

# Wildcat Canter



April 2009

UK Equine Initiative  
Student Newsletter

Graduation is my favorite time of year. Every year when I see graduating seniors I am reminded of how it felt to be one. How exciting it was to enter the 'real world.' What an accomplishment it was to have completed all of the requirements of a degree. How scary it was to think that there might be one class out there somewhere that was forgotten! It seems so fitting that graduation is in the spring. Spring is, after all, a time of new beginnings. Seniors are on the brink of their careers, juniors and sophomores are about to inherit the leadership of being upperclassmen and a new class of freshman are eagerly anticipating the journey that is a college education.



For faculty, staff and administrators, however, this time of year means something entirely different. It means the satisfaction of watching their hours of teaching, advising and supporting students be paid off in a tangible symbol of success known as **the graduate**. But this year, in the College of Agriculture, the achievement of having graduates will mean even more to the many involved in envisioning, designing and implementing the first ever Equine Science and Management Degree offered at UK. For everyone involved directly in the process and for those in the Equine Initiative who have celebrated the milestones along the way, this year when the first student awarded a Bachelor of Science in Equine Science and Management, Gus Koch, walks across the stage it will be a well deserved, long awaited feeling of accomplishment.

So as we approach spring, and graduation, each from our own view point may we jointly celebrate the many accomplishments that this year represents.

Elizabeth LaBonty  
Lecturer, Internship  
Coordinator



## In this Issue:

- Horse Racing Club Trainer Panel
- EI Career Fair success
- Student Spotlight: Mackenzie Brewer
- How to handle tough interview questions
- Upcoming industry events

# Equine Clubs Upcoming Events

## Horse Racing Club

### SAVE THE DATE:

Trainer Panel

Hosted by the UK Horse Racing Club

When: Tuesday April 21

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Where: Student Center Grand Ballroom

## Equestrian Team

The UK Equestrian Team (Hunt Seat Team) has qualified for nationals and will defend its 2008 title April 23-26, 2009, in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Please go here to see last year's press release on the team's [winwww.ca.uky.edu/equine/press\\_releases\\_UKETwins\\_National.html](http://winwww.ca.uky.edu/equine/press_releases_UKETwins_National.html)

## Representing UK will be:

- Jenny Gordon--open over fences
- Ali Cibon--open flat
- Katie Kearney-intermediate over fences
- Becka Wichard-intermediate flat
- Lauren Patterson- novice over fences and novice flat
- Lizz Kunz--walk, trot, canter
- Marcy Woods--walk trot

## Members who qualified to compete as individuals:

- Jenny Gordon--Cacchione Cup
- Ali Cibon--intermediate flat and over fences
- Victoria Willock--novice over fences
- Molly Peyton -- western high point rider

## Polo Team

The Polo team was featured in the *Kentucky Kernel*. Please visit this link to view the article <http://kykernel.com/2009/04/16/swinging-for-a-championship-uk-club-polo-makes-it-to-semi-finals-in-fourth-year-since-inception/>



# Updates from around the College of Agriculture

## Calendar-

- April 1-22 - Priority Registration
- April 23 - Sept. 1 - Students may change majors to another college
- May 1 - Last day of classes
- May 4-8 - Finals Week
- May 9 - Graduation

# UKAg

## Graduation Activities

Graduation activities will be Saturday, May 9 at Rupp Arena. The College of Agriculture Recognition Program will be at 11 a.m. Students should plan to be there at 10:15 for check-in and line-up. Main Commencement will be at 2 p.m. Students should plan to arrive at 1:30 p.m. An invitation has been sent to your family at your diploma mailing address.

If you were not able to attend Senior Salute, you may go to either bookstore to order your regalia, announcements and other items related to graduation. If you would like to have your picture made for the yearbook, please contact the Kentuckian at 257-4005.

## Advising & Registration

Advising for the summer and fall 2009 terms will be March 23-April 10.

**Priority registration for the summer and fall 2009 terms will be March 30-April 19.**

**The secondary registration window is April 20-21.**

## Add/Drop

The dates for add/drop for the summer and fall 2009 terms are below. If you need to make adjustments to your schedule, you may do so during these times. You may want to check myUK to see if department have added additional seats or sections of classes.

April 28 - June 11

July 24 - Aug. 22

Aug. 24 (1 - 7 p.m.)

Aug. 25 (1 p.m.) through Sept. 1

# Equine Initiative News

## UK Horse Racing Club to host Thoroughbred Trainer Panel

LEXINGTON, Ky. (April 8, 2009) – The University of Kentucky Horse Racing Club will host its signature Thoroughbred trainer panel, titled “Inside Horse Racing: The Trainer’s View,” at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, in the Student Center Grand Ballroom on UK’s campus.

“Inside Horse Racing: The Trainer’s View” provides students and members of the community with the opportunity to learn more about horse racing from industry members and a chance to network with some of the best trainers in the business.

“I think the best thing about the event is the opportunity to listen to people talk about their passion for horses and horse racing,” said Laurie Lawrence, club advisor and professor of equine nutrition in UK’s Department of Animal and Food Sciences.

Hall-of-Fame trainer Claude “Shug” McGaughey, Kentucky Derby-winning trainer Michael Matz, Preakness Stakes-winning trainer Neil Howard, Belmont Stakes-winning trainer Ken McPeck and stakes-winning trainer Michelle Nihei will share their experiences in the industry as featured trainers on the panel. Horse Racing Radio Network president Mike Penna will emcee the event.

“The event will be entertaining for all types of horse racing fans,” Lawrence said. “They will have the opportunity to hear from leading trainers on subjects of current interest and also find out how each trainer got started. Plus, there will be a great silent auction that will include racing-related items and non-racing items, too.”

“Inside Horse Racing: The Trainer’s View” begins at 6 p.m. with a silent auction and hors d’oeuvres. Trainers will speak at 6:30 p.m. A question and answer session will follow. Proceeds from the event go to the Horse Farm Workers’ Educational Assistance Fund and the UK Horse Racing Club. Tickets are \$10 at the door and \$5 for students.

“The main goal of our club is to give students an inside look at the industry,” said club president Katey Caddel.

“The trainer panel will allow all attendees to put a face to the sport.”

The club hosted its first trainer panel in October 2007. The event featured McPeck, as well as Kentucky Derby-winning trainers Carl Nafzger and John Ward and stakes-winning trainers Rebecca Maker and Ron Moquett. Approximately \$4,000 was raised to benefit the Maker’s Mark Secretariat Center and the UK Horse Racing Club.

The UK Horse Racing Club would like to thank the following sponsors for their support: Airdrie Stud, Churchill Downs, the Jockey Club, Keeneland, the Kentucky Equine Education Project, Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers’ Club, Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders, Pin Oak Stud and Vinery.

For more information, email the club at [ukhorseracingclub@hotmail.com](mailto:ukhorseracingclub@hotmail.com) or visit [www.ag.uky.edu/equine/index.php?p=147](http://www.ag.uky.edu/equine/index.php?p=147).



A photo from 2007 Trainer Panel

# First Equine Career Fair a success!!

The Equine Initiative Student Working Group, in conjunction with Internship Coordinator Elizabeth LaBonty, hosted the inaugural Equine Career Fair March 31. The fair featured more than 23 business and organization booths set up from many different parts of the industry. One of the career fair sessions featured industry professional Dan Rosenberg, who spoke to students about how to prepare for a job in the equine industry and what ways to plan ahead to succeed.

Another session was hosted by LaBonty, who taught attendees how to write a professional resume, cover letter and thank you note to a potential employer. Mike Owens, Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Manager of the Year, and Cindy Edwards, the Career Resource Center, helped students prepare for interviews and explained how to adapt to changing settings in the equine industry.

It was a hugely successful event, with 125 student participants who hailed from six countries, 28 states and 36 different degree tracks. The biggest turnout, not surprisingly, came from UK (31 students), followed by Midway (14), Morehead (13) and Georgetown (11). The fair attracted students from as far away as Kansas State, who drove here to attend this event. Post-event surveys have been very positive, with the average for each session and aspects of the event itself all rating over a 4 on a 5-point scale. Looks like this should become an annual event!

## Career Fair Photos



## Some numbers of interest

Students attending-125  
Schools/programs represented-33  
Majors/degrees-36  
Countries- 6  
States-28



# Student Spotlight: Mackenzie Brewer

The Eastern Kentucky region near Wolfe County is commonly known for its agricultural involvement in the coal industry, not show horses. But the deep-rooted love for Tennessee Walking Horses passed on to Agricultural Communications sophomore, Mackenzie Brewer from her grandfather and cousins is something she feels makes her unique to her region, this state and the University of Kentucky.

"I've met a lot of people involved in a wide range of breeds and disciplines, but very few have the background in Big Lick Walking Horses," Brewer said. "Big Lick Walking horses are the Tennessee Walking horses that show with the large pads."

Her grandfather and cousins used to show competitively and when they moved away from it, Brewer just seemed to settle right in. Though she is the only person in her immediate family to continue to show, they have close to 40 horses at all times. The family is in the process of downsizing the farm due to Brewer's involvement in school and the diminishing time she has to get home to ride.

The show circuit through the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association for Big Lick Walking Horses is highly competitive and there are few shows around Wolfe County. Therefore Brewer and her family traveled to numerous places to compete. Some of them were in the Kentucky communities of Shelbyville, Owingsville and Harrodsburg. Her family also traveled out of the state to Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia. Most recently, her trainer, Gene Batton, and her horse, Roscoe, relocated to Athens, Tenn.



"It's only three hours away from Lexington, so that's not too bad," Brewer said about the new distance she will have to drive to get to ride her horse.

In 2005 and 2006, Brewer competed with her youth horse Touch the Clutch at the Walking Horse Celebration in Shelbyville, Tenn., in Juvenile 17 and Under. But in 2007, her senior year of high school, she was given Roscoe, a 5-year-old gelding.

"He was considered a birthday, Christmas and graduation gift," she recalled with a smile.

Unfortunately, due to injuries, his show successes have been delayed. Brewer and Roscoe debut at the Walking Horse Celebration this September for the first time.

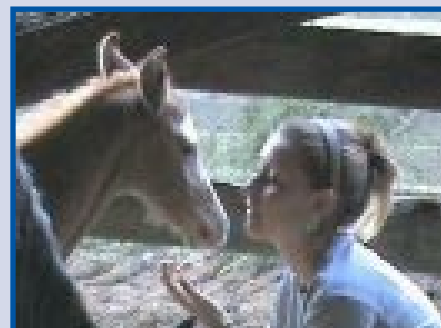
"It's a thrill," Brewer said about the Celebration. "The stadium is set up like a football arena and you ride your horse down a tunnel into this open arena with bleachers and big screen TV's; it's unlike any other horse show I've been a part of!"

In high school, Brewer was involved in cheerleading, FFA and competed in pageants. At UK she is serving as a first year ambassador for the College of Agriculture. She hopes to use her Agricultural Communications degree and equine knowledge to work in public relations for an agricultural-related business or to help start a riding facility for children with special needs.

About the riding center, Brewer said, "There is a young boy in our community who has autism. His family contacted my parents and asked if we would give him lessons. After we saw him interact with our horse, we ended up giving him the horse for free. He continues to groom, feed and visit the horse every day. It was so inspirational to see the way he became a completely different child around this horse and see the way they interacted with one another."

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**Brewer Photo Recap: Upper right corner: Competing on Touch the Clutch in 2008. Left side: At a pageant. Bottom right corner: With a foal at their family farm.**



Story continued on page 6

## Student Spotlight Continued

Brewer explained, "Since we have the 40 horses and they're just being used for broodmares, and with the market the way it is for the horse industry, I feel that it would be a great resource – not to mention the amazing demeanor these mares have, it seems to make sense."

Though she said she had originally not planned to come to UK (slightly rebellious is the reason), she quickly realized that the College of Agriculture was her home.

"I couldn't see myself anywhere else," she said. Director of Student Relations for the College, Jason Headrick, was a key component in Brewer's decision to come to UK.

He said "Mackenzie is the kind of person who can make everyone in the room feel better about their day. She has a great personality and stays true to her roots and her Eastern Kentucky upbringing."

The individuality of the horse industry, the people involved in it and the opportunities are endless. Brewer brings to UK that individuality and the spark that a legacy of family passion can drive a girl from the coal country of Eastern Kentucky to Lexington to pursue a degree so she can make a difference in the industry she loves. Brewer will use her personality and drive to make a difference and we look forward to watching that unfold for her.



**Brewer with her mother and father at a competition**

The Equine Initiative would like to congratulate its student employee, Savannah Craddock, who won not one, but TWO outstanding student awards. Congratulations go out to Savannah for being recognized with UK's Maurice Clay Award for her outstanding leadership, service and academic performance as well as the College of Agriculture's Outstanding Senior. Great job!

## Career Fair Photos Continued



# UK Equine Initiative Internship Section

Matching the jobs of today with the graduates of tomorrow

## How to handle tough interview questions.

By: Elizabeth LaBonty

Job interviews can be stressful no matter who you are. Career experts often say that the best way to calm your nerves is to spend sufficient time planning and preparing for your interview. There's nothing worse than being asked a question you haven't prepared for, except being asked a question to which it seems there is no right answer. To help prepare for this, below are a few difficult interview questions, the reasoning behind them and how best to answer them.

**“What are your weaknesses?”** If you haven't thought about this question it can really catch you off guard. This is one of the most common questions used to separate those who have prepared for an interview from those who haven't. What employers are looking for in an answer is honesty, a sense of self awareness and the desire to improve.

The best approach to answering this question is a pro-con-pro statement. First, list a strength that you have, follow it with something you can improve on, and finally put a positive spin on your weakness. For example say, “I have a lot of different interests, so sometimes I try to do too much, but it helps keep me very organized.” Another example would be, “I have a lot of hands-on experience and, although I haven't been able to develop my public speaking skills as much, I am really looking forward to the opportunity to work more closely with customers in this job.”

**Remember: be genuine; employers want someone who can admit and work on their weaknesses. Saying you don't have a weakness will come across as arrogant, but always include what you are doing to overcome your weakness.**

**“What can you do for us that other people cannot?”** This is definitely a pressure question; one that enables the stars to shine. The key here is to make a connection between what your special skills are and how they apply to the job you're applying for. Employers are looking to see what you think your best selling point is, so this is a good opportunity to draw their attention to your strengths, especially ones that may not be the most obvious from your resume.

One possible answer could be, “I don't know the other applicants. But I know that I excel at handling nervous and flighty colts because I am quiet and confident around them, and that is essential for someone in this position.”

*Story continues on page 8*

Another example would be, “I know there are other candidates who could fill this position, but I believe I’m the best person for the job because my passion and work ethic set me apart. As my performance at my past jobs demonstrates, I am committed to always producing the best results.”

**Remember: know what your strengths are, know the skills required for the job you are applying for and tie the two together whenever possible.**

**“How to you handle stress?”** What employers are really looking for is whether or not you can deal with the pressure associated with the position. Employees that manage stress the best tend to be more productive at work. On one hand, you want to assure the interviewer that you plan and organize your work to eliminate as much stress as possible. On the other hand, you want to demonstrate that you know how to relieve stress in positive ways, including taking care of your health, fitness, diet and lifestyle.

One example of a good answer is, “I don’t think all stress is bad; good stress helps me stay motivated. One thing I do to help reduce stress is to prioritize my responsibilities and make sure I am communicating effectively with my coworkers. From a personal perspective, I find that I greatly reduce stress by visiting the gym in the evenings.”

**Remember: all jobs have some stress and people handle stress differently. Spend some time thinking about yourself, how you reduce stress and how you manage stress in your life so you are ready for this question when it arises.**

The more time you spend preparing for a job interview, the better it will go. Take time to think about your strengths, weaknesses, goals and past experiences beforehand. Learn as much as you can about the company you are applying for and brainstorm a possible skill set for the job. Interviews can be stressful no matter who you are, but understanding tough questions and how to answer them will better prepare you for success.

If you have questions or would like more help preparing for interviews please email: [elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu).

**Special Note: Equine Science and Management students who plan to go on an internship this summer need to email Elizabeth LaBonty ([elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu)) as soon as possible to set up an appointment.**





# Job and Internship Opportunities

Please note, jobs listed here are not directly affiliated with UK or its equine programs, rather information passed along from equine businesses as an FYI.

**Equestrian Camp Counselor** (\$2,250 – 2,450)  
Specialty program for campers ages 11 - 15. Instruct riding lessons each morning/afternoon at equestrian center. Instructors are needed for beginners through advanced in both English and Western. We are CHA site accredited and adhere to their safety practices. Evenings on duty are with cabin group participating in regular camp programming. Counselors also lead devotions each night in their cabin. Must have completed at least freshman year of college. Staff training begins May 24. If you have any questions, please contact Amie Gleason at 1-800-382-2267 (inside IN only), office phone 765-564-2898 or e-mail at [amieg@camptecumseh.org](mailto:amieg@camptecumseh.org). More information can be found at our website: [www.camptecumseh.org](http://www.camptecumseh.org).

The **Equine Initiative office is looking for a student employee/intern** to assist in communications and internship functions. Candidate must have strong writing and organizational skills. Familiarity with the equine industry is a bonus. Full time position over the summer and 20 hours per week during the fall semester. For more information, please contact Elizabeth LaBonty at [elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) for more information.

**Excellent volunteer opportunity at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital.** Experience numerous aspects of equine medicine. No cleaning stalls. Contact: [elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) if interested.

Several positions are currently available at the **Kentucky Horse Park** in their administration, barn, and instruction departments. Contact: [elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) if interested.

A local 14 year old Hunter Jumper rider and her horse are looking for someone to come give them **lessons and help train the horse**. Fair compensation included. If you are interested please call **859-351-3558** for more information.

Equine student to **provide occasional farm care for four pleasure horses**. UK faculty member farm, south side of Lexington. Needs to be reliable, have at least four years of horse experience and their own transportation. Please contact Ginny Grulke at [ginny.grulke@gmail.com](mailto:ginny.grulke@gmail.com)

# Industry News

## Attention Students! Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association Student Membership

The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA) is proud to announce the addition of a student-level membership.

To be eligible for student membership, students must submit proof of enrollment in the form of a course schedule or a letter from the registrar. Student members will enjoy the same benefits as traditional TOBA members including a subscription to the Blood-Horse Magazine, entry to most racetracks throughout the U.S., discounted pricing at seminars and clinics, the TOBA membership directory and much more. More importantly, membership dues support TOBA's programs that work on behalf of owners and breeders in the Thoroughbred industry. Student membership is available at a discounted annual membership fee.

"The TOBA student membership is designed to educate and inform the next generation of owners and breeders. As an industry we must cultivate new owners and breeders in order for our sport to continue," said Dan Metzger, president of TOBA.

### Benefits of membership Include

- Subscription to the Blood-Horse Magazine
  - Free clubhouse admission to most U.S. racetracks
  - TOBA Membership Directory
  - Complimentary reports from Equineline.com
  - 50% discounts on TOBA seminars and clinics
- The membership dues are \$75.00 per year and you must submit your class schedule with membership form.

If you're interested in joining TOBA please contact Allison Parks at [aparks@toba.org](mailto:aparks@toba.org) or **859-276-2462**.

### Other TOBA events and updates:

Thursday, April 30, 2009- New Thoroughbred Owner seminar at Churchill Downs Kentucky Derby Museum.

**May 29-31, 2009-** Three-Day Thoroughbred Breeding Clinic

Please visit [www.toba.org](http://www.toba.org) to find more information or fill out your application.

see blue.  
in the College of Ag

## Equine Club Directory

### Dressage Team

Advisor: Drura Parrish  
[drura.parrish@uky.edu](mailto:drura.parrish@uky.edu)  
President: Joanna Grant  
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### Equestrian Team

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President: Christina Lawton  
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### Horse Judging Team

Advisor: Kristen Harvey  
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### Horse Racing Club

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence  
[llawrenc@uky.edu](mailto:llawrenc@uky.edu)  
President: Katey Caddell  
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### Polo Club

Advisor: Roger Brown  
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President: Tannis Marley  
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### Saddle Seat Team

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# UKAg

## Scholarships Continued

**The Kentucky Horse Council** awards a maximum eight scholarships of \$1,250 each (four in the spring and four in the fall). The deadline is May 1 for the spring scholarship. **KEEP** will award a maximum of five scholarships per year with a value of \$1,000 each.

In addition, eligible KEEP and Kentucky Horse Council scholarship recipients are invited to participate in The Race for Education's (RFE) Assets for Independence program and receive up to \$4,000 in additional funding. KEEP and Kentucky Horse Council recipients are also invited to The Race for Education's Equine Summer Seminar.

### Kentucky Women in Agriculture Scholarship

Please visit this website for more information [www.kyagr.com/pr/kanonline/April152009/2009kwiascholarship.htm](http://www.kyagr.com/pr/kanonline/April152009/2009kwiascholarship.htm)

## Contact Us

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Assistant: Savannah Craddock

Equine Initiative Staff Support: Kevin Hagan

You can also find us on Facebook under the Equine  
Initiative Group



## Scholarships

Race for Education at [www.racingscholarships.com](http://www.racingscholarships.com) for information and more details.

The completed application, two letters of recommendation and official transcript are due no later than **May 1**. Scholarships are awarded before the start of the fall semester. Scholarships are paid directly to the university or college for post-secondary educational expenses. A scholarship can be awarded only one time to any individual meeting scholarship requirements. All individuals who are not awarded a scholarship are encouraged to resubmit their application as often as they like.