

April 2010

UK Equine Initiative  
Student Newsletter

## Learning: A Two-Way Street

Most people enter into the horse world because they hold a great admiration for the power and beauty of the horse. They want to learn how to work with a horse to accomplish a goal, whether it's driving four horses in-hand through the cross country course at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, going on a simple trail ride or learning how to fix and heal ailments and injuries that happen to horses along the way. Learning as much as we can about the anatomy and physiology, the mechanics of movement and the nature/ behavior of horses gives us more knowledge to handle, train and understand what our horses need to be able to perform at their best. However, you might have noticed the way most of this formal or informal learning occurs, comes from a human-centered perspective and is mostly one-way learning. In very simplistic and general terms, the following learning equation exists:

Human teaches horse --> horse learns from human -> better performance of horse

What if, in working with horses, you also held a horse-centered perspective? To become curious about a perspective that includes the question "How can I learn about who I am from the horse?"

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#### **New Equation:**

Horse teaches/assists human -> human learns about themselves and develops and grows -> better performing humans (and incidentally increased collaboration with horses)

The world of Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) is a growing field of study that focuses on how horses can assist humans in learning about themselves as humans. Over the past two decades, there has been explosive growth worldwide in the emerging EAL industry. In the United States alone there are more than 700 centers that provide some type of equine assisted learning program and four internationally recognized associations that teach, support and certify their members in collaborating with horses for healing and human growth and learning purposes.

*(Ctd. on page 3)*

# Equine Initiative News

## UK women's polo team wins nationals

By Holly Wiemers

The University of Kentucky women's polo team topped three other teams at the United States Polo Association National Intercollegiate Championships April 5 through 10 in Charlottesville, Va., to capture its first national title. Additionally, one of UK's horses was named best polo pony in the men's division, and UK's polo string earned designation as overall best polo string in the men's division.

Only four years old, the upstart team was an unlikely victor. Having fallen short in its run to a spot at the national championship with a loss at the March regional competition, the UK women's team earned a second chance to compete at the national competition due to its performance during the regular season. And then the team won. And won again. First was California Polytechnic State University. UK came out on top 20 to 6. Next, UK took on top-seeded Cornell and came out ahead 18 to 12. In the finals, UK played against Texas A&M and won by one point, with a final score of 15-14.

"I am so unbelievably proud. I went to Charlottesville with two others who were competing on the team and we were in tears," said Tannis Marley, co-founder and past president of the team. "I just thought it would be a fun thing to do when I went to college, and now we're national champions. I'm just so proud of all the hard work and dedication and support this team has had over the years."

The team is coached by Jorge Vasquez, manager of the Lexington Polo Club. The championship team included riders Courtney Asdourian, a sophomore majoring in history and Spanish; Cary Campbell, team president and junior majoring in family studies; Posey Obrecht, a freshman majoring in equine science and management; and Meghan Shader, a sophomore also majoring in equine science and management. Asdourian was also named to the All-Star Team.

"I'm so excited. To see where we were four years ago and now where we are," Marley said. "I had so many people coming up to me at the event wanting to come to UK just to play polo. We already have nine recruits coming next year. It's just amazing."



(*ctd. from page one*) At the Center for Leadership Development in the College of Agriculture, we offer workshops for students, as well as organizations, where participants have a chance to learn leadership competencies from a horse that are transferable into any work or personal situation. Some of the competencies and skills that horses can teach us are:

- Self-awareness and awareness of others – how to employ the hyper and acute perceptual awareness that a horse utilizes 24/7
- Effective body language and communication skills
- Consistency
- Integrity - alignment of thought, emotion and action
- How to notice and utilize feedback
- Confidence

A person's leadership style and personality show up in exercises involving simple observation and leading of a horse to moving a horse in the roundpen. Just remember that those who are entering the horse industry and those who have been in it for a lifetime have an amazing resource for personal growth. It is the relationship between the people and their horse(s). Remember, as you move forward in equine studies, ask the question, "What can the horse teach me?"

~ by Lissa Pohl, Program and Outreach Associate for the Center for Leadership Development

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## UK Eventing's Ashley Adams clinic a success

The UK Eventing Team hosted a weekend clinic with Ashley Adams, Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event competitor, on March 27-28 at Red Gate Equestrian Center. The clinic was a success with 16 participants and several auditors. Adams focused on grid work and show jumping and answered questions from the team about competing overseas and at major shows like Rolex.

"She was wonderful at adapting the exercises to meet each individual horse and rider's needs," Team President Courtney Carroll said. "She also did a great job of showing riders that they could do harder things than they thought possible. Everyone who attended the clinic made huge progress during the weekend."

The team plans to host at least two clinics per semester, one dressage and one jumping. The team would like to thank Jan and Marty Whitehouse for the use of their facility for the clinic.



## Nina Bonnie speaks at Equine Initiative Distinguished Lecture Series

Nina Bonnie accomplished equestrienne, Kentucky Horse Park Foundation creator and driving force behind the park, spoke at the University of Kentucky Equine Initiative Distinguished Industry Lecture Series April 1.

About 60 people attended the lecture at the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center. Dan Liebman, editor of The Blood-Horse magazine, interviewed Bonnie.



The Distinguished Industry Lecture Series is designed to showcase distinguished industry practitioners from the broad equine industry and is targeted toward students and a variety of UK stakeholders. Keeneland President Nick Nicholson spoke at UK's inaugural lecture in November 2009.

The second lecture series was sponsored by Equine Medical Associates, PSC. For more information about the event, visit <http://www.ca.uky.edu/>



## Student Spotlight: Megan Day

*By Alexandra Harper*

Megan Day has had a love for horses since she started riding as a little girl. She recently completed an internship with the Groom Elite Program in Lexington as part of her graduation requirement as an equine science and management student at the University of Kentucky.

Day discovered the internship through internship coordinator Elizabeth LaBonty. It provided Day the opportunity to learn the other side of the horse industry. Day had worked mostly hands-on with horses in the past, but her internship allowed her to work behind-the-scenes and she was able to see how the business aspect of the horse industry operated.

Day's supervisor, Reid McLellan, said he thought hiring student interns was a great idea and had great things to say about Day.

"She was always interested and enthusiastic about the work I assigned her," he said. "She was always punctual and would stay late if needed."

McLellan said he wanted Day to understand the functions of the program from the internship. Day plans to go to veterinary school after graduation and she feels like her internship helped better prepare her for the horse industry.

"I highly recommend an internship to students," McLellan said.

He thinks students should do an inventory of the field they are interested in and what it will require work wise.

"Don't do an internship where you already know everything you are going to learn from the internship. Branch out, and be involved in another aspect of the industry, something that you haven't experienced yet," McLellan said.

For information about the internship program, contact Elizabeth LaBonty at [Elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu).



# Student Internship Section

*...matching the jobs of today with the candidates of tomorrow...*

## **Internship Opportunities:**

eXTENSION INITIATIVE is looking for a student to work in its horse community office. Contact Ashley Griffin (**ashley.griffin@extension.org**) for more information.

KENTUCKY HORSE COUNCIL is looking for an office intern. Responsibilities include updating the KHC website, video reporting and research, among other tasks. Candidates should be detail-oriented and have strong writing skills. Contact Essie Rogers at **erogers@kentuckyhorse.org** for more information.

THE AMERICAN PAINT HORSE ASSOCIATION is looking for a summer intern in Fort Worth, TX. The Intern will work primarily in the Performance Department and will also have the opportunity to work with individuals in marketing, media and *Paint Horse Journal*. Salary is \$1,200 per month. Contact Equine Initiative (**equineinitiative@uky.edu**) or Kristen Harvey (**kjanicki@uky.edu**) for more information.

The deadline to apply to the fall semester of the Kentucky Equine Management Internship is fast approaching. The dates for fall will be July 12-Dec. 10. The KEMI program provides hands-on internship opportunities for college students (or recent graduates) on Central Kentucky Thoroughbred horse farms. Fall Session interns will work primarily with yearlings, mare and weanlings that are being prepared for major Thoroughbred sales. In addition, we have a few farms that accept interns (based on weight and riding ability) to assist with the breaking and early training of racing prospects. Application deadline is April 30. Contact Leslie Janecka (**lesliej@kemi.org**) for more information.

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation is seeking a paid part-time summer intern to work in public relations. The intern will be responsible for writing and distributing news releases, KFB publications and writing stories for the KFB website. Contact Todd Bright at **todd.bright@kyfb.com**.

Neogen has several internships available for summer. The company is also looking for two full-time OTC Territory Manager positions. Contact **hrlex@neogen.com** for more information.

The Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service is looking for summer interns to help with the Northern Kentucky area 4-H Horse Camp. Interns may be responsible for horse care/night-watch or youth leaders for the camp, which is June 20-23. For more information, contact Elizabeth LaBonty (**elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu**) or Diane Kelley (**dkelley@email.uky.edu**).

**\*Remember that to have an internship count for credit, you must contact Elizabeth LaBonty prior to the start date.\***

## Other opportunities

The Kentucky Horse Park is looking for equine volunteers. Volunteers in this area will help with the general stable duties at the Breeds Barn, (washing, grooming and tack in preparation for shows). There is a possibility of riding in the shows (pending approval of the director of Equine Operations). Each day the morning show showcases the disciplines in the World Equestrian Games while the afternoon show brings about the history and diversity of various breeds of horses. In the summer months, these volunteers will be responsible for the "Mare and Foal Show" and "Pony Tails." Both are interactive, educational activities for park visitors. Previous experience with mares and foals and teaching experience is requested to work in these two specialized areas. It is a fast-paced stable, but fun. For more information, contact Gina Beare at **859-259-4267** or [gina.beare@ky.gov](mailto:gina.beare@ky.gov).

The Race For Education (RFE) is now accepting scholarship applications for the Kentucky Equine Education Project scholarships. Applications are available online at [www.raceforeducation.org/scholarships/](http://www.raceforeducation.org/scholarships/).

The Kentucky Equine Education Project provides five scholarships of up to \$1,000 each to exceptional KEEP members. Scholarship is open to legal Kentucky residents, who are currently (or will be in the fall) enrolled as full-time students at a Kentucky university/college that offers a program in equine studies. To be eligible, the student must be enrolled in equine studies, have a 2.5 or higher GPA on a 4.0 scale and be a KEEP member. For more information, visit [www.horseswork.com](http://www.horseswork.com). Deadline is May 1.

If you are interested in working for Kentucky Horse Shows July 27-August 22 doing jobs such as night-watch, video recording, traffic direction, etc., contact Hugh Kincannon at **859-233-0492** for details. This is a great way to make some extra cash this summer!

## Equine Initiative Events

The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association has several educational opportunities coming up in 2010:

- **April 29 - New Owner Seminar: Churchill Downs, Louisville.** The new owner seminar provides a basic introduction to Thoroughbred ownership. Topics at new owner seminars include how to build a racing stable, owner and trainer communications, common veterinary concerns, accounting and insurance issues, understanding racing partnerships and much more.
- **May 21 - 23 - Breeding Clinic: Lexington.** The Breeding Clinic is held in Lexington each year and consists of tours at three Kentucky Thoroughbred farms. Clinic topics include foal registration, pedigree theory, a conformation workshop, equine nutrition, equine business matters, foaling and farm management as related to Thoroughbred breeding.

# Equine Clubs and Teams Updates

**Dressage/Eventing Team:** The Eventing Team would like to congratulate the following:

Jessica Leonard placed 17th at Southern Pines HT in North Carolina  
Courtney Carroll placed 12th after Dressage at Southern Pines in North Carolina  
Alison Wilaby placed 5th at Poplar Place HT in Georgia  
Courtney Carroll placed 5th after Show Jumping at Spring Bay HT in Kentucky.  
Maggie Hitron placed 12th at Spring Bay HT in Kentucky.  
The Eventing Team plans on attending several horse trials and clinics over the summer. For more information, contact Courtney Carroll at [ccarroll@uky.edu](mailto:ccarroll@uky.edu).

The Dressage and Event Team volunteered at Rolex this past weekend working and selling T-shirts at the Equine Initiative booth. They were also at the WEG test events on Thursday and Saturday night. On Thursday night at the Horse Park they watched Reese Koffler-Stanfield ride in the Musical Freestyle division. Reese came and spoke to the team earlier in the year. Reese is also an Equine Initiative Board Member.

**Equestrian Team:** UKET recently competed in Zones at Findlay and is setting its sights on IHSA Nationals at the Kentucky Horse Park May 3-9. Good luck!

**Horse Judging Team:** If you are interested in joining the Horse Judging Team, contact Kristen Harvey at [kjanicki@email.uky.edu](mailto:kjanicki@email.uky.edu).

**Horse Racing Club:** For more information on the Club, email [ukhorseracingclub@hotmail.com](mailto:ukhorseracingclub@hotmail.com).

**Polo Team:** Congratulations to the women's team on winning 2010 Nationals in Virginia!

**Saddle Seat Team:** Recent show was held April 17 against Eastern Kentucky University at the Mercer County Fairgrounds. Also congratulations to Cydni Simmons and Brittany Baird who were recently selected for the World Cup 5-gaited team!



## Contact Us

Equine Initiative  
N212 Ag Sciences Building North  
Lexington, KY 40546-0091



Office: (859) 257-2226  
Fax: (859) 323-8484  
Email: [equineinitiative@email.uky.edu](mailto:equineinitiative@email.uky.edu)  
Web: [www.ca.uky.edu/equine](http://www.ca.uky.edu/equine)

Director of the Equine Initiative & Dickson  
Professor of Equine Science and Management:  
Dr. Jamie MacLeod

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

Equine Initiative Communications Director &  
Editor: Holly Wiemers

Equine Initiative Lecturer & Internship Coordinator:  
Elizabeth LaBonty

UK Equine Interns: Alexandra Harper and Natalie  
Voss

Equine Initiative Staff Support: Kevin Hagan

You can find more information about the Equine  
Initiative by joining our Facebook fan page

## Equine Club Directory

### **Dressage/Eventing Team**

Dressage Advisor: Drura Parrish  
[drura.parrish@uky.edu](mailto:drura.parrish@uky.edu)  
Dressage President: Emily Mysinger  
[ekmysi2@uky.edu](mailto:ekmysi2@uky.edu)

Eventing Advisor: Kristen Harvey  
[kjanicki@uky.edu](mailto:kjanicki@uky.edu)  
Eventing President: Courtney Carroll  
[lcarr4@uky.edu](mailto:lcarr4@uky.edu)

### **Equestrian Team**

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman  
[rcoleman@uky.edu](mailto:rcoleman@uky.edu)  
President: Lauren Patterson  
[lpatt4@uky.edu](mailto:lpatt4@uky.edu)

### **Horse Judging Team**

Advisor: Kristen Harvey  
[kjanicki@email.uky.edu](mailto:kjanicki@email.uky.edu)

### **Horse Racing Club**

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence  
[llawrenc@uky.edu](mailto:llawrenc@uky.edu)  
President: Natalie Heitz  
[nmheit2@uky.edu](mailto:nmheit2@uky.edu)

### **Polo Club**

Advisor: Roger Brown  
[rogerbrown@uky.edu](mailto:rogerbrown@uky.edu)  
President: Cary Campbell  
[cccampbell1@me.com](mailto:cccampbell1@me.com)

### **Saddle Seat Team**

Advisor: Lee Edgerton  
[lee.edgerton@uky.edu](mailto:lee.edgerton@uky.edu)  
President: Katie Singleton

## College of Agriculture Academic Calendar:

### *April*

1-20-Priority Registration for 2010  
Summer and Fall terms  
23-May 10-Students may change ma-  
jors  
30-Last Day of Classes

### *May*

3-7-Finals Week  
8-Graduation  
10-Spring Grades Due



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