

# Wildcat Canter

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs Newsletter



Congratulations to our  
December ESMA Graduates



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## UK's Equine Program Helps Large Animal Lover Find Her Place in the Equine Industry

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## UK Alum Takes Advantage of Opportunities in the Industry

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## Program Spotlight-Pamela Gray

Originally, from Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin, Pamela Gray received a bachelor of arts in communications from the University of Kentucky and a master's in professional studies in leadership in organizations from the University of Denver.

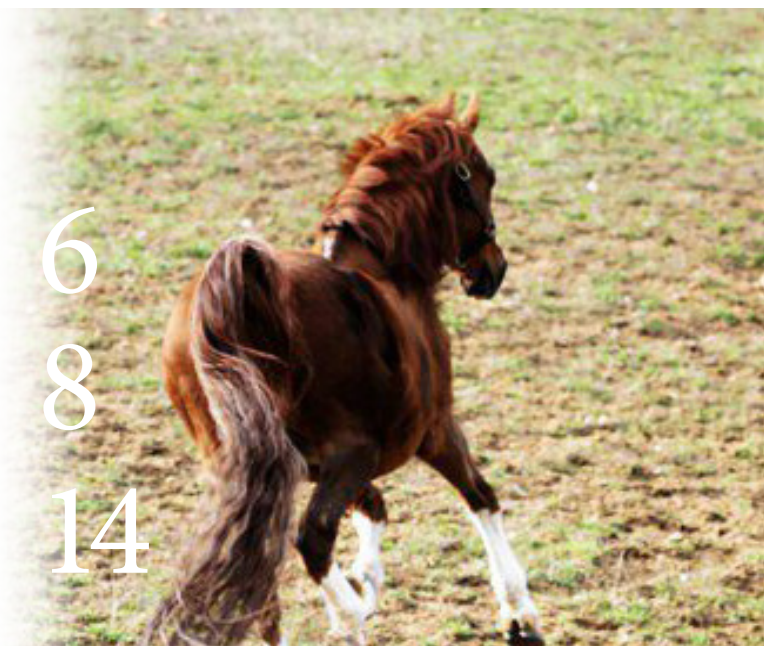
*On the cover: Recent graduates at the ESMA graduation reception.*

## Other features:

**Total of 28 College Advisors Up for Award**

**Student Professionalism Series**

**Equine Alumni Chapter Forming in 2017**



## Welcome

There is a lot of talk about the image and identity, or the brand, of everything from a cup of coffee to an airline. Sometimes people even talk about having a personal brand. This is probably an overused idea, but it is useful in many ways. Think about Kentucky. A few things come to mind, but regardless of who you talk to, horses are probably at or near the top of the list. I cannot imagine having a better job than my new position, Director of Ag Equine Programs at the University of Kentucky. But horses are more than just the image of Kentucky, they are big business in the state. And like any brand or identity, that image is strongest if it represents what most matters about the person, place or thing. Bad coffee is bad coffee, regardless of the color of the cup or how great the company is at social media.

In Kentucky, loving horses or anything related to horses is part of the social fabric. You can talk about horses in the hallway at work; racing is on the television in the sports bars; and world-class equestrian events are available just about every week. For horse owners, some of the world's greatest veterinarians, farriers and trainers are all right at your doorstep. Some of the world's most famous equine hospitals are in Lexington. And if you have ever dreamed of seeing some of the greatest racehorses who have ever lived, they live in Central Kentucky or are buried here in graves marked like some of the most famous statesmen and generals – and depending on the horse, the comparison may be fair!

So, what does that mean to all of us who are lucky enough to live in Lexington and study at UK? This is the time to explore. If you grew up barrel racing, you owe it to yourself to spend time at Keeneland, watch the races and go to the sales. If you grew up on a Thoroughbred farm, your time at UK is your opportunity to learn to appreciate the Western disciplines or maybe join the UK Polo Team. The equine industry is big, fragmented and diverse. One thing that has become clear to me watching people who make a career with horses is that flexibility is key. People who are now at the top of the industry may have started in racing, gone on to help organize Olympic equestrian events and then worked for a breed organization. But it is all a part of the equine industry. The way to build appreciation of the horse as an athlete is to understand the flexibility of their skills and training. Appreciation of the horse and the centrality of the horse in culture and sport is necessary to building a career in the equine industry.

I am blessed to be a part of this excellent program. I hope that I can be worthy of the wonderful organization that has been built in equine programs and I look forward to continuing to explore the amazing horse with all of you during your time at UK. Horses are a very important part of the brand and the economy of Kentucky. However, in Ag Equine Programs the horse is at the heart of everything we do.



*Mick Peterson*  
*Director, UK Ag Equine Programs*

**Upcoming events/deadlines:****January 3-February 27**

Students permitted to change majors

**January 4-20**

Add/drop for registered students

**January 30-April 28**

Graduation checks for August and December graduates

**February 1**

Last day to drop a course

**February 23**UK Department of Veterinary Science  
Equine Diagnostic Research Seminar  
Series, 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
UK VDL**February 28**Last day to apply for August 2017 degree  
online**MASTHEAD****Wildcat Canter Editorial Staff**Alexandra Harper, MBA, managing editor, contributing writer, layout  
Maddie Regis, contributing writer  
Holly Wiemers, MA, APR, senior editor, contributing writer**Wildcat Canter Editorial Board**Bob Coleman, PhD  
director of undergraduate studiesCamie Heleski, PhD  
lecturerElizabeth James, MS  
lecturer and internship coordinatorMick Peterson, PhD  
equine programs directorKristen Wilson, MS  
academic program coordinator
**Ag Equine Programs**  
 College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

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




# UK's Equine Program Helps Large Animal Lover Find Her Place in the Equine Industry

By Maddie Regis

Lauren Mullins is a University of Kentucky senior originally from Washington Court House, Ohio. Growing up, Mullins did not have a lot of exposure to the horse industry.

"I had very little experience with horses prior to my time at UK. I never had horses growing up. I knew I wanted to work with horses but the industry in Washington Court House is almost nonexistent. Prior to coming to UK, I knew nothing about horse racing. I had never even been to a Thoroughbred race. The only races I had ever experienced were the harness races at my county fairgrounds," she said.

Despite her lack of experience with horses, Mullins had always loved large animals, especially horses, and had a feeling she wanted to have a career in the horse industry.

"I thought, 'What better place than Kentucky to learn about horses and racing!'" Mullins said on why she chose to come to UK.

As Mullins learned more about the horse world, she found that she really enjoyed Thoroughbreds and the Thoroughbred industry. This led her to her current job at UK, which in turn helped her decide to intern at Eaton Sales.

"My decision to intern at Eaton Sales came after my current manager, Bryan Cassill, suggested it. I currently work at UK's Maine Chance Farm and Eaton's sales coordinator, Shanon Levering, is a graduate of the Maine Chance program. I wanted to gain experience in the sales aspect of the industry and Eaton Sales offered me that opportunity. Eaton Sales is a highly-respected consignment and they have a wonderful group of people working for them," Mullins said.

The internship gave her an insight behind the scenes of a Thoroughbred sales operation, and as one can expect, there was quite a lot to do before, during and after the sales.

"During the course of my internship, Eaton participated in various sales. My responsibilities began with assisting in preparations for each sale. This included paperwork, putting together sales books and organizing and compiling sales supplies. I also assisted in showings, recordings and hospitality. After each sale I helped with the cleanup and reorganization of the materials in preparation for the next sale," Mullins said.

"Our internship with Eaton Sales is always a favorite among students," said Elizabeth James, Lecturer and Internship Coordinator. "Shannon does a great job of giving them behind-the-scenes experience and students like Lauren do a stellar job of working hard and taking it all in."

Mullins had a lot of responsibilities as an Eaton Sales intern, and she said that it taught her a lot.

"I learned so much about the business side of the Thoroughbred sales. Before my internship, I had only experienced the Thoroughbred sales as a groom/showman. It was eye opening to see the inner workings of the sales and to see what it takes for them to operate," she said.

"My favorite part of my internship would be tagging along with the Eaton Sales team throughout the sales. Reiley McDonald is the head of the Eaton Sales team as well as a well-respected individual in the industry. It was an amazing opportunity to work with him as well as to learn from him. I learned so much just by listening and observing during the sales. Everyone was so welcoming and eager to share their knowledge," she said.

The Eaton Sales team was as pleased with Mullins as Mullins was with her internship. "Lauren was a great asset to Eaton Sales during the 2016 sale season. She is extremely self-motivated and dedicated to expanding her knowledge of the Thoroughbred industry. I hope she enjoyed her internship as much as we enjoyed having her," said Levering, Mullins' internship supervisor.

Mullins said she hopes to become a broodmare manager, and working with Eaton Sales gave her a better understanding of important factors to consider when breeding Thoroughbreds.

"Working with Eaton Sales gave me the opportunity to better understand what kind of horses buyers are interested in. It allowed me to have a better understanding of desirable matings, stallion statistics as well as desirable and non-desirable conformation traits. All of which is fundamental when breeding Thoroughbreds," she said.

Mullins will be traveling to Ireland for two weeks after she graduates to learn about the Thoroughbred Industry across the pond. Following that, she hopes to get a job with a Thoroughbred sales or breeding operation.



Lauren Mullins at the Keeneland January Sale with a mare named JUST GOT IN.



## Total of 28 College Advisors Up for Award

Source: UK Center for Student Success

Each year, the University of Kentucky Advising Network recognizes two advisors, one professional advisor and one faculty advisor, with the Ken Freedman Outstanding Advisor Award.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment boasts 28 Freedman nominees this year, more than any other college or unit at the University. The college's nominees, listed below, will be recognized at the Ken Freedman Luncheon on February 23.

The two awardees will receive a \$500 travel grant from UK Student and Academic Support, a unit of the UK Division of Student and Academic Life. Awardees will also be nominated by the University for the NACADA Region 3 Excellence in Advising Award and for the National Academic Advising Association Outstanding Advisor Award.

Ken Freedman, the award's namesake, was one of the founders of the UK Advising Network in 1986 and served as a professional advisor at UK until his death in 2001.

### Professional Nominees

Name	Department/Unit
Jamie Dunn	Center for Student Success
Esther Fleming	Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology
Ann Leed	Animal and Food Sciences
Avery Malone	Retailing and Tourism Management
Anissa Radford	Dietetics and Human Nutrition
Natasha Saunders	Office of Diversity
Leann Slaughter	Animal and Food Sciences
Kristen Wilson	Equine Programs

### Faculty Nominees

Name	Department/Unit
Carmen Agouridis	Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
Roger Brown	Agricultural Economics
RayeCarol Cavender	Retailing and Tourism Management
Lorraine Garkovich	Community and Leadership Development
Ryan Hargrove	Landscape Architecture
Tyler Mark	Agricultural Economics
Leigh Maynard	Agricultural Economics
Martin Nielsen	Veterinary Science
Sharyn Perry	Plant and Soil Sciences
Mika Pryor	Retailing and Tourism Management
Mary Rossano	Animal and Food Sciences
Jack Schieffer	Agricultural Economics
Aaron Schwartz	Dietetics and Human Nutrition
Will Snell	Agricultural Economics
Tammy Stephenson	Dietetics and Human Nutrition
Jason Swanson	Retailing and Tourism Management
Kristine Urschel	Animal and Food Sciences
Stacy Vincent	Community and Leadership Development
Scarlett Wesley	Retailing and Tourism Management
Mark Williams	Horticulture

To learn more about the Ken Freedman Outstanding Advisor Award, including past winners, visit <http://www.uky.edu/UGE/network-awards>.



## UK Alum Takes Advantage of Opportunities in the Industry

By Alexandra Harper

Kyle Johnson has worked with horses since high school, but after coming to the University of Kentucky, he became more focused on the Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry.

A 2014 graduate of the Equine Science and Management program, Johnson has had several great opportunities in the equine industry. His work experience includes internships at Winstar and Claiborne farms. He spent a season in Australia as a stallion groom and this past year at Brookdale Farm as a broodmare manager.

His responsibilities have ranged from day-to-day care of a couple horses, to overseeing an entire division. Along with the general care responsibilities, he has also been responsible for breeding shed runs, foaling and maintaining vaccination and deworming schedules.

Most recently, Johnson experienced history when he witnessed American Pharoah's first foal being born.

"It was a surreal experience," Johnson said. "It's those kind of moments that make the year's process so worthwhile.

"It's not every day you see offspring of a Triple Crown winner born, let alone the very first offspring of a Triple Crown winner in 30+ years," Johnson said.

Johnson and Brookdale's farm manager split duties for night foaling's. The night American Pharoah's foal was born, the farm manager was on duty.

There's no man more fitting for such a special occasion as this foaling," Johnson said.

Johnson now currently works for Claiborne Farm; working in the foaling barn, assisting with morning teasing rounds with the farm mares and also helping with the afternoon breeding sessions.

When asked what Johnson's advice was to students, he said, "Always be humble and eager to learn.



"There are many great people willing to teach and mentor you in the equine industry, as long as you show them an eagerness to learn and a willingness to put in the time and work necessary," Johnson said.

To read more about American Pharoah's foal, visit <http://www.paulickreport.com/news/blood-stock/american-pharoahs-first-foal-born-versailles/>.



# Student Professionalism Series

By Elizabeth A James

The University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management Undergraduate Degree Program strives to not only educate you about equine science, but also to prepare you for your future career. Part of this preparation includes classroom guest lectures, hands on labs, requiring an internship before you graduate, exposing you to numerous industry related careers and, most recently, we have added a series called the Student Professionalism Series to the Wildcat Canter. The Student Professionalism Series will offer insights and tips to help you effectively prepare for, find, apply to and obtain the career of your choice. For those of you wanting to start your own business one day, this month we will discuss one area not to skimp on.

*Talk is cheap, until you hire a lawyer*

I'm all for saving money. When it comes to my horses, I'll give Bute to treat lameness before calling the vet; I don't think twice about giving my own vaccines; and I love to trim my horses' feet. Who can blame me? Horses are expensive and horse people are notorious for cutting corners. But, the minute you cross over from having horses as a hobby to running an equine business, everything changes. For one, you can't cut corners with client horses, and for another, there are some areas of your business that you have to be willing to invest in or you will pay for it later. One such area is legal advice.

Just mentioning a lawyer is sure to elicit a range of emotions. Lawyer jokes are as commonplace as opinions about our legal system. But truth be told, regardless of how you feel about them, when a situation calls for an attorney, there is no substitute. Over the years I have watched many friends launch their own businesses in the equine industry. I've observed even more sign contracts – be they boarding contracts, training agreements or partnership deals - without ever having a lawyer look at them or even knowing what they are signing. Unfortunately, I have also seen deals go south, accidents happen and lawsuits drag on. It isn't cheap to get good legal advice but it costs far less to protect yourself upfront than to have to pay for it later.

If I could give those of you wanting to start your own business one piece of advice from personal experience, it would be to hire a good attorney from the very beginning to write your contracts, read over anything you sign, and give you legal advice pertaining to the potential risks of your business and how to manage them. I am aware that this is costly advice, but I assure you it's worth it. In the short time that my husband and I have owned two equine-related businesses, we have dealt employee issues, client horse issues, business opportunities, and more. All of them involved contracts, all of them were complicated, and all of them were made better by an attorney.

Your relationship with your attorney is as important to the success of your business as your relationship with your veterinarian or feed supplier. Our attorney knows our farm. He wrote our contracts, he knows our plans, and he is aware of potential problems as soon they arise. Our relationship with him is one of our top priorities and we make sure he knows it. Because of that, he is always just a phone call or email away. We don't have to set up a meeting or waste time telling him the back story. We have access to legal advice that is specific to our situation whenever we need it. No more searching on Google, asking friends who may not know, or browsing legal websites.

Lawyers are like doctors, you don't want to need one but when you do need one, you want the best. Investing in legal advice for your business is not as fun as wrapping wounds, riding a good horse or buying new tack. But it is every bit as important, maybe even more.



# Equine Science and Management Alumni Profile

Emily Brollier Curtis, '09

*Head Trainer & Owner of Miramonte Equine*

*By Maddie Regis*



*Emily and her 2016 Retired Racehorse Project Makeover mount Dancing Commander. Photo courtesy of Emily Brollier-Curtis*

## **Where is home for you?**

I was raised in Kansas, but call Kentucky home now.

## **How did you first become involved in the horse industry?**

I have ridden my entire life. Throughout college, I worked in the Thoroughbred industry as a groom, then eventually a barn foreman, and then a broodmare manager. I've always had a passion for dressage and I have always loved to develop young horses.

## **What were your career goals before graduation?**

Before graduation, I actually had planned on having a career in the Thoroughbred industry as either a bloodstock agent or a sales coordinator. I had always planned on continuing my dressage on the side, with goals of developing my horse to Grand Prix, but it wasn't until after graduation that I went down the path to become a full-time trainer.

## **Where are you currently employed?**

I am self-employed, running the company Miramonte Equine.

## **What are your current job responsibilities?**

As head trainer and owner of Miramonte Equine, my responsibilities range in everything from training and riding the horses, to teaching lessons and clinics, to selling and marketing horses, to breaking young horses, to organizing vet and farrier visits to billing and accounting. However, I have recently hired an assistant who has been a life-saver. She is handling a lot of the communications and paperwork, in addition to riding and exercising horses. This has really freed me up to ride more horses and teach more lessons. I would say most of my time is spent riding and training. I have some really super clients that have high quality horses. It's so fun to develop horses along and be able to compete them and watch them shine in their element. My goal with each horse is to give them confidence in their job; whether that is as a competition horse for me or as a packer for their owner.

## **What led you to this position?**

Post-graduation, I was fortunate enough to get a taste of almost every angle of the industry. I held positions that included broodmare manager, exercise rider on the track, and communications coordinator. During these experiences, I would always keep my personal horse training, hoping to get to Grand Prix. Shortly after graduation, I started having people approach me here and there with horses that had training issues, or needed confidence. So I would take them on and train them each day after I would get done with work. Eventually it went from training my horse and one or two others to having six horses to ride after I left work each evening. When it crossed into being too much, I decided to give it a go as a full-time trainer.

## **How are you currently involved in the horse industry?**

Currently, I am actually in Holland for a week with clients on a buying trip! But normally, I train and teach 6 days a week and try to take Sundays off. However, it's difficult to do that because, I am either showing, teaching clinics or have buyers who want to come on the weekends.

## **What advice do you have for current equine students?**

I would suggest taking as many "nitty gritty" internships as you can get, even if they are not directly related to your desired career. For example, by working in the barns at Thoroughbred breeding farms, I learned TONS of useful medical information. I would also suggest to be realistic about career goals. If you want to train, understand that it's long hours and not glorious. You have to hustle really hard. But the reward is well worth the work and lack of sleep. Lastly, be honest. Honesty is key to success no matter what direction your career takes you. An owner would much rather you tell them that you didn't have time to ride their horse, rather than find out later that you lied to them. It builds trust and with trust you can build solid relationships that can boost your career.



**Ag Equine Programs**  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment





## Bluegrass Equine Digest

Check out the January issue of the Bluegrass Equine Digest, a free, monthly electronic newsletter dedicated to providing up-to-date information on equine research from the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in collaboration with TheHorse.com and sponsored by Zoetis. This month's stories can be found at [http://www.thehorse.com/enews/bluegrass-equine-digest/PDF/BED-Jan2017.pdf?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=bluegrass-equine-digest&utm\\_campaign=01-29-2017](http://www.thehorse.com/enews/bluegrass-equine-digest/PDF/BED-Jan2017.pdf?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=bluegrass-equine-digest&utm_campaign=01-29-2017).

- **How Immunosenescence Impacts Senior Horse Care**
- **Nocardioform Placentitis Concerns**
- **Winter Stress in Livestock**
- **Two-Year Frangible Pin Study Continues**

### Stay Socially Connected to UK Ag Equine Programs

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has several equine-related social media pages featuring the latest news and events information.

Follow us on Twitter:

- UK Ag Equine Programs: **@UKAgEquine**
- UK Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center: **@UKGluckCenter**

Prefer Facebook? Like these pages administered by us:

- **University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs:** An overarching framework for all things equine at the University of Kentucky, including the undergraduate degree program, equine-related students organizations, equine research and outreach activities.
- **University of Kentucky Equine Alumni:** A community established for the alumni of the University of Kentucky's equine programs, including ESMA, graduate students and clubs and teams' members.
- **University of Kentucky Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center:** The mission of the Gluck Center is scientific discovery, education and dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of the health and well-being of horses.
- **University of Kentucky Horse Pasture Evaluation Program:** A service program offered to horse farms in Kentucky with the goal of overall improved pasture management.
- **Saddle Up SAFELY:** A rider safety awareness program sponsored by UKHealthCare, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and many community organizations. It aims to make a great sport safer through education about safe riding and horse handling practices.

# Program Spotlight-Pamela Gray

By Alexandra Harper

Originally, from Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin, Pamela Gray received a bachelor of arts in communications from the University of Kentucky and a master's in professional studies in leadership in organizations from the University of Denver.

Gray is currently the senior director of philanthropy for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. She is responsible for all fundraising that takes place in the college. Gray works closely with Nancy Cox, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, to identify, cultivate and solicit individuals who would like to invest in major priorities to advance the land-grant mission. In addition, Gray oversees annual giving and works closely with colleagues in central philanthropy to maximize giving to the college from individuals.

"I am happy to return to my alma mater and utilize my more than 20 years of experience in philanthropy to impact a place that I hold close to my heart," Gray said. "I was a first-generation college student and the youngest of six. UK gave me the tools and confidence to excel in life and at my chosen profession."

When asked what her favorite part about her job was, Gray said, "Creating a vision for philanthropy that is exciting for those interested to invest in."

"I always enjoy meeting and helping people meet their philanthropic goals and their vision for what they would like to support come to a realized vision, whether that is supporting a student and enhancing their experience, supporting our research or supporting a faculty endeavor," Gray said.

When Gray isn't at work, she enjoys watching the Wildcats and the Green Bay Packers. She loves to hike and travel to National Parks. In addition, she continues to volunteer as a committee member for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. She is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Partnership for Philanthropic Planning and volunteers to help find homes for homeless pets.





# Congratulations to our 2016 Equine Science and Management Graduates!

By Kristen Wison

When first starting at University of Kentucky as a freshman, the day of graduation seemed so far away, but for 15 of our Equine Science and Management students, this day was finally a reality. In addition to walking across the big stage in Rupp Arena in front of their family, friends and peers, graduates also had the opportunity to celebrate on campus beforehand at the Equine Science and Management Graduation Reception on Dec. 16, 2016.

Graduates and their families gathered with UK faculty and staff over a meal, networking and sharing memories of their experiences at UK to celebrate this huge accomplishment in their lives. Each student was recognized by Bob Coleman, director of undergraduate studies, and received gifts including program swag from UK Ag Equine Programs.

Many of our graduates have big plans ahead of them. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

Each graduate will find his or her own career path within the equine industry and we look forward to following them now as alums of our program making a difference in whatever path they may choose.



## Anas Abdurrahim

*Favorite memory?  
“Witnessing  
American Pharoah win  
the Triple Crown and  
seeing him run at the  
Kentucky Derby.”*



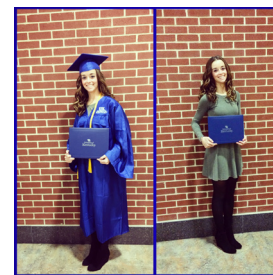
Originally, from Lexington, Kentucky, Abdurrahim chose to come to UK because he received a scholarship and it had always been his goal since he was young.

When asked what his favorite memory was while at UK, he said, “Witnessing American Pharoah win the Triple Crown and seeing him run at the Kentucky Derby.”

After graduation, Abdurrahim plans to work with Horse International doing business development on exporting and importing horses.

## Kelsey Drew

*“I chose to come to UK  
because of the equine  
program and because  
there’s no better place  
to be for the horses  
than Lexington,  
Kentucky.”*



Originally from Dayton, Ohio, Drew chose UK because of the equine program and because there’s no better place to be for the horses than Lexington, Kentucky.

After graduation, she plans to continue working with Thoroughbreds and seeing where it leads her.

Her favorite memory from UK is going to the football and basketball games with her friends.

## Lindsey Sowden

*“I grew up riding  
horses and when it  
came time to decide  
what I wanted to do  
with the rest of my  
life, I couldn’t think  
of a better place, so  
I came to UK for the  
equine program.”*



Originally, from Cartersville, Georgia, Lindsey Sowden grew up riding horses and when it came time to decide what she wanted to do with the rest of her life, she couldn’t think of a better place, so she came to UK for the equine program.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Sowden said, “Becoming so close with many of the people in my graduating class.

“I was afraid of getting lost in the crowd when I came to such a large campus, but the best take away was making lifelong friends and celebrating our achievements together after we walked across the stage,” Sowden said.

After graduation, Sowden plans to establish a career in the Thoroughbred industry.

## Tamar Weisburd

*Favorite memory?  
“Meeting people who  
had the same passion  
as me and being able  
to connect with them  
for future  
opportunities.”*



Originally, from Tokyo, Japan, Weisburd chose UK because it has the best equine program in the country and because Lexington is the horse capital of the world.

When asked what her favorite memory from UK was, Weisburd said, “Meeting people who had the same passion as me and being able to connect with them for future opportunities.”

After graduation, Weisburd plans to be a show groom/manager for show jumpers in Wellington, Florida, and travel with the horses to different show circuits after that.



## Dante Zanelli

*Favorite memory?  
“Learning from  
some outstanding  
professors that are  
completely vested  
in making their  
students succeed at  
school.”*



Originally, from Lexington, Kentucky, Zanelli wanted to attend UK since he was in high school, however at the time UK didn't have an equine program. After attending a small private college on a soccer scholarship, Zanelli finally ended up at UK.

After graduation, Zanelli plans to expand his company, Horse International, with the help of two of his former classmates.

His favorite memory from UK was having the opportunity to learn from some outstanding professors that are completely vested in making their students succeed at school.

## Congratulations to our other graduates as well...

*Ashlyn Jons  
Chase Passarella, IV  
Hannah Reynolds  
Kaylyn Shumate  
Amanda Turner*

*Martha (Carolyn) Meng  
Hillary Ramspacher  
Kimberly Salter  
Lauren Tucker  
Christine Voll*

## Equine Alumni Chapter Forming in 2017

*By Kristen Wilson*

In the past, the University of Kentucky Ag and HES Alumni Association has been made up of local geographic alumni chapters including members with very different interests. New, starting in 2017, three chapters will be forming focused around specific interest areas. These three new chapters will include Dietetics, MANRRS and Equine.

Planning for the Equine Alumni Chapter has already started and alums are encouraged to attend our first planning meeting. At this meeting, we will discuss the process of how this idea evolved, current and potential alumni events and the structure of the potential board of directors and officer team. Additionally, we will determine action items for the upcoming year.

Please join us on Sunday, Feb. 19 starting at 2 p.m. at E.S. Good Barn on UK's campus. UK alums interested in being part of the Equine Chapter do not have to be graduates of the Equine Science and Management Program.

RSVP by Feb. 15 to [equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu) or (859) 257-2226. For questions about the event, please contact Kristen Wilson at [Kristen.wilson1@uky.edu](mailto:Kristen.wilson1@uky.edu) or (859) 257-4610.



## UK Equine Alum Wins 2016 Media Eclipse Award

By Holly Wiemers

Natalie Voss, a 2010 University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management alum and former communications intern for the UK Ag Equine Programs' office, was presented with the 2016 Media Eclipse Award for Writing in the News/Enterprise category at the 46th annual Eclipse Awards dinner and ceremony Jan. 21 in Hallandale Beach, Florida.

Voss, currently the features editor for the Paulick Report, was recognized for her Dec. 30, 2015, story, "Something's Wrong with My Brain – the Lurking Danger of Concussions for Jockeys," where she featured retired jockey Gwen Jocson, who left the sport with 763 wins in 1999 because she was having trouble with her balance.



Voss is pictured here accepting her award with publisher Ray Paulick at the 46th annual Eclipse Awards dinner and ceremony Jan. 21 in Hallandale Beach, Florida. Photo shared by Voss, and taken by her husband, Joe Nevills.

In her piece, Voss wrote about the issues in repeated head trauma, recounted medical professional data and explored how the racing industry is dealing with the issues of recovery time for jockeys and the effectiveness of helmets.

Voss reported that in watching the opening of the movie, "Concussion," Jocson recognized symptoms in herself as the movie highlighted the issues with Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) in the National Football League. Voss found that racing does accept the problem of concussions but lacks adequate funding to combat the problem.

Voss was gracious enough to answer some questions about her award, her work and her time at UK. Those questions, and her answers, can be found below. Congratulations go out again to one of our alums, who is clearly making her mark on the industry.

**Q: It's so clichéd, but seriously, how did you feel when you heard you got this award?**

A: It's funny actually, because I found out via phone call from Jim Gluckson at the NTRA. I had just spoken with Jim a few days before on a different matter, and when he called, I was driving through the West Virginia mountains on the way back home from the holidays. I assumed at first he was calling me about our discussion a few days before. When I called him back, he was on a subway in New York and I was still in the mountains, so it took about four tries for me to hear the whole sentence of him telling me I'd won. At that point, it had taken so many calls back and forth to get the whole message I was pretty sure I wasn't imagining the whole thing, but it still took a while to absorb.

It's so cliché, but my first thoughts were something along the lines of, 'I guess I've 'made it' now!' Also, continued disbelief. Many accomplished, completely deserving turfwriters take decades in the business to win an Eclipse, if they get one at all; it had been a dream of mine, but never a firm goal. It's so difficult to do, it had never seemed realistic to me to expect myself to actually win one.

**Q: What compelled you to pursue the story on concussions that you were recognized for? And, was it a story at the time you knew would get a lot of notice, or just something you wanted to bring awareness to?**

A: I don't think any of us expected it to get a lot of notice at the time, and while it was well-read, it wasn't something that went as viral on social media as some of the other pieces we've published. It was really more of an awareness-driven piece, which is also why we released a version of it in Spanish with help from

*continued on page 16*



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Gloria Hinkson-Barajas at the Jockeys' Guild. We had just been alerted to the story of Gwen Jocson, the retired rider I highlight in the piece, and the 'Concussion' movie had just come out in theaters, so it seemed like the perfect time to bring the topic forward.

**Q: What are some of the other big highpoints, or work that you are incredibly proud of that you've done as an equine journalist?**

A: I'm incredibly proud of the investigative pieces I've done in my time with the Paulick Report, particularly the five that were nominated for the Stanley Bergstein Award in 2015 and 2016. I feel I've really found my niche with enterprise work, and each of those pieces represents so many hours of research, interviews and more research. Completely independent of award recognition, those are my favorite pieces because they got a reaction from readers and from the industry, and I feel they were strong final products that also brought awareness to really critical issues. You always hope stories like that will impact actual change, and a couple of them did, which is the ultimate goal.

**Q: When thinking of our current undergrad students...now that you've been out in the industry for a while (surreal, I know), what are some of the workplace trends you are seeing, or opportunities in the industry you think would be interesting if you were a student again?**

A: I'm not sure if it's a trend in all equine workplaces or if it's just a trend in journalism and communications, but I'm seeing a lot of employers expect their staff (especially younger members) to be sort of 'jacks of all trades.' It's no longer enough to be a good writer; you must also edit, provide social media content, take photos and/or video (and sometimes produce video as well) and be proficient at going on camera or on radio to do interviews or give interviews. I did a lot of different internships in different areas of the horse world while I was at UK, and I had worried that would make my resume appear a little unfocused to employers. In my case at least, that variety of horse-related skillsets has I think helped me out a lot.

**Q: What were some things from getting your degree here that you think helped you prepare for life outside of school and in chasing your professional dreams? How about some things you wish you would have done differently, or you wish we would have had during your time here to better prepare you?**

I think the variability in my classes and professional experience was a really good preparation for my current job. Having the equine science background has really helped me with a lot of the horse care and regulatory topics I cover (since so many of those touch on veterinary topics). I did struggle for a while to find a full-time job in my field after graduating, but that was largely due to the whole horse industry still recovering from the economic recession. I was grateful I always had wonderful resources at UK to help point me in the right directions whenever possible, even after I'd left.

**Q: Finally, any advice you have to our current or future students about chasing their professional dreams in this industry?**

I think it's important to realize that any achievement, even one attained at a young age, is the result of a lot of long days and lunches eaten over keyboards, no matter what part of the business you're in. The horse business is still one where you have to pay your dues with a lot of hard work (often, at the beginning, work that isn't all that fun, either) before you can get where you want to go. Then, after all that work, most dreams require a handful of luck to actually come true. That's why it's so important to find a career direction you're really passionate about. Even your dream job still feel like work sometimes (I'm always a little amazed at people who say it doesn't), but the results will be so much more fulfilling if you really believe in what you're doing.

The story Voss earned her Eclipse Award for can be found at: <http://www.paulickreport.com/news/ray-s-paddock/somethings-wrong-with-my-brain-the-lurking-danger-of-concussions-for-jockeys/>

For the Paulick Report's coverage of the award, that story can be found at: <http://www.paulickreport.com/news/people/voss-earns-media-eclipse-award-paulick-report-feature-concussions-jockeys/>

# FALL 2016 DEAN'S LIST

## *Equine Science and Management*

Megan Archambault	Sabrina Decamp
Leah Ayau	Dakota DeCuffa
Michela Bernarding	Olivia Desch
Sarah Bernknopf	Mary Dettmering
Alexandra Bertke	Megan Douglass
Erica Bischoff	Kelsey Drew
Daniel Bloom, Jr.	Riley Drumm
Marisa Braccia	Nicole Feeney
Justin Bray	Anastasia Fischer
Isabel Brizuela	Laughlin Flanagan
Claire Burnham	Brandon Gadberry
Elizabeth Burwell	Samantha Geller
Alessandra Campana-Emard	Hollis Glowniak
Darby Cease	Olivia Gould
Caitlin Centers	Margaret Holloway
Blake Chandler	Anna Intartaglio
Julia Christopher	Sherry Jackson
Sydney Cooper	Eric Jepson
Catlyn Cornelius	Heather Kirby
Lucia Cresci	Josie Kroeger
Samantha Daily	Michaela Lambert
Hanna Darrow	Cassandra Lansdale
Erin Daugherty	Samantha Laurel



# FALL 2016 DEAN'S LIST

## *Equine Science and Management*

Meredith Long  
 Ashley Lowe  
 Olivia Lowe  
 Madison Maavere  
 Eva Mangan  
 Misty Medeiros  
 Eliza Mikunda  
 Kiley Moore  
 Hannah Moriarty  
 Lauren Mullins  
 Michelle Newman  
 Caitlin Nolasco  
 Meredith O'Connell  
 Emma Partridge  
 Justin Pedoto  
 Kerri Peters  
 Caroline Petrine  
 Clara Pollard  
 Amanda Putorek  
 Allison Raftery  
 Hillary Ramspacher  
 Madeline Regis

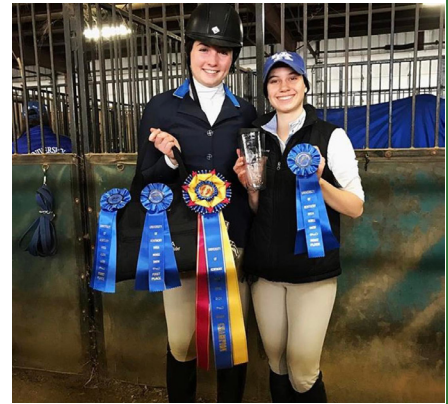
Haley Reichenbach  
 Katherine Ritz  
 Kimberly Salter  
 Emma Sanchez  
 Paige Schanke  
 Alyssa Schuster  
 Sydney Segal  
 Sarah Shanberg  
 Emily Sklar  
 Aimee Snow  
 Lindsey Sowden  
 Alanna Stefanek  
 Liza Stockstill  
 Emma Tilghman  
 Blair Turnbull  
 Lauren Walling  
 Tamar Weisburd  
 Anne Wilferth  
 Samantha Winslett  
 Julianna Witt  
 Michaela Yowaiski  
 Dante Zanelli

## Clubs and Teams

### Equestrian Team

The hunt seat team had its first home show of the semester on January 28-29 at Lakeside Arena. The hunt seat team received High Point Team and had the High Point Rider (Chloe Bellerive) on Saturday. The western team received High Point Team both Saturday and Sunday and had the High Point Rider (Sydney Hull) on Sunday.

Picture at right is Chloe Bellerive (High Point Rider for Hunt Seat on Saturday on left) and Mandy Hilliard



## CLUBS AND TEAMS DIRECTORY

### DRESSAGE AND EVENTING TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe, [jill.stowe@uky.edu](mailto:jill.stowe@uky.edu)  
President: Taylor Pence, [ukdressageandeventingteam@gmail.com](mailto:ukdressageandeventingteam@gmail.com)  
Facebook: UK Dressage and Eventing

### HORSE RACING CLUB

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence, [llawrenc@email.uky.edu](mailto:llawrenc@email.uky.edu)  
President: Sidney Boots, [ukhorseracingclub@gmail.com](mailto:ukhorseracingclub@gmail.com)  
Facebook: University of Kentucky Horse Racing Club

### EQUESTRIAN TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman, [rcoleman@email.uky.edu](mailto:rcoleman@email.uky.edu)  
**HUNT SEAT TEAM**  
President: Jennifer Manning, [uk.equestrianteam@gmail.com](mailto:uk.equestrianteam@gmail.com)  
Facebook: University of Kentucky Equestrian Team

### WESTERN TEAM

President: Sydney Hull, [sydney.hull@uky.edu](mailto:sydney.hull@uky.edu)  
Facebook: University of Kentucky Western IHSA Team

### POLO TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Roger Brown, [rogerbrown@uky.edu](mailto:rogerbrown@uky.edu)  
President: Bennett Baughman, [baba239@g.uky.edu](mailto:baba239@g.uky.edu)  
Facebook: U of Kentucky Polo

### R.E.A.D. CLUB

Advisor: Dr. Kristine Urschel, [klur222@uky.edu](mailto:klur222@uky.edu)  
President: Amy Hansen, [ukyreadclub@gmail.com](mailto:ukyreadclub@gmail.com)  
Facebook: READ Club

### RODEO TEAM

Advisor: Monty Ott, [monty.ott@uky.edu](mailto:monty.ott@uky.edu)  
President: Jarret Martinez, [ukrodeoteam@gmail.com](mailto:ukrodeoteam@gmail.com)  
Facebook: University of Kentucky Rodeo Team

### SADDLE SEAT TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano, [mary.rossano@uky.edu](mailto:mary.rossano@uky.edu)  
President: Audrey Schneider, [UKSaddleSeatTeam@gmail.com](mailto:UKSaddleSeatTeam@gmail.com)  
Facebook: UK Saddleseat Team 2016-2017 Group)

