

JAN 2024
EDITION

WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

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Congratulations go out to our Fall 2023 Dean's List students!

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HIGHLIGHTS

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CONGRATULATIONS ESMA DEAN'S LIST STUDENTS!

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CONGRATULATIONS! Equine Science & Management

FALL 2023 DEAN'S LIST

PRE-VETERINARY EXPERIENCE DAY FEB. 17

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The University of Kentucky Pre-Veterinary Advising Program, in conjunction with UK Ag Equine Programs and the Kentucky Horse Council, will host an inaugural Pre-Veterinary Experience Day Feb. 17 at the Kentucky Horse Park. The day-long event is open to all college students with an interest in veterinary medicine.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Jan. 31, Equine and Endophytes Workshop
Feb. 17, Pre-Veterinary Experience Day
March 5, 17th Annual Pastures Please!!
April 14, Horsey Hustle
April 16, ESMA Internship Showcase

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

WELCOME

UK is the Place

This year I will celebrate my 40th reunion with veterinary school classmates. Four decades - hard to believe, but yes, I will be gathering with my fellow graduates from the University of Pennsylvania Class of 1984 in May.

Many things have changed over these 40 years, but I still feel strongly that veterinary medicine is a wonderful profession. Animals are highly deserving patients, always worthy of empathy and care. The diversity of animal species results in a broad comparative biomedical education that serves as a wonderful foundation for clinical practice and clinical specialties, discovery science, medical regulatory jobs and biomedical niches in business and law. You can work in the city, in the country or even in wilderness areas. In each domain, there is every opportunity to make a positive contribution to the world that most people will genuinely respect and value. You can be a good person and feel good about yourself.

All that said, the profession of veterinary medicine is facing challenges. In many rural communities across the country, there is a profound shortage of large animal and equine veterinarians in clinical practice. Members of the public are usually surprised to learn that many (many!!!) farms in the U.S. literally do not have access to a veterinarian for on-site appointments, even in cases of a medical emergency. Many additional farms are under-served by on-site veterinary care.

The reasons are multifactorial (and beyond the scope of this reflection), but they are known. Not surprisingly, there is no easy fix for these challenges and solutions will also need to be multifaceted and often incremental. Importantly, however, the University of Kentucky is very well positioned to be part of the solution - *especially with regard to equine veterinarians*.

Central Kentucky does not have a shortage of equine veterinarians - actually far from it. I am quite sure that there are more equine veterinarians within a 25-mile radius of UK's campus than any place in the world. Further, it is not just the raw numbers; the breadth of equine clinical specialties, the full spectrum of equine veterinary career paths and the size/diversity/value of central Kentucky's equine patient population must also be near the top on a global scale.

This is all highly relevant, because I believe the most compelling opportunity for UK to help address the national shortage of equine veterinarians is to expand and strengthen the pipeline of equine-focused pre-veterinary students who are prepared for success in both veterinary school and subsequent veterinary medical career paths. Academically, "preparation for success" should include rigorous STEM courses, combined with didactic and experiential learning in equine science and agriculture. However, equally important is career and professional preparation. This includes knowledge and experiential learning across the spectrum of equine veterinary career paths, combined with emotional, professional/ethical and financial literacy maturity to successfully navigate the realities of veterinary school, equine veterinary practice and adulthood.

The University of Kentucky is very well positioned to cover all these areas. UK is a large land grant university, with breadth and strength across academic disciplines, excellence in biomedical sciences anchored by a large human medical center and over 100 years of global leadership in areas of equine science and agriculture. Combine these points with the demographics of horses, equine-affiliated organizations, equine businesses and equine veterinarians in Central Kentucky, I think it is fair to say that the equine pre-veterinary student pipeline opportunities for UK are special, and quite possibly unique.

From my 40-year perspective of being a proud and happy veterinarian, combined with a lifelong enthusiasm for horses on many levels, I believe that the University of Kentucky can be *the nationally premier pre-veterinary undergraduate program for students considering a veterinary career path focused on equine patients*.



JAMES MACLEOD, VMD, PHD
DIRECTOR, UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS, JOHN
S. AND ELIZABETH A. KNIGHT CHAIR, GLUCK
EQUINE RESEARCH CENTER



MASTHEAD

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ALUMNI PROFILE

EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

Jackson Wells '16

Firefighter, Sun Prairie Fire Department
Roscoe, IL

How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

I first became involved in the horse industry as a three-year-old at the local apple orchard. The orchard had a few ponies that kids could ride around the apple trees, and I enjoyed it so much, that my parents decided to sign me up for riding lessons. I rode in hunter/jumpers around the Chicago area throughout grade school and switched to dressage in high school.

What were your career goals before graduation?

Before graduation, I wanted to be involved in equine media. I had two writing & creative internships in college (with UK Equine Programs and Keeneland) that were hugely informative and gave great insight for where I wanted to be.

How do you feel your time at UK impacted your career path?

I feel that my creative writing minor has had the largest impact throughout every job I've had. Being able to communicate efficiently has been critical.

What are your current job responsibilities?

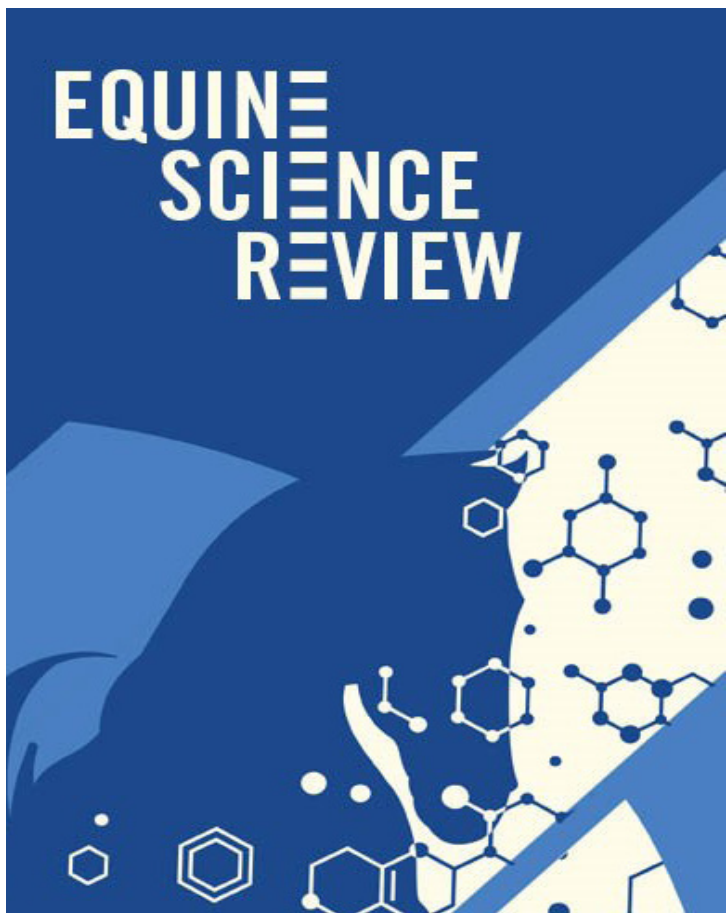
As a firefighter, my responsibilities are multifaceted. I perform daily truck checks, which include testing and running self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs), extrication tools and resupplying. I also handle daily station cleaning duties and participate in daily training, from emergency medical services (EMS) to search and rescue drills. Additionally, I am involved in community outreach and public education, such as grade school fire safety drills and building safety inspections. Finally, my duties encompass extinguishing fires, from structures to vehicles, and providing emergency medical service (EMS) duties within the scope of practice for an emergency medical technician (EMT).

What do you enjoy most about your current role?

I most enjoy being hands on with the community and helping people in a very tangible way. My job responds to everything from elderly folks who have fallen and need a hand standing back up to blazing house fires. Being outside, working with a crew and a military adjacent structure is also fantastic.

What advice do you have for equine science and management students?

My advice would be to obtain an out of the box minor. Having a skill set that isn't directly related to your major will help you stand out and be even more prepared for unique challenges in your future career.



UK Ag Equine Programs Welcomes Back Equine Science Review

UK Ag Equine Programs has relaunched the Equine Science Review: highlighting research and outreach efforts at the University of Kentucky. This monthly newsletter from the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment highlights the important equine work happening at the university. UK is home to world-class research and service excellence in equine health, safety, nutrition, pasture and forages, economics, engineering, environmental compliance and many others. Programs at UK offer the depth and breadth of scope fitting its location in the heart of horse country. Have updates delivered to your inbox each month by subscribing to the Review at <https://mailchi.mp/uky/equinesciencereview>. Current and archived issues can be found at <https://equine.ca.uky.edu/equinesciencereview>.



UK EQUINE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER TOM HAMMOND TO RECEIVE SPECIAL ECLIPSE AWARD FOR CAREER EXCELLENCE

The National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA), Daily Racing Form, and the National Turf Writers and Broadcasters (NTWAB) have named dynamic broadcaster Tom Hammond as the recipient of this year's Special Eclipse Award for Career Excellence,... [To read this entire TDN News Story, click [here](#).]

Congratulations!



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Riddle has a long history as one of the program's most respected industry advisory voices. In 2017, he was named [Friend of UK Ag Equine Programs.](#)

Fred Sarver, an esteemed American Saddlebred Horse breeder and current member of the Board was named as new chair.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Equine Science & Management

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Equine Science & Management

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Pre-Veterinary Experience Day

Presented by the University of Kentucky's Pre-Veterinary Advising Program, in conjunction with UK's Department of Animal & Food Sciences, UK Ag Equine Programs and Kentucky Horse Council

February 17, 2024, Kentucky Horse Park

Veterinary Medicine is an exciting profession offering a diverse array of rewarding career path options. The Pre-Vet Experience Day will provide undergraduate students interested in a veterinary career information critical for informed decision making.

Hosted in Lexington, Kentucky, this day-long event offers students insight into current veterinary medicine issues, addressing topics such as student debt, mental health and work-life balance. A panel discussion with current veterinary professionals will debate functional ways of navigating these industry concerns.

Attendees can also choose between informational sessions based on their level of knowledge and stage of preparation for vet school. Those who are early in their investigation of the pre-veterinary pathway may select sessions focused on assessing veterinary schools and preparing a competitive veterinary school application. Those students who are further along in their pre-vet journey can opt into sessions providing insight into the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) application and the diverse career possibilities in the veterinary field.

In the afternoon, students will participate in one of four veterinary career path explorations with focus options including companion/small animal, livestock, equine or government/academia. These tours will give attendees the opportunity to view a veterinary facility and ask questions of a professional in their area of interest.

Make plans to attend today! Space will be limited.



Tentative Schedule of Events

Sponsors & Collaborators

8:00-8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Welcome & Introduction

9:00-9:45 a.m. Session 1

Option A: Introduction to pre-veterinary requirements; what you need to be aware of to be a competitive veterinary school applicant

Dr. Pedro de Pedro, Morehead State University

Option B: Tips and tricks for vet school applications; insights into veterinary school interviews

Dr. Andrea Sexton, Eastern Kentucky University

9:50-10:35 a.m. Session 2

Option A: Unraveling the vet school mystery: What vet school is the right fit for you? Discussion of vet school formats, cost, location and requirements

Colette Tebeau, University of Kentucky

Option B: You Graduated ... What's Next? Highlighting the scope, breadth and depth of the veterinary industry

Dr. Amber McNamara, University of Kentucky

10:35-10:45 a.m. Break

10:45-11:15 a.m. Presentation

Issues in veterinary medicine: Debt, mental health and work-life balance; How you can best prepare yourself for your future career

Drs. Jen Quammer and James Beckman

11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Group Panel

Successfully navigating your vet med career

Drs. Cage Cruise, Holly Helbig, Erin Homerosky, Marty Whitehouse Riney

12:30-2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:45 p.m. – Industry Tours and Discussions

Option A: Equine veterinary career focus – Spy Coast Farm

Option B: Livestock veterinary career focus - Blue Grass Stockyards

Option C: Companion/Small animal career focus - Nicholasville Road Animal Hospital

Option D: Industry/Government/Regulatory/Research career focus - Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory tour

5:30-8:30 p.m. Optional dinner at the Kentucky Horse Park, hosted by the Kentucky Horse Council. RSVP required. Limited seating available; RSVPs will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

5:30-6:00 p.m. Networking

6:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00-8:00 p.m. Discussion Panel



<https://afs.ca.uky.edu/students/pre-vet>

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Updated 1/30/24

17th Annual Pastures Please!!



Amid Kentucky's winter season, equine enthusiasts and farm operators are already shifting their focus to the upcoming springtime pastures. The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service (CES) effort is set to present "[Pastures Please!!](#)" March 5 in Georgetown. The event is dedicated to the latest insights in equine pasture management.



KENTUCKY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

The [January](#) and [February](#) issues of the 4-H Horse Program Newsletter are now available.





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