taking

- **Highlighting and underlining** - If you are using your own book or working from photocopied materials then spending a little time highlighting what you think are the most important aspects of the text can help you read more critically and save you time later.

- **Summary cards** - When taking notes from reading material it can be a very useful exercise to make summary cards of particular chapters or sections that are relevant. You can keep summary cards together, grouped in topics and list the details for your reference list on the reverse of them. This is a very structured way of note taking and you might find that initially you just want to note things down on A4 paper before refining them onto cards as a revision exercise.

- **Bullet points, colour and outline notes** - The use of 'outline' notes can be helpful when reading for and planning an essay or report. The idea is to make notes under pre-prescribed headings (possibly directly relating to your essay plan) - this will help you to focus your reading.

Using bullet points and indenting text can help to draw your eye to the most important phrases or concepts in a set of notes – this is particularly useful when you come to review them.

Some people find that using a variety of colours when taking notes helps them to order their thoughts and remember things more readily – this technique is useful when making exam revision notes.

Ultimately it is up to you to decide which method of note taking works best for you, so try them out and see which method, or combination of methods, helps to make your notes most effective.

Picture gallery



Bend ze knees



Class of 09 TOCES' first EVN students with Bonny Millar (far left)



Waiting for the library to open ...

Equine Science Conference — new date

Friday 19th and Saturday 20th March 2010

The conference date has changed from October 2009 to March 2010 and will now incorporate a third day (Sunday 21st March) which will provide a Continuing Professional Development opportunity for veterinary nurses. Please keep an eye on our website for more details later in the year!

Meet TOCES' Team ...

This month it is the turn of **Professor Duncan Hannant** to introduce himself.

What is your background?

About 25 years researching into immunology particularly related to equine infectious diseases and development of new vaccines. I am fortunate to still have close associations with several members of my research teams/colleagues to keep me up-to-date with research progress in these and related areas of equine immunology.

What is your job role at TOCES?

Member of Academic Board, module writer, course tutor and lecturer.

If you could give one tip to students to help them during the course of their studies, what would it be?

Always extend your reading; both general and specific (e.g. research articles) and regularly follow-up progress of authors/research groups by targeted literature searching. This is a quick and easy way to identify the hot research topics and progress (module contents may be several months out of date!)



Surprise us with an interesting fact about yourself!

I spend most of my time fencing, ditching, hedging and doing pasture management to support my wife's interest in native breeds. All our horses are of course, fully up to date with influenza vaccines containing both European and American lineages and the recent strains.

TOCES Clothing – get the look!

We have a range of embroidered clothing which can be ordered by telephone, fax, email or post and paid for by cheque or credit card. All items can be embroidered with either the logo or the college crest – please state which emblem you would like. Prices inc UK postage.



Logo



Crest

Polo shirt	S, M, L, XL	Any colour	£17
Skinni-fit polo shirts	S, M, L, XL	Any colour	£17
Skinni-fit zipped fleece	S, M, L, XL	Black, navy, powder blue, cream	£25
Base ball cap with suede peak		Forest green or navy blue with sand peak	£10
Heavy cotton baseball cap		Bottle green, natural peak or bottle green, navy peak	£10
Standard sweatshirt	S, M, L, XL	Any colour	£20
Rugby shirt	S, M, L, XL	Any colour	£25
¾ zipped fleece	S, M, L, XL	Coffee and black or navy and navy contrast or red and black	£25
Wombat sweatshirt	S, M, L, XL	Washed navy, light blue or mocha	£35

There is an additional overseas postage fee.