

April/May 2011

UK Equine Initiative
Student Newsletter

Spring to summer transition means horses, events and college graduation

Spring into summer is such an exciting time in Kentucky. For those of us with a passion for horses, it's really one of the best times of year. The days are getting warmer (finally!), the grass is becoming that special and brilliant green you only see in Central Kentucky and the babies are out in the paddocks. Our own horses are shedding out, competitions are starting, daylight hours get longer and we all finally get more time, light and better weather to get outside and work with our horses.

On top of that, there's the whirlwind of horse events, from the Keeneland race meet to the Rolex Three Day Event to all the horse shows and races and trail rides in between. And, who can forget the first Saturday in May with the Kentucky Derby and the beginning of a Triple Crown hunt?

For our students, this excitement is only part of it. The semester is wrapping up. Graduation is here. And those of us involved in UK's equine programs get to see another class of students in our young undergraduate program realize their college ambitions. We are incredibly proud of our Equine Science and Management grads! Congratulations on your achievements and for being such an important part of what we do here every day! We can't wait to see what you accomplish as your careers progress.

For our new senior class...Welcome to the moment. Embrace it and relish it. Your time in college is so fleeting. We hope you have a fantastic last year as an undergraduate here! We will be rooting you on.

We send a hearty congratulations to our student equine clubs and teams. You guys have accomplished so much over the past year. From the Horse Racing Club's annual event featuring Derby winning connections and the UK Equestrian Team representing us again at nationals to our Dressage and Eventing Team having another successful semester and our Polo team again shining at its national competition with top notch riders and horses, you have really represented your university well. Those congratulations also extend to our Saddleseat Team, who is also doing its fair share of winning, and hopefully down the road a revamped Horse Judging Team.

It really is an exciting time here! We wish you all the very best end of your semester and beginning of your summer. Have a terrific summer in whatever horsey endeavors you undertake! Don't forget to like us on Facebook and follow us here as we check in time to time over the summer. And, drop us a line sometime. We love to hear about what great things you are doing.

In this Issue:

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- Equine Field Day
- UKHRC's Inside the Derby Experience
- UKET heading to Nationals

UK Horse Racing Club's "Inside Horse Racing: The Derby Experience" a Success

By: Leah Alessandroni

The University of Kentucky's Horse Racing Club hosted a panel featuring several Thoroughbred horse racing professionals who were involved in winning the Kentucky Derby. The event, "Inside Horse Racing: The Derby Experience," was held Monday, April 25 in the Grand Ballroom of the UK Student Center.

Speakers for the panel-style event included Bill Casner, Arthur Hancock, Chris McCarron and John Ward. Horse Racing Radio Network's Mike Penna moderated.

There was a silent auction that featured horse memorabilia as well as items donated by other Lexington businesses.

Proceeds benefited Thoroughbred Charities of America and the UK Horse Racing Club.

Event sponsors included Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders, UK Student Government Association, Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital, UK Equine Initiative, Denali Stud, Hallway Feeds and the Horse Racing Radio Network.

Distinguished Industry Lecture Series: Ted Bassett



Keeneland's Ted Bassett spoke at the University of Kentucky Equine Initiative Distinguished Industry Lecture Series March 31. More than 140 people attended the lecture sponsored by Hagyard Equine Medical Institute at the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center.

Dan Liebman, former editor of The Blood-Horse magazine, interviewed Bassett who spoke about the history of Keeneland, his life experiences, and what he believes is the future of Thoroughbred racing.

The Distinguished Industry Lecture Series is designed to showcase distinguished industry practitioners from the broad equine industry and is targeted toward students and a variety of UK stakeholders. The inaugural lecture was in November 2009.

To see video of the event, go to <http://video.ca.uky.edu/videos/video/136/>.

Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program Raffle

The Kentucky Thoroughbred Association (KTA) is one of many organizations supporting the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program (BDVP), an advocacy agency committed to ending intimate partner abuse and its impact on families and our community, which is holding a \$10 for \$10,000 raffle. The raffle is scheduled for Monday, June 6. Tickets are being sold for \$10 and there is not a limit on the amount of tickets you can purchase. You do not need to be present to win. \$10 to possibly win \$10,000 is a pretty good bet! Only 5,000 will be sold. If you are interested in supporting the BDVP and would like to purchase ticket(s) please send a check, made out to BDVP, to: KTA, 4079 Iron Works Pkwy., Lexington, KY 40511.

Equine Clubs and Teams News & Events

Dressage Team

The UK Dressage team hosted a show April 2-3 at L&N Farm. Several teams attended, including the University of Findlay and Otterbein College. The University of Kentucky A team won the first day of the competition with Catherine Connell as reserve champion. On the second day, the A team placed 4th with Connell as reserve champion again.

Eventing Team

Some of the individuals on the UK eventing team competed at the Spring Bay Horse Trials held April 9-10 at the Kentucky Horse Park (dressage and stadium) and Masterson Equestrian Park (cross country).

- Kelly Kramer, riding Harvest Moon, placed 3rd in the beginner novice division.
- Alison Wilaby placed 5th in the preliminary division with Holla Vettier and 9th with Memphis II.
- Molly VanArsdalen, riding Say So, placed 7th in the preliminary division.

Several of the Eventing team members will be competing at MayDaze on May 27-29 at the Kentucky Horse Park.

The Eventing Team hosted a clinic with Jorge Montalvo on April 23-24 at his farm.

The team is also planning a summer series of clinics for those interested. Names of trainers and dates will be coming soon! Be on the look out for the team's booth at the United States Pony Club Festival!



Saddle Seat Team



On April 2-3, the team had its last two shows. The first show was Eastern Kentucky University's show where UK was the high point team. Junior Aimee Griggs won Junior High Point Rider.

The second show was the first ever ISSRA Championship Show, and UK was the high point team. Senior Stephanie Davisson won Reserve Senior High Point Rider, Aimee Griggs once again won Junior High Point Rider, and Kelly Ruhl, sophomore, won Reserve Junior High Point Rider.

Photo by Tom Holahan



Alison Wilaby competing first level at the April 2nd show

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Equestrian Team

The University of Kentucky Hunt Seat team had a successful weekend at its Zone competition April 8- 9. The team won reserve champion behind the University of Miami. The team competed against the University of Findlay, the University of West Virginia, and the University of Michigan.

Five of UK's riders placed in the ribbons, moved on individually, and advanced to nationals.

- Ali Cibon won open individual fences
- Lauren Patterson won intermediate individual on the flat
- Jenny Naylor placed 5th open individual flat
- Jessica Browne placed 8th novice individual on the flat
- Natalie Heitz placed 8th walk trot individual flat.

The Western team will be sending alumni rider Megan Carter to nationals. Carter will be competing for the University in reining and horsemanship. The team has had a very successful season and is looking forward to next year!

Nationals were held at the Kentucky Horse Park in the Alltech Arena May 2-6. The Hunt Seat team tied for 5th place overall.

- Lauren Patterson placed 5th in intermediate individual on the flat
- Ali Cibon placed 1st in open equitation over fences
- Megan Carter placed 6th in alumni reining and 7th in alumni western horsemanship

If you would like more information about joining the Western team, please contact Claire Knox at ceknox2@uky.edu



From left to right: Megan Cassidy, Courtney Asdourian, Alyson Poor, Cary Campbell, Meghan Shader, and Posey Obrecht

Polo Team

The UK Girls Polo Team completed its season at the United States Polo Association National Intercollegiate Championships at Cornell in Ithaca, N.Y., and won its first match against Cal Poly Pomona with a score of 21-9.

The team moved on to play the University of Virginia, but was unsuccessful despite a good effort. Although UK's Polo Team did not win nationals, the team was awarded "2011 National Best Playing Women's String" for its team of seven polo ponies.

If you would like more information about the team, please contact Herndon Radcliff at auburnfan23@gmail.com.

Equine Farm & Facilities Expo

Selecting the right equipment for the job

Tuesday, **June 7, 2011**

3:30 to 8 p.m. MEAL PROVIDED

Highlighting a display of equine equipment and supplies from Central Bluegrass companies,
4 - 8 p.m.

Featuring— demonstrations on the practical use of equipment suited for farms of all sizes, **6 - 8 p.m.**

- Facility design, Dr. Bob Coleman, equine extension specialist joined by guest speaker Gus Koch, Shawhan Place
- How to successfully establish and overseed horse pastures, Dr. Ray Smith, forage extension specialist
- Weed control basics: what weeds need to be controlled, Dr. Bill Witt, weed scientist
- Rethinking parasite control: strategic deworming, Dr. Mary Rossano, equine parasitologist



Location—


Shawhan Place
A Continuing Tradition

205 Larue Road, Paris, Kentucky

Shawhan Place is a premier Thoroughbred farm offering foaling, breeding, sales prep and consignment, breaking, lay-ups, and pre-training services. Owned and operated by Theodore Kuster, Charles Koch, and Matthew Koch.

DIRECTIONS from Paris/Bourbon Co. High School:

- Take U.S. 27 North/U.S. 68 East
- Go 2 miles and turn left onto U.S. 27 North
- Go 3.8 miles, turn right onto Peacock Rd.
- Go 1 mile and turn left onto Larue Rd.
- Go 0.3 miles to Shawhan Place on the left
- Follow the field day signs

Contact Your county Extension agent or
UK Equine Initiative, (859) 257-2226 or
equineinitiative@uky.edu

More information at www.ca.uky.edu/equine

RSVP appreciated
to UK Equine Initiative
(859) 257-2226 or
equineinitiative@uky.edu

Florida Native Learns the Ins and Outs of the Kentucky Horse Council

Leah Alessandroni, from Punta Gorda, Fla., who recently completed her junior year, came to the University of Kentucky to pursue her dream of working in the Thoroughbred industry after she grew up watching the Kentucky Derby on television.



While her career ambitions shifted after her arrival in Lexington, she felt sure she didn't want to work in an office job as she pursued an internship for her graduation requirement. As a result, Alessandroni had reservations about taking an office position with the Kentucky Horse Council (KHC), but was pleasantly surprised by her experience.

"There is a big difference between working hands on with horses and working in an office," said Elizabeth LaBonty, internship coordinator for UK's equine undergraduate program. "But Leah's positive attitude and people skills made her a great fit for the KHC internship."

Alessandroni's day-to-day activities varied, but she said that one thing that didn't change was the friendliness of her co-workers and their willingness to include her in the council's inner workings.

"It wasn't like I was sitting on the outside. It was a really good experience," she said.

During her summer internship, Alessandroni was responsible for filing, bookkeeping, inventory, fact-checking and database management. To her surprise, she also managed the office for a week while the staff was away. While it was an overwhelming experience, she said she was pleased to discover that as an intern she could step up and manage phones and e-mail for those who were gone.

"She helped us with anything we asked her to, whether it was a simple thing like copying or something big like a mailing," said Dawn Estep, Alessandroni's supervisor at the KHC. Estep said that Alessandroni's reliability was a big asset in making her internship a success. "She was always cheerful, we could count on her and we didn't need to follow up with everything she did."

Both agreed that an internship is a vital experience for current students, not only to get practical experience for future employers, but also to test the waters of a potential career path. "[Whether an internship is] paid or not, it's important to find out not just what you like to do, but what you're good at. Without internships I would have no idea where to start," Alessandroni said.

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She is interested in a career in communications or management in the horse industry, and in a tough job market, plans to get as many different types of practical experience as possible in addition to her equine science and management degree.

“I’m trying not to put myself into a very specific category ... I think there’s nothing more valuable you can do to set yourself apart, especially in this industry where people are so willing to take on an intern,” she said.

For more information about UK’s equine undergraduate internship program, contact Elizabeth LaBonty at elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu.

By Chelsea Urhahn

The Equine Initiative
congratulates the following
students for graduating with a
degree in equine science and
management:

- Tanya-Leah Boulmetis
- Alaka Branham
- Stephanie Davisson
- Mary Kate Estes
- Aleasha Flowers
- Brian Hill
- Sarah Ison
- Lindsey Lundblad
- Travers Manley
- Paige Marcinek
- Michelle Sanseverino
- Sarah Shewmaker
- Catherine VanArsdall
- James Wilhite
- Courtney Zimmerman
- Nicole Zullo

Best of luck!



UK Ag
EQUINE

Student Steps Out of Comfort Zone for Internship

Nicole Zullo, a graduating senior majoring in Equine Science and Management from Orono, Minn., came to the University of Kentucky to pursue her dream of working in public relations for an equine related business. While finishing her degree, Zullo set off to Tioga, Texas, to complete her required internship.

Zullo worked with Tim and Colleen McQuay at McQuay Stables, where she worked with hunter jumpers and reining horses.

“I heard about this internship from a family friend, but I chose this internship because it got me involved with two segments of the equine industry I knew nothing about,” she said.

During her internship, Zullo was responsible for caring for the farm’s horses as well as teaching riding lessons to younger students and interacting with the 25 other workers on the farm.



“It is very important for our interns to be able to work together with our other staff; they need good people skills,” said Colleen McQuay, Nicole’s supervisor.

McQuay said Zullo’s good work ethic made her very beneficial to the operation.

“I really believe in the [internship] program, but it also depends on the student and how they work and learn,” she said.

Both McQuay and Zullo said that the hard work put into an internship reflects what students and employers get out of it.

“My favorite part of my internship was when Tim McQuay made the U.S. World Equestrian Games team. It was such a cool experience to share with everyone down there,” Zullo said.

A junior this year, Zullo is interested in pursuing her masters in Agricultural Economics after completing her undergraduate degree, after which she wants to work in public relations and advertising for an equine company.

“Nicole’s experience is a good example of how good people skills transcend career paths and riding disciplines,” said Internship Coordinator, Elizabeth LaBonty.

“This internship helped me see how sponsors interact with their riders as well as to gain a basic understanding of other sections of the equine industry, as I am assuming I will not only be working with eventers,” she said.

For more information about UK’s equine undergraduate internship program, contact Elizabeth LaBonty at elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu.

Job News

Cobra Farms

Cobra Farms has work available now and through the summer. If you are interested, please email elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu.

Shawhan Farms

Shawhan Farms is looking for someone to help prep yearlings for the sales. Shawhan could start someone as early as June or as late as July (depending on your schedule) so this would work well for someone who wants to take classes the first part of the summer and then work full time. If you are interested in this position, please email a resume and/or cover letter addressed to Matt Koch, Shawhan Farms.

WinStar Farms

WinStar Farms is looking for a few students to give tours at the farm between the hours of 10 a.m.-2 p.m. every day. This will be a paid position and WinStar would like for it to start as soon as possible. If you are interested, please send a resume and/or a cover letter addressed to Amy Nave as soon as possible.

Veterinarians Office

One doctor, small animal practice in eastern Jefferson County, seeking a part time assistant. Job duties include but not limited to:
- Cleaning, assisting in surgery and exam rooms, preparing samples for the laboratory, running in house blood work and other general office tasks.
-Must be able to lift 40 pounds and work Saturdays
Office hours are 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri; Thursday 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Previous animal experience or pre-vet preferred but not required. This position would be for 10-20 hours per week. *Please email resume and include availability:* clinic@eastpointvet.com

Internships

Kentucky Horse Council

Internships with the Kentucky Horse Council are a great way to build contacts and network within the Kentucky equine community.

The KHC currently has two unpaid summer internship opportunities for quality students:

- The office intern will learn time management, website maintenance, phone etiquette, communication skills, MS Office programs, and network within the larger KY equine community.
- The Livestock Investigation Training intern will learn time management, organizational skills, communication skills, training techniques, Kentucky equine statutes, how equine neglect cases are processed, and networking with county and state officials.

Students may apply or obtain information online at www.kentuckyhorse.org/internship/. For questions or information contact Essie Rogers at 859.367.0509 or erogers@kentuckyhorse.org

Scholarships

Kentucky Women in Agriculture (KWIA) reminds women who are studying agriculture that the deadline for KWIA \$1,000 scholarship is May 20, 2011. For more information, visit the KWIA website at www.kywomeninag.com or contact by e-mail at info@kywomeninag.com

Upcoming Events

May

- 22- High Hope Steeplechase
- 27-29 May Daze Horse Trials

June

- 7- The 3rd Annual Equine Farm and Facilities Expo

Like us on Facebook!

The University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture has several equine-related Facebook pages that present the latest news and events information. Stay up-to-date with UK's horsey happenings by following their activities on these pages:

- Equine Initiative
- Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center
- Saddle Up Safely



Equine Club Directory

Dressage & Eventing Team

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe

jill.stowe@uky.edu

President: Jessica Wolk

jhwolk2@uky.edu

Equestrian Team

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman

rcoleman@uky.edu

President: Lauren Patterson

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Horse Racing Club

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence

llawrenc@uky.edu

President: Natalie Heitz

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Polo Club

Advisor: Dr. Roger Brown

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President: Cary Campbell

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Saddle Seat Team

Advisor: Dr. Lee Edgerton

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President: Stephanie Davisson

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You can also like us on Facebook!