

Wildcat Canter

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER



Nancy
Cox

Tom
Fiala

Mick Peterson, Ph.D.

University of
Kentucky
Ag Equine Programs
The University of Kentucky
Equine Programs recognize
Thomas Fiala, DVM
as 2017 Friend of
Ag Equine Programs
in recognition of his dedication
to the success of
the University of Kentucky
Ag Equine Programs

SEPTEMBER 2017



Equine Student's Office Internship Gives Skills for Hands-On Future Career-PAGE 5

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UK freshman Dion Compton Awarded Inaugural Legacy Equine Foundation Scholarship- PAGE 6

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Get the Scoop Recap- PAGE 8

On Monday, Sept. 11, University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs held a welcome back ice cream social for students called Get the Scoop. The event included free ice cream, free Equine Programs' promotional items, door prizes and a chance to meet with equine clubs and teams, as well as faculty and staff.



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UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- October 6-28, Keeneland Fall Race Meet
- October 12, Gluck Equine Research Center 30th Anniversary Celebration
- October 14, ESMA Alumni Tailgate, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Keeneland on The Hill
- October 16, Midterm
- October 23-26, Fasig-Tipton October Sale
- October 26, UKVDL Equine Diagnostic Research Seminar Series, 4-5 p.m.
- October 26-27, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute Bluegrass Equine Symposium 2017
- October 30-November 21, Priority registration for Spring 2018

Welcome back to a new school year!

For many students, this phrase brings on feelings of dread. We all would much prefer to go back to our carefree summer, where no classes or exams weighed us down. Transitioning back to the school year is always difficult, but there are ways to make the most of the new semester.

The first thing I tell anyone who asks me how to be successful in college is to plan, plan, plan! Staying organized and planning ahead breaks everything down to be much more manageable. Getting a planner (or using the calendar in your phone if you are more technologically inclined) is one of the best things you can do for yourself this semester, and every semester. While this may seem obvious to many, and while most college students have planners, the frequency with which we use them tends vary wildly throughout the semester. I used to be that way, barely writing anything down in my planner after the first few weeks of classes, scribbling important dates on scrap pieces of paper and assignments. Once I started consistently using my planner for the entire semester, however, it allowed me to see far ahead and break down everything I had to get done, from homework, to big essays and exams, to all my extracurriculars. Suddenly all the things I had to do were in bite-size pieces, and as a student balancing school, my job and occasionally some fun, it made a big difference for me. It even helped me through the nightmare of finals week. I recommend that everyone use some sort of planning system, as it makes student life seem much less overwhelming. I personally feel I waste less time (and maybe even have more free time) since I started planning consistently.

Another thing that we as students have to take advantage of is internship, volunteer and job opportunities. Lexington has many great opportunities available in these areas. Talk to your favorite professor about ideas they have for jobs, internships or volunteering. Pay attention to job and internship opportunity emails sent out by your major or college. If you have a hobby or sport, talk to a friend, coach or teammate and see if you can become more involved in some way. Almost any of these things can be added to your resume, and I think we all want to make our resumes as well rounded as possible. Making time in the semester to do one or more of the three things above, depending on your class load, will help you grow as a person as well. Anyone who says they have never learned anything from a job or internship (even a bad one) is not looking hard enough at their experience. On top of that, you could even find the job or career area you are most passionate about by exploring different opportunities during this semester, and during future semesters. The skills and lessons we obtain from these activities will stay with us for years, and may even set you apart during your first job applications post-graduation. Who doesn't want that?

Reading all of this probably seems overwhelming. College is a busy time, and there is a lot of pressure on you to succeed academically while trying to find the career that suits you best. While you should absolutely work your hardest, try your best and attempt to do the things mentioned above, don't forget to leave time for yourself. Everyone needs a break sometimes. Never be afraid to have a relaxing Friday night in if you've been feeling stressed. Make time during the week after you have finished homework and classes for the day to unwind with your favorite TV show, fun workout or whatever relaxes you. And remember- college is supposed to be fun!

Best of luck in the new semester,

*Maddie Regis
UK Ag Equine Programs Communications Intern, Junior
Marketing major*





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Equine Student's Office Internship Gives Skills for Hands On Future Career

By Maddie Regis

University of Kentucky (UK) Equine Science and Management junior Julie Witt has always had a passion for multiple facets of the horse industry.

"I don't come from a 'horsey' family, but ever since I was young, I was drawn to horses. I had my first riding lesson when I was 5 and the rest is history," Witt said. "My hands-on experience before coming to Lexington was primarily with show horses. I'd been riding hunters and equitation. I grew up riding a lot of project/sales ponies for my trainer and as I got older, started helping retrain Off-the-Track Thoroughbreds, which I loved. I also rode on an Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) team. However, I've always had a love of Thoroughbred racing and was an intern with a track vet at Monmouth Park for several summers."

Originally, from Freehold, New Jersey, Witt's love of Thoroughbreds and show horses drew her to Lexington. But ultimately it was the opportunities, both for hands-on experiences and networking, that were the deciding factors to attend UK.

"Never in a million years would I have believed you if you told me that I would end up doing a quarter of what I am doing now, and it is very tough to get these opportunities anywhere else but in Lexington," Witt said. "I meet so many people who come from out of state to take advantage of internship programs, etc. here, and we are lucky enough to have it in our backyard. For example, how many people can say when they get taught a particular disease, they don't just get taught it, but have it taught by one of the leading experts on it, and he/she just had to come from down the road?"

Witt gained a lot of hands-on experience in the Thoroughbred industry working for Grovendale Sales and Ashford Stud, but when it came to her internship, she wanted to do something slightly different. She chose to be an intern for the Blood-Horse publication, which was different from her typical work, but still in line with her career goals.

"I've always wanted to be the most well rounded horseperson I could, so when it came time to do my EQM internship, I wanted to step away from the hands-on to gain

experience in another aspect of the industry, and I thought the skills I would potentially gain through an internship with the Blood-Horse would be invaluable," she said.

"A lot of students get focused on one area of the industry and are uninterested or unwilling to branch out," said Elizabeth James, internship coordinator and lecturer. "What I loved about Julie and what paid dividends for her was that she was willing to step way outside of her comfort zone and stretch herself. Time and time again, when students do that, the doors that open are considerable, and Julie's case is no different. I look forward to watching her career unfold."

Witt was able to do a variety of things during her internship with the Blood-Horse, everything from what she calls "typical 'intern' jobs" like proofreading, archiving and editing, to creating and participating in some unique projects.

"I got to help cover and run social media during Churchill Downs' spring meet, Haskell Invitational Day at Monmouth Park, Whitney Day at Saratoga, the Saratoga Select yearling sale, as well as complete a MarketWatch project and write several articles of my own," Witt said.

Witt said the things she enjoyed most were her MarketWatch project and covering the Saratoga sale.

"MarketWatch is an industry research section of the Blood-Horse, and it usually has an economic focus. I got to handle everything from start to finish, including proposing a research idea, putting in the data request, analyzing it, interviewing industry leaders and then writing and editing the draft. I looked into whether or not birth order has any impact on a filly/mare's future success as a broodmare and it should be published in one of the late October issues of the magazine," Witt said.

"Saratoga is an incredibly special place and several people have told me the atmosphere at the Saratoga sale is second to none, and they didn't disappoint. The sale was fantastic. Covering the sale as a journalist was very different for me, as I am used to being on the other side of things showing and grooming horses, but it proved to be just as cool of an experience (and equally as exhausting)," Witt said.

Witt wrote three or four stories a day, including breakout stories as the sale continued on, and sire recaps each night she was there.

The internship gave Witt several new skills and allowed her to grow as a person.

"I am a normally a quieter person and during this internship I learned how to step out of my comfort zone to a degree for a lot of my jobs. For example, during the Saratoga sale I had to go up to people I had never spoken to before and interview them, kind of 'cold call' style, which is rather intimidating when the person you have to speak to is a leader in the industry," she said.

Witt's internship supervisor, Mary Reeder, was positive in her response as well.

"As an intern with the Blood-Horse, Julie exceeded our expectations with her own knowledge and understanding of the Thoroughbred industry, as well as how quickly she is able to learn and comprehend new tasks and details," Reeder said. "It is very obvious that Julie is a driven and determined individual who will be able to accomplish whatever she focuses on."

In fact, Reeder's commendation led to Witt winning the UK Ag Equine Programs' 2017 Intern of the Year award, presented at the Sept. 5 UK Equine Science and Management Program Reception.

Witt said the skills she learned from her time at the Blood-Horse will serve her well in her future career.

"While I know I want to work in the Thoroughbred industry, I don't know exactly what job title I want, though if I had to guess now, I would say farm manager. My greatest interests are in the hands-on raising of horses, bloodstock/pedigrees and sales," she said.

"Regardless of what job I hold, I know I will have to deal with communications in some way. I figured the best way to learn that side of things was to go straight to the source, hence this internship. You can be the best horseman you can be, but if you can't communicate with your clients and press to best showcase your product/services, you'll run into trouble."

After graduation, Witt plans to apply to the Godolphin Flying Start program, and is also considering participating in the Irish National Stud course.



UK freshman Dion Compton awarded inaugural Legacy Equine Foundation Scholarship

By Holly Wiemers

Dion Compton, a University of Kentucky freshman and Lexington native majoring in equine science and management and minoring in business, was recently awarded an inaugural scholarship through the Legacy Equine Foundation.

The Legacy Equine Foundation is a Lexington-based, nonprofit organization that encompasses the Legacy Equine Academy and the Legacy Ball. The academy identifies promising African-American youth and other students of color in an effort to educate them regarding opportunities in the horse industry. Proceeds from the Legacy Ball help fund scholarships and community-based alliances that foster diversity, inclusion and growth in the industry.

Compton was formally awarded the scholarship by representatives of the Legacy Equine Foundation at a ceremony hosted by UK's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. The value of the scholarship is \$1,000 per year, and is renewable for each of his four years in school.

"Dion epitomizes the Legacy Equine Foundation program as a true 'Legacy Leader,'" said Ronald W. Mack, executive director of the foundation. "I've admired his passion for equine studies, as well as his determination to make that passion into his life's work. He also represents his family, his school and his community with the excellent qualities we look for in our next generation of equine professionals. We are so proud and excited to present Dion Compton with our inaugural Legacy Equine Foundation Scholarship."

Compton attended Bates Creek High School and Locust Trace AgriScience Center, where he was vice president of their FFA chapter from 2016-2017. Compton was also awarded the Junior Achievement "business competition" award in 2017, served on the Principal's Advisory Council at Bates Creek and Locust Trace and was awarded the William C. Parker Scholarship in 2017.

On being selected for the inaugural scholarship, Compton said, "It's definitely an honor. It makes me feel special, but at the same time gives me motivation to go down the road in life and ultimately help other kids get to the same spot."

Compton said he originally wanted to be a farrier and planned to attend farrier school. At Locust Trace, he learned about the Legacy Equine Foundation and met Mack, who encouraged him to pursue an equine degree at UK and make his mark on the equine industry when he graduates.

Compton said he is excited about that prospect and would ultimately like to become a horse farm manager or work in a similar role where he has an effect on the business of a horse farm.

In the meantime, he now teams up with Mack to speak in classes to other youth interested in becoming part of the equine industry.

"We are thrilled for UK Ag Equine Programs to be involved in the first Legacy Equine Scholarship with a great new freshman student. Thanks to the Legacy Equine Foundation for the confidence they are placing in our program, and thanks to Dion for signing on for a great education," said Nancy Cox, dean of UK's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Created in 2016 by Mack, the Legacy Equine Foundation partners with Fayette County Public Schools to sponsor the Legacy Equine Academy.

"Students with an interest in equine-related studies are intentionally recruited and tagged as legacy leaders starting in middle school," Mack said. "With this scholarship ceremony, we are accomplishing our goal of bridging the historical contributions of African-American trailblazers in horse racing history to the modern traditions and future opportunities in the equine industry."

The Legacy Ball was held for the first time in 2017 and will be an annual event. According to Mack, the Legacy Ball benefits Lexington and the surrounding community through an equine scholarship outreach program targeting African-American rising high school seniors interested in pursuing the equine industry as a career. The program was developed to promote and improve self-esteem by empowering local youth with knowledge of their heritage, which is key in developing leadership in the community.

"Dion is a wonderful representative of what we hope for in our students in the Ag Equine Programs; his enthusiasm and his passion will take him far, both at UK and as a part of the equine industry. He is a perfect fit for the first year of the Legacy Equine Scholarship, which reflects the rich history of horse racing," said Mick Peterson, director of UK Ag Equine Programs.





**Erin DesNoyers, '14
National Affiliates,
United States Equestrian
Federation**

By Maddie Regis

Where is home for you?

Advance, North Carolina - I love living in Lexington, but North Carolina will always be home.

How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

I began riding hunter/jumper when I was 9 years old at a local barn in North Carolina. I started out on a 17 - hand Belgian mare who will always be my favorite schooling horse. Since then, I never wanted to do anything else other than work in the horse industry.

What were your career goals before graduation?

I knew I wanted to work in the equine industry either for an events company or in a racing office. My equine internship at Pimlico Race Course drove me to pursue similar job opportunities.

Where are you currently employed?

United States Equestrian Federation in the National Affiliates department.

What are your current job responsibilities?

I am responsible for managing a few breed committees as well as the USA Saddle Seat program. I am the USEF liaison to the Paso Fino, Andalusian/Lusitano and Shetland breed com-

mittees which meet a couple of times a year to discuss rule changes and industry issues. The USA Saddle Seat program is comprised of the US Saddle Seat Young Riders and World Cup programs and for each, a team of Saddle Seat equitation riders are fielded to compete in international competition. The Young Riders and World Cup programs alternate each year, Young Riders being a pipeline program for World Cup.

What led you to this position?

Soon after I graduated, an Administrative Assistant position opened in the National Affiliates department at USEF and I got the job. While I was initially searching for a position in the racing industry, I grew up riding hunter/jumper and was familiar with the horse show world. The position seemed like a good place to start, so I went for it! I can honestly say that every professor I had while attending UK influenced me in a positive way, especially my professors in the equine program. Two professors stand out the most. Dr. Rossano was not only my professor, but also my advisor. She could have a million different things going on at once and would always make time to see me. Dr. Coleman was the first professor I met at my orientation. He helped me plan my first semester of classes, ensuring my classes would end on Fridays with enough time for me to drive home to North Carolina for the weekend if I needed to. Dr. Coleman taught all of his classes with such passion, whether it was an early morning senior capstone class or facility design. I am sure many, if not all, equine students will agree with me when I say Dr. Coleman has truly made a positive impact on all of his students' careers and lives.

How are you currently involved in the horse industry?

I ride at a local eventing barn in Lexington and then, of course, working at the US Equestrian Federation.

What advice do you have for current equine students?

Students probably hear this repeatedly, but networking is key and really helps when you are starting out in your career. Also, be open to any opportunity that may come your way. Sometimes it is the opportunities that you least expect that can turn out to be the best. Most importantly, make the most of your time at UK and have fun!

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Ag Equine Programs
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Get the Scoop Recap

By Maddie Regis

On Monday, Sept. 11, University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs held a welcome back ice cream social for students called Get the Scoop. The event included free ice cream, free Equine Programs' promotional items, door prizes and a chance to meet with equine clubs and teams, as well as faculty and staff. All eight clubs and teams attended the event (Dressage and Eventing, Equestrian Team (Western and Hunt Seat), Horse Racing, R.E.A.D., Polo, Rodeo, Saddle Seat), so students were able to see the entirety of options available to them in terms of equine student organizations here at UK. Students were able to interact with the clubs and teams by going to each club or team's table and getting one topping for their ice cream from each table. There were approximately 115 people in attendance, and everyone from faculty to students enjoyed themselves. There was even an ice cream parlor photo booth with UK Ag Equine Programs' notorious bouncy horses that many students took pictures with.

"This event was a great way to welcome our equine science and management students back to campus while giving them a chance to interact and learn more about our equine related clubs and teams. And as an added bonus, we all got to eat ice cream," said Kristen Wilson, UK Ag Equine Programs' academic coordinator.

The general consensus of the clubs and teams polled was that the event was positive and thought to be beneficial to clubs, teams and students.

"I loved the Get the Scoop event; I thought it was wonderful idea," said R.E.A.D. Club President Katie Simmons.

"We liked that talking to all the clubs was encouraged," a member of the UK Horse Racing Club said.

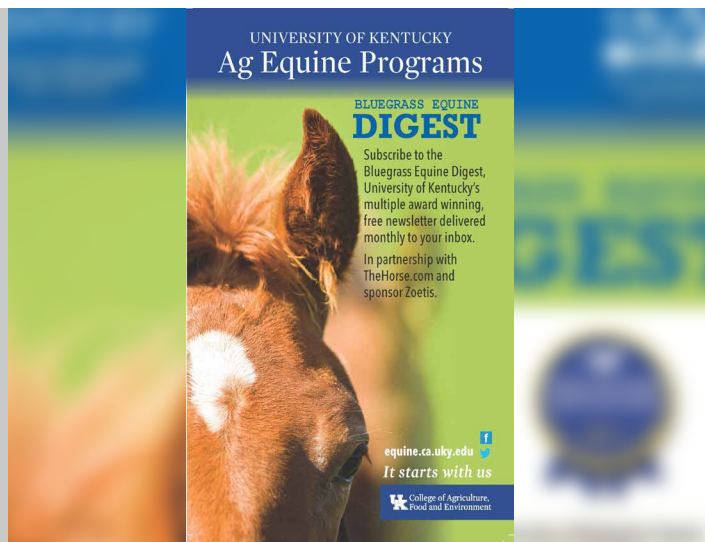


Bluegrass Equine Digest

Check out the September 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.

- New Foal Immunodeficiency Syndrome Genetic Test
- Hay Selection Facts and Fiction
- Map of the Month: Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- UK Gluck Center Welcomes Dr. Carrie Shaffer



CLUBS AND TEAMS DIRECTORY

DRESSAGE AND EVENTING TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe, jill.stowe@uky.edu
 President: Lexie Samuels, alexandra.samuels41@gmail.com
 Facebook: UK Dressage and Eventing

HORSE RACING CLUB

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence, llawrenc@uky.edu
 President: Sidney Boots, ukhorseracingclub@gmail.com
 Facebook: UKY Horse Racing Club

EQUESTRIAN TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman, rcoleman@uky.edu

HUNT SEAT TEAM

President: Mackenzie Mentzer, uk.equestrianteam@gmail.com
 Facebook: UKY Equestrian Team

WESTERN TEAM

President: Sydney Hull, sydney.hull@uky.edu
 Facebook: UKY Western IHSA Team

Clubs and Teams Updates

Saddle Seat Team

The UK Saddle Seat Team is hosting the first show for the collegiate Saddle Seat season where the team will compete against University of Louisville, Eastern Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University and Morehead University. The show is on Oct. 14 and it is right here in Lexington at Wingswept Farm. The show starts at noon and there will be a silent auction, lunch for purchase and free parking. If you want to see what Saddle Seat is all about, then come to the show! For more information, please visit our Facebook page, UK Saddle Seat Team.

POLO TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Roger Brown, rogerbrown@uky.edu
 Dr. Jamie MacLeod, jnmacleod@uky.edu
 President: Ben Lynch, benjamin.lynch@uky.edu
 Facebook: U of Kentucky Polo

R.E.A.D. CLUB

Advisor: Dr. Kristine Urschel, klur222@uky.edu
 President: Katie Simmons, kesi226@g.uky.edu
 Facebook: READ Club

RODEO TEAM

Advisor: Monty Ott, monty.ott@uky.edu
 President: Shane Halbleib, spha227@uky.edu
 Facebook: UKY Rodeo Team

SADDLE SEAT TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano, mary.rossano@uky.edu
 President: Audrey Schneider, uksaddleseatteam@gmail.com
 Facebook: UKY Saddleseat Team

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

Bluegrass Equine Digest, A look at 100

By Holly Wiemers

The September issue of the Bluegrass Equine Digest marks our 100th issue. This publication is a free, multiple award winning, monthly electronic newsletter that is dedicated to providing up-to-date information on equine research from the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. This has been done in partnership with TheHorse.com and sponsored and supported by Zoetis since its inception.

Since 2009, the Bluegrass Equine Digest has covered topics you would expect from a leading land-grant university with an excellent equine focus. Those topics range from infectious diseases to forages and nutrition to reproductive research to parasitology to genetics. The publication has also demonstrated the depth and breadth of the equine focus at UK with topics that also include economics, engineering, law, entomology, diagnostics, biosecurity, a graduate student spotlight and many others.

Since the beginning, the intent of the publication was to provide a digest of stories to meet the needs of a wide variety of horse interests. In each issue, you are as likely to find a technical description of findings from a recent research study into equine health as you are to learn about toxic plants or weed control. Additionally, you will also find many hallmarks of the extension focus of a land-grant institution – getting information out to those who are managing horses and their environments, on a very large or a very small scale.

Every issue of the Bluegrass Equine Digest can be found [here](#).

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

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, and exposing you to numerous industry related careers. The Student Professionalism Series offers insights and tips to help you effectively prepare for, find, apply to and obtain the career of your choice. This month we are going to take a closer look at the importance of time management.

TIME MANAGEMENT: PART 1

Beware the barrenness of a busy life.

-Socrates

It is neither fun nor interesting to write about time management. Yet it is essential. Simply stated, time management is the act of organizing your time and controlling how you spend it. It is anything but simple. Effectively managing your time can increase your productivity and efficiency while also decreasing your stress. Poorly managing your time can result in poor work quality, a negative professional reputation, considerable inefficiency and missed deadlines, not to mention more stress. On paper it looks easy – manage your time and you will be more successful; but in practice it can be much, much more difficult.

There are many approaches to effective time management. This month, I will discuss the importance of prioritizing, scheduling and overcoming challenges. Next month, we will explore the importance of focus, goal setting and self-discipline.

Step 1: Prioritize your life. They say you can tell what or who is important to someone by how they spend their time and money. How you spend your time is a direct reflection of what you value. It is important to think about what is the most important thing to you and then set aside time for that. Whether it's school, your job or your business, make a list of what your priorities are and that will help shape how you allocate your time. Clearly stated priorities will also help you make decisions when you have competing demands for your time.

Step 2: Create a schedule. Once you have identified your priorities, it will be easier to develop a schedule. Carve out time for the most important things in your life and then protect that time. Managing your time can be a lot like developing a budget. Decide what amount a time you need to set aside for each task instead of just going through the day without a plan hoping to get everything done. Be sure to schedule down time as well. Living by a schedule doesn't mean not having any fun, quite the opposite in fact, it means making sure that you have time for the fun things in life.

Step 3: Overcome challenges. Good time management is not easy. In addition to school, work and career ambitions, friends, family, relationships, being healthy and getting rest also require your time. With so many things competing for your time, you are going to need to overcome areas of your time that are wasteful. They may even be good ways to spend time, but if they don't align with your priorities and you haven't scheduled time for them, then they will likely distract you from what is important. In fact, the best advice I can give you if you want more time, more freedom and more energy, is to learn how to start saying no.

As I said in the beginning, discussing time management is neither fun nor interesting. But when it comes to your professional and personal life, it is essential. There are two truths I have learned when it comes to time. The bad news is that time flies. The good news is you're the pilot.



Horse Behavior and Safety Online Course Now Open to Youth, Saddle up Safely Partner Organizations' Members Offered a Discount

Information provided by Jackie Beellamy-Zions, Equine Guelph

This October, the young and keen who are 14 to 17 years old will have their own special community to learn the language of horses during Equine Guelph's popular Horse Behavior and Safety online course Oct. 2-22. The adult offering, also available in October, has brought together horse enthusiasts from across Canada and all over the globe in past offerings.

The University of Kentucky's Saddle Up Safely (SUS) program and Equine Guelph have announced a partnership to provide members of SUS' partner organizations with a discount. Saddle Up Safely is partnered with equine and safety organizations throughout the United States, and members of these partner organizations will receive a 10% discounted rate when registering for adult or youth versions of the online course at www.TheHorsePortal.com/SUS using coupon code `sus2017hbs`.

"Through learning how horses perceive the world around them, their human handlers can develop safe best practices for working with them," said Gayle Ecker, director of Equine Guelph. "A hefty percentage of horse related injuries are due to human error and could be prevented if the handler had basic education in safety."



Veterinarian Tom Riddle Named 2017 Friend of UK Ag Equine Programs

By Holly Wiemers

Breakthrough research and one-of-kind educational opportunities don't happen by accident or in isolation. They are accomplished in concert with industry stalwarts who give of their time, talents and wisdom. One such linchpin, Lexington-based veterinarian Tom Riddle, was recently named the 2017 Friend of University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs. The award recognizes the many impacts he has had on equine research and education within UK's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Riddle, who co-founded Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in 1986 and specializes in reproductive veterinary medicine, has actively served for decades in many advisory capacities for equine research and education at UK.

Riddle was nominated for the award by Laurie Lawrence, professor within the college's animal and food sciences department, in conjunction with David Horohov, chair of the Department of Veterinary Science and director of the Gluck Equine Research Center; Jamie MacLeod, professor within the Gluck Center; and Jill Stowe, agricultural economics associate professor.

In her nomination letter, Lawrence wrote, "As an internationally-known authority on equine reproductive medicine, Dr. Riddle has had many collaborative projects with scientists at UK and has often served as a liaison between researchers, practitioners and farm managers. Dr. Riddle was one of the first clinicians to recognize the reproductive firestorm that was eventually known as Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome (MRLS). Working with UK scientists and other Central Kentucky veterinarians, Dr. Riddle was intimately involved in the investigations that connected MRLS to the eastern tent caterpillar."

According to the nomination, Riddle has ensured that his practice is accessible and supportive of UK's teaching, outreach and research missions. He generously supplies speakers for undergraduate courses and outreach activities and has served as a sponsor for conferences and events organized by UK. Additionally, the hospital accommodates many interns each semester, provides essential experience for preveterinary students and hosts educational tours and demonstrations at its facility.

Rood & Riddle provides annual support for an equine scholarship and for equine clubs' and teams' activities, and Riddle was a major advocate and contributor to the renovation of UK's equine reproductive research facilities. Additionally, he has served on the college's equine advisory committee from the very start.

Known for being humble and quick to give others credit, Riddle's response to being recognized with this award was characteristic.

"I am very grateful for the invaluable help that UK Ag Equine Programs has provided to me personally, to my veterinary practice

and to Kentucky's horse industry," Riddle said. "Whenever large populations of human beings and animals congregate, there will be medical challenges. When Kentucky has had these challenges, veterinarians and horsemen have always known that they could call on our university for help. For example, the university's prompt epidemiological study of MRLS helped to save many future foals and, in my opinion, helped to save Kentucky's breeding industry."

Dean Nancy Cox recognized Riddle's contributions to UK Ag Equine Programs.

"Tom is a tireless advisor and sounding board who has served every aspect of our college's equine programs," she said. "We have benefited variously from his wide knowledge of equine reproduction, his excellence in problem-solving and his gentlemanly demeanor that infuses all he does."

These sentiments were reflected many times over from those who nominated him for the award.

"Dr. Riddle has a keen interest in research and is very much a proponent of evidence-based medicine," Horohov said. "Dr. Riddle is an important leader in equine veterinary medicine at both the national and international levels. His association with our programs adds to our stature as a leading equine educational and research program."

"It is humbling to look at Dr. Riddle's international contributions during his career. However, with everything he has done, he has consistently contributed to the success of the UK Ag Equine Programs. It is hard to imagine someone more worthy of this recognition," said Mick Peterson, director of UK Ag Equine Programs.

The Friend of UK Ag Equine Programs was created in 2005 to recognize a member of the public who has provided advocacy, funding or other extraordinary support or a college or university employee who has generated an exceptional relationship with stakeholders that manifested into a new program, new advocacy success or new resources for the program.

Past Friends of UK Ag Equine Programs include Matt Koch, of Shawhan Place Farm; Bennie and Cheryllee Sargent, of Sargent Quarter Horses and coach of the UK Equestrian Team, western division; Stuart Brown, a Lexington-based veterinarian specializing in equine reproduction with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute; Norm Luba, executive director of the North American Equine Ranching Information Council and current chair of the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Equine Advisory Committee; Dan Rosenberg of Rosenberg Thoroughbred Consulting; Northern Kentucky county extension agent trio Don Sorrell of Campbell County, Dan Allen of Kenton County and Jerry Brown of Boone County; and David Switzer, former executive director of Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Owners and Breeders Association.

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



ESMA Program Reception Celebrates Industry Role in Internships and Instruction

By Holly Wiemers

UK Ag Equine Programs hosted its annual Equine Science and Management Program Reception Sept. 5 at Spindletop Hall in Lexington.

The annual event was established to provide an opportunity for students, equine industry members and program faculty, staff and administration to celebrate outstanding internship sites, industry guest lecturers, interns and program alumni. The event showcases previous interns and alumni, many who talk about how their internship experiences impacted their careers. Outstanding internship hosts and interns are also recognized.

“The Program Reception is such a great opportunity to recognize and celebrate the tremendous support our program gets from the industry. Through internships and guest lecturers, they are willing to invest in students every opportunity they get,” said Elizabeth James, lecturer and internship coordinator within the Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program. “One of the most rewarding parts of this year’s reception was that one of our alumni was nominated for the Internship Host of the Year Award. Seeing graduates of the program not only take interns, but invest so much into them really shows how much the program has grown.”

The Internship Host of the Year was awarded to Stephanie Clark Booth with Breeders’ Cup. One of her nominators, alum Ann-McCullough Wilkins, wrote this in her supporting letter, “Stephanie basically raised me in the business world. I would not be where I am today without that woman. I worked for Breeders’ Cup from sophomore year until six months after I graduated college. She was the world’s best supervisor—a perfect balance between holding me accountable but still understanding that I was young and had learning to do.

“She taught me some of the biggest life lessons through work. Stephanie’s goal to be a mentor was much more than just duties inside office walls. She wanted nothing more than to see us succeed in the ‘real world.’ She has motivated me to chase my dreams and fulfill my passions,” Wilkins said. “There has not been a single month go by since I ‘retired’ from Breeders Cup that I haven’t heard from Stephanie just checking in. I don’t have enough words to really give Stephanie the credit that she deserves. I only hope that I can be as successful as her someday.”

Besides recognizing internship hosts, outstanding interns were also celebrated at the event. The Outstanding Intern Award was presented to Julie Witt, nominated by supervisor Mary Reeder, Assistant Digital Editor at the Blood-Horse.

In her nomination letter, Reeder wrote, “As an intern with the Blood-Horse, Julie exceeded our expectations with her own knowledge and understanding of the Thoroughbred industry, as well as how quickly she is able to learn and comprehend new tasks and details. In combination with her internship, she balanced a demanding work schedule with Ashford Stud. Julie does not have a background in journalism, but completed many articles on deadline that required her to interview prominent members of the industry.

“Going above and beyond what was expected, Julie volunteered to attend the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected Yearlings sale, where she proved herself to be indispensable. During the high-profile sale, Julie wrote three feature articles each night that included quotes from buyers and consignors. The hectic environment of the sale is difficult for the most seasoned writers, but she produced quality content with a high percentage of accuracy,” Reeder said.

The evening came to a close with the recognition of Tom Riddle, veterinarian and co-founder of Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, as 2017 Friend of UK Ag Equine Programs. Read more about this award on page 13 of this issue.





Roundup

OCTOBER 7

**REGISTRATION & KENTUCKY
FARM BUREAU TENTS OPEN**

4 hours prior to kickoff



**THE KENTUCKY POULTRY
FEDERATION MEAL
LINES OPEN**

2 hours prior to kickoff

**LIVE PERFORMANCE BY
GRAYSON JENKINS & THE
RESOLUTIONS**



**PEP RALLY
FEATURING THE UK
CHEERLEADERS & PEP
BAND**

**LITTLE WILDCAT ZONE
FUN & GAMES FOR
THE KIDS**



HOMECOMING

Visit ukathletics.com for game time, announced 10 days prior to game day.

For more event information and to register visit
alumni.ca.uky.edu/roundup

#UKRoundup

**UK Ag & HES
ALUMNI**



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