

# Wildcat Canter

August/September 2010

UK Ag  
EQUINE

UK Equine Initiative  
Student Newsletter

What I did for my summer vacation...

During the school year students can be found everywhere. They walk the halls, stand on sidewalks and sit in classrooms. Their lives consist of school, work, studying and friends. But, during the summer, the UK campus turns into a ghost town and their classes are probably the last thing on students' minds. Unless, of course, they are on internship.

Over the past few months, 18 Equine Science and Management students went on internship. Some went as far away as Texas and New York while others stayed as close as the research labs of Dr. Mary Rossano and Dr. Mats Troedsson. Students worked for Thoroughbred, Sport Horse, and Jumping trainers as well as assisted with the Lexington Polo Club. While some of our students braved the summer heat, others worked indoors at the BloodHorse and Kentucky Horse Council. The internships this summer varied as much as the students themselves. I know because I got to see it firsthand.

As the internship coordinator, I've had the fortunate task of meeting, visiting, and talking with each of our interns and their supervisors this summer. What I saw and heard would make anyone associated with the equine program at UK proud. Time and time again I heard internship supervisors talk about how hard working our students are. Some commented on how much fun they were to have around, others on how



eager the students were to learn. Throughout the summer our interns exceeded expectations, worked hard, and gained extra responsibilities. It wasn't all sunshine and roses though. There were long hours, difficult tasks and - as with anything horse related - a few minor injuries along the way. But all in all, the students in EQM 399 this summer gained valuable hands on experience and were excellent representatives of our program in the industry. Throughout the year you can read about their adventures and opportunities each month in the internship spotlight section. But to kick it all off, we have dedicated this issue specifically to interns, past, present, and future, and believe me when I say, they deserve it.

Elizabeth A. LaBonty  
Lecturer & Internship Coordinator

## In this Issue:

- UK students highlight Darley Flying Start program
- UK Art Museum welcomes horse lovers
- "Big Blue" at home on campus
- Internship and job opportunities

# Equine Initiative News

## Kentucky's equine industry featured in Ag Magazine

The Equine Initiative made headlines in the Summer Issue of The Ag Magazine for its participation in the upcoming FEI World Equestrian Games and its involvement with the unique and diverse horse industry in Kentucky. Students Shanon Hawkins and Ashley Meyer were featured on the front and back covers of the magazine. Below is an excerpt from the feature article "Kentucky's language is 'Horse.'" See the full article and digital copy of the magazine at [www.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/magazine/2010/summer-2010/articles/](http://www.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/magazine/2010/summer-2010/articles/).

"Kentucky's Language is 'Horse'"

In Kentucky, we speak horse. It is a language heard in the state's culture, heritage and identity. Here in the Horse Capital of the World, horses touch the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians each year and make us world renowned.

**UK Ag**  
**EQUINE**

Though our best known breed, and arguably one of Kentucky's main economic engines, may be the Thoroughbred, the equine landscape here is varied. Outside of Thoroughbred horse racing, Kentucky has a vibrant equine industry that spans breeds, uses, and geographic locations.

In many ways, the College's involvement in the horse industry mirrors the diversity of the industry itself. With more than 50 faculty and staff working on horse-related issues, areas of emphasis cover equine health and nutrition research, economic studies, pasture management, and the facilities and environments where horses live.

"Our College program offerings, by design, cover all types of enterprises and all types of horses," said Nancy Cox, associate dean for research and administrative leader for UK's Equine Initiative. "One of our cornerstone programs, the Gluck Equine Research Center, is recognized for equine disease research universal to all breeds. However, we often work on problems unique to particular breeds, such as specifically expressed genes in Quarter Horses or Saddlebreds."

*Find out more about what's happening in the Equine Initiative by "liking" our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Equine-Initiative/130050320882?ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Equine-Initiative/130050320882?ref=ts)*

## **Student Enrichment Application now available**

The Kentucky Horse Council (KHC) has recently announced a new Student Enrichment Program, which will allow Lexington-area college students to apply for a funding scholarship in order to attend an equine training or conference. Funding may go to certificate programs, clinics, symposiums and other educational activities. Equine directors may send only one request to KHC per university, so to be considered you will need to apply to Bob Coleman, professor in animal and food sciences. Write a letter addressed to him with an explanation of why you deserve such a scholarship along with one letter of recommendation and deliver to N212 Ag Sciences North Building by Oct. 1. Contact the Equine Initiative office at 859-257-2226 for details.



## **UK Art Museum welcomes horse lovers with fall exhibits**

The UK Art Museum has announced another equine-themed exhibit to accompany the "Hoofbeats and Heartbeats" exhibit announced in the February issue of the Wildcat Canter.

"The Bluegrass Palette of Andre Pater" will open on June 27 and runs through October 10. Polish-born Pater has been fascinated with the scenery around Lexington for many years and found inspiration in it for oil paintings, charcoals, pastels and gouaches. His subjects often include jockeys, horses, hunt scenes and cattle. Admission to this exhibit is \$8 for the general public, \$5 for senior citizens and free to UK faculty, staff, students and alumni. Admission is free to everyone on Friday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m.

"Hoofbeats and Heartbeats" will feature more than 40 sculptures and paintings from famous American artists representing the horse as a hero. The exhibit seeks to evoke the various meanings that horses have to man. Ticket prices are \$10 for the general public and \$8 for senior citizens.

Both events will coincide with the 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games. For more information, contact Dorothy Freeman at [dorothyfreeman@uky.edu](mailto:dorothyfreeman@uky.edu).

## **Congratulations to scholarship recipients!**

The Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) recently announced its four scholarship winners for 2010. Stephanie Franklin, Kayla Helm, Ashley Marcum and Natalie Senn were each awarded \$1,000 towards their academic studies. Franklin and Senn are College of Agriculture students.



Franklin is currently enrolled at the University of Kentucky and she is majoring in Equine Science and Management. She has ridden, handled and trained multiple breeds of horses and will be volunteering in the upcoming World Equestrian Games. Franklin would ultimately like to become a trainer or breeding manager.

Senn is starting at UK this fall, majoring in Animal Science and intends to work in equine medical research and pharmaceuticals. Senn was involved with the Pony Club for three years, allowing her to meet individuals of all careers within the horse industry. Her goals are to improve the general health and welfare of horses and to find ways in which the community can become more involved.

# Equine News

New treatment for laminitis detailed in UK's Equine Diagnostic Research Seminar Series

James Orsini, associate professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania gave one of the most popular talks in June for the UK Department of Veterinary Science Equine Diagnostic Research Seminar series. As director of the Laminitis Institute at the New Bolton Center, Orsini has made the equine disease a career focus, and has spent several years studying new therapy for horses identified as being at risk for laminitis.

Laminitis is a painful disease of the foot which is thought to be caused by changes in pH or blood flow to the tissue in the hoof. Changes can occur in as little as 20 hours after exposure to the causative agent, causing symptoms such as pulsing hooves, a “camped out” stance, shifting weight from foot to foot and an unwillingness to lift feet. If chronic, laminitis can be known as founder, in which the coffin bone detaches from the soft tissue in the hoof and rotates, pointing downward and, in severe cases, puncturing the hoof wall.

Soft tissue surrounds the suspended coffin bone inside the hoof capsule, protecting the bone and absorbing shock. The tissue is attached to the hoof wall by a group of laminar extensions, which are tiny, interlocking finger-like projections that transfer mechanical energy as the horse moves, allowing the hoof to expand and contract. In a normal horse these tissues are strong and can withstand extraordinary forces while remaining locked; in a laminitic horse the tissue becomes inflamed and weak, so the fingers separate, causing the tissue around the bone to pull away from the hoof wall and allowing coffin bone rotation.

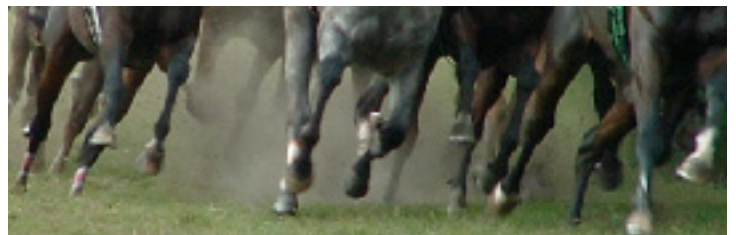
According to Orsini, the causes of laminitis are still being studied but several theories exist about why identified risk factors increase the likelihood of disease.

Laminitis from any one of these causes can plateau before coffin bone rotation, lapsing to a subacute stage, or may worsen into a chronic case that leads to founder.

If an owner knows their horse has gotten into the grain bin or has been exposed to any of the elements that put him at risk for laminitis, Orsini says a new method may help prevent it from developing.

Cryotherapy, or the application of cold to an injury, has appeared in historical literature as a treatment for all types of lameness. It has long been used in human medicine for its analgesic properties and has been shown to boost blood oxygen levels, lower metabolic rates and reverse vasoconstriction in people. Orsini and his fellow researchers are hoping to adapt devices made for human cryotherapy into practical sizes for horses. They are planning to re-size an apparatus that consists of a cuff wrapped around the foot or other area of injury, with tubes running to a circulating ice water bath which pumps cold water through the inside of the cuff. This method of cold delivery has been shown to reduce temperature in the area more drastically and for a longer period than ice boots or compresses.

The UK Department of Veterinary Science hosts a visiting lecturer on a topic of equine health on the fourth Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. The topic for August will be Sport Horse Medicine, and the lecture will be in the South Theater in the Kentucky Horse Park Visitor Center.



# Student Spotlight: John Jessie

By Natalie Voss

As seniors prepared to graduate and underclassmen pondered their future careers, University of Kentucky graduate John Jessie enjoyed the equine internship of a lifetime. Jessie graduated in 2008 with a degree in agricultural economics and just completed his first year in the Darley Flying Start Program. The two-year, all expenses-paid program sends participants to Darley locations in Ireland, England, Australia, the United Arab Emirates and the U.S., while they gain classroom and practical experience on topics of management and business in the Thoroughbred industry. After the first year of the program, Jessie has been to Ireland, England and France and is now back in the U.S. for instruction and a six-week work placement. Out of all his experiences, he says that watching Sea the Stars in the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe is his favorite moment in Flying Start so far.

Jessie said he is grateful for the preparation UK gave him for the competitive application process and program.

"I took advantage of the courses UK had to offer, which I thought would help me the most after graduation. UK has amazing resources through their professors, as they all have a wealth of knowledge and advice, and are willing to share with you at the same time," Jessie said.

The program accepts applicants from all over the world but accepts only a dozen each year in a highly selective screening process.

When asked about his advice for future applicants, Jessie suggested that students maximize their involvement during their time in college.

"Take advantage of everything UK has to offer...make sure you do as much and learn as much as you possibly can during your time at UK. It doesn't all have to be equine-related but it's the fact that you are willing to learn and get out there is what the program is looking for."

For more information about the Darley Flying Start program, visit the program's website at <http://darleyflyingstart.com/>.

## UK student prepares for takeoff with 2010 induction to Darley Flying Start

Kate Benner, a recent graduate of the Equine Science and Management program, was admitted this spring to the Darley Flying Start Program for 2010-2012.



Benner, a Louisville native, was actively involved in the UK Horse Racing Club and worked at the Keeneland sales as well as Fares Farm during her time at UK. She completed an internship with Neil Howard at Churchill Downs shortly before graduation.

The 2010 Darley class includes 12 trainees from six countries, including four from the United States. The program began in Kildare, Ireland, Aug. 16 where students will spend part of the fall. Subsequent visits to Newmarket, England, Lexington, New South Wales, Australia, and Dubai, UAE, are on the itinerary.

Topics will include a range of subjects in equine and business management, including all aspects of a racehorse's life, analysis and care as well as finance, communications, legal and personal development.



Photos courtesy of Darley Flying Start

# Job and Internship Opportunities

Egyptian Arabian breeding farm in Saudi Arabia is seeking a **stud manager**. The farm is about 15 acres, located north of Al Khobar. It has three champion stallions and is in the business of breeding, showing and marketing. The manager would be responsible for developing breeding operations and overseeing all operation on the farm and should have a passion for Arabian horses. Housing provided. E-mail [xeeshan2000@yahoo.com](mailto:xeeshan2000@yahoo.com) for details.

**Models needed** for Derdau boots at the World Equestrian Games. Send resume, contact number, head and full body shot to [lisa@derdau.com](mailto:lisa@derdau.com). Applicants should be equestrians and current students.

The University of Guelph is seeking a **equine stable technician – lead hand** at its Kemptville Continuing Education campus. This would be a temporary position to run during the teaching year. Contact [careers@uoguelph.ca](mailto:careers@uoguelph.ca) for more information.

Ohio University is looking for a **farm operations manager**. The position will be responsible for the management/oversight of all the various facets of the farm including but not limited to barn, grounds and horse care. Visit [www.ohiouniversityjobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=57030](http://www.ohiouniversityjobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=57030) for details.

Kelsey Plesa recently had an autobiographical article published in the June 17 issue of Stride Magazine about her internship with Kelly Breen Racing Stable. Check out the story on page 44 of the digital copy, featured here: [www.stridemagonline.com](http://www.stridemagonline.com).

Lovesome, Inc., an organization affiliated with the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, is looking for an **intern or volunteer** to assist in the implementation of a driving program. Contact Jody Keeley, Executive Director at 859-653-7410 to learn more.

## Clubs and Teams

*Our clubs and teams section has been on a hiatus during the summer, but will return with upcoming event info in September. If you have recently been elected to an officer role in an equine club or team please let us know so we can add you to the Clubs and Teams listserv: [equineinitiative@uky.edu](mailto:equineinitiative@uky.edu). Current officers, please make us aware of upcoming events and meetings as your club begins the semester. Thank you!*

## Upcoming Events

**September 16:** First meeting of the Kentucky Equine Networking Association at Spindletop Hall. Registration is required. Visit [www.KyEquineNetwork.org](http://www.KyEquineNetwork.org) for details about the Association, which is sponsored by the Kentucky Horse Council and the Gluck Equine Research Center.

**September 19:** Masterson Equine Trust Foundation Volunteer Work Day. Keep the trails, courses and facilities at Masterson in good working order! Bring gloves and sunscreen to the Hunter Ring at 2 p.m. Tools and water will be provided.



Photo: Kristen Harvey



## “Big Blue” arrives on campus

The College of Agriculture supported one of the many “HorseMania” entries now on display around downtown Lexington. Dubbed “Big Blue” the fiberglass horse was painted by Jennifer Conrad-Barber and is on display in front of the Cooper House at the corner of S. Limestone and Cooper Streets. Visit him and all the other HorseMania horses all over Lexington!

Riding your horse and trying to beat the heat? Remember to monitor your mount for signs of heat stress. For more information, check out this article from our friends at TheHorse.com: [www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=16625](http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=16625).

While browsing The Horse online, don't forget to sign up for the Bluegrass Equine Digest. We now have over 23,000 subscribers to this free monthly e-newsletter about horse health and research at UK. Visit [www.thehorse.com/Enewsletter/Register.aspx](http://www.thehorse.com/Enewsletter/Register.aspx).



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