

APRIL/MAY 2022  
EDITION

# WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

*UK Ag Equine Programs Equine Science Review: Highlighting Research & Outreach Efforts at the University of Kentucky* won top honors at the 2022 American Horse Publications' annual media awards competition.

UK Cooperative Extension and UK Ag Equine Programs will host the annual Equine Farm and Facilities Expo from 3:30-8 p.m., June 16, at Newtown Anner Stud Farm. The event is free and open to the public with a meal.

Equine Science and Management seniors who graduated in May were invited to attend a Graduation Open House with their families on May 5. See our equine graduate profiles inside!



# HIGHLIGHTS

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## UK EQUINE FARM AND FACILITIES EXPO IS

JUNE 16

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## SPRING GRADUATES CELEBRATED MAY 5

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- June 16, 2022 UK Equine Farm & Facilities Expo. Location: Newtown Anner Stud Farm, 3401 Elkchester Rd. Lexington, KY 40510. RSVP: [woodford.ext@uky.edu](mailto:woodford.ext@uky.edu) or 859-873-4601
- June 16, Equine Alumni Affiliate Network Bits & Bites, Location: Mirror Twin Brewing. All equine enthusiasts are welcome for this casual and fun gathering.

# WELCOME, FROM OUR INTERNS

As Harry Styles says, "I've never been a fan of change."

Change has always been my biggest fear. Starting college was terrifying for me, specifically because of the uncertainty of it all, despite being 10 minutes from my parents' front doorstep. Living on my own, feeding myself and managing my own time was a significant change in my life.

I began my undergraduate career as a journalism student, with a distinct interest in photojournalism. It was something familiar that I was comfortable with. In my first semester, I learned that the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment offered a major specifically related to horses. I put in a request to change my major the next day.

I finally began to settle into my new schedule and made many like-minded friends. For once in my life, I was excited to learn and passionate about the topics I was learning about. COVID-19 introduced a lot of sudden changes. For a while, nobody knew much and that was terrifying. The uncertainty is what the hardest part was for me. Through this, I found out that I prefer online learning instead of in-person classes. I will be getting my master's degree online because of this.

During the pandemic, I got a job at a coffee shop that I loved. It was so consistent, the same routine every day and the same familiar faces. Junior year, I needed to start planning to do my internship for credit. Savannah Robin suggested that I apply to be a communications and student relations intern with UK Ag Equine Programs. I was not ready to change my job, but I am so thankful that I did. This internship has introduced me to the many facets of equine media that I had no prior knowledge of. This internship has been the most valuable part of my experience at the University of Kentucky.

The morning of May 6, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Equine Science and Management with a minor in journalism studies. Things have come full circle for me. I am back in a position once again where change is inevitable. If I have learned anything in my years as an undergraduate student, it is that change is not inherently a terrible thing.

I have some plans for my future, and they involve a lot of changes in my life. There is still uncertainty about a lot, but I can't wait to see what great things come of it.



SYDNEY CARTER

'22, UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS PAST INTERN

# WELCOME, FROM OUR INTERNS

Hello! My name is Ryan Smith and I just finished my role as a communications and student relations intern with UK Ag Equine Programs. During my final month working in the equine office, I was filled with mixed emotions about moving forward into the summer. On one hand, I got to experience a completely new role in an industry that is equally new to me. On the other, I left the wonderful people that I have had the pleasure of working with over the course of this academic year. With the opening of one door and the closing of another, I realize how much I have learned over the course of my time working in the equine office. The main thing I have taken away is to not be afraid to ask. Whether you are asking for help on an assignment, advice on a career decision or for permission to lend a hand, people are generally much more eager to say yes than you may expect.



From the onset of this internship, I had a lot of doubts about not being enrolled in the Equine Science and Management major, but everyone I encountered was eager to answer my questions about the different disciplines, this program, as well as horses in general. Although I have an equine background, I was initially worried that not being a student enrolled in the program would be something to be concerned about. I quickly realized that having this different background would make no difference in what I was able to gain from this experience, and any questions that I had were always answered with a smile.

The biggest thing that I would like to say is that I truly cannot thank everyone in the equine office enough. I am so grateful to be given this opportunity to grow as a student and professional alongside everyone there. I really appreciated how much they emphasized the learning element of this internship. Any time I had encountered something unfamiliar, I received support and resources to develop skills that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. The biggest challenge that I faced was the feat of learning how to use Adobe InDesign. Although I am still far from a master of the software, any time I had questions, someone in the office was always eager to teach me a new skill or point me in the direction of where I can locate resources to learn about whatever may be challenging me. The office culture was one of unwavering support and it is something that I am very grateful for.

In the same light, the students were also phenomenal to work with. I had the pleasure of working on projects with the Wildcat Wranglers, Saddleseat Team and other equine student organizations, which gave me the opportunity to get to know many of the students that are enrolled in the Equine Science and Management degree. Although I am a finance and management major, I never encountered a single person that treated me like an outsider. Working with students was one of my favorite parts of this job, and the thing that I noticed since day one of this role was how passionate every student is about what they are studying. I have never seen a group of students who are as deeply invested in what they chose to study as UK's equine students, and I think that is something that makes this program truly like no other.

Looking forward, I began an internship opportunity within Valvoline's accounting department in May and I am super excited to explore another industry in a role that I am less familiar with. I am incredibly excited to learn more about the automotive industry as well as gain experience working in accounting. As for after my graduation in 2024, I have begun looking at management consulting as a career that really interests me, so that is something I hope to explore as well before I graduate. With nothing set in stone, I am excited to learn as much as I can and continue to say yes to opportunities that are of interest to me.

Thank you to everyone who supported me along this journey, and I am excited to continue to develop as a student and professional over the next two years!

**RYAN SMITH**

**PAST UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS INTERN**



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# EQUINE SCIENCE REVIEW WINS NEWSLETTER CATEGORY AT 2022 AMERICAN HORSE PUBLICATIONS; INTERN SYDNEY CARTER RUNNER-UP STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

UK Ag Equine Programs Equine Science Review: Highlighting Research & Outreach Efforts at the University of Kentucky won top honors at the 2022 American Horse Publications' annual media awards competition. The Equine Science Review won in the newsletter business category. Additionally, newly minted alum and Equine Programs' communications and student relations intern Sydney Carter (middle, picture to right) was named runner up student for the conference.



## UK EQUINE FARM AND FACILITIES EXPO IS JUNE 16

By Jordan Strickler

The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and Ag Equine Programs will host the annual Equine Farm and Facilities Expo from 3:30 - 8 p.m. ET, Thursday, June 16, at Newtown Anner Stud Farm. The event is free and open to the public and a meal will be provided.

"One of the great attributes of the Equine Farm and Facilities Expo is the chance to connect with vendors offering new technologies to improve our equine operations," said Adam Probst, Woodford County cooperative extension agent, agriculture and natural resources. "This is a great opportunity for horse farms of all sizes to connect and learn from industry leaders."

Farm managers and horse owners will have the opportunity to explore visitor booths and see displays for every aspect of horse farm management. Speakers will provide educational talks about barn design and its impact on horse care and ventilation, controlling Johnsongrass and other summer weeds and understanding pasture health.

"We are excited to showcase a new, simple method that horse owners can use to evaluate and compare pastures and help them decide what management strategies they can implement to improve forage quality and quantity," said Krista Lea, research analyst and coordinator of the UK Horse Pasture Evaluation Program.

To register, email [woodford.ext@uky.edu](mailto:woodford.ext@uky.edu). Newtown Anner Stud Farm is located at 3401 Elkchester Rd., Lexington, KY 40510.



## SPRING GRADUATES CELEBRATED MAY 5

Equine Science and Management seniors who graduated in May were invited to attend a Graduation Open House with their families on May 5 at the E.S. Good Barn. Graduates and their families dropped in for light refreshments and to celebrate their accomplishments with equine faculty and staff. Congrats to our spring grads. See more about our grads in the profiles below.

### CONGRATULATIONS

## Margaret Babiarz

**Hometown:** Middletown, Delaware

**Internship site:** American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association, clerical intern

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Riding and competing with the Western IHSA Team and meeting prospective students at Land Rover Three Day Event as a Wildcat Wrangler!

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

Undecided, but I hope to either work in a breed association or in higher education administration at a university.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

Getting to be apart of the planning for the UK Equine Week of Service and seeing the impact made on all the participating organizations.

Message for current students:

*"Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone and try something new, whether you're a freshman or upcoming senior it is never too late to join a club."*



### CONGRATULATIONS

## Shelby Brunner

**Hometown:** Louisville, Kentucky

**Internship site:** Cirrus Stables, stable hand

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

One of my favorite memories would have to be going to the UK Barn Dance freshman year.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I have accepted a job in Montana after graduation at Skyline Guest Ranch. I'm super excited to learn and adventure in a state I've never been to before!

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I am proud of how hard I have worked to get through college along with working different jobs to gain more experience in different industries!

Message for current students:

*"Take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself to you even if it takes you out of your comfort zone."*







## CONGRATULATIONS

# Sydney Carter

**Hometown:** Lexington, Kentucky

**Internship site:** UK Ag Equine Programs, communications and student relations intern

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Working with UK Ag Equine Programs! I have been with them for a year and a half and I have learned so much and worked with wonderful people.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I plan to get my master's in equine education through William Woods University.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I am proud that I have been able to help so many students better understand equine anatomy.

Message for current students:

*"Slow progress is still progress."*



## CONGRATULATIONS

# Charles Churchill

**Hometown:** Louisville, Kentucky

**Internship site:** 1/ST Racing at Gulfstream, intern

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Meeting a number of friends through my Thoroughbred Investments course. I met a huge network of friends who I enjoy hanging out with at the races and other venues in common.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

After graduating, I plan to intern with a few major racing institutions. In addition to gaining more experience within other racing jurisdictions, I am also being given the opportunity to gain experience for a couple of the most prestigious events in racing: Preakness Stakes and Breeders' Cup.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

How far I've come since joining the major. I wasn't born into the industry, thus had to figure everything out as I went. Not only have I been able to learn the science of the horse in-depth but have been able to couple that knowledge with my interest in business operations. I'm extremely proud that I joined this major knowing virtually nothing and graduated with an Equine Science and Management degree.

Message for current students:

*"If you can imagine the opportunity, UK's ESMA team can make it happen. You just have to be willing to ask and work for it!"*



## CONGRATULATIONS

# Elizabeth Clark

**Hometown:** Saratoga, California

**Internship site:** University of Kentucky's Horse Pasture Evaluation Program, pasture evaluator

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Traveling to different farms for my forage management class to see the application of what I was learning about in class.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

Working on applications to grad school for scientific writing or equine genetics and in the meantime enjoying riding my horse and working on my family's farm.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

My capstone and industry issues class encouraging me to think critically about tough or controversial topics within the industry.

Message for current students:

*"Don't be afraid to take classes outside of the equine science requirements! There is so much to learn at UK and sometimes its a nice change of pace."*



## CONGRATULATIONS

# Breann Crouch-Edgar

**Hometown:** LaGrange, Kentucky

**Internship site:** Park Equine Hospital, veterinary technician intern

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

My favorite memory from my undergraduate career was the day I decided to switch majors. I remember walking into the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and immediately feeling at home.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I will be working at Kentucky Equine Hospital in Simpsonville as a veterinary technician and helping primarily with surgery right after graduation!

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I am most proud of the fact that I did not grow up in the equine industry, but through this wonderful program here at UK and the opportunities I took advantage of, I have successfully made my way into the industry.

Message for current students:

*"Don't be afraid to take a leap of faith and follow your passion!"*



## CONGRATULATIONS

# Kassandra Creed

**Hometown:** Las Cruces, New Mexico

**Internship site:** Spy Coast Farm Rehabilitation and Fitness Center, rehabilitation technician and groom

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

My favorite memory from undergrad would have to be working as a Wildcat Wrangler. We participated in so many events that helped our program, along with the community.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

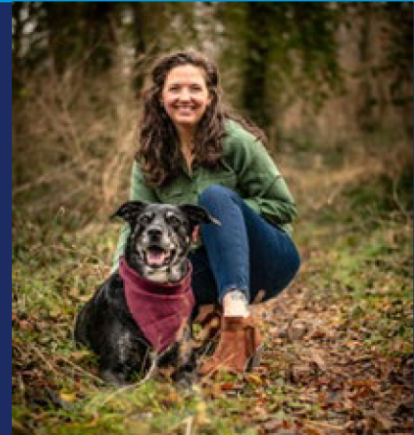
I plan on making my position at Keeneland Racecourse in the equine safety department permanent and checking off some countries on my travel list.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I'm most proud of how I utilized the connections within the equine program to network with people. The internships, job shadows, Wildcat Wranglers and volunteer work I participated in allowed me to meet so many fantastic people that make up the equine industry here in Kentucky. I know so many people now and it wouldn't have been possible without the UK Equine Program.

Message for current students:

*"Always say yes. To internships, dinners, meetings and opportunities. That's how you make connections, and you don't want to regret anything."*



## CONGRATULATIONS

# Kelsey Center

**Hometown:** Farmington, Michigan

**Internship site:** Spy Coast Farm, rehabilitation and fitness intern

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Making friends while suffering through classes.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I have a job secured at the University of Kentucky research farm with the Veterinary Science Department.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I am proud of the internship I got and all that I learned during my summer there.

Message for current students:

*"Even if you transfer in, it is still possible to graduate in four years."*



## CONGRATULATIONS

# Nick D'Amore

**Hometown:** Annapolis, Maryland

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Being a Wildcat Wrangler and putting on events like the Equine Week of Service was great, especially the inaugural event during COVID and the success and joy it had.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

Post-graduation I will be taking a gap year and applying to law school to pursue a career in sports entertainment law. During my gap year, I will be up in Saratoga working for Christophe Clement for the summer and hopefully come January have a law internship lined up with a sports team and an acceptance letter to a law school.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

There are a lot of things to be proud of during my time here. I think the biggest would be the service projects we created over the last two years with the Wrangler and Equine program. I think those are something that will be around for a long time and continue to have a positive impact on the study body and the community around us.

**Message for current students:**

*"Sit back and enjoy the ride. College is a short stint in your life so make the most of it. Take the random opportunities as they arise because you never know where they might lead."*



## CONGRATULATIONS

# Michaela Drake

**Hometown:** Lawrenceville, New Jersey

**Internship site:** Split Rock Jumping Tour, marketing, sponsorship and event coordinating assistant

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Being on the hunt seat team and the western team.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I will be continuing my work at Split Rock Jumping Tour and moving into a lead event coordinator role.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I am most proud of how much I've grown professionally and as a person over the last four years!

**Message for current students:**

*"No job or any bad situation is permanent! College has a lot of ups and downs, but it all buffs out in the end!"*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Mary Katherine Easterwood

**Hometown:** Shreveport, Louisiana

**Internship site:** The Secretariat Center, intern

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

My favorite memory is bonding with my friends over the stupid, little things that stressed us out.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I will be taking the summer off and then working.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I am most proud of the research and edits I contributed to an Online Mendelian Inheritance in Animals entry.

Message for current students:

*"It goes a lot quicker than you think it will. Enjoy it!"*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Erin Fergusson

**Hometown:** Atlanta, Georgia

**Internship site:** Hickory Manor Farm, intern

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

I love hanging out in Ag North with my friends in-between classes. Even if it's just for a couple minutes, it's great to be able to chat and catch up with friends. Its even better when Hudson gets to join us!

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I will be working at UK's Equine Research Farm out in Woodford County.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I transferred to UK my sophomore year. Anyone who has transferred knows that it can be hard to graduate on time depending on how credits transfer. I worked hard all three years after I transferred and was able to graduate in four years!

Message for current students:

*"Take advantage of any extra help you can get! Homework and exams can be very overwhelming but there are lots of professors who are willing to help."*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Tess Forchione

**Hometown:** San Antonio, Texas

**Internship site:** Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center, stable hand/assistant

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Living in an LLP freshman year.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

Creating an equine boarding facility in San Antonio, Texas.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

Completing my degree and graduating as it was a really long road to get here.

Message for current students:

*"Don't give up and don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it."*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Lauren Grant

**Hometown:** Lexington, Kentucky

**Internship site:** Wingswept Farm, assistant

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Meeting other students that are as passionate about the industry as I am.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I will be working full time for Wingswept Farm.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

The experience I have in the industry and the connections I have found within the program.

Message for current students:

*"Take any opportunity you can get to have hands on experience in the field."*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Julianna Havnaer

Hometown: Fort Mill, South Carolina

Internship site: TaylorMade Sales Agency, marketing and sales intern

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Attending the football games.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I will be moving to Colorado to work on a dude ranch for five months. After that I will be moving back to Lexington to continue working in the Thoroughbred industry.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

How much experience and knowledge I have gained the last four years. I have been lucky enough to have pursued many opportunities which have helped me to define my future goals.

Message for current students:

*"Step out of your comfort zone and be open to learning from the professionals in the industry; they want to help you!"*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Kennedy Hoch

Hometown: Ripon, Wisconsin

Internship site: McGee Medicine Center at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, veterinary assistant

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Traveling around the state of Kentucky with the Western Equestrian Team and making memories with my teammates! I have also loved the opportunity to work with the facility of the Equine Programs and College of Agriculture, Food and Environment!

What are your plans for after graduation?

After Graduation I will be applying to vet school and hope to start in the fall of 2023 !

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

I am proud of the skills that I have learned through my internship and the experiences it has provided me, specifically, presenting a case study at the American Association of Equine Veterinary Technicians conference in Nashville last December!

Message for current students:

*"Take advantage of the experiences encouraged by your advisors and facility members- they know all the tips and tricks!"*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Makayla James

Hometown: Smithfield, Kentucky

Internship site: DeHart Stables, assistant trainer

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Doing last minute things with my best friends and all the fun times we've had together.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I plan on stepping into the role of an American Saddlebred Horse trainer at DeHart Stables.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

I am proud of all the new connections I have made both inside and outside of the equine program.

Message for current students:

*"Work hard and dream big!"*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Morgan Kei

Hometown: Disputanta, Virginia

Internship site: Millennium Farms, assistant general manager

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

EQM 105!!

What are your plans for after graduation?

Working full time (current) as the general manager for Buckland Sales Agency.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

Being able to work full time while still in school.

Message for current students:

*"Stay focused and don't skip class."*





CONGRATULATIONS

# Katelynn Krieger

**Hometown:** Buskill, Pennsylvania

**Internship site:** Kentucky Horse Park Mounted Police, intern

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Having the opportunity to study abroad in Germany and the Netherlands to study the equine industry in Europe.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

Continuing my employment with the Parade of Breeds Barn at the Kentucky Horse Park and in the future opening my own rehab and therapeutic riding center.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I am most proud of the amount of networking I did, enabling me to have many connections in many different fields in and outside of the equine community.

Message for current students:

*"Take every opportunity you are given, even if you don't think it is something you may like. The connections you can make can change your life."*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Emma Lykins

**Hometown:** Lexington, Kentucky

**Internship site:** Kentucky Horse Park Mounted Police, intern

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Interning at the Kentucky Horse Park and getting to work with the officers at the Mounted Police Barn.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

This summer I will be working at the Kentucky Horse Park in the Breeds Barn.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

Stepping out of my comfort zone and trying new opportunities. The equine program has helped me broaden my horizons and helped me get out of my comfort zone as an equine professional.

Message for current students:

*"You don't have to have everything figured out. Be flexible and willing to try something new!"*



## CONGRATULATIONS

# Briana Moreno

**Hometown:** Brea, California

**Internship site:** Spy Coast Farm, Young Horse Development Program, intern

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Having the privilege of being a TA for Equine Anatomy (ASC 310).

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

To compete on the show jumping circuit!

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I am most proud of my capstone project I completed on ways to lower the cost of show jumping.

Message for current students:

*"No matter the situation, everything always works out how it's supposed to!"*



## CONGRATULATIONS

# Sara Murray

**Hometown:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Internship site:** Secretariat Center, non-profit equine fundamentals intern

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

My favorite memory was when I got to travel and compete with the IDA team.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I am moving up to New Jersey and buying a farm with my fiancé.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I am most proud of all the professional relationships I have gained while in the program.

Message for current students:

*"You never know who or where you will meet a professional contact, so go out to events and meet people."*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Anabel Ricigliano

**Hometown:** Fox Point, Wisconsin

**Internship site:** High Hopes Farm, farm manager

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**  
Being Vice President on the UK Equestrian Team.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I plan on working for Nicki Simpson of Riffle Hitch, LLC, based out of Lexington, Kentucky, and Wellington, Florida, as a farm manager and rider. I hope to return to school in a year or so to complete nursing school and eventually work as a CRNA.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

Completing various research papers and projects, especially my semester project on the topic of Depo use in show horses.

Message for current students:

*"Step out of your comfort zone, take challenging classes and make the most of your time at UK!"*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Deja Robinson

**Hometown:** Decatur, Georgia

**Internship site:** Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, intern

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**  
My trip to Pegasus as an Ed Brown Society & 1/ST Intern.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

After graduation, I will be fulfilling my internship with the Ed Brown Society & 1/ST in Maryland and California. After the internship, I plan to work at Rood & Riddle as a veterinary technician.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I am proud of my entire journey! I have learned so much about the industry and my own passion!

Message for current students:

*"Trust your passion. Give yourself grace. Don't be afraid to be uncomfortable."*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Isabelle Samblanet

Hometown: Union, Kentucky

Internship site: BloodHorse, editorial intern

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Realizing I have found the career path meant for me and having the piece of mind knowing I have spent the past 4 years preparing the best way I could have.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I will continue working for John Ennis Training and travel to local tracks for upcoming meets. I will apply and hopefully attend the Irish National Stud program in 2023.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

I am proud of completing the program while meeting and making lifelong friends and mentors that have and will continue to shape my future in this industry.

Message for current students:

*"Take every opportunity possible and take it upon yourself to further your learning."*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Alexandra Sharp

Hometown: Trappe, Maryland

Internship site: Rood & Riddle Pharmacy, intern

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Ponying on the track.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I plan on stepping into the role of technical service and marketing specialist at Hallway Feeds.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

I am most proud of going outside my comfort zone and experiencing different parts of the equine industry.

Message for current students:

*"Put your foot in the door and don't be afraid to experience new opportunities."*



## CONGRATULATIONS

# Alexxis Stanalonis

**Hometown:** Hollywood, Maryland

**Internship site:** Sun Valley Farm - foaling/broodmare breeding assistant

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

EQM 106 with Mrs. Robin!

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I plan on stepping into the role of equine sales coordinator for Warrendale Sales.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I'm most proud of the learning skills I have developed over the four years and the many connections I have made within the equine industry.

Message for current students:

*"Take every opportunity that's given to you!"*



## CONGRATULATIONS

# Lia van der Wal

**Hometown:** Westlake Village, California

**Internship site:** Alamo Pintado Equine Medical Center, veterinary assistant volunteer

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

My favorite memory was going to the Intercollegiate Eventing Championships in Virginia when we took home the championship title.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

After graduation, I will be moving to Fort Collins, Colorado, to work and hopefully attend veterinary school at Colorado State University in 2023.

**What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?**

I am most proud of my internship experience and the poster I created for it!

Message for current students:

*"Keep pushing, hard work will always pay off!"*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Elizabeth Vejr

Hometown: Morris, Illinois

Internship site: American Morgan Horse Association, intern

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

My meat science class.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I will be working full-time at the United States Dressage Federation as an administrative assistant in the education department.

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

I am most proud of creating own my internship opportunity with the American Morgan Horse Association.

Message for current students:

*"It is not always what you know, but who you know. Network within the industry as much as possible!"*



CONGRATULATIONS

# Katherine Wallach

Hometown: Gurnee, Illinois

Internship site: Solis Litt Bloodstock, intern

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Being a TA for EQM 105 for two years.

What are your plans for after graduation?

Getting a job here in Lexington in the Thoroughbred industry hopefully!

What are you most proud of as a soon-to-be graduate of the equine program?

All of the connections I have made within the industry setting me up for success.

Message for current students:

*"Introduce yourself to everyone."*



## CONGRATULATIONS

# Marion Yingling

**Hometown:** Norwalk, Connecticut

**Internship site:** Ballyhigh Show Stables, assistant barn manager

**What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?**

Studying abroad in the Netherlands and Germany

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

Staying in Lexington while looking for full-time work in the equine industry

**What are you most proud of as a soon to be graduate of the equine program?**

I'm incredibly proud of the personal growth I have made in my time here. I believe I'm still the same person I was when I started as a freshman, but I have so much more experience and confidence that I gained through making the most of my undergrad years.

Message for current students:

*"The equine program at UK has so many resources and opportunities to experience, take advantage of them while you can!"*



## COLEMAN NAEAA AWARDEE



The National Association of Equine Affiliated Academics (NAEAA) honored faculty and staff at the 13th Annual NAEAA Conference May 31-June 2, hosted by Utah State University. Bob Coleman, faculty member and extension horse specialist within the University of Kentucky Department of Animal and Food Sciences, was recognized with the Senior Faculty Award.

Founded in 2007, NAEAA is a non-profit professional organization representing individuals from public and private institutions and the equine industry that strive to educate undergraduates within an equine academic program. The core belief of the organization is that there is educational and societal value in the equine disciplines of study. The mission is to strengthen post-secondary equine academic programs, provide networking opportunities and facilitate increased cooperation and information sharing among our members. More information about NAEAA, the award descriptions, and the 2022 conference can be found at [www.naeaa.com](http://www.naeaa.com).



# UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS ATTENDS LAND ROVER KENTUCKY THREE DAY EVENT

Photos by Sydney Carter

UK Ag Equine Programs had an informational booth as part of the trade fair at the Land Rover Kentucky Three Day Event. This booth presence provided opportunities to speak with prospective students and individuals interested in equine related areas of the University. Additionally, EQAAN and UK Ag Equine Programs hosted the annual equine alumni tailgate on Saturday, April 30. Equine alumni, family and friends attended for a fun day of tailgating with food, activities and more at this iconic equestrian event.





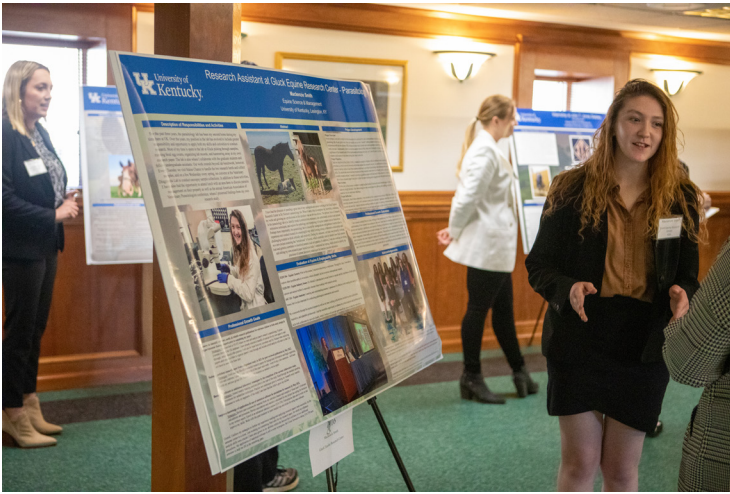
# EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT SPRING INTERNSHIP SHOWCASE HELD



Photos by Sydney Carter

The spring Internship Showcase for Equine Science and Management students was held on April 26 at the E.S. Good Barn. Students presented their internship posters to fellow students, faculty, staff and alumni to share their work experiences as well as for final course credit. Mackenzie Smith was awarded Outstanding Intern, Martin Nielsen and his team at the Gluck Equine Research Center received the Outstanding Internship Host Site award and Charles Churchill was chosen for the People's Choice Award.





# STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**Philip Prater**

**Professor and DVM**

## EDUCATION

**DVM Degree from Ohio State University**

## WHAT IS YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE EQUINE INDUSTRY?

I began working for an equine orthopedic surgeon when I was 14 years old and after one month there I knew that veterinary medicine was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. It was the experience of learning to handle racehorses, diagnose their injuries, provide correction for their lameness and then return them to a high level of performance that got me hooked on this profession.

## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO EDUCATE?

Well, I did not start out with teaching as a goal, but the opportunity found me. I was never trained to be a teacher, but I so loved the veterinary medical profession, and was so enthusiastic about it, that teaching about the profession to veterinary technology and pre-veterinary students just seemed to come naturally, as an extension of the joy of being a veterinarian. Seeing over 100 of my former advisees go on to complete their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, has been the greatest professional reward of my career.

## FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR WORK

My greatest rewards have come from my 25 years of being a pre-veterinary advisor. Helping students navigate the tough waters of the pre-vet curriculum and achieving their goals of attending veterinary school, have provided me the greatest satisfaction of my professional career.

## HISTORY WITH THE PROGRAM

My closest experiences with UK Ag Equine Programs have been through my association with equine extension personnel like Dr. Bob Coleman and Dr. Roberta Dwyer. They have both been influential colleagues and mentors throughout my professional academic endeavors.

## ADVICE FOR EQUINE STUDENTS

For those equine students who are entertaining the idea of going on to veterinary school, I would encourage to ask yourself a very difficult question – “Do you want to be a veterinarian because you love horses, or do you want to be a veterinarian because you love veterinary medicine?” – they are not necessarily the same. Loving veterinary medicine means you have a burning interest in the biochemical, physiologic, biomechanical aspects of horses. There are lots of people who love horses; very few of them are qualified to treat complex lameness and pathologic conditions of horses.

## EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

# Alumni

## PROFILE



**CAITLIN COOPER**

**HOMETOWN:** Kentucky

**GRADUATED:** 2011



What are your responsibilities in your current position? What do you like most about your position?

I work with the barn owner/trainer in assisting him with training horses. I do all barn management responsibilities such as payroll, billing, paying all bills, doing all paperwork dealing with registering horses and transferring horses, managing the employees, making all arrangements for horse shows, ordering all supplies including feed, hay, shavings, communicating with customers and giving all medications and overseeing all vet work in the barn. In addition, I manage the breeding and foaling division of our operation. In our short history of breeding, foaling and breaking young horses (since 2017), we have been fortunate to turn out some good performance horses. I really like most all the aspects of my job. I've never felt I've worked a day in my life with what I do, because I love it.

What advice do you have for current equine science and management students?

First and foremost, if you are not currently working in a barn you need to, whether it be an internship, summer job or a full-time job while going to school. I felt like going to my classes, then working at the barn on weekends helped me be more aware of the business, the horses and their needs and able to look for ways I felt the barn could improve in caring for the horses. It helped me have a better understanding of the subject matter in my classes as well.

How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

My parents gave me five horseback riding lessons when I was 9 years old. Those five lessons turned into many more and my going to the barn everyday to hang out and help anyway they would let me.

Was there a turning point in college that had an impact on your career?

I actually went to Transylvania University my freshman year. I intended to go on to veterinary school. However, after doing some job shadowing and local vets in Lexington coming into some of my classes and presenting, I decided there was too much of that work I could not do as a career. I transferred to UK to enroll in the Equine Science and Management program. It was the best move I made for my career.

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

I worked at DeLovely Farm, the barn where I started horseback riding lessons at an early age. I was a barn rat. The hanging out at the barn became helping out with more tasks, then turned into a paying summer job, then a job I continued on weekends during college, as I was caring for some of the more famous, winning horses in our industry. After graduation, I started working full-time at DeLovely and worked there until I was offered the position I am currently in at Desmar Stables. Dr. Bob Coleman was a great instructor and I loved his classes.

 University of  
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# INAUGURAL UK HORSEY HUSTLE 5K A BIG SUCCESS!

*By Charles Churchill, UK Equine Science and Management graduate and past Wildcat Wrangler*

*Photos by Sydney Carter*

On the first weekend of April, members of the equine community partook in the inaugural University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs' Horsey Hustle 5K Run/Walk at Coldstream Park. A family-oriented fundraising event, organized to bring students and the local equine community together, brought an exciting day of racing. This was an initiative orchestrated by the Wildcat Wranglers, the student ambassador program for UK Ag Equine Programs. For months, these dedicated students helped to organize exciting awards and activities fit for friends and families of all types.

The race was a major success, garnering more than 100 participants and raising more than \$2,500 for the UK Equine Student Experience and Applied Learning Fund. This fund, created within the last year, provides financial resources toward equine students and student-led organizations, allowing more students the opportunity to gain a multitude of experiences, both academically and recreationally, at UK.

Olivia Nunez, an Equine Science and Management student and member of the UK Rodeo Team said she is thrilled for the opportunities that additional resources can provide to club initiatives. "The Rodeo Team would benefit from additional funding by being able to send our members to more National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association events," she said.

In addition to community engagement and local media attention, students reveled in the chance to witness their hard work come together, remembering their favorite parts of the day as experiencing the comradery.

Equine Science and Management recent graduate and Wildcat Wrangler, Emily Elkins, helped organize and volunteered at the event. "My favorite part of the UK Horsey Hustle 5K was seeing it all come together and seeing the crowd and the community that came to support the initiative right at the beginning of the race," she said.

In the weeks prior to the race, a contest was held between the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment student organizations to see who could recruit the largest team to participate in the UK Horsey Hustle 5K. The UK Saddle Seat Team recruited hard and ended up with the most people registered, winning a well-deserved ice-cream party they recently enjoyed as they prepped for their final show of the season.

Results from the event can be found at <https://runsignup.com/Race/HorseyHustle5KRunWalk/Page-3>. We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who played a part in the success of this event. Thank you to staff and faculty, friends, family and of course the Wildcat student body for dedicating your time and resources toward the 2022 UK Horsey Hustle 5K. We hope to see you all at the next year as we make this an annual event for all to enjoy.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPRING DEAN'S LIST STUDENTS!

*Spring 2022*

## DEAN'S LIST

**EQUINE SCIENCE  
& MANAGEMENT**

Michel Aguiluz	Avery Cummings
Hailey Anderson	Sarah Davis
Margaret Babiarz	Isabelle Davis
Ariel Baldon	John Del Secco
Sydney Barnett	Gabrielle DiLemme
Grace Barrier	Kriston Dillon
Caroline Blang	Monica Egnizzo
Olivia Bryant	Emily Elkins
Sydney Carter	Erin Fergusson
Elizabeth Clark	Sophie Galloway
Mari Crosby	Sierra Gibson

 College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

*Spring 2022*

## DEAN'S LIST

**EQUINE SCIENCE  
& MANAGEMENT**

Lauren Grant	Makayla James
Lauren Hall	Emily Johnson
Madelyn Hamilton	Madelyn Leahey
Margeret Harris	Mary Ledford
Kennedy Harrsion	Emma Lykins
Braden Heath	Piper McGehee
Emma Hilt	Aubree McIntosh
Kennedy Hoch	Savannah Meacham
Heather Hunt	Racheal Mooney
Rebecca Hutchinson	Madison Moore
Emma Hyde	Taylor Nackers

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*Spring 2022*

## DEAN'S LIST

**EQUINE SCIENCE  
& MANAGEMENT**

Caroline Nash	Mackenzie Smith
Virginia Ohl	Stephanie Smith
Jillian Ostrowske	Jensen Smith
Cameryn Oswald	Cameron Stacy
Loralye Page	Lia Van Der Wal
Isidra Powell	Angela Veshia
Isabella Reed	Audrey Villarreal
Deja Robinson	Ava Vransy
Cailin Schaefer	Katherine Wallach
Stephanie Scott	Alexis Willis
Miranda Slingerland	Chloe Young

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Food and Environment

*Spring 2022*

## DEAN'S LIST

**EQUINE SCIENCE  
& MANAGEMENT**

Jennifer Zimmerman

 College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

# WILDCAT WRANGLERS WRAP UP THE ACADEMIC YEAR WITH A BANG AND WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Kristen Wilson

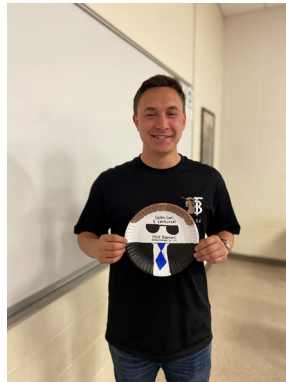
The Wildcat Wrangler Team wrapped up the '21/'22 academic year with an end-of-the-year recognition program on Wednesday, April 27. Current and new members gathered to honor and recognize team members graduating and moving on to new leadership positions next year. These team members received a Wildcat Wrangler engraved key chain from UK Ag Equine Programs to recognize their service and were recognized by their peers with the coveted "Paper Plate Awards" as pictured below.



Margaret Babiarz (2019-22)



Charles Churchill  
(2021-22)



Nick D'Amore (2020-22)



Harrison Goode (2021-22)



Olivia Nunez (2021-22)

We also recognized our new team members for the '22/'23 academic year. These individuals were recently part of our Wildcat Wrangler application and interview process and received spots for the leadership team. New team members include Jaida Alee, Ariel Baldon, Avery Cummings, Elsa Furlong, Megan Gache, Loralye Page, Stephanie Smith and Chloe Young.



Finally, we wrapped up the celebration with some fun, including a pinata supplied by our graduating team members including words wisdom for next year's team. In addition, the seniors passed the torch onto returning team members by outfitting them with a UK blue tiara and wand to remember them by.

We look forward to next year's events as we continue to build and expand the UK Ag Equine community. Save the date for our 3rd annual UK Equine Week of Service scheduled for Oct. 2-8.



## UK POLO TEAM ENDS A SUCCESSFUL SEASON IN APRIL

The UK Polo Team finished out their season strong, with a third-place national finish for the men's team and a hard fought second place for the women's team at the April Division 1 national championship hosted by the University of Virginia.

"Overall, this was a really successful season for the program. We worked very hard for it," said Federico Puyana Boggio, student president of the UK Polo team.

## UK EVENTING TEAM SEES SUCCESSFUL END TO THEIR SEASON

Congratulations go out to UK Eventing Team members who competed the weekend of May 23 for the National Championship at Chattahoochee Hills Eventing in Fairburn, Georgia. Teams include:

- Hannah Warner, Lauren Yeagy, Cosby Green and Cora Severs, 5th: University of Kentucky Coach Cal
- Lidia Ohyla, Elliana Sanchez, Alex Sharp and Sophie Coorsen, 7th: University of Kentucky White
- Claire Gamlin, Alexandra Penland, Claire Strehlow and Lauren Hall 8th: University of Kentucky Coach Stoops
- Caroline Dannemiller, Hayden Klemanski, McKenna Miller and Catherine Shu







## Ag Equine Programs

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

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