

APRIL/MAY 2023
EDITION

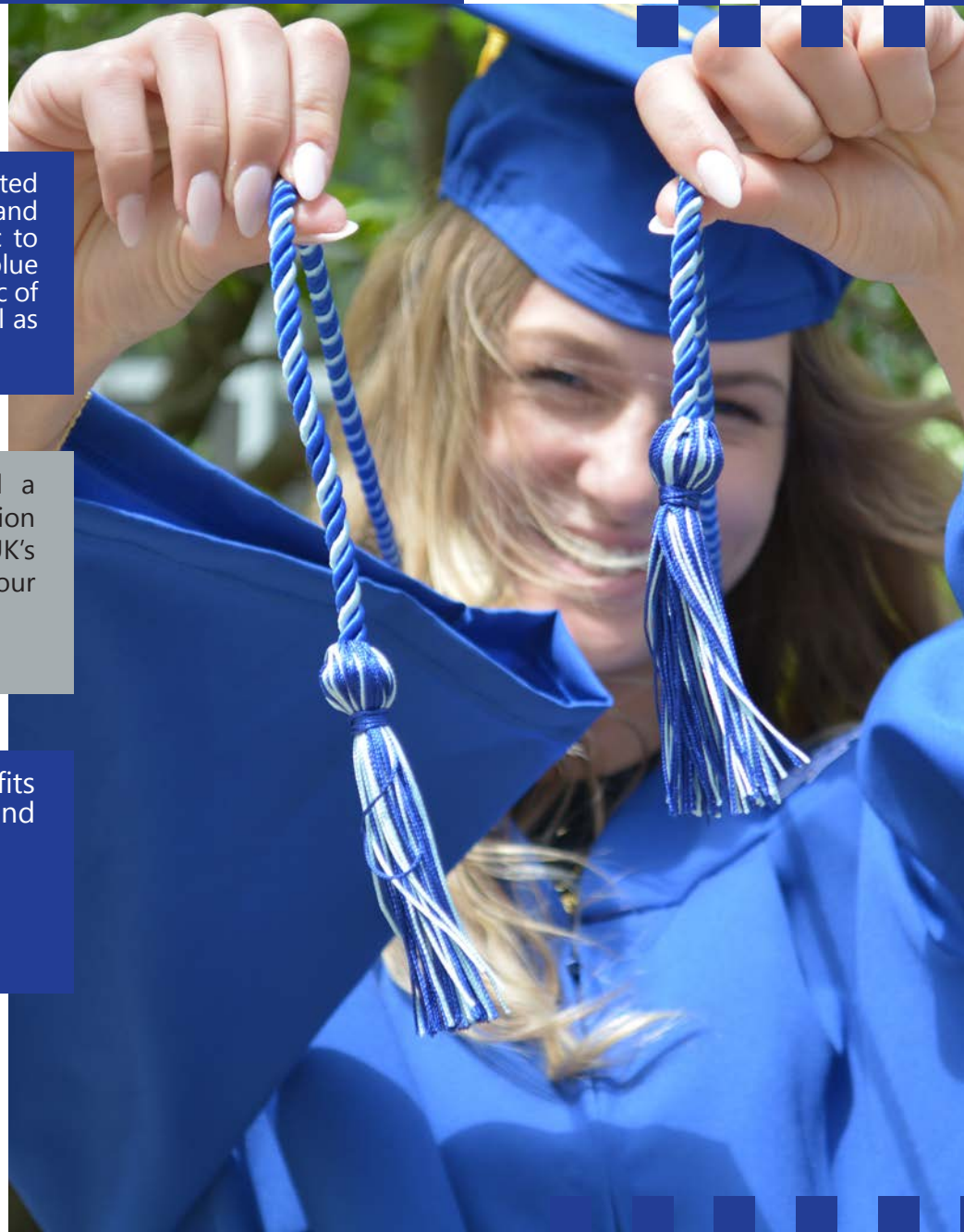
WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

This year, equine graduates sported a new accessory with their caps and gowns, a graduation cord specific to the program. Colors are navy blue and light blue and are characteristic of the program and university, as well as their intertwined nature.

UK Ag Equine Programs hosted a Spring 2023 Graduation Reception May 4 at the E.S. Good Barn on UK's campus. Congratulations to all of our new alums!

Inaugural Horseshoe Ball Benefits Participating Student Clubs and Teams



HIGHLIGHTS



CONGRATULATIONS GRADS!

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DONNING OF A NEW TRADITION

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EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

SPRING 2023

SENIOR SEND OFF

University of
Kentucky
Ag Equine Programs
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

INAUGURAL HORSESHOE BALL BENEFITS PARTICIPATING STUDENT CLUBS AND TEAMS

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When I first found out about the planning of a Horseshoe Ball, I was thrilled. As a senior in UK Ag Equine Programs, what better way to end my last semester than with a fun formal event with all my friends and peers?



UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

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

WELCOME

Go to school, get a good job...fade to black. Since you can remember, you've been a student working towards this moment and now it has arrived. As you move that tassel from one side of your graduation cap to the other, you have officially shifted from student to alumni. Congratulations to each of you, this is a huge achievement.

Shortly, the dust will settle and you will enter your new era; one that will test you, excite you, worry you, overwhelm you, teach you, and train you. As a graduate of the University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management program, you are not only ready for this, but supported by a large network cheering you on each step of the way.

I graduated from UK Equine in 2016 and have been in the workforce since the day after graduation. Over the past seven years, I have experienced my fair share of successes and failures while navigating my career. As I reflect on what worked the "best" to generate success, I keep coming back to one general concept. You don't learn by doing the same things. Say yes to new opportunities.

For the first six years of my career, I worked in horse racing - an industry I wasn't born into - and I made it my goal to jump at every opportunity I could find. "Yes, I'll go to that race," "Yes, I'll give a tours every afternoon six days a week," "Yes, I'll show up three hours early to work so I can ride to the breeding shed with the van driver even though I work in marketing." The more opportunities you can say yes to, whether they're provided or created, the more well-rounded you become both professionally and personally. I used anecdotes from those early morning breeding shed trips for years while giving tours and training tour guides.

There is one moment in my career, a core memory, I refer to often when talking to students and recent graduates about the importance of learning and experiencing things you don't "think" you need. (It's easy to pick a niche and dig in). A large portion of my job in the horse industry has been photography - sales, stallion marketing, social media, commercial farm promotion, etc. - a profession that is equally humbling and rewarding. On commercial farms, photographers will come out regularly on behalf of publications, typically around foaling seasons and yearling sales seasons. My role in these situations was to walk with them and make sure they don't photograph anything that wouldn't represent the farm and horses well. One time, I was walking the farm with a talented photographer and they started setting up a shot of a valuable horse running through a field, noting how beautiful the photo would be with "all the yellow flowers." Immediately, I knew this photo would be rejected because this horse was standing in a field of buttercups. They can be poisonous to horses and aren't something farm managers want broadcasted out to the public as being in their fields. I explained the situation, we pivoted the photo location, and the publication went to print. The moral of this story is you can be considered the best photographer in the world, but if you don't have the knowledge of what a healthy pasture looks like, your photo will be rejected by the farm manager.

Pasture management is a topic I learned both in school as an equine student and more recently three years ago while spending an afternoon with personnel from the University of Kentucky Horse Pasture Evaluation Program. Every chance you have to learn something new, even if you have no idea how it will translate to your career, will benefit you.

Over the last year, I transitioned from working in horse racing to expanding my professional portfolio into commercial real estate and I feel much like I did as a new graduate, scared, overwhelmed, excited, anxious, yet...prepared and supported. Graduating as a student of UK Ag Equine Programs gives you a unique opportunity to stay connected to a network of people who are here to support you, not only as you're graduating, but as you continue to progress throughout your career. The Equine Alumni Affiliate Network (EQAAN for short) was created by graduates, for graduates, to create a network of support and contacts for you. We host regular happy hours, seasonal events, trivia nights, and more to provide you what you need during this new era.



AUTRY GRAHAM, '16 EQAAN PRESIDENT



MASTHEAD

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PAGE 3

WELCOME RYAN GAGNE, ONE OF UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS' NEWEST INTERNS

Hello, my name is Ryan Gagne, and I am one of the new interns in the UK Ag Equine Programs Office. I will be working on communication and student relations throughout the summer and fall semesters. I hope to use my digital art (photography, videography and graphic design) skills to help the program excel in communication with current students, parents and alumni, marketing different events throughout the semester and providing a positive experience within the program. I am a recent out-of-state transfer student who has really enjoyed my time here. Being able to give back to this program that has given me so many opportunities that I thought I would never have is extremely important to me. I hope that my time in this position will prove to be beneficial for all.



My experiences within the equine community have mostly been at farms, rather than in an office setting. When I first moved here, I started working as a groom for Phil Sims Racing at Keeneland and provided care for many of the Thoroughbreds stabled there.

From there I moved into a different position, this time at the University of Kentucky. I worked in Versailles at the C. Oran Little Research Center as student farm help. There I worked with the older horses, providing them with the best care, as well as assisting with research projects. Both of these positions allowed me to learn a lot of hands-on horse care and knowledge. But I knew that at this time I needed to start learning more about the management side of the equine industry and that is what motivated me to look into this internship.

I am extremely excited to start this position and to see where this position could take me in the future.

THE "DONNING" OF A NEW TRADITION

By Alicia Benben



This year, Equine Science and Management graduates will be sporting a new accessory with their caps and gowns.

The origin of the graduation cord can be traced back to medieval universities in Europe, where scholars wore long robes and hoods to indicate their academic rank and discipline. Over time, these garments became more elaborate and were often embellished with cords, tassels and other decorative elements.

In the United States, graduation cords began to gain popularity in the early 20th century as colleges and universities sought to distinguish their graduates from one another. Often we see cords used to honor academic excellence or participation in extracurricular organizations, but as the use of graduation cords became more widespread, so did its symbolism in the sense of community and shared experience that often develops among graduating classes.

As a program, we wanted to exemplify the shared community and experience that students have been a part of while in the Equine Science and Management major. With that idea in mind, a graduation cord specific to the program came to fruition. The colors navy blue and light blue are not only characteristic of both the program and university, but their intertwined nature is a nod to how you will always be woven into the fabric that is UK Ag Equine Programs. Together as a group, your cords represent the memories, achievements, friendships and relationships you have made along the way. Let it be a tangible reminder of not only the community you have created while being a student but the community you are now entering as an alumnus.

As you put on your cap and gown on the morning of May 5, remember one more thing. Don it proudly, look around as you are awaiting that big call to the stage and see the cords that hang on each of your peers' gowns as a presence of shared connection and passion. You are all in this together as well as always connected to us.

SPRING INTERNSHIP RECEPTION SHOWCASES STUDENT WORK



UK Ag Equine Programs hosted its annual Spring Internship Reception April 18. The event showcased the work done by 16 program interns over the spring semester.

Two awards for Outstanding Intern were given. Grace Hamilton, who interned with Goldophin, and Blakely Releford, who interned with the Kentucky Equine Adoption Center, were recognized for their excellence during their internships. Nominees are submitted by their employers.

Additionally, a People's Choice Award is chosen by event attendees. Christine Lim, who interned with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute was recognized with this honor.



Equine Science & Management

SPRING 2023 DEAN'S LIST

Breanna Amerine
Hailey Anderson
Molly Andrews
Madison Balesk
Sydney Barnett
Grace Barrier
Kaitlyn Beghtol
Delaney Bennett
Satya Benoit
Alexandra Boos
Sydney Borne
Olivia Bryant
Susan Cerulli
Lea Cooper
Avery Cummings
Isabelle Davis
Christina De Mattheis
John Del Secco
Kristen Dillon
Amalia Ficociello
Sara Fouts
Catherine Frost
Samara Galbraith
Anna Gardone
Sierra Gibson
Lauren Hall

Margaret Harris
Gabrielle Harris
Kennedy Harrison
Erinn Hewett
Ella Hoehner
Madyson Hsue
Sydney Hundley
Rebecca Hutchinson
Emma Hyde
Julia Jebailey
Marguerite Johnson
Jada Lang
Madelyn Leahey
Christine Lim
Ainsley Louagie
Heather MacKenzie
Piper McGehee
Savannah Meacham
Kaitlyn Mize
Madison Moore
Caitlyn Moore
Reagan Moore
Brooke Morfit
Taylor Nackers
Caroline Nash
Danielle Northup

Loralye Page
Cole Parker
Carolyn Parker
Brooke Porter
Isidra Powell
Meghan Robbins
Gabriel Roman
Alexandra Sawinski
Mark Schrenger
Stephanie Scott
Daniel Smith
Stephanie Smith
Angelina Sonoqui
Christina Spiliotis
Cameron Stacy
Kaitlin Thomas
Jenna Toms
Lily Tynan
Angela Veshia
Ava Vransy
Madison Walker
Alexis Willis
Chloe Young
Sarah Ziese
Jennifer Zimmerman



CONGRATUATIONS

HAILEY ANDERSON
ALISO VIEJO, CA

Hailey completed an internship at the Gluck Equine Research Center as an undergraduate researcher in parasitology.



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

"I am most proud of everything that I have completed in only two years as a transfer student, how much I have grown as a young professional and the important research I did during my internship evaluating three techniques for diagnosing equine tapeworm infection."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Meeting a number of friends through various equine classes and discovering my passion for equine research."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am excitedly searching for career opportunities. Meanwhile, I will be presenting the data gathered during my internship at the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists Conference in June and taking a few trips this summer to visit family and friends."

WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Take advantage of every opportunity; you never know what may come of it. ”

CONGRATUATIONS

MADISON BALESK
BEAVER, PA

Madison completed an internship with Three Chimneys Farm in yearling sales prep.



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

"Completing Equine Behavior & Handling, which gave me the skills of lunging and long lining a horse that I then applied to successfully restart my own off-the-track Thoroughbred, Bravo. Completing and showcasing my internship at Three Chimneys Farm."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"All the Welcome Back BBQs at the beginning of each semester. Ag Equine Programs is like a big family and wants students to know they haven't been forgotten about!"

What are your plans for after graduation?

"Continue my employment with Thoroughbred trainer Brad H. Cox and work my way up the ladder to become an assistant trainer and eventually have my own training stable!"

WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Don't be afraid to ASK questions! Whether it's to other students, advisors, professors or potential employers - it will show you are engaged and interested! ”

CONGRATUATIONS

DELANEY BENNETT

FORT MYERS, FL

Delaney completed an internship with the United States Equestrian Federation as a financial assistant.

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

"I am extremely proud of all the connections I have made in the equine industry since I came here not knowing anyone."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Working in the different parts of the industry from a card runner at the sales, a financial assistant at USEF and a barn hand at Maine Chance."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"My plan is to attend graduate school and get my MBA at UK."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Don't be afraid to try different areas and jobs in the industry. You might be surprised by what you enjoy doing.

”

CONGRATUATIONS

ABIGAIL BRAESE

NORTH ANDOVER, MA

Abigail participated in a Puerto Rico study abroad experience.

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

"I am very proud of the capstone project I completed. It focused on show horse welfare, and as someone who competes frequently, I learned a lot about ways that we could improve the lives of the horses that compete."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory from my undergraduate career was making the UK Equestrian Team."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I will be working at Dr. Cummins' office as a purchasing coordinator for his equine practice."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Join as many organizations as you can on campus! There are so many opportunities to meet people and make connections.

”

CONGRATUATIONS

ALYSSA BRANDENBURG

SHELBYVILLE, KY

Alyssa completed an internship with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute as a field care intern.

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

"I am proud of how much I have learned and how hard I have worked. I am proud of myself for working hard to earn a degree in something I am passionate about."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory is meeting people who share a love for horses. I had some great teachers and have made friends during my time at UK."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I plan to continue my current internship. During my internship I will shadow a Hagyard theriogenologist and broodmare manager. I hope to pursue a career in equine reproduction."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Communication is a huge part of the equine industry. Put yourself out there and talk to new people. Also, have fun in college. You're here for four years; go out and have fun with friends! ”

CONGRATUATIONS

EMILY BROWN

LOUISVILLE, KY

Emily completed an internship with the American Saddlebred Association as a caretaker intern.

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

"I'm most proud of my growth personally and professionally and watching hard work come to fruition, even if it's not always the exact way you'd imagined."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"When I get to help prepare new UK Saddle Seat Team members for their first riding lessons and horse shows. Introducing new students to the team and all it has to offer is always a magical time. Watching them progress in their riding and make friends is very rewarding."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I will be attending Clemson University at the end of the summer to pursue a master's in marketing and will graduate in May 2024. I plan to always have some tie to the equine industry."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Be open minded and take chances! ”

CONGRATUATIONS

ALICIA BRUDER

WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN

Alicia completed an internship with UK's Maine Chance Farm.



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Be sure to make time for yourself and go to events as much as your schedule will allow. Also, don't be afraid to ask for help if you are struggling in class. Make study groups! ”

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

"Being able to work with horses and work within the Thoroughbred industry."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Being able to be a part of the Horse Racing Club and getting to see farms in and around the area."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I plan to work at Claiborne Farm starting in the sales and mares and foals department, then working in bloodstock in the following year."

CONGRATUATIONS

OLIVIA BRYANT

NICHOLASVILLE, KY

Olivia completed an internship with Kinkead and Stilz, PLLC as a runner/file clerk.



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Try to get involved as much as you can! This is a great way to network and meet other students in the industry. ”

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

"I am most proud of all of the experiences I have gained while being in the program, being a Wildcat Wrangler for two years and completing all of my coursework."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory was switching into this program and being happy that I was learning about what I was passionate about!"

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I have accepted a job at Fasig Tipton as a customer relations/sales assistant."

CONGRATUATIONS

EMMA CARROLL

CINCINNATI, OH

Emma completed an internship with the Kentucky Horse Park at the Mounted Police Barn.

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

"I have learned so much during my four years as an ESMA student and I love seeing how far I've come and how much I have progressed as a person. I have learned so much and have so many more memories and skills since entering as a freshman."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory has been my internship experience. I could not have imagined a better internship opportunity nor could I have imagined how much fun I had during it. I will always remember my time interning with the mounted police."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am currently in the job application process, but I am hoping to get a job at Cintas in their Management Trainee program. I am not set on a location yet, but would be willing to locate anywhere."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Get involved, do everything you can and enjoy every step along the way. It goes by so quickly, and you wish you could do it all again once it's over.

”

CONGRATUATIONS

MICHAEL CICCOLELLA

HILTON HEAD, SC

Michael completed an internship with Sundance Trail Guest and Dude Ranch as a wrangler.

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

"The knowledge I have gained to better equip me for the road that lies ahead!"

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Storming the Kentucky football field after the win against Florida in 2021."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I will be working at the Fort Worth Stockyards as a drover moving Texas longhorns through the town. I aspire to attend farrier school and become a certified farrier."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Whatever you do, don't skip lab.

”

CONGRATULATIONS

TAYLOR COMBS

ATLANTA, GA

Taylor completed an internship with Kentucky Derby Festival as a sponsorship sales intern.

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

"Completing internships that helped me grow as a professional."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Meeting the newborn foals born on Maine Chance Farm."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I will be working a sales job in Nashville, Tennessee!"



WORDS OF WISDOM

"Just have fun and try your best!"

CONGRATULATIONS

ALLISON CORDOVA

CHICAGO, IL

Allison completed an internship at Elisabeth Goth, LLC as a groom.

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

"Learning about what path in the equine industry is right for me."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Making friends!"

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I will be working at Elisabeth Goth, LLC."



WORDS OF WISDOM

Don't be scared to try new things!

CONGRATUATIONS
KAELYNN CORL
CINCINNATI, OH

Kaelynn completed an internship with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute as a veterinary technician.

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

"All the friends I have been able to make here."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Having a multitude of guest speakers in a lot of my classes! So fun to hear from so many people!"

What are your plans for after graduation?

"To continue working and learning in the industry while also pursuing my interests and careers outside of it."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

All of the work you are putting in now, no matter how taxing, will pay off!

”

CONGRATUATIONS
LARODRA COX
RIPLEY, MS

LaRodra completed an internship with Colton Woods Horsemanship as an assistant trainer.

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

"I have grown in a large number of ways throughout my time here but I am most proud of how I have grown as a horseman."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"I would have to say getting to work Road to the Horse this year. That was an experience I will never forget."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I plan to continue living in Lexington while I work to build my own horse training business."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

I would say to be open minded and get out there and live a little. Don't be afraid to try new things.

”

CONGRATUATIONS

JOHN DEL SECCO

DANVILLE, CA

John completed an internship with Keeneland as a racing and sales intern.

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

"I'm proud of all the friendships, connections and different career opportunities I did. Coming to UK has given me a unique perspective, understanding and deep appreciation for the Thoroughbred industry."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory is from when one of my horses won a stakes race at Horseshoe Indianapolis with some of my friends in attendance."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation I will move back to the Bay Area and help out in the family business."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Don't look back. Leave it all on the track. ”

CONGRATUATIONS

LUIS ETTEGUI RIVAS

CARACAS, VENEZUELA

Luis completed an internship with Brad H. Cox Racing as a foreman, groom and barn help.

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

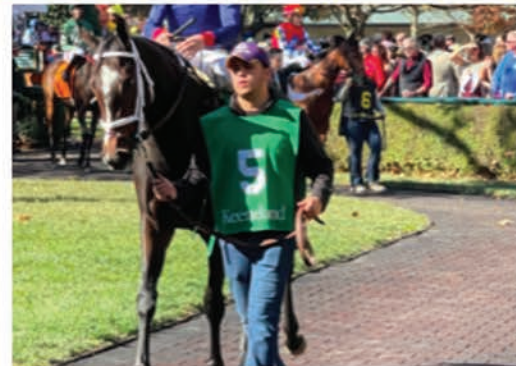
"Developing public speaking skills with the numerous presentations I completed."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Some of the individuals I was able to meet, including students and professors who helped me succeed and grow along the way."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"Continue to work the breeding season at Stonerside Farm in Paris, KY. Then I plan to go abroad and work for racehorse trainer Charlie Appleby at Moulton Paddocks in Newmarket, UK."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Be open minded, experience all aspects of the horse industry you're involved in and NEVER say no to a new opportunity. ”

CONGRATUATIONS

ELSA FURLONG

ONTARIO, OH

Elsa participated in a Puerto Rico study abroad experience.

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

"I am most proud of the Equine Week of Service and Horsey Hustle events that I helped plan while I was a Wildcat Wrangler. It was great to see how the event came together and watch people have fun."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory from my undergraduate career was traveling to Puerto Rico for a study abroad experience."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I plan to move near Panama City Beach, Florida, and open an equine rescue farm."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Do not feel intimidated to reach out to teachers about personal or academic issues. They truly have your back and will help you in any way they can.

”

CONGRATUATIONS

SAMARA GALBRAITH

CLERMONT, GA

Samara completed an internship with the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program as an administrative assistant.

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

"I am excitedly overwhelmed with the knowledge and opportunities that equine programs has given me over the last four years."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"I really enjoyed my equine behavior and handling class. I love being able to go out to the farm and learn new techniques after being in the industry for many years."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am the aquatic manager at Aqua-Tots swim school. I am working on community involvement and plan to continue my riding career."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Remember the passion for this industry we started with and continue to find that passion in any career you choose.

”

CONGRATUATIONS

SIERRA GIBSON

SAN DIEGO, CA

Sierra completed an internship with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute as a veterinary technician.

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

"I am most proud of completing several challenging classes with A's and the impact they have had on my career path. My favorite classes have encouraged my love for science and my goal of becoming a veterinarian."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"UK football games, Keeneland Scholarship Day and all the UK Eventing Team outings."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am going to work in a veterinary hospital while studying for graduate exams and applying to veterinary school."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Take advantage of the opportunities you are given, something I wish I did more of in undergrad. ”

CONGRATUATIONS

CLAUDIA HARDING

RUNNEMEDE, NJ

Claudia completed an internship with UK Ag Equine Programs as the 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 learning professional skills through my internships at USEF and UK Ag Equine Programs."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory is traveling to Miami University with my teammates to compete at IHSA shows."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I will start a full-time position with Wickliffe Veterinary Pharmacy as an inside sales representative."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Take advantage of every opportunity! The college has so many amazing clubs, internships and opportunities for students to succeed. ”

CONGRATUATIONS

MAGGIE HARRIS

PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA

Maggie completed an internship with Breeders' Cup Association as a customer service and ticketing intern.



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Find people who will let you shadow them; most professionals want young people in the industry. If you want a job someone has when you graduate, email them and ask to shadow! ”

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

“I am proud of the fact that I have made it this far and have gotten a degree, a minor and a certificate all in four years while dealing with the pandemic.”

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

“Me and my friends pulling an all-nighter in the library during my first semester freshman year. By the time it was 7 a.m., we had all lost our marbles but were ready to take our exams.”

What are your plans for after graduation?

“I am currently job hunting right now. But I will be applying to the Irish National Stud Program!”

CONGRATUATIONS

ERINN HEWETT

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY

Erinn completed an internship with Spy Coast Farm as a rehabilitation and fitness intern.



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Get involved in everything you can! These four years go so so fast! ”

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

“I loved learning more about the animals I am so passionate about. Earning an “A” in every major-specific course definitely makes me feel more prepared for my future in the industry. I recently started working in the Gluck Equine Research Center and am excited to spend the summer there learning even more.”

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

“I was very proud of my internship poster presentation and showing it off to the other students and faculty.”

What are your plans for after graduation?

“Attending veterinary school at Long Island University in New York.”

CONGRATUATIONS

MARGARET HIGGINS

EVANSTON, IL

Margaret completed an internship with Kentucky Horse Park Breeds Barn as an equine worker.

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

"Contributing to the OMIA database with Dr. Bailey in the advanced horse genetics class."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Going to my first football game here at UK!"

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I will be working at Kentucky Horse Park."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Make an effort to get to know your professors.

”

CONGRATUATIONS

ALEXA JARAMILLO

SAN CLEMENTE, CA

Alexa completed an internship with Stonerside Farm as an intern.

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

"I had a helping hand in raising the highly-touted Thoroughbred filly named Averly Jane, bred by UK Maine Chance Farm. Averly Jane was one of the foals in the first crop that I ever worked with in my life, so being able to say that I had a hand in her success is my proudest moment in my career up to this point."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Being immersed in the horse-y culture that Lexington has. Having opportunities to go to Keeneland and Churchill Downs, the Kentucky Horse Park and multiple local farms is next to none. I couldn't imagine a better location to pursue an equine degree."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"Right now I'm focusing on jumping straight into the workforce. I'm currently looking at all opportunities to further my skill set with strong interest in bloodstock and racing management. I am also taking a look at applying for the 2024-2026 class of Godolphin Flying Start."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Don't wait to do something. Take advantage of any and all opportunities. Never be afraid to try something new!

”

CONGRATUATIONS

CHRISTINE LIM

MILTON, GA

Christine completed an internship with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute as a field ambulatory assistant.



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

"I am proud of making it through the past four years. I've run into a lot of road blocks and setbacks along the way and I'm excited to be graduating and ready for the future."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory would have to be finding out that I would be able to walk at commencement. It took a lot of work and taking 20 credit hours this past semester but finding out that I would walk made it worth it."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am applying for vet school right now and plan to take a gap year after graduation before vet school. In the meantime, I'll continue working at Hagyard and stay in Kentucky!"

WORDS OF WISDOM

“Lean on your advisors! They're here to help you succeed and use the resources they give you. Most of all, enjoy your four years because it goes by so fast.”

CONGRATUATIONS

MEGAN MONTGOMERY

NEWFIELD, NJ

Megan completed an internship with L&D Stables.



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

"My knowledge of equine reproduction, allowing me to have a successful career in broodmare care and reproduction in the Thoroughbred industry, along with becoming a well-rounded professional in the equine industry."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Traveling with the University Kentucky Rodeo Team and spending time with fellow members at UKRT's home ranch and K/C Ranch."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"After graduation, I plan on taking a break from school and work to travel around the U.S. and other countries. After my summer traveling, I plan on starting my career in the Thoroughbred breeding industry."

WORDS OF WISDOM

“Be involved, go to the event even if you're tired. Take the internship even if it means you can't go home for a break. Enjoy your spring breaks and live in the moment! The four years will fly by!”

CONGRATUATIONS

CAITLYN MOORE

MT. STERLING, KY

Caitlyn completed an internship with Park Equine Hospital as a veterinary technician.

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

"I am most proud of the valuable horse experience that I have gained over the last four years."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memory from my undergraduate career would have to be working the Fasig Tipton sales."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I plan to attend graduate school to obtain my MBA!"



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Try to take every opportunity that comes your way! Even if it's something you aren't interested in, you may be surprised by what you get out of it! ”

CONGRATUATIONS

MADDIE MOORE

SALISBURY, MD

Maddie completed a reseaech internship with Dr. Allen Page at the Gluck Equine Research Center.

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

"I am proud of the relationships I made between peers as well as faculty and professors, giving me a strong support system to get through all the challenges as a pre-vet student."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"As a Wildcat Wrangler, I was able to plan fun events such as the UK Equine Week of Service and the Horsey Hustle 5K. I loved being able to give back to the community and get to know more individuals in the equine industry."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I will be attending the University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2026!"



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Your four years at UK go by way faster than you think. Take every opportunity and enjoy every second! ”

CONGRATUATIONS

CEARA MULVEY

JOHNSBURG, IL

Ceara completed an internship with FoxHill Sport Horses, LLC as a working student.

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

"I am most proud of completing my two internships. I made a lot of connections and had a lot of valuable experiences."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"My favorite memories from my undergraduate career have to be going to UK football games with my friends!"

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I have accepted a job at Wickliffe Pharmacy, so I will be staying here in Lexington!"



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

The best advice I can give is to do as many internships and jobs as you can, that way you can really get a feel for what you like and do not like.

”

CONGRATUATIONS

EMILY PENDERGEST

LEXINGTON, KY

Emily completed an internship with UK Ag Equine Programs as the 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 allowing myself to change my mind. It's so scary to work towards something your whole life and then step back and realize that it's not what you want anymore. So far, I have no regrets about that."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"I have had so many wonderful memories from my time here at UK. I think the recent Horseshoe Ball was such a wonderful time and the perfect closing memory right before graduation."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am currently planning to continue working for Dr. Jill Stowe doing design and layout for the 2022 Kentucky Equine Survey until it is published!"



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Do not worry too much about the things outside of your control..

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

”

CONGRATUATIONS

ISABELLA REED

MADISON, AL

Isabella completed an internship with Clermark Equestrian in Ocala, Florida, as a show groom.

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

"The work experience and resume I've been able to build while in the program."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"All the support I received from Dr. Savannah Robin every semester."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I started a riding position last May with a fabulous employer. She has my best interest in mind and has similar goals to me. I'm excited to start for her full-time at the end of May."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Don't be afraid to take a break from horses and the industry, there are other important parts to life and things to discover about yourself.

”

CONGRATUATIONS

BLAKLEY RELEFORD

KNOXVILLE, TN

Blakley completed an internship with Kentucky Equine Adoption Center as a barn management intern.

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

"I am just proud of myself that I made it. I'm a first-generation college student and a first-generation equestrian in my family. Very proud that I followed my dreams."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"I can't pinpoint one favorite memory, but I am very grateful for meeting so many incredible professors, mentors and friends along the way."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I plan on working part-time as a marketing coordinator at the Kentucky Equine Adoption Center while I build up my photography business and ultimately plan to be running my photography business full time."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. Everyone here is here to support you, so let them.

”

CONGRATUATIONS

STEPHANIE SCOTT

BUCKNER, KY

Stephanie completed an internship with the Secretariat Center.

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

"The connections I have made with other students and faculty."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Being an undergraduate assistant for EQM105."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I will be interning at USEF for the summer."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Don't be afraid to say yes to new opportunities and get out there.

”

CONGRATUATIONS

SYDNEY SMITH

VERSAILLES, KY

Sydney completed an internship with Lane's End Farm as the assistant to the director of equine relations.

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

"I am most proud of my ability to adapt. Not every farm is going to do things the same way. So I think it's super important to always have an open mind and be willing to try things in a different way."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"All of the amazing people and connections I have made along the way."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I have a full-time position as an assistant to a prominent bloodstock agent in the Thoroughbred industry. I will continue to expand my knowledge of Thoroughbred sales, training and racing."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“

Be a sponge. One thing that I have done over my four years is to always ask questions, always ask for more tasks (if you can handle it) and seize every opportunity you can.

”

CONGRATUATIONS

KAITLIN THOMAS

MAPLEWOOD, NJ

Kaitlyn completed an internship with Bryn Mawr as a barn manager.

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

"Being able to get my dream internship because of all of the skills I learned through this program."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Going to Keeneland!"

What are your plans for after graduation?

"Travel."



WORDS OF WISDOM

Enjoy the ride!

CONGRATUATIONS

NICHOLAS VACCAREZZA

PARKLAND, FL

Nicholas completed an internship with Little Dream Racing as a foreman.

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

"I am proud that although you don't need a degree to become a horse trainer, I found it necessary in order to further my knowledge of the horse."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Taking Equine Anatomy, meeting new friends, going to a football game with my family and, of course, racing horses."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"To go back to working full-time on the racetrack and hopefully becoming a trainer myself someday."



WORDS OF WISDOM

College can be rough for some at the start but do not give up. If you have your priorities in order, you can succeed at anything you desire.

CONGRATUATIONS

MADISON WALKER

CARY, IL

Madison is graduating with honors, as well as minors in Biology, Animal Science and Spanish.

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

"Graduating summa cum laude while working two jobs during school."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Traveling to Hawaii with my best friends for spring break during senior year!"

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am waiting to hear back from three vet schools currently."



WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Don't procrastinate, you'll end up getting to have more fun! ”

CONGRATUATIONS

GRACIE ZINSMEISTER

HEBRON, OH

Gracie completed an internship with Hagyard Davidson Surgery.

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

"I got the opportunity to work with Dr. Bailey and edit the OMIA database on Lavender Foal Syndrome."

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

"Getting to work hands-on with Eggard and the other farm horses in EQM 105."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I plan to continue working as a vet tech at Hagyard, along with applying to vet school."



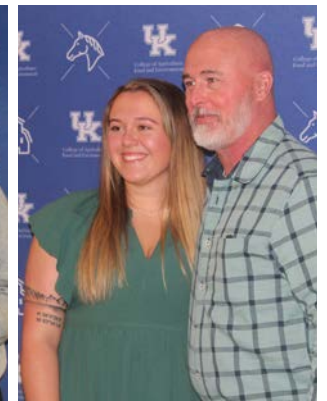
WORDS OF WISDOM

“ Take every opportunity possible, time flies and you don't want to miss any chances to meet and network with new people and professionals. ”

EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT GRADUATION RECEPTION



UK Ag Equine Programs hosted a Spring 2023 Graduation Reception May 4 at the E.S. Good Barn on UK's campus. Congratulations to all of our new alums!



WE WEREN'T JUST HORSING AROUND AT THE UK HORSEY HUSTLE 5K!

By Stephanie Smith, equine major, Wildcat Wrangler and part of team of student organizers

Photos by Mary Ledford, Alex Sharp, Jen Zimmerman

On April 1 at Coldstream Park in Lexington, Kentucky, we welcomed close to 175 guests for the second annual UK Horsey Hustle 5K Fun Run and Walk. A total of 138 people participated in the 5K, while others enjoyed the beautiful, albeit windy, weather amid food trucks, booths and educational activities.

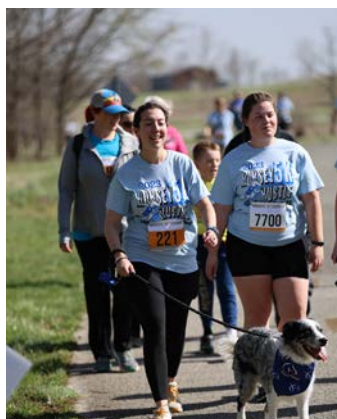
This community-focused event was coordinated by UK Ag Equine Programs' Wildcat Wranglers, an equine student ambassador team, as a way to bring members of the local equine industry together while also raising money. More than \$5,500 was raised for the UK Equine Student Experience and Applied Education Fund, a fund providing financial support to individual students and equine clubs and teams to foster horse-related opportunities both in the classroom and recreationally.

"With our second highly successful year, it is very exciting that this event may well become an annual spring tradition," said UK Ag Equine Programs director James MacLeod. "The students worked extremely hard organizing and planning everything, plus it was wonderful having the support of so many sponsors." Awards from the UK Equine Student Experience and Applied Education Fund benefited four different projects this calendar year, including the Saddle Seat Riding Lesson Scholarship, the Horseshoe Ball, the UK Horse Judging Team and the UK Equestrian Team.

Equine Science and Management sophomore Braden Heath is leading the project to revamp the UK Horse Judging Team. He said he hopes the funds the team received can help members travel to compete in judging competitions and gain new experiences and network within the equine industry.

Equine Science and Management senior Emily Brown submitted a successful application on behalf of the UK Saddle Seat Riding Lesson Program's creation.

"This program is an opportunity for Equine Science and Management students to receive hands-on riding and horse care experience outside of their degree. Without the UK Equine Student Experience and Applied Education Fund, this opportunity would not be possible."



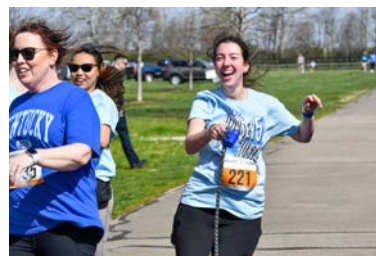
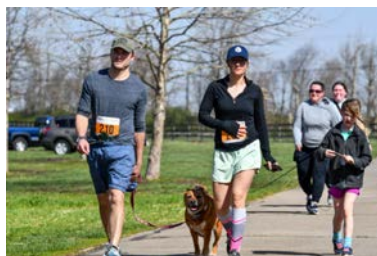


The Wildcat Wranglers encouraged student organizations in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment to compete for the largest registered club or team at the UK Horsey Hustle 5K. For the second year in a row, the UK Saddle Seat Team had the largest representation at the race, winning members a well-deserved ice cream party.

In an effort to increase community involvement outside of the college, the Wildcat Wranglers expanded the 5K to include after-race activities, including educational booths, games, a silent auction and food trucks for a picnic.

Wildcat Wrangler and Equine Science and Management junior Madelyn Leahey said, "The Horsey Hustle is my favorite event that we put on as Wildcat Wranglers. I loved being able to incorporate new ideas, such as the silent auction and food trucks, into the event this year. Our team worked so hard to create this event and I am so proud to say it was a huge success"

Final race results can be found [here](#). We would like to extend a huge thank you to our sponsors, racers, local community and everyone who made the 2023 UK Horsey Hustle 5K a success. Thanks to all who contributed and participated in the UK Horsey Hustle, even more projects and students will benefit next year from the UK Equine Student Experience and Applied Education Fund. We hope to see you again next year.



INAUGURAL HORSESHOE BALL BENEFITS PARTICIPATING STUDENT CLUBS AND TEAMS

By Emily Pendergest

When I first found out about the planning of a Horseshoe Ball, I was thrilled. As a senior in UK Ag Equine Programs, what better way to end my last semester than with a fun formal event with all my friends and peers? As I am sure many other equine students can understand, there are not many opportunities for us to dress formally, and from what I saw at the Horseshoe Ball, they sure do clean up nicely.

Upon arriving at check-in with my date, it was clear that this event was very well organized and thought out. There was a beautiful backdrop photo opportunity, free food and friendly, familiar faces ready to check us in and get us on the bus. The spirit and excitement from those of us in the lobby waiting to get on the bus made it clear that it was going to be a night to remember. And for me, it was.

Even the bus ride to the venue was a great experience. The aisles were filled with laughter and smiling faces all eager to get to the dance. After a quick 10-minute drive, our bus arrived at Copper Roux. Copper Roux was the perfect place for this event as the inside of the venue pays tribute to the equine community through its thoughtful design. All around the room are pictures of famous horses I caught many of the students looking at. Not only was the room thoughtfully designed, but it was clear that Emily Brown and her team worked very hard to decorate and make the space even more special.

One of the most popular areas of the night was the beautiful backdrop surrounded with white and gold balloons and a floral wall where guests could have their pictures taken. Another popular spot was the dance floor. DJ Knockout, a frequent UK DJ, had everyone out on that floor dancing and having a ball. One student, Rachel Johnson, said, "I had such a fun time dancing with my friends and people on the team! It was also great to see everyone all dressed up."

While, the music and photo opportunities were great, many people just enjoyed being able to spend





time with their friends from class.

Another equine student, Piper McGehee, said, "The ball itself couldn't have been more fun! Watching our equine community come together to dance all night was a highlight of my year."



The atmosphere of the night is truly challenging to express. There was so much joy and eagerness, but at the same time there was this overwhelming feeling of comradery and togetherness. Maybe I just feel sentimental because I am a graduating senior, but I think I can speak for everyone there that this event put into perspective how tight knit and special the UK Ag Equine Program is. I am so thankful to have been able to end my semester with such fun memories, and so thankful that I was fortunate enough to be a student of this program.



Thank you to Emily Brown for chairing this event, as well as the other students who had key roles in planning. Thank you also to the UK Saddle Seat, UK Western Equestrian, UK Dressage, UK Polo and UK MANRRS teams for helping plan and put on a lovely evening, as well as the faculty and UK Ag Equine Programs who gave their time and allowed this event to happen!



UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS AND EQAAN AT LAND ROVER KENTUCKY THREE DAY EVENT

UK Ag Equine Programs participated at the Land Rover Kentucky Three Day Event April 27-30 at the Kentucky Horse Park. The program had an informational booth in the trade fair area as well as its annual tailgate celebration Saturday during the cross country portion of the event. The tailgate celebration was hosted by EQAAN, the alumni organization of the Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program.



UK'S EQUINE PROGRAM EARNS ITS EEQ RECERTIFICATION



UK's Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program was recently awarded its recertification for Essential Employability Qualities (EEQs) by the QA Commons, a national nonprofit organization focused on preparing college students for the challenges they will face in the workforce.

UK's equine program is one of only 13 programs certified nationally, and the only equine-focused one. Programs are EEQ certified through a comprehensive and integrated framework of criteria that includes graduate preparation; career services integration; employer engagement; student and alumni engagement; and public display of career information. The eight identified Essential Employability Qualities are communication, thinking and problem solving, inquiry, collaboration, adaptability, principles and ethics, responsibility and professionalism and learning.



"We put such a strong emphasis on career employability skills development throughout our curriculum and the student experience, and this certification helps solidify that part within our program and helps industry stakeholders and employers see the skills our students are able to obtain," said Savannah Robin, internship coordinator and career development coordinator within the program.

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST WILDCAT WRANGLERS

CONGRATULATIONS

*to our new 2023 - 2024
Wildcat Wrangler team!*

JAIDA ALEE	LORALYE PAGE
ELIZABETH ALDERSON	ISIDRA POWELL
AVERY CUMMINGS	ALANA QUIRINDONGO-BAUNSOE
SARA FOUTS	MEGHAN ROBBINS
PAYTON HARPER	BETHANY SMITH
BRADEN HEATH	STEPHANIE SMITH
EMMA HYDE	LOGAN STEVENS
OLIVIA MORRISON	CHLOE YOUNG



On the Rise, Interview with Danielle Bricker

Source: BloodHorse, May 3, By Karen M. Johnson

Danielle Bricker, 31, the assistant racing manager for Mike Repole's stable since January 2022, paved herself a path in racing by doggedly pursuing a passion for horses, which began during childhood while riding hunters.

When her gut told her to switch majors from nursing to equine business while attending the University of Kentucky, the Smithtown, N.Y., native soon found her way to the sales grounds for a job showing horses to prospective buyers for Chris Baccari of Baccari Bloodstock. Then, after stints with renowned bloodstock agents Donato Lanni and Liz Crow, she moved on to the racetrack phase of her career and worked for trainer Todd Pletcher. In her current position with Repole, Bricker already has seen herself as part of a team with two champions in 2022, Forte and Nest. Forte is the Kentucky Derby (G1) morning-line favorite.

Bricker was interviewed April 15, and her answers are edited for clarity and space.

See the story in its entirety on page 15 [here](#).

Keeneland, Ed Brown Society Announce Keeneland Placements

Source: TDN, April 19, 2023

Ed Brown Scholars, Jordyn Elder and Jaida Alee, have been placed as student interns at Keeneland, and Ed Brown Fellow Timothy Campbell, Jr. has been placed as a Keeneland Library Associate as the partnership between Keeneland and the Ed Brown Society continues to develop in its first year.

Alee is a sophomore at the University of Kentucky, majoring in Equine Science and Management and Elder is on schedule to graduate with honors, from Kentucky State University in May of 2023, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

To read the story in its entirety, visit [here](#).





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