



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004

WELCOME

Dr. Robert Collier, Head, Department of Animal Sciences
Doug Reed, Director, University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program

MR. DOUG REED: Good morning, everybody. And welcome to Tucson. Welcome to the 31st Annual Symposium on Racing. Can't believe we're ready to kick off another one. It seems like — I think this is probably telling on myself, but each one of these come up quicker and quicker for some reason.

I look up and here it is December, and it just seems like years go by a little faster, which — I don't know if that's a good sign or not.

First of all, I want to thank everyone that participated last night. If you just got in, we had a great event last night. It was something new we tried, a charity casino night for the student scholarships, and I think a lot of people had a lot of fun.

But I want to thank all of you in the audience and everyone else that's not here that participated last night. We hope that you had a good time.

But we also thank you for participating in the event because the proceeds of that event go to our students and their scholarships. So thank you very much for participating.

I want to thank our sponsors from last night as well. We had many, many table sponsors, we had many sponsors of gifts or prizes for the night; thank all of you. Also I want to thank the Nevada Pari-Mutuel Association for the entertainment, the magician and mind reader that was going around.

I want to thank Mountaineer Park for the buffet, also for the cocktails. Daily Racing Form and Delaware North Companies Gaming and Entertainment; Delaware North just changed their name and cost me a little bit more in my budget on the thing. You guys have got too long of a name.

And we also want to thank IGT for their sponsorship of the charity casino night.

So thank you all very much, because it is your help that makes this event a success for the University of Arizona and the Race Track Industry Program, because without all of you attending and all the sponsors we couldn't have the programs that we have for the students.

Also, mentioning the students, I want to let you know that last night's event was 90 percent run by the students. And they did one heck of a job. They got the prizes, they worked on the details, they were out there on the floor working, getting some practical experience in customer service and running gaming.

So please give the students a round of applause for the great work they did.

(Applause)

Also I want to thank the faculty and staff certainly, and this year especially Wendy Davis, Steve Barham, Betty Prewitt and Leslie Johnston have been pretty much running this show.

I've had other items that I've been working on that are critical to the program, I hope, and so I focused a lot of my attention on some other efforts that I hope next year will bear fruit. I will stand up here at this time next year and tell you about some new programs that we're working on to elevate the Program to a new level.

Also, I want to let you know that just in October, about the end of October, we officially got all the courses approved so that the Race Track Industry Program in the Department of Animal Sciences will be able to offer a master's degree. We've always had the bachelor's degree, we now get to elevate that Program, and I'm very excited to make that announcement. We'll need to start publicizing that after we get this even over. We've had to focus all of our attention the past few weeks to this.

One other promise I want to make you is I would recommend any of you that are golfers, that you wait until later in the week; you sit in and listen to the great speakers we have early in the week, get your tee times for the afternoons, and I hear the weather's going to get a lot better as the week progresses.

Now I'd like to introduce my boss, the head of the Animal Science Department. And many of you have seen Bob here for the past several years, and Bob has been a great supporter of our Program and he's done a great job with running the Animal Science Department. So Bob Collier, please come up, and please welcome Dr. Bob Collier.

(Applause)

DR. ROBERT COLLIER: Thank you, Doug. And I want to echo Doug's comments on welcoming everyone here to the 31st Annual Symposium on Racing. We're especially proud of the Race Track Program in the Animal Sciences Department. It's a great example of how to run a program successfully over a long period of time.

In fact, it not only serves as a model for our other programs in the Animal Sciences Department but also in the college. In fact, the business courses that the RTIP program has produced for the college have been a real model on how to bring more business training into the College of Agriculture.

Also want to thank again the participants last night as well as the donors. This money goes towards our students and the whole Program, and this Symposium is built around furthering the involvement of those students, and also want to remind everyone that the profiles of these students are in your packet; 36 students who are a very high quality group of individuals.

We're very proud they're here and happy to work with them. We think it's a honor to have this kind of program that not only serves the racing industry here in the U.S. but also worldwide. So I know Doug and Wendy and Steve have put a great program together.

I'm sure that you're all going to enjoy discussing the timely issues in the racing industry, and I'll turn it program back to Doug to introduce the first session. Doug?

(Applause)



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RACE TRACK INDUSTRY PROGRAM**