

Wildcat Canter



November 2009

UK Equine Initiative
Student Newsletter

Those of you who entered UK as equine science and management majors in 2007 and took my GEN 109 class, 'Horse Behavior and Handling,' in the spring may remember a little dark bay colt we called Charlie. He was special because even though he was both a yearling colt and a Thoroughbred, he was quiet enough that I didn't worry he was going to harm any of my students. He was the smallest of the yearlings that Maine Chance took to Fasig-Tipton that year, but he is now racing under his registered name, Usain Again. He just won his second race at Calder Race Course at the beginning of this month. He is now two for two, and I am delighted to see a horse that our students handled doing so well and happy to have been proven wrong about his potential.

The students from the 2007 freshman class are now beginning to find their way into industry internships and will be graduating next year (and hopefully entering an improving job market by then). If they've done the right internship they may already have their foot in the door at a potential workplace. Still, it's important to have realistic expectations about our first "real" job. We may dream of getting a four-year degree and going straight into a management position but in the horse industry you should expect to start out at lower levels and prove to your employer that you can also "walk the walk" and be relied upon.



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Our new group of 2009 freshman equine students are preparing for finals, most of them for the first time. To them I offer some suggestions for surviving the experience. Expect the exams to be harder than you're anticipating. Now is the time to meet with your professor if you're not sure you understand the material, ask about review sessions and get organized for that final push, because the next month will go by fast. Maybe most importantly, don't let minor setbacks discourage you, especially if you were very successful in high school but college is proving to be more difficult. If you persevere in school and professionally, you never know: you may find you exceed expectations – just like Charlie!



~Mary Rossano
Animal and Food Sciences Faculty

Inaugural Distinguished Industry Lecture Series successful

By: Natalie Voss

About 100 students and racing fans attended the Equine Initiative's inaugural Distinguished Industry Lecture Series Nov. 3 in Seay Auditorium. The first speaker in the series was Nick Nicholson, Keeneland Race Course president and chief executive officer. Nicholson was interviewed by Dan Liebman, editor-in-chief of The Blood-Horse magazine. Liebman's questions targeted learning more about Nicholson on a personal level. He asked about Nicholson's childhood, non-equine interests and particularly his lifelong interest and involvement in state politics. The issue of gaming came up throughout the night, with Nicholson emphasizing that although it is not a permanent solution to industry problems, Kentucky's industry should not pass up the \$1.41 billion per year that slots in surrounding states are leveraging, much of which comes from Kentuckians traveling out of state. He also commented on his admiration of the founders of Keeneland for their ingenious design of the Keeneland Foundation, which allows him to donate profits to area charities each December. Nicholson cited these gifts as the reason December is his favorite time of year.



Above: Liebman (left) asks Nicholson (right) a question, in the style of "In The Actors Studio"

The discussion was opened to audience questions, which were entirely student-driven. Questions targeted the future of Keeneland and racing, Thoroughbred sales and breeding, and the Thoroughbred industry as a whole. Nicholson responded with detailed, honest answers. A few students were curious about whether Keeneland would write in more racing days in the coming years, given its popularity. Nicholson pointed out that Keeneland's carnival-like atmosphere probably wouldn't last over long meets and that sale dates and weather don't allow for extension on either side of the April and October meets, but he hinted at the possibility of a four-day meet in July coupled with the return of the July yearling sale. When asked whether Keeneland would eventually host the Breeder's Cup, Nicholson responded with an emphatic "Yes!" He immediately followed up by saying it is dependent on the resuscitation of the economy to allow for the planned expansion of Keeneland facilities.

"The student turn out helped make this event such a success," said Elizabeth LaBonty, Lecturer and Internship Coordinator. "The students who attended from UK and various equine programs were engaged and asked excellent questions."

Due to the success of the event, the Equine Initiative plans to continue the event on a quarterly basis. A list of anticipated dates and speakers will be announced soon.

Dan Rosenberg named 2009 Friend of the UK Equine Initiative

By: Jenny Blandford (edited press release)

Dan Rosenberg was named 2009 Friend of the Equine Initiative Nov. 3 at the conclusion of the inaugural University of Kentucky Equine Initiative Distinguished Industry Lecture Series on UK's campus.

Rosenberg was recognized for his involvement at the strategic level of the Equine Initiative and for applying his creativity, experience and success in public relations in advising administrative leaders since the Equine Initiative's creation in 2005.

"I can think of no one more deserving of this award. Dan is always striving to find new ways to help the Equine Initiative. I wish we had more supporters like him; he is a great advocate for



Above: Rosenberg (center), winner of the 2009 Friend of the Equine Initiative award, poses with Nicholson (left) and Liebman (right)

the Equine Initiative," said Ed Squires, executive director of the Gluck Equine Research Foundation and director of advancement and industry relations.

Rosenberg is the owner of Rosenberg Thoroughbred Consulting in Midway. He served as president and chief operating officer of Three Chimneys Farm from 2001-2007 and was general manager from 1978-2001. He is past president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers Club and former director of the Thoroughbred Club of America. He is also past vice president of the Kentucky Equine Institute where he also served on the board of directors. Rosenberg was named Farm Manager of the Year in 1992 and an Ambassador for Racing in 1994 by the Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers Club. He has also been involved with numerous advisory boards and non-profit organizations and currently serves as a Gluck Equine Research Foundation board member.



Bluegrass Equine Digest enjoys enormous success in its first six months

The Bluegrass Equine Digest, a monthly electronic newsletter dedicated to providing up-to-date information on equine research in the College of Agriculture, was launched in June 2009. Brought to you by The Horse.com and sponsor Pfizer Animal Health, its subscriber list has already grown astronomically.

The goal for the end of December was to have 10,000 subscribers, a number that was reached in late October. Help our numbers grow even more. Sign up for the BED at www.thehorse.com/Enewsletter/Register.aspx.



Gluck Equine Research Foundation welcomes four into Equine Research Hall of Fame

The Gluck Equine Research Foundation inducted four scientists into the UK Equine Research Hall of Fame Oct. 25 at Keeneland Race Course. Douglas F. Antczak of Cornell University, I.G. Joe Mayhew of Massey University, Alan J. Nixon of Cornell University and Peter J. Timoney of UK's Gluck Equine Research Center were selected for their contributions to equine science and research. Nominated by their peers and colleagues, the four individuals were selected by past Hall of Fame inductees. The last Hall of Fame induction recognized UK's own Dr. Ed Squires in 2007.



Above (left to right): Dr. Mayhew, Dr. Nixon, Dr. Antczak and Dr. Timoney were inducted into the Equine Research Hall of Fame on Oct. 25

UK breaks ground on equine reproduction facilities

(Edited press release)

A groundbreaking ceremony for the University of Kentucky Equine Reproduction Facilities was held Oct. 26 at UK's Maine Chance Equine Campus. The ceremony recognized supporters who generously donated money to fund the remodeling of facilities for equine reproduction research by experts at the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center. The remodeled facilities will be used for the management of mares and stallions and laboratory facilities will be constructed for handling semen, embryos and reproductive tissues.

"The new reproductive area at UK's equine research farm includes state-of-the-art mare and stallion facilities with modern laboratories to study reproductive problems in horses," said Dr. Mats Troedsson, chair of the Department of Veterinary Science and director of the Gluck Equine Research Center. "The facilities will allow researchers at the Gluck Equine Research Center and the Department of Veterinary Science to conduct research on reproductive diseases in mares and stallions, and to respond to emerging problems that are presented to the breeding industry in Kentucky and elsewhere."



Areas of reproductive health research at the Gluck Equine Research Center include causes, diagnosis and

treatment of embryonic and fetal loss in mares; early embryonic development; uterine infection; nutritional affects on reproduction; stallion behavior; diagnosis and treatment of fertility problems in stallions; and fescue toxicosis.

"This facility augments a program that is of highest significance to a region which represents the equine reproduction capital of the world," said Nancy Cox, associate dean for research of UK's College of Agriculture, Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station director and administrative leader for the Equine Initiative. "The college appreciates the advice from our stakeholders to make a shared investment in reproduction research. We are grateful to those who showed their confidence in us through investments in this facility."

Major donors who have supported the remodeling of the facilities are: Ashford Stud, Darley USA, Flaxman Holdings Limited, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute (Drs. Walter W. Zent, William D. Fishback Jr., Kevin B. Pfister, Stuart E. Brown II, Ed Fallon, Luke Fallon and Kristina Lu), Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders (KTA/KTOB), Lane's End, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital (Drs. Tom Riddle and Peter Morresey), Shadwell Farm, Shawnee Farm, Dr. Ed Squires and Dr. Mats Troedsson.



Law School adds horses to curriculum

By: Alexandra Harper

The University of Kentucky Law School recently added a new concentration to its curriculum. The College of Law offers a variety of equine law related programs, courses and student groups. The curriculum includes an Equine Law course and seminar, taught by adjunct professor Laura D'Angelo, who is also a partner at Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs, a prominent national law firm based in Kentucky. The College of Law is currently exploring (see page 8)

Equine Clubs and Teams Updates

Dressage and Eventing Team

Next meeting: Nov. 18 at 8:30 p.m. in the Student Center, room 359

The next dressage show will be at Finlay on November 21st.

Equestrian Team

Next meeting: Nov. 17 at 8 p.m. in Ag North, Room A7

Hunt Seat and Stock Seat show at Morehead State University, Nov. 21-22

Team Fundraiser: Present a UKET coupon when you go to Mad Mushroom on Nov. 19 and 15% of your meal price will go to the Team. See any Team member or Dr. Coleman for coupons.

Horse Judging Team

The Horse Judging Team will be traveling to Oklahoma City for the 2009 National Reining Horse Association Futurity Judging Contest Dec. 2-3. The team will consist of: Krista Cotten, Sarah Shewmaker, Megan Newberry, Liz DiSabitino and Caitlin Hosea.

If you are interested in joining the team, you can sign up for Gen 300-Horse Judging in the Spring and contact Kristen Harvey at kjanicki@email.uky.edu.

Horse Racing Club

Next meeting: Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gallery of W.T. Young Library. Free pizza! Speaker TBA

Polo Team

No update available

Saddle Seat Team

Anyone interested in joining the Saddle Seat Team please contact Katie Singleton at kls0822@aol.com or join the Facebook group "UK Saddle Seat Team" for more information.

Additional Updates:

The **Eventing Team** sent two teams to represent UK at the Virginia Horse Trials in Lexington, Virginia over Halloween weekend. Congratulations to Alison Wilaby and Emily Mysinger, whose scramble team placed 3rd and to Courtney Carroll, Marty Whitehouse, and Elizabeth Rodgers whose team placed 8th. Alison Wilaby also placed 2nd individually in Junior/Young Rider Preliminary. A huge thanks goes out to Catherine Connell for doing a great job as the groom for both teams.

Congratulations to the **Dressage Team** for a great performance at their first show of the season. The team placed 3rd overall! Alison Wilaby placed 1st in 1st level Emily Mysinger placed 9th in Upper Level Training Jennifer Brogie placed 4th in Lower Level Training Catherine Connell placed 5th in Intro level.

The hunt seat riders on the **Equestrian Team** competed in their first show on Oct. 24-25. The Team was Reserve High Point Team on Oct. 24th, and Champion High Point Team on Oct. 25th. UK's Ali Cibon was Champion High Point Rider on the 24th, and Lauren Patterson claimed Reserve High Point Rider on the 25th. Congratulations to all riders!

The **Saddle Seat Team** placed Reserve High Point Team at the Morehead State University Show in October. UK's Stephanie Davisson was Champion High-Point Rider. Well done!



Photo: Alexandra Harper

Student Spotlight: Kate Benner

By: Alexandra Harper

Kate Benner from Louisville, Ky., successfully completed her internship with Neil Howard at his Thoroughbred Farm this summer. After hearing Howard speak at the 2009 UK Horse Racing Club trainer panel, Benner decided she wanted to meet him afterwards and asked him if she could intern at his farm. Benner particularly liked his principles and training methods.

Howard felt that taking on student interns was “a good thing because I feel like I can give something back when I have the time to take on a student intern.” Benner learned a great deal during her internship including the “daily routines of the horses, how to properly manage a racing stable, and how to design each horse’s training schedule.”

Howard was very pleased with Benner’s work ethic, which he praised as “second to none.” Howard was very interested in Benner’s work and said she had very



Photos are from Benner’s time at Saratoga



good horse-manship skills. Benner has loved horses all her life and started taking riding lessons when she was 7 years old. When she came to college, she heard about the equine science/management degree and decided that was the major for her. Benner has also been very active on the polo team and has worked at various Thoroughbred farms.

During Benner’s internship, Howard said that he “wanted to give her an overview of the industry and job in general. I wanted her to see and do a little bit of everything so that she would have as much of a foundation as possible in the industry if she decided to pursue a career in the horse industry.”

Benner is uncertain of her exact career goals but she does know that she wants to work in the industry and possibly look into the Darley Flying Start Program. As an employer, Howard stated that, “if students have the opportunity to participate in an internship that they should. There is nothing like having a real life, hands on experience.”

“Kate is a very hard working, well rounded horsewoman. I am pleased that this internship was so successful,” said Elizabeth LaBonty, Internship Coordinator.

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For more information on student internships, please contact Elizabeth LaBonty at elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu.

UK Equine Initiative Internship Section

Equine assistant position: Seeking a part-time equine studies student to work on beautiful 575-acre farm in Versailles, Ky. Applicant must have afternoon, weekend and holiday availability. Responsibilities include feeding, grooming, checking horses for injuries and general barn chores. Knowledge of basic equine first aid is required. The ideal candidate will enjoy working in the outdoors and be hard-working, self-motivated and have a positive attitude. We are looking for a dedicated, trustworthy, caring individual. Non-smokers only. 12-18 hours/week starting at \$9/hour. Please mail resume to Life Adventure Center of the Bluegrass, 570 Milner Rd., Versailles, KY 40383, or email to info@lifeadventurecenter.org. Deadline: November 13, 2009 or until filled.

Two local Thoroughbred farms are looking for part-time help. If interested please email: elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu.

Remember: any student planning to start an internship in the spring or summer must speak with Elizabeth LaBonty, internship coordinator (elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) *prior* to starting the internship.



Photo: Savannah Craddock

(from page 4) additional courses to offer students related to equine interests. In addition, the office of Continuing Legal Education, which is part of the College of Law, conducts a National Equine Law Conference every spring the week before the Kentucky Derby. The conference attracts lawyers and individuals in the horse industry from around the globe. There is also an Equine Law Society student group that has guest speakers and provides a variety of programming. The College of Law also has a newly formed

student-run journal, the Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture and Natural Resources Law (KJEANRL), which is the nation's only equine law journal. Students in the College of Law publish articles of interest to the equine industry. The KJEANRL has an active blog, www.kjeanrl.com. The blog offers a variety of equine-related postings, articles and information.

For more information on the Equine Law program, visit www.law.uky.edu.

Equine Club Directory

Dressage/Eventing Team

Dressage Advisor: Drura Parrish
drura.parrish@uky.edu
Dressage President: Emily Mysinger
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Eventing Advisor: Kristen Harvey
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Eventing President: Courtney Carroll
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Horse Judging Team

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