

# *Wildcat Canter*

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2017

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 1-5, Finals Week
- May 5, ESMA Graduation Reception, 12:30-2:30 p.m., E.S. Good Barn
- May 5 & 7, UK Graduation
- May 13, Equine Nutrition Short Course
- May 25, AFSGA Annual Poster Symposium, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., E.S. Good Barn
- June 8, Equine Farm and Facilities Expo, New Vocations

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence." *Vince Lombardi*

This quote serves as one of my guides toward being successful in my career and has served me well throughout my life. When I walked on the University of Kentucky campus back in 1987, I knew I was where I needed to be to build a successful future career. I hope you feel the same. I was the first of six to attend a four-year university and being from a small dairy farm in a very small town, I was glad to be at Kentucky where everyone was so welcoming to me. You are now a part of this Big Blue community that can support you as you embark on your future. You will meet your best friends here and build memories that you will cherish for years to come.

What have I learned that could possibly give you some insight to being successful at the University and beyond? We are truly the sum of our experiences. When adversity hits, we tend to re-evaluate how we look at life. I had that opportunity in 2005 when I was the victim in a car accident to do just that. At that time, I was on cruise control through my life—not too serious, working hard, doing a lot for everyone in my life, and playing hard. Saying to myself—I will get to "that" someday.

Out of this adverse situation, I built these life tenants. Above all, be passionate about what you are studying and what you want to do in your career and in your personal life. I build relationships and serve as a conduit to individuals who want to give back to the quality education and research being attained every day here in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment because I'm passionate about making the lives better for you the student, our brilliant faculty and our communities. I am passionate about learning regardless of what it may be—I want to learn something new every day.

Second, always have goals and be willing to learn from others. You will learn more from a conversation with someone who is studying something different, from a different country or state, then from Google, Siri or Alexa. Communication is really the key to being capable in any career. As long as listening is a communications partner, that is! Just as being perfect is unattainable, knowing everything is too.

Third, be confident, not arrogant. Humility and loyalty will take you far, but quiet confidence will assist in gaining respect from others as you navigate through a complex set of challenges to being successful.

Fourth, laugh and have fun. There is a time to be serious and that is not all the time. You should find fun and laughter in learning, at work and in life. It will help with all the stress and expectations we often put upon ourselves.

Lastly, remember you define what success is for you! Do not let anyone else have that honor—it will lead to perpetual unhappiness. I hope that some of my "isms" will inspire you to bring more excellence to your daily life as you embark on your journey here at U.K. and beyond!

*Pamela A. Gray, '92*  
*Senior Director of Philanthropy*  
*College of Agriculture, Food and Environment*





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## Internship Connects Student with Local Therapeutic Riding Organization

By Maddie Regis

Kaitlyn Rutowski, an Equine Science and Management Junior at the University of Kentucky, has been interested in horses since she was very young, despite being from the suburbs of Maryland. Although she has liked horses for nearly her whole life, her experience with them was fairly minimal before her college career.

"I got into the horse industry when I was 5 years old and started taking riding lessons but I only took lessons for a year or so. Besides a couple trail rides throughout the years, I didn't get back into the industry until I came to UK, which has been the best decision I've ever made," Rutowski said.

Her decision to come to UK stemmed from the diversity of the programs and the options that are offered.

"I chose UK to pursue my degree in equine science and management because of how complex the program is! UK really sets you up to be anything you want to be and does not restrict you. I looked at a lot of schools in my home state of Maryland and none of them actually had an equine degree, they were all animal science degrees with a specialty in equine and the schools that did have equine programs only focused on training or managing horses," She said.

When it came time to choose the location of her required internship, Rutowski chose Central Kentucky Riding for Hope (CKRH), a local therapeutic riding center. She learned about CKRH through the Equine Programs Career Fair and began volunteering there, which she really enjoyed. She decided that if the opportunity arose to do her internship at CKRH, she would, and sure enough, everything fell into place for her to begin her CKRH internship. Rutowski also said time was a big factor in her decision.

"At the time of my internship, I was taking a light course load and this gave me the ability to be out at CKRH six days a week, which I absolutely loved since I was able to be there for everything that happened, which I feel helped me learn more," she said.

Rutowski's responsibilities included a large portion of the day-to-day management of the barn at CKRH. According to Rutowski, there are about 30 horses that CKRH uses for its program, and she was responsible for their daily feedings, medication and turnout, along with cleaning stalls and tack and keeping the barn neat and tidy.

Rutowski also helped with basic medical care of the horses, which was one of the things she most enjoyed during her internship. Her absolute favorite part, however, was very specific.

"My favorite part of my internship was having the

opportunity to vaccinate horses. I was able to help CKRH's Equine Care Assistant, Alyss Hudson, vaccinate for botulism and rabies. Since I do not own my own horses, it was something I had never done or thought about doing. Alyss taught me how to draw a vaccine and do an intramuscular administration. Having the opportunity to actually draw the vaccine and administer it to the horse gave me such a rush of adrenaline that I had never felt before," she said.

The staff at CKRH really enjoyed having Rutowski as an intern.

"Katie was a joy to have in the barn. She has a strong work ethic and a really good hand with the horses," Denise Spittler, Rutowski's internship supervisor, said. "We have really enjoyed having her as part of the CKRH team."

Rutowski said she was very appreciative of all the CKRH staff had to teach her during her time working there, and she felt she gained many applicable skills.

"The staff at CKRH were all so welcoming and willing to help me learn everything I possibly could. I was able to do a little bit of everything, including working with horses, taking care of the barn and doing office work in order to come out of my internship well rounded," she said.

Although Rutowski very much enjoyed working at a therapeutic riding program, her future plans are slightly different from her internship. She said that the things she learned at CKRH will still help her in future endeavors, however.

"I am really interested in the genetics and reproduction aspect of the equine industry and would love to maybe do something with breeding for my career. I am currently in the process of applying for an internship at a breeding farm back home in Maryland so that I can get my feet wet in the breeding field. My experience at CKRH definitely prepared me for my future career because I have now experienced what it is like to go out and work on a farm from sun up to sun down and realized there is nothing else I want to do more for the rest of my life," Rutowski said.

Rutowski plans to attend graduate school once she completes her undergraduate degree. She also said that despite being finished with her internship, she still volunteers at CKRH every week because she loves the horses and staff so much.



## UK Saddle Seat Team Returns Home as Champs

By Aspen Gage

Source: KY Kernel

The UK Saddle Seat Riding team had an eventful day Sunday, April 2, coming home champions of the 2017 Intercollegiate Saddle Seat Riders Association (ISSRA) Championship.

The ISSRA is composed of nine universities, including UK, ECU and WKU, which were all present at the competition. UK riders placed from first to sixth in each of their respective disciplines, and combined overall for the top award.

To read more of the story, click [here](#).



### Program Spotlight-Danielle Jostes

By Alexandra Harper

Danielle Jostes grew up in Central Illinois on a Quarter Horse farm, where her family continues to raise horses and farm hay.

She earned her bachelor's degree in organizational communications with a minor in agriculture from Murray State University's College of Business and Public Affairs and is currently pursuing a master's degree in higher education from the University of Louisville.

Prior to coming to UK, Jostes served as assistant director of development at the University of Louisville, where she managed the philanthropy efforts of the departments of Ophthalmology and Cardiovascular Innovation Institute within the School of Medicine.

Jostes is currently the equine philanthropy director here in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Jostes will focus on connecting individuals and stakeholders to the strategic priorities within the UK Gluck Equine Research Foundation and all of the college's equine-related programs. She will serve as a channel for their passion for the industry and work to match that passion with the college's strategic goals and objectives in serving the industry.

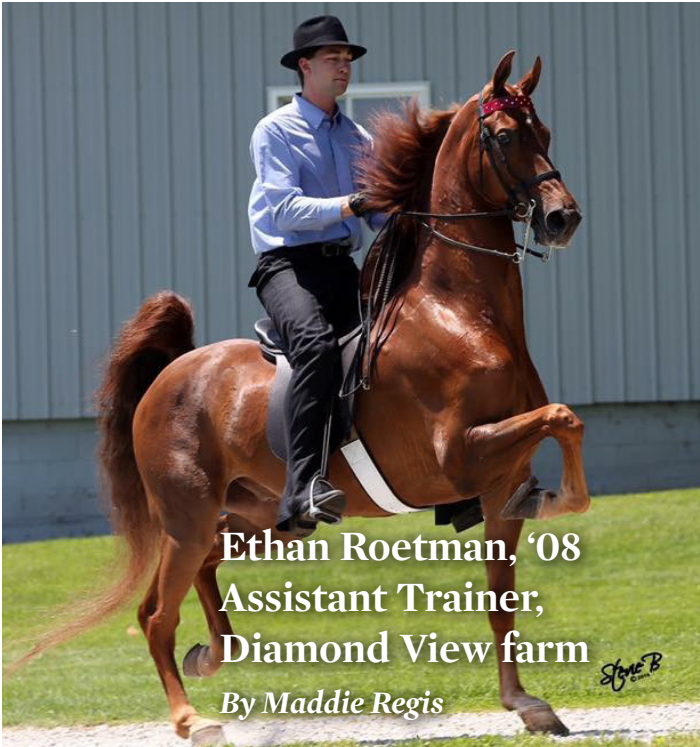
"Growing up on a farm in Central Illinois, Agriculture has always been a big part of my life," Jostes said. "Being able to combine the work I love and my passion is what attracted me to this position."

"The UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is very impressive, and as a horse owner I was interested in their emerging equine education program as well as the remarkable research taking place at the Gluck Equine Research Center," Jostes said.

Jostes' favorite part about her job is getting to know the great faculty and stakeholders involved with UK Ag Equine Programs. Still being new, she has enjoyed learning about the impressive programs and looks forward to engaging with the equine community.

When she's not at work, Jostes enjoys barrel racing, spending time with her husband, family and friends.





**Ethan Roetman, '08**  
**Assistant Trainer,**  
**Diamond View farm**  
*By Maddie Regis*

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

I originally hail from Stillwater, Minnesota, but Lexington is "home" now.

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

My mother had American Saddlebreds and Hackney Ponies before I came along and my father had grown up on a large farm in northern Minnesota. When I was about 3, my grandfather leased me "Flash," an old Appaloosa mare, for the summer. Continuing on my interest, my mother shortly thereafter purchased a Saddlebred that she worked herself and I showed in leadline classes. Lessons soon followed, as did several horses, and opportunities to work a wide variety of horses for friends whenever I could find the time.

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

My goals always have been to become a saddle horse trainer. By coming to UK, the horse industry around Lexington provided me with a multitude of opportunities such as internships and various jobs while I attended school.

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

I am currently an assistant trainer at Diamond View Farm in Versailles, Kentucky.

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

Diamond View Farm is a well-rounded operation that covers all aspects of our industry from breeding and raising colts as well as training and showing of American Saddlebreds, Standardbreds and Hackney Ponies. I assist in the daily operations of the farm in addition to working all of the young stock and many of the horses sent to us to be sold. I am often involved in the breeding aspect of the farm as we currently stand four stallions and have a substantial broodmare band.

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

Upon arriving in Lexington, I had decided to work for a different trainer every summer to learn as much as I could from a variety of people and their business styles. After graduating, I went back to work for the first employer I had here in Lexington, where I spent nearly two great years after graduation. He was in the process of downsizing, and it was time for me to seek a new position where I could be granted more hands-on opportunities, and I have certainly found that at Diamond View Farm.

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

Aside from being an assistant trainer, I currently sit on the board of directors for the United Professional Horseman's Association as the head of the Young Professionals as well as serving as our local chapter leader.

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

While I was fortunate enough to know exactly what I wanted to do post-graduation, I would suggest that students create a rapport with their professors and advisors. For me, staying in the area during the summer months helped me to become more involved with the horse industry in Lexington and formulate better connections with people in my desired field of work. When on the job, at the end of every single day, ask your boss what else you can do for them before leaving. Always remember that you are not only representing your future self, but the school and its program as well. Every internship or job is a learning experience, no matter how much you enjoy it in the moment. Lastly, never forget that a strong work ethic is far more important than talent in the work place.

## **UK MANRRS Top Chapter in Nation for Fifth Consecutive Year**

*By Aimee Nielson*

For the fifth consecutive year, the University of Kentucky MANRRS chapter was named National Chapter of the Year at the recent 32nd annual conference for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. The chapter is housed in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Quentin Tyler, assistant dean and director of the college's Office of Diversity, heaped praise on the students and chapter co-advisor Mia Farrell, who won advisor of the year. Tyler is in his final year serving as the immediate past president and will move into a three-year commitment as the National MANRRS Advisory Board Chair.

"I am very proud of the strength, courage and vision of this group. UK MANRRS continues to set the bar high for other chapters," he said. "They performed well in the classroom and excelled in the areas of community and campus involvement, leadership and buying into the big picture of what MANRRS represents. Five years of being recognized as the best chapter of 75 across 38 states is an amazing accomplishment."

Tyler and co-advisors Farrell, Dale Morgan and Ashley Holt took more than 60 delegates to Pittsburgh for the conference. The students' written report and oral presentation to the national gathering described the chapter's membership, leadership development, community service and activities, and contained ideas for promoting the national society.

In addition to the overall chapter recognition, UK MANRRS brought home individual honors. Fabian Leon, a sophomore majoring in agricultural biotechnology, was elected as the national undergraduate parliamentarian. Juwan Page, a freshman majoring in agriculture education and equine science, won first place in the public speaking contest. Page said he's come a long way from his first MANRRS meeting, where he was very uncomfortable.

"I said that, because growing up, my parents always told me that there is no growth in a comfort zone and no comfort in a growth zone," Page explained.

"My advisors, peers and this organization as a whole challenge me to grow professionally through networking and being a servant leader."

Jaeana Gates, a junior human nutrition major, was elected as the Region III vice president.

"MANRRS has been a driving force that has kept me from accepting complacency," she said. "It has played a key role in cultivating my heart and nurturing my mind, putting me in a place to be successful and to continue to reach my full potential."

Farrell was named advisor of the year.

"As I received the award, it seemed so surreal to me," she said. "I remember being an undergraduate UK MANRRS member 10 years ago, wanting to make an impact much like Quentin Tyler made in many students' lives. I can say that my wish has become a reality to see the direct impact that I am making on the students daily within an organization that means so much to me. I am truly blessed, humbled and honored."

Junior agricultural economics major Marcus Tyler has served the past year as national MANRRS president. He said the experience has been a blessing and a challenge.

"It allows me to expand my network with a wide range of diverse students and professionals, learn more about the agricultural industry as a whole, but most importantly, provide mentorship and opportunities to my peers," he said. "I began my journey with MANRRS as a high school student. It was inspiring to have a dedicated advisor such as (Farrell) around to provide encouragement, support and guidance. I can truly say I am a product of this organization."

For more information about UK MANRRS and the UK CAFE Office of Diversity, click [here](#).



*Photo by Mia Farrell*



**Saddle Seat Team**

Congratulations to the UK Saddleseat team for winning the championship show and overall championship for the year. Thank you to Morehead State University for hosting yet another fantastic championship show and awards banquet. Congratulations to Alyssa Schuster and Audrey Schneider on graduating this year, you will be greatly missed. Can't wait for the fall semester.



fourth place in open training

- Taylor Pence and Jettatore received seventh place in the open training
- Adrienne Watts and Braveheart were sadly eliminated on cross country but came out the next day and had a great school around stadium and cross country

*Team Blue:*

- Mia Fox and Sport Tracker received third place in the open novice
- Kay Johnson and Meadow Brook Quasar received second place in open novice
- Elizabeth Silvia-Chandley and Lillith received fourteenth in the open novice
- Anastasia Vialov and Vow of Honor had an unfortunate fall on cross country but will be back at it soon

**Dressage and Eventing Team**

This past weekend the eventing team traveled to North Carolina to compete at FENCE horse trails. All riders did an amazing job with team white finishing in first place and team blue finishing in third.

*Team White:*

- Claire Rowlands and Category 5 received first place in the open training
- Rachel Kiczuk and The African Queen received



**DIRECTORY**

**DRESSAGE AND EVENTING TEAM**

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe  
 President: Taylor Pence  
 Facebook: UK Dressage and Eventing

**HORSE RACING CLUB**

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Advisor: Monty Ott, monty.ott@uky.edu  
 President: Jarret Martinez,  
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**SADDLE SEAT TEAM**

Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano,  
 President: Audrey Schneider  
 Facebook: UKY Saddleseat Team

[Click here to access contact information for these clubs.](#)

*UK Ag Equine Programs Presents*  
**Equine Farm & Facilities Expo**  
**Thursday, June 8, 2017**  
**3:30-8 p.m.**

*in conjunction with*

**New Vocations at Mereworth Farm**  
719 Dolan Lane, Lexington

Program

3:30 p.m. *Registration*

4 p.m. *Walking tours & exhibitor booths*

5 p.m. *Welcome*

5:15 p.m. *Meal and announcements*

6-8 p.m. *Educational sessions, concurrently every half hour*

- **Barn Design – Dr. Bob Coleman**
- **Farm Site Planning– Dr. Morgan Hayes**
- **Horses on Pasture: Controlling Nutrient Intake– Dr. Laurie Lawrence**
- **Practical Horse Pasture Management- Dr. Ray Smith**



*Founded in 1992, New Vocations has grown into the largest racehorse adoption program in the country. Its mission to rehabilitate, retrain and rehome retired racehorses has led to the placement of over 6,000 individuals, with over 450 retirees entering the program each year.*

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Ag Equine Programs  
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