

Division of Graduate Studies Newsletter Spring 2010

JAN. 2010

THE JOURNEY BEGINS...

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Animal Science

It's 39 degrees on a foggy January morning and professor Anne Rodiek makes her way along a row of horse corrals where student workers dig up cheeseweed. There are seven students working this winter break, and Rodiek says their earnings are a pittance compared to how much they do.

But they do it because they like it, Rodiek says, and because it's part of a degree program that equips them with the skills they'll need to be successful in the horse industry.

Of course, students work in the lab and conduct meaningful research, but they also spend a great deal of time on this 30-acre horse farm—first developed in the 1950s—feeding, medicating, and picking up after the 56 horses that rely on them. Students also work as guides for the 10,000 schoolchildren who tour the farm each year, and they handle the breeding, many staying up all night



foal



Professor Anne Rodiek with Hackney horse

with expectant mares during the spring foaling season.

Rodiek says it's sappy, but she tells her students they really can see a miracle happen when a foal is born. "Why wouldn't you take the opportunity to see a miracle?" she asks them. This spring, Rodiek and her students are expecting the delivery of nine foals. To support the program, students sell the young horses they raise, along with breedings to the stallions so people can raise foals of their own.

Fresno State's breeding of Quarter horses goes back over 50 years, Rodiek says, and in 2007, the university earned the Legacy Award from the American Quarter Horse Association for being one of the

nation's oldest breeders. In addition to 45 Quarter horses, students also care for 11 Hackney horses.

"The Hackney horse is a new venture," Rodiek says. "It's a rare breed and we're trying to help promote them so the breed isn't lost." The care of two breeds broadens the educational experience, Rodiek adds. In the end, Rodiek feels the hands-on nature of that educational experience is perhaps its greatest asset.

"I've always felt that if you come out of here with a degree in Animal Science you'd better know how to dig cheeseweed or pick up manure or tell a good horse from a bad horse," she says. "Because if you're going to be successful in the horse industry, you're going to deal with horse people, and they can sort you out in a nanosecond if you don't

know anything about horses. The horses can sort you out, too."



Daisy and Colt

Admission Period is OPEN -

Apply NOW!

Fall 2010 admission applications are now being accepted. View our admission section for additional information. Apply online via www.csumentor.edu Some programs have deadlines earlier than the university's. Check the individual program criteria sheet for deadline details www.csufresno.edu/gradstudies

Spring 2010 Graduates



The Spring 2010 graduation application (Graduate Degree Application) is now available online at www.csufresno.edu/gradstudies/ It is due in the Division of Graduate Studies office by February 5,

Special Message

Thank you! Dr. Dianne Dickerson for your 24 years of dedicated service to Fresno State. Best wishes for a happy retirement.

CSUMentor

