

# UK Equine Initiative Student Newsletter

May 2008



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## Welcome summer!

Summer break is finally here! For those of you returning and for those who graduated, summer brings with it either a sigh of relief and/or grief that a college career has come and gone so quickly. We hope you will continue to be an avid reader of the Equine Initiative student newsletter throughout the summer to keep up-to-date with club and organization activities, industry news, scholarship and job opportunities and student spotlights. Please submit any suggestions, advice or news for the summer editions. Work hard, enjoy yourselves and soak up some sun!

Thank you,

Savannah Craddock  
Communications and Editorial Assistant



## UK Equestrian and Dressage teams win national championships

LEXINGTON, Ky. (May 12, 2008) – The University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture is celebrating national championships by two of its collegiate equine teams. Riders from its equestrian and dressage teams nabbed top honors in their respective competitions.

The UK Equestrian Team bested 17 other hunt seat teams from across the country at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association national championships May 8-11 in Burbank, Calif., to take home UK's first team championship. This was only the second year the team's hunt seat division earned the right to compete in team competition at collegiate nationals. The team placed eighth last year.

Two individual riders from the equestrian team's stock seat division also scored big at this year's nationals. Alumni rider Lacey Wercynski was reserve national champion and Emily Gaskin placed eighth.

A rider from UK's Dressage Team also won a national championship at the 2008 Intercollegiate Dressage Association national championships April 26 at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. Freshman Allison Wilaby of Colorado Springs, Colo., was named national champion in First Level Test One Division.

"It hasn't quite sunken in and I don't think any of us have slept yet," said Callie Schott, whose performance in both of her classes – over fences and equitation, boosted UK's Equestrian Team totals to take the lead from the University of Findlay, Ohio. "It was just a great feeling because no one expected us to win at all and we came out of nowhere.

"It came down to the very end. I had to win or get second in my class for us to do it. Findlay was going into the last class with 18 points. We only had 14," said Schott. "They were calling it the 'Cinderella story' of nationals."

Team rider Ali Cibon also won her class, adding to UK's points total. Other hunt seat team riders included Louise Bowden, Sarah Bybee, Allison Davidson and Rebecca Wichard.

"I was so excited to get to go back and just wanted to place again this year to keep our name up there," said Wichard, who was also one of the members of last year's nationals team.



**Photo:** UKET hunt seat division (left to right): Allison Davidson, Rebecca Wichard, Louise Boden, Sarah Bybee, Ali Cibon, Callie Schott and team coach Michelle Zimmer.

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“It’s been a lot of fun and we got some neat prizes,” she said. “It was kind of fun flying back. We each got a bouquet of roses and people thought we were moms because we were flying back on Mother’s Day.”

“I am so thrilled for our teams. My freshman year, the equestrian team hadn’t thought of taking a team to nationals. Now this is two years in a row and we’ve come away with some pretty big wins,” said Christi Burrington, 2007-2008 UK Equestrian Team stock seat division vice president.

According to faculty advisor Bob Coleman, the team’s success is a direct reflection of the hard work and time spent by the team’s two coaches, Michelle Zimmer and Bennie Sargent. The hunt seat team is coached by Zimmer and rides at Robert Murphy Stables. The stock seat team is coached by Sargent and rides at High Point Equestrian Center.

The team relies heavily on fundraising and the generous support of its sponsors in order to compete, Coleman said, and their support has been instrumental in helping the team be nationally competitive. Sponsors for this year include UK’s Equine Initiative, Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute and the Kentucky Equine Education Project. In order to raise enough money to compete throughout the year, team members also volunteer at Lakeside Arena and Kentucky Horse Park events, the Rolex Three Day Event and at events held by various breed associations.

For more information about the UK Equestrian Team, contact team advisor Bob Coleman at [rcoleman@uky.edu](mailto:rcoleman@uky.edu) or 859- 257-9451. For more information about the UK Dressage Team, contact team president Marlene Tremblay at [marlene.tremblay@uky.edu](mailto:marlene.tremblay@uky.edu).

## Equine Initiative highlights

To prospective Student Working Group participants,

The Equine Initiative **Student Working Group** meeting was held April 21. During the meeting it was discussed that there would be one overall group with three subgroups, all meeting initially at the same time. Those groups are:

- 1) **Undergraduate students**
- 2) **Graduate students**
- 3) **Student organizations**

Since we determined that we’d meet as one group, at least initially, we will launch our group at our first meeting. If, as we get into the meetings, we decide that it would be better to split apart, we can try that for future meetings.

If you have friends or colleagues who didn’t attend the last meeting, they are completely welcome to participate in future group sessions. You can either forward this information to them or send me their contact information and I will follow up.

If you or someone else from your organization or degree program is interested in further participation for the working groups, we would like to hear some days and times that you might be available to meet. Please send that information to Kimberly Brown at [kimberly.brown@uky.edu](mailto:kimberly.brown@uky.edu) or Savannah Craddock at [savy@uky.edu](mailto:savy@uky.edu). We would like to get started as soon as we can!

### Grad Student Forum

The College of Agriculture’s Equine Initiative at UK includes an exciting branch of master and doctorate-level research in equine related topics, including equine economics, land management and animal & vet science. Graduate students are encouraged to post summaries of their research interests at [www.UnbridledNews.com](http://www.UnbridledNews.com), an online community for equine research, business, and related topics. The goal is to create an online graduate student equine research organization where students, faculty, and the equine industry can learn more about equine-related graduate work. The news forum is hosted by the chair of this new organization, Kimberly Brown ([kimberly.brown@uky.edu](mailto:kimberly.brown@uky.edu)).



### **Equine Initiative team penning**

The Equine Initiative competed in a charity team penning to benefit the Don Macbeth Memorial for injured jockeys. The team consisted of Dr. Melissa Newman, Savannah Craddock and Angel Cordova (the celebrity jockey). Though the Equine Initiative team did not win, we enjoyed great success by raising \$300 for the fund through the Calcutta and the spectators in attendance.



**Photo:** Savannah Craddock and Dr. Melissa Newman prepare to compete

### **Connie Blount Memorial Scholarship established**

In remembrance of Connie Blount, the Equine Science and Management student and UK Equestrian Team member killed in a hit-and-run accident in April, the UK College of Agriculture has joined with the Blount family to create a memorial scholarship in her honor. The scholarship will be available for Equine Science and Management students attending UK and will benefit students with club, organization and community involvement as well as a love and passion for learning about horses and the horse industry. If you would like to make a contribution to the Connie Blount Memorial Scholarship Fund, please contact Marci Hicks in the Office of Development at [marci.hicks@uky.edu](mailto:marci.hicks@uky.edu).



### **Profile of Dressage Team nationals winner**

UK equine clubs have seen success at nationals. Below is more about UK Dressage Team member who brought home a national championship.



**Photo:** Wilaby in a dressage competition

**Name:** Alison Wilaby

**Major:** Art Education

**Hometown:** Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Team/Division/Class:** University of Kentucky, First Level Test One

**Riding Experience (including years):**

I started riding when I was 6, eventing intermediate level and second level dressage

**Other Hobbies:** Painting, photography, rock climbing and hiking

**Future Plans:** To ride in the Young Riders CCI\*\* championships

**How you prepare for a show:** Taking riding lessons, practicing my test, riding multiple types of horses



**Photo:** Wilaby competes in a dressage competition

# It's all royalty

## Student Spotlight- Christin Herbst

By: Savannah Faye Craddock



**Photo:** Herbst with other Derby Princesses. Left to right: Cristin Herbst, Charis Botelho, Talea Drummer, Katie Allen, December Parker

Christin Herbst is a recent College of Agriculture graduate who shared a tradition in her household, one that is very familiar to most other Kentucky residents. That tradition was watching the Kentucky Derby in amazement and marveling at the athleticism and beauty of the horses. Little did she know, one day she would be watching the Derby in the shadow of Churchill Downs, instead of her living room back home in Columbia, Ky. Herbst graduated with a degree in Agricultural Biotechnology. She is 22 years old and is being spotlighted as one of the 2008 Kentucky Derby Princesses.

Herbst first found out about being a princess from her roommate and admits the thing that drew her in the most was her love of horses. She then began to research the Derby Festival and found out that it involved so much more than just the Derby. She went through the application and interview process, where they narrowed down the applicants to 91 for the preliminaries, further narrowing to 16 finalists. She was one of just five princesses chosen. "I feel honored and very blessed to have been chosen," Herbst said.

The journey as princess has already come and gone but she says it will be a once in a lifetime experience she will never forget. She recalls all the wonderful people she met along the way, including the other princesses that shared her rein.

"The whole experience was like a grand adventure and I cannot believe it has come and gone so fast," Herbst said.

Herbst said she got to meet a lot of high profile people, such as Thoroughbred trainer Michael Matz, jockey Calvin Borel, Executive Vice President of Churchill Downs Steve Sexton and America's Next Top Model's, Nigel Barker. But more important than the people to her were the horses. She recalled a very important meeting with Kentucky Derby entrant, Visionaire.

"I was standing in the stall with Visionaire, can you picture this just three days before his big race!" she said. "I felt so lucky learning so many things about him that so many people would never have had a chance to learn."

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## Student Spotlight continued

Besides attending Churchill for high profile horse races, Herbst also participated in the other Derby festivities, some of which included events such as the Pegasus Parade and Fillies Derby Ball.

In the fall Herbst will be starting graduate school and plans to join the Cooperative Extension Service. Her dream is to become an extension specialist with a horse emphasis. She believes this career will be perfect for her in the future because of the combination of working with horses and citizens and farmers in small communities across the state of Kentucky.

“Go for it!” is Herbst’s advice to any girl interested in participating in the contest.

“It isn’t a beauty pageant—it’s about personality,” she said.

She also tells girls to never give up and to continue to work hard, regardless of the circumstances their lives may throw at them. After working hard and completing her undergraduate degree she continues to put forth more effort into her education through her next journey, graduate school.

She said she joked with the other princesses that if she could describe her experience in just a single word, it would be, “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!”



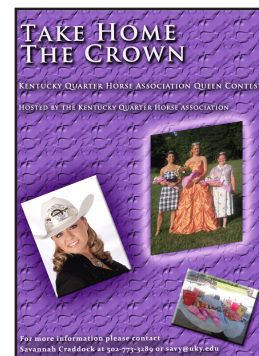
**Photo:** Herbst at a Derby Event

## Industry News

### Get Crowned 2008 Kentucky Quarter Horse Association Queen

The Kentucky Quarter Horse Association is pleased to announce it is now taking applications for the 2008 KQHA Queen, Junior Queen and Princess Contest. The format of this contest has changed over the past few years and is now revamped. The contest is split into three categories; interview, AQHA rulebook test and horsemanship. The horsemanship portion will be held at the KQHA Summer Spectacular Horse Show in Liberty, KY Ky., July 16-20. The interview and AQHA rulebook test will be completed at the year-end banquet held in December. At this time, the winners in each division and category will be crowned.

If you are interested in participating please contact KQHA Committee Chairman Savannah Craddock [savy@uky.edu](mailto:savy@uky.edu) or visit the Kentucky Quarter Horse Association website at [www.kyqha.com](http://www.kyqha.com)



## Scholarships

The spring time is peak scholarship application deadline season. For information on upcoming scholarships check these out.

- The Race for Education anticipates awarding at least \$400,000 in scholarships and hopes as much as possible can go to Kentucky horse farm workers and their families. Contact Elisabeth Jensen, Vice President, at (859) 252-8648 or visit [www.racingscholarships.com/page.php?page=resources](http://www.racingscholarships.com/page.php?page=resources)
- KEEP: [www.horseswork.com/scholarship.htm](http://www.horseswork.com/scholarship.htm)
- KyQHA: [www.kyqha.com/youth/scholarship.pdf](http://www.kyqha.com/youth/scholarship.pdf)
- Kentucky Horse Council Scholarship: [www.kentuckyhorse.org/scholarships.shtml](http://www.kentuckyhorse.org/scholarships.shtml)



## Job Opportunities

### Help Wanted Classifieds:

*Please note, classifieds listed here are not directly affiliated with UK or its equine programs, rather information passed along from equine businesses as an FYI.*

**The Kentucky Equine Humane Center** announces the establishment of the KyEHC Internship Program. The KyEHC Internship Program is offered to students to help expand their knowledge through practical experience, giving them an opportunity to achieve professional competency through "hands-on" experiences in problem-solving, decision-making, and relational skills in a professional environment. Specific internships may be crafted to meet program requirements in the following areas: veterinary technician, pre-veterinary studies, horse husbandry, equine sciences, farm management or related areas. KyEHC can help students design a program to satisfy practicum, internship or independent study requirements within their major. On-site housing is provided. Interns will be selected from university and college applicants. Interested students should contact the Kentucky Equine Humane Center (KyEHC) for more information and an interview at 859.881.5849 or [info@KyEHC.org](mailto:info@KyEHC.org).

**UK student needed** to care for five mares at a local farm ten 10 minutes east of New Circle Road in Fayette County.

- Kentucky Mountain/Tennessee Walker cross filly, naturally gaited, needs training, foaled 5/1/07.
- Welsh filly, needs training, foaled 4/21/06.
- Kentucky Mountain Mare, placed third in West Virginia State Fair Trail Ddivision, needs to be ridden, foaled 6/2002.
- Hanoverian maiden mare, due to foal 7/1, mare and foal have excellent bloodlines. Mare is trained to ride, but could use continued ground work during her final months of pregnancy. Mare was foaled 7/2003.
- Welsh mare, foaled 9/2006, needs diet maintenance and a fitness program.

Any student qualified to care for these specific horses, please contact Wayne Simmons at, Cell (859) 685-4547 or Home (859) 294- 5333.

### Suggestion Box

We want to hear from you! What are we missing? What should we change? What would you like to know more about? What information should we feature in an upcoming issue?

Your feedback is important and we welcome your comments! Please email [equineinitiative@email.uky.edu](mailto:equineinitiative@email.uky.edu) and let us know what you think.

*Help Wanted continued*

**UK Student needed as** an Equestrian Camp Counselor at YMCA Camp Tecumseh, Brookston, Ind., for campers ages 11-15. Instruct riding lessons each morning and afternoon at equestrian equestrian center. Center has four four outdoor rings and one indoor ring. Instructors are needed for beginners through advanced in both English (i.e. jumping, dressage) and Western (i.e. reining, western pleasure, trail). Class sizes are four to six. We are a CHA site accredited and adhere to their safety practices. Evenings on duty are with cabin groups participating in regular camp programming. Counselors also lead devotions each night in their cabin. Must have completed at least freshman year of college. Pay Range: \$2,550-\$2,750.

Staff Training begins May 25, 2008. If you have any questions, contact Amie Gleason (Equestrian Director) at 1-800-382-2267 (inside IN Indiana only), office phone 765-564-2898, or e-mail at [amieg@camptecumseh.org](mailto:amieg@camptecumseh.org). More information can be found at [www.camptecumseh.org](http://www.camptecumseh.org). Applications can be completed and submitted from there.

## Contact Us

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You can also find us on **Facebook** under the Equine Initiative Group