



## RIDER SPOTLIGHT: ALEXA DUNCAN



**Alexa Duncan grew up in Connecticut and that's when the horse bug got her. She started riding fourteen years ago and rode at the same barn from her up/down lessons all the way until she left for college. As for many horse-crazy girls, horses were influential in her college choice. She came to Aiken to go to USC-Aiken and brought her horse Trouble with her. That is when she started her intercollegiate career and began riding with Sarah Kuhn. Alexa says, "I feel like I've grown a lot as both a rider and horse person in my time spent here."**

**She started working for Sarah too and eventually became her head groom. After graduating last December, Alexa started grad school. She has also begun working towards a career outside of horses, while still working for Sarah on the side.**

**Alexa shares, "Working for Sarah is definitely one of the best decisions I've ever made! Sarah really helped me take my riding to a new level. On a day to day we run a busy operation, from getting the young horses ready to be their best to getting her upper level FEI horses ready to go for competition. I am very lucky to get to work along side and learn from some of the best professionals (farriers and vets) in the industry here at Sarah's that allows me to take my work to new levels."**

**Not only has Alexa's time at USC-Aiken allowed her to get to ride and work for Sarah, it also allowed her to be apart of an Intercollegiate Eventing Team. While, Alexa graduated last December she was still able to ride at Champs this spring. The USC-Aiken Team comprised of herself, Sydney Shinn, Carson Langenberg, and Heidi Gyselinck won on their score of 89.709. When asked about this experience Alexa says, "Winning the intercollegiate championship was bittersweet. I couldn't ask for a better way to end my college years alongside some lovely hard working teammates. The love and support the team has received from the Aiken community since is surreal. Everything from cakes to state highway signs and galas celebrating our win! I think that these are the characteristics that make Aiken so special and why I am so lucky to call it home! Again, I'm very grateful to Sarah for allowing me the ride on her Ringfort K Special at the championships, I wouldn't have been able to participate without her!"**

**While Alexa isn't an Intercollegiate member anymore, she is looking forward to champs coming to Stable View. She shares, "I love Stable View!!! Since coming down here Stable View has been an integral part in my competing. Everything from taking our young green horses, preparing for the intercollegiate championships, to riding in the A shows! Aiken is so lucky to have such a world class facility!"**