

May 2015

Wildcat Canter

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs Newsletter



2015 ESMA Graduation Reception

Congratulations Graduates!

Wildcat Canter



Industry Spotlight

Jenny Evans is the Interim Executive Director for the UK Gluck Equine Research Foundation and Marketing and Promotion Specialist Senior for the UK Gluck Equine Research Center, where she is in charge of international communication and event management.



For the love of horses

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Alumni Profile- Reynolds Foster

My goal at graduation was to work my way into the podiatry department at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital. I had been working at the clinic since the summer of 2007, and I found that department to be the most interesting.

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Welcome

It's summer. What do you have planned?

For many of us, once the school year finishes, we are on to other activities. However, many around us think that if you teach, once school is out, vacation starts. For all in Equine Science and Management, that might be a great idea, but we know it is not the reality. When I consider the reality, it relates to faculty, staff and, yes, students.

What happens after classes stop? Well for some it means new classes start. It could be summer school to take advantage of a unique opportunity, like those who went with Ms. LaBonty and Dr. Camargo to Australia. Learning new things Down Under is really something and thanks to the trip leaders for taking on the challenge of offering the trip. There are those students who used the summer offerings to get certain classes finished to free up time in the fall. Lucky to do that, and I am sure that the courses taken on campus or via the internet are almost as much fun as study abroad.

Classes are there, but so are the many industry activities. We see all the horse shows, trail rides and summer camps that keep those in the industry busy. Just think of how much it takes in preparation to get to the show or other activity executed. It is an almost non-stop time over the summer.

But what should we be doing? For many, the idea of a vacation might not fit with their current lifestyle of getting as much done as possible. I recently read a very interesting article in a horse publication on, of all things, taking a vacation. When I started to read the article, I was thinking, "Where is this going?"

Well consider that research has shown that taking a vacation is very beneficial to our health and well-being. Taking some time off to rest, relax and possibly reflect is good. Now the article did not tell me what kind of vacation or how long. Yes, I was thinking do they mean an extended, all-inclusive cruise or an island resort stay. No specifics on what the vacation needed to look like came up but they did talk about taking a break and it needs to be longer than a weekend, but not much more than that. What we need to do is try and leave work, etc., behind.

Certainly easier said than done, because we are involved in an industry that is so busy during the summer months. How or who will take care of the horses, farm, attend the horse events or the dreaded summer classes? There is so little time to get everything accomplished. While we are busy (I am not supposed to use that word) taking time for a vacation is important. As students, you need to come back to school in the fall semester ready for class and not needing a rest at the end of the summer. Too many times we hear people tell us that getting ready for vacation and getting back into the routine after vacation may be too much work to take a vacation. Wrong. Consider the need to take a break and how it will make a difference in how you see things going on around you.

While summer is not usually thought of as the time to give your horse a vacation, maybe it should be. The article also talked about how giving our horses time to be horses can pay big dividends in how they approach their work. I know growing up, our show schedules ended in mid-August. Yes, long ago, we did not have all the facilities we have now and the show schedule was shorter. That meant shoes came off and horses were turned out for some time if turnout was available. Minimal riding and everyone took a break. Come spring or whenever you started back up, horses were fresh and it was good for everyone. I know having them on pasture meant no stalls to clean and that was a vacation. If horses can benefit from a vacation, so can those who care for them. Easy to say, hard to do, yes, but it is doable.

Well now I am looking at my vacation plans for this summer, but I need to work a bit harder to get them in order. Waiting can mean missing an opportunity to take time to enjoy things other than work. We all need to do this as our summer will allow.

For all involved in the Equine Programs at the University of Kentucky, I hope you all get to take some time to get that break/vacation and come back ready to take on the challenges that will be waiting for you. For me, I think I will go ride a horse.

*Bob Coleman, PhD, PAS
Director of Undergraduate Studies*



Upcoming Events:

June 2
2015 Equine Farm and Facility Expo,
4-8 p.m.
McPeck Racing Farm

July 25
Hats Off Day
Kentucky Horse Park



MASTHEAD

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Hannah Forte, intern, contributing writer
Alexandra Harper, MBA, contributing writer, managing editor, layout
Holly Wiemers, MA, APR, senior editor, contributing writer

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academic program coordinator



UK Ag Equine Programs

N212 Ag Sciences Building North
Lexington, KY 40546-0091

Office: (859) 257-2226

equine@uky.edu

www.ca.uky.edu/equine



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University of Kentucky Equine Alumni



Industry Spotlight

Alexandra Harper

Jenny Evans is the Interim Executive Director for the UK Gluck Equine Research Foundation and Marketing and Promotion Specialist Senior for the UK Gluck Equine Research Center, where she is in charge of international communication and event management.

Evans grew up on a farm, but her family has never owned horses.

“My granddaddy raised tobacco, so I ‘come from’ a farming family, as they would say in Washington County,” Evans said.

However, in 2004, Evans attended the races at Keeneland Race Course.

“The first time a Thoroughbred ran past me, I caught the ‘equine bug’ and it’s never left me,” Evans said.

Originally from Springfield, Ky., Evans came to the Gluck Center six years ago. She had previously been a turf writer at *Thoroughbred Times*, where, in 2007 and 2008, she had the opportunity to cover the Kentucky Derby. She then left to return to community journalism at *The Kentucky Standard* in Bardstown. However, the whole time Evans was at *The Kentucky Standard*, she missed being a part of and working in the equine industry and also really missed Lexington.

“My first day of work, April 20, 2009, was a spring Gluck Equine Research Foundation board meeting,” Evans said. “I thought to myself, ‘Ooh, my, what have I gotten myself into?!’ But, that was a busy day compared to a typical day in the office.”

Over the past six years, Evans has never looked back. She said she will be forever grateful to Ed Squires, past Gluck Foundation Board executive director and researcher in the Gluck Center, for taking a “chance” and hiring her, because she truly has a passion for the Gluck Center’s mission of improving the health and well-being of the horse. She’s also had some amazing opportunities, including traveling to Buenos Aires, Argentina, last summer for the planning of the 10th International Equine Infectious Disease Conference in April 2016.

Evans received her Certificate in College Teaching and Learning from the University of Kentucky in 2014, her MFA in Writing at Spalding University in 2013 and her BA in Public Relations from Eastern Kentucky University in 2005.

Some of Evans hobbies include spending time with her husband Brandon, their 10-year-old Boxer “fur child,” Lexie, and family and friends. In her free time, you can catch her at a cookout and sitting by a campfire; experimenting with new recipes at home; attending boot camp or BarreAmped fitness classes; hanging out at Lake Cumberland; hiking in the Red River Gorge; riding her bike on the Legacy Trail; writing screenplays; reading scripts, books or the occasional graphic novel; or attempting to learn Spanish.



For the love of horses

Hannah Forte

An internship at Lutoff Equestrian provided Sydney Kowalczyk with confidence that she was on the right career path. Lutoff Equestrian is a hunter/jumper competition barn in Versailles, Ky., where trainer Ashely Watts trains and boards more than 30 horses.

Kowalczyk completed her internship at Lutoff Equestrian in her final semester at the University of Kentucky. Kowalczyk stated that the unique Equine Science and Management degree program offered exactly what she was looking for.

“I wanted the small school feel in a large school atmosphere,” Kowalczyk said.

She grew up riding hunters, and later on began to ride jumpers. After riding with Watts for two years, Kowalczyk decided the opportunity to intern at Lutoff Equestrian would allow her to become more involved in the inner workings of a competition barn.

“I knew that she could teach me things that I would carry with me for the rest of my career. Lutoff Equestrian became a second family to me,” Kowalczyk said.

Kowalczyk’s internship responsibilities entailed caring for the horses; including turning out, mucking, rehabbing, traveling to shows and assisting with training or lessons. She also helped with medical care like soundness evaluations and medication administration. In her time spent learning from Watts, Kowalczyk said she was able to witness what it takes to manage horses and clients, as well as collaborate with other horse professionals such as veterinarians and farriers.

In addition to learning how to meet the individual needs of horses and owners, Kowalczyk said, “I met some great people in the industry that I hope to remain in contact with for many years to come. Traveling to horse shows with Ashley, I learned how to work with people and quickly resolve problems. There was never a dull moment with Lutoff Equestrian.”

Kowalczyk said the internship taught her how to multi-task and prioritize a schedule. With so many duties and responsibilities, she learned a lot about what it takes to run a successful competition barn.

“I had to learn how to think on my feet. But I think the most important thing I learned was that no matter how busy or long the day, how much work there was to be done, I loved every minute of it,” Kowalczyk said.

Kowalczyk graduated in May 2015, and will be moving back to her hometown of Ballston Spa, N.Y., to work on a sport horse farm. She plans to take on a few more working student positions in the hunter/jumper industry before hopefully continuing to either own or manage her own facility.



Equine Science and Management Alumni Profile

Reynolds Foster, '10

Assistant Podiatry Shop Technician at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital



Reynolds Foster at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital

Where is home for you?

Lexington, Ky.

How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

My mother worked at an advertising agency that primarily worked on advertising in the Thoroughbred industry.

What were your career goals before graduation?

My goal at graduation was to work my way into the podiatry department at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital. I had been working at the clinic since the summer of 2007, and I found that department to be the most interesting.

What led you to this position? Did you have certain internships, professors or classes that influenced you?

I had an interest in the farrier profession to begin with. A field trip we took with Dr. Coleman to the Kentucky Horseshoeing School affected my decision to try and find something in that field.

What are your current job responsibilities?

I assist Manuel Cruz, the Head Podiatry Shop Technician, to make therapeutic shoes for our four veterinary podiatrists.

How are you currently involved in the horse industry?

My involvement with the horse industry is limited to my position at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital.

What advice do you have for current equine students?

That depends on their background. I personally did not grow up around horses, so my hands-on experience with horses came primarily from various places. This included volunteer work that I did in high school, the horse behavior and handling class required for the major and my initial job at Rood and Riddle on the admissions staff. I cannot stress enough how important it is to have hands-on experience handling horses. For a student that wants to work directly with horses, they will have to go beyond what is covered during class time.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Bob Coleman, who was recently awarded the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Student Council Joe T. Davis Outstanding Staff Award at the Ag Student Council banquet. He was nominated by Equine Science and Management graduate Kelli Crosby.

This award is given each year to an outstanding faculty advisor who has shown commitment above and beyond the requirements set by the college in helping students make the most of their learning experience. It recognizes a faculty member who is dedicated to the individual needs of students.



Congratulations to our 2015 Equine Science and Management Graduates!

Springtime at the University Kentucky also means graduation time. On Saturday, May 9, the Equine Science and Management undergraduate program celebrated the college accomplishments of its 47 graduates, along with their families and faculty and staff within the program, at a graduation reception held by UK Ag Equine Programs.

Graduates, along with the more than 200 others in attendance, enjoyed morning refreshments and a short program with Bob Coleman, director of undergraduate studies for the equine program. During this time, he shared a special memory of each graduate as they were called up to receive a small graduation gift commemorating their time at UK.

As you can see from the following profiles, each of the program's graduates is unique, and each will go out and contribute to the equine industry in many ways. We wish each of them well as they start this next chapter in their lives.



Jacqueline Barr

"I completely fell in love with the city and I saw the opportunities available that I couldn't imagine I could find anywhere else."



Jacqueline Barr is from Colchester, Conn. She chose to come to UK after she visited Lexington in 2010 for the World Equestrian Games.

"I completely fell in love with the city and I saw the opportunities available that I couldn't imagine I could find anywhere else. I decided that the Horse Capital of the World would be the best place to learn about them. Common sense, right?"

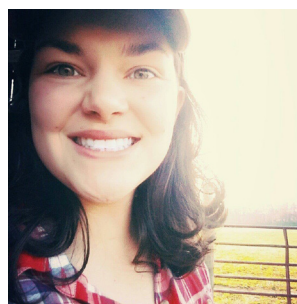
After graduation, Barr said she hopes to continue working at the Gluck Equine Research Center assisting with equine reproductive research.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Barr noted her month-long equine study abroad to Scotland's Rural College.

"I met some of the most amazing people, many of which also went to the University of Kentucky. The trip reminded me to take chances and put my all into everything I do, especially when it's something new," Barr said.

Veronica Bill

"I wanted to attend a college that had an excellent agriculture program that balanced hands-on learning with lots of courses in my area of interest."



Bill is originally from Pasadena, Md.

"I wanted to attend a college that had an excellent agriculture program that balanced hands-on learning with lots of courses in my area of interest," Bill said. "UK had one of the best farms I saw and overall such a great program."

After graduation, Bill plans to get a master's in animal science or related field, and then go on to veterinary school.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, "There are so many great memories to think on, but one of my favorites has to be going to the AFGC conference in Tennessee and winning the forage bowl. We had a great team, great advisor and an overall wonderful time."

Danielle Bricker

Favorite memory? "All of the experiences and opportunities that I was able to have to help me get my foot in the door within the Thoroughbred industry."



Bricker is from Long Island, N.Y., and originally came to UK for its nursing program and the opportunities to continue to horseback ride.

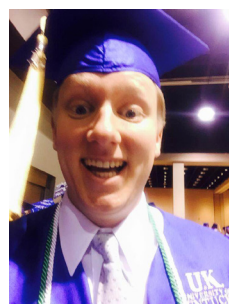
"After meeting with the head of nursing, it did not feel like the right move for me," Bricker said.

So she decided to major in the Equine Science and Management program.

After graduation, Bricker said she plans to enter the Thoroughbred sales industry. Her ultimate goal is to become a bloodstock agent.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, "It's hard to narrow down my favorite memory as I've had so many amazing memories here. One of my favorite memories would have been experiencing State Street during March Madness. I have never seen anything like it and being able to experience it with all of the amazing friends I've met that have become family to me.

"Another memory that I will take away from my time at UK, is all of the experiences and opportunities that I was able to have to help get my foot in the door within the Thoroughbred industry. I cannot thank those that have helped me enough," she said. "Go Cats!"



Jackson Buchanan

"I have been extremely blessed with the friendships I have gained through my many adventures of college."

Buchanon is originally from Nashville, and came to the University of Kentucky because he felt that the Equine Science and Management major provided him the best opportunity to learn about the horse and its industry inside the classroom, while gaining unrivaled experiences outside the classroom.

After graduation, Buchanon will be joining the Darley Flying Start program for the next two years.

When asked what his favorite memory was while at UK, Buchanon said, "The people who know me know I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in college. That being said, I would have to say some of my favorite memories made happened while living at 112 State Street my sophomore year. Other than that, I have been extremely blessed with the friendships I have gained through my many adventures of college."

Kelli Crosby

"I wanted to chase my dream of working in the horse world."



Crosby is from Kingsport, Tenn., originally, but Lexington had been her home several years before coming to UK.

"I made a conscious decision to quit chasing a paycheck and start chasing my dream of working the horse world," Crosby said.

Two years ago, Crosby and her partner started a small business specializing in the sales, placement and service of ATM machines, point of sale systems, credit card processing and gift and loyalty services. After graduation, Crosby plans to continue to grow her business and remain self-employed. She also plans to spend as much time on horseback as possible.

When asked what her favorite memory was at UK, Crosby said, "Running into Dr. Coleman at the World's Championship Saddlebred Horse Show in 2012."

Ashley Gerritsen

"I feel like I made such a difference and I'm so lucky to have made two of my very best friends there."



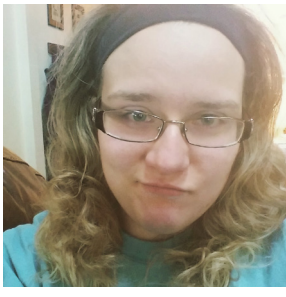
Gerritsen is from Hampshire, Ill., and chose UK based on its emphasis on research and facilities and she wanted to be surrounded by the horse industry.

After graduation, Gerritsen will continue to work with Kristine Urschel, a researcher and faculty member in Animal and Food Sciences, on nutrition research through the summer and will consider pursuing a master's degree.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, "Completing my project in Elizabeth LaBonty, lecturer and internship coordinator's, Equine Careers class." I feel like I made such a difference and I'm so lucky to have made two of my very best friends there. They will be bridesmaids in my wedding this fall!"

Elizabeth Goldsmith

Favorite memory? "Those spent with my Ceres' sisters."



Goldsmith came to the University of Kentucky from Lisle, Ill.. She chose UK because it was still within driving distance of her family.

After graduation, Goldsmith plans to continue working for Pawsibilities Unleashed and start training dogs full time.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Goldsmith said, "Those spent with my Ceres' sisters."

Keely Gustin

Favorite memory? "Making friends that I hope last a lifetime."



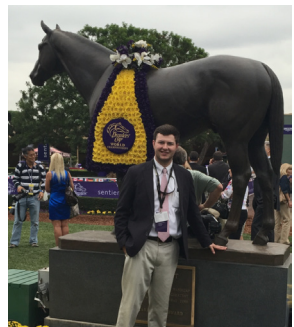
Gustin is from Port Angeles, Wash., and came to UK for its equine program.

After graduation, she plans to continue working at the Kentucky Horse Park and then look for possible jobs at the National Reining Horse Association.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, "Making friends that I hope last a lifetime."

Robert Hertzell

Favorite memory? "Working Breeders' Cup in 2013 and 2014."



Hertzell is from Cincinnati and always wanted to come to the University of Kentucky and work in the horse industry.

After graduation, he plans to work at St. George Farm and begin applying for the Irish and English National Stud in the fall.

When asked what his favorite memory was while at UK, he said, "Working Breeders' Cup in 2013 and 2014."

Annie Hickey

"I love living in Lexington and can't see myself anywhere else!"



Hickey came to UK from Atlanta to play on the UK Women's Polo Team and to further pursue her love for horses, specifically within therapeutic riding.

After graduation Hickey will be working at Central Kentucky Riding for Hope as a therapeutic riding instructor, as well as training and conditioning horses for the Master of the Woodford Hounds.

"I love living in Lexington and can't see myself anywhere else," Hickey said.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, "I have too many good memories from UK to just pick one. My luckiest memory of being an Ag major was when the bus broke down on the way to a field trip to Purnell's...it was Gods way of saying I didn't need to see that!"

Jay Hochstetler

“I have loved Lexington since I was a child and wanted to be involved in the horse industry.”



Hochstetler is from Crete, Ill., and has loved Lexington since he was a child and wanted to be involved in the horse industry.

After graduation, he plans to work as an assistant trainer for Hochstetler Racing Stables.

When asked what his favorite memory was while at UK, he said, “Finishing fifth out of 48 at Nationals with the UK Men’s Club Volleyball and receiving All-Tournament Second Team this year.”

Jessica Hyde

“The four years I’ve spent as a Wildcat have been the best of my life.”



Hyde is from a small Kentucky town called Cerulean. She always knew she wanted to attend the University of Kentucky and when Hyde fell in love with horses, she knew UK was the place for her.

After graduation, Hyde said she plans to look for a job and may decide to return for graduate school at some point.

“The four years I’ve spent as a Wildcat have been the best of my life and I don’t regret a moment of them,” she said.

Fallon Jackson

“I came to UK to be in the heart of horse country and gain experience from the best horsemen.”



Jackson is from Pittsboro, Ind., and came to UK to be in the heart of horse country and gain experience from the best horsemen.

After graduation, Jackson plans to work on a large Thoroughbred farm in the sales division.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Jackson said, “Competing in the equine Olympics with my friends from Maine Chance Farm.”

Sydney Kowalczyk

Favorite memory? “Standing on State Street watching our basketball team win the national championship my freshman year.”



Kowalczyk’s hometown is Ballston Spa, N.Y., a small town in Upstate New York about five miles from Saratoga Springs. She came to UK to experience a new place and study in the Horse Capital of the World with some of the industry’s finest. She also wanted to attend a school with an outstanding sense of community.

Kowalczyk said she plans to pursue a career in training and showing hunter/jumpers after graduation. She would also love to be involved in pharmaceutical sales within the equine industry.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, “Standing on State Street watching our team win the national championship my freshman year. The ride I have taken with these basketball teams my four years is something I will never forget. CATS CATS CATS!”

Samantha Lape

“The equine program was the best fit for what I wanted to do.”



Lape is originally from Cincinnati and said she came to UK because its equine program was the best fit for what she wanted to do and because she wanted to go to a big university.

After graduation, Lape will be going back to Cincinnati to work at Cincinnati Therapeutic Riding and Horsemanship and work on obtaining her PATH teaching certification

Her favorite memory of UK was winning the basketball national championship freshman year.

Erin Morgan

Favorite memory? “Writing a story that was picked up by ESPN about a horse named Casiguapo who was bred by UK’s Maine Chance Farm.”



Morgan is originally from Cary, N.C., and came to UK because of the unique Equine Science and Management program.

After graduation, Morgan will continue working full-time for Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital as its marketing and public relations specialist. Her other plans include training for a half-marathon with her dog Lucky, a red golden retriever.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Morgan said, “Writing a story that was picked up by ESPN about a horse named Casiguapo who was bred by UK’s Maine Chance Farm.”

Emily Nelson

Favorite memory? “Going to New Orleans my freshman year when UK won the NCAA National Championship!”



Nelson is originally from Lexington. She chose to come to UK because it seemed like the perfect fit because of the Equine Science and Management program.

According to Nelson, her favorite memory from UK is going to New Orleans her freshman year when UK won the NCAA National Championship.

Nelson’s plans after graduation are to find a business-related job in the equine industry

Rachel Nelson

“After my first trip down, I was sold and never looked back.”



Nelson traveled to the University of Kentucky from Urbandale, Iowa.

“I was researching schools one night during my senior year of high school and once I came across UK’s program, I decided to visit for Merit weekend,” Nelson said. “I had only toured Iowa State up to that point. After my first tip down, I was sold and never looked back. I just knew I had to be here.”

After graduation, Nelson plans to work for a company called The Farm Clinic and evaluate horse pastures on farms here in Lexington and also parts of Europe and Japan through parts of the year.

“I couldn’t be more excited,” Nelson said.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, “There are so many. One of my favorite memories is freshman year K-Week where I met the people who are still some of my best friends.”

Taylor Nolan

Favorite memory? “Having hands-on equine labs and field trips.”



Nolan hails from Atlanta and chose UK to pursue her passion for horses.

After graduation, Nolan plans to find a career in the equine industry, preferably in Lexington.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Nolan said it was the hands-on equine labs and field trips.

Alexa Prettyman

“I fell in love with the city of Lexington and instantly felt like I belonged in this community.”



Prettyman is from Baltimore, and chose to attend UK for its Equine Science and Management program.

“Upon visiting, I fell in love with the city of Lexington and instantly felt like I belonged in this community,” Prettyman said.

Prettyman plans to take a year off to work and gain additional live experiences after graduation. In the fall of 2016, she hopes to start a graduate program, studying economics.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, “I have so many favorite memories from being at UK these past four years. Most are actually from freshman year. I still remember K Week like it was yesterday. I met a very special person in my K Team. The next best memory was attending the UK versus UNC basketball game, when Anthony Davis made the game winning block. Being a part of the Big Blue Nation for the 2012 championship also provides great memories.”

Amanda Reardon

Favorite memory? “Earning the opportunities to work and study with some of the most elite horsemen in the country.”



Reardon is from Calvert County, Md., and chose to come to UK for the unique and highly-skilled Equine Science and Management program.

“Being located in the Horse Capital of the World seemed fitting to choose to come to school here,” Reardon said.

After graduation, Reardon plans to stay in the Lexington area. She is currently employed by a local horse farm teaching horseback riding lessons.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, growing to be a diehard CATS fan and earning the opportunities to work and study with some of the most elite horsemen in the country made the list.

Courtney Schneider

“I’ll always remember the record breaking sales I was a part of with Maine Chance Farm.”



Schneider is from Frankfort and came to UK because it is in the best possible location for what she wants to do in the future. She also came to UK because the UK Ag Equine Program has a great reputation.

“I waited years to be able to come here,” Schneider said. “UK was the only school I even applied to because I knew this was where I belonged.”

After graduation, Schneider plans to work at Shawhan Place in Paris, Ky. and hopes to attend the Irish National Stud breeding course next spring.

“I would like to have a career in the breeding/sales aspect of the Thoroughbred industry,” she said.

When asked what her favorite memory was at UK, she said, “It’s hard to choose a favorite memory, I’ve been very lucky to have made some of the best friends during my time here. A couple of other things that I’ll always remember are the record breaking sales I was a part of with Maine Chance Farm, and also falling love with one of the horses we bred and having the opportunity to purchase an interest in him before his racing career started.”

Jiayu Shao

“I came to UK because Lexington is the Horse Capital of the World.”



Shao comes to UK all the way from China.

“I came to UK because Lexington is the Horse Capital of the World,” Shao said.

Shao knew that by coming to Lexington she would have more chances to be near horses as well as different types of horse events. In addition, Shao said she knew UK had a famous basketball team.

After graduation Shao will go back to China to work with horses. She also enjoys watching polo and is planning on finding a place to learn how to play.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, “Our basketball team won the National Championship in 2012, that night during the celebration was my first time to feel America’s passion for sports. I will remember that day forever.”

Stephanie Spooner

Favorite memory? “I can’t pick just one, but I loved having hands-on experience with horses in EQM 105.”



Spooner is from Downers Grove, Ill., and came to UK because of the horses and so her family would be no more than two hours away.

After graduation, Spooner plans to finish her business minor and look for work on a farm.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, “I can’t pick just one, but I loved having hands-on experience with horses in EQM 105.”

Alison Stavola

“I wanted to study horses in the Horse Capital of the World!”



Stavola grew up in Greensboro, N.C., and came to UK because she wanted to study horses in the Horse Capital of the World.

After graduation Stavola said she plans on attending veterinary school.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said winning the NCAA National Championship in basketball in 2012.

Kylie Stavola

Favorite memory? “Following the men’s basketball team and being able to experience a National Championship my freshman year!”



Stavola is originally from East Brunswick, N.J., and came to UK for its specialized equine degree program, specifically the business and management track, as well as the many new industries and experiences available in and around Lexington.

After graduation, Stavola plans to stay in Lexington and hopefully accept a full-time job within the equine industry.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, “One of many was following the men’s basketball team and being able to experience a National Championship my freshman year. Another great memory that was more recent was giving my capstone presentation on marketing the equine industry. It was really great to be able to speak in front of many of my former professors and mentors and to many of them in the same room at the same time.”

Christian Strohmeier

"I immediately fell in love with campus upon my first visit."



Strohmeier is from Louisville.

"I immediately fell in love with campus upon my first visit," Strohmeier said.

Strohmeier said he felt like UK was the perfect distance away from home and many of his classmates and friends also came to UK.

Directly after graduation, Strohmeier will be embarking on a four-week cycling trip to the Florida Keys with a good friend.

"In terms of a job, I haven't quite figured it out yet," Strohmeier said.

When asked what his favorite memory was while at UK, he said, "Winning the NCAA National Basketball Championship in 2012 and celebrating with friends the whole night."

Amanda Swider

"I came to UK for the opportunities available to pursue both my equine degree and pre-physician assistant goals, and live in a place that gets significantly less snow than home."



Swider is from Canton, Mich.

"I came to UK for the opportunities available to pursue both my equine degree and pre-physician assistant goals, and live in a place that gets significantly less snow than home," Swider said.

After graduation, she said she will continue with additional classes, then apply for physician assistant school next spring. Swider hopes to become a physician assistant working in the pediatric oncology field.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, "The UK Equestrian Team has some of my best memories of UK. All of the early mornings and late nights at shows, weekly lessons and team dinners all brought me the best friends and best memories I could've asked for."

Sarah Troxell

"Getting to be a part of a foal's birth through my internship was a definite highlight while at UK."



Troxell is from Johnson City, Tenn., and chose to come to UK for the equine program and the contacts UK had built up through the Equine Science and Management program.

After graduation, Troxell plans to work for Coady Photography, a racetrack photographer. She also hopes to make use of the working visa program so that she may be involved in Ireland's Thoroughbred industry.

"I attended a horse health and management course in Ireland in May 2012, and ever since then I've been enamored with the country, its people and wanted to spend more than two weeks there," Troxell said. "Those two weeks were amazing and led me to contemplate a path I never have considered before."

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Troxell said, "It's hard to pick one favorite memory. Meeting my friend Marshall Blevins was on. She's had a positive influence on me personally and professionally. If not for her, I'd have never had a foot in the door with Coady Photography. Also, getting to be a part of a foal's birth through my internship was a definite highlight. And, of course, getting to be in the class in Ireland was incredible."

Amy Vanbenschoten

"I will never forget the amazing time I've had with the amazing people I have met."



Vanbenschoten comes to UK from her hometown of Florham Park, N.J. She chose UK because she had not really grown up around horses, therefore, being in the Horse Capital of the World, it would help her learn as much as she could about the equine industry in order to be successful.

After graduation, Vanbenschoten will be interning at the Life Adventure Center as a program facilitator for the summer.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, "I have so many wonderful memories from my time here. Joining Ceres Women's fraternity, meeting new friends in classes and attending basketball games. I will never forget the amazing time I've had with the amazing people I have met."

Ann-McCullough Wilkins

“The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has been a family to me over the last four years and I will truly miss the support, motivation and smiling faces that I see in Ag North every day.”



Wilkins is from Bowling Green, and decided to come to UK after meeting Jason Headrick at a SeeBlue night in Bowling Green.

“He informed me of the equine studies program; there was no turning back after that,” Wilkins said.

Wilkins long-term goal is to move to Charleston, and eventually manage and/or own a horse carriage company.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, “Probably winning the National Championship my freshman year.

Overall, her favorite lasting memory will be the overwhelming, positive impact that her teachers and staff had on her while at UK.

“The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has been a family to me over the last four years and I will truly miss the support, motivation and smiling faces that I get to see in Ag North every day,” Wilkins said.

Colton Woods



“There was no better place to progress my academic education than here at the University of Kentucky.”

Woods comes to UK from High Point, N.C. He was born with a passion for the horse and into a family that bleeds blue.

“There was no better place to progress my academic education than here at the University of Kentucky,” Woods said.

After graduation, Woods will be joining the Double Dan Horsemanship team where he will be able to pursue his dream of working with and learning from world-class horsemen and horses, furthering his horsemanship and teaching others the Double Dan Horsemanship program.

When asked what his favorite memory was while at UK, Woods said that without the people he has had the opportunity to meet, work with, learn from and grow beside, his experience at UK would have never been the same.

“Over the last three years, the brotherhood of Alpha Gamma Rho and the faculty and staff of the Equine Programs and College of Agriculture, Food and Environment have been crucial elements in my success,” Woods said. “I cannot thank them enough for all they have taught me and all the memories that have been created together.”

Bethany Wurl

Favorite memory? “Winning the basketball tournament freshman year, and being a part of the UK Horse Racing Club.”



Wurl’s home town is Columbus, Ind.

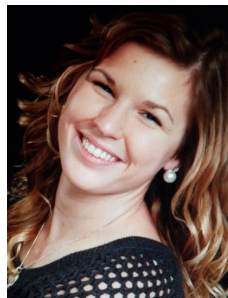
“I’ve wanted to come to UK since I was a freshman in high school,” Wurl said.

Wurl wanted to join the equine program and it was the closest university with such a degree. Lexington is also the center of the Thoroughbred breeding industry, which is what she plans to go in to after graduation.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, she said, “Winning the tournament freshman year, and being a part of the UK Horse Racing Club.”

Kristen Zaner

Favorite memory? “Winning the National Championship in basketball my freshman year.”



Zaner is from Chesapeake, Va., and chose to come to UK for the Equine Science and Management program.

After graduation Zaner plans to get a full-time position as an equine veterinary tech.

When asked what her favorite memory was from UK, Zaner said, “Winning the National Championship in basketball her freshman year.”

Congratulations to our other graduates as well...

- ~Gianna Alberti
- ~Erika Berntsen
- ~Caroline Bollinger
- ~Nicole Burke
- ~Katherine Bushman
- ~Katherine Caddel
- ~Emily Daunhauer
- ~Kennedy Ellingson
- ~Nicholas Koucky
- ~Kayleigh Leavell
- ~Lauren Mangin
- ~Kelli Mardell
- ~Kelsey Wallace



UNIVERSITY OF
KENTUCKY®

GEN 302: Horsemanship Down Under

Elizabeth A. LaBonty

What happens when 17 students and two faculty members travel half-way around the world to study the equine industry in Australia? A lot, as it turns out.

On May 11, 17 UK Equine Science and Management, Animal Science, Pre-vet, and Ag Econ students all landed in Sydney, Australia, for GEN 302: Horsemanship Down Under – a two-week exploration of the equine industry in Australia. At the end, and in equal measures tired, excited, with new friends and a broader perspective, they all packed up and came home. The time in between is where the fun stuff happened.



ESMA students at the Scone Racing Festival.

This course was designed to compare equine management, training and popular breeds and disciplines in Australia with those here at home. Students visited Thoroughbred farms both large and small, including Coolmore Australia, attended a day of racing at the prestigious Scone Festival and received a behind-the-scenes tour of the Australian Stock Horse Championships in Tamworth. There, they were given a private demonstration by one of the top performance horse trainers in Australia, complete with an in-depth look at that country's fastest growing sport (both in the equine industry and in general) – campdrafting, a unique Australian sport involving a horse and rider working cattle, similar to American stock horse events such as cutting, working cow horse, team penning and ranch sorting.

Next up was a tour of the Sydney Equestrian Center – the only center in the world built specifically for the Olympics that is still running, followed by a trip to the University of Queensland. At UQ, students heard lectures from one of the top equine laminitis researchers in the world, in addition to lectures on Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome in Australia and foal weaning behavior. Then the entire group, from those who had never been on a horse before to those who were practically born on a horse, got to go on a day-long trail ride together, where laughs were had, helmets were worn and everyone came back safe and sound.

The course wrapped up with a private lecture about conservation and research at the Steve Irwin Australia Zoo, followed by a day spent chasing, petting and posing for pictures with some of the world's most elusive wildlife.

From studying pasture management and learning about a new breed of horse (the Australian Stock Horse), to piling into a basement for an overnight stay and singing on the bus, GEN 302: Horsemanship Down Under was an incredible opportunity for all involved. A huge thank you to everyone who hosted us in Australia, as well as UK Ag Equine Programs, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Study Abroad Office and Dean Nancy Cox for making it all possible!



Students enjoyed trail riding at Slickers Trail Ride.

If you would like to find out more about what students learned, please attend their presentations on Friday, August 28 at 2 p.m. (location to be announced). We hope to see you all there.

Cheers, mate!



ESMA students at Queensland University.



ESMA students visited Coolmore while in Australia.



Fernanda Camargo and several students participate in a unique petting experience.

UK Ag Equine Programs presents *in conjunction with McPeek Racing* 7th Annual Equine Farm & Facilities Expo

McPeek Racing specializes in selection, management and training of Thoroughbred racehorses. Kenny McPeek serves on the board of UK Ag Equine Programs and has been training racehorses since 1985.



Tuesday, June 2, 2015, 3:30-8 p.m.
meal provided

Magdalena Farm, 2651 Russell Cave Road, Lexington

RSVP appreciated to Fayette County
Extension Office
(859)257-5582
dl_CES_fayette@uky.edu

Agenda:

- 3:30-5 p.m., Registration & Trade Show
- 4-5 p.m., Farm Tours
- 5 p.m., Welcome, Kenny McPeek, "What I look for in a yearling"
- 5:45 p.m., Meal and Announcements
- 6:30-8 p.m., Educational Stations:
 - Dr. Bob Coleman, "Footing for where your horses work"
 - Dr. J.D. Green, "Pasture weed management"
 - Mr. Ryan Martin, "Landscape decisions on horse farms"



CLUBS AND TEAMS DIRECTORY

DRESSAGE AND EVENTING TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe, jill.stowe@uky.edu
President: Elizabeth Lampert, eala229@g.uky.edu
Facebook: UK Dressage and Eventing

HORSE RACING CLUB

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence, llawrenc@email.uky.edu
President: Bethany Wurl, ukhorseracingclub@gmail.com
Facebook: University of Kentucky Horse Racing Club

EQUESTRIAN TEAM

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

HUNT SEAT TEAM

President: Haley Dowty, uk.equestrianteam@gmail.com
Facebook: University of Kentucky Equestrian Team

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Facebook: U of Kentucky Polo

R.E.A.D. CLUB

Advisor: Dr. Kristine Urschel, klur222@uky.edu
President: Sarah Sivinski, sesi225@g.uky.edu
Facebook: READ Club

RODEO TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Kristine Urschel, klur222@uky.edu
President: Allison Barkley, ukrodeoteam@gmail.com
Facebook: University of Kentucky Rodeo Team/Club

SADDLE SEAT TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano, mary.rossano@uky.edu
President: Andrew Slater, UkSaddleSeatTeam@gmail.com
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