

WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

Congratulations to our 39 newly minted Equine Science and Management grads! See their profiles and photos.

The third annual Horsey Hustle 5K, hosted by the UK Ag Equine Programs Wildcat Wrangler equine ambassador team, was held April 14 at Coldstream Park in Lexington.

The Spring 2024 Equine Science and Management Internship Showcase was held April 16 on the UK campus and showcased the internship experiences and professional growth by students within the program.



HIGHLIGHTS



CONGRATULATIONS GRADS!

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UK Ag Equine Programs hosted its traditional graduation reception May 2 at the E.S. Good Barn, recognizing the program's 39 graduates and presenting them with their equine cords.

HORSEY HUSTLE 5K HELD APRIL 14

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The third annual Horsey Hustle 5K, hosted by the UK Ag Equine Programs Wildcat Wrangler equine ambassador team, was held April 14 at Coldstream Park in Lexington. The event drew 112 runners and walkers and raised more than \$6,000 for the program's Student Experience and Applied Education Fund, which benefits equine student enrichment opportunities.



INTERNSHIP SHOWCASE HIGHLIGHTS STUDENT PROFESSIONALISM

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The Spring 2024 Equine Science and Management Internship Showcase was held April 16 in the Agricultural Science Center on the University of Kentucky's campus. The event showcased the internship experiences and professional growth by students within the program.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Full event listings and details can be found [here](#).

WELCOME

Working for UK Ag Equine Programs has provided me with many great learning opportunities and unique experiences. This internship allowed me to learn graphic design, have my work published in newsletters, improve my communication skills and provide resources for the program that will hopefully have a lasting impact. I really enjoyed my time working in the Equine Office and I will miss the amazing individuals that have helped throughout my internship.



Being a communication and student relations intern was my first time having an office job, but it was an amazing opportunity that provided me with lots of room for growth. There was much to learn but I feel that I have gained many skills that will make me a better employee within the equine industry in the future. I am very appreciative of the help I have received from the other employees in the equine office throughout my time there. Every step of the way they were there to support me and help me no matter what.

I have really enjoyed getting to connect with students interested in the program, working with other Equine Programs' employees, creating resources and attending events with the program. Both in the office and over the phone, I was able to connect with other equine students or potential students, which was a great way to connect with my community.

I have also found that I enjoy graphic design, which is a skill I have never worked with before. After learning that it is something I surprisingly really enjoy, I was able to expand upon it and build up a skill that can benefit me in future endeavors. Utilizing Adobe InDesign and Illustrator, I have been able to create graphics for the program and this has been a lot of fun and allowed me to be creative. I have specifically liked working on the profiles that get sent out in program newsletters, including alumni profiles and internship profiles. It has been interesting learning about others' equine journeys and being able to share their stories with our equine community. This internship really allowed me to express myself through my work and it has been fun to be so creative.

While I will miss working for the UK Ag Equine Programs, I am excited for what I will do next. This summer I am going back home to Virginia to work and spend time with my friends and family. Then, when I come back to school in the fall, my plan is to work a job that will allow me to gain more experience in the veterinary field. My internship has helped me strengthen skills that will be very beneficial when it comes time for me to apply to vet school. And while not directly related to veterinary medicine, this internship has allowed me to prepare for a job in the veterinary field in many ways, which I am very grateful for. I am appreciative of all that I have learned and experienced during my time in the equine office, and I look forward to utilizing the skills I have gained here in my future endeavors.

BROOKE MORFIT
ESMA CLASS OF '25



MASTHEAD

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Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Equine Programs

N212 Ag Sciences Building North
Lexington, KY 40546-0091
Office: (859) 257-2226
equine@uky.edu
www.uky.edu/equine

Graphic design by Sabrina Jacobs

Cover photo by Holly Wiemers

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DRESSAGE TEAM

Advisor: Jill Stowe, jill.stowe@uky.edu
President: Elizabeth Alderson,
elizabeth.alderson@uky.edu
OfficialUKDressageTeam@gmail.com
Facebook: University of Kentucky Dressage Team

EQUESTRIAN TEAM, IHSA

Advisor: Meghan Wulster-Radcliffe,
meghan.wulster-radcliffe@uky.edu

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Uk.equestrianteam@gmail.com
Facebook: UKY Equestrian Team

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President: Emily Carstens,
Ukwesternequestrian@gmail.com
Facebook: UKY Western IHSA Team

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President: Kate McGown
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Facebook: UK Eventing

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wildcatukpolo@gmail.com
Facebook: U of Kentucky Polo

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Advisor: Maggie Maynard,
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President: Aubree McIntosh,
ukrodeoteam@gmail.com
Facebook: UKY Rodeo Team

SADDLE SEAT TEAM

Advisor: Mary Rossano, mary.rossano@uky.edu
President: Ella Hampton,
uksaddleseatteam@gmail.com
Facebook: UKY Saddleseat Team

In addition to this publication, UK Ag Equine Programs has other reads in its publication stable. Check out the latest issues of the [Equine Science Review](#) or the [Graduate Gallop](#) or subscribe [here](#).



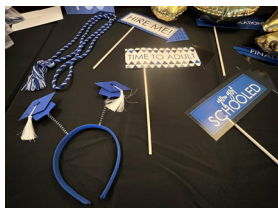
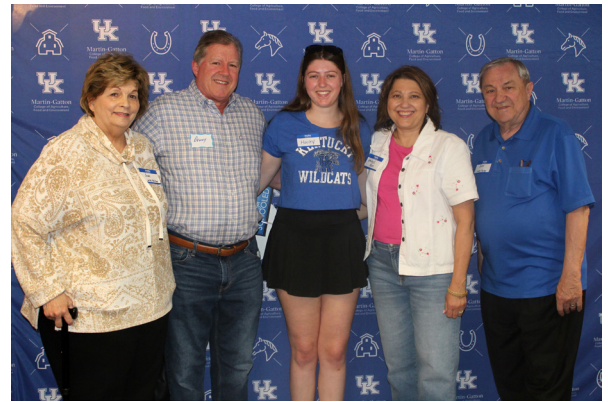
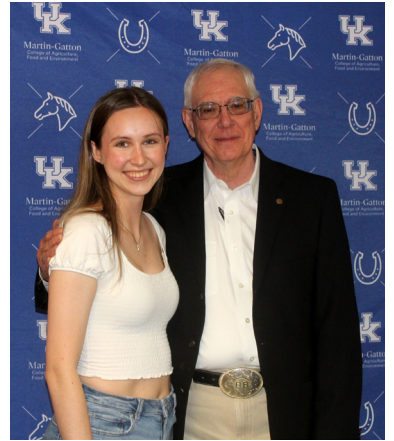
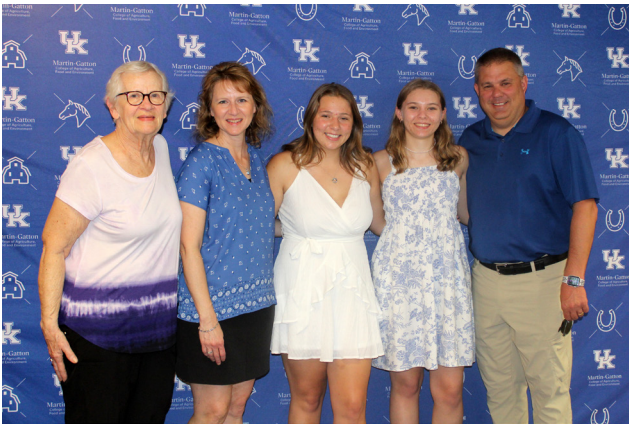
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 39 NEWLY MINTED EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT GRADS!

photos by Holly Wiemers



UK Ag Equine Programs hosted its traditional graduation reception May 2 at the E.S. Good Barn, recognizing the program's 39 graduates and presenting them with their equine cords.







Check Out Our Newest Wildcat Alumni!

Breanna Amerine	Megan Gache	Taylor Nackers
Ariel Baldon	Lily Gerstenzang	Olivia Nunez
Sydney Barnett	Harrison Goode	Avery Page
Grace Barrier	Casie Helton	Reagan Perkins
Courtnei Bates	Becca Hutchinson	Ellie Powell
Danielle Brewer	Emily Johnson	Isidra Powell
Hailey Carroll	Victoria Kupets	Brooklyn Shirah
Hannah Coplestone	Mary Paige Lacy	Daniel Smith
Mari Crosby	Madelyn Leahey	Cameron Stacy
Lily Crouch	Heather MacKenzie	Elizabeth Stamper
Olivia Dapolite	Piper McGehee	Madison Swimm
Gabby DiLemme	Kaitlyn Mize	Brinna Voss
Monica Egnizzo	Reagan Moore	Sophie Wiedenhuess

EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT SPRING CLASS OF 2024

CONGRATULATIONS

BREANNA AMERINE

CANTON, IL

Breanna completed her internship with Spy Coast Farm as a young horse development intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I'm most proud of the practical experience I've gained, especially in horse handling and management. Learning how to properly care for, train and communicate with horses has been invaluable. It's not just an acquired skill, but a deep understanding and respect for these amazing animals that I'll carry with me into future endeavors."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"One of my favorite memories is the strong friendships I've formed with my classmates. These friendships have enriched my college experience in countless ways and will undoubtedly remain cherished memories for years to come."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am currently interviewing at different horse farms and show stables."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Take any opportunity given to you even if it's not what you originally had planned. Sometimes the unplanned path will open your eyes to new things.”

CONGRATULATIONS

ARIEL BALDON

ATLANTA, GA

Ariel completed her internship with Frankie's Corner Little Thoroughbred Crusade.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am proud of all the connections I have made. I have started a great equine network and cannot wait to see it grow."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory was becoming a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I will be staying in Lexington, Kentucky, to complete my PATH certification."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Don't ask to eat, and then complain when your plate is full. You got it.”

CONGRATULATIONS

SYDNEY BARNETT

KENNESAW, GA

Sydney completed her internship with Wickliffe Pharmaceuticals as an inside sales intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am proud of learning new skills, and I am excited to use them in the future."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory was meeting people with similar interests as me."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I currently am unsure of my plans for after graduation."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Keep your head up and keep working hard.”

CONGRATULATIONS

GRACE BARRIER

FORT MILL, SC

Grace completed her internship with Grand Slam Social as a social media intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of the real-world skills and connections I've grown through my internship experiences."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory was when I worked the 2022 Breeders' Cup at Keeneland during my internship with Grand Slam Social."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am working toward a career in marketing and communications in the Thoroughbred industry."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Don't be afraid to dive in headfirst to all the different experiences and event opportunities that come your way. You never know who you will meet or the passions you may discover.”

CONGRATULATIONS

COURTNI BATES

LEXINGTON, KY

Courtnei completed her internship with Champagne Run Farm as an assistant barn manager.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am proud that I am able to graduate feeling confident in myself and my abilities to obtain a successful career in what I love to do."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory is the 2023 Intercollegiate Eventing Championship when our team won the spirit award and we all started crying from happiness."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am currently working full time at US Equestrian, but I plan to take some time off and travel."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Don't beat yourself up over a bad grade, there's always another chance and there is no rush! Take your time figuring out what really makes you happy.”

CONGRATULATIONS

DANIELLE BREWER

DAVIE, FL

Danielle participated in an Ireland study abroad experience.

CONGRATULATIONS

HAILEY CARROLL

CINCINNATI, OH

Hailey completed her internship with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute as a medicine veterinary assistant.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

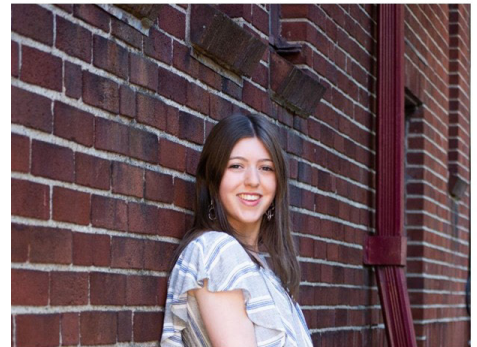
"I am most proud of my internship poster and experience, along with my e-portfolio. I feel like both represent me and include amazing experiences I have had."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory is working with Dr. Savannah Robin and finding a fantastic position at Grovendale Sales. All the memories I have made since then with Grovendale are also favorites."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"My plan after graduation is to stick with sales for a while and gauge how much I enjoy it. If it doesn't seem for me, I will possibly return to school in a few years."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“My words of wisdom are to think very seriously early on in your college career about whether you want horses to be your career and livelihood or just your hobby.”

CONGRATULATIONS

HANNAH COPPLESTONE

WELLESLEY, MA

Hannah completed her internship with Spy Coast Farm as a rehabilitation intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of the work I was able to complete during my internship. I gained confidence in myself and my ability as a professional, especially during the Lunch and Learn presentation that I gave."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memories are from the two internships I had. Working at Spy Coast and at an equine clinic in Colorado, I was able to gain hands on experience and learn so much. I will never forget my time with both of those internships, and they truly shaped my vision and passion for a career."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I plan to work as a barn manager and trainer, as well as potentially continuing my education in the future."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Try as many new things as you can! Take every opportunity that interests you and build a strong network for yourself. ”

CONGRATULATIONS

MARI CROSBY

MILFORD, MI

Mari completed her internship with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute as a procedures technician.

CONGRATULATIONS

LILY CROUCH

LEXINGTON, KY

Lily completed her internship with Gluck Equine Research Center with Dr. Ernie Bailey and Dr. Ted Kalbfleisch.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of myself for graduating in three years. I also managed taking 21 credit hours while working 20 hours a week during my senior year."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory from undergraduate is all of the freshman year activities."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"My plan is to stay in Lexington and start my career. I hope to eventually buy a piece of land and have some animals."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Take every opportunity that this program has to offer. You will gain some lifelong friends as well as lifelong mentors within your professors.”

CONGRATULATIONS

OLIVIA DAPOLITE

Cary, NC

Olivia completed her internship with Grovendale Sales as a broodmare intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of designing and completing my independent research project portfolio, titled 'Exploration of Journalism and Communications Within the Thoroughbred Industry.' I was able to gain a wealth of knowledge, enhance my professional skills and learn so much about myself in the process!"

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory from my undergraduate career was working as a Keeneland College Ambassador for the past two years. I really enjoyed participating in and running Keeneland College Scholarship Day! It has been the most rewarding and fun experience I have had."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am currently working for Dream Maker Racing as their marketing and social media intern. I am working towards a full-time career in the Thoroughbred racing industry in the future."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“The worst thing someone can tell you is “no,” so don't be scared to put yourself out there. If I was too nervous to reach out to industry professionals for mentorship and experience, I would have missed out on so many amazing opportunities!”

CONGRATULATIONS

GABBY DILEMME

BREVARD, NC

Gabby completed her internship with Gluck Equine Research Center as a research assistant focused on Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM).

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am extremely grateful for further developing my communication and networking skills through the courses and various internship opportunities."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory from my undergraduate career is participating in the Ireland study abroad in 2023 to learn more about Irish equine management. During that trip, we met Aidan O'Brien, who is one of the top racehorse trainers in the world."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am currently exploring options in the marketing and sales field of the equine industry."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“My “words of wisdom” are to get involved and soak it all in! It goes by way too fast, so take as many opportunities as you can.”

CONGRATULATIONS

MONICA EGNEZZO

VERONA, NJ

Monica participated in an Ireland study abroad experience.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am proud that I was able to experience several of the hands-on opportunities we are given as students here in Kentucky."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Our study abroad to Ireland was an amazing opportunity I had never imagined I would experience."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I plan to continue exercise riding, working sales and working in the Thoroughbred industry."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Take advantage of all the opportunities that this school and state give you. It's truly an amazing place!”

CONGRATULATIONS

MEGAN GACHE

BIRMINGHAM, AL

Megan completed her internship with Park Equine as a veterinary technician intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

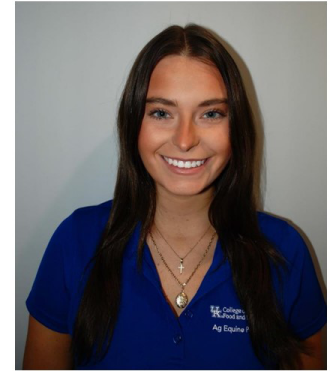
"I absolutely loved my internship class! It was an incredible experience that gave me a clear vision of my desired career path. The best part was getting to showcase my skills and knowledge through engaging presentations to faculty, professors and equine students. It was such a thrilling experience and a highlight of my academic journey!"

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"One of my most exciting memories was when I became a Wildcat Wrangler. This not only allowed me to connect with people who shared my passion, but also helped me develop deeper and more meaningful relationships with my peers in the same major. It was truly an unforgettable experience that I will always cherish!"

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am about to venture as a sales representative for an exciting start-up company. My base will be in Birmingham, Alabama, but I have the incredible opportunity to travel to various locations for trade shows! My goal is to become a veterinary sales representative, and I am determined to work hard to achieve my dreams!"



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Exploring different workplaces and experimenting through trial and error is the perfect journey toward discovering the perfect fit for you! ”

CONGRATULATIONS

LILY GERSTENZANG

BROOKLYN, NY

Lily completed her internship with Cirrus Stables, LLC as a groom.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of figuring out how to be a lifelong learner in order to constantly be working to make a positive impact on the equine industry."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory is learning through working with horses hands-on at Maine Chance Farm during EQM 105 with Dr. Mary Rossano."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I will be staying here in Lexington and looking for jobs within the equine industry."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ The equine industry needs more people who are going to initiate discussions about things that need to be changed. Your voice is valuable, and you should never be afraid to stand up and advocate for what is right. ”

CONGRATULATIONS

HARRISON GOODE

WINSTON-SALEM, NC

Harrison completed his internship with John Deere as a student research strategist for marketing, communications and insights.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am proud that even at my lowest times, I did not quit. I am grateful for the lives I was able to touch."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory is going to work at horse shows with my buddies!"

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I will be going to John Deere to work in the Lifecycle Services Integration team."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“You are more than your grades, you are more than your resume and you are bigger than the box others will try to put you in. Be proud to be unique!”

CONGRATULATIONS

CASIE HELTON

MOORESVILLE, IN

Casie completed her internship with Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital as a nursing assistant.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

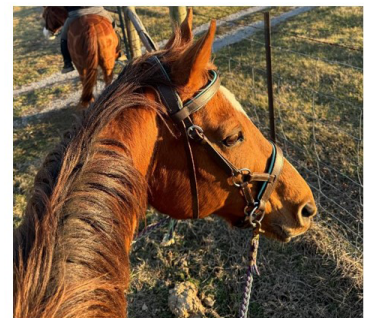
"I am most proud of the dedication I have for horses. It has helped me provide the best quality of care to each horse I encounter."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory would have to be seeing mares give birth to healthy foals."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"My plans after graduation are to move back to Mooresville, Indiana, and get a job at an equine or small animal vet clinic along with getting my veterinary technician license. I would love to eventually have my own equine-assisted therapy facility."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“A quote from Toni Robinson that has always stuck with me is, "Horses change lives. They give our young people confidence and self-esteem. They provide peace and tranquility to troubled souls. They give us hope!" So, with the guidance from horses, remember why you joined this program and keep doing what you love.”

CONGRATULATIONS

BECCA HUTCHINSON

WINCHESTER, KY

Becca completed her internship with the Gluck Equine Research Center as an undergraduate research assistant.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of the work I did during my internship. I learned incredibly useful skills, and my experience motivated me to apply to graduate school, to which I have since been accepted."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memories are from my EQM 105 class."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I plan to complete my PhD at UK in equine reproduction."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ It is okay to not know what you want to do. ”

CONGRATULATIONS

EMILY JOHNSON

CHANDLER, AZ

Emily participated in an Ireland study abroad experience.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am proud of all that I have learned these past two years working for Margaux Farms."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory from my undergraduate career is when I got to visit Ireland during a study abroad with some great friends and amazing professors."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am hoping to gain more racing experience by working directly on the racetrack with a trainer."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ There are so many friendly, knowledgeable professors in the ESMA program at UK. Take the time to get to know them and learn from them! ”

CONGRATULATIONS

VICTORIA KUPETS

VERSAILLES, KY

Victoria completed her internship with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute Pharmacy as a pharmacy associate.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I'm most proud of my perseverance. I've enjoyed my time within the equine program here at UK, but college has had its ups and downs. College is an adjustment and I think one of the most important things to remind ourselves as students is that you are more than just a grade."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"I would say my favorite memory was my study abroad in Ireland. This was easily the best educational experience I've had, and it was such a fun trip. Not only did I get to learn more about Ireland's equine industry, but I also got the opportunity to make new friends."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I plan to work full time at Hagyard Pharmacy as a pharmacy associate. I hope to continue to grow my experience with pharmaceuticals and sales. Eventually, I would like to move into an equine pharmaceutical sales position or any position related to equine sales."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Don't base your success on others. Everyone is on their own timeline so don't compare yourself to your peers.”

CONGRATULATIONS

MARY PAIGE LACY

NICHOLASVILLE, KY

Mary Paige completed her internship with Horse Country Inc. as an office intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am proud of the connections I was able to make during college as well as the communication skills that I was able to pick up along the way."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory is the UK Equine Week of Service."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I will be working at WinStar Farm as their bloodstock and marketing assistant."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Always keep every professional door open. You never know when you may need advice from someone.”

CONGRATULATIONS

MADELYN LEAHEY

BLOOMINGTON, IL

Madelyn completed her internship with Gluck Equine Research Center as an undergraduate research assistant.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"My time at UK has been full of many highs and successes. One thing I am most proud of is developing the Horsey Hustle and being able to fundraise money to support equine students and their education."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"One memory that comes to mind is the overwhelming excitement I felt stepping onto campus for the first time as an admitted student. I was lucky to attend the only in-person Merit Weekend in 2020, and I remember feeling blessed and beyond excited to begin my college career."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am currently exploring several possible avenues for employment."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Take a deep breath; life is not that serious, and it's meant to be fun. Don't leave college without getting the full experience. ”

CONGRATULATIONS

HEATHER MACKENZIE

SPRINGBORO, OH

Heather completed her internship with UK Ag Equine Programs as a communications and student relations intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of my mentorship and leadership development. Additionally, I am proud that I was recognized as outstanding intern while working with Ag Equine Programs."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"The friendships and connections I have made."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I will be pursuing my Master's in Animal Science at the University of Kentucky and continuing to work with UK Ag Equine Programs. I also plan on staying involved and working in the Thoroughbred industry."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Growth and opportunity comes from stepping out of your comfort zone. Put yourself out there and take advantage of all that Ag Equine Programs and UK has to offer. ”

CONGRATULATIONS

PIPER MCGEHEE

ERLANGER, KY

Piper completed her internship with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute Pharmacy as a product promotion intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am proud of myself for branching out and trying different internships. I got a feel of several different parts of the equine industry and that helped me determine what I would like to do post-graduation."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"I have several favorite memories, but one of them would be going to Keeneland with all of my friends every April and October."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am still exploring my options, but I hope to end up somewhere in the pharmaceutical side of the equine industry."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Everything will work itself out. And getting a C in a hard course will not be the end of the world. ”

CONGRATULATIONS

KAITLYN MIZE

LAKWOOD, CA

Kaitlyn completed her internship with Champagne Run Farm.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am proud of myself for coming here and completing this program. Moving across the country from everyone I knew and going to school was very hard at first, but I stuck it out and now I'm graduating."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"It's hard to pick a specific one, but the time I've spent being a member of Sigma Alpha has really helped me grow into the person I am today."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am not exactly sure what I am going to do yet; I am still figuring a few things out."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Don't give up! You started this journey for a reason and it's worth it to better the future of our industry. ”

CONGRATULATIONS

REAGAN MOORE

WINCHESTER, VA

Reagan completed her internship with Bospre Stables as an assistant/groom.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of the work I have been able to be a part of at Bospre Stables and that I was able to do it while completing my degree."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"One of my favorite memories is going to Maine Chance Farm with all of my friends for class."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I plan to continue working at Bospre Stables and grow my career in the Saddlebred industry."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ This time of your life goes by faster than you think; take advantage of all opportunities! ”

CONGRATULATIONS

TAYLOR NACKERS

GERMANTOWN, WI

Taylor completed her internship with The Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of the industry connections that I have made as a graduate of the equine industry."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory from my undergraduate career is getting the opportunity to work at the University of Kentucky Maine Chance Farm."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am still exploring options for after graduation, but my plan as of right now is to attend graduate school at UK for Community Leadership and Development."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Take advantage of all the experiences and opportunities that the ESMA program puts together for you! ”

CONGRATULATIONS

OLIVIA NUNEZ

MONUMENT, CO

Olivia participated in an Ireland study abroad experience.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am proud that I was able to diversify my riding experience as well as expand my leadership skills."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory was being a teaching assistant for EQM 105 and watching the horse I worked with when I took the class turn into a great class horse."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I started an internship with Godolphin at Stonerside Farm in January and have recently agreed to continue with them full time after graduation. I am excited to shadow many more industry professionals through their connections and move forward within the racing industry."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Work as much as you can and explore as many different industry sectors and disciplines as you can. I didn't know anything about racing when I came here, and now I've found my place at one of the best companies in the game. Keep your options open and network as much as you can. ”

CONGRATULATIONS

AVERY PAGE

ST. ALBANS, WV

Avery completed her internship with Dell Ridge Farm.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of being a TA for Dr. Mary Rossano's class, EQM 105, for two years."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory of my undergraduate career was going to basketball and football games with my friends and making memories that will last."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I will be working at Freedman's."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Keep trying and applying yourself to everything you do; don't give up because it's hard. ”

CONGRATULATIONS

REAGAN PERKINS

FRANKFORT, KY

Reagan completed her internship with Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital as an ambulatory assistant.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of the opportunities my internship allowed me to pursue at Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital. I have learned a lot from my time there and gotten to experience so many new things."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory would have to be meeting new people within the industry. It is interesting to hear about their experiences because everyone's can be so different. You can learn a great deal from other experiences, which can help you in your own journey through the industry."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am currently unsure of what I will be doing after graduation, but I am excited to explore different areas of the industry to figure it out."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Ask for help if you're struggling with something because there are many people around you willing to help. ”

CONGRATULATIONS

ELLIE POWELL

SADIEVILLE, KY

Ellie completed her internship with Keeneland as a special events intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of my professional development."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Target retail therapy trip with classmates following a tough exam!"

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am exploring opportunities with Keeneland and the Thoroughbred industry!"



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Don't ever wish a day away, even the hard ones. Those are the moments that build perseverance. ”

CONGRATULATIONS

ISIDRA POWELL

AUSTIN, TX

Isidra completed her internship with Kentucky Equine Adoption Center.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am very proud of all the events I helped plan as a part of the Wildcat Wrangler team, but especially the 2024 Horsey Hustle 5K!"

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"I loved being a part of the Western Equestrian Team and getting the opportunity to serve as a member on the executive team for two of those years."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I will be moving to Wyoming to work on a dude ranch for a few months after graduation."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Don't be afraid to try something new! I had lots of different internships and jobs that I never expected to be doing but ended up enjoying them.”

CONGRATULATIONS

BROOKLYN SHIRAH

CONYERS, GA

Brooklyn completed her internship with UK Ag Equine Programs as a communications and student relations intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of how much I have grown over the past four years. I have worked multiple jobs where I felt I was making a change in that position. I have been able to overcome many circumstances and succeed in the end!"

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory is attending the UK vs. University of Florida football game. I attended the game with my friends and after UK won the game, the entire stadium rushed the field. This memory will always make me proud to be a Wildcat."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I will be completing a Master's in Veterinary Science here at the University of Kentucky. After this program, my hopes are to attend veterinary school or pursue a career in public health."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Learn how to study efficiently and use these skills throughout college. These skills will be a lifesaver later while taking more challenging courses.”

CONGRATULATIONS

DANIEL SMITH

MARIETTA, GA

Daniel completed his internship with Shawhan place as a sales prep intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am proud of myself for getting into a top graduate school program."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memories are from learning new skills while working at Shawhan Place."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I will be attending Loyola Chicago University to get my MBA and MS in marketing."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Take advantage of all the great opportunities the equine industry provides around Lexington. ”

CONGRATULATIONS

CAMERON STACY

NASHVILLE, TN

Cameron completed her internship with Team Clear Equestrian.

CONGRATULATIONS

ELIZABETH STAMPER

COLUMBIA, KY

Elizabeth completed her internship with Gluck Equine Research Center as an undergraduate research intern.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

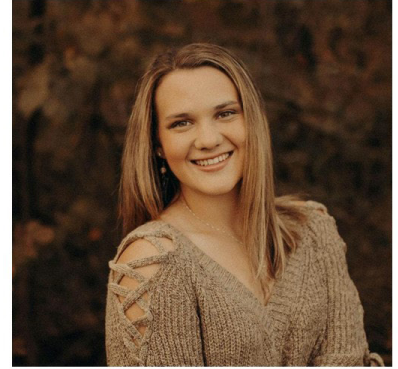
"I'm most proud of the personal and professional growth I have had. After my internship, I started doing undergraduate research and I was able to present it in January at the ASAS annual regional conference."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite part of my undergraduate career would be the friends I have made. I can't wait to see all of us grow and enter new eras of our lives together. I was truly able to find lifelong friends throughout my journey."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"Upon graduation, I will be staying at UK and pursuing a Master's in Animal Science with a focus on beef reproductive physiology. My future career goals consist of either teaching at the college level or pursuing a career in embryology."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Be sure to take advantage of every opportunity because you never know where they may lead. They may lead to a new interest or job opportunity.”

CONGRATULATIONS

MADISON SWIMM

HAVERHILL, MA

Madison completed her internship with Roiville Run/To the Max Eventing.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am proud of myself for adjusting to a new state without my family and being able to meet new people and make connections."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory is meeting lifelong friends and joining communities within UK that have turned into a second family."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I will be going on a study abroad trip to Germany to learn about the global sport horse industry. After my trip, I will be working at CORE Specialty Insurance in their equine department."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Take advantage of every opportunity you're given and don't take anything for granted.”

CONGRATULATIONS

BRINNA VOSS

LEXINGTON, KY

Brinna completed her internship with Our Mims Retirement Haven as a barn management intern.

CONGRATULATIONS

SOPHIE WIEDENHUES

ELBERT, CO

Sophie will be participating in a Germany study abroad experience.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

"I am most proud of all the connections I have made within this industry and being part of the UK Eventing team!"

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory is making new friends; I transferred to UK and knew very few people here at first. Now I have so many friends for life, and I know I can always count on them."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I plan on applying to law school."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“Take the leap! And do not be afraid to introduce yourself to professionals in the industry.”

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY GRADUATE RETURNS FULL CIRCLE TO HER EQUINE PASSION AND ROOTS

By Jordan Strickler

After a 31-year journey, Heather MacKenzie obtained her equine science and management degree from the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Born into a family with deep connections to the equine world, MacKenzie's earliest memories are not of playgrounds or parks but horse sales and the rhythmic sounds of hooves at Keeneland. MacKenzie's connection to the equine world growing up was not solitary. She shared this profound bond with her father, with whom she attends prestigious racing events like Saratoga and the Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream Park. Now her son Drew is also a member of the equine world. Together, her family honored the legacy and potential of the sport they all cherished.



"Growing up, my bond with horses was nurtured by both of my parents," MacKenzie said. "This familial connection deeply enriched my understanding and love for the racing world. There's a unique comfort in being around horses; they have an innate ability to soothe the soul, making every difficult day markedly better."

MacKenzie's journey from Ohio to Kentucky did not follow the traditional path of academic achievements and company ladder-climbing. Instead of the normal trajectory, her journey was full of various experiences, from spearheading her own human resources and staffing company to managing her mother's Celtic family pub.

Each endeavor added depth and character to her life story. Yet, one constant remained through every phase and transition: her overwhelming connection to horses.

Horses formed a bond that MacKenzie's family nurtured during her formative years. Her first childhood horse began a lifelong journey with equines. Later, despite the demands of adulthood and the challenges of managing businesses, she remained deeply connected to the equine world.

"Even with my other businesses, I stayed actively involved in the equine community, attending sales and races whenever possible," MacKenzie said. "I was always keeping my finger in the industry. Despite the demands of my career, I still participated in major sales and racing seasons buying, selling and racing horses."

The global disruptions caused by COVID-19 prompted MacKenzie to reflect on her life and make significant changes. It crystallized her desire to pivot from working merely to live, to dedicating her life to her true passion: horses. She also credits her son's decision to move away from the family business and pursue a career in nature conservation as instrumental in following her passion.



"As my life developed and then COVID came around, I realized I was tired of working just to have time off. Drew was following his passion. I figured, if he could do it, so could I, so I returned to my passion—horses," MacKenzie said. "Now, I'm not just attending school; I'm fully engaged, working in the UK Ag Equine Programs office and seizing every opportunity that comes my way."

MacKenzie's decision to pivot back to the equine industry was not just a personal choice but a mission to distribute the knowledge of equine nutrition—a field she believes is crucial for the welfare of all horses. With the resilience that had characterized her diverse career, she tackled the academic challenges ahead.

"Heather's story should inspire all of us to pursue our passions, stay true to our mission and most importantly hold steadfast to our faith," said Savannah Robin, lecturer in UK Ag Equine Programs.

While juggling her studies, MacKenzie immersed herself in horse nutrition, both in the lab and at UK's Maine Chance Farm. Her work transcended mere academic interest; it was a mission to enrich the lives of horses and their caretakers through education and practical application.

"Heather has been a fantastic intern for our program," said Holly Wiemers, UK Ag Equine Programs communications and managing director. "She brings a wealth of real-world experience to the role and is one of those key people who jump in and help make things happen. It's been so much fun to see her grow during her time as a student, and I look forward to seeing that growth only accelerate as she begins her master's program here."

MacKenzie balanced strategic decision-making with a compassionate approach in the competitive world of the Thoroughbred industry. She participated in horse sales for weanlings, yearlings and promising racehorses, making thoughtful decisions about their sales and racing engagements.

Her family Thoroughbred business, coined Thistle Farms, is an homage to her family history. The stable's purple thistle on yellow colors symbolized not only aesthetics, but also Heather's heritage.

As MacKenzie looks to the future, her aspirations extend beyond horse racing and breeding. She envisions contributing to the equine industry through education and extension work. After completing her animal science masters at UK, she aims for a Ph.D. that would empower her to mentor and educate the next generation of equine professionals.

"Her tenacity, passion, dedication and mentorship for her peers throughout the last couple of years has been invaluable to our undergraduate students but also our Ag Equine Programs team," Robin said. "She's been a vital team member, and we are excited for her to continue helping us grow this program and create opportunities for our students in the future."

MacKenzie's story is about transformation and dedication, guided by her unwavering love for horses. "The equine industry is evolving, and I want to help bridge the gap between traditional practices and new scientific knowledge," MacKenzie said. "I believe nutrition plays a crucial role in how mares, babies and older horses thrive. That's why I'm here—to improve their lives and help those who manage them."



FOR THE LOVE OF HORSES — UK GRAD READY TO DIVERSIFY THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

By C.E. Huffman

How does a guy from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, end up in Lexington as a student at the University of Kentucky? One word — horses.

"I wanted to be closer to Central Kentucky in the heart of horse country," said graduating senior Harrison Goode. "I figured if I wanted to learn from the best, I needed to live closer to them."

Goode first came to UK in 2020 with the support of UK's Lyman T. Johnson Scholarship. His passion for the equine industry led him to enrolling in UK's Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE). When it came time to pick a major, there was no doubt equine science and management would be his focus.



"I chose my major because I found a new passion for the field of agriculture," said Goode. "I wanted to learn more about the management of horses and how we can care for them more ethically."

Initially, coming to the large campus, far from home, was a bit of a transition.

"My first week at UK was scary!" Goode recalls. "There weren't a lot of people that looked like me walking around campus or in my classes."

But Goode, an Eagle Scout, didn't take long finding his place on campus.

"I remember the warm welcome the equine department gave me and going to meals with my roommate," said Goode.

And his professors in the equine department immediately connected with his love of horses and interest in diversifying the industry.

"Upon first meeting Harrison, I found him to be a charming, emotionally mature young man," said Camie Heleski, senior lecturer in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. "He's been willing to put himself out there to help make changes in the horse industry (and the overall agriculture industry), while pushing for more diverse representation."

Goode's work in helping expose new audiences to the equine world was not only academic, but a passion that led him to creating a community beyond the campus.

"It is heartwarming to see him pursue his career all the while wanting to ensure this campus and community is left better," said Kendriana Price, Ph.D., associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion in Martin-Gatton CAFE. "Over the years, I've watched him serve as a mentor to his peers in MANRRS, step up his involvement on the broader campus and help lead the inaugural Equine is for All program this past fall."

And it was the Equine is for All program that would become the crowning achievement of his UK experience. With his mentor Jermo Reese, Goode was able to organize a showmanship challenge for Kentucky middle and high school students to have an immersive experience with horses.

"They learned how to groom, lead and show the horses," explained Goode. "This event was particularly important for the diverse perspectives from our judging panel and different teams that presented to the students."

Even though Goode came to UK for the equine program, he was able to make a mark throughout campus. He was crowned Mr. Black UK during the 2023 Homecoming celebration. He also served as a Wildcat Wrangler equine ambassador for the UK Ag Equine Programs, as well as diversity, equity and inclusion charter committee member for the American Saddlebred Horse Association. Last fall, he was honored with the Lyman T. Johnson Torchbearer Award.

"Those of us who have taught for years can recognize that special student, not just by grades or class engagement, but by body language," said Steven Isaacs, Ph.D., extension professor and co-director for the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program. "Harrison Goode is one of those special students. He gets it. He makes me want to teach. He's the one whose career you follow because you know they will make a difference and you hope you were a little part of that."

And for Goode, the future is — green.

"I will be working for John Deere post-graduation," Goode said. "I'd like to get a Ph.D. at some point in the future as well."

Goode is not taking much of a break as he expects to begin his position with the company's lifecycle services implementation team in June. The position will be located at John Deere world headquarters in Moline, Illinois.

Faculty members think he'll be a perfect fit.

"Everything I've seen is that his emotional maturity and his astute assessments of DEI issues make him incredibly valuable to every endeavor he puts his heart and soul into," said Heleski.

As he prepares to leave campus, folks who've worked with Goode during his time at UK are sure he's just starting to tap into his potential.

"I have observed how he has fostered community with his peers and works to bring others to a sense of community through his interactions," said Price. "It is this strength that I know he will thrive in his next adventure as he transitions to John Deere."



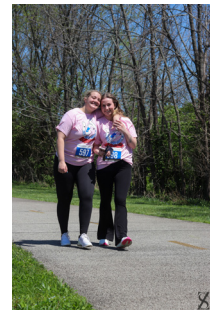
THIRD ANNUAL HORSEY HUSTLE 5K HELD APRIL 14

Photos by Elizabeth Alderson, James MacLeod, Annie Martin and Sarah Ziese

The third annual Horsey Hustle 5K, hosted by the UK Ag Equine Programs Wildcat Wrangler equine ambassador team, was held April 14 at Coldstream Park in Lexington. The event drew 112 runners and walkers and raised more than \$6,000 for the program's Student Experience and Applied Education Fund, which benefits equine student enrichment opportunities.

Event sponsors included:

- Win: Stonestreet Farm
- Place: EJMS CPA, JMS Brokerage, Kentucky Equine Education Project, Neogen, Spy Coast Farm, The Jockey Club and VisitLEX
- Show: Ardent Animal Health, Ed Brown Society, EQAAN, Godolphin, Hallway Feeds, Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital and Three Crowns Farm
- In-Kind: KBC Horse Supplies, Kentucky Horse Park and the U.S. Hunter/Jumper Association



INTERNSHIP SHOWCASE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

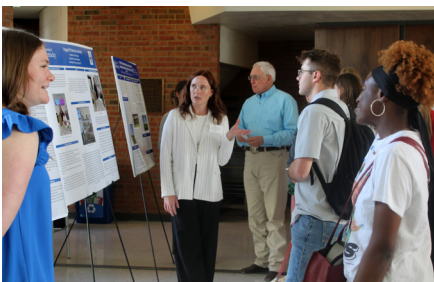
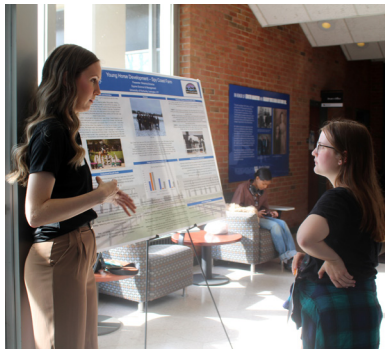
STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The Spring 2024 Equine Science and Management Internship Showcase was held April 16 in the Agricultural Science Center on the University of Kentucky's campus. The event showcased the internship experiences and professional growth by students within the program.

Outstanding Intern was awarded to Jillian Ostrowski (bottom, left), who worked with the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA), and the People's Choice Award was awarded to Nijae Aklin (bottom, middle pictured with Savannah Robin, lecturer of career and professional development), who interned with New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program.





WILDCAT WRANGLER EQUINE AMBASSADORS HOST AN EQUINE FIELD TRIP



The Wildcat Wrangler equine ambassador team for UK Ag Equine Programs hosted an equine industry focused field trip for students to Paris, Kentucky, April 26. They visited Claiborne Farm, Quillin Leather and Tack and took in the sights of downtown Paris. Students were provided transportation from the UK campus, funded through the Student Experience and Applied Education Fund.



UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS AND EQAAN TEAM UP TO HOST TAILGATE AT THE 2024 DEFENDER KENTUCKY THREE DAY EVENT

EQAAN, in partnership with UK Ag Equine Programs, hosted its annual Equine Alumni Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event tailgate on April 27. Thank you to all who came out and joined in on the Saturday fun! It was wonderful seeing alumni, current students, staff, faculty and prospective students stop by.

A special thank you to our EQAAN tailgating committee who worked hard to support this year's event:

- Sabrina Jacobs ('21)
- Mackenzie Johnson ('21)
- Emily Pendergest ('23)



**EQUINE
SCIENCE AND
MANAGEMENT**

*Internship
Spotlight*



Alexa Crament

Roswell, Georgia

**Thoroughbred Daily
News Social Media
Intern**

Why did you select this internship?

This internship really called to me because I love educating and connecting people both inside and outside of the Thoroughbred industry. This position allows me to flourish with my passion for horse racing while still continuing to learn new things and go beyond my comfort zone. It also allows me to be creative and think outside the box about the posts and videos published on all platforms for Thoroughbred Daily News. I have the privilege to work with an incredible team on social media and video production, and they have all been so supportive of my ideas and projects.

What is the most valuable thing you have learned from this internship?

The most valuable things I've learned from this internship is time management and accuracy. Representing a large publication company like Thoroughbred Daily News requires me to be proactive about timing posts and videos regarding top news or breaking news, as well as making sure everything being published is up to date and contains the correct information and statistics.

How will this internship prepare you for future job opportunities?

This internship has prepared me to take on more challenges and create the opportunity for future job positions that will continue to help me gain more knowledge and provide growth.

What is your favorite memory from this internship?

My favorite memory is going out to different farms in Lexington and having the opportunity to capture social media content while getting to know the people who work at those farms and their inspirational stories.

ESMA STUDENT PRESENTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF EQUITATION SCIENCE CONFERENCE

By Chloe Young, Equine Science and Management

The International Society of Equitation Science hosted its annual conference in Cambridge, New Zealand, with the overarching theme of, "A Good Life for Horses."

Global equitation scientists travelled and presented data ranging in topics that all connected to how equestrians can better understand and increase the welfare of their horses. I was granted the opportunity to attend with Dr. Camie Heleski and present our research project titled, "Working to reach consensus on the terminology of nasal-based acoustic sounds in horses and the affiliated emotional states they represent."

The basis of this research is to create more uniform definitions of the nasal based sounds. Therefore, the input of equestrians is imperative to determining some of these definitions.

During the presentation at the ISES conference, a small poll was handed out to the audience to fill out whilst listening to nasal based sounds I had recorded the past few months. Audience members first listened to and were asked to label the sound without any visual, then were given a visual to follow up (visual meaning a video of the horse making the sound).

Responses from 122 participants were received and analyzed once returning from the conference. After having reviewed the data, it became clear that definitions of these nasal sounds are diverse and potentially unknown.

For nearly every sound, a large variety of answers were given and in some cases there was no clear majority. It appears that many people are more comfortable using the terms snort and blow and are less familiar with other terms (or these other terms are less utilized in the industry).

When participants were asked whether video context changed the label of the sound, 76% claimed that their response changed at least once. Regarding the ways in which participants chose to label the sound, a majority claimed to have focused on the pitch, duration and intensity of the sound.

Considerations of language barriers must be taken into account and it is highly likely that other terms not listed for members to choose from exist in those languages. Reviewing the demographics of this audience, a majority spoke English as a first language (83%), but nine other languages were recorded as audience members' native language (the remaining 17%).

Moving forward, the data will continue to be analyzed, with the responses being compared with the spectrograms (graphs of the sounds) to determine if there are any similarities in sounds that we can use to help narrow down the definitions.

A large recognition of support of this research opportunity and presentation goes to the UK Ag Equine Programs Equine Experience Fund and the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment undergraduate research and travel grants.



ABOVE: DR. CAMIE HELESKI, LEFT, PICTURED WITH CHLOE YOUNG AT THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF EQUITATION SCIENCE CONFERENCE. BELOW: CHLOE YOUNG PRESENTING. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CHLOE YOUNG.



MARCH/APRIL 2024 UK EQUINE FORUM RECAP

By Heather MacKenzie

An overview of equine extension activities in Kentucky was presented by University of Kentucky extension specialists at UK Ag Equine Programs monthly Equine Forum March 22.

Fernanda Camargo, an extension specialist who heads up the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program and a faculty member in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, discussed the regional, state and national horse shows attended by members and college programs and competitions put on by the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program. Camargo shared her plans for a student cohort to be developed in conjunction with Colette Tebeau, pre-veterinary advisor, and Anne Leed, academic coordinator, both also within the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, for an educational pre-vet program geared towards high school students. The purpose of the program is to recruit students who successfully get into veterinary school and ultimately become practicing veterinarians.

Saddle Up Safely, a UK-led equine educational program focusing on making equestrian sport safer, was also discussed. Surveys are currently being conducted to analyze riding accidents occurring and help identify ways to prevent them.

Mary Jane Little, extension associate for youth equine programs, presented on the 4-H Equine Task Force created this year around student leadership. The members of the group participated in meetings at UK's Pirri Pavilion on Maine Chance Farm and engaged in leadership activities and brainstormed fundraising activities. The students also participated in the 2024 Day at the Capitol and enjoyed meeting their government leaders.

Leadership members also participated in presentations and educational events with several 4-H clubs throughout the state to help them spark new ideas and implement workshops for local meetings. Fundraising is an important part of the mission and group members raised funds by selling calendars, horse wallets and membership dues.

Bob Coleman, extension horse specialist from the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, discussed the Horses and Horsemen program. The working group consists of 20 agents focused on an all-discipline education and activities in Kentucky. Horses and Horsemen seminars are being held for small acreage horse farm owners to collaborate with equipment and facilities professionals.

The annual Pastures Please!! event was a success this year. Attendees enjoy having the opportunity to discuss current grass issues with others in the industry and collaborate on solutions. Coleman discussed the new farm-focused field days rolling out this spring and summer. The purpose is to help horse farms be sustainable in operation. This group is also focusing on a new initiative to link local hay producers with horse owners to help with the demand for quality horse hay.

Krista Lea, Horse Pasture Evaluation Program coordinator from the Department of Plant and Soil Science, discussed the forage extension aspect to UK's equine extension efforts. A review of the UK Horse Pasture Evaluation Program was discussed, including students' involvement in the program. According to Lea, this is a gateway to the equine industry. The program holds several industry events focusing on current issues facing pastures, including endophytes.

The Better Bluegrass program is another aspect of the Horse Pasture Evaluation Program geared towards identifying and hybridizing varieties of grasses that perform well in Kentucky's changing environment. This program is currently working with several horse farms in the area and continuing to add more.

Extension programming is an integral part of UK's equine efforts and updates on all the activities and programs occurring was very well received. We look forward to welcoming Grayson Jockey Club in May.



UK grad - vet student Q & A panel July 23 @ 5 pm

Connect with **UK graduates**
currently in veterinary school!

UK grads attending these vet schools will be participating:

- **Auburn**
 - **Cornell**
 - **Lincoln Memorial**
 - **St. George's**
 - **University of California - Davis**
-

How are vet school classes *different* than undergrad?

What about places to live/park/eat/study?

What do you wish you had known *before* you started?

Register here - it's FREE!
Get a link to **join live** and submit questions prior to the event



Questions? Contact Dr. Amber McNamara at amber.mcnamara@uky.edu

KUDOS AND SHOUTOUTS

2024 International Intercollegiate Challenge Cup team includes UK rider

Source: Edited USPA Program announcement

The U.S. Polo Association's Intercollegiate/Interscholastic (I/I) Program announced that four intercollegiate players representing some of the best collegiate polo programs in the country were selected to represent the USA in a collegiate-level competition between the USPA I/I Program and Schools and Universities Polo Association (SUPA) Britain.

The 2024 was held April 20 at the Palm City Polo Club LLC in Boynton Beach, Florida.

The four players selected to compete for the U.S. included Will Coors (Stanford University), Benito Jaramillo (Cornell University), Clark Mayer (Southern Methodist University) and Taylor Nackers (University of Kentucky).

Nackers is a senior at the University of Kentucky originally from Germantown, Wisconsin, studying Equine Science and Management. Nackers is a first-generation polo player who began her journey in the sport through I/I as a member of the Hillside interscholastic team. Nackers is a USPA scholarship award recipient and recently competed in the DI Women's National Intercollegiate Championship.

UK recognizes Kristine Urschel in 2024 Outstanding Teaching Awards

Source: UKNow

The University of Kentucky recognized exceptional faculty and teaching assistants with the Outstanding Teaching Awards during the 2024 UK Faculty Awards Ceremony held Thursday, April 25.

Kristine Urschel, a faculty member in UK's Department of Animal and Food Sciences, received the Category One Faculty Award. This award acknowledges outstanding performance as a teacher, as documented by students and peers. Urschel also serves as the college's assistant dean for instruction and has played a significant role in the Equine Science and Management program, previously serving as the director of undergraduate studies.



The 2024 Outstanding Teaching Award winners. From left: (back) Jack Groppo, Kristine Urschel, Daria Goncharova, (center) Thaddeus Salmon, Lukas Bullock, Bradley Elliott, (front) Anastasia Hauser, John "Jack" Swab and Martha Yip. Carter Skaggs | UK Photo

Student Alexa Crament pens story in TDN

Equine Science and Management student Alexa Crament worked for the Thoroughbred Daily News, TDN, as a part of her internship during the spring semester. Her story can be found [here](#).

Our Advisory Board members in the news:

Congratulations to **Kenny McPeek**, Lexington trainer, UK alum and UK Ag Equine Programs' Advisory Board member for his Oaks and Derby sweep! Pictured, right, with UK Vice President for Land-Grant Engagement and Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Dean Nancy Cox after his big wins.

Advisory Board member **David Waronker and his wife Ruth** were featured in the May/June issue of Equine Living in the Bluegrass where their rescue farm, Bravehearts, is [highlighted](#) (page 25)





Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Ag Equine Programs

N212 Ag Sciences Building North
Lexington, KY 40546-0091
Office: (859) 257-2226
equine@uky.edu
www.uky.edu/equine