

SEPTEMBER 2023
EDITION

WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

Everyone is welcome to participate in our annual UK Equine Week of Service Oct. 8-14. There are only a few spots left to receive a FREE event t-shirt. Be sure to sign up today to secure your spot.

The Gerry Dilger Equine Scholarship Foundation announced Sept. 9 its latest scholarship recipients for the 2024 Irish National Stud Thoroughbred Breeding Management Program. The scholarships have been awarded to Luis Etedgui and Grace Hamilton.

The 50th annual Roundup is a milestone tribute to the past, present and future of the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.



HIGHLIGHTS

- African Cemetery No. 2
- Blue Grass Farms Charities
- Central Kentucky Riding For Hope
- Kentucky Equine Adoption Center
- New Vocations
- Old Friends Equine
- Retired Racehorse Project at The Thoroughbred Makeover

ETTEDGUI, HAMILTON GERRY DILGER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

PAGE 8

The Gerry Dilger Equine Scholarship Foundation announced Sept. 9 its latest scholarship recipients for the 2024 Irish National Stud Thoroughbred Breeding Management Program. The scholarships have been awarded to Luis Etedgui and Grace Hamilton.

2023 UK EQUINE WEEK OF SERVICE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

PAGE 6

Everyone is welcome to participate in our annual UK Equine Week of Service Oct. 8-14. There are only a few spots left to receive a FREE event t-shirt. Be sure to [sign up](#) today.



UK MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRON- MENT 50TH ROUNDUP

PAGE 9

The 50th annual Roundup is a milestone tribute to the past, present and future of the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. The event brings together students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends to experience the spirit of togetherness that defines a cherished family reunion.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Oct. 8-14 - UK Equine Week of Service
- Oct. 20 - Experience Equine Day
- Nov. 3-5 - Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup

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

WELCOME

Take the Reins and Get Involved!

"How do you have time for that?"

I have heard this question more than once the past few months. After a nervous chuckle and a little introspection, my response to them is, "If I love it, I make time for it."

I'll admit it. I have been busy. This year, I've acquired a new job, a new dog, riding, coaching UK's Intercollegiate Horse Show Associations (IHSA) Hunt Seat team, serving on the UK Equine Affiliated Alumni Association (EQAAN) as treasurer, teaching a summer course and still keeping up with friends and family, but I am enjoying every day! I'm not sure how I wound up with all these (amazing) opportunities, but they represent my passions and I have created a schedule that allows me to do the things I want to do.

Volunteering with UK Ag Equine Programs in a myriad of ways has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. As someone who has always had a deep love for horses and a desire to make a meaningful impact, this journey has not only allowed me to connect with our community but has also enriched my life in countless ways. If you're considering getting more involved with UK Ag Equine Programs and our community, let me share some personal advice on why you should take the reins and get started.

- 1. Pursue Your Passion with Purpose.** One of the best aspects of volunteering is that it lets you align your passion(s) with a greater purpose. For instance, if you're someone who loves to work with youth or you enjoy grooming and caring for retired racehorses, there's a way to turn your passion into a meaningful and impactful endeavor. There are thousands of ways to get involved. Pick one and run with it!
- 2. Learn and Grow.** Whether you're a seasoned equestrian or just starting your journey with horses, there's always something new to learn. From equine care to the latest research findings, your involvement will expand your horizons and deepen your understanding of the world around you. You'll learn the most when you get your hands dirty and get involved!
- 3. Find Your People.** Volunteering is not just about the tasks you perform, it's also about the people you meet along the way. Becoming part of something larger means joining a passionate and supportive community of individuals who share your interests and values. The friendships you form and the connections you make can be incredibly rewarding. Still looking for your people? Sign up for the UK Equine Week of Service. It's a great chance to get involved, visit a few non-profits and network with industry professionals who would LOVE to connect with you. You can also make an appointment with your advisor, a favorite instructor or stop by the Ag Equine Programs Office. I am SURE they can plug you in!
- 4. Make a Meaningful Impact.** Perhaps the most fulfilling part of volunteering is knowing that your efforts directly contribute to the community. Whether you're assisting in the barn, participating in educational events or engaging in outreach initiatives, your actions make a tangible difference in our industry. There's a deep sense of satisfaction in knowing that you're leaving a positive hoofprint on the world.

Volunteering and being active in your community is a journey filled with passion, purpose, learning and impact. It has the potential to be a transformative experience, both for you and for the community at large. So, don't hesitate to take that first step and become a part of something larger than yourself!



SAM GELLER,
'19 ESMA, EQAAN

TREASURER, ESMA PART-TIME
INSTRUCTOR, UK EQUESTRIAN
TEAM, HUNT SEAT, ASSISTANT
COACH



MASTHEAD

WILDCAT CANTER EDITORIAL STAFF

Heather MacKenzie, contributing writer
Holly Wiemers, MA, APR, senior editor, contributing writer, layout

WILDCAT CANTER EDITORIAL BOARD

Alicia Benben, academic coordinator
Erin DesNoyers, operations coordinator
Camie Heleski, PhD, lecturer
James MacLeod, VMD, PhD, director
Annie Martin, equine philanthropy director
Savannah Robin, EdD, internship coordinator
Jill Stowe, PhD, director of undergraduate studies
Kristen Wilson, MS, senior academic coordinator
Megan Wulster-Radcliffe, PhD, director of strategy of equine initiatives



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Equine Programs

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

Graphic design: Sabrina Jacobs

Cover photo: Kayla Schneider

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL ■ @UKEQUINEPROGRAMS

CLUBS AND TEAMS DIRECTORY

DRESSAGE TEAM

Advisor: Jill Stowe, jill.stowe@uky.edu
President: Elizabeth Alderson,
elizabeth.alderson@uky.edu
OfficialUKDressageTeam@gmail.com

EQUESTRIAN TEAM, IHSA

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

HUNT SEAT TEAM

President: Georgia Murray,
Uk.equestrianteam@gmail.com
Facebook: UKY Equestrian Team

WESTERN TEAM

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

EVENTING TEAM

Advisor: Jill Stowe, jill.stowe@uky.edu
President: Kate McGown, kate.mcgown@uky.edu
Facebook: UK Eventing

HORSE RACING CLUB

Advisor: Laurie Lawrence, [llawrenc@uky.edu](mailto:laurenc@uky.edu)
Facebook: UKY Horse Racing Club

POLO TEAM

Advisor: Roger Brown, rogerbrown@uky.edu
President: Taylor Nackers,
wildcatukpolo@gmail.com
Facebook: U of Kentucky Polo

RODEO TEAM

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

SADDLE SEAT TEAM

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



2023 UK Equine Week of Service starts Oct. 8

The annual UK Equine Week of Service is scheduled for Oct. 8-14. Hosted by UK Ag Equine Programs and organized by the Wildcat Wrangler equine student ambassador team, the event has contributed a total of 705 volunteer shifts devoting more than 1,450 hours to the local equine community since its inception. UK Equine Week of Service was started in 2020 in the midst of COVID shut-downs, as a way to help students connect and get engaged with one another and the Lexington equine industry. In 2021, a special project was devoted to African Cemetery No.2 where different flower bulbs were planted in representation of each occupation of the horsemen and horsewomen buried there. Last year's special project was jump painting at the Secretariat Center.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of UK Ag Equine Programs are encouraged to get involved regardless of their major.

Many students have enjoyed volunteering and getting out in the community, as this is a great opportunity to make connections and experience something new. Past volunteers have said that this event led to internship opportunities, making new friends within the equine program and helping Lexington feel like home. We encourage you to join us this year, learn something new and have fun while doing it.

Here is a [short video](#) about the first UK Equine Week of Service.

Sign-up with the QR code below or [here](#) by Wednesday, Oct. 4.

A promotional poster for the 2023 UK Equine Week of Service. The background is a light blue and white crumpled paper texture. At the top, the title "UK Equine Week Of Service" is written in a bold, black, serif font. Below it, the subtitle "Proudly Serving Kentucky's Horse Industry!" is in a blue, sans-serif font. A list of participating organizations follows: African Cemetery No. 2, Blue Grass Farms Charities, Central Kentucky Riding For Hope, Kentucky Equine Adoption Center, New Vocations, Old Friends Equine, and Retired Racehorse Project at The Thoroughbred Makeover. The dates "OCT. 8-14" are prominently displayed in a bold, black, serif font next to a calendar icon. A large blue QR code is located in the bottom right corner. The logo for the University of Kentucky (UK) and the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is at the bottom left.

UK Equine Week Of Service
Proudly Serving Kentucky's Horse Industry!

- African Cemetery No. 2
- Blue Grass Farms Charities
- Central Kentucky Riding For Hope
- Kentucky Equine Adoption Center
- New Vocations
- Old Friends Equine
- Retired Racehorse Project at The Thoroughbred Makeover

OCT. 8-14

UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Kentucky 4-H Horse Program newsletter

The fall issue of *From the Horse's Mouth*, Kentucky 4-H Horse Program newsletter, is now [online](#).

FALL 2023, VOLUME III, ISSUE III



-FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH-



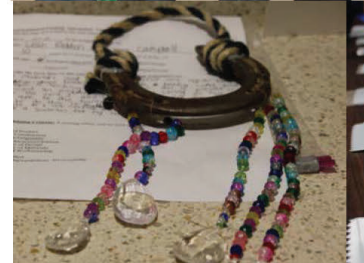
The Official Newsletter of the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program

WHAT'S INSIDE

COVER HIGHLIGHT	- 1
STATE SHOW RECAP	- 2
REGIONAL RECAP	- 3
NATIONAL DELEGATION	- 4
EQUINE TASK FORCE	- 8
UPCOMING EVENTS	- 10
FRESH IDEAS/DYK	- 11
EDUCATIONAL ARTICLE	- 12

Kentucky 4-H Horse Program: STATE HORSE CONTESTS

Here are some highlights of our state horse contests. For the results, visit our website!



ETTEDGUI, HAMILTON GERRY DILGER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Luis Etedgui and Grace Hamilton will get training at the Irish National Stud.

Source: Blood-Horse, Sept. 10, edited news release

The Gerry Dilger Equine Scholarship Foundation announced Sept. 9 its latest scholarship recipients for the 2024 Irish National Stud Thoroughbred Breeding Management Program. The scholarships have been awarded to Luis Etedgui and Grace Hamilton.

Etedgui is a Venezuelan native and a graduate from the University of Kentucky's Equine Science and Management program. During his time in Kentucky, he spent two breaking seasons at Juddmonte Farms' yearling division, one year working under trainer Brad Cox, and a breeding season at Godolphin's Stonerside Farm. He owes much of his personal upbringing to farm managers Garrett O'Rourke and Gerry Duffy as well as assistant trainer Tessa Walden for their guidance and support throughout his early career as a horseman.

Etedgui said, "I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to attend the Irish National Stud and to be awarded as the recipient of the Gerry Dilger Scholarship and hope to gain knowledge from a different perspective on Thoroughbred breeding management during my time on the course."

Hamilton, from Bluffton, S.C., is a University of Kentucky senior majoring in Equine Science and Management and minoring in Business. She has worked in various Thoroughbred industry roles in Kentucky since 2020, including working with broodmares and foals at Coldwater Farm, and gaining experience at major Thoroughbred yearling sales in multiple positions for Blandford Stud and Marette Farrell. In addition, Hamilton recently completed her for-credit internship at Godolphin's Jonabell Farm where she assisted with research projects and gave tours of the stallion complex.

Hamilton said, "I want to thank the Gerry Dilger Equine Scholarship Foundation and the Dilger family for all the work they do for people pursuing careers in the Thoroughbred industry. I'm incredibly grateful for this opportunity, and I look forward to representing them this spring at the Irish National Stud."

The Irish National Stud's six-month residential course, which commences in January each year, runs for the duration of the breeding season. A particular strength of the program is the emphasis placed on applied and practical skills that aim to ensure graduates have a comprehensive understanding of the Thoroughbred industry. Students also develop in-depth knowledge of the global Thoroughbred industry through all stages of the program.

Read the story in its entirety [here](#).

UK MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT CELEBRATES PAST AND FUTURE AT 50TH ROUNDUP

By Aimee Nielsen

The 50th annual Roundup is a milestone tribute to the past, present and future of the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

The event brings together students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends to experience the spirit of togetherness that defines a cherished family reunion.

"This will be my second Roundup since being hired by the college, and it seems like I have joined at the perfect time," said Tori Summey, director of alumni engagement. "There are generations of heartfelt connection in every corner of this college and being able to bring those connections back together is a really special honor."



A lot has changed in 50 years. In the early years, Roundup was a one-day event focused on gathering alumni before a football game. Associate director of alumni and development for the college Grace Gorrell spent 17 years building Roundup into a multi-day event involving students, faculty and alumni. Now Roundup is the largest annual alumni event on campus, averaging 4,000 attendees over four days.

Scheduled for Sept 27-30, Roundup 2023 is packed with a wide range of activities and celebrations. Here's a sneak peek at the highlights, all times EDT:

Sept. 27 – Beef it Out @ the Barn, 5 p.m. – student and faculty teams will go head-to-head to create the ultimate burger, while judges decide the winner. Attendees can also vote for the best table theme and enjoy free food while watching the competition.

Sept. 28 – Future Wildcat Day -- high school students have a unique opportunity to learn about the college's programs, student life, scholarships and more. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/futurewildcatday> by noon Friday, Sept. 22.

Sept. 29

- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Staff Appreciation Day, Dr. Lisa P. Collins Outstanding Staff Awards and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Awards.
- 5 – 7 p.m. – Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology Social
- 5 – 7 p.m. – Plant and Soil Sciences Alumni Social

- 6 p.m. – Animal and Food Sciences Reunion, under the tents
- 6:30 p.m. – Alpha Gamma Rho Reunion, AGR House

Sept. 30

- The official 50th-anniversary celebration with live music, tailgating, pep rally and the Kentucky vs. Florida football game. The Roundup tents will open four hours prior to kickoff and meal lines will open two hours prior to kickoff.
- 4-H Reunion, E.S. Good Barn Culton Suite, four hours prior to kickoff
- Alumni and Friends Tailgate, under the tents, four hours prior to kickoff
- Program and Pep Rally, 1.5 hours prior to kickoff

In addition to commemorating the 50-year milestone, the college will honor The Bill Gatton Foundation for its exceptional generosity and celebrate the college's new name. The Bill Gatton Foundation is enabling the college to thrive in its vital land-grant mission of teaching, research and extension.

"Our college has never had more to celebrate, and what better occasion than the 50th anniversary of our annual Roundup tradition," said Nancy Cox, vice president of land-grant engagement and dean of the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "I look forward to reminiscing with our friends on September 30 as we look ahead to all of the achievements still on the horizon."

EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT INTERCOLLEGIATE EVENTING

Source: Eventing Nation, by Veronica Green-Gott, Sep 15

For all the young eventers out there who are trying to decide where to go to college, the University of Kentucky might be at the top of your list. Home to one of the biggest USEA Intercollegiate Eventing programs around, some students even chose to attend the University of Kentucky purely for their eventing team.

Team President Kate McGown was one such eventer. Now a coming senior, I caught up with Kate to discuss everything she loves about the team, plus to offer some advice for freshmen who may be wondering if they should join.

Kate moved from Minnesota to Kentucky to join the UK Eventing Team. She rides her 13-year-old OTTB George for the team and competed with him in the Intercollegiate Championships at the Novice level.

Despite moving across states, she has no regrets. "I just absolutely loved being on the team, particularly because when I started as a freshman, it was during COVID. So the team gave me a way to actually make friends and see people face to face."

First starting off as a team member, then moving to become team secretary, vice president, and now president, Kate has experienced every level of team engagement possible.

Read the story [here](#).

HELESKI RECOGNIZED WITH AWARD FOR DEI&A EFFORTS

Congratulations go out to Camie Heleski, lecturer in the Equine Science and Management undergraduate program, for recognition for her efforts in diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility. She was recognized at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's annual Round Up celebration.





Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Ag Equine Programs

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