

Wildcat Canter



Winter 2009/2010

UK Equine Initiative
Student Newsletter

The end of the semester is almost here and in a few weeks you will be at home visiting with family and old friends. No doubt at least one person will ask you how your studies are going ... and someone else will ask that all important question "What are you going to do when you

graduate?" Some of you probably know exactly what career you want after graduation, but some of you may not. Regardless of which group you fall into, over the semester break you might want to think about things you can do to find that perfect career opportunity.

UK requires undergraduates to take courses in a variety of subjects. Whether you are in your first year or your last year, you can probably think of at least one subject that you are not interested in as a career (Chemistry, perhaps?) On the other hand, you have hopefully taken at least one course, and perhaps several, that were of interest. But how do you translate interest in a subject into a possible career?

A simple first step is to talk to the course instructor about your interests and get their input. You can also talk to your advisor and to Elizabeth Labonty, the equine science and management internship coordinator. Maybe one of them will know someone you can job shadow for a few days or perhaps they know of part-time employment or internship opportunities. They may also know of related career areas that you can look into. Another option is to see whether UK has any clubs that relate to your area of interest. If you find one, take the initiative and go to a few meetings to see what they are all about. Introduce yourself to any invited speakers, and get their input. All of these activities help you develop a network of people who are now aware of your interests. If someone contacts them for an intern or a part-time employee, your name will be at the top of their list! The biggest hurdle to career preparation for many students is getting started. You might think, "I've never done that before" or "I'm not good at that" and procrastinate on preparing a resume. Instead, think positively and ask yourself what you HAVE done and make a list of things that you ARE good at. If you aren't sure of your assets, ask your friends and family what they think! You might be surprised to find that your family thinks you are good at multi-tasking and at time management because you participated in clubs, sports and a job while you were in high school ... or that your friends think you have great people skills because everyone likes you.

So, when you make your "resolutions" this year, make sure you put "start career preparation" on your list. UK can give you an education, but it's up to you to figure out what you want to do with it!

~Dr. Laurie Lawrence, PhD Equine Nutrition, faculty, Animal and Food Sciences



In this Issue:

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- Horse genome sequenced
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- International travel opportunities in the College of Ag
- Saddle Up Safely needs your help

A Special Letter from Dean Smith and Dean Cox

Our newest horse, Big Blue, needs owners, and we invite you to become part of the syndication.

Big Blue is not an ordinary horse. The University of Kentucky Equine Initiative will purchase Big Blue as part of Horse Mania 2010. Horse Mania is a public arts project of Lex Arts, a nonprofit community organization that works for development of a strong and vibrant arts community in central Kentucky.

Proceeds from Big Blue's Syndication will benefit UK Equine-related student clubs and organizations. We have syndication opportunities at four levels:

- \$25 for Show
- \$50 for Place
- \$100 for Win
- \$500 or more for Triple Crown



Checks can be made out to the University of Kentucky with Equine Initiative Horse Mania in the memo line. We ask for you to mail checks to: College of Agriculture Research Office, Attn: Carol Cole, S 129 Agriculture Science Building-North, Lexington, KY 40546-0091.

A local artist will soon bring Big Blue to life. He and the other horses will be on display throughout the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. Big Blue and the other horses from the project will be auctioned off in December 2010 with the proceeds going to local nonprofit organizations and Lexington developing arts programs. Proceeds from the auction of Big Blue will benefit the UK Equine Initiative.

UK researchers contribute to sequencing horse genome

By: Jenny Blandford

Four researchers from the University of Kentucky Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center and a faculty member in UK's Department of Computer Science were among 58 co-authors of a research article published Nov. 6 in *Science* that reported the first complete sequencing and assembly of the horse genome.

"This is the culmination of a project that began in 1995 from a workshop in Lexington, Ky.," said Ernie Bailey, co-author and professor of veterinary science.

Since the workshop, scientists from 25 countries have collaborated on what is known as the Horse Genome Project to build preliminary maps of the horse genome and use genomics tools to address horse health issues. The group has met twice a year since the first workshop. Bailey was the coordinator of the Horse Genome Project.

Other researchers from UK include Teri Lear, professor of veterinary science; James MacLeod, John S. and Elizabeth A. Knight chair, professor of veterinary science and director of UK's Equine Initiative; Stephen Coleman, graduate student in the department of veterinary science; and Jinze Liu, professor of computer science.

"The frequent meetings stimulated research," Bailey said. "Every six months we needed a new discovery to present. With over 120 scientists active in the workshop, progress was rapid."



Even so, the consortium of scientists working on the horse genome did not have sufficient resources to actually sequence the entire genome. These skills and resources existed only at the laboratories that had completed the human genome sequence in 2003. In 2005, Bailey submitted a formal request, co-authored by scientists active in the workshop, asking the National Human Genome Research Institute to sequence the horse genome and integrate with existing physical and genetic maps. In February 2006, the genetic sequencing of the horse began using a Thoroughbred mare named "Twilight" from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca, N.Y. DNA sequencing of the horse genome was completed five months later by the Broad Institute, a research collaboration of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University.

The sequencing, which was announced by the National Human Genome Research Institute in February 2007, indicated the horse genome consists of about 2.7 billion base pairs of DNA. The horse genome was found to be very similar to the organization and sequence of the human genome. Therefore, advances in human genomic research can readily be applied to the horse. Likewise, discoveries made with horses can be applied to improve human health. Research currently under way around the world on equine exercise physiology, infectious diseases, reproduction, development and performance are likely to benefit human health.

The information from the sequencing of the horse genome is currently being used at the Gluck Equine Research Center to study diseases of skeletal development and aspects of infectious diseases and reproduction.



Equine Initiative's Cox presented with Bluegrass Tomorrow Vision Award (edited press release)



University of Kentucky College of Agriculture's Nancy Cox was one of Kentucky's visionaries and innovators honored at Bluegrass Tomorrow's 20th Anniversary Vision Awards/InnoVision Breakfast Oct. 30 at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington.

Cox, associate dean for research in UK's College of Agriculture, Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station director and administrative leader for UK's Equine Initiative, was recognized for her long-term vision in support of the Bluegrass and its signature equine industry.

"Bluegrass Tomorrow has recognized from its inception 20 years ago that, as a region, our greatest common denominator is the unique land itself.

This Bluegrass has produced most of the best equine athletes in the world for some 200 years. Under the passionate direction of Nancy Cox, UK's Equine Initiative was conceived and is being implemented to coordinate education, service and science under one roof to sustain and support equine enterprises for the people and businesses of the commonwealth," said Don Robinson, director of Bluegrass Tomorrow, current president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders and fourth generation Thoroughbred farm owner and breeder.

"Nancy Cox has built relationships with farm management, veterinarians, agricultural engineers, educators and researchers in order to identify needs to maintain and strengthen Kentucky's signature industry. Nancy exemplifies the vision that Bluegrass Tomorrow awards," he said.

According to Bluegrass Tomorrow, vision awards are presented to individuals or organizations for efforts devoted to specific community improvement or projects that have a positive impact on the citizens of central Kentucky. Those eligible for the award are recognized for devoting relentlessly their time, efforts and talents toward community service or their project. Their project enhances the quality of life for the citizens of central Kentucky, and their project is innovative and visionary in its purpose and/or approach.

County extension agent was speaker at December Equine Forum meeting

By: Alexandra Harper

Don Sorrell, the Campbell County Extension Agent and chair of the Equine Initiative County Agents Working Group, spoke at the College of Agriculture monthly Equine Forum meeting Dec. 4. Within the Equine Initiative, a "working group" is a gathering of people that come together around a shared topic relevant to equine science and/or equine programs at UK. Sorrell spoke about what the County Equine Agent Working Group is and what it is doing to better the horse industry in Kentucky.

The County Equine Agent Working Group consists primarily of county extension agents trying to serve horse-owning residents in counties across the entire state. The purpose of the working group is to look at county-based equine program efforts, county agents equine programming needs, develop equine resources and make those resources available to agents, and to increase equine programming to address local needs. The working group was formed in November 2008.

In contrast to the concentration of Thoroughbreds in central Kentucky, a wide variety of equine breeds are owned by residents in other parts of the state and are primarily used as pleasure horses and trail riding horses. The working group has held several seminars that people from all counties could attend. Some of the seminars have included basic information sessions for first time horse owners and a trail riding seminar where there was discussion about trail riding resources. A meeting to discuss creating a horse calendar with health and nutrition tips for owners was also held.

Around the Equine Initiative

Congratulations to recipients of the Kentucky Horse Council scholarships

Winners for the fall semester are:

- Chris Bellis-Jones, pre-veterinary science senior at Eastern Kentucky University
- Brittany Anne Wells, agricultural biotechnology freshman at University of Kentucky
- Courtney Gunneson, pre-veterinary science freshman at Murray State University
- Ashlyn Anderson-Keelin, English sophomore at Georgetown College



UK basketball players Patrick Patterson (L) and Ramon Harris (R) took a moment after their Leadership Studies class to pose with former jockey PJ Cooksey, who spoke to Grace Gorrell's CLD 302 students about her career and experiences in leadership.

Around the College of Ag

WEG Update: UK's Tracy Farmer Center working to green the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games

By: Alexandra Harper

When the world comes to Kentucky next September, we want to put our greenest foot forward. That's according to Carol Hanley, director of engagement in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment.

According to Hanley, to accomplish that, "the Bluegrass Partnership for a Green Community" is working with the Kentucky Horse Park and the FEI World Equestrian Games team to implement green projects such as recycling, sustainability measures in hotels and restaurants, and introducing native plant species at the Horse Park.

"Our European visitors have a different standard of sustainability and we want to make a good impression and welcome them to the Bluegrass State," Hanley said.

Green Friends of the Games is a fundraising initiative that will give Kentuckians the opportunity to help make the 2010 Games greener and reduce their environmental impact. It aims to fund green projects that include, among others, permanent recycling centers to promote recycling at the event and smaller portable recycling stations. Green Friends of the Games is also

engaged in planting native species and gardens along Cane Run Creek, which runs through the Kentucky Horse Park. The Bluegrass partnership hopes to fund other projects through the Green Friends Program. Benches, sculptures, gardens, and bike racks along the Legacy Trail, running from downtown Lexington to the Kentucky Horse Park, are being considered. Biofuels are being considered as fuel for visitor transportation and green power may also be purchased. There are local food, education, and hospitality initiatives and green events for Spotlight Lexington, a festival to be held downtown during the Games. Spotlight Lexington will consist of entertainment, cultural, and artistic activities.

The Green Friends will solicit donations from citizens and from local corporations and organizations not currently the focus of World Equestrian Games' fundraising efforts. The Green Friends of the Games will also work closely with World Equestrian Games' management to ensure that green fundraising will not take away WEG fundraising opportunities, but add to WEG's opportunities.

Volunteers are still needed for this effort. If you are interested, you can volunteer via www.alltechfeigames.com and clicking on "volunteer" or contact Carol Hanley at 859/333-8248 or chanley@uky.edu.



Alltech FEI

World Equestrian Games™

Kentucky 2010

Saddle Up Safely Initiative wants your equine safety tips

By: Natalie Voss

Saddle Up Safely, an educational campaign with UK HealthCare and the College of Agriculture, wants to hear riding and horse handling safety tips from the public.

In addition to expert advice on how to prevent injuries and a horse safety blog, Saddle Up Safely's website now features a short survey asking for information about equine-related injuries and the best way to avoid them. Completion of the survey automatically (see page 9)

Equine Clubs and Teams Updates

Dressage and Eventing Team

Meetings will resume next semester

Equestrian Team

Several members of the Equestrian Team (Stock Seat) rode at the recent Eastern National 4-H Horse Round Up judging contest. Team members helped at the contest by riding in a Western Pleasure class, a horsemanship class and showing a class of horses at halter. This contest had 4-H'ers representing 25 states. The Eastern National committee appreciated the support of the Western Team riders and their coach for supplying the horses. Team members who participated were: Shalise Gallaher, Scott Gerstung, Anna Mynchenberg, Kevin Slipes, Catlin Swartz and Lydia Uhlyarik.

Horse Judging Team

The Horse Judging Team won 16th place at the 2009 National Reining Horse Association Futurity Judging Contest on December 2nd and 3rd. Congratulations to team members!

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

Meetings will resume next semester

Polo Team

No update available

Saddle Seat Team

The UK Saddle Seat Team had a great weekend to wrap up the Fall semester at their ISSRA host show at Meadowlake Equestrian Center in Lancaster, Ky. The team had great rides which earned them the title of Champion

Hi-Point Team. Other UK riders swept the Hi-Point rider division with Becky Kalban placing as Champion Hi-Point Rider for the Junior Division and Katie Singleton placing as Reserve Hi-Point Rider for the Senior Division. Congrats to everyone on a great season!



Photo: Alexandra Harper

Upcoming Events

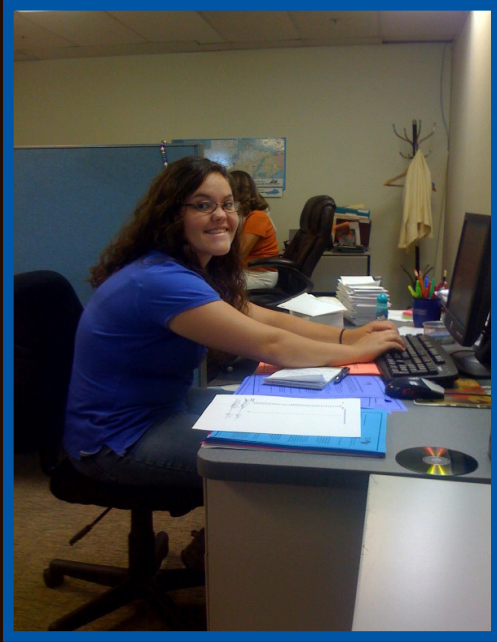
- The Kentucky Breeders' Short Course, sponsored by the Gluck Equine Research Center: Jan 20-21, Fasig Tipton. Visit www.ca.uky.edu/equine/?p=162 for registration form and schedule.
- The 2010 Kentucky Trail Summit: Feb 13-14, Blue Lick State Park. Visit www.kentuckyhorse.org for more info or email director@kentuckyhorse.org.

UK Ag
Equine

Student Spotlight: *Sarah Ison*

By: *Natalie Voss*

Sarah Ison of Melbourne, Florida, has loved horses since her first riding lesson at age 6 and is turning that passion into a career. Ison recently completed an internship with the Kentucky Horse Council (KHC) as part of her graduation requirement as an equine science and management student at the University of Kentucky. Ison, a sophomore, learned about the internship through KHC's Executive Director Ginny Grulke, and took the job to see if she would enjoy the administrative side of the horse business.



Ison hard at work at the Kentucky Horse Council

"It was a wonderful experience," Ison said. "The most important thing that I learned was how to handle various kinds of horse people in the state. Some have a lot of experience while others barely know the parts of the horse. Each individual needs a different approach."

Although Ison has always planned to work hands-on with horses by creating a boarding and breeding operation while working as a veterinarian assistant, she now says part of her career plan.

"I would like to rescue horses and use them in a lesson program (to) educate youth how important it is to take care of the horses that we have now while teaching them how important it is to breed quality not quantity," Ison said.

She also wants to someday become a part of the Horse Council's board of directors. According to Ison's supervisor, Ginny Grulke, her reliability and punctuality were among her best qualities as an intern, second to her initiative.

"She was not afraid to take responsibility for something she was doing and make it happen," Grulke said.

Grulke said Ison's biggest lesson should have been "understanding the breadth of the equine industry" in Kentucky, and believes that her experience with the KHC should provide her with contacts for future jobs or internships in the horse business.

When asked for her advice to other undergraduate students considering internship experience during college, Grulke said, "Definitely do it—do as much as you can." She pointing out that practical experience is the only way for a student to get a real sense of what their chosen career could be like on a day-to-day basis.

"I would recommend this to anyone who wants to network and learn how to work in an office setting," Ison said, "and to find out what other types of jobs are out there."

For information about the internship program contact Elizabeth LaBonty at Elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu.

Education Abroad Opportunities in the College of Agriculture

Trip to Poland planned for EQM students

By: *Fernanda Camargo*

We are planning a two-week trip to Poland from May 15 to May 31, 2010. While in Poland we will visit the University of Krakow, the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Auschwitz, and many horse farms and studs, including Janow Podlaski, the most famous Polish Arabian Horse Stud in the world. We will also visit castles, museums and have several horseback riding opportunities during the trip.

The trip will cost about \$2,500 per student. This price will include tuition for four credits (three ASC 399 credits and one ISP 599 credit), meals, transportation and lodging while in Poland. This price does not include airfare. We are planning to take a maximum of 15 students.

This trip will be an awesome opportunity for our students to learn about the Equine Industry in Poland. I am a firm believer that everyone should travel abroad sometime in their lives to widen their horizons. Don't miss this opportunity. For more information, contact me at Fernanda.camargo@uky.edu.

Other Study Abroad opportunities of interest to equine students

- **Brazil:** Dr. Tim Stombaugh will lead a two-week trip to Brazil that will cover agricultural technology and automation adoption. The tour will begin at a "sister" university, Federal University of Viçosa, in Minas Gerais state, and end in Rio de Janeiro. This is a new trip and further information can be obtained from Dr. Stombaugh at tstomb@bae.uky.edu.
- **Scotland:** Dr. Kristina Ricketts, Dr. Bryan Hains and Dr. Ron Hustedde will lead a three-week trip to Scotland that highlights global citizenship in the frame of community development, leadership and emotional/cognitive development. For more information on this new trip contact Dr. Ricketts at k.ricketts@uky.edu.
- **Thailand:** There is also an opportunity for students to have an internship in northern Thailand through Maejo University. The internship is for 4-8 weeks (depending on the student's choice) and the subject is arranged through our counterparts at Maejo. Students specify their objectives for the internship and the Thais do the best they can to find an appropriate internship. This opportunity allows students to obtain internship experience while living in another culture.

Saddle Up Safely Initiative wants your equine safety tips, cont.

(from page 5) enters participants in monthly prize drawings beginning in December 2009. Prizes for upcoming drawings include four general admission tickets to the FEI Alltech World Equestrian Games or one of three \$150-\$200 gift certificates to Ariat International (gift certificates will be drawn once every three months). To access the injury survey, visit <http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/saddleup/saferidertips.aspx>. For more information about Saddle Up Safely, visit their website at <http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/saddleup/index.asp>.

Equine Club Directory

Dressage/Eventing Team

Dressage Advisor: Drura Parrish

drura.parrish@uky.edu

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Eventing Advisor: Kristen Harvey

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Eventing President: Courtney Carroll
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Equestrian Team

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman

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President: Lauren Patterson

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Horse Judging Team

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Horse Racing Club

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence

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President: Kate Benner
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Polo Club

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Contact: Meghan Shader
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Saddle Seat Team

Advisor: Lee Edgerton

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President: Katie Singleton
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