

Wildcat Canter

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs Newsletter



ESMA Alums take first place in Equestrian Olympics at UK's annual Welcome Back BBQ

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Program Spotlight- Kristine Urschel

Kristine Urschel grew up in Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada, just outside Edmonton. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture in 2002 from the University of Alberta and her doctorate in nutrition and metabolism in 2007. Urschel came to the University of Kentucky in August 2008. As associate professor, 60 percent of her time is spent conducting research and 40 percent teaching.



A Race Through History - UK Alumni Tailgate Event

On Oct. 9, UK Ag Equine Programs hosted its third annual alumni tailgate event at Keeneland. More than 50 Equine Science and Management Alumni alums, faculty and staff members and their families stopped by the event and caught up over food, drinks



Mick Peterson named UK Ag Equine Programs director

Mick Peterson has been named director of the University of Kentucky's Ag Equine Programs, the multidisciplinary program that serves as a gateway to all equine activities in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, and Dickson Professor of Equine Science and Management. He will start January 2017.

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Welcome

Wow, can you believe autumn is in full swing? This is by far one of my favorite seasons because of the cool, crisp mornings, the leaves crunching under your feet, tailgating with friends at football games and the beautiful foliage. With the first half of the semester already gone, some of you are eagerly looking ahead to graduation.

So, how do you prepare for life after graduation? What should you think about before creating your resume and cover letters? The answer is simple: your social life. As the college's marketing coordinator, I wear a myriad of hats, and one of the most important and often overlooked is social media.

More than 2 billion active users are on social media, and 1.7 billion of those are on Facebook alone. Because social media is expected to grow exponentially in the next few years, it's important to be mindful of how you present yourself on your personal accounts.

According to CareerBuilder's annual social media recruitment survey, roughly 60 percent of employers use social networking sites to research job candidates. That's huge! If you're not sure how to begin, below are a few tips to get you started.

-Keep it professional.

Clean up your profile by removing any profanity, inappropriate photos, negative opinions and other tasteless posts. It's also wise to keep your political standpoints private or screened. Don't forget to check your posts for proper spelling, and adjust your privacy settings.

-Connect.

Become active on social networks by joining specific groups that are related to your field. It's crucial to follow and engage with your mentors, industry professionals and colleagues. You'd be surprised at how these simple connections can lead you to success and perhaps a future career.

-Stay up to date.

Make sure all of your profiles are up to date. Having a valid email address on your profile (that isn't partygirl456@yahoo.com) is another great way for an employer to connect with you. Make sure to list and add your work-related skills, expertise and clubs to enhance your personal brand. Switching out your current profile pic for a professional headshot isn't a bad idea either.

-Contribute to the conversation.

Everyone has a voice. Those who know how and when to use it, win. Display your leadership skills, reach out, ask original questions and engage in intelligent dialogue with others. All of these actions will enhance your credibility.

Not updating your social accounts could cost you a job. However, if you start now, you'll be one step ahead of the rest. Good luck with your classes, and continue to stay social!



Tiffany Cochran
Marketing/Social Media Manager

Upcoming Events/Deadlines:

October 17-November 11
 Advising for 2016 winter session & spring 2017 semester

October 31- November 22
 Priority registration for 2016 winter & spring 2017 semester

November 4
 Last day to withdraw from a class for academic reasons

November 8
 2016 Presidential Election-no classes

November 15
 Kentucky Equine Networking Association (KENA) Meeting
 Fasig Tipton

November 23-November 26
 Holiday-Thanksgiving break

November 29
 ESMA Senior Capstone Presentations
 Garrigus Bldg., Room 108



MASTHEAD

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Student Professionalism

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. This month we will consider what your education means to you.

What does your education mean to you?

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

- William Butler

By the time you read this, you will be smack dab in the middle of the semester. Your fall routine will likely be established, you will probably be planning your schedule for the spring and you will still be weeks away from having to worry about finals. In some ways it's the best time in the semester. But as I sit in my office, surrounded by exams that need grading and emails that need answering, I can't help but wonder what an education really means to students.

Is your education simply boxes that need to be checked and classes that need to be taken or is it something more? When you sit in a lecture, are you concerned more with if it is going to be on the exam or are you truly learning what is being taught? On behalf of your professors, I can tell you that none of us are lecturing for our health, nor did any of us go into education just to teach the same things over and over again every semester. No, what most of us desire more than anything is to inspire you.

We want to see you take what you have learned and apply it in new and different settings. We want to spark your interest in more than just what we tell you. Yes, we teach for a living, but we also love to learn. We like questions that make us think and questions that show us that you are thinking. We view the classroom not as a place for simply transferring knowledge, but as a minefield of ideas. Which is why the quote above is one of my favorites.

As the middle of the semester comes and goes, may we all be reminded the true meaning and value of an education. What you learn through your degree is one thing, but how you apply it is something else altogether. After all, your success not only matters to us, it is also one of the greatest rewards of being in education.



Program Spotlight- Kristine Urschel

By Alexandra Harper

Kristine Urschel grew up in Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada, just outside of Edmonton.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture in 2002 from the University of Alberta and her doctorate in nutrition and metabolism in 2007.

Urschel came to the University of Kentucky in August 2008. As associate professor, 60 percent of her time is spent conducting research and 40 percent teaching. Her teaching responsibilities include the undergraduate animal physiology class and a graduate course in metabolism. On top of teaching, Urschel also advises about 40 undergraduate students in both the Equine Science and Management and Animal and Food Science degree programs, and is the advisor for the Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines (READ) Club and the Animal and Food Sciences Graduate Association (AFSGA). Urschel's research centers around protein metabolism in horses; looking at the signaling pathways that regulate muscle mass in horses and at optimizing dietary protein and amino acid intake in horses across their lifespan. This semester Urschel is also serving as the director of undergraduate studies for the Equine Science and Management program while associate professor Bob Coleman is on sabbatical.

Urschel said she chose UK because it is the best place in the world to be a horse person, both recreationally and professionally.

“The University of Kentucky is one of the only land-grant universities where there are many researchers studying horses,” Urschel said. “There is a critical mass of people working with horses, which leads to many great opportunities for interactions.”

When asked what her favorite part about her job was, Urschel said, “I love getting to share my passion for what I do with my students: the undergraduate students that I teach and advise and the graduate students working in my lab. Being at the cutting edge of science is really cool, and getting to share that with the next generation of equine and animal scientists is awesome.”

Urschel said she also enjoys hearing all the great things former students go on to do after leaving UK.

“It is amazing how diverse our graduates are,” Urschel said.

In her spare time, Urschel enjoys riding her 18-year-old Shire/Thoroughbred gelding she's owned for 15 years. She also enjoys outdoor activities, swimming and hiking in the summer and spending time with family and friends. Her most recent hobby, however, is chasing around her very active 9-month-old.



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

Inaugural Christine Comella Brown Equine Scholarship awarded to ESMA sophomore, Julie Witt

By Holly Wiemers

Reading from a handwritten set of notes, meaningfully written in purple, Stuart Brown, Lexington-based equine veterinarian and stalwart member of Kentucky's equine industry, remarked on the life and legacy of his late wife, Christine Comella Brown, and awarded an inaugural scholarship in her name to University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management sophomore Julianna (Julie) Witt.

Witt, a native of Freehold, New Jersey, is currently a sophomore at UK, double majoring in Animal Science and Equine Science and Management with a pre-veterinary concentration. Witt is a member of the university's Honors college and will be a Chellgren Student fellow this academic year. She is an officer for UK's Horse Racing Club, a member of the Pre-Vet and R.E.A.D. clubs, and has had her artwork published in UK's Literary Magazine, Shale.



Left to Right, Stuart Brown, Nancy Witt, Julie Witt, Dean Nancy Cox and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Comella.



Stuart Brown, a Lexington-based veterinarian, speaks at a recent scholarship reception honoring his late wife Christine.

Witt preps broodmares and weanlings for James Keogh of Grovendale LLC, is a part-time mare and foal groom for Ashford Stud and volunteers at Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Farm. Upon graduation, she hopes to pursue a career which combines her passion of horses, particularly the Thoroughbred industry, with a love of science. Julie was awarded \$3,500 for the 2016-2017 academic year.

About 60 people attended the Sept. 27 scholarship reception at Spindletop Hall in Lexington honoring Christine, most of them having contributed to the scholarship fund and many wearing purple in a nod to the color associated with Christine and some of her most meaningful equine exploits, from horse shows to cross country courses to the companionship she shared with her treasured horses.



Dean Nancy Cox

Brown shared with the assembled group the passion Christine had for her many cherished animals and for her UK Wildcats. UK was always the place she wanted to attend school. She unequivocally knew it the moment she first visited Lexington when she was looking at universities, and it was a love that remained from her first steps onto Kentucky's famed Bluegrass, from attending UK and being a member of the national champion 1990 IHSA Equestrian Team, to following her dreams and working with horses at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute.

Brown also remarked on how many people had helped Christine on her journey and the scholarship in her name

was established to give a leg up to the newest aspiring students who wished to follow their dreams and make a career and life in the heart of the horse world.

UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Dean Nancy Cox opened the event and said, “There are many examples of Christine’s memory throughout the Bluegrass, with a memorial path across the road from the Kentucky Horse Park, as well as the purple ribbons at horse shows and many other tributes. Stuart has kept such memories as her legendary kindness to animals alive on social media, and many mornings I have shed a few tears over his posts, and I am not alone. He has spear-headed this scholarship. Stuart, there are not enough words to express our gratitude.”



Brown and Witt

The Christine Comella Brown Equine Scholarship was established in 2016. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in the Equine Science and Management degree program, must have demonstrated financial need and have a minimum GPA of 3.2. Preference is given to students with an interest in a career in veterinary science. Preference is also given to students involved with UK’s Equestrian, Hunt Seat, Dressage or Eventing teams.

Total gifts and pledges to date equal \$67,710.83 and Brown’s goal is for the endowment principal to reach \$100,000 so that \$5,000 could be awarded annually. Those interested can donate to this scholarship by contacting pamela.gray@uky.edu.



Reception invitation recognizing the late Christine Comella Brown



Missie Brown, Brown, Witt



Bluegrass Equine Digest

Check out the October 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-Oct2016.pdf?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=bluegrass-equine-digest&utm_campaign=10-30-2016.

- **Do Foals and Yearlings Need Fecal Egg Counts of Zero?**
- **Pandora's Box: Equine Genomics**
- **Fine Art Surveillance for Horse Farms**
- **Peterson Named UK Ag Equine Programs Director**

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 programs 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.

A Race Through History - UK Equine Alumni Tailgate Celebration

On Oct. 9, UK Ag Equine Programs hosted its third annual alumni tailgate event at Keeneland. More than 50 Equine Science and Management Alumni alums, faculty and staff members and their families stopped by the event and caught up over food, drinks and entertainment. The event was organized by an alumni committee that planned every last detail down to the drinks, food choices, decorations that included historic pictures of UK's Maine Chance Farm and entertainment including a selfie frame, eqicizers generously lent by the North American Racing Academy and UK Ag Equine Programs' very own bouncy horses. The alumni planning committee included Leah Alessandroni, Courtney Calnan, Ann- McCullough Wilkens, Jessica Lynn and Hannah Niebielski.



Mick Peterson named UK Ag Equine Programs director

By Holly Wiemers

Mick Peterson has been named director of the University of Kentucky's Ag Equine Programs, the multidisciplinary program that serves as a gateway to all equine activities in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, and Dickson Professor of Equine Science and Management. He will start January 2017.

In addition to leading UK Ag Equine Programs, Peterson will also conduct research on the biomechanics and mechanical properties of living tissues as they relate to musculoskeletal disease detection and prevention. His teaching responsibilities will include undergraduate and graduate courses in the areas of biomechanics, instrumentation and/or mechanics of materials related to equine athletes in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.

"Since its founding, the equine programs at UK has become one of the premier equine programs in the world. The potential for future growth in teaching, research and outreach is tremendous, which can greatly benefit the equine industry and the university," Peterson said. "I am thrilled to be a part of this exciting program and look forward to working with a broad range of stakeholders."

Peterson comes to UK from the University of Maine, where he served as a mechanical engineering professor. His research has linked traditional understanding of engineering mechanics and materials to the biomechanics of animals. His research emphasis has been on the manner in which dynamic response can be used to characterize materials.

During the course of his career, Peterson has worked on a range of equine and animal biomechanics topics, including the impact of exercise on bone density, the development of biomechanical models, durability of cetacean epidermis, the measurement of inertial properties of the equine forelimb, biomechanics of whale interaction with fishing gear, cetacean acoustic response, marine hydroacoustics and the kinematics of equine gait on treadmills and tracks.

According to Peterson, his greatest passion is for the understanding of racing and equestrian surfaces. Originating in work 20 years ago on a new medical imaging technique, this work has gradually grown from an interest in the effect of exercise on bone remodeling to a focus on applying concepts from manufacturing quality control to improved racing surface consistency for the protection of horses and riders.

"The fact that we are hiring our first full-time director reflects how the program has grown and evolved. We are privileged to attract such a prominent leader to this position; Mick's passion for the equine industry and this program is genuine and is matched by our faculty, staff and students," said Nancy Cox, dean of the college. "We will be able to take our service to this signature industry to another level under his leadership and couldn't be more thrilled by what the future holds for this program."

Peterson collaborated with C. Wayne McIlwraith, a professor at Colorado State University, to found the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory, a nonprofit organization led by Peterson that is supported by the horse racing industry and which provides research, testing and materials characterization services for the industry.

Prior to joining the University of Maine as a faculty member in 1999, Peterson was an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Colorado State University and before that a post-doctoral research associate and instructor at Northwestern University.

Peterson earned his doctorate and master's degrees from Northwestern University and a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from General Motors Institute. He also completed additional graduate work at Yale University, Cornell University and the University of Connecticut in material science, mathematics, mechanics and signal processing.

He has had additional academic appointments and affiliations with the Swedish University of Agriculture, in Upsalla, Sweden; the University of Central Lancashire, in Preston, United Kingdom; and the University of Colorado, Boulder.

He currently serves on the Jockey Club Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Surfaces Committee and as executive director of the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory.

Peterson has published 80 journal articles, three book chapters, 81 conference proceedings, presented 67 additional papers at conferences and has received six patents.



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