

Wildcat Canter



February 2010

UK Equine Initiative
Student Newsletter

As I look out my window at another Kentucky winter in full swing, I must admit that this time of year is more often about surviving the weather than enjoyment for me. However, there are a number of exciting things on the horizon to look forward to, and the Equine Career Fair happens to be first on my list.

On March 2, from 5–8:30 p.m. at the E.S. Good Barn, the Equine Initiative Student Working Group will host its second annual Equine Career Fair. We have been hard at work over the past few weeks to ensure that this year's fair will be the best and most valuable one yet.

The Equine Career Fair last year was attended by more than 23 businesses and organizations and more than 125 students. The students, who came from six countries, 28 states and 36 different degree tracks, gave the event great reviews. Based on their feedback, we have also made a few improvements.

For starters, this year's fair will begin with registration and pizza from 5-5:30 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., we will have a welcome address, followed by concurrent sessions running from 6:15- 6:45 p.m. and 6:50 - 7:20 p.m. focusing on job searching and interview skills, and resume writing and cover letters. Booths will be open from the 6-8:30 p.m. to give students ample time to visit with local businesses and equine-related organizations about potential volunteer, internship and job opportunities.



In this Issue:

- WEG inspires equine themed art exhibit
- LDDC lecture series examines horse psychology
- Internship and job opportunities
- Student organizations meet with industry experts

I know I speak on behalf of all Student Working Group members when I say that we are very excited for this year's Equine Career Fair. We have really focused on building on last year's impressive list of attendees to include a more diverse representation of the industry and we are sure that it will be beneficial to all who attend.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Elizabeth LaBonty, Lecturer and Internship Coordinator

Equine Initiative News

UK art museum featured at January COA Equine Forum meeting

By Alexandra Harper

Deborah Borrowdale-Cox, Director of Education at the UK Art Museum, spoke at the College of Agriculture monthly Equine Forum meeting Jan. 22. Borrowdale-Cox spoke about the art exhibit titled "Hoofbeats and Heartbeats-The Horse in American Art" that will be coming to the UK Art Museum from Aug. 22 to Nov. 21. This exhibit will be coinciding with the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.

The art exhibit will present the horse as a hero, symbolizing freedom and power, and as a treasured and honored member of our society who has assumed a number of different roles from the American Revolution to present day. More than 40 paintings and sculptures by famous American artists such as Frederick Remington, Grant Wood, Edward Hopper and Edward Hicks will be drawn from museums across the country.

"This will be Lexington's opportunity to showcase American art, American history and American horses of many breeds and types for our visitors from all over the world," said Art Museum Director Kathy Walsh-Piper. "It is also a chance to show what Lexington's premier art museum can accomplish."

According to Borrowdale-Cox, for many, the horse represents a figure in battle, or an animal that people enjoy betting on in races, but for others the horse can mean much more. For the individual who looks past the painting, the horse can represent beauty, a symbol of hope, power, strength or freedom. The horse in art can make a person think of serenity or that all is right, it can even bring to mind a personal memory they may have between them and their horse.

The horse can also represent the relationship it has with mankind, and the amount of trust between horse and human. To some people those paintings come alive and it is more than just looking at a horse in a field, there is meaning and emotion mixed in when viewing the piece of art. This art exhibit will give people the chance to do so and hopefully observe art in a way they have never experienced.

Ticket prices are \$10 for the general public and \$8 for seniors. The museum's hours are Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. and Friday noon to 8 p.m. For more information, please contact The Art Museum at the University of Kentucky at 859-257-5716.





UK Dressage and Eventing Team hosts world-renowned rider

At the close of the fall semester, the UK Dressage and Eventing team held a meeting with Reese Koffler-Standfield, star dressage rider on the national and international circuits. A graduate of the College of Agriculture, Koffler-Standfield is a proven High Performance FEI rider and currently trains and coaches at her own facility in Lexington. Students listened to Koffler-Standfield give a lecture on her preparations for the upcoming World Equestrian Games, followed by a question and answer session.

“And how does that make you feel? Equine Diagnostic and Research Seminar focuses on equine psychology”

By Natalie Voss

The University of Kentucky's Department of Veterinary Science Equine Diagnostic and Research Seminar series kicked off Jan. 28 with a presentation by Sue McDonnell, DVM, and head of the University of Pennsylvania's Havemeyer Equine Behavior Laboratory.

The topic, “How horses think and why it matters to veterinarians and animal scientists,” drew an interested crowd of equine researchers, veterinarians, industry professionals and graduate students to the South Theater at the Kentucky Horse Park.

McDonnell's research on equine learning and cognition at the University of Pennsylvania suggests horses are comparable to other more commonly-studied species such as pigeons and dolphins in terms of their performance on tests designed to study learning ability and intelligence. In fact, horses can learn tasks more quickly and accurately than young children.

McDonnell's most recent studies focus on the horse's concept of relativity or their ability to sort or choose objects through characteristics such as color, pattern or compressibility. Her research suggests horses can learn to identify physical differences in objects that are imperceptible to humans. For example, horses in McDonnell's study tested objects for compressibility or “squishiness”. The difference in squishiness between some object pairs was so slight engineers had to be consulted to determine which objects were actually harder or softer, yet the horses' performance did not decline from tests in which the difference was obvious.

McDonnell's research also suggests “smarter horses” (ctd on page 4)

(ctd from page 3) who perform better on relativity tests, are more prone to boredom and behavioral issues outside of the research laboratory. In addition, she has also noticed a pattern in her results that suggests ponies perform slightly better on cognition tests than horses.

McDonnell said her goal in studying equine psychology is to understand how horses perceive human behavior on a scientific level to teach people how to better interact with them. Bad behavior that arises from misunderstanding is often mistaken for stupidity. Due to horses' quick learning abilities, classical conditioning, such as feeding treats before and after an uncomfortable veterinary procedure, should not be underestimated, McDonnell said.

The equine seminars are the fourth Thursday of each month and are free and open to the public. The seminars will be at the Kentucky Horse Park while the LDDC undergoes construction. They are also broadcasted as webinars on www.thehorse.com. For more information on the seminar schedule, please visit <http://www.ag.uky.edu/equine/>.

For additional information about the University of Pennsylvania and its equine behavior research, visit <http://research.vet.upenn.edu/Default.aspx?alias=research.vet.upenn.edu/havemeyerequinebehavior>.



The Kentucky Horse Council is now offering a free membership to college students with equine majors. As a KHC member, you will receive weekly e-news, discounted or free admission to KHC educational events, discounted purchase of KHC merchandise and an optional benefit of \$1 million personal equine liability policy. To join online, visit: http://kentuckyhorse.org/en/memberships/applications/add.asp?userid=&httpreferrer=/en/memberships/add_pre.asp

UK student featured in blog article

The scoop at Fasig-Tipton February

“The real news at today’s Fasig-Tipton Kentucky February mixed sale was not that a handful of mares broke six figures and that the sale provided a lively market for horses and horsemen. Instead, the scoop at the beautifully refurbished Newtown Paddocks is that Travers Manley bought a mare...”

For the rest of Frank Mitchell’s article, see his post on Bloodstock in the Bluegrass here: <http://fmitchell07.wordpress.com/2010/02/08/the-scoop-at-fasig-february/>.



Photo credit: Natalie Voss

Student Spotlight: Angie Malone

By Alexandra Harper

Angie Malone, from Bloomington, IN., always knew she wanted to work in the Thoroughbred industry. That is, after all, why she came to Kentucky. But now she is even more aware of what she wants to do after completing her internship with Jeff Thornbury at Sunnyside Farm this past summer.



Malone said she felt like the most important thing she learned while on internship was the upkeep of the Thoroughbreds, keeping them sound, and how to treat injuries.

Trainer Jeff Thornbury said Malone's internship reinforced his belief that taking student interns is very beneficial for all parties and that he was very pleased with Malone's enthusiasm to learn and her desire to see how the industry works.

"She was always punctual and excited to be here," he said.

Thornbury said he wanted Malone to get a feel for what goes on in day to day management of the farm, and to specifically focus on

how she wants to be involved in the industry.

According to Malone, her favorite part about the internship was the amount of hands-on work she did with the Thoroughbreds. After graduation, she would like to attain a position in either equine insurance or pharmaceutical sales.

"The internship prepared me by giving me greater knowledge on the care of horses and all the possible injuries they may encounter," Malone said.

"I would recommend an internship to anyone and almost feel as if it should be mandatory for all students to participate in an internship," Thornbury said.



Above: Malone cares for horses in Thornberry's barn

Elizabeth LaBonty, UK Equine Internship Coordinator, echoed that. "Angie Malone's internship with Mr. Thornbury is just another example of how internships can help and shape a student's career goals and better prepare them to meet those goals," she said.

For more information about the Equine Internship Program through UK's Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program, contact Elizabeth LaBonty at elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu.

Student Internship Section

...matching the jobs of today with the candidates of tomorrow...

Internship Opportunities:

EXTENSION INITIATIVE is looking for a student to work in it's horse community office. Contact Elizabeth LaBonty (elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) for more information.

STUDENT WORKER needed for Dr. Tom Tobin, researcher in equine pharmacology, therapeutics and toxicology at the Gluck Equine Research Center. Contact Elizabeth LaBonty (elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) for more information.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP AVAILABLE: Virginia Tech is accepting applications for its Equine Instructor's Internship. Interns will shadow a mentor and prepare to take the CHA Instructor's Certification Program examination, and will also assist faculty and graduate students with ongoing research projects. Students graduating in May 2010 will also be considered. Contact Elizabeth LaBonty (elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) for more information.

KENTUCKY HORSE COUNCIL is looking for an office intern. Responsibilities include updating the KHC website, video reporting, and research among other tasks. Candidates should be detail-oriented and have strong writing skills. Contact Essie Rogers at erogers@kentuckyhorse.org for more information.

KENTUCKY HORSE COUNCIL is looking for an intern to support the upcoming Level I Livestock Investigation Training in March. This project focuses on educating animal control officers to identify and investigate livestock neglect. Candidates should be flexible and have good communications and computer skills. Contact Essie Rogers at erogers@kentuckyhorse.org for more information.

KENTUCKY HORSE COUNCIL is looking for a marketing student to help develop a comprehensive marketing plan for the KHC first time horse owner DVD HorseSmarts: Essential Advice for Today's Horse Owner. Horse experience and knowledge is NOT required for this internship, but candidates should be detail-oriented and have strong writing skills. Contact Essie Rogers at erogers@kentuckyhorse.org for more information.

THE AMERICAN PAINT HORSE ASSOCIATION is looking for a summer intern in Fort Worth, TX. The Intern will work primarily in the Performance Department and will also have the opportunity to work with individuals in marketing, media and Paint Horse Journal. Salary is \$1,200 per month. Contact Equine Initiative (equineinitiative@uky.edu) or Kristen Harvey (kjanicki@uky.edu) for more information.

THE SIERRA CLUB'S COAL-FREE CAMPUS CAMPAIGN is hiring student interns for the winter/spring semester. Internship are available in the following areas: media relations, grassroots campaigning, coalition building, and events coordinating. Interns

must work a minimum of 10 hours per week. Contact Miranda Cooper at miranda@greencorps.org for more information.

Remember that to have an internship count for credit, you must contact Elizabeth LaBonty prior to the start date.

Job Opportunities:

BARN HELP needed at West Wind Farm beginning in March. Must have Thoroughbred experience and be able to operate machinery. Contact Lisa Cramer Molloy at 859-595-6660 for more information.

NIGHT WATCH positions available at Margaux Farm. Call Kelli Hoffman-Cross at 859-621-6606 for more information.

SUMMER JOBS AVAILABLE at Sombrero Ranch facilities in Colorado. This is a primarily riding position. Visit their website (www.sombrero.com) or contact Kristyn Smith (xc4life@ufl.edu) for more information.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT ON CAMPUS: The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is accepting applications from current students for Wildcat Assistants, who will aid in facilitation of the Summer Advising Conferences. Positions run from June 14th to July 16th. Compensation is \$7.50/hour, \$175 Plus Account stipend and free on-campus housing. Contact Tara Bopp at 859-257-3256 for more information.

Equine Initiative Events

Ashley Adams Jumping Clinic, presented by the UK Eventing Team, will be held March 27-28 at Red Gate Equestrian Center in Nicholasville. Adams was a competitor at Rolex in 2009 and will feature her off-track Thoroughbred, Vaunted, during the clinic. The two-day clinic will include two 1 ½ hour lessons with Adams: gridwork and show jumping instruction on Saturday and cross country on Sunday. Adams will dine with participants on Saturday night, giving them an opportunity to discuss her career and training techniques. The clinic is \$150 for Eventing Team members and \$175 for nonmembers. Additional dinner tickets may be purchased for \$10. Registration closes March 1. Contact Courtney Carroll (clcarroll@uky.edu) for more information.

The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association has several educational opportunities coming up in 2010:

- **April 29 - New Owner Seminar:** Churchill Downs, Louisville, Ky. The new owner seminar provides a basic introduction to Thoroughbred ownership. Topics at new owner seminars include how to build a racing stable, owner and trainer communications, common veterinary concerns, accounting and insurance issues, understanding racing partnerships and much more.
- **May 21 - 23 - Breeding Clinic:** Lexington, Ky. The Breeding Clinic is held in Lexington each year and consists of tours at three Kentucky Thoroughbred farms. Clinic topics include foal registration, pedigree theory, a conformation workshop, equine nutrition, equine business matters, foaling and farm management as related to Thoroughbred breeding.

Equine Clubs and Teams Updates

Dressage/Eventing Team: Next Meeting: Feb. 24 at 8:30 p.m., Student Center Room 359. First dressage show was held on Feb. 20 at University of Findlay; the Dressage Team will be hosting its first show at its new training facility on Feb. 28.

Equestrian Team: First show was on Feb. 20-21 at Midway College.

Horse Judging Team: If you are interested in joining the Horse Judging Team, contact Kristen Harvey at kjanicki@email.uky.edu.

Horse Racing Club: Most recent meeting was Feb. 24. at 7 p.m., room A-7 in the Ag Science North Building with speaker Ray Paulick, editor and publisher of the Paulick Report and former editorial director at the Blood-Horse Magazine.

Polo Team: The last match was on Feb. 20-21 at the Kentucky Horse Park against Cornell University. On Feb. 27 and 28, the team will hold an in-club tournament, also at the Horse Park. March 19-21 the team will travel to the University of Virginia for regionals. Good luck!

Saddle Seat Team: The UK Saddle Seat Team is preparing for another great semester! Join us on Feb 27 where we will be sponsoring at Lakeside Arena in Frankfort. Click [here](#) for directions. And April 17 against Eastern Kentucky University at the Mercer County Fairgrounds.

Student Working Group: Next meeting is Feb. 26 at 11 a.m. in the EI conference room. The group is hard at work on the EI Career Fair.

UK Saddle Seat Team looks to success in spring semester

By Alexandra Harper

The Saddle Seat team was founded in the spring of 2008 and is in its fifth season as a University student organization and club sport. The team prides itself in being open to riders of all experience levels, from the most beginner rider to national and world title riders. Members of the team ride with Shadow Run Farm in Versailles, under the direction of Bill and Nancy Becker and Stephanie Sedlacko.

“The Saddle Seat Team has served as a great experience to work together as a team while riding with people you have competed with throughout your entire life,” said the team’s president, Katie Singleton. The team has provided many riders with the opportunity to ride and show at the collegiate level without having to own their own horse.

“I have enjoyed meeting a lot of new people with a similar interest, and I am so grateful that I have been able to ride more during college than I originally thought I would,” said teammate Catherine VanArsdall. Molly Trent said she joined the team to experience the sport in a team setting beyond the normal individual setting. The team also gave her the opportunity to diversify her riding ability.

The Saddle Seat Team participates in about three shows per semester where riders get the opportunity to randomly draw a horse to ride in each of their classes. By doing that, it gives riders a **(ctd on page 9)**

(ctd. from page 8) level playing field and opportunity to test their riding abilities and helps them adapt quickly to the different horses they encounter. Over the past few years, the UK team and its riders have acquired numerous hi-point and reserve hi-point awards.

Singleton's goal for the team's future is to continue to grow and gain national recognition.

"Saddle Seat at the collegiate level is a new thing and I am glad that UK is able to be one of the first schools to provide this opportunity, especially in a city where the Saddle Seat industry is so prominent," Singleton said.

If you would like see UK's Saddle Seat Team in action, their upcoming shows will be Feb. 13 at Morehead State University, Feb. 27 at Lakeside Arena in Frankfort and April 17 at Eastern Kentucky University (Mercer County Fairgrounds).



Above: The Team poses for a photo after a recent competition

Equine Club Directory

Dressage/Eventing Team

Dressage Advisor: Drura Parrish

drura.parrish@uky.edu

Dressage President: Emily Mysinger

ekmysi2@uky.edu

Eventing Advisor: Kristen Harvey

kjanicki@uky.edu

Eventing President: Courtney Carroll

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Equestrian Team

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman

rcoleman@uky.edu

President: Lauren Patterson

lpatt4@uky.edu

Horse Judging Team

Advisor: Kristen Harvey

kjanicki@email.uky.edu

Horse Racing Club

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence

llawrenc@uky.edu

President: Natalie Heitz

nmheit2@uky.edu

Polo Club

Advisor: Roger Brown

rogerbrown@uky.edu

President: Cary Campbell

cccampbell1@me.com

Saddle Seat Team

Advisor: Lee Edgerton

lee.edgerton@uky.edu

President: Katie Singleton

Horse Racing Club hosts speaker with champion connections

By Natalie Voss

The University of Kentucky Horse Racing Club started its semester with a well-attended lecture on Jan. 27 from David Ingordo, UK graduate and successful Thoroughbred bloodstock advisor famous for his purchase of 2008 and 2009 champion older female Zenyatta. Ingordo spoke about his career since graduation from UK with a bachelor's degree in business administration, which has included management of stallion operations at Walmac Farm and operation managements at Juddmonte Farm. He now advises private owners and owns a small training operation in Florida. Students' questions focused on Ingordo's methods for selecting horses at sales when buying for himself or his clients.

"It's like being a recruiter for Calipari," Ingordo said. "You have to go out and find the good players."

Ingordo's most successful purchase was Zenyatta, earner of more than \$5 million, that he purchased for \$60,000 for Jerry and Ann Moss. The 6-year-old mare was a finalist with Rachel Alexandra for Horse of the Year. Although admittedly biased, Ingordo says (**see page 10**)

(from page 9) racehorses like Zenyatta are rare.

"She knows who she is, what she is ... she could run for president and win," he said.

The Horse Racing Club, formed in 2004, holds monthly meetings with speakers from the Thoroughbred industry and seeks to bring together students interested in racing as casual fans or as a potential career path. Previous speakers have included horse farm managers, jockeys, veterinarians and racetrack managers. Its next meeting will feature Ray Paulick, former editorial director at Blood-Horse Publications and founder of The Paulick Report.



College of Agriculture Academic Calendar:

February

- 23-24-College of Ag Career Fair
- 26-Last day to change majors
- 28-Last Day to apply for August 2010 degree

March

- 1-College of Agriculture Scholarship Applications Due
- 2-Equine Initiative Career Fair
- 1-12-Degree Audits for August and December 2010 graduates
- 8-Midterm
- 15-20-Spring Break
- 22-April 9-Advising for 2010 Summer and Fall terms
- 26-Last day to withdraw from a class for academic reasons
- 29-April 20-Priority Registration for 2010 Summer and Fall terms

April

- 1-20-Priority Registration for 2010 Summer and Fall terms
- 3-Last Day to withdraw from a class for academic reasons
- 23-May 10-Students may change majors
- 30-Last Day of Classes

May

- 3-7-Finals Week
- 8-Graduation

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You can find more information about the Equine
Initiative by joining our Facebook fan page