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School's In

Morrisville State College prepares students for racing jobs

BY LENNY SHULMAN

NESTLED IN A sleepy town along Route 20 in Central New York 30 miles southeast of Syracuse University and no more than 10 from Colgate University in Hamilton, Morrisville State College, though smaller than its two famous neighbors, is making a name for itself in the world of horse racing.

For the past two years the college has handled drug testing for New York's Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries. At about the same time, the college opened a new equine rehabilitation and physiology facility. And for nearly two decades the college has offered unique, hands-on degree programs for students wanting to get a leg up on a career working with horses.

While the University of Arizona's Racetrack Industry Program specializes in frontside jobs at the racetrack and the University of Louisville has a business slant to its equine courses, Morrisville takes a more blue-collar approach that teaches students the

> ins and outs of daily care and maintenance of racehorses with an eye on careers as trainers or assistant trainers, riders,

or farm jobs. On any given morning students will apply poultices or bandages and then help van a racehorse to nearby Finger Lakes Casino & Racetrack and gallop him, cool him out, and van him back to the barn at the college before hitting a textbook in the afternoon.

Steven Campbell graduated from the Thoroughbred program six years ago, and since then he has taken out

owner, trainer, and exercise rider licenses at Finger Lakes. He credits Morrisville with having helped him obtain a variety of skills.

"It is such a well-rounded program," Campbell said. "You have the hands-on aspect and the classroom portion, and then applying all that under the direction of an experienced teacher like Dr. Cranwell."



Morrisville students in the winner's circle with Hot Idea after his maiden win at Finger Lakes; Assistant professor Dr. Clyde Cranwell (above)

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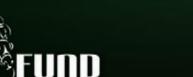
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				Stakes	Rstrct				Cumulative		
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Wnrs/ Wns	SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	BLUEGRASS CAT (03, Storm Cat), Vinery New York at Sugar Maple	\$15,000	209/108	8/9	1/8	(Percussion, \$279,800)	\$4,914,657	*383	17	1.37	2.05
2	FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$10,000	142/73	9/13	6/9	(Effie Trinket, \$331,300)	\$4,566,072	*476	35	1.77	1.25
3	POSSE (00, Silver Deputy), Vinery New York at Sugar Maple	\$12,500	159/99	4/5	2/4	(In the Fairway, \$114,334)	\$3,546,817	*497	20	1.41	1.39
4	EL CORREDOR (97, Mr. Greeley), Questroyal North	\$7,500	157/66	4/6	2/4	(Little Ms Protocol, \$204,500)	\$2,372,890	*918	34	1.24	1.53
5	BOB AND JOHN (03, Seeking the Gold), McMahon of Saratoga Tbreds	\$6,000	95/60	3/3	1/3	(Brothersofthetime, \$112,300)	\$2,170,178	*160	7	1.02	1.43
6	UTOPIA (JPN) (00, Forty Niner), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	103/46	2/2	2/2	(Sally's Dream, \$216,732)	\$2,088,094	198	5	1.12	1.30
7	CONGAREE (98, Arazi), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$7,500	85/45	4/7	0/4	(Don't Tell Sophia, \$302,208)	\$1,881,524	*285	14	1.36	1.46
8	ALPHABET SOUP (91, Cozzene), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$6,000	95/49	5/7	1/5	(Egg Drop, \$298,980)	\$1,781,183	*797	47	1.24	1.36
9	POMEROY (01, Boundary), Vinery New York at Sugar Maple	\$5,000	89/48	4/5	0/4	(Brooklyn Cowboy, \$114,505)	\$1,669,386	*201	8	1.17	1.33
10	CATIENUS (94, Storm Cat), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	104/58	0/0	0/0	(Glamour Puss, \$86,130)	\$1,392,678	*518	26	1.16	1.29
11	TOUCH GOLD (94, Deputy Minister), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$7,500	109/51	0/0	0/0	(Sola Gratia, \$80,166)	\$1,268,540	*811	31	1.25	1.95
12	DISCO RICO (97, Citidancer), Keane Stud Operations	\$5,000	57/26	0/0	0/0	(Vicki's Dancer, \$141,050)	\$1,257,849	235	8	1.30	1.22
13	GOLDEN MISSILE (95, A.P. Indy), Milfer Farm	\$3,500	77/43	0/0	0/0	(Estrada's Girl, \$162,081)	\$1,228,010	*605	15	1.07	1.57
14	FROST GIANT (03, Giant's Causeway), Keane Stud Operations	\$7,500	32/12	2/4	2/2	(West Hills Giant, \$231,996)	\$1,203,380	*78	3	2.27	1.17
15	NOBLE CAUSEWAY (02, Giant's Causeway), Sequel Stallions New York	N/A	89/44	0/0	0/0	(How Convenient, \$75,790)	\$1,202,456	168	2	0.66	1.08
16	STONESIDER (03, Giant's Causeway), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	N/A	44/18	2/2	2/2	(Stock Fund, \$179,200)	\$1,192,718	121	2	1.02	1.19
17	POLLARD'S VISION (01, Carson City), Waldorf Farm	\$5,000	82/32	2/3	1/2	(Got Shades, \$134,123)	\$1,148,896	*299	15	1.59	1.31
18	TEUFLESBERG (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	35/21	3/4	1/3	(Logan's Peak, \$130,077)	\$1,108,936	62	4	2.14	1.24
19	HERE'S ZEALOUS (97, Dehere), Kaz Hill Farm	\$3,000	52/28	0/0	0/0	(Flying Zealous, \$126,050)	\$1,093,526	162	0	0.79	0.96
20	SUNRIVER (03, Saint Ballado)	ied, 2009	58/26	1/1	0/1	(Suilleabhain, \$98,508)	\$990,764	107	3	1.07	1.44

2013 Leading Sires in Maryland

				Stakes	Rstrct				Cumu	lative	
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Wnrs/ Wns	SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ORIENTATE (98, Mt. Livermore), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	176/87	8/10	2/8	(Great Hot, \$180,960)	\$3,324,541	*714	38	1.34	1.81
2	NOT FOR LOVE (90, Mr. Prospector), Northview Stallion Station	\$15,000	126/55	2/3	1/2	(Eighttofasttocatch, \$234,155)	\$2,406,849	848	74	1.73	1.45
3	DANCE WITH RAVENS (02, A.P. Indy), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	110/51	1/1	1/1	(Maddy's Dance, \$153,140)	\$2,147,028	284	9	1.23	1.48
4	OUTFLANKER (94, Danzig), Shamrock Farm	\$3,000	66/33	2/2	1/2	(Javerre, \$199,034)	\$1,558,796	*481	22	1.40	1.16
5	GREAT NOTION (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,500	54/24	3/4	2/3	(Havelock, \$154,023)	\$1,436,943	144	8	1.67	1.24
6	LION HEARTED (96, Storm Cat), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	97/43	0/0	0/0	(Irish Lion, \$80,250)	\$1,313,320	*529	20	1.25	1.32
7	TWO PUNCH (83, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2011	68/30	1/3	0/1	(Bold Affair, \$195,000)	\$1,185,646	*1090	56	1.44	1.41
8	LOUIS QUATORZE (93, Sovereign Dancer), Murmur Farm	\$3,000	68/34	1/2	0/1	(Ribo Bobo, \$197,435)	\$1,156,936	*924	24	1.15	1.36
9	ROCK SLIDE (98, A.P. Indy), Shamrock Farm	\$2,500	58/26	1/1	0/1	(Pass You Bye Bye, \$110,080)	\$1,040,391	234	7	1.05	1.23
10	SCIPION (02, A.P. Indy), Murmur Farm	\$3,000	42/22	0/0	0/0	(Pitch N Roll, \$125,605)	\$967,734	77	2	1.17	1.10



Corinthian's Lark with students: Heather Abbey (left) and Colleen Fox (holding the horse)

Clyde Cranwell is the assistant professor in charge of the college's Thoroughbred program, which is home to 30 of the 300 or so students that are engaged in equine majors. Cranwell's pedigree includes a grandfather who trained Thoroughbreds in Nebraska starting in the 1940s, and a father who still does so at age 74. A biology major in college, Cranwell ended up working on a horse farm and then took some horses to the racetrack.

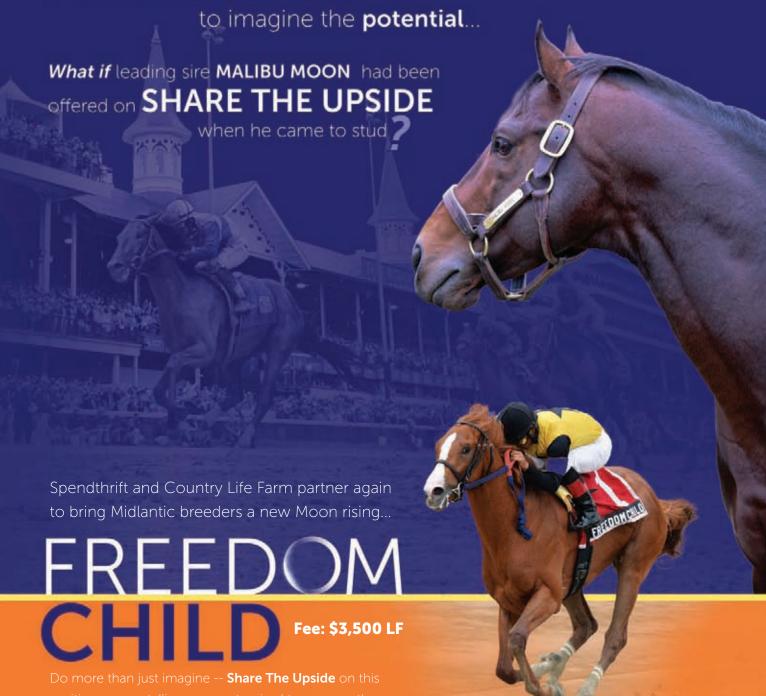
"For a while I thought I was the smartest guy on the planet, winning races with first-time starters," he said. "But then everything went wrong-shins, stifles, you name it. I barely had enough to pay the feed man, so I decided to go to graduate school."

Cranwell, who had worked for the University of Nebraska before moving to New York, began at Morrisville in 2006 and brought with him the pragmatic experience of life at the racetrack and the farm. And his goal is equally as pragmatic: to de-

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions exported prior to the 2009 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. All available statistics listed for the Northern Hemisphere through November 3, 2013. As supplied to *The Blood-Horse* by The Jockey Club Information Systems, Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race.)

*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00; COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.

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2013 Leading Sires in Pennsylvania

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				Stakes	Rstrct				Cumu	lative	
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Wnrs/ Wns	SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ROCKPORT HARBOR (02, Unbridled's Song), Pin Oak Lane Farm	Died, 2013	213/123	12/16	3/12	(Ria Antonia, \$1,156,140)	\$5,991,054	355	21	1.35	1.49
2	E DUBAI (98, Mr. Prospector), Northview PA	\$7,500	187/103	3/4	0/3	(Fort Larned, \$790,086)	\$4,396,143	*742	31	1.38	1.24
3	WISEMAN'S FERRY (99, Hennessy), Dana Point Farm	\$5,000	69/40	2/7	0/2	(Wise Dan, \$2,751,972)	\$4,006,756	*269	6	1.72	1.07
4	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy), Northview PA	\$10,000	138/79	9/13	2/9	(Prayer for Relief, \$385,681)	\$3,845,046	*656	36	1.56	1.35
5	SMARTY JONES (01, Elusive Quality), Northview PA	\$7,500	122/68	7/9	0/7	(Better Life, \$678,635)	\$3,566,351	*365	22	1.70	2.20
6	SILVER TRAIN (02, Old Trieste), Northview PA	\$5,000	166/93	3/3	0/3	(Ogermeister, \$102,491)	\$2,998,020	*304	13	1.07	1.36
7	OFFLEE WILD (00, Wild Again), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$4,000	103/52	4/7	0/4	(Hogy, \$339,500)	\$2,138,656	*278	9	1.32	1.29
8	PETIONVILLE (92, Seeking the Gold), Penn Ridge Farms	\$6,000	97/46	2/3	1/2	(Tomorrow's Tale, \$125,365)	\$1,637,726	*647	46	1.35	1.24
9	REAL QUIET (95, Quiet American)	Died, 2010	69/30	2/3	1/2	(Norman Asbjornson, \$191,750)	\$1,347,587	*623	15	1.20	1.24
10	FAIRBANKS (03, Giant's Causeway), Northview PA	\$4,500	62/27	1/1	0/1	(Synapse, \$100,200)	\$1,284,979	106	1	0.94	1.38
11	EUROSILVER (01, Unbridled's Song), Penn Ridge Farms	\$3,500	83/35	0/0	0/0	(Blues and Silvers, \$149,960)	\$1,160,134	*290	7	0.97	1.34
12	ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$2,500	55/32	0/0	0/0	(Chicharito, \$157,450)	\$1,148,808	*345	9	1.15	1.16
13	TRAJECTORY (97, Gone West), Mountain Springs Racing Stable	N/A	69/25	1/1	1/1	(Line of Best Fit, \$143,364)	\$1,067,743	353	14	1.12	1.35
14	LOVE OF MONEY (01, Not For Love), Northview PA	Died, 2012	54/25	0/0	0/0	(Lexi's Pal, \$75,604)	\$1,047,838	99	2	1.10	1.24
15	MEDALLIST (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$2,500	48/27	1/4	0/1	(Horizontalyspeakin, \$91,810)	\$985,948	165	6	1.32	1.46

velop a workforce for the racing industry in the state of New York.

Graduates have found jobs as assistant trainers, farriers, exercise riders, and sales associates. Some have even hung out their own shingles to train racehorses.

"At orientation every year I get asked by parents, 'Can these kids get jobs?' "Cranwell said. "And I tell them that in this business, if I can tell an employer that this kid will show up early, work hard to do everything right, and stay late if they need to, there will be a job."

from horsemen around the state such as Joe McMahon of McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, Dan Barraclough of Saratoga Glen Farm, and Albert Fried Jr. of Buttonwood Farm. Young horses are broken at the equine facility on campus and then taken to Finger Lakes or other tracks in the region to race under the Morrisville Stable banner, with Cranwell the trainer of record. Thus, the program generates a large percentage of its operating revenue. In addition to breaking and racing horses, the college stands a handto see the track come to fruition.

Students are involved in every phase of the horses' development on a daily basis. Mirroring life on the racetrack, students arrive at the equine facility at 6:30 every morning and are handling horses from 7-11, with a couple of afternoon lecture periods during the week.

'Most of what we do is laboratorybased, hands-on learning," said Cranwell. "Each student has a horse to take care of, and some upperclassmen have two if we're breaking horses. Everything we do is geared to getting these kids ready to be a racetrack employee. I try and take a straight-down-the-middle approach on procedures: This is how you wrap legs. This is how you poultice a horse. Hopefully when they leave here and go into the industry, they are aware of how things happen in a race barn and will be aware of other philosophies that exist out there as well. I don't tell them what's right and wrong; I tell them you do it the way the person who's signing your paycheck wants it done."

In addition to traditional treatments Morrisville students also get acquainted with new equipment and methods of helping keep horses sound. The program has two magnetic blankets that are used on the backs and legs of horses. They use Game Ready pressure and cooling systems for the legs and also low-level lasers for laser therapy.

"We try to think outside the box a little bit so the students are prepared to go into a stable that uses upper-tier equipment, in addition to being trained in all the traditional ways horses are cared for at the racetrack," Cranwell said.

The professor continued, "Anyone can train a sound horse, but we're dealing with horses for the most part that have been cast off by other people. What's bad about our program is that we have horses with lots of problems; what's good about our program is students are going to see those problems and have to deal with them.

'There are two kinds of racehorses: those that are unsound and those that



Students are trained in a broad range of technologies so they can step into any job

Morrisville's Equine Racing Management school, which is unaffiliated with the testing laboratory, has its own degree programs, where students can opt for an associate of applied science two-year program or a bachelors of technology four-year program, which was the first four-year degree offered and put in place at Morrisville. Students can choose from multiple disciplines—western, hunt seat, draft horses, breeding, Standardbreds, or Thoroughbreds.

Cranwell will buy the spare yearling at public auction and also receives stock ful of Standardbred horses and holds its own yearling sale, where the average has hit \$10,000.

The Thoroughbred side uses a 31-stall barn along with a large indoor riding arena where horses are trained and ridden. Another building houses an equine swimming pool, underwater treadmill, and cold water spa, all part of a recently developed curriculum in equine rehabilitation. A half-mile training track was on the planning board until the economic downturn hit and capital projects were frozen throughout the state, but Cranwell hopes

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2013 Leading Sires in New Jersey

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				Stakes	Rstrct				Cumı	ılative	
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Wnrs/ Wns	SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	DEFRERE (92, Deputy Minister), Walnford Stud	\$1,500	64/28	0/0	0/0	(Peri Whan, \$111,840)	\$1,185,779	*562	22	1.24	1.19
2	2 DON SIX (00, Wild Escapade), Greenfields Farm	\$2,500	30/15	2/2	1/2	(Saucy Don, \$93,565)	\$656,319	67	2	1.20	1.22
3	B MO MON (98, Maria's Mon)	Died, 2011	31/12	1/1	1/1	(Elba, \$113,185)	\$535,202	122	3	0.79	1.18
4	UNBRIDLED JET (96, Unbridled)	Died, 2011	21/9	1/1	1/1	(Pinot Grigio, \$95,124)	\$424,257	*250	9	1.04	1.23
5	PRIVATE INTERVIEW (92, Nureyev), Colonial Farms	\$1,000	16/7	0/0	0/0	(Tactical Saenz, \$79,925)	\$231,354	219	4	1.10	1.23

2013 Leading Sires in West Virginia

				Stakes	Rstrct				Guillu	Idlive	
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Wnrs/ Wns	SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	LIMEHOUSE (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms LLC	\$3,500	124/70	6/11	1/6	(Sandy'z Slew, \$102,073)	\$2,372,523	*308	16	1.25	1.26
2	WINDSOR CASTLE (98, Lord Carson), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$3,000	73/36	2/6	2/2	(Down Town Allen, \$113,860)	\$1,326,217	179	9	1.21	1.15
3	LUFTIKUS (96, Meadowlake), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$2,500	56/24	2/3	2/2	(Blisstikus, \$107,335)	\$979,439	261	9	1.02	1.10
4	FIBER SONDE (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	20/13	1/2	1/1	(Hidden Canyon, \$109,005)	\$567,096	34	2	1.39	0.74
5	BOP (97, Rahy)	Died, 2012	39/14	0/0	0/0	(Bomber, \$70,790)	\$515,827	*148	5	1.02	0.92

will be someday. I'm amazed how quickly students pick up on lameness problems by watching horses go or by riding them. They're very astute."

Said Morrisville graduate Campbell, "When I started training myself, I was prepared thanks to the experience of working around the barn. Working with the horses, seeing them, and having your hands on them, was a huge help. And Dr. Cranwell has always been there for me whenever I call to ask about a problem I'm seeing with a horse."

Much like what they will experience in racetrack life, students know going in that the hours they put into learning go beyond traditional time schedules. Each is required to work five weekends per semester, and they have the option of working over holidays as well, receiving compensation for holiday work. "They might as well know up front if they're going to be working with something that lives and breathes, it's a 365day responsibility," Cranwell noted.

A large part of what students learn comes from receiving young horses and taking them through the lengthy process of getting them fit and ready to race. Cranwell, throughout his career, has won 17 races from 128 starts, hitting at a respectable 13% clip. He has a positive return on investment and the horses he has trained have earned \$201,175 in purse money through Oct. 17.

"Every horse that we've started here in this region, our students have had their hands on," he said. "It's very euphoric for us when we win. Our best day was when we took a filly and a mare to Presque Isle. The filly broke her maiden and the mare ran second. That was like Christmas. I'm not sure we'll have another day where we put \$35,000 in the bank. What keeps us going is hoping that happens again.

"But I tell the students up front that if you're an owner or a trainer or a jockey in this business and you're winning at a 20% rate, you're considered very successful. But that rate of success will get you fired in just about every other vocation in the world."

Four-year students in the Thoroughbred program will have taken several courses in equine nutrition, a breeding class, and an exercise physiology class. In addition, they are required to do a 15-week



internship out in the real world. Along with nutrition and physiology, Cranwell also stresses the business side of running a stable. Students are tasked with developing a business plan for their own hypothetical business operation, taking into account salaries for their help, the cost of feed, and such items as social security and workers' compensation payments. Having totaled their expenses, they must establish a day rate and a plan for cash flow.

'When they're starting out, they're probably not going to get their owners to pay their bills in return mail," said Cranwell. "They have to be prepared to go 60-90 days with a lot of clients. It's an eyeopener for them."

Graduates of the Morrisville program have found jobs in all corners of the industry, including working for trainers such as Michael Matz and Eddie Plesa Jr., and for leading farms such as WinStar and Ashford Stud. Cranwell said that the success of his program comes in no small part from the cooperation of Finger Lakes, which is located about a two-hour van ride west, near Rochester.

"I can't have a racing program where we just do our own thing here at the school and show them the film 'Seabiscuit' and take them on a tour of the Saratoga backside and then kick them out into the world," said Cranwell, "The racetrack is its own universe with its rules, written and unwritten. Without the support of Finger Lakes giving us stalls every summer for our summer program and then allowing us to ship in to breeze and race once school starts, I could not run this program and do it the way it should be done. They have been phenomenal in working with us."

For those that have been bitten by the horse racing bug, or for those young people who might wonder if it is for them, the Morrisville programs give them not just a taste, but the full flavor of what life around horses truly entails. If students have trouble rising with the bugle and being able to get to work at dawn, they know right away they might as well seek another profession. But if they come through their training with full marks, they can also be confident that there is the potential for a long and satisfying career doing something they love.

"My grandfather trained his whole life. My dad is still training into his 70s," said Cranwell. "I warn the students that this racetrack business is a narcotic-strength addiction; once you get it you're going to have a hard time letting go of it. They can just look at me. I left and did a Masters and a Ph.D., and I landed right back in the middle of it again." BH