The 2008 Presidential Election

KYLE CRAWFORD
Centurion Staff

The 2008 election campaigns have begun and the majority of Bucks students interviewed by the Centurion have not been paying attention. As the primaries begin, many students don’t even know a Republican candidate. Greg O’Brien, a 19-year-old education major from Southampton said, “I haven’t been paying attention because I think it’s boring.”

O’Brien’s response mimicked that of several other students. Sebastian Dylag, 19, liberal arts major from Richboro said he didn’t follow politics because he doesn’t care. Charlie Lyman, 18, liberal arts major from Faithless Hills said, “I haven’t been paying attention. I just don’t care, it’s not important to me.”

With all the complaints about government, it was surprising to see few were going to do something about it, like make an educated vote. But there is a glimmer of hope, for some students were interested in the goings-on of current political events. The Communications major from Holland, Michael Adamczyk, 21, said, “Yes, I have been paying attention because I want to see things get better. Half of the country is against war, and the other half is for it.”

Dave Mullen, 18, from Philadelphia, majoring in sports management said, “I have been following a little bit because I’m voting next year for my next president.”

Dave Hill, 21-year-old business major from Yardley said, “I’ve been following a little bit. It matters now, my vote counts.” All students’ votes count, and the only way to make a difference is to participate. But it can’t be done without knowing who’s running.

Democrat Hillary Clinton was recognized by every student interviewed, as was Barack Obama. The Republican candidates, however, weren’t as well-known. The only candidates known by students interviewed were Rudy Giuliani and Fred Thompson.

Now is as good of time as any to begin discussing, debating and paying attention to candidates and their campaigns. After all, the winner will be the leader of this country for the next four years.

Want to know more about the presidential candidates? Look for bios on the major candidates and their activities and platforms in the upcoming editions of the Centurion in the spring 2008 semester.

The Wu-Tang Clan has a new album

Movies: Top 10 lists for the good and the bad

Bucks Equestrian

Centurion Sports Page 8

Weather

Monday: A chance of snow or rain. Cloudy, with a high near 44. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tuesday: A chance of snow or rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 47. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday: A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday: A chance of snow or rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 42. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Weather courtesy of the National Weather Service

able to make an educated vote.
Murder/Suicide at a Nebraska Mall

DANA WELDON  
Centurion Staff

Bucks students were shocked to hear of the shooting in a mall in Omaha, Nebraska, killing several people Wednesday, Dec. 5.

Deborah Maruca-Kovac and her husband, whose sons were friends with Robert A. Hawkins, the assailant, welcomed him into their home and tried to help him.

According to Maruca-Kovac, about an hour before the shooting, Hawkins called her and told her he had written a suicide note. In the note Hawkins wrote, “Sorry for everything” and that he had written a suicide note.

Hawkins welcomed him into the home of the couple, whose sons were Bucks students.

“People need to realize an actual threat when they see one,” said 25-year-old journalism major Laura Irwin. “If you see a gun in a troubled person’s hands, use your head. If someone makes a threat, suit the personality as a legit threat, do something. These catastrophes can be avoided if people knew how to get help.”

If you are feeling suicidal or know anyone who is, refer them to the Bucks Women’s Center for hotlines or information.

Shoppers Flee After Attempted Allentown Armored Car Holdup

(AP) - Shoppers took refuge inside an Allentown mall on the morning of Friday, Dec. 7 after shots were fired in the parking lot, apparently during an attempted armored car holdup.

Television footage showed three bullet casings in the parking lot of the South Mall, where police converged shortly after 10:30 a.m. It wasn't immediately clear if anyone was hurt.

Bank of America spokesman Bobbing-Mormando is also a former Bucks nursing student.

Bank of America spokesman Dan Card said he was at the mall parking lot, outside of the South Mall, when employees ushered her and other customers to the back of the store. They told her something had happened outside and customers could not leave.

“I was just making a return and then I was hiding under a clothing rack,” she told The Morning Call, an Allentown newspaper.

Police officials did not immediately return phone messages. A spokeswoman for the South Mall was being briefed on the situation and wasn’t immediately available for comment.

The South Mall is owned by the Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust, which didn’t immediately return a message.

Coroner Joseph Campbell said an autopsy Wednesday, Dec. 5 revealed no signs of trauma.

Bobbing-Mormando says he will not rule on a cause and manner of death until he receives toxicology test results, which could take four to six weeks.

Bobb-Mormando’s husband, Daniel, says he last heard from her in a cell phone call last on Nov. 28.

She was the mother of a 5-year-old daughter and two sons — one 3 and one who will have his first birthday next week.

Bobb-Mormando is also a former Bucks nursing student.

Centurion Publication Schedule

The Centurion is published weekly on Mondays.

Deadline for advertising is noon on the Wednesday before publication.

Publication dates are as follows:

We’ll see you in the Spring 2008 semester, with a whole new set of publication dates!

To receive the Centurion’s email edition:

Register at www.Bucks-News.com and a .PDF version of the newspaper will be delivered directly to your email box.

Letter Policy

Letters should be limited to 300 words. They will be edited for spelling and malicious or libelous statements, and may be edited for space. Letters must be original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, letters must include the writer’s name, address, and telephone number, although the address and telephone numbers will not be published.

Send letters to:

Centurion
275 Swamp Rd
Newtown, PA 18940

Centurion@bucks.edu

www.bucks-news.com/LettersToTheEditor

215.968.8379

Official Member

2006-2007

The Centurion is an Official Member of the College Media Association.
**Former Bucks Student Crowned 2007 Poet Laureate**

**CHRISTINE E. SWANSON**
Centurion Staff

"Like many poets, I think of poetry as an exercise in trying to say the unsayable," said Marsha Kroll, Bucks County’s 2007 Poet Laureate.

Kroll is yet another former student of former poet laureate and Bucks Professor Christopher Bursk to earn the title.

"If it weren’t for Chris, Vermont College and all my writing friends, I don’t know that I’d be the poet that I am today." After receiving her Master’s of Fine Arts in creative writing from Vermont College, Kroll has recently returned to the area.

Although a runner-up in the 2003 Poet Laureate, Kroll’s return home was more rewarding; $500 and the long-sought title.

But, Kroll is no stranger to recognition when it comes to her work. At the Allen Ginsberg Awards, she received a 2005 Editor’s Choice Award and she was a semifinalist in the 2004 Finishing Line Press Open Chapbook Competition for her chapbook Modeling with Miss America.

Her poems have and will appear in Hayden’s Ferry Review, Pater- son Literary Review, Mad Poets Review, Schuylkill Valley Jour- nal, and the 2003 Frost Place Anthology of Participants.

Kroll developed experience with an array of perspectives and emotions through her work in the mental health field. Much of her work involved interaction with individuals with multiple personal- ities and post-traumatic stress in its myriad manifestations.

For more information on the program, contact Dr. Allen Hoey (215)968-8279.

**Horn & Hardt's 1956**

No one has heard yet of the flaming nebula of dying stars or the incessant race of matter toward absolute density, the black hole, when Horn & Hardt's nearly windowless cafeteria-styled doors open into a new world filled with flattened tuna sandwiches or colorless turkey and cheese with mayo or butter. It's in command, and I've just overheard that my father has lost most of his money. We've been instructed to move to our place by a tall, blond, hair-netted waitress. Some dead bird feathers fly from my mother's fashionable beige hat as she slips into a seat by the crank- topped counter beside me. Only a few tables are full. Others are as vacant as my parents' eyes as they gaze over peering past each other into a great distance. On the green vinyl stool, no true destination in mind, I've been consumed with launching myself through the aurora, toward Saturn, until my foot causes me to lurch, until I wobble my world's full circumference, that of the stool's shiny-silver futuristic chrome base, until I'm finally spinning, then hurrying into the blurring emptiness.

Marsha Kroll

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**Bucks Professor’s New Book Will Help Struggling Students**

**MARK BENNETT**
Student Life and Web Editor

Bucks Professor James Freeman has published a new book titled “Lies, Tales of True Love” that takes place at Bucks and in the Newtown area.

Freeman, 52, of Newtown Borough, has been a professor at Bucks for 26 years and teaches ethics, creative writing and comp 107-111.

So far, Freeman has had 16 of 20 books published; his latest book tells the story of a group of down-and-out people who have fallen on hard times, some of whom are homeless.

"The characters care about each other and other people as well as literature, and learn how to smell the roses before they die," said Freeman.

The book and characters are a mix of life experiences, people Freeman has known and encoun- tered, and fiction.

"The characters are a composite of real and fake. You take a joke that came out of uncle Fred's mouth and place it in one of the character's mouths," said Freeman.

His latest book, which is an expansion and rewrite of a previously published book, is being put to good use to help local college students get the education they need.

Freeman, along with friend and colleague Chris Bursk, started the Ray Reilly Memorial Student Scholarship Fund.

The fund pays for the tuition of one student for either one or two semes- ters at Bucks.

"The scholarship is for kids who are facing obstacles getting to col- lege, whether it's financial or a physical disabili- ty," said Freeman. All the royal- ties of his previously written book and his new one will go into the fund.

According to Freeman, the scholarship fund is what motivated him. "The scholarship gave me the initiative to finish the book," he said.

Freeman spent much of his early childhood in Northern Cali- fornia with his parents. However, he was born in Mon- treal, Canada, while his parents were stationed at a military base.

Freeman has been all over the country because his father was a military doctor.

According to Freeman, roughly every 13 months he would move to a new base along with his father. His relocations included Kansas, Texas, Maryland, Massa- chusetts and Japan.

Freeman's experiences in Japan - he was there from 1965-68 - were enlightening.

The island nation left an impression on him. Freeman said: "Japan is a mix of feudal history and the modern world."

He reminisced about the mechanical video games and amusement parks on top of sky- scrapers.

"Going to Japan was a real eye- opener," he said.

After going to middle school in Japan his father was sent back to the States and his family went along with him.

According to Freeman, throughout the course of his high school education he attended 13 different schools.

Moving around that much can be difficult for a child, but Freeman didn't let the frequent relocations affect his life.

"Something like that either makes you or breaks you," he said.

Freeman attended Shasta Com- munity College in C.A. where he received his Associates degree in Journalism and English.

Afterwards he went to Reed College in Oregon and got his Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and English, later getting his Mas- ter's degree in English from Humboldt State University in Northern California.

Freeman has had a long career in teaching.

While studying to get his degrees he taught part-time at Humboldt and also spent some time teaching under the Federal Upper Bound Program, which is a program for disadvantaged teens.

The program is aimed toward city kids. Freeman taught creative writing, photography and back- packing.

According to Freeman, once he graduated the job market for teachers was in a slump. After reading a magazine designed to inform teachers where good jobs were he came to Bucks County and began teaching at Bucks.

His original plan was to work at Bucks for a few years then move back to “the promised land,” however, his plans changed after he started a family and became attached to Pennsylvania.

Freeman has been a dedicated writer his entire life.

"I started early in life, in kindergarten I would write ani- mal Fables which would have morals in them," he said.

As Freeman grew, so did his writing.

By middle school Freeman was writing poetry and by the time he was in high school he started writ- ing short stories.

Freeman was also involved in various high school newspapers throughout his education.

According to Freeman, young writers should try to write about life experiences.

"You have to write about what you know, you have to write your life, and you can’t do it transpar- ently," Freeman said.

He added that writing is a good way to escape and vent your frus- trations.

freeman@bucks.edu

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**Student Scholarship**

The fund pays for the education they need.

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13. **He added that writing is a good way to escape and vent your frus- trations.**
14. **Meet Jim Freeman at his book launch Dec. 16 from 2-4 p.m. at Robin’s bookstore in Philadel- phia. For more information call (215)735-9600.**
### December 2007: What to Do

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### January 2008: What to Do

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- Enjoy holiday events and shows this month!
- Take time to relax and recharge with family and friends.

### Additional Events
- **New Years Eve**
- **New Years Day**
- **Classes End**
- **Men’s Basketball away at Deleware** 8 p.m.
- **Men’s Basketball home at 8 p.m.**
- **Men’s Basketball away at Luxerne** 8 p.m.
- **Men’s Basketball away at Luzerne** 8 p.m.
- **Watch the Flyers game**
- **Spring semester begins**
- **Men’s Basketball away at Central Penn** at 8:05 p.m.
- **Run a marathon**
- **Learn to play a musical instrument**
- **Go ice skating**
- **Time to start taking down your decorations**
- **Roast chestnuts over an open fire**
- **Learn to play a musical instrument**
**Entertainment**

**Wu Tang Clan Set to Release New Album**

**ALEX BLAISE**
Centurion Staff

The Wu-Tang Clan, an influential rap group, has its fans anticipating their newest album, "8 Diagrams," due out on Dec. 11. The Wu-Tang Clan's lineup has over the years been comprised of The Rza, The Gza, Method Man, Inspectah Deck, U-God, Masta Killa, Raekwon, Ghostface Killah and the late Old Dirty Bastard. The Clan got their start in 1992 in Staten Island. Some of their best known songs include "C.R.E.A.M.," "Protect Ya Neck" and "Gravel Pit." Along with chart-topping albums, the members of the Wu-Tang Clan have gone on to produce solo albums that sold millions of copies worldwide.

And the name? “Wu Tang” comes from old kung-fu films that the artists grew up watching. The actual Wu Tang Clan was a group of renegade monks with unparalleled skills in martial arts that made them so dangerous to society that they had to swear never to teach their styles. The latter-day Wu Tang Clan would battle not with num chucks or swords, but with razor-sharp wit and densely packed lyrical metaphors. The present-day Clan worked to imitate this style, and they did so with precision and ease. Superhero comic books and New York street lore also had direct influences on the forming of the rap group. Since their last album "Iron Flag" was released in 2001, die-hard fans were left begging for more. The Clan has still been busy touring despite the fact that they have not produced an album in six years.

**ALEX BLAISE**
Centurion Staff

Rhet Tierney, 18, said, “The new album is definitely going to be off the charts. A lot of people thought that they were out of the rap game and I believe they feel as if they have something to prove.” “The Wu-Tang Clan has eight of the best emcees to ever touch the microphone. Ever since Old Dirty died the group has become stronger than ever and I know the new album will be one of the best the group has ever or will ever put out.” Wu member The Gza said in an interview that now is a perfect time to put out a new album. "Hip-hop is missing something important; it’s missing a main element," said Gza. “Wu Tang is the ones to bring back that element.”

The new album is said to have many guest appearances from other well-known rappers to add to the lyrical madness that the group brings. Guest producers will work along side Wu Tang’s producer and artist, The Rza, to bring different elements to the tracks on the album. Many crazed fans will be lined up early to purchase the new album, so if you want a taste of lyrical genius and a sample of one of the most influential and dominant groups in rap history, pick up or download the new album.

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**The Top 10 Movies You Should See On Break**

**MARK BENNETT**
Student Life and Web Editor

You should’ve seen these movies by now.

1) **300**- “FOR SPARTA!” This is one of the greatest action movies ever to be made, and pretty historically accurate.
2) **Bad Santa**- Who doesn’t like seeing Saint Nick acting naughty?
3) **Super Troopers**- “You are freaking out… man.” If you don’t think this movie is funny there is something seriously wrong with you.
4) **Shawn of the Dead**- Action, comedy, horror, romance and of course zombies, what else do you need in a movie.
5) **Scarsface**- “Say hello to my little friend!” A timeless classic with class, style and lots of coke.
6) **Shawshank Redemption**- A great movie about a man wrongly imprisoned for murder and his struggles being an innocent man in jail.
7) **Boondock Saints**- “I can think of something the bloody rope was good for.” A great action movie where wrong doers get what they have coming to them.
8) **Saving Private Ryan**- A story about brotherhood, war and sacrifice. If you have a romantic view about war this will give you a much needed reality check.
9) **Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas**- “We can’t stop here… this is bat country!” This movie will take you on a wild trip… quite literally.
10) **Dumb and Dumber**- “Mock… Yeah… Ing… Yeah… Bird… Yeah.” This movie is so stupidly funny you will have to laugh.

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**The Top 10 Movies You Shouldn’t Waste Your Time On**

**MARK BENNETT**
Student Life and Web Editor

Don’t bother watching these movies.

1) **No Reservations**- It’s about two chefs who hate each other and then fall in love, that says it all right there.
2) **Snakes on a Plane**- The producers were really short on ideas that week. Way to be original guys.
3) **Daredevil**- I wish I could tell you why this movie is bad, but I can’t sit through it, sorry. It must be Ben Affleck as a blind super hero.
4) **Terminator 3 Rise of the Machines**- Acting or politics, pick one and stick with it Arnold.
5) **Water World**- There’s nothing good about that movie, at least that’s what my editor says.
6) **Daddy Day Camp**- Nobody wants to listen to a bunch of screaming brats for an hour and a half.
7) **From Justin to Kelly**- Enough said.
8) **Glitter**- Mariah Cary is in it, that’s reason enough.
9) **You Got Served**- No good sir, you just got served.
10) **Lady Killers**- Slow, stupid and pointless.
A Piece of My Mind

A weekly column by Centurion Editor Mark Bennett

Is it me, or are parents way too protective of their children? Unfortunately, this type of parental behavior is more and more common in this day and age. Why is it that parents feel the need to protect their kids from all the evils this world has to offer? If anything, they should be throwing their children headfirst into these potentially painful, and in the end, enlightening situations.

It’s a dog-eat-dog world. If you’re not willing to take every advantage given to you, you won’t get far. It can be cruel out there.

Life will punch you in the head when you’re not looking. If you fall, it will mercilessly kick you while you’re down. If you’re not strong enough to get back on your feet, you’re as good as dead.

So I really don’t see how sheltering your kid from the shocking realities of life will prepare them for the real world. In America we are living in a world where doing your best is good enough… guess what, it’s war. Just because we’re afraid that it will hurt their feelings! Or that their fragile little minds might become warped from this negative feedback?

That is a possibility, but a more realistic possibility is that the negative feedback will inspire them to do better. Think about it, if people keep yelling at you that you’re doing your best and that doing your best is good enough, why would you try and do better?

In America 14-year-old kids aren’t allowed to see R-rated movies because of violence, language and brief nudity. In Africa, 14-year-old kids are members of the militias and are expected to kill or be killed. Just because we live in an nice part of the world doesn’t mean that in four years it will be. If we shelter the youth of the nation now, we very well could be killing them tomorrow. Parents: don’t sugar-coat the world for your kids unless you plan on short of beating the kids with their father waiting for me. I was cleared and told I could n’t hide it. He didn’t get me a glass of water to help with the hangover I would have the next morning, or hold my head while I was bugging the toilet later that night. But guess what, I learned my lesson, and the message was very clear. If you’re underaged, don’t drink, and if you do drink and get caught, there are consequences.

Random Photo of the Week

Happy Holidays!

A Modern Hypocrisy

A weekly column by Managing Editor Laura Irwin

How much do you spend on your friends, family and other loved ones during the holidays? I can’t afford to have friends anymore.

Really? What says “I love you” better than a $20 sweater or gift card? There’s the thought in that anyway! But of course you have to go to many stores and fork over your paychecks so your buddies can go out and get something they like.

A gift card for every person you know, or heaven forbid someone gets offended. I was once told it’s the thought that counts, but apparently how much cash I spend is what really matters to some.

I love you this $ much.

And don’t you love the friend where what they get them isn’t enough? Or that you don’t know them at all and how could you ever get them something like that?

Well, my $20 is enough to supply my gas for a week, so I’ll better work for you. If you receive a gift card, it’s not that I dislike you, I just purge my budget on the thought of seasonal giving, but the holidays have me bitter.

Each year it’s the same hectic running around, meanwhile cheery music blasts over poor sound systems with the occasional interruption from employees announcing more things I can spend my lack of money on.

I love you this $ much.

Don’t really matter? You’re probably going to give me something you are re-gifting anyway. I don’t need any more things.

And the things I do look forward to during the Christmas season are the low-key traditions.

My roommate and I host a tree-trimming party. It’s nice to get together and decorate your tree and sip on spiked eggnog, or in my current case spiked soy-nog.

I love sending out my Christmas cards, and every year I struggle to find cards more satirist and cynical than previous years.

For those of you that like funky cards I suggest Urban Outfitters, in Philadelphia or King of Prussia Mall, or Allegheny Art Store, located on State Street, Newtown.

I love Christmas lights and driving around neighborhoods and seeing each house’s glimmering decorations.

I used to like the local light shows, until the price blew my mind. For the two people in my car you want how much?”

I love you this $ much.

Thank God I get a discount at the bookstore I work at. I hope you like to read because guess what my friends got this year? And my family.

And other loved ones.

One year I made hand-painted ceramics for those who I knew would appreciate them. The total cost of each gift was under $10, but those that received them, loved them. Or at least said they did.

One year I sewed stockings from pre-packaged felt and bead stocking kits. Total cost per person, again, under $10.

What’s the difference? Hours compared to cash.

Instead of splurging big bucks on my friends and family, I stitched and kilned and hemmed and brushed away hours for each gift, for each person.

I like to think the thought counts, but if I spend 20 hours on you, instead of $20, you’ll know I do care about you.

I love you this much.
"I'm a Video Communications Major at Arcadia and this semester I have a great internship at Unisys Corporation. Italy Preview was my first trip abroad—"I got to know other students, visited Rome and Florence, and earned two credits," Aaron Clark '08.

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Baseball Winter Meetings Turn Out to be No More than a Bunch of Hype

GREG HALL
Sports Editor

The big story going into Major League Baseball’s annual winter meetings was the trade of Johan Santana to the Minnesota Twins for five minor leaguers, according to reports. The trade was considered a surprise and a shock to team officials, who had expected to keep Santana for the 2008 season.

The Phillies were not among the teams interested in acquiring Santana, surprising many fans who had been hoping for an upgrade in the team’s pitching rotation. However, the trade did bring some excitement to the fans, who were hoping for a more competitive team next season.

Despite the lack of interest from the Phillies, the winter meetings were filled with activity as teams continued to make moves to improve their rosters. The trade of Santana was just one of many deals that took place during the meetings, as teams worked to fill their remaining needs.

In the end, the winter meetings proved to be a disappointment for many fans, who had hoped for more action and a stronger team going into the 2008 season. However, the winter meetings are just the beginning of the baseball off-season, and fans will have to wait until spring training to see how the teams will look and perform.

Bucks Equestrian Team Looks to Grow in 2008

SALLIE JO REID
Centurion Staff

The Bucks Intercollegiate Equestrian team’s most recent win was their placing as the reserve high point team at Red Wing Farm at the Dec. 1 show, with only three levels filled.

The Intercollegiate Horse Show Association is going strong at Bucks under the guidance of Coach Amber Jewel, a former intercollegiate rider herself. Jewel, who operates Red Wing Farm in Hilltown, PA, said she is looking forward to next semester and is interested in recruiting new members.

The intercollegiate riding competition was established in 1999 as the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). Its purpose is to promote competition for riders of any skill level regardless of financial status.

Here at Bucks, the college offers hunter seat and western. The average size of the team is 18 members who practice weekly.

Practice is held at local barns and the shows are local or in the region. There are no team tryouts. Riders competing in the shows get points for placement. First place gives the rider seven points, second place is worth five points, third is worth four and so on. Riders advance to the next level when they have accumulated 35 points.

After qualifying at college shows, riders go on to regional finals. The three top riders go on to zone finals. The Nationals are the top two teams from each region compete. The top college riding team receives the Cavacchine Cup.

Competitions are kept affordable because the colleges host the shows and provide the horses. Riders are not allowed to use their own horses in IHSA shows. The riders draw a horse to use the day of the event. Schooling is not permitted and riders must use the tack provided by the horse owner.

Former Bucks student and intercollegiate team member Chrisa Dooling, 34, of Broadway, now rides over fences at Harmony Equestrian Center in NJ. Dooling said, “You learn to really read your horse before your class. You put a lot of faith in the instructors, coaches who have watched that horse work. You have opportunities to try different horses while you are in college.”

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