

A close-up, profile view of a brown horse's head. The horse has a white blaze on its forehead and is wearing a black halter with a silver ring. The background is blurred, showing another horse and a bright light source, possibly the sun, creating a warm, golden glow.

# *Wildcat Canter*

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018



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The R.E.A.D club, which stands for Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines, was created in 2011 with the goal of having students that were willing to help researchers with studies and to get more information about what goes into a research project. The idea was modeled after a program Penn State had.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- March 5, Midterm
- March 6, UK Equine Career & Opportunity Fair, 4:30-7 p.m., Spindletop Hall
- March 12-17, Spring Break
- March 22-25, Road to the Horse, Alltech Arena, Kentucky Horse Park
- March 26-April 17, Priority registration for Fall 2018
- March 30, Last day to withdraw from a class for academic reasons
- April 7, Cowboy Up for a Cure Rodeo, Alltech Arena, Kentucky Horse Park

## Welcome

Life hands you a lot of rejection.

People telling you that you are not good enough. Professors telling you that your work is inadequate. We live in a world where standards are set high, and goals are hard to obtain.

In my younger years, I thought that this was unfair. I took every criticism to heart, and I left every interview defeated. As a young graduate with a diploma that I had spent four years working so hard to obtain, the letters of rejection from veterinary school were deafening. The lack of job offers were excruciating. It was 2008, the recession had begun, and times were tough.

I now realize that the constant rejection led me, in more ways than one, to my current career. My current life; my future goals. For life in research is testing, and failing, one hypothesis after another. A researcher's job is not rainbows and butterflies. It is constant skepticism, constant failure and constant rejection. Part of the beauty of science is that something is not true until it is proven as such. And unlike the rest of this globalized world, our word is not absolute until our peers have spent numerous hours, days or years attempting to debunk every aspect of it.

That is what I have come to see of rejection. Not a personal critique, or a slap in the face. Instead, rejection is something necessary. It forces you back to the books and a new game plan. It forces you to set that new hypothesis and develop another test. And it develops an inner strength that you may have never known was possible. So in these coming months and years, remember that. Learn from that rejection. Grow from it.

Think like a researcher. Don't let that failure stop you. Let it change you. This change may alter the entire shell of the human that you thought previously existed. And sometimes, that's a necessary and beautiful thing.

*Carleigh Fedorka*  
*Postdoctoral Scholar, Gluck Equine Research Center*





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## University of Kentucky equine career fair: connecting students and employers in the Bluegrass

By Emma Tilghman

The University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs will host its 10th annual UK Equine Career and Opportunity Fair from 4:30 to 7 p.m. EST March 6th at Spindletop Hall in Lexington. The fair is planned each year by students for students through a class within UK's Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program.

This is a free event open to all college students interested in a career in the equine industry. The fair gives students the chance to meet and form connections with employers and representatives of the equine industry. It also provides them with a chance to learn more about potential internship, volunteer and employment opportunities. There will be booths with information regarding some of the equine businesses in the Bluegrass as well as informational sessions led by industry professionals.

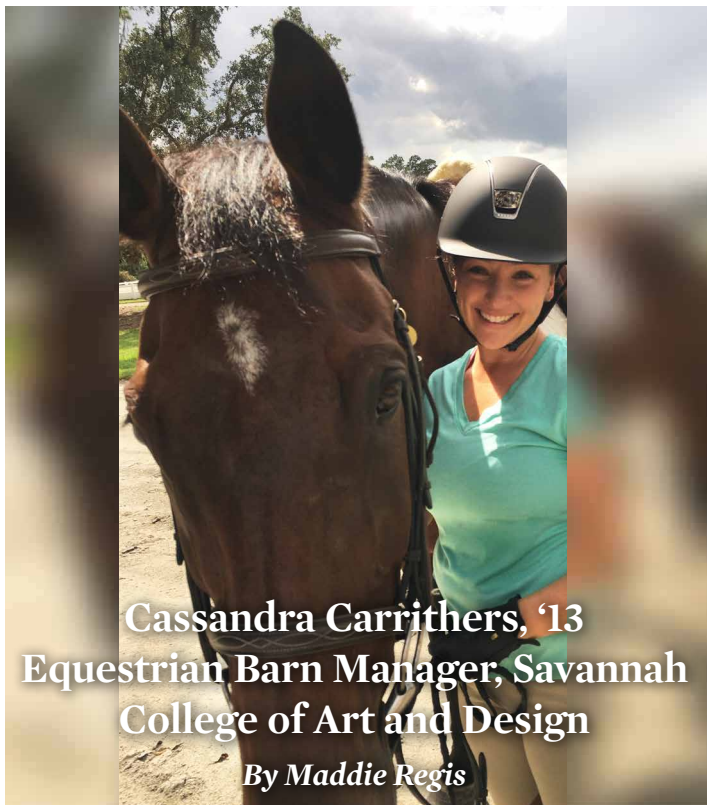
Through the sessions, participants will explore opportunities related to veterinary professions, the Thoroughbred industry, the sport horse industry, business and communications. In addition, members from the UK Equine Alumni Affiliate Network will offer a resume and cover letter review session as well as general advice to students looking to break into the industry.

Confirmed participants include: Bourbon Lane Bloodstock, Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, CMW Architects & Engineers, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, The Jockey Club, Kentucky Equine Education Project, Kentucky Equine Humane Center, Kentucky Equine Management Internship, Kentucky Equine Research, League of Agriculture and Equine Centers, Life Adventure Center, Maker's Mark Secretariat Center, Masterson Station, McMahan & Hill Bloodstock, McPeck Racing and Horse Races Now, Miramonte Equine, New Vocations, Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital, Spy Coast Farm, UK Ag Equine Programs, UK Equine Alumni Affiliate Network, UK Saddleseat Club, US Equestrian and Wingswept Farm.

Students and potential employers who would like more information about the UK Equine Career and Opportunity Fair may contact Jenny Evans, [jenny.evans@uky.edu](mailto:jenny.evans@uky.edu). There is also an event Facebook page, University of Kentucky Equine Career Fair, which provides up-to-date information.

For more information about UK Ag Equine Programs, click [here](#).





**Cassandra Carrithers, '13**  
**Equestrian Barn Manager, Savannah**  
**College of Art and Design**

*By Maddie Regis*

**Where is home for you?**

Taylorsville, Kentucky is where I was born and raised, and Kentucky will always hold my heart... but HOME is Savannah now. I will always remain a HUGE Wildcat fan, though! Go Big Blue!

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

I began riding as a small child and horses stuck. My first job was stall mucking for lessons and paying off shows.

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

To become a leader educator, and positive influence for those in the equine industry and a care provider to horses; manage a facility. I originally hoped to manage less horses but, hey, the more the merrier... right? We currently have 75.

**Where are you currently employed?**

Savannah College of Art and Design – Equestrian Center (Savannah, Georgia)

**What are your current job responsibilities?**

As the Equestrian Barn Manager, I oversee staff productivity and daily goings-on, monitor the horses in all aspects, assist with student and equestrian team events, and answer the call for anything that is needed by the

horses or coaching team and faculty. It is different every day, one day of the week could involve a lot of organization planning, and managing humans and then another might be full of vet work and hands-on work!

**What led you to this position?**

After graduation, I actually took a hiatus from the horse industry for a year. I was disillusioned by some of the issues in the equine world and what I could do about it all. I did eventually realize that making a positive impact on one horse at a time, or one student at a time could eventually add up to a lot of happier and healthier horses. I moved to Savannah to escape the winters and began working for a prestigious property's boarding facility as its assistant manager. When the SCAD management position opened, it was a natural transition. All of my professors at UK inspired me; I tell people anytime UK comes up that I am proud to have received a practical and excellent education that really helped prepare me for what I do every day. All the equine jobs I have had I consider to be internships for my job now.

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

Managing this facility has given me the opportunity to become an educator for the groom staff I oversee, students and the general public who come through for an event or tour. I plan to own a couple of horses one day and stay active in the equestrian community beyond work. I do a lot of reading on new science and veterinary findings to stay sharp. My intentions are that my career will eventually contribute to a huge wave of positivity in the future of the equine industry. I want to see horses of all disciplines thriving and their caretakers educated, compassionate and astute.

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

Do the work. Stay the long hours and be humble; for me it was the most rewarding way to learn. Find a good role model in the career you seek, offer them hard work and diligence for teaching you and then be humble enough to accept the education. Learn different ways of doing things from many different horsemen and then find your own way.




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

## Bluegrass Equine Digest

Check out the February 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.

Click [here](#) to see this month's stories.

- Surface Testing: Keeping Horse and Rider Safety in Mind
- Fertilization Cool-Season Horse Pastures
- Research Horses Needed
- Diagnosing Equine Neurologic Diseases
- Mineral of the Month: Copper



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
Ag Equine Programs

**BLUEGRASS EQUINE DIGEST**

Subscribe to the Bluegrass Equine Digest, University of Kentucky's multiple award winning, free newsletter delivered monthly to your inbox.

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It starts with us

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

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information  
for these clubs.](#)

## *University of Kentucky Western Equestrian Team*

By Dylan Pal

The Western Equestrian Team makes up one-half of the University of Kentucky's Equestrian Team, part of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. Alongside its hunt seat counterparts, western riders in the IHSA compete against colleges across the nation in the disciplines of reining and horsemanship. The basic intercollegiate format focuses on evaluating individuals' position, feel and adaptability by placing riders on an unfamiliar horse provided by another school and sending them right into the show ring.

However, hunt seat and western riders rarely get to watch each other's events or even compete under the same roof. UK's host show offers a unique and fun environment that is rarely seen by participating colleges throughout the rest of the academic year's competitions. Our show hosts the IHSA hunt seat events of equitation over fences and equitation on the flat in the morning and the western events of reining and horsemanship in the evening. The two teams of two disciplines rarely have a moment to interact during the rest of the year. Their home riding facilities are in two different Kentucky counties, and their styles of riding differ vastly. But during the home show, there is this atmosphere of learning and curiosity. Western team members are overheard planning early drives to the show grounds just to catch a glimpse of the over fences rounds, and groups of hunt seat riders linger around after their final flat class to let out a whistle or two (because everyone else is doing it!) as a reiner slides to a stop across the side of the arena where their bending six-stride existed an hour ago. The little snippets of exchanged information and good luck wishes that occur on the walk to the horse draw table can sprout camaraderie that pushes the entire UK Equestrian Team to the National Championships.

While the meeting of two worlds is an exciting weekend filled with learning, the executive committees from both teams must strive to ensure everyone's needs are met-- riders and horses.

One Western Team member, Dylan Pal, stressed the importance of assessing the difference between western show horses and the hunters. "There are little differences, particularly during the show prep, that both sides have to be aware and accommodating of," he said. "For instance, on show days, our [Western Team's] horses need to be lunged before they're warmed up under saddle. That is just a tiny discipline nuance that really isn't practiced in the hunters. So finding a time-efficient method for lunging while the hunters finish flatting so we can keep the show on schedule is always difficult.

"On the flip side, we remind our teammates to be very mindful of the jumps and the course setup when we're schooling our horses before the show," he added.

Pal has been a member of both the hunt seat and western teams and said he loves how this show lets him cheer on all of the friends he's made during his years in IHSA.

"I'm here for the horses, and I'm here to compete, of course. But I could do that only in my personal life if I wanted. Most importantly I'm here for my teammates and my school," he said.

For Pal, winning in a new discipline is incredibly rewarding, but the collegiate format of riding new horses makes every rider fight for their victories.

Western Team member Whitley Horning was ecstatic about her home show blue ribbon. "[One of the] highlights from this show was my first individual win in Open Horsemanship," she said. "Even though I've been showing for years, I didn't ride in the horsemanship. Along with that inexperience, working patterns with a horse you don't know is a totally different ball game than riding on yours at home. So at first, I didn't really believe in myself"

In all its collegiate competitions this year, the Western Team has created an extremely successful season for itself. Time and time again, the Western Wildcats walk away from competitions with many individual wins and a huge overall high point team ribbon. Still though, everyone agrees that the pictures and the fun memories are the best things to leave a horse show with.

"My other favorite highlight was eating an entire jar of pickles one day, just because nobody believed in me that I could do that either," Horning said.

*continued on page 10...*



## CLUBS AND TEAMS FEATURE

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Sydney Hull, president of the Western Team, works closely with Coach Bennie Sargent of BTS Quarter Horses. She said she is grateful for the time he dedicates to developing each rider and mapping out strategic plans for the competition season.

"I always remember whatever he has to say to me, on or off the horse. Without him, I wouldn't have the success or understanding of the AQHA and western world that I do now," she said. "I owe it all to him."

"That and the pointers from my teammates help tremendously too." Horning said, "Absolutely, Bennie is an incredible mentor. And he puts up with my sass and mediocre comedy."

The Western Team won High Point Team of the Zone 6 Region 3 for 2017 and 2018, sending the team to IHSA Western Semi-Finals to compete against top schools from New York, Georgia, California and more.

Hull said she looks forward to redemption in the 2018 semi-finals hosted by Alfred University. She and her team members practiced hard and competed beautifully last year, but this season's goal is to win with consistency. Like the rest of her teammates, the collective eye is on the prize of 2018 IHSA National Champions.



## ***R.E.A.D Club: Helping Students Get Involved in Research and Prepare for Graduate School***

By Hailee Adams

The R.E.A.D club, which stands for Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines, was created in 2011 with the goal of having students that were willing to help researchers with studies and to get more information about what goes into a research project. The idea was modeled after a program at Penn State.

Kristine Urschel, the club's advisor, heard about this club at a conference and decided to have an adaptation of the program integrated into UK. Urschel said she finds the club to be very rewarding because she gets to help students become exposed to opportunities earlier in their college careers and explore options they might not have known about. The club is very hands-on and students run the club and determine the direction it will take.

Since Kentucky is a very equine-centric state as a whole, the club does a lot of activities that encompass the horse industry. However, the club focuses on more than just research and equine. R.E.A.D. also tries to help students prepare for graduate school with activities like "Revamp your Resume," graduate student meet and greets and mock interviews for graduate school. The goal is to help students be prepared to further their careers and not be intimidated when it comes to the graduate school application process.

R.E.A.D club is not exclusively for equine or animal science majors. The club is open to anyone who has an interest in research, or just simply would like to learn more about what research is. This club is also an opportunity to network and get students in front of faculty and graduate students who might be able to help them in the future.

Students considering the R.E.A.D club are encouraged to just jump right in. Students can join at any time. The only membership requirement is to attend meetings. Students can join the club's listserv to get meeting dates and updates about opportunities around Lexington. If interested, email Urschel at [klurschel@uky.edu](mailto:klurschel@uky.edu) or the club's president Katie Simmons at [kesi226@g.uky.edu](mailto:kesi226@g.uky.edu).

Future meeting dates are March 27 and April 17.





## ***UK Ag Equine Programs Showcase and Kentucky Breeders' Short Course Held Feb. 2-3***

By Hailee Adams

More than 120 participants attended the University of Kentucky Equine Showcase and Kentucky Breeders' Short Course, which was held February 2-3 at the Fayette County Extension Office in Lexington, Kentucky. Speakers at this year's event included researchers and veterinarians from the Gluck Equine Research Center, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, Texas A&M University, UK College of Health Sciences, UK College of Public Health, UK Department of Animal and Food Sciences, UK Department of Biosystems and Agriculture Engineering, and the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Topics included:

- Racing injuries: a brief history and an industry's response
- Equine catastrophic breakdowns: what we know and where we are going
- Skeletal pathology of the Thoroughbred racehorse: the fetlock
- Concussion management: more than testing the importance of medial informational system in racing
- Prevention of horse related injuries and concussion assessment: where education efforts should be focused
- Female rider health: why do we need breast health research and outreach
- Nocardioform placentitis in the mare
- Breeding record evaluation
- Assessment of stallion semen
- Metabolic syndrome and reproduction
- Nutritional management of the broodmare
- Diagnosis and management of oviductal problems in mares
- Assistant reproductive techniques (ART): where we are and where we hope to go
- How to interpret endocrine diagnostic tests for the sub fertile mare

Support for the event was provided by sponsors Ag Credit, Breeder's Choice, Kentucky Equine Research, Kentucky Performance Products, McCauley's, Minitube, North American Equine Ranching Information Council, Park Equine Hospital, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, Tribute Equine Nutrition and Zoetis.





# UK EQUINE CAREER AND OPPORTUNITY FAIR

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 4:30-7 P.M.  
SPINDLETOP HALL

Free admission, drinks & snacks

Over 30 equine businesses

Volunteer, internship & employment opportunities

Local boarding facilities & trainers

Industry speakers



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# Call to the Post Derby Bash



Hosted by The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Alumni Association

## SATURDAY, APRIL 28

The Round Barn Stable of Memories at Red Mile

1200 Red Mile Road, Lexington, KY 40504

### HAPPY HOUR - 6 PM

Join us to mix and mingle over complimentary drinks with fellow alums and friends of the college.

### DINNER & DRINKS - 7 PM

Enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Bayou Bluegrass Catering and complimentary drinks.

### LIVE MUSIC - 8 PM

Superfecta will have you dancing throughout the night!

### LIVE MUSIC - SILENT AUCTION - BOURBON PULL

### DRESS IN YOUR BEST DERBY CLUBHOUSE ATTIRE!

A prize will be awarded to the ladies best derby hat and gentlemen's best outfit!

\*Register by April 13, 2018. Limited seating available, tables will go quickly!

-All proceeds support Area Chapter Scholarships-

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