



Race Track Industry Program

35th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON RACING & GAMING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008

Welcome

Dr. Ron Allen, Head, Department of Animal Sciences, University of Arizona
Douglas Reed, Director, Race Track Industry Program, University of Arizona

MR. DOUG REED: Good morning everyone. Welcome to the 35th annual Symposium on Racing and Gaming...but who's counting? I would like to first introduce my boss, Dr. Ron Allen. Many of you are familiar with Dr. Allen, he's been here longer than I have, that's for sure. He's the department head now of the animal science department. Dr. Allen is a veteran animal scientist; he has taught and conducted research at Iowa State University and Michigan State University and since 1980, here at the University of Arizona. The focal point of his research in his lab is the growth and repair of skeletal muscle in domestic animals and humans. However, Dr. Allen also has a great deal of experience with thoroughbred horses and he breeds and raises his own thoroughbred racing prospects. His racing interest and experience and knowledge in racing also make him a great instructor for the RTIP and a great department head in the animal science department, home of the RTIP. Please welcome Dr. Ron Allen.

(Applause)

DR. RON ALLEN: Thank you, Doug. On behalf of the college of agriculture and life sciences and the department of animal sciences, which has been the academic home for the Race Track Industry Program since its beginning 35 plus years ago, I welcome you here again. To those of you who are here for the first time, I'm sure you're going to enjoy it, and welcome, and for those alums, welcome home.

It looks like Doug, Wendy and Steve have prepared another excellent program and I'm sure that you are going to enjoy it. Even though the Symposium is sort of the focus of what we do this week it is not the only thing that we do and it's probably not the most important thing that we do. The most important thing that we do is to provide an avenue through which some bright, well educated students enter the racing industry; that has been our mission since the beginning that is still our mission. The enrollment has been averaging about 40 students and an important point is that probably 80 percent of these students are non-resident,

non-Arizona students. They come from all over the country, we have students with us now from Florida to Oregon to New York, California, Minnesota, you name it. We have students from foreign countries that have come through our program over the years, we currently have a student from Saudi Arabia, we also have a student from Korea and we even have a student from Texas if you want to count that.

One thing that I guess if you are speaking in public these days, you can't speak without presenting a little gloom and doom, I don't want to start it off on too much gloom and doom, but there is an issue here that I think is a threat to the program. It's not a threat like a crashing stock market but it's been something that has been creeping up on us, particularly during the last 10 years. Back in the mid '80s when Eclipse Award winning trainer, Todd Pletcher was here, when NTRA's Peggy Hendershot was here, folks like that, they paid about \$3,800 in out-of-state tuition. We held that line until the early '90s, Matt Hagerty from the Daily Racing Form was a student then, Paul Estok from the Harness Track of America, students like that paid about the same amount. By the time we got to the year 2000 it had jumped up to almost \$10,000, that's what Scott Waterman paid, who is head of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium. Andy Schweigardt with TOBA paid that amount. But in just eight years we've gone from \$9,800 to \$21,000 in out-of-state tuition, and I can tell you that this is a hardship for students that are here and it has also discouraged students like we've had in the past that would have come and now they can't. We're not alone in this, other universities face the same problems, but I think that you need to know that this is a threat to what we do and therefore we think a threat to the pipeline that feeds the industry.

RTIP student's have enjoyed your support for decades now, internships, job opportunities and scholarships and this last year we were able to give out about \$27,000 in scholarships exclusively to Race Track Industry Program students. Also our students are very talented, very competitive and they probably earned another \$25,000 or \$30,000 in scholarship money from the general scholarship fund of the Animal Sciences Department. That's good and we're proud of that, with \$21,000 out-of-state tuition there are still needs that are not being met. As in the past, the good news is that racing is stepping up to the plate and I want to acknowledge The Jockey Club for establishing the Jack Goodman Scholarship Award which they gave out for the first time this year. And, Jack, I don't know if Jack is here yet this morning, but many of you know Jack and he is, I guess, the patron saint of the Race Track Industry Program. Another endowed scholarship program that I want to acknowledge is that set up to honor the memory of Mr. Joe Joyce. Mr. Joyce, of course, was a friend of the Program and on the advisory board probably since the very, very early days.

So that is just a couple of examples of how the industry steps forward to support our student's. On behalf of the students and on behalf of the faculty I want to thank you, your support is greatly, greatly appreciated.

I can tell you that over the past couple of month's life around the university has been a little gloom-and-doom sounding too. I want to say that the best tonic that I have found for that personally is to go teach my class and surround myself

with these really enthusiastic, bright young students. As you go through this week I invite you to get to know these students, take an opportunity to meet them, their enthusiasm is infectious and they remind me of why I got excited about racing many, many years ago and I think that you'll enjoy the same experience with them.

So on behalf of all of us here at the U of A, we want to thank you and enjoy your week. Doug?

(Applause)

MR. DOUG REED: Thank you very much, Ron. I would also like to thank our sponsors, every year without the help of the sponsors and the people in the exhibit area and you all paying the registration it certainly helps fund the Program.

Scientific Games hosted a wonderful reception last night; we got off to the usual good start. Equineline.com fed us breakfast this morning. Our panel this morning is sponsored by Australian Racing and our beverage break following this is sponsored by Caliente/MIR.

Just to give you a couple of quick updates, Ron touched on some things so I will try not to be too repetitive. Our endowed chair which we have talked about here before, the search is in progress and hopefully we can announce more on that later this year, but we are in what I call search mode.

Ron talked about scholarships so very briefly I just would like to say that there are several other new scholarships that we're grateful for. In addition to the Joseph Joyce Endowment, there is also the Robert Umphrey Endowment, both of those people are people who had contributed a lot to racing and I had the pleasure to work with both of them and both were great people and I'm proud to be part of being able to select the winners of those scholarships each year.

We also have pledges from The Jockey Club that Dr. Allen mentioned. Also Mr. Goodman has provided monies for an international scholarship for either a student abroad to come here or one of our students to go abroad for study over a semester. In addition to that there's a lot of ways that we can make a scholarship work, any number of ways, it doesn't have to be one large lump sum, an endowment, it can be a one-time sort of pledge or a pledge over a couple of years. Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino has set up the Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino Responsible Gaming Scholarship which is tied to a project in responsible gaming, which I think is a great win-win. Sunland Park gets to get some research done in that area, they also award a student some money to help pay their way with the expensive tariff that Dr. Allen talked about.

He also mentioned our students. Please do take some time to visit with them. I would also like to add, the students every year present their projects — the seniors — their projects out in the foyer Thursday morning, right outside these doors. So if you are here Thursday morning, stop by and look at the projects that they've done, visit with them, they will be there for a couple hours or see them throughout the week.

If there are students here right now I would like you to stand up, those are the early birds. Please, RTIP students that have made it up this early let's give them a round of applause. The rest of them are out there working the registration booth, we make them work for their free meal this morning and everything.

Also I would like to thank the faculty. Ron already mentioned Steve Barham, Wendy Davis, but also Dr. Allen teaches classes and Bill Schurg. The four of them provide tremendous diversity and I think that is a strength of our program. All of the faculty have different experience and background in racing, they've all worked in racing, worked with horses in one way or another, and it really is something that I think makes our program special. We're not all cut out of the same mold, thank goodness.

Also, our administrative team, we have a team of two, Betty Prewitt and Denise Pharris. They are the accounting department, the marketing department, the administration department, the PR department, the graphic design department and the operations department all in two. So thank them when you are out there at the registration booth or you see Denise running around with a camera, we're very grateful, we have a small staff but a great staff.

Also something new this year, a change at the luncheon today, if you get a chance come down to the luncheon in the pavilion. The new thing this year is the Turf Publicists are presenting their Big Sport of Turfdom Award in addition to our awards luncheon. So we're glad to have them as a partner.

Tomorrow, just to give a plug to our second keynote speaker, Marshall Vest will be here. It was kind of hard to ignore the economy, and U of A has an expert, an economic expert will be here speaking on where he sees things going and what his advise is for people having to conduct business in this economy. So please come here again tomorrow at this same time and we'll have another great keynote.