

Wildcat Canter

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EQUINE

October 2011

UK Equine Initiative
Student Newsletter

Autumn in Kentucky is my favorite time of year. The weather is getting cooler, leaves are changing colors, Keeneland is running, and you begin to feel that winter break is just around the corner. It is a wonderful time of year, unless you are like most students and find yourself in an utter panic with midterm grades in a state of unrecognizable despair and your study resolutions you made at the beginning of the year have become a mere memory of a gallant yet futile attempt. But now is not the time to throw in the towel. I believe that college is as much learning about yourself and how you work as it is subject matter. Maybe your August ambitions were too great for anyone to bear, so instead of scrapping your lofty goals, prioritize your responsibilities. Maybe you are willing to stay up late to study to allow yourself to go to the races one evening, but is this week's Grey's Anatomy really worth being forced to cram for the test?



Now is the time to reevaluate your academic situation, set attainable goals and study habits, and stick to them. If you have been able to maintain your grades at a level that you are proud of then keep it up and don't allow yourself to fall into complacency. I have only been at the University of Kentucky since April, but I have found that there is an abundance of resources at your fingertips. As the Equine Extension Associate my responsibilities center on the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program, but I have had the pleasure of working with many of the equine professors and have found them to have a genuine sense of dedication to the equine program and the students in it. Utilize your professors, prioritize your responsibilities and finish the semester strong. Good luck to you all!

Amy Lawyer, Equine Extension Associate

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Events

UK Horse Racing Club's Breeders' Cup Panel

The Breeders' Cup and the University of Kentucky's Horse Racing Club hosted a panel discussion on Tuesday, Oct. 18 about what it's like to plan and participate in horse racing's most prestigious global event.

Panelists included Craig Fravel, Breeders' Cup President & CEO; Carl Nafzger, Breeders' Cup Classic & Kentucky Derby winning trainer; Pat Day, 12-time Breeders' Cup-winning jockey.

The event was moderated by Horse Racing Radio Network's Mike Penna.

Members and guests of the UK Horse Racing Club attended. The Breeders' Cup gave each student in attendance a ticket to Championship Friday's races.

Hannah Sue Burnett Clinic



The UK Dressage and Eventing Team is hosting a jumping clinic with Hannah Sue Burnett, Nov.12-13, at Red Gate Equestrian Center.

The clinic will include show jumping lessons on Saturday, Nov. 12 and cross country schooling on Sunday, Nov. 13. There will be a dinner followed by a question and discussion session held Saturday evening at the Good Barn on UK's south campus, across from Commonwealth Stadium. The dinner is included for all clinic participants and is \$10 for all others. Please contact Courtney Carroll at clcarroll@uky.edu for more information.

Burnett won a silver medal last week in three day eventing at the Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. This past spring, she was the second-highest placed American at the Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event at the young age of 24. She currently works for David and Karen O'Connor as a resident rider and can be seen placing well in events on the east coast.

News and Announcements

Equine Research Club Formed

For the amount of equine research occurring at the University of Kentucky, it might be surprising that up until now there hasn't been a club helping undergraduates become involved in that research. Many undergraduate students have little idea about the research being conducted at UK, including that conducting in the departments of Animal and Food Sciences, Veterinary Science's Gluck Center, among others such as Agricultural Economics, Engineering, and Plant and Soil Sciences. The Equine Research Club aims to educate undergraduates about the equine-based research at UK and get them involved in projects, allowing them to network with other researchers and gain the skills necessary to go on to graduate school, vet school or other professional programs.

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Currently the club holds two meetings a month, on the second and fourth Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Ag. Science North. The first meeting is more traditional in format with a speaker, while the second meeting every month is focused around journal article discussions. Students will be given the opportunity to present about scientific articles they have read and then discuss them with the other members of the club. Although journal articles might not be most exciting thing in the world, the discussions generated by the members keep these meetings entertaining.

In addition to its regular meetings, the club plans on taking field trips to equine research departments and companies in Lexington, including the Gluck Center, Alltech, and Kentucky Equine Research, as well as have lab days where students can learn lab techniques pertinent to research.

Everyone is invited to join, even if your interests don't necessarily lie in research. Members range from pre-vet undergraduate students to PhD students, Thoroughbred racing fans to Quarter Horse enthusiasts, and everyone in between. Look for posters announcing the next meeting.

For more information, please contact Lindsay Good, lindsay.good@uky.edu.

Kentucky Equine Higher Education Consortium Wraps Up Display at All-American Quarter Horse Congress

The Kentucky Equine Higher Education Consortium recently returned from displaying at the 2011 All American Quarter Horse Congress in October. The Consortium is a group of eight Kentucky equine higher education programs that have banded together to promote Kentucky to students interested in pursuing a college degree in equine studies.

The group was formed in 2009 to promote equine higher education in Kentucky during the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. The consortium continued its partnership after the Games and exhibits at as many high profile equestrian events as it can in an effort to provide information to prospective college students.

The display's trip to Congress was its first out of state since it was created. In addition to UK, the display features Asbury University, Georgetown College, Midway College, Morehead State University, Murray State University, University of Louisville and Western Kentucky University.



UK Equine Initiative to Participate in the Alltech National Horse Show

The University of Kentucky's Equine Initiative will be participating in the upcoming Alltech National Horse Show's educational area. Interactive educational stations hosted by UK will include forages, bones of the horse, nutrition, aged horses and immunology, coat color genetics, matching horse size with horse shoes, shopping for your horse (horse costs), Saddle Up Safely, UK Art Museum and pervious concrete. UK will also be setting up the Kentucky Equine Higher Education Consortium booth.

The educational area is geared for children and families and is designed to be interactive, fun and educational. On Thursday and Friday, students from local schools will be in attendance.



Free Tickets for UK Equine Students to Attend the Alltech National Horse Show



The Alltech National Horse Show, being held Nov. 2 to 6 at the Kentucky Horse Park, has generously donated 100 tickets for UK equine students. All Equine Science and Management students, equine graduate students and members of equine clubs and teams may pick up tickets on a first-come, first-served basis starting Wednesday afternoon in the Equine Initiative office located at N212 Ag. Science North.

There will be 50 tickets available for Friday evening's Amateur and International Open Jumpers class and 50 additional tickets for Sunday afternoon's Maclay

National Championship class. Friday is also College Day so be sure to wear UK blue! Questions can be directed to equineinitiative@uky.edu or 859-257-2226.

Horses Added to Kentucky Proud

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP), and the Kentucky Horse Council (KHC) have announced that horses have been added to the Kentucky Proud program. As new members of Kentucky Proud, horse farms in the Commonwealth will be eligible to receive financial grants from the state Department of Agriculture (KDA), will be eligible to participate in a cost-share program, and will be able to use the Kentucky Proud logo in advertising their equine products.

The Kentucky Proud program was created to promote Kentucky-agricultural products. Over the years, the program has grown significantly and now includes businesses that support and sell Kentucky products as well as those that promote the concept of buying agricultural products from Kentucky.

"Both KEEP and KHC have worked for years to promote Kentucky's equine industry," said Patrick Neely, KEEP Executive Director. "The addition of horses to the Kentucky Proud program will allow Kentucky horse farms to apply for grants and to grow their businesses by joining the well-known Kentucky Proud advertising and marketing initiatives. We appreciate that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture has taken this important step to assist our signature industry and the thousands of jobs it creates."

Anna Zinkhon, president of the KHC Board, added, "The Kentucky Horse Council is glad to partner with KEEP on this important new program. Two years ago my predecessor, Madelyn Millard, initiated the idea by approaching KDA regarding a Kentucky Proud for Horses. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's interest in adding horses to this highly successful agricultural program enhances our farms' abilities to market their horses nationally and internationally."

Individually, farms should contact KEEP or the KHC for applications and more information on the Kentucky Proud program. Once approved, farms will have access to all the services and support that the KDA gives to members of that program, including marketing assistance and product promotion, as well as participation in a cost-share program.

"In working with KEEP and KHC to add horses to the program, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture is expanding its support for Kentucky farmers," said Richie Farmer, Commissioner of Agriculture. "Kentucky is known for its equine industry. We are excited to have these producers add their horses to our list of Kentucky Proud products."

Source: Edited news release



UK Equine Alum featured in *Louisville Courier-Journal*

Recent graduate from the Equine Science and Management program, Travers Manley, was recently featured in the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. Manley, an employee of Churchill Downs in the publicity department, talks about the process of selling his first horse in the September Keeneland sales.

To read more, please visit:

www.courier-journal.com/article/20110921/SPORTSo8/309210076/1002/College-purchase-heads-Keeneland-auction-block?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Home|p

Clubs and Teams

UK Dressage & Eventing Team

Huge congratulations to member Maria Montalvo, who competed at the Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. Montalvo is a freshman at UK and is competing in dressage. After the first day of competition she was in a good position to move up the leader board and held her own against the majority of competitors that are over twice her age!

Congratulations to UKDET members who competed at the Jump Start Horse Trial held October 1 & 2. A big thank you to all UKDET members who came out and volunteered both days. A lot of positive feedback was given.



UK Equestrian Team



The UK Hunt Seat Team competed in its first show at Xavier Oct. 22-23. The team won reserve high point team and Lauren Patterson was the high point rider. Congratulations!

The Western Team had a very successful first show and is looking forward to its last show of the semester on Nov. 13 at Morehead State University.

Congratulations to sophomore Emily Foreman for pointing up to Novice Horsemanship!

UK Horse Racing Club

The Horse Racing Club has recently been involved with helping WinStar Farm market its Stablemates program.

The club accompanied WinStar in the paddock for Race 5 to cheer on Slice, owned by WinStar, on Oct. 7. The team was also involved in WinStar's Stablemates party and thoroughly enjoyed the stallion show!



UK Polo Team

On Oct. 15-16, the UK Women's Polo Team took on the University of Connecticut and won 16-11! Congratulations! We look forward to seeing you excel this season!

UK Equine Research Club

The UK Equine Research Club will hold meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of each month in Ag Science North. The first meeting will include a speaker, and the second meeting is focused on scientific article discussions.

Students will be asked to give presentations on a specific article and then a discussion is held on each topic.

The club also plans on taking field trips to local equine research facilities, and they will also host lab days where students can go to a lab to learn certain techniques that relate to research.

UK Saddle Seat Team



So far, the UK Saddle Seat Team has competed at Morehead University and was awarded the High Point Team for the show. Eastern Kentucky University will be hosting the next show which will be held later in the semester.

The team has enjoyed having lessons every week at Wingswept Farms in Winchester, Ky., and enjoys getting ready for the upcoming shows. The team is also looking forward to setting up events and meetings for everybody to participate in!

Upcoming Events

November

2-6 Alltech National Horse Show

Semester Academic Calendar

October

31-Nov. 22- Priority registration for the 2012 Spring semester

November

23-26 Thanksgiving, Academic Holiday

December

9- Last Day of Classes
12-16- Final Exams

Student Turns Volunteering Opportunity into a Career Helping Ex-Racehorses Find a Second Home

Shalise Gallaher, a junior in UK's Equine Science and Management degree program from Grampian, Pa., has turned a community service opportunity into a career.

Gallaher learned about the Maker's Mark Secretariat Center through a friend who picked up a brochure in the Student Center. The Maker's Mark Secretariat Center works through the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation to retrain off-the-track Thoroughbreds, and takes volunteers to help ride and take care of the horses.

Gallaher started volunteering at the Secretariat Center a few days a week, and before long she was hooked. After a year and a half of volunteering, she started looking for a part time job in another area of the horse industry and landed at Three Chimneys as a groom.



After six months at Three Chimneys, Gallaher found it hard to make time for volunteering at the Secretariat Center. When the director of the Center, Susannah Thomas, offered her a position as Barn Manager and Assistant Trainer, she couldn't pass up the opportunity.

"Through all of my time spent volunteering, (Thomas) recognized my passion, work ethic and ability to train horses versus just being able to ride, and felt I would be a great addition to the team," Gallaher said.

At a young age, Gallaher trained horses using Parelli Natural Horsemanship, so she understood how to establish the basics with a horse that was new to her. She also had experience riding many different breeds of horses and styles of riding, so she was an asset to the Secretariat Center.

"At home, I had the privilege of growing up on a horse farm with 15 to 20 horses at any given time. This allowed me to work with a plethora of horses, from weanlings to aged horses, mares and geldings," she said.

For Gallaher, each day starts at 7 a.m. with feeding and checking each horse for injuries. She then rides five to eight horses and works on what each individual horse needs to focus on for that day.

"I vary the training from ground work sessions to ring work, jumping, field work or just going out for a hack," she said.

According to Gallaher, she is also responsible for organizing the feed chart, administering medications and helping the farm manager rotate horses into different pastures. She gives tours and "meet and greets" at the Secretariat Center with guests, and helps each volunteer find a task that needs to be completed.

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Gallaher also travels to look at potential candidates for the Center's program, and sometimes competes in local horse shows and events.

"We have placed 42 horses this year in second career homes and our year end goal is 50. It's a wonderful thing to be a part of; it's great to see the connection that horses and riders make, and I like keeping tabs to see how they all progress and who they become when they grow up," Gallaher said.

Gallaher said that the Secretariat Center has plans to grow as it works towards becoming an elite Thoroughbred adoption center.

"The Secretariat Center is more than just a center to adopt horses, our secondary purpose is to be a center for education," she said.

One way the Secretariat Center plans to educate horse lovers over the next year is by holding clinics with professional riders such as Eric Dierks and Dorothy Crowell.

Gallaher said her time at UK as an Equine Science and Management student has helped her achieve her goals.

"UK's equine program has provided me with much needed education from horse anatomy to marketing tools. The information that I have learned in classes is applied daily in my work," she said.

"Shalise is a great example of how making the time to volunteer and working hard even when no one seems like they're looking can pay off," said Elizabeth LaBonty, Equine Science and Management Internship Coordinator. "Lots of people start out not getting paid and get easily discouraged. But if you stick with it, have a good attitude, and demonstrate that you can handle responsibility supervisors notice."

Gallaher has dreams to one day open a similar organization in another state where she can place off-the-track Thoroughbreds.

"It's something that will always be in high demand, and I job that I would love to remain a part of or come back to in the future," she said.

By Chelsea Urhahn

An advertisement for 'Bluegrass Equine Digest' featuring a close-up photograph of a brown horse's head on the right side. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**BLUEGRASS EQUINE
DIGEST**

A free monthly online newsletter with the latest research and practical, use-it-today advice from the University of Kentucky's Gluck Equine Research Center and the Equine Initiative.

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www.thehorse.com/enewsletter/register.aspx

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: Lauren Patterson

lpatterson@uky.edu

Western President: Claire Knox

ceknox2@uky.edu

Horse Racing Club

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence

llawrenc@uky.edu

President: Natalie Heitz

nmheit2@uky.edu

Polo Club

Advisor: Dr. Roger Brown

rogerbrown@uky.edu

President: Posey Obrecht

poseyobrecht@aol.com

Equine Research Club

Advisor: Dr. Kristine Urschel

klur222@uky.edu

President: Lindsay Good

lindsay.good@uky.edu

Saddle Seat Team

Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano

mary.rossano@uky.edu

President: Jamie Weisbach

jamieweisbach@ymail.com

Contact Us

Equine Initiative

N212 Ag Sciences Building North

Lexington, KY 40546-0091

Office: (859) 257-2226

Fax: (859) 323-8484

Email: equineinitiative@uky.edu

Web: www.ca.uky.edu/equine

**Director of the Equine Initiative & Dickson
Professor of Equine Science and Management:
Dr. Ed Squires**

**Associate Director for Undergraduate Education
in Equine Science & Management: Dr. Bob
Coleman**

**Equine Initiative Communications Director &
Editor: Holly Wiemers**

**Equine Lecturer and Internship Coordinator:
Elizabeth LaBonty**

**Equine Initiative Communications Intern &
Wildcat Canter co-editor: Chelsea Urhahn**

Equine Initiative Staff Support: Kevin Hagan

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The University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture has several equine-related Facebook pages that present the latest news and events information. Stay up-to-date with UK's horsey happenings by following their activities on these pages:

- Equine Initiative
- Gluck Equine Research Center
- Saddle Up Safely

