

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY engineering professor Dr. Michal Okoniewski, right, will lead an innovative, \$2.5-million bioengineering research program aimed at advancing biomedical research. Metro Calgary



AMONG OTHER THINGS, the research will focus on a chip with the same capacity as Nuclear Magnetic Resonance machines, commonly used for MRI diagnostic machines. Metro Calgary

Students saddle up to learn from equine teachers



metro

In business, people can be pushy, overbearing and just downright hard to communicate with — but they're nothing compared to the four-legged farm animals who rule the boardroom in Balzac.

Morgan Mallett was just one of the near dozen people who took part yesterday in a new course called From Horse Sense to People Smarts, being offered jointly by the University of Calgary and The Natural Leader group.

The unique, one-day, seminar takes place just north of Calgary at the Wet Creek Stables in the town of Balzac, and its purpose is to teach



THEHERSA TAYLER/METRO CALGARY

Morgan Mallett, a 25-year-old graphic design and marketing specialist, was being led to greener pastures by a more-than-inquisitive horse yesterday in Balzac.

people how to improve their communication, relationship, and overall leadership skills by working with horses.

"Horses will, literally, push you around a bit if you aren't assertive with them," says Mallett, a 25-year-old

graphic design and marketing specialist.

According to Elizabeth Scott, program director of

business and professional programs at the U of C, this is exactly what the program is designed for.

"It's about building relationships," says Scott. "Horses work well to teach this because they have a certain mystique and appeal — everyone seems to have a story about an incident they've had with a horse, whether it's being bucked off or some other kind of encounter. Horses are animals that people seem to have a lot of respect for."

Scott says the program will run a few times a year and anyone is eligible to sign up.

To book the seminar for your organization, or to be put on a waiting list for the next public offering, call 220-2988.