Wildcat Canter



As the new Academic Program Coordinator for

February 2013

UK Ag Equine Programs, I see it as my job to ensure that the students in the Equine Science and Management degree program have the best experience possible. When interviewing for the job, I was tasked to prepare a presentation titled "Developing Loyal Alumni." At a first glance of the topic, I started focusing on what can be done for alumni and how we can keep them involved. After thinking more about the topic, I realized that if we're going to develop loyal alumni, we have to start with our current students. Providing our current students with a unique, rigorous, yet fun experience is where it all begins. As my new adventure begins here at UK, I plan on focusing on the following areas to ensure that our current and prospective students as well as alumni have the best experience possible:

Undergraduate Experience – It is important to me to make sure that each and every student can find that one place and/ or person to make a connection with. This connection can make a difference in your entire experience here at UK. In



addition, I hope that each of you will take advantage of the various opportunities sent to you to round out your educational experience. Whether you are part of a team or club, participate in an internship and/or attend several of the networking and educational opportunities offered throughout Lexington, it's important that you know about and take advantage of these to enhance your experience at UK.

Alumni Involvement – For some of you, I know it's hard to think that one day you will be considered alumni. However, as an alumnus, you will wear more hats than you think – advocate for the program, recruiter, employer of students, internship contact, guest lecturer, event volunteer, committee member, etc. Each one of you will find what helps you make a connection back to the program and will hopefully give back in one way or another.

Evaluation/Assessment - One of the areas I have been charged with is to evaluate and assess not only our students' progress, but how the program is doing as a whole. In my first few months, I have been and plan to continue talking with equine faculty and staff, industry professionals, as

well as students and alumni about their perceptions and thoughts of the program. From these conversations I hope to not only learn more about the program, but to also introduce and assist in introducing needed changes to make the program and the overall experience for students the best it can be.

Communication – Paul Meyer once said "Communication - the human connection - is the key to personal and career success." In an effort to keep communication lines open, I also plan to research and develop the best ways to communicate with our students. We are currently reviewing the student section of the website to make it more user friendly. My goal is to make it a one-stop-shop for students to access the information they may need throughout their time as an undergrad. In addition, I am also exploring some new opportunities through social media.

If you have any new ideas, or just feel like chatting, please stop by, introduce yourself and let me know what you are thinking. My door is always open and I look forward to learning more about the UK Ag Equine Programs.

Kristen Wilson, MS 859-257-2226 kristen.wilson1@uky.edu

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News and Announcements

Annual career fair unites college students, equine industry

By Holly Wiemers

The University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs will host its fifth annual UK Equine Career Fair from 4:30 to 7 p.m. EST March 5 in the E.S. Good Barn on the UK campus.

The event provides college students the opportunity to meet prospective equine industry employers and to learn about potential volunteer, internship, part-time and full-time employment opportunities. In addition to booths from area equine businesses, attendees can also participate in sessions led by industry professionals, who will offer tips and one-on-one career advice.

"We are excited to host UK's fifth annual equine career fair. This year's fair promises a great lineup of businesses, industry professionals and students from all over," said Elizabeth LaBonty, lecturer and internship coordinator in UK's equine science and management undergraduate degree program.

The event is free and will offer college-aged attendees the chance to visit local equine business and organization booths. Informational sessions will allow participants to explore opportunities related to pharmaceutical sales, graduate school, alternative equine therapies and jobs within the Thoroughbred industry. Pizza will be served.

Confirmed participants include Alltech, American Saddlebred Horse Association, Animal and Food Science Graduate Association, Central Kentucky Riding For Hope, Darley Flying Start Program, Gluck Equine Research Center, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Keeneland, Kentucky Equine Management Internship, Kentucky Equine Education Project, Kentucky Equine Humane Center, Kentucky Horse Council, Kentucky Horse Park, Kentucky Horseshoeing School, Kentucky Quarter Horse Association, Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers Club, Life Adventure Center of the Bluegrass, Makers Mark Secretariat Center, New Vocations, North American Racing Academy, Paulick Report, Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital, Taylor Made Farm, UK Ag Equine Programs, United States Equestrian Federation and Woodford Equine Hospital.

Students and potential employers who would like more information about the UK Equine Career Fair may contact Elizabeth LaBonty at 859-257-2226 or e-mail equine@uky.edu.



What's in a Name?

Source: Dean Scott Smith's comments in the 2013 issue of the Ag Magazine: http://www.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/magazine/2013/SPRING13/

In December, the University Board of Trustees voted to change the name of the College of Agriculture to the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment. The change will become effective on July 1.

Discussion about a new name began quite a while ago, when the College of Human Environmental Sciences and the College of Agriculture merged in 2003. Many believed a name change was needed to better communicate the evolving scope of our degrees and programs--changes that resulted not only from the merger but also from our response to new needs and opportunities. The College, however, reaches out to so many different stakeholders in so many different ways, at first we could not agree on a name that fully includes all we do.

So I set the question aside, promising to bring it back on the agenda after a few years. That happened in 2011. We sought opinions from many voices outside the College and from all the faculty and staff in the College. As the wheels slowly turned, it became apparent that almost everyone insisted on retaining "agriculture", and the new words that repeatedly came forward were "food" plus either "environment" or "natural resources."



Only about a half dozen land-grant colleges like ours have retained the name "College of Agriculture", most adding to that "and Natural Resources" or "Life Sciences" or "Food" or some combination of these.

The advantage of the new name should be to clarify that, while we continue our fundamental ties to production agriculture, we have expanded our horizons to include all the pervasive and essential enterprises based on renewable natural resources. Why did this broader vision arise? Because we were following the wider and more diverse interests of those we serve, including a new and rapidly growing population of undergraduate students. And across Kentucky, many now see "agriculture" to include not only farming, but also agribusinesses, and the full reach of food systems from local to global.

Does this mean we are pulling up our traditional roots and moving on? Not at all. I believe this signals that we are reacting to a changing world of agriculture with a commitment of continuing service and support. In fact, we plan to increase the use of our long-time slogan "We Grow Ideas." You will still see all of our familiar logos like the 4-H clover. And no matter what the formal name, I know most of our friends, as they always have, will know us as UKAg, the extension office, or in many circles just "the College."



Maine Chance Farm's Bryan Cassill named to KTFMC Board

By Holly Wiemers



Photo by Mathea Kelley for KTFMC

Bryan Cassill, who manages the Department of Animal and Food Sciences Horse Unit at the University of Kentucky's Maine Chance Farm, began a two-year term as a director on the Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers' Club board in January. As a director, he will cochair different KTFMC events throughout the year.

"I look forward to being involved with the numerous charity activities that the club performs," said Cassill. "It is great to be involved in a club that has such knowledgeable horsemen. I have been a member for a few years and am really looking forward to becoming more involved."

Cassill said he decided to run for the position after Kurt Ramsey, KTFMC's president, asked him to consider it.

The KTFMC is an important part of the horse industry in Central Kentucky. It offers educational speakers to its membership at monthly meetings and has been a long-time supporter of the College of Agriculture at UK.

In his current role as animal resource and horse unit manager in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Cassill oversees a section of Maine Chance Farm, which is part of UK's Agricultural Experiment Station. At Maine Chance Farm, Cassill works on teaching and research endeavors and on the development of the farm's young horses. His role includes making sure the farm is ready for any proposed research by the department's faculty and graduate students.

Cassill also has a major role in the teaching activities that occur at the farm as part of the Equine Science and Management degree program. Most of the hands-on activities in the equine classes take place at the horse unit, where Cassill can often be found instructing students on horse handling practices. He also hires and supervises undergraduate students who work on the farm.

"At the farm, we really see ourselves as a team. Kristin Fox is the broodmare manager and she handles all of our mare preparation and breeding throughout the spring. She also records all of our health records and executes



Public entrance to Maine Chance Equine Campus

the deworming and vaccination protocols that she has created," Cassill said. "Frank Berry lives at the farm, foals out all of mares and is responsible for the pasture management program he has implemented at the farm. "We are also lucky to have such a great group of students that work at the farm. They care deeply about the horses and are very involved in the daily activity of the farm."

According to Cassill, students are involved from the very beginning in breeding a mare through a foal developing into a yearling and finally when that horse is sold. Students also participate in research conducted at the farm, which in turn builds upon classroom knowledge they have acquired.

"Our team also includes Dr. Laurie Lawrence, who is constantly looking for ways to improve our farm. She supports all of our staff and students and makes my job an easy one," Cassill added.

Cassill has worked at UK for five years. He began working at Maine Chance Farm after completing his master's in equine nutrition under Lawrence. Prior to that, he was employed as a biologist at a northern Ohio research lab. Cassill earned his bachelor's in animal science from The Ohio State University.

Cassill is a life-long horseman with a broad range of equine experiences. As a hobby, Cassill barrel races his Quarter Horses at American Quarter Horse Association shows, as well as open shows. This past year, he qualified with one of his horses to the AQHA World Show in Oklahoma City.



Part of the Maine Chance Equine Campus facilities

"We ran 20 something out of 50 entries," Cassill said. "I was pleased with both of us. It was really tough competition and he ran really well."

Cassill also serves as judge at 4-H horse shows and participates in the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program at the state-level.

When asked about Cassill's contribution to the equine program at UK, Lawrence said, "Bryan does a spectacular job with our students. He is an excellent role model, both as a horseman and as a person. We are incredibly fortunate to have him at the horse unit in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. The fact that he was elected to the Board of Directors of the KTFMC speaks to the respect he has earned in the horse industry as well."

Cassill recently participated in an interview with "talkofthetrack.com," which led to a write-up in the Paulick Report (http://www.paulickreport.com/news/people/college-students-and-thoroughbreds-learn-from-each-other-at-university-of-kentucky/) about the farm.



Photos: Maine Chance Farm participates in the Fasig-Tipton sales

An important part of the farm's teaching and research contributions include raising Thoroughbred horses. Cassill's role includes monitoring the growth and development of the farm's weanlings and yearlings as well as the students who work with them, to ensure they are all physically and mentally prepared for the sales.

"Being involved in the sales is a great opportunity for the students and the farm," Cassill said. "Students are able to learn about sales from a consignor's perspective and their ability to show yearlings makes them attractive as potential employees to other area farms."



"The area Thoroughbred farms have been great supporters of our program by donating mares and all of our stallion seasons. The sales enable our farm to demonstrate what has been

accomplished through that generosity," he added. "Fasig-Tipton has also been great supporter. They have been an integral part in placing our horses in the correct sale and they have done anything they can to help push our farm forward."



4-H Members to get a "Leg Up" in 2013

Source: edited news release

The Race for Education announced in February its newest scholarship: the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program 'Leg Up' Scholarship. This college scholarship is offered in partnership with Kentucky Equine Education Project and will be awarded to one 4-H horse club student in his/her senior year of high school in each 4-H club in Kentucky. Criteria for this scholarship include communication skills, leadership and commitment to the agriculture and equine industry.



Funding will be provided by The Race For Education. The Kentucky Equine Education Project will work with Kentucky 4-H Horse Program to promote the Leg Up program throughout the state. The \$250 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating student of each club annually. Students will also be eligible to participate in the Race for Education's Assets for Independence Program and receive an additional \$4,000 in scholarship funding.

Currently, Kentucky has 115 4-H Horse clubs in the state in 89 counties. Each 4-H club and/or county agent will be responsible for selecting their scholarship recipient. Each scholarship recipient will be recognized at the Kentucky 4-H State Horse Show, July 12, 2013 in Louisville, Ky. See more at http://www.raceforeducation.org/scholarships/.

Eastern tent caterpillar outlook for spring



Experts report that the eastern tent caterpillar egg hatch will likely begin in mid-March for Central Kentucky.

"The development of the eastern tent caterpillar – and insects in general – is directly correlated with air temperature. This helps predict when they will be active," said Lee Townsend, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture entomologist. "Temperature data from UK's Ag Weather Center so far shows a pattern in Central Kentucky that is very similar to 2012."

According to Townsend, temperature information can help to predict when eggs will begin to hatch but will give no clue as to how many caterpillars will be present in a given area.

"Last year's experience is the best thing to go by," he said. "There has been a gradual but relatively steady general increase in tent caterpillar numbers, and they have become much more apparent in some areas over the past few years. However, concentrations can be spotty, heavy in some areas and very light in others. The eastern tent caterpillar overwinters in ring-like masses of 100 to over 400 eggs around pencil-sized twigs. A relatively small increase in the number of egg masses from one year to the next can mean a big jump in caterpillar numbers."

The eastern tent caterpillar is active early each spring. It is an important insect in horse country due to its role in Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome, which resulted in staggering losses of foals in the 1999-2001 outbreak. MRLS can cause late-term foal losses, early- and late-term fetal losses and weak foals. Subsequent studies by UK researchers revealed that horses will inadvertently eat the caterpillars, and the caterpillar hairs embed into the lining of the alimentary tract. Once that protective barrier is breached, normal alimentary tract bacteria may gain access to and reproduce in sites with reduced immunity, such as the fetus and placenta.

According to Townsend, horse owners with spring-foaling mares should now check their fence lines for wild cherry trees and in a few weeks for signs of tent caterpillar activity.

"This is a good time to prepare," Townsend said. "Begin by checking pasture fence lines to see how abundant wild cherry is in them. If practical, plan to move pregnant mares from areas where these trees are abundant to minimize the chance of exposure to the caterpillars. The potential is greatest when the mature tent caterpillars leave trees and wander to find places to pupate and transform to the moth stage."

Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital Scholarship Spotlight

By Alexandra Harper

Welcome to the first in a series about scholarship recipients who have benefited from the generosity of Lexington-based Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital. Rood and Riddle has donated money each year to help a UK equine student fund his or her undergraduate experience. Here you will learn more about the recipients of this scholarship.



Anne Pennington, a 2010 graduate of the Equine Science and Management Undergraduate program was a recipient of the Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital scholarship from 2009-2010.

Pennington, who is originally from Lexington, Ky., began working for Equibase, the official database for North American Thoroughbred racing statistics after graduation. Pennington currently works as the Registrar and Social Media Manager at the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Maryland Million LTD, and the Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred magazine.

"As one of very few equine science and management majors that grew up without my own horse, it was extremely reassuring to receive the Rood & Riddle scholarship. It made me more confident about the major I had finally chosen, and I was inspired to be a leader in my major and industry," Pennington said. Some of Pennington's hobbies include being outdoors, riding horses, hiking, mountain biking and kayaking. She also enjoys photography, reading fantasy novels and playing an occasional video game.

UK Art Museum features exhibit on animals

jay and an oil painting portraying a wet kiss between two otters. In addition, 10 works of art featuring horses have been

By Alexandra Harper

"Art and the Animal," a diverse collection of artwork that highlights animals from around the world, will be showcased at the University of Kentucky Art Museum until April 28. Several pieces showcase equines.

An exhibition of the Society of Animal Artists (SAA), "Art and the Animal" portrays both domestic and wild animals in their natural habitat; some may be sleeping while others are in extreme motion. The artwork on display was sent in by members of the SAA and then selected by a jury. The artists strive to combine the beauty of the animals and fine art in numerous ways to display the importance of animals in our lives.

This exhibition includes 70 paintings, sculptures, watercolors and drawings from all over the United States and tells a story about the animal kingdom. Visitors will also have the chance to see a bronze sculpture of a weary lioness, a pastel of a blue



Beth Parcell Evans Spirited Departure, 2011 Oil, 28 x 38"

added exclusively for the exhibit's stop in the Bluegrass.

Tom Altenburg Wild Chestnut, 2010 Acrylic, 38.5 x 39.5"

"Our hope is that since animals are something a majority of people are interested in, hopefully they can appreciate the art more and enjoy these incredible animals," said Deborah Borrowdale-Cox, education director for the UK Art Museum. "When art is a subject you understand it has a stronger voice."

David J. Wagner, noted wildlife art scholar, organized the exhibition drawing from the SAA's larger annual juried exhibition, located in the historic Salmagundi Art Club in New York City.

The UK Art Museum is located in the Singletary Center for the Arts at Rose Street and Euclid Avenue in Lexington, Ky. The hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, and noon to 8 p.m. on Friday. Admission to the "Art and the Animal" is \$8 for general admission, \$5 for senior citizens, and free for all students, UK faculty, staff, and alumni. The exhibition is also free on Friday nights from 5 to 8 p.m. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact The UK Art Museum at 859-257-5716.

College of Agriculture recognizes two Great Teacher Awardees

Congratulations to Roberta Dwyer and John Grove, recipients of the 2013 Alumni Great Teacher Award. Dwyer and Grove were recognized at the annual Alumni Great Teacher Award dinner last night and on the floor of Rupp Arena during one of the first time outs. Read more at http://uknow.uky.edu/content/uk-pays-tribute-great-teachers.

Clubs and Teams

Dressage and Eventing Team

The UK Dressage & Eventing Team kick started its spring season by taking second place at its first show of the semester in Findlay, Ohio. The team's first level rider, Amalie Hordem finished fourth in her division and the team's lower level rider, Jessica Lyons came in third.

Yet the spring season has just begun for the Dressage Team while it looks ahead to many upcoming events, including two more shows, one March 9 in Midway, Ky., and another April 4 in Miami, Ohio.

During the show season, the UK Dressage & Eventing Team not only competes, but also plans events as well as participates in volunteer opportunities within the community. On March 3, the team will be holding a combined test event at Windy Knoll Farm in Lexington, an event that is open to all riders.

Later in March, the team will be hosting Reese Koffler- Stanfield, a local clinician and US Dressage Federation certified trainer, in a weekend-long dressage clinic. Look for the UK Dressage and Eventing Team volunteers at the Rolex Three Day Event during the weekend of April 25 and horsing around Lexington this spring!

Equestrian Team

Western Team

The western team is currently undefeated in Zone 6 Region 3. High point rider Allie Board is also leading the region. Riders Molly Kerr, Lindsey Scherer, Elyssa Smith, Ann Wilkins and Allie Board (reining and horsemanship) qualified for regionals. The team currently has 229 points total. This is the first year the western team has reached such success and members are excited for post-season shows to start.

The Western team's last show was Feb. 23 at Lakeside Arena. Regionals will be held March 2 at Morehead State University, followed by semi finals, also at Morehead State University on March 23-24.

Hunt Seat Team

Congratulations to the Hunt Seat team, who was named high point team both days at its recent show. The following students have qualified for regionals: Stephanie Augustine, Erin DesNoyers, Kennedy Ellingson, Victoria Hackbarth, Jordan Hattaway, Austin Killebrew, Meredith Krupp, Doug Masters, Alexa Prettyman, Holly Ray, Angela Rossitti, Rebecca Saylor, Samantha Smith, Kylie Stavola, Lindsay Vance and Katy Wingerter. Congratulations to the team and individuals for qualifying for regionals.

UK hosted a show at Lakeside Arena Feb. 23-24, where nine teams competed.

Also, in the news: See a write up on the team in the Feb. 20 issue of the Kernel here: http://kykernel.com/2013/02/20/uk-equestrian-team-hosting-seasons-final-event/ and the Feb. 25 issue at http://kykernel.com/2013/02/25/rider-qualifies-for-individual-competition-as-equestrian-team-wins-season-finale/.

Horse Racing Club

On Jan. 26, the Horse Racing Club traveled to Calumet Farm where the team learn about four stallions, toured the stallion barn and visited some of the paddocks. They were able to learn more about Citation, Affirmed, Alydar and a full brother to Barbaro.

On Feb. 15, the Horse Racing Club toured Castleton Lyons to see Gio Ponti and for a breeding shed visit.

Polo Club

The UK Women recently traveled to Atlanta to compete in the Women's Championship Tournament Arena Qualifier. UK finished just three goals short in the final against the Atlanta Regional Polo Center Team.



The club is still offering lessons: Wildcat Bootcamp are \$25 an hour, Thursdays at 6 p.m.



Keep checking the Facebook page for more updates, such as upcoming games and scores!

Saddleseat Team

Members of the Saddle Seat Team competed at the University of Louisville Intercollegiate show in Louisville on Feb 9 and at the Northern Kentucky University intercollegiate show in Williamstown, Ky. on Feb. 17. The team had outstanding performances at both shows.

Kelly Ruhl brought home the blue ribbon for High Point Junior Rider at the UofL show and Nicole Laroussa was the reserve champion in the High Point Senior Rider. Congratulations to the entire team on success at both shows.

The last show for this season will be held at the Alltech Arena on Friday, April 12, in conjunction with the Kentucky Spring Premier. For more information about joining or supporting the Saddle Seat Team, please contact Nicole Laroussa at nlaroussa@gmail.com.

Check out the February issue of the Bluegrass Equine Digest at www2.ca.uky.edu/equine/bed

Stories this month include:

- Study Examines Off-The-Track Thoroughbred Adoption Issues
- Weed of the Month: Buckhorn Plantain
- The Evolution of Equine Disease Quarterly
- UK Art Museum Features Animal Exhibit
- Eastern Tent Caterpillar Outlook for Spring 2013
- UK's Horse Pasture Evaluation Program Identifies Kentucky Pasture Trends
- Lawsonia Prevalence Patterns Investigated
- UK Graduate Student Spotlight: Kathryn Laura Smith





Upcoming Events

Feb. 3-28

"Art and the Animal" Exhibit- UK Art Museum

Feb. 28

Last day to apply for August 2013 degree through myUK

Department of Veterinary Science Equine Diagnostic Research Seminar Series, 3:30 p.m., Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Seminar I: Placentitis, 4:30 p.m., Seminar II: Case Studies in Foal Problems

March 4

Midterm

March 5

UK Equine Career Fair, 4:30-7 p.m., Good Barn

March 11-15

Spring Break

March 15-17

Road to the Horse Competition; Alltech Arena

April 1

Deadline for College of Agriculture scholarship applications



Equine Club Directory

Dressage & Eventing Team

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe, jill.stowe@uky.edu President: Jen Brogie, jen.brogie@uky.edu

Equestrian Team

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

Hunt Seat President: Samantha Smith,

smsm224@g.uky.edu

Western President: Allie Board,

allison.board@uky.edu

Horse Racing Club

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence, laurie.lawrence@uky.edu

President: Audrey Boslego, aabo224@g.uky.edu

Polo Club

Advisor: Dr. Roger Brown, **rogerbrown@uky.edu** President: Posey Obrecht, **poseyobrecht@aol.com**

Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines (READ) Club

Advisor: Dr. Kristine Urschel, klur222@uky.edu President: Rose Digianantonio, rndi223@g.uky. edu

Saddle Seat Team

Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano, mary.rossano@uky.edu

President: Nicole Laroussa, nlaroussa@gmail.com

Contact Us

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UK Ag Equine Programs Communications Director: Holly Wiemers

Equine Lecturer and Internship Coordinator: Elizabeth LaBonty

Equine Academic Program Coordinator: Kristen Wilson

UK Ag Equine Programs Operations and Communications Coordinator: Alexandra Harper

UK Ag Equine Programs Communication Intern: Erin Morgan



