

## **Jessica Phoenix**

Horses have always been a part of Jessica Phoenix's life, and since her discovery of the sport of eventing this Uxbridge, Ontario daughter has not been shy of opportunities to convert her passion into benchmark experiences. The 28-year-old Cannington, Ont., resident has garnered international acclaim for her historic individual gold-medal finish at the 2011 Pan American Games in Mexico, which led Team Canada to a silver-medal win. In January, Phoenix was named Equestrian of the Year by Equine Canada, a prestigious award given to a rider who has gone above and beyond all expectations, consistently ranking at the top of his or her sport and giving back to the community.

Though joining us as a guest speaker in Equine Exercise Physiology this Fall will be a first for her, the role of teacher is certainly nothing new to Jessica; As well as schooling her own stable of horses, she has extensive experience coaching riders of all levels, in the eventing, dressage, and jumper disciplines. And soon Jessica will have the benefit of another thrilling experience to share with her students, as she and her mount Exponential have recently been named to the Canadian Olympic Eventing Team. For Jessica, representing Canada at the London 2012 Olympics is an honour and privilege long dreamed of, and one which will surely help her as a teacher: "Competing and winning gold for Canada has always been my dream. As a profession I teach and train riders and horses allowing me to connect from the grass roots right up to the highest level of competition. I feel that by realizing my own dream I can best help Canadian Equestrians of the future reach theirs!"