

## Meet the 2012 USDF Youth Convention Scholarship Winners!

### *Annan Hepner*



Annan is nineteen years old and lives in Charlottesville, Virginia where she competes at Third Level. She is an active board member of the Shenandoah Valley Dressage Association as well as the secretary of the Charlottesville GMO Chapter. Annan co-founded the Virginia Eventing and Dressage Team, a club sport at the University of Virginia, where she is pursuing a double major in Foreign Affairs/Media Studies and a minor in Environmental Science. On top of having a full academic schedule, she is the groom for her trainer's FEI horses and works at a nearby dressage facility.

### *Sophie Nasrullah*

Sophie Nasrullah is fourteen years old and lives in Louisville, Colorado. She is an active member of the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society and Boulder Valley Dressage. She regularly volunteers her time at competitions and events for both organizations. She is currently competing at Second Level, and is the two-time USDF Region 5 Dressage Seat Equitation Medal Champion. Sophie is a part-time working student for her trainer. She is also a member of both the National Junior Honor Society and the USEF High School Equestrian Athlete Program.



## Emily Layeski



Emily is twenty years old and lives in O'Fallon, Illinois. She is currently a full-time college student at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) who is majoring in Geography. Emily has successfully competed through Second Level with Friedensfest, an Oldenburg mare. Both Emily and Friedensfest have won numerous awards from USDF, SLADS, and Centerline in the past. In the 2009 USDF Art Contest, Emily won 2nd Place for her written work called *Dressage - A Bond So Strong*. With the help of her instructor, Emily hopes to earn her Bronze Medal in 2013.

## Ayden Uhlir

Ayden is seventeen years old and recently relocated to Kirkland, Washington to further her dressage training. She is an active member of the Friesian, Arabian, and Dutch Warmblood Associations. Ayden and her horse Sjapoer represented Region 9 in the 2012 North American Junior & Young Rider Championships and won Individual Gold, as well as Freestyle and Team Bronze. The biggest moment for Ayden this year came when she was awarded the Dressage Spirit Award. When she's not riding, Ayden volunteers her time to a variety of charities.

