

## INTERCOLLEGIATE CORNER - CLEMSON UNIVERSITY



The Clemson Intercollegiate Eventing Team was founded in 2004 by Laurie (Brown) Mays and Tanya (Bruce) Thomas. The team is proud of the many fundraisers they run throughout the year that allow team members the opportunities to participate in clinics, have decreased show rates, as well as a team trip to the Kentucky Three-Day Event. Clemson has a barn for their IHSA team, but the eventing team trains with a variety of trainers in Clemson, Aiken, and Tryon. The team has the advantage of being within a few hours of a variety of bigger venues including those in Aiken, Southern Pines, Tryon, and Atlanta.

The team currently has twenty members ranging in levels from Starter to 3-Star. Several team members kindly shared some of their team experiences. McKenna Honeycutt said, "My favorite part about being on the team is being able to form friendships with people who all share common interests and goals!"

Sarah Moorshead shared what makes the team unique. She said, “Our team is really good at making everyone feel included, regardless of experience with eventing or if they have a horse at Clemson. We offer a non-rider membership and plenty of opportunities for non-riders to participate in club activities beyond just team trials. I think our team's efforts to include everyone, regardless of experience and ability to compete, is what makes us unique from other collegiate teams. It has also made us much closer as a team, because we have all spent time getting to know each other outside of the barn and competitions.”

Avery Spagnolo kindly shared how the team has shaped her college experience as a whole. She shared, “This team has helped me develop relationships with other eventers my age while being in a new town, at a brand new school, and even in a new eventing area. It was so nice to be surrounded by people that understood the sometimes struggle of balancing school and horses/competing. It was a great support group to have and just a really positive environment to be in and enjoy the sport. It made my freshman year college experience super fulfilling and I can't wait for next year!”

Rianna Jefferson's favorite part of team challenges is, "When I get the opportunity to watch my teammates compete. I love seeing everyone put their heart and sweat towards something we all love and be able to showcase their amazing abilities and hard work. It never matters if we get first place or last place, but having the opportunity to be there with the team and show my love and support brings me so much joy. Our team works super hard all year round, and seeing your teammates on the rail ready for you to walk out of the ring means something more than I could put into words.”

Clemson's Eventing Team plans to make an appearance at 2024 champs. As the winners of the 2017 championship, Clemson will be trying to reclaim the top honors in the Spring.