

FEB 2024
EDITION

WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

This month we highlight one of our alums. We love seeing what our alums are up to!

UK Ag Equine Programs will host the third annual Horsely Hustle 5K April 14 at Coldstream Park in Lexington beginning at 1 p.m. EDT.

UK student Harrison Goode is a recent Lyman T. Johnson Torch Bearer recipient, recognizing a Black student who displays outstanding achievement and excellence.



HIGHLIGHTS



ALUMNI PROFILE

EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

Hollis Williamson '17
Director of Finance and Controller, Rood and Riddle
East China, Michigan

ALUMNI PROFILE

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This month we spotlight Hollis Williamson, a 2017 graduate of our program.

UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS HOSTS HORSEY HUSTLE 5K BENEFITING STUDENT ENRICHMENT

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The University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs will host the third annual Horsey Hustle 5K April 14 at Coldstream Park in Lexington beginning at 1 p.m. EDT. Event proceeds benefit the program's Student Experience and Applied Education Fund.



UK STUDENT FEELS 'UNLIMITED' AS LYMAN T. JOHNSON TORCH BEARER RECIPIENT

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University of Kentucky student Harrison Goode is a recent Lyman T. Johnson Torch Bearer recipient for the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment – awarded to a Black student who displays outstanding achievement and excellence.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

April 14 - Horsey Hustle
April 16 - Internship Showcase
April 27 – Defender Kentucky Three Day Event tailgate

Full event listings and details can be found [here](#).

WELCOME

Follow your heart, trust your gut and remember things happen for a reason – even if you don't understand it in the moment. These are pieces of advice family and friends have instilled in me, and I believe there is a lot of truth in those three pearls of wisdom that have helped guide me in my humble 32 years of life. While not always easy in practice, I haven't been led astray yet.

I am from a small town in North Carolina with two very positive, insightful parents who frequently reminded me of these pearls growing up. As I got older, I started to understand more and more what they meant. The various directions life takes often reminds me of the Willy Wonka elevator moving up, down, sideways, slantways, longways, backways and any other direction you can dream of – while a little chaotic at times, there is also beauty. The spring of my senior year of high school, I was all set to attend a private college for an equine studies degree later that year. Well, life had other plans, which ultimately resulted in completing my first year of college at home. What I did not know at the time is that I was given a gift to spend time with family no longer here today and discover other equine educational possibilities. Fast forward three years later, and I graduated with an Equine Science and Management degree from the University of Kentucky in 2014.

Coming to UK is one of the best decisions I ever made. I found the Equine Science and Management program, and within that, professors who invested in me and my peers working hard to provide a top-notch equine education and opportunities to build a future career in the equine industry. Right out of college, I worked for US Equestrian for five years, and when I received an offer to return as operations coordinator for UK Ag Equine Programs in 2019, I could not have been more thrilled. Again, it felt as though all of the stars were aligning and it did not take me long in the position to understand I had made the right decision. Coming to the office each day feels like entering my second home with cheerful morning greetings and engaging in conversations with the office team to solve the world's problems all before 9 a.m. I love that my day to day is never the same from managing finances to events and everything in between. I am consistently learning, pushing creative boundaries, making new connections, finding solutions to problems and striving to do it all better the next day, which makes this next turn in life bittersweet. Earlier this month, I accepted a new position as director of donor relations and fund administration for the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Office of Philanthropy and Alumni.

UK Ag Equine Programs will ALWAYS be incredibly special to me. This will never change. It has been an honor and a joy to support various facets of this program and its students, faculty, staff and alumni. I have loved being part of a team who puts students first and works tirelessly to create innovative programming, set and achieve goals to serve the equine industry's needs and ignite positive change. To the equine faculty and staff, thank you for your mentorship, support and friendship you have given me, first as a student, then as operations coordinator. I would not be where I am without



you letting me grow from my mistakes, answering my many questions, offering advice, providing a safe space when life became a little overwhelming, challenging me and lending a helping hand. To the students (and many now alums), it has been a pleasure collaborating with you on so many fun projects and events. You are all amazing and have inspired me in more ways than you know. It is the people who make UK Ag Equine Programs and the College truly special, and I am so fortunate to be part of this family. It is because of you that I take these next steps with a full heart.

It isn't always easy following your heart and trusting life's processes, but when something really feels right, I listen. I am beyond excited for the path ahead and all the possibilities and opportunities within to help this wonderful College, students, faculty and staff in a new capacity. I look forward to building relationships and championing the incredible work this College accomplishes while saying, "Thank you!" to the donors who make it possible.

This is not a goodbye, but rather a see-you-soon from the Cooper House!



ERIN DESNOYERS, '14 OPERATIONS COORDINATOR



In addition to this publication, UK Ag Equine Programs has other reads in its publication stable. Check out the latest issues of the Equine Science Review or the Graduate Gallop or subscribe [here](#).





MASTHEAD

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ALUMNI PROFILE

EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

Hollis Williamson '17

Director of Finance and Controller, Rood & Riddle
East China, Michigan

How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

I began riding horses when I was about 9 or 10. My babysitter/neighbor had a horse, and I was so inspired. My parents took me on a trail ride on a summer vacation and signed me up for a three-lesson package at a riding stable, and the rest is history! That was just the beginning of a lifetime with horses.

What were your career goals before graduation?

I wanted to do something that involved numbers/accounting and the horse industry. I have always loved math and numbers, and I had a passion for horses. My goal was to find a career where I could combine both, utilizing my skills with numbers and passion for horses.

How do you feel your time at UK impacted your career path

UK really helped expose me to a variety of career options through both internship/"wet lab" experiences and the courses. I took classes such as equine law, plant and soil sciences and equine investments that really helped expose different areas of the industry that all involve horse people. I also remember doing a short internship at a Thoroughbred farm to give me exposure to the Thoroughbred breeding industry, something that was very foreign to me, along with job shadowing a non-profit equine career. I honestly don't think I ever said no to any opportunity that came my way just to see if I liked that path!

What are your current job responsibilities?

I am currently in charge of maintaining the financial accuracy, compliance and stability for Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital. My job involves implementing internal controls, making sure we are compliant with accounting rules and regulations, analyzing financials information and assets for the business, improving business processes, compiling internal financial statements, arranging annual audits/reviews, analyzing risk management and creating and maintaining budgets. I help ensure accuracy of our financial information for both internal and external reporting purposes.

What do you enjoy most about your current role?

I love that my job combines both my passion for horses and numbers. I feel like I am able to contribute to an industry I'm very passionate about in a way that utilizes myself to my best potential. The awesome part is I can sit in an office and crunch numbers all day but go see a surgery across the hall at any moment. It really makes me feel fortunate that I've been able to find my niche.

What advice do you have for equine science and management students?

Say yes to every and any opportunity you have while in college! You never know what opportunity may connect you to your future career! And you never know what might interest you if you don't try.

UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS WELCOMES ALL TO THE HORSEY HUSTLE 5K, BENEFITING STUDENT ENRICHMENT

by Holly Wiemers



2024
HORSEY
HUSTLE
5K

April 14 JOIN US AT THE STARTING GATE
Coldstream Park, Lexington, KY - 1 p.m.

REGISTER NOW

Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

The University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs at the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will host the third annual Horsey Hustle 5K April 14. Event proceeds benefit the program's Student Experience and Applied Education Fund, established to support UK students in gaining horse experiences, both academically and recreationally.

"This year's event is Derby-themed and will be really fun," said Savannah Robin, lecturer of career and professional development within UK Ag Equine Programs and program liaison with the Wildcat Wranglers, a student equine ambassador group and this year's event organizer. "We're hopeful that this event will highlight our equine industry in Central Kentucky and be a way to connect various communities to what we're doing at UK and within the industry."

Wildcat Wranglers, who have helped lead past events, reflected on what this event has meant to them.

"Being a part of Horsey Hustle last year was a wonderful experience," said equine science and management senior Jaida Alee. "My favorite aspect was how the event brought everyone together. Everywhere you looked, there were smiling faces. We were able to create a sense of belonging among the participants, not only with the race, but with activities and food."

Equine science and management junior Loralye Page, part of the event organizing team with Alee, shared how the event has evolved over the years.

"I have loved seeing the Horsey Hustle grow over the past two years. It went from just a 5k to being a whole day event that students, alumni and families could enjoy," she said.

The Student Experience and Applied Education Fund has benefited several students and opened opportunities for others. One example from this year includes a grant to help offset costs for Wildcat

Wranglers for transportation to industry and outreach events — providing a bridge into the equine industry as students are learning and building networks.

Chloe Young is one of these students. Funds will enable her to attend the upcoming International Society of Equitation Science (ISES) conference in New Zealand. There, Young will present her research to an audience of equine researchers, veterinarians and practitioners involved in different disciplines from around the world.

“This is my first time completing research at UK and I am very thankful for the opportunity I have been given,” Young said. “I am extremely excited to get to present my work at the ISES Conference, enhancing my research background for graduate school applications and my future career.”

Members of the college’s pre-law organization said the award will enhance their educational experiences for equine and promote law and policy within agriculture and equine industries to other interested college students.

“This fund is an amazing way to offer new experiences to our equine students,” Robin said. “Riding lesson scholarships, paying for conference registrations, supporting various activities and spaces for equine students to learn and grow, this fund is making a difference in the lives of our students. Seeing the equine industry come together to support our students is really exciting.”

EVENT SPONSORS

In line with the Derby theme, the “Win” sponsor is Stonestreet Farm. “Place” sponsors include EJMS CPA, The Jockey Club, Kentucky Equine Education Project, Spy Coast Farm, Neogen and VisitLex. “Show” sponsors include Ardent Animal Health, Ed Brown Society, Godolphin, Hallway Feeds, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital and UK Equine Alumni Affiliated Network. In-kind sponsors include KBC Horse Supplies, Kentucky Horse Park and the U.S. Hunter/Jumper Association.

“We are grateful for all of our generous sponsors,” said James MacLeod, director of UK Ag Equine Programs. “This event offers so much and spring is the perfect time for outdoor activities. We welcome all to join us and support our students.”

Registration is \$35 and includes a T-shirt for those registered by the early bird March 10 deadline. For those unable to attend, but who wish to make a donation, visit the registration page.

Onsite registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Participants are encouraged to bring a chair or picnic blankets. Event location is the Coldstream Park, located at 1850 Pisacano Drive in Lexington. Register or make a donation [here](#).



UK STUDENT FEELS ‘UNLIMITED’ AS LYMAN T. JOHNSON TORCH BEARER RECIPIENT

By Christopher Carney

UK’s academic colleges select at least one Black student displaying outstanding academic achievement and the ability to impact the lives of others to receive this prestigious award.

This year marks UK’s 75th anniversary of desegregation and Lyman T. Johnson’s legacy. His successful lawsuit against the University of Kentucky granted him admission as the first African American student at the university.

“My name being paired with Lyman T. Johnson is big for me,” Goode said. “It means a lot. It makes me feel good and important to my community.”



HARRISON GOODE, CURRENT EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT, WAS AMONG THE WINNERS RECOGNIZED WITH THE LYMAN T. JOHNSON TORCH BEARER AWARD IN A CEREMONY EARLIER THIS ACADEMIC YEAR. PHOTO PROVIDED BY HARRISON GOODE.



HARRISON GOODE (FAR RIGHT) RECOGNIZED AT THE LYMAN T. JOHNSON CEREMONY. PHOTO PROVIDED BY UK.

Growing up in Winston Salem, North Carolina, Goode’s parents and sister were influential in shaping his current leadership traits — entrepreneurialism, tenacity, character, kindness and passion.”

At age 12, Goode served in the Boy Scouts of America, where he learned valuable lessons in servant leadership, time management and community outreach — becoming an Eagle Scout recipient.

Goode’s choir teacher in high school taught him how to interact with people, be confident and positively impact other people’s lives. When it came to looking at furthering his education in college, Goode was deciding between music and equine.

DISCOVERING HIS PASSION FOR HORSES, FINDING UK

Goode’s older sister was playing basketball with friends at the local YMCA. Following a loss on the court, one of those friends, Parker Lovell, decided to help cheer the team up at Cash Lovell Stables and Riding Academy, a family-owned riding academy.

Everything changed when Goode saw the horses for the first time.

“The horses were so perfect,” Goode reflected. “I remember how they shined, the thudding sound on the ground. This is the moment that I fell in love with horses. As a result, attending the University of Kentucky was the right decision. I wanted to learn more about the equine industry and how to better take care of horses.”

MANRRS

Goode’s passion for helping animals then turned to people. As a UK student, Goode has been a thought leader in the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (UK MANRRS) program at Martin-Gatton CAFE, which encourages and empowers minorities to pursue degrees in agriculture and related fields on campus and nationwide.

UK MANRRS’ members participate in diverse activities supporting their academic and professional development achievements through networking, mentorship programs like Equine is For All, guest speakers, conferences, events like Deere Day to build their personal brand and more. UK MANRRS won its 8th national chapter of the year award in 2023.



HARRISON GOODE LEADING A TRAINING IN THE UK MANRRS COMMUNITY ROOM ON CAMPUS. PHOTO BY MATT BARTON, UK AG COMMUNICATIONS.

“The UK MANRRS advisors spend so much time helping us succeed,” Goode said. “Our MANRRS chapter helps you become a better prepared and successful leader.”

Because of the networking and internship opportunities offered through UK MANRRS, Goode already has a professional opportunity secured at John Deere following graduation in May of this year.

LYMAN T. JOHNSON’S IMPACT ON GOODE

As a freshman, Goode received the Lyman T. Johnson scholarship. At that time, Goode’s MANRRS mentor was Jahqethea “Kee Kee” Johnson, one of the Martin-Gatton CAFE students recognized with the Lyman T. Johnson Torch Bearer award.



HARRISON GOODE WAS NAMED MR. BLACK UK AT THE 2023 HOMECOMING CEREMONY AT KROGER FIELD. PHOTO BY MARK CORNELISON, UK PHOTO.

“Receiving both the Lyman T. Johnson scholarship, torch bearer award and being mentored by a torch bearer alum is a full circle moment,” Goode said.

Reflecting on Black History Month, Goode shares the importance of understanding the past in creating a better future.

“Being Black is amazing. The more people understand our history — the fight, the struggle, the triumph — then this helps create more em-

pathy and understanding. It's so important to understand this history, especially in agriculture. We were the people that originally built this industry, and we can be the leaders that help drive it today."

UK MEMORIES

Goode reflects fondly on his collegiate experience. He was crowned Mr. Black UK during the 2023 homecoming celebration. He also served as a Wildcat Wrangler equine ambassador for the UK Ag Equine Programs and diversity, equity and inclusion charter committee member for the American Saddlebred Horse Association.

In the future, Goode aspires to become a world champion equestrian and remain prepared for the next growth opportunity that awaits.

"My best UK memories are the small and sometimes vulnerable moments," Goode shared. "When you are planting a seed, the seed needs time to grow and eventually it flourishes with proper care and support. I sometimes put limits on myself; however, I cherish those times when it wasn't always beautiful, yet my friends and family still supported me. Now I feel unlimited."

See a video interview with Goode [here](#).

See the story online [here](#).

UK HORSE PASTURE EVALUATION PROGRAM ENROLLMENT OPEN

By Krista Lea



Enrollment is now open for the 2024 UK Horse Pasture Evaluation Program. If you are interested in having your farm evaluated for species composition and tall fescue toxicity, please click [here](#) for the enrollment link and submit your information.

Evaluations include:

- Species composition is determined by objectively identifying the percentage of grasses, legumes, forbs and other pasture constituents.
- Endophyte analysis is a measure of the number of tall fescue plants infected with the toxic endophyte and gives a measure of toxic potential to broodmares.
- Ergovaline concentration is snapshot of the current toxicity profile within the pasture and compared to other pastures on the farm and allows for triage of pastures for mitigation.
- Management recommendations including herbicide applications, overseeding and complete re-establishment are based on all data collected on the farm and conversations with farm management.
- For repeat evaluations, pasture changes over time are charted to observe the impacts of management, grazing and weather patterns.
- Soil type maps are created and can impact land use and overall carrying capacity. Please note we do



not collect soil samples, and instead encourage farms to use their county extension agent or commercial agronomic services for soil sampling.

- Personal consultation to go over the full report and discuss options for improved management going forward.

Any horse farm within the Commonwealth of Kentucky is eligible for this program, regardless of size, breed or discipline. Farms are serviced on a first-come, first served basis. Costs vary by size of farm and types of analysis. A quote for all services will be provided before the evaluation begins.

Additional questions can be directed to program coordinator Krista Lea at Krista.Lea1@uky.edu.



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UK Ag Equine Students: Ready to try something new?

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A CONVERSATION BY KENTUCKY'S STATE VETERINARIAN AT UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS' MONTHLY EQUINE FORUM

By Heather MacKenzie

UK Ag Equine Programs' February Forum welcomed Steve Velasco, Kentucky State Veterinarian. Those in attendance were treated to a synopsis of the "Day in the Life" of a Kentucky state veterinarian.

Velasco earned two bachelor's degrees, in chemistry and in veterinary science, from the University of Texas San Antonio. He earned an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin and his DVM from Texas A&M University. This diverse educational base and his extensive experience with horses and other agricultural animals made him a welcome addition to the state vet program in 2023.



Monitoring for regulatory diseases in horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and chickens was discussed. Reporting regulatory diseases such as Strangles in horses and Avian Bird Flu in broiler chickens is not only important to keeping animals healthy, but humans as well. Foreign animal disease monitoring of imported animals and animals traveling internationally also falls under the state veterinarians' scope. Although serious zoonotic these diseases are rarely found, movement can happen from product to humans. If discovered, immediate elimination is necessary.

Velasco oversees intrastate and interstate movement of animals and aids the U.S. Department of Agriculture with international movement. This involves checking and enforcing health certificates, ensuring that proper quarantine is observed and enforcing federal and state guidelines. Horses foaled outside of the United States are tattooed differently than those foaled inside the country, something that is important to observe while overseeing international movement. If an outbreak of an infectious contagious disease does occur, the office helps in contact tracing to get to patient zero. Commercial certifications of large production farms and tagging of agricultural animals on smaller farms also falls under the responsibility of Velasco.

Education and outreach are an important part of his position. Outside stakeholders rely on the office for guidance in relation to facility and production requirements. Emergency management protocols are set forth by this office as well. The major flooding that occurred in Kentucky a few years ago required a large emergency response. Had protocols not been in place, such an organized effort would not have been possible.

Animal movement documents are discussed and revised, when necessary, by the office. In the event of an overhaul, training and review are provided. Velasco organizes internal training for inspectors and disease outbreak and management.

Review and revision of state regulations come from this office. Revisions normally come about by stakeholder issues. It is a long, detailed process that includes presentations to the legislature and public before a change can be made permanent.

Personnel from the State Veterinarian's Office can be seen at state, district and county fairs checking in and tagging animals and confirming they are free of communicable diseases. During the State Fair, days can be as long as 18 hours. The office works in conjunction with FFA, 4-H and other organizations to ensure animal health and fair competition.

Velasco shared with attendees the current issues relating to Quarter Horse racing opening in Kentucky and the testing infrastructure that will be required to support the new track in Ashland. Although he does not regulate track safety, he is responsible for the overall health of the animal.

Currently, some of the diagnostic and disease monitoring tests conducted by the Office of the State Veterinarian on bird, horse and ruminant samples are performed at the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. UK and Velasco also collaborate on certain continuing education efforts.

Additional collaborative opportunities exist in the future, including public response to outbreaks, mentoring for future veterinarians, disease research and nutritional issues.



HERE, UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS DIRECTOR JAMES MACLEOD (LEFT) IS JOINED BY KENTUCKY STATE VETERINARIAN STEVE VALASCO (GREEN SHIRT) FOR A REGULATORY PANEL AT THE PRE-VETERINARY EXPERIENCE DAY FOCUSED VISIT TO THE UK VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY. PHOTO BY HOLLY WIEMERS.





ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

UK Ag Equine Programs is a transdisciplinary program partnering with academic departments and units in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the University. The core faculty and staff of Equine Programs value teamwork, innovation and productivity to support students and equine-related efforts across the University.

This position will have the opportunity to participate and support the undergraduate Equine Science and Management degree program. Major job areas of responsibility will include supporting student career and professional mentorship (35%), student recruitment and leadership (25%), instruction (20%), engagement and outreach (15%) and professional standards, customer service and organization improvement (5%). Ideal candidates will have equine industry experience, superb written and oral communication skills, be organized, be able to multi-task and prioritize responsibilities, have an eye for attention to detail and should be able to work both independently and as part of a team.

Apply [here](#).

UK EQUINE COMMUNICATION & STUDENT RELATIONS INTERNSHIP SUMMER AND FALL 2024

The UK Equine Communication and Student Relations internship offers an array of opportunities to be involved in different areas within UKAg Equine Programs and broaden skillsets in communications, leadership and office and event management. As an intern, you will have the ability to assist with events and other initiatives to help build community within the Equine Science and Management degree program.

Apply [here](#).

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College of Agriculture,
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AFE 300-004 – Care and Management of the Senior Horse
Fall 2024 - Wednesday 1:00-4:00PM

The care of senior horses is unique with specialized management for endocrine diseases, changes in immune function, nutritional considerations, and increased health concerns.

For More Information Contact:

Dr. Amanda Adams
Amanda.Adams@uky.edu

Maggie McCelendon
Maggie.McClendon@uky.edu

IN THIS COURSE YOU WILL LEARN:

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