

Agriculture,  
Environment

# Wildcat Canter

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment



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SEPTEMBER 2018



### **Historic \$2.1 Billion Campaign Will Make a UK Education More Accessible, Accelerate Research and Care- PAGE 6**

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### **UK Equine Students Crank and Boom about Clubs and Teams- PAGE 8**

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### **UK Equine Research Hall of Fame Inductees Announced- PAGE 10**

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### **Other Features**

Alumni Spotlight-PAGE 19

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- October 4-7, Retired Racehorse Project's \$100,000 Thoroughbred Makeover
- October 5-27, Keeneland Fall Meet
- October 12, Equine Experience Day
- October 22-25, Fasig-Tipton Yearling Sale
- October 26, Hoofbeats Concert benefitting Kentucky Equine Humane Center
- October 29-30, Equestricon
- October 29, Registration begins for winter/spring terms
- November 2-3, Breeders' Cup

## Work Hard, Play Harder

The start of the fall semester can be hectic - figuring out your course schedule and when assignments are due and deciding what extracurricular activities to be part of - all while being an active member within the local equine industry. Along with this craziness also comes cooler weather, pumpkin flavored everything (Yes I'm a fan!) and many opportunities to learn about the wonderful equine industry here in the Bluegrass.

Figuring out where to start and how to get involved while still keeping up with your classes can be a path that is hard to navigate. Finding a balance between attending class and turning in assignments on time while establishing a social life and networking within the equine industry is totally possible. Here are some helpful tips to help you be successful in the process.

**ASK** if you have a question. Taking a minute to email your advisor, ask a fellow classmate or raising your hand in class can provide you with a wealth of knowledge you might not have gotten by staying quiet.

**WRITE** everything down. Use a daily planner or your calendar on your phone. Find ways to remind yourself of what's to come and use lists to prioritize those tasks. To do lists are a great option as well.

**READ** your email and other communication methods that are sent to you. They are often sent for a reason, not to just fill up your inbox. Tuesday Tidbits is the weekly email sent from Equine Programs that contains not only programmatic updates and deadlines, but also jobs and internship opportunities available only to equine students.

**UTILIZE** campus resources before you have a problem. The Study, Mathskeller, the Writing Center, the Disability Resource Center (DRC), and the Counseling Center are just some of the free resources available to students on campus.

**PLAN** ahead and be ready for your fall semester advising appointment. Come prepared with a list of courses, questions you might have and get to know your advisor during your appointment. Believe it or not, your academic advisor will become one of the greatest resources for you here at UK. This will be a relationship that will last far beyond graduation day.

**EXPLORE** what the equine industry has to offer. Take time to learn about this great industry available right outside your back door by attending an event, volunteering, or getting a part time job. Start by visiting our equine student hub via Share Point to see what jobs, volunteer opportunities and internships are available in the vast equine industry surrounding us. Visit the Kentucky Horse Park's event website for upcoming events or go out to Keeneland for the race meet during the month of October.

Recently I was reminded by a colleague to Work Hard and Play Harder. It was a great reminder that if you put your mind to doing something, you can be successful while having fun at the same time. As we dive deeper into the semester, be mindful of utilizing resources, asking questions and planning ahead all while exploring the Horse Capital of the World and networking with those within it.

*Kristen Wilson,  
Academic Coordinator, Equine Science and Management*





### **Wildcat Canter Editorial Staff**

Hailee Adams, *contributing writer*  
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## Historic \$2.1 Billion Campaign Will Make a UK Education More Accessible, Accelerate Research and Care

Source: UKNow

By Jay Blanton, Amy Jones-Timoney, Brad Nally and Kody Kiser

The largest fundraising campaign in the history of the Commonwealth will create thousands of scholarships to expand access to education at the University of Kentucky and to dramatically accelerate UK's efforts to solve the Commonwealth's most challenging health and economic issues.

The \$2.1 billion campaign – “Kentucky Can: The 21st Century Campaign” – was announced Friday night at a special event attended by hundreds of friends of the university at the Bill Gatton Student Center.

“We were founded for the people of Kentucky,” said UK President Eli Capilouto in announcing the campaign. “This place has been – and continues to be – home to pioneers and providers, bold dreamers and strategic thinkers, who make our vision and work possible. Now, we have the opportunity, with a sense of dogged determination and boundless compassion and generosity, to write the next chapter for this university and for those we serve in the Commonwealth and beyond.

“It is time to show the world what Kentucky can do.”

Specifically, the “Kentucky Can” campaign will focus on three major areas of support:

Funding 2,100 UK LEADS and other scholarships to ensure that more Kentuckians have access to a UK education and that they can graduate on time with reduced debt. The highly successful UK LEADS program is a nationally heralded initiative to eliminate financial need as an impediment to attending and graduating from the university.

“I was drawn to UK by the wonderful scholarship I was offered and rewarded with remarkable opportunities,” said Sara Khandani, a biology major from Lexington who will graduate in 2019. “I was able to participate in research, and I have access to world-class facilities and generous mentors. My scholarship is enabling me to graduate without crippling debt, allowing me to know I can pursue my dream of going to medical school.”

Endowing efforts – particularly between and among academic and research disciplines – that focus on solving the state's most pressing challenges. Kentucky, for example, is among the nation's leaders in opioid overdoses and deaths as well as many cancers, heart disease and diabetes.

“Opioid addiction is a great, yet vicious equalizer. It does not discriminate based upon gender, socioeconomic status or education,” said Dr. Phillip Chang, chief medical officer for UK HealthCare. “At UK and UK HealthCare, we are working toward real, proven and effective solutions. With this campaign supporting our efforts, we can start and expand innovative therapy and treatment programs. The greatest opportunity to meet this challenge will come from UK HealthCare and the colleges across this campus, as solutions will be found at the intersection of multiple disciplines.”

Growing the university's endowment from about \$1.5 billion to \$2.1 billion in gifts, future commitments and investments, as part of an effort to fund recruitment and retention of leading scholars and continue to support development programs and initiatives that provide a foundation for the work of faculty, staff and students.

“I was here as a graduate student, only able to earn a Ph.D. because of financial assistance, born in Kentucky, first generation to attend university. My graduate degree transformed my life and opened a world of possibilities,” said Gail Hoyt, a professor of economics in UK's Gatton College of Business and Economics. “Now, I am here, starting my 24th year as a professor, giving back because I am thankful, enjoying the privilege of teaching 500 incoming freshmen every fall, tens of thousands of bright minds over the decades. I am here because the needs of Kentucky's students speak to me, and I teach them to use economics to improve their lives and their communities.”

A fact sheet below provides more detail about funding goals among focus areas, as well as quotes from key campaign leaders.

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"No one is immune to challenges. No path worth taking is without obstacles," said Britt Brockman, chair of UK's Board of Trustees. "How we respond to these challenges will determine who we are, what we are able to achieve, and the legacy we leave. With this campaign, we have the opportunity to determine our future, and the future of the Commonwealth we serve."

UK already has raised more than \$1 billion toward the campaign goal. Over the next few months, kick-off events will be held in a number of cities in the region and across the country to expand fundraising efforts.

UK's previous comprehensive campaign – the first in its history – raised \$1 billion, concluding in 2007. It focused largely on endowed faculty positions and supporting continued infrastructure development.

This campaign is distinctive, said Campaign Co-Chair Mira Ball, for its specific focus on eliminating student debt and expanding affordable access to a UK education for more Kentuckians.

"I graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1956 when tuition was \$65 a semester," said Ball, co-founder of Ball Homes, the state's largest homebuilder. "We need to ensure tuition doesn't prohibit a single bright mind from getting an education. We do more for the state than ever before. I believe giving is a joy, and I want us all to enjoy the fact that we can help."

Campaign Co-Chair Paul Chellgren said the scope of the campaign reflects the integral role UK plays in supporting the Commonwealth's future and addressing the challenges that exist.

"The University of Kentucky is a place where the impact of your gift is enormous, immediate and profound," said Chellgren, former CEO of Ashland Inc. "Here, a gift is not one in a sea of many. Here, we move the needle. The University of Kentucky is a place of great opportunity for me and for many. The availability of that opportunity is dependent upon us."

The campaign also comes at a critical juncture for the university, said Mike Richey, UK's vice president for philanthropy and alumni engagement. In the last seven years, under Capilouto's leadership, UK has started or completed some \$2.3 billion in construction of new residence halls, laboratories and classrooms, clinical care support and athletics facilities – an effort to transform the campus and to position it for growth in education, research, service and health care.

The institution, Richey said, has a strategic plan that contemplates record retention and graduation rates and an aggressive expansion of its health care and research capacity toward solving Kentucky's most serious challenges.

Investment in facilities is part of the equation, he said. So, too, is significant investment in students, staff and scholars and the tools they need to succeed.

"Now, we stand at a precipice, where once again we are being called to ensure our future," Richey said. "We are beginning a campaign – and an effort that will be defined by a sense of ineffable persistence – to determine our future viability and our dreams for Kentucky.

"This campaign will build bridges for students to receive an affordable education; for faculty to teach and conduct research that inspires, heals, creates and impacts the quality of life for all Kentuckians ... This is our time to determine the future we want and to create it. This is our time to ask ourselves – what is the legacy we want to leave.

Together, we must.

Together, Kentucky can."

For more information about "Kentucky Can: The 21st Century Campaign," click [here](#).

# UK Equine Students Crank and Boom about Clubs and Teams

By Kristen Wilson

University of Kentucky students were able to Get the Scoop about equine-related clubs and teams and Ag Equine Programs at the Equine Science and Management Welcome Back event held Wednesday, Sept. 5 on campus. Nearly 75 students, faculty and staff gathered to enjoy Crank and Boom ice cream while networking with equine and pre-vet clubs and teams' representatives.

Students in attendance were encouraged to complete a passport to be eligible for door prizes. This included talking with each of the clubs and teams present, having a conversation with an equine faculty or staff member at the event as well as taking a photo in our ice cream themed photo booth. The following students were randomly selected as door prize winners and may pick up their prize in the Equine Office in the Ag Sciences North Building, room N-212 at their earliest convenience.

Get the Scoop Door Prize Winners:

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Haley Burns    | Maya Caceres    |
| Darrian Hoerig | Kennedy Hoch    |
| MaKayla James  | Daniel Oxnard   |
| Rhiannon White | Julie Witt      |
| Dian Yu        | Riley Zimmerman |







### What are your current job responsibilities?

Aside from working on my research and thesis, I also help supervise summer students, assist at extension events and help our team with other research projects.

### What led you to this position?

My job as a horse pasture evaluator working for Krista Lea and Dr. Ray Smith really shaped my academic and career goals. When I started, I thought grass was green and it was good. Once I learned the different grass species, weed species and management practices, I realized how important good pasture management is to horse health. This inspired me to pursue horse nutrition from the forage side, rather than the animal side. I also wanted to be able to educate producers on how to best manage their fields to maximize production and horse health. The position at Greenacres is a perfect blend of both of my degrees, truly my dream job!

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

My advice to current ESMA students is to try all aspects of the equine industry. I came in to college thinking that if I wanted to work with horses, I either had to be a trainer or a vet; this is so not true! I took a chance on a summer job and it completely changed my career aspects and my life. Even finding out the things you don't like is important as well. I changed my career goals my last semester of college. It is never too late to find what you are really interested in and pursue it.

### Where is home for you?

I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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

I began taking riding lessons at 4-years-old and have been involved ever since! I currently have one Off The Track Thoroughbred that recently retired from show jumping and is now enjoying his days as a trail horse!

### What were your career goals before graduation?

When I began my undergraduate career, my aspirations were to attend veterinary school.

### Where are you currently employed?

I'm currently a graduate research assistant for Dr. Ray Smith in the Plant and Soil Sciences department here at the University of Kentucky. After I graduate with my masters, I will be working for Greenacres Foundation in Cincinnati, Ohio, as its on-site lead stablehand. Greenacres Foundation is a non-profit agriculture and arts center focused on educating youth. I will be responsible for the daily horse care and pasture management in conjunction with its research department.



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

## UK Equine Research Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

By Jenny Evans

The University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Research Foundation will induct three scientists into the UK Equine Research Hall of Fame Oct. 31 at the Hilary J. Boone Center on the UK campus.

Thomas Divers, Steeve Giguère, a posthumous inductee, and Dickson Varner were selected for their contributions to equine science and research. Nominated by their peers and colleagues, Divers, Giguère and Varner, were selected by past Hall of Fame inductees.

"Induction into the UK Equine Research Hall of Fame provides the opportunity to recognize the many important contributions these individuals have made to the health and well-being of horses in the areas of pathophysiology, infectious disease and reproduction," said David Horohov, chair of the Department of Veterinary Science and director of the Gluck Equine Research Center.

Divers is the Rudolph J. and Katharine L. Steffan professor of veterinary medicine at Cornell University. Divers' collaborative research has changed over the decades dependent upon emergence of new medical disorders and equine research needs. Past collaborative research has included the first description of EHV-1 neurologic syndrome in the Southeastern United States and the initial research on equine efficacy and oral bioavailability of trimethoprim/sulfadiazine, permitting its labeling for use in horses; research on red maple toxicity in horses; research on numerous diseases of the nervous system, liver and kidneys in horses and cattle; discovery of the cause of equine motor neuron disease, along with the epidemiology and pathophysiology of the disorder; experimental infection studies on Lyme disease and leptospirosis in horses; and more. His current research focuses on the cause of Theiler's disease (serum hepatitis) in horses, where collaborative studies discovered two new equine viruses, one of which appears to be a likely cause. He received his bachelor of science degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1971 and graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia in 1975. He completed an internship at University of California, Davis and an internal medicine residency at University of Georgia. Divers is a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care.

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected for induction into the Equine Research Hall of Fame. I am particularly humbled to have my name even mentioned with the list of previous inductees because I am, at best, a clinical researcher who has most often used a variety of clinical problems and clinical cases as the basis for my research," Divers said. "Any successes that I may have had in equine research are a direct result of my collaborations with many wonderful colleagues, both those in universities and those in private practice. I would like to thank all of those collaborators and would like to recognize two collaborators who have passed—Dr. Doug Byars, who was an early collaborator and longtime friend, and Dr. Bud Tennant for our nearly four decades pursuit of a cause of Theiler's disease. It is my hope that some of our research findings have made a difference to the health of the horse."

Giguère is a former professor and Marguerite Hodgson chair in equine studies at the University of Georgia. He passed away on May 27. Giguère was an equine infectious diseases and comparative immunology researcher. The majority of his research productivity was related to the pathogenesis of infectious disease in foals, specifically *Rhodococcus equi*, the pharmacokinetics of antimicrobial agents and the clinical monitoring of foals with septic processes. He graduated from veterinary school at the University of Montreal in 1992. He completed his internship at the University of Montreal and his residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He earned his doctoral degree in veterinary microbiology and immunology at the University of Guelph.

He became a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in 1997. He received multiple teaching and research awards throughout his career, including the Carl Nordern-Pfizer Distinguished Teaching Award in 2006, the Intervet/Schering Plough World Equine Association Applied Equine Research Award in 2009 and the Zoetis Award for Research Excellence in 2017.

Giguère was nominated by Paul Lunn, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University.

"Dr. Giguère was the star of his generation, and although his life was cut tragically short, he still contributed some of the most important equine research work in the areas of infectious disease for more than two decades," Lunn said in his nomination. "He established an international reputation as an equine researcher with a specific interest in infectious disease and neonatology."

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Varner is a professor of equine theriogenology and the Pin Oak Stud chair of stallion reproductive studies at Texas A&M University. His research has a highly translational emphasis, with a focus on understanding mammalian sperm function, identification of stallion fertility probes, expansion of in vitro methods for preserving stallion sperm in both cooled and frozen forms, capacitation of stallion sperm, development of assisted reproductive techniques and subfertility in stallions. He identified a defect in the sperm's acrosome, the "cap" on the sperm's head that secretes enzymes required to penetrate the egg, which severely interferes with fertility of some stallions. He also helped develop the use of Computer-Assisted Sperm Analysis (CASA) for semen evaluation and a variety of ways to improve storage, transport and insemination of stallion sperm. These techniques ultimately help increase reproductive success in horses. He earned his bachelor of science degree in 1976 and graduated from veterinary school in 1978 at the University of Missouri. He worked as an assistant resident veterinarian at Castleton Farm in Lexington from 1978-1981 before completing his residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He earned his master of science degree from Texas A&M in 1990. He is a diplomat in the American College of Theriogenologists. Through this college, he received the Theriogenologist of the Year Award in 2002 and the Bartlett Award for Lifetime Achievement in Theriogenology in 2016. Notable invited national and international presentations include the Milne Lecture (American Association of Equine Practitioners; 2007), the Bain Fallon Memorial Lecture (Australia; 2012) and the Nick Mills Memorial Lecture (London, UK; 2017).

"I am so moved to be inducted into the University of Kentucky Equine Research Hall of Fame," Varner said. "I began my veterinary career in Lexington under the tutelage of Dr. H. Steve Conboy. I recall speaking at the inaugural induction ceremony regarding my mentor, the late Dr. Robert M. Kenney. It is such an honor to be included in the same Hall of Fame as someone that was my guiding light during my fledgling years as an equine reproductive specialist and continues as an inspiration to me to this day. The hall of fame abounds with esteemed scientists, and it is such a humbling, but fulfilling, experience to be included among them."

Equine Research Hall of Fame nominees can be living or deceased, active in or retired from the field of equine research. Established in 1990, the UK Equine Research Hall of Fame honors international scientific community members biennially who have made equine research a key part of their careers, recognizing their work, dedication and achievements in equine research. A list of past inductees can be found [here](#).

The UK Gluck Equine Research Center, in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, is home to the Equine Research Hall of Fame. For more information, click [here](#).



2018 UK Equine Research Hall of Fame inductees are Thomas Divers, the late Steve Giguere and Dickson Varner.

# Roundup



 College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

**FUTURE STUDENT EVENT:** *Thursday, September 27*

# AEC 300/EQM 396: European Equestrian Experience: Germany and The Netherlands

## Program Overview



Today's sport horse industry owes its roots to centuries of careful breeding and training in Europe. During this program, students will be immersed in the German and Dutch cultures and gain an appreciation for the unique aspects of the horse industry in these two countries. Learn more about the history of this global industry through visits to breeding, training, sales, and competition facilities, major breed registries, and manufacturers of sport horse tack and equipment.

Germany and the Netherlands are rich in cultural history, and participants will have the opportunity to visit many important historic sites. In Germany, students may visit sites such as the moated castles in Münster and the Bremen Market Square. While in The Netherlands, students may visit the Bloemenmarkt, the world's only floating flower market, and take a canal cruise.



## Highlights

- Visit such sites as the Hanoverian State Stud in Celle, the Verden and Vechta auction houses, the Olympic Training Facility in Warendorf and more
- See internationally-recognized training facilities for dressage, eventing and show jumping
- Experience the local culture, food and drink in a variety of picturesque cities and towns in Germany and the Netherlands

## Other details

- Spring Semester Embedded Course
- International Travel Dates: May 6 - 17, 2019
- To apply: [international.uky.edu/ea](http://international.uky.edu/ea)

## Questions?

Please contact Dr. Stowe at [jill.stowe@uky.edu](mailto:jill.stowe@uky.edu)



*Roundup*  
BUILD A BETTER  
**Burger**   
**Contest**

**Thursday, September 27  
5:30 P.M. at Good Barn**

**Beef and grill provided.  
Teams bring ingredients and  
condiments. Prizes for first,  
second and third place.**

**Students not competing are welcome to attend - food will be provided.**

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*Heading to*  
**GRADUATE *or***  
**PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL?**

**THURS** Professional School Prep  
**09.27** 3:30 - 5:00 in W. T. Young UKAA Auditorium

**THURS** Graduate School Prep  
**10.02** 3:30 - 5:00 in W. T. Young UKAA Auditorium

**WED** Law School Fair  
**10.03** 11:00 - 2:00 in UK Student Center

**THURS** Professional School Prep  
**10.11** 3:30 - 5:00 in W. T. Young Multipurpose Room

**THURS** Graduate and Professional School Fair  
**10.25** 11:00 - 3:00 in UK Student Center

 **handshake**

*Events organized by the UK Stuckert Career Center*



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