

UK Equine Initiative Student Newsletter

Inaugural Edition, November 2007

Welcome to the first issue of a newsletter for students and potential students interested in all things equine at the University of Kentucky! UK has a lot to offer if you're interested in horses – and even more is coming soon!

From a new undergraduate program and enhanced research to new faculty hires and upgraded facilities, there hasn't been a more exciting time to be part of the UK College of Agriculture and its equine programs.

This publication is a work in progress and will ultimately have its own visual identity. Its identity and look will be a result of your feedback. The Equine Initiative is currently in the process of a major enhancement of its communications efforts. We will be launching newsletters and revamping the Equine Initiative website in an effort to offer you more relevant and timely information. We will offer information specific to students, faculty, staff and a wide range of stakeholders from Kentucky's equine industry. We are looking to you to help us constantly tweak the information we provide. What are we missing? What should we change? What would you like to know more about? What are some great story ideas?

We also have a group on Facebook, so if you'd prefer to receive information that way, please request to join the Equine Initiative Group.

And, we are looking for a name. Since we're running out of good ideas (they all seem to be taken!) – and we know that our students, faculty and staff can be creative geniuses, we are offering a \$50 gift certificate to a Lexington restaurant of your choice if you submit the newsletter name that is ultimately chosen. Email equineinitiative@email.uky.edu with your ideas. The deadline for a name is Dec. 1, 2007.

So pull up a chair (or a laptop) and read more about what's going on. We welcome any feedback you might have and look forward to communicating with you every month! And don't forget to submit your great name ideas so this newsletter can begin to take on its identity!



Serving Kentucky's horse industry through research and education

University of Kentucky Equine Initiative

**We share the dream
for his future...**

UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
College of Agriculture

www.ca.uky.edu/equine

Administrative Update

By Dr. Mike Mullen, UK College of Agriculture
Associate Dean for Academic Programs

Dear Students,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our newsletter for and about equine programs in the College of Agriculture at UK. It has been an exciting two years since we kicked off the Equine Initiative, and much is happening! The College has worked hard to make sure all phases of equine programming – education, research and extension – are fully integrated and available to serve our students and the industry. Of course, perhaps the most exciting development has been the creation of our undergraduate program in Equine Science and Management.

The equine undergraduate program is the result of numerous listening sessions with equine groups throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the work of our professors and industry representatives. The program has a core of 28 credit hours in courses directly related to equine science and management. As a student, you would then choose an option. The Science option will take you through more courses in animal science and land and pasture management. If you plan to work directly with horses on a working farm, or are thinking of equine veterinary work, this is the plan for you. The Management option will allow you to take courses in agricultural and economic policy and management. You also will work with your advisor to choose electives that will tailor your degree towards your career goals.

We have also recently completed an equine pavilion at our Main Chance Equine Campus. This new pavilion provides for teaching and learning activities central to the Equine degree program. I think you will agree that it is a wonderful facility. Additional facilities for education and research are also planned for the Main Chance campus, so stay tuned for new developments!

The College of Agriculture is excited about our equine programs. We welcome you and hope that you are as excited as we are about being a part of this new opportunity in Equine education.

Yours in Equine Education,



Dr. Mike Mullen
Associate Dean

Equine Initiative Highlights

WHAT HAS EI BEEN UP TO?

So what's been going on since the inception of the Equine Initiative in 2005? Visit the current EI website at www.ca.uky.edu/equine/index.htm to see some of the happenings and significant news. Of note, the current informational brochure can be found in PDF format at www.ca.uky.edu/equine/images/booklet/EQUINE-Initiative-Booklet-jan-2007.pdf. There is also a lot happening at the UK Main Chance Equine Campus. To see some of those plans, please visit www.ca.uky.edu/equine/images/booklet/clusters.pdf.

INFORMATION FOR EQUINE PROGRAM
SECOND MOST REQUESTED

This fall, the top two requests about UK majors at the UK Visitor's Center are both College of Agriculture degree programs. Pre-vet was the most requested program, followed by the new equine program.

EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT
BACHELOR'S DEGREE LAUNCHED

Hailing from as far away as Maine, California and Florida, students have enthusiastically flocked to the new Equine Science and Management program. This past fall, UK welcomed 46 new students and has handled many requests for tours, visits and other information.

"I came to UK for horses; growing up in Maine I had always known Kentucky as the horse capital of the world. Why would I want to be anywhere else?" said Audrey Jarrett, an ESM student from Belfast, Maine.

The students attending UK for this program tend to have been active in a wide variety of breed organizations and industries before enrolling at UK.

The ESM program, currently offered as an independent study degree until final university approval occurs, offers a wide variety of classes and with two separate tracks that touch on all aspects of the equine industry. The first track is Equine Science which focuses on the biological sciences and day-to-day activities and management of horses. The second track is Equine Management, which is more focused on the business, industry and marketing aspect of the equine industry.

With the high numbers of students comes a need for more space. On UK's Main Chance Farm, a new teaching pavilion was built to serve students and plans are underway to further enhance the teaching and research facilities on the farm.

Equine Initiative Highlights, cont.

HORSE COURSE

The equine science and management program offers a wide variety of major requirements classes. This section offers a glimpse into some of the classes offered.

Non Equine Related Class: Farm Management, Dr. Steve Isaacs

A class to look for next spring is AEC 302, Farm Management, with Dr. Steve Isaacs. Dr. Isaacs is a professor of extension and teaches this course in the spring. It has provided many students insight into farm management, economic principles, goal setting, risk management and Microsoft Excel principles. Farm Management is also taught in the fall by other professors. The class is offered for four class hours, which includes two days of lecture and offers two lab sections.

"I had Dr. Isaacs' Farm Management last spring. It was one of the best classes I've had at UK. I learned so much that I can apply to many different types of jobs," said Agricultural Education senior Kendra Horn.

Ask your advisor and be on the lookout for Farm Management in the spring!

Another class to look for in the spring deals with all the aspects of Equine Production. Dr. Coleman teaches **ASC 410G, Equine Science** in the spring, Monday and Wednesday, from 8-8:50 a.m. with a Wednesday lab from 1-2:50 p.m. During this class, you will have a chance to learn about everything from pregnancy, including hormones and how to manipulate them; creep feeding; nutrition; the digestive system; what to feed; and other general production topics.

During the lab for this class, students are able to visit a wide range of equine industry facilities to see everything from breeding to conformation. One of the facilities students visited last year was WinStar Farms.

Check out Equine Production with Dr. Coleman to fulfill one of your spring equine class requirements.

"Inside Horse Racing" photos:

Top: Trainer panel, from left to right, included Ron Moquett, Rebecca Maker, Kenny McPeek, John Ward and Carl Nafzger

Middle: Attendees look at silent auction items

Bottom: Approximately 150 attended

Around the College of Ag

UK HORSE RACING CLUB'S FIRST "INSIDE HORSE RACING" FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS

More than 150 people turned out to hear some of horse racing's top trainers speak at the UK Horse Racing Club's

"Inside Horse Racing: The Trainer's View," held Oct. 8 in the Student Center Grand Ballroom on the UK campus.



The fundraiser featured a panel of influential Thoroughbred trainers, including Ron Moquett, Rebecca Maker, Kenny McPeek, John Ward and Carl Nafzger as well as a silent auction. The event raised more than \$4,000. Proceeds will be shared between the Horse Racing Club and the Makers Mark Secretariat Center.



The mission of the UK Horse Racing Club is to increase awareness among students about horse racing and to create opportunities for students to interact with professionals in the horse racing industry.

Industry sponsors included the Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association, Juddmonte Farms, The Keeneland Association, Blood-Horse Publications, The Horse Racing Radio Network, Kentucky Equine Education Program (KEEP), Overbrook Farms, Thoroughbred Times and Vinery Farm.



Around the College of Ag, cont.

UK EQUESTRIAN TEAM'S SEASON OFF TO A SOLID START

The UK Equestrian team began its season Sept. 29-30, 2007, winning High Point Team at the Midway College hosted show. Numerous riders received top honors in their classes, pulling the UK Equestrian Team far ahead of its competition for both the hunt and stock seat teams on both days.

During its Nov. 3-4, 2007, show at Morehead State University, the hunt seat team won high point team both days while the stock seat team won reserve high point team on Nov. 3.

Upcoming shows for the UK Equestrian Team will be held in February, dates to be announced. One show will be hosted by UK and the other will be held at Morehead State University. More details coming soon.

PRE-VET DAY NOV. 10

The Pre-Vet Club and the College of Agriculture are featuring Pre-Vet Day on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2007. To see a tentative schedule or to register for Pre-Vet Day, please visit www.ca.uky.edu/students/prospective/Pre-VetDay.asp.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the Spring 2008 semester started on Nov. 2 and will last until Nov. 17. Be sure to check when you can register for your classes.

Student Spotlight

EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT FRESHMAN WINS THIRD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Dalia Smith, an 18-year-old freshman equine science and management major from Manchester, Ky., took top honors this past August in the 15-17 age division at the Tennessee Walk-



PHOTO : Cutline: Dalia Smith and Pushin That Jazz after winning a third consecutive championship at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration.

ing Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, Tenn.

The championship is her third consecutive win at the national level. For the past two years she won on a horse named Pushin That Jazz. In 2005, her ride was John FK's Diamond Delight.

Smith says, "My love for the Tennessee Walking Horse has definitely grown with age. The older I get, the more I want to know about how to train them and understand better methods to do so."

She says her favorite thing about college so far is that she knows it is going to help better prepare her for a career in the industry she loves.

Dalia says she intends to continue showing Tennessee Walking Horses well into her future. As an equine science major she hopes to use her degree to better the Tennessee Walking Horse industry and help make it a more popular breed worldwide.

She says she can accomplish anything with her heroes – mom and dad – by her side.

Grad Student Forum

The College of Agriculture's Equine Initiative at UK includes an exciting branch of Master and Doctorate-level research in equine related topics, including equine economics, land management and animal & vet science. Graduate students are encouraged to post summaries of their research interests at www.UnbridledNews.com, an online community for equine research, business, and related topics. The goal is to create an online graduate student equine research organization where students, faculty, and the equine industry can learn more about equine-related graduate work. The news forum is hosted by the chair of this new organization, Kimberly Brown (kimberly.brown@uky.edu).

Opportunities for Jobs and Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Thanksgiving and winter break are right around the corner. With the celebration of the end of finals comes the time to research scholarship and job opportunities for next year. Some opportunities to be keep in mind during the next few weeks:

- American Quarter Horse Foundation Scholarship Deadline is Jan. 1, 2008. To apply for these scholarships you must be a member of AQHA and have put forth effort into the industry and the association. www.aqha.com/foundation/scholarships/wanttoapply.html
- Race For Education: www.racingscholarships.com/page.php?page=resources
- College Of Agriculture: www.ca.uky.edu/agripedia/testing/AS/academic/uppapp05.pdf
- KEEP: www.horseswork.com/scholarship.htm
- KyQHA: www.kyqha.com/youth/scholarship.pdf
- Kentucky Horse Farm Workers Educational Assistance Fund: www.horsefarmeducationfund.com/index.htm
- Kentucky Horse Council Scholarship: www.kentuckyhorse.org/scholarships.shtml

HELP WANTED CLASSIFIEDS:

Please note, classifieds listed here are not directly affiliated with UK or its equine programs, rather information passed along from equine businesses as an FYI.

Equestrian Director and Equestrian Assistant wanted at Camp Kateri (located one-half hour south-east of Gainesville, Fla). This camp is for girls 6-17 years old. Both positions are paid and applications apply to the June–August 2008 timeframe.

Contact: Cynthia Wisner

Outdoor Education Manager
Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, Inc.
(904) 291-0648, ext, 102

UK equine student wanted to **care for horses** while owner is away on business trips. Job is at a personal farm in the Man O War/Nicholasville Road area and would range from three to 14 days per month. Experience with Thoroughbreds is preferred but not required.

Contact: Alicia Prister (859)537-0079

Industry News

The North American Livestock Expo will be held Nov. 3-16 in Louisville, Ky. The North American Rodeo will be held Nov. 8-10. For more information regarding tickets visit www.livestockexpo.org.

For some of the latest equine news from the College of Agriculture, please visit the Equine Initiative website news section at www.ca.uky.edu/equine/press_news.html.

Suggestion Box

We want to hear from you! What are we missing? What should we change? What would you like to know more about? What information should we feature in an upcoming issue?

Your feedback is important and we welcome your comments! Please email equineinitiative@email.uky.edu and let us know what you think.

Contact Us

Equine Initiative

N212 Ag Sciences Building North
Lexington, KY 40546-0091

Office: (859) 257-2226

Fax: (859) 323-8484

Email:

equineinitiative@email.uky.edu

Web:

www.ca.uky.edu/equine/

Associate Director for Undergraduate Education in Equine Science and Management: **Dr. Bob Coleman**
Equine Initiative Communications Director and Editor: **Holly Wiemers**
Equine Initiative Communications and Editorial Assistant: **Savannah Craddock**
Equine Initiative Staff Support: **Kevin Hagan**

You can also find us on **Facebook** under the Equine Initiative Group