

# Wildcat Canter

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2017



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 5, Mandatory Internship Information Meeting, 10 a.m.
- April 6, Mandatory Internship Information Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- April 9, Mandatory Internship Information Meeting, 9 a.m.
- April 13, Mandatory Internship Information Meeting, 12 p.m.
- April 24-28, ESMA Student Study Break, N212 Ag Science North
- April 26, UK Equine Summit
- April 28, Last day of classes
- April 29, Equine Alumni Tailgate at Rolex, Kentucky Horse Park
- May 1-5, Finals week
- May 5, ESMA Graduation Reception, 12:30-2:30 p.m., E.S. Good Barn
- May 5 & 7, UK Graduation



“College is the time to really find yourself.”

Give me a break. Have I made it this far so I can wistfully spin around a field of daises like Julie Andrews in the Sound of Music? And is that before or after I cram for next week’s exams, finish my group presentation and magically stretch my lousy paycheck through next Friday? The answer to “who I am” sure as hell isn’t on my chemistry exam, and I’m pretty sure they don’t defer student loans for an existential crisis.

I’ve found myself all right. Strugglesville, population: me. That is, of course, until someone decides to pay me for this diploma that’s consumed four years of my life. Okay, five years, but who’s counting??

This isn’t where I pivot by telling you to see a career counselor and complete a Myers Briggs personality assessment (in case you’re curious, I’m an ENTP or ENFP—depends on the day). If I were concerned for your professional brand, maybe I would point you in that direction. However, fact is, you can read. And if you can read, you can explore. And if you can explore, you’re more than capable of a “uky + college of ag + career resources” google search... Go ahead. Open another browser tab. I’ll be here when you get back.

Yes, the notion of self-discovery is very cliché. It’s cliché because it reflects our worn-out philosophy of personal achievement. To reach goal H, I must go through the motions of A through F. To run 13.1 miles, I must start by running three, then five, then 10 miles. To earn this degree, I have to complete this project, get this grade, pass this class.

Our lives are built in a linear mindset. We allow ourselves little grace to contemplate, to fail, to just exist. It’s no wonder we’re tired of hearing about becoming more self-aware. Who wants to examine their identity when there’s no roadmap for it?!

Well, what if we think of this in terms of capacity instead of capability? Sure, credentials like college degrees are valuable because they show the world we’re competent and hopefully help us pay the bills. On the other hand, credentials don’t get us out of bed in the morning. They do not define us. After all, does everyone with an equine degree “find themselves” equally? I doubt it.

To me, this “Who am I?” question isn’t an inquiry of identity, but one of fulfillment. Shouldn’t we be asking what makes us whole?

I’m here to tell you, and I’m sure many others are too, that failure has defined me far more than any success. Unmet goals and expectations have been opportunities to regroup, reset and redo. There’s purpose in the pursuit, not in the arrival.

So, what fulfills you? If you’re brave enough to ask yourself that question, you’ll realize now is the best time to start pursuing an answer. And if the pursuit doesn’t make a few stops in Strugglesville, you’re probably not doing it right.

“There is no construction without destruction, no flowing without damming and no motion without rest; the two are locked in a life-and-death struggle.” –Mao Zedong

*Seth Riker*

*Marketing & Communications Manager, Center for Student Success*







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**Ag Equine Programs**

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

N212 Ag Sciences Building North

Lexington, KY 40546-0091

Office: (859) 257-2226

[equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu)

[www.uky.edu/equine](http://www.uky.edu/equine)

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## Unique Equine Science and Management Student Learns Valuable Skills at Thoroughbred Farm

By Maddie Regis

Emily Mercier, a senior Equine Science and Management student at the University of Kentucky, recognizes the horse-centric nature of Lexington, and she said it was a large factor in her attending UK.

"I chose UK because Lexington is the place to be if you want to get involved with any aspect of the horse industry. There are top professionals in many facets of the horse industry, whether that's racing or sport horses and many things in between. There is no other place quite like Lexington to expand your knowledge of the horses and network with all the right people," she said. "I had a lot of sport horse and Off-The-Track-Thoroughbred experience before I came to UK. But it was all lower level, local things. I didn't get the chance to work for any type of professional or with any elite athletes until I came to UK."

Mercier chose WinStar Farm as the site of her internship, as she had been interested in the racing stable before she was even a college student.

"I was already familiar with the program and I had been trying to get the internship since I first toured UK as a high school senior. WinStar is one of the most elite racing stables, and has some of the most notable stallions in the industry worldwide. The farm is absolutely magnificent. The facilities are world class. I knew from the second I stepped onto the farm that I wanted to work there," she said.

Mercier said that getting into the program was not an easy task, however. She actually applied three times before she was hired, each time getting a little further in the application process, until she got a very good recommendation letter from a previous employer, which Mercier said she believes is what finally got her the internship.

Mercier is unique in that she is double-majoring in Equine Science and Marketing, and she said that interning at WinStar allowed her to use skills she has acquired from both of her majors, and taught her a lot about Thoroughbred racing.

"I learned so much about the racing industry at my internship. I learned how much time, energy and preparation goes into every aspect of the life of the racing Thoroughbred. Every horse is tracked so carefully and so thoroughly. Nothing is an accident. It was fabulous to see a WinStar horse, Creator, win the Belmont and know all the

dedication and support it had taken to get him there," she said.

Mercier said her two main responsibilities were cataloguing sale horse and stallion information, and giving tours of the farm, but as most interns know, she did many other tasks throughout her time there and got to assist in putting on some of WinStar's charity events as well. Mercier's favorite part of the internship came as a surprise to her.

"My favorite part of the internship was leading the tours. I know many people don't like interacting with the public; I honestly didn't think I would like it either. But people showed up from all over the world to see the farm. I got to meet, educate and generally talk to some of the most interesting and excited people about horses. I ended up looking forward to my tours more than any other part of my day," she said.

UK's equine program came full-circle for Mercier's internship, as her supervisor, Bethany Wurl, is a UK Equine Science and Management alumna. Wurl enjoyed having an ESMA student as her intern.

"Emily impressed us with her willingness to learn and her can-do attitude. She was fun to work with and really seemed to have a passion for the industry, as well as our stallions. We hope to see her make a splash in the business," Wurl said.

Another surprising part of Mercier's college experience is what she said she plans to do after she completes her undergraduate degree: attend vet school. Mercier said that her WinStar internship helped her learn skills she will use once she is a veterinarian.

"This internship helped me greatly with public and client relations, which is incredibly important when working with owners and trainers of horses you might be treating," she said.

Mercier hopes to attend vet school in Fall 2018.





## Student Professionalism Series

By Elizabeth A. James

The University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management Undergraduate Degree Program strives to not only educate you about equine science, but also to prepare you for your future career. Part of this preparation includes classroom guest lectures, hands on labs, requiring an internship before you graduate, exposing you to numerous industry related careers and, most recently, we have added a series called the Student Professionalism Series to the Wildcat Canter. The Student Professionalism Series will offer insights and tips to help you effectively prepare for, find, apply to and obtain the career of your choice. This month we are going to take a closer look at the fine line of mixing business with friendship.

### Don't do business with friends

We all have that one friend we love, but could not be more different from. For me, that person is Fernanda Camargo. As much as I love her, we are complete opposites. She likes Coke; I like Pepsi. She is impulsive; I make decisions slowly. She's a night owl; I'm a morning person. She can't sing... ok, wait...I can't sing either. But you get the point.

We are especially different when it comes to horses. I trim my own horses feet; she has the best farrier care money can buy. I feed hay; she feeds hay, supplement, oil, SmartPak and anything else her horses need. I'm happy to give bute and wait a day or two if one of my horses is lame; she has already called the vet the minute they take an off step. I love this about us. I love this about our friendship. But truth be told, it wouldn't transfer very well to a business relationship – especially one involving horses.

I can't even count the number of deals involving horses (ownerships, partnerships, foal shares, business ventures, etc.) that I've heard of over the years that were entered into with the best intentions and ended up ruining a friendship or friendships. More often than not, it has been some form of

communication – or miscommunication – that was at the heart of it, but once a friendship is ruined, it doesn't really matter what the cause was. Horse people are amazing. But they are also not generally short on opinions. Two people can approach the same horse, the same situation, the same business completely differently and that doesn't always bode well for friendships.

My advice this month is simply this: value your horses, your business, your career, your friendships, your relationships and your word above all else. And by value, I mean protect. Rarely do any of the above mix well. If you find yourself contemplating going into business or a horse-related venture with a friend, have an honest conversation upfront. Talk about everything and write down everything you talk about. Don't just discuss how amazing it would be if all goes well but talk about what could go wrong and how you would handle it. Discuss roles. Define who is responsible for what. Determine how decisions will get made and who is contributing what. Specifically outline how money will be divided. Talk about everything you can think of. It may not be easy or necessarily comfortable, but if you do go into business with friend,s it will be worth it because more often than not it could save the friendship.





**Annual career fair unites college students, equine industry**

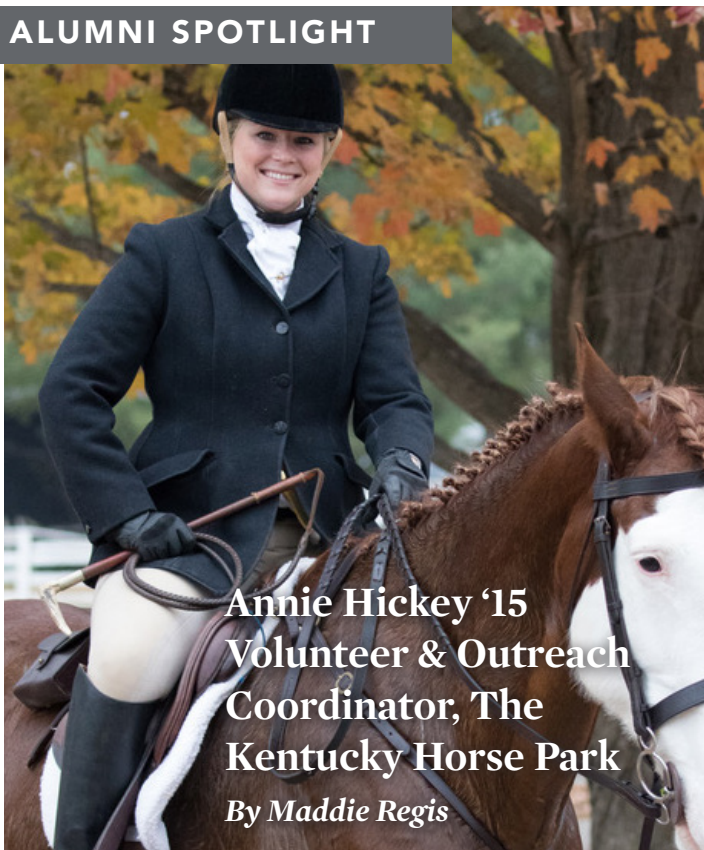
*By Holly Wiemers*

More than 120 college students attended the University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs' ninth annual UK Equine Career and Opportunity Fair March 7 in Lexington, Kentucky.

The free event provided college students the chance to meet prospective equine industry employers and to learn about potential volunteer, internship and part-time and full-time employment opportunities. In addition to booths from area equine businesses, attendees participated in sessions led by industry professionals, who offered tips and one-on-one career advice. Those sessions included veterinary professions, the Thoroughbred industry, feed sales/nutrition, marketing/communications, and graduate school.







**Annie Hickey '15  
Volunteer & Outreach  
Coordinator, The  
Kentucky Horse Park**  
*By Maddie Regis*

**Where is home for you?**

Atlanta, Georgia

**How did you first become involved in the horse industry?**

I showed hunters and jumpers starting when I was 5, and showed competitively through high school and rode on the IEA team. I started playing polo in middle school at the Atlanta Polo Club and came to UK to play on the Womens' Polo Team.

**What were your career goals before graduation?**

During college I became a PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) certified therapeutic instructor at Central Kentucky Riding for Hope. I wanted to be an instructor at the facility, and one day manage the entire facility.

**Where are you currently employed?**

I am now the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator at the Kentucky Horse Park, and I manage all volunteers, interns, service groups and outreach for the park.

**What are your current job responsibilities?**

My responsibilities include (and are certainly not limited to) meeting with volunteers and interns on a daily basis, scheduling, training and community outreach. I also manage the Run/Walk Club which meets every Monday night from June 5 – September 25.

**What led you to this position?**

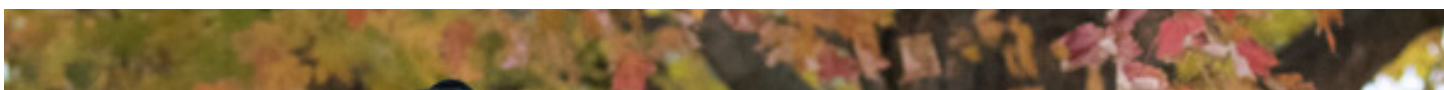
The Kentucky Horse Park is the heart of Lexington. People travel from all over the world to experience the many breeds of horses, learn about the history of the horse and its impact on Lexington and to learn about the various disciplines within the equine industry. Dr. [Bob] Coleman taught a Capstone class that really put my ideas and dreams into perspective. Owning a boarding and training facility sounds wonderful, but it is truly a 24/7 commitment. Not to say that it is not still a dream of mine to one day own a facility, but he helped me to broaden my horizon of the different types of career opportunities that are involved within the equine industry.

**How are you currently involved in the horse industry?**

I currently own two horses, a Thoroughbred named Bella and a Clydesdale-Warmblood cross named Abbigail. I am a member of Woodford/Long Run Hounds and fox hunt in Louisville as well as Crab Orchard. My fiancé and I enjoy riding in the local hunter paces, charity trail rides and any event that hosts a tailgate after a good ride.

**What advice do you have for current equine students?**

Network, network, network. In this industry, it is not about what you know (although studying is very important!), but who you know. Take advantage of all of the opportunities that UK Ag Equine Programs throws to the students and shake hands every opportunity you get!





## **First Two Students Selected for American Horse Council's Internship Program; one hails from UK**

**Source: Paulick Report**

The first two students for the American Horse Council's (AHC) Internship Program have been selected: Holden Rafey of Bethesda, Maryland, and Sarah Bernknopf of Marietta, Georgia.

"We are excited to have Holden and Sarah join us here in Washington, DC," said AHC President Julie Broadway. "They are both very active within the equine world already, so this is a great opportunity for them to learn more about the AHC and our role in advocating for the equine industry. We have had such a great response to the internship program being offered, and are looking forward to seeing the talented students that continue to apply."

One of the students selected – Sarah Bernknopf is currently a junior at the University of Kentucky, majoring in Equine Science and Management, with a minor in business.

"As an equine science student from the University of Kentucky, I am so excited to have the opportunity to come to Washington and intern with the American Horse Council," said Bernknopf. "It is important to learn about all aspects of the industry no matter what equine job you have, and I look forward to learning about the impact the AHC has on promoting and protecting the equine industry."



A M E R I C A N  
H O R S E C O U N C I L

## **Education Abroad Scholarship Deadline Approaching-April 1**

University of Kentucky Education Abroad (EA) encourages students with diverse backgrounds to apply for its EA Diversity Scholarship, with awards up to \$5,000.

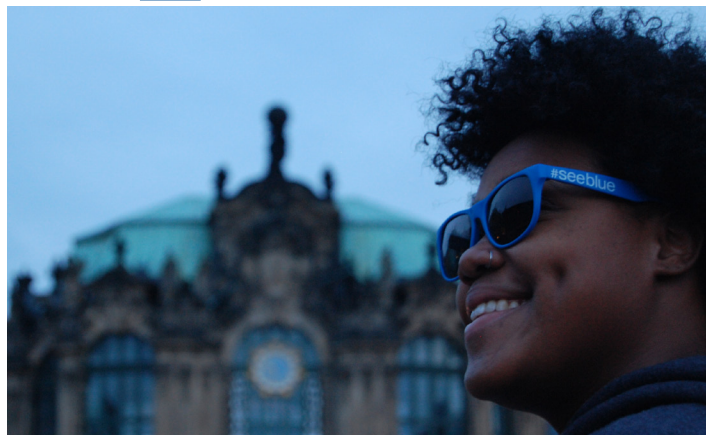
Unlike scholarships that require an active program application, the EA Diversity Scholarship may be used as a voucher toward a future study abroad program with UK Partner, International Studies Abroad (ISA).

All full-time undergraduates with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA are eligible to apply. For the purposes of this scholarship, "diverse backgrounds" includes, but is not limited to, socioeconomic status, first generation classification, race or ethnic origin, sex, religion, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability and other characteristics, such as Appalachian residency.

While applying, students should speak to their personal diversity and/or history of overcoming adversity. Application materials include:

- An academic profile including major, class standing, GPA and unofficial transcript
- A resume
- A personal statement that 1) speaks to the long-term educational and professional benefit of the student's international experience and 2) clearly describes the student's diverse characteristics and contributions to the diversity of the UK community

The deadline to apply is April 1. More details can be found [here](#).



## CLUBS AND TEAMS

### ***Equestrian Team***

Congratulations to the riders representing UK's Western Equestrian Team at their semifinal show this past weekend. For the team divisions, Rebecca Brown placed 2nd in novice horsemanship; Jamie Henley 5th in open horsemanship; Sydney Hull 2nd in open reining; Dylan Pal 9th in intermediate horsemanship; Jess Pierce 5th in advanced horsemanship; and Emma Sanchez 8th in beginner horsemanship! Also, congratulations to Taylor Cordovano for placing 9th in individual intermediate horsemanship and Ashley Murphy for her honorable mention in individual. Great job wildcats. Thank you to our amazing coach Bennie Sargent and advisor Dr. Bob Coleman.

Also from the Western Equestrian Team, Megan Carter, a 2007 UK graduate from the business management major and former UK Equestrian Team member, competed at the IHSA semifinals in Laurinburg, North Carolina, and was the champion in Alumni Reining and received 3rd place in Alumni Horsemanship. She will be competing at IHSA Nationals in Lexington in early May.

### ***Dressage and Eventing Team***

The UK Dressage and Eventing Team hosted its 4th Annual Hunter Pace at Masterson Station Park on March 26. Despite gloomy weather, the team had a fantastic turnout from the community and the fundraiser proved to be a huge success! The IDA team will be competing at Miami University on April 1 and 2, its final show before Intercollegiate Championships in late April. UKDET is also looking forward to sending three teams to its next intercollegiate team challenge at F.E.N.C.E. on April 15 and 16.

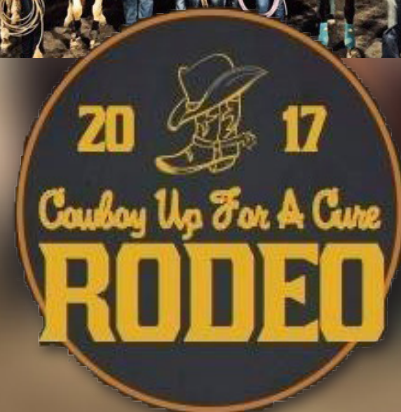
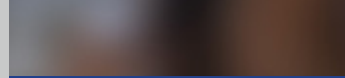
### ***Rodeo Team***

The University of Kentucky Rodeo team is very excited about teaming up with Alpha Gamma Delta, FarmHouse Fraternity and Cowboy Up for a CURE to help put on the fourth annual Cowboy Up for a CURE Rodeo. The rodeo takes place on Saturday, April 8 at the Kentucky Horse Park. It's a night that you don't want to miss. Doors open at 6 p.m. and shortly after that, the night will kick off with everyone's favorite rodeo events. This year we are excited to announce that a few members from our University of Kentucky Rodeo Team will be competing in the rodeo – make sure to cheer on your fellow Wildcats when you hear UKRT!

Cowboy Up for a CURE rodeo is more than just a fun Saturday night activity; it's about doing our part to help those who are affected by pediatric cancer. Proceeds will go towards benefitting UK's Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic.

So, come on down to the Kentucky Horse Park and enjoy a fun night at the rodeo, because kids get cancer, too!

[Presale tickets](#)





## Bluegrass Equine Digest

Check out the March issue of the Bluegrass Equine Digest, a free, monthly electronic newsletter dedicated to providing up-to-date information on equine research from the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in collaboration with TheHorse.com and sponsored by Zoetis.

Click [here](#) to see this month's stories.

- New Perspectives on Foal Nutrition
- Accelerating Medical Progress on Lameness
- Understanding Foal Immunity In Utero and Beyond
- Four Misconceptions About Alfalfa



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[Click here to  
 access contact  
 information for  
 these clubs.](#)





*Fear The Cowboy Returns In Style With Skip Away Victory*  
 Source: *Paulick Report*

Multiple-stakes winner Fear the Cowboy made a triumphant return to Gulfstream Park Saturday, closing well off the pace to win going away by three lengths in the \$100,000 Skip Away (G3).

In sharing the update, Mary Rossano, associate professor within Animal and Food Science and instructor of Equine Science and Management courses, said, "It's not too often a UK Maine Chance-bred horse wins a \$100,000 race, and when one does we get very excited. His mother is Whom Shall I Fear (aka WSIF). He is Paddy's half-brother.

Read more [here](#).

*Jostes named Equine Philanthropy Director for College of Agriculture, Food and Environment*

By Holly Wiemers

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has added an additional member to its stable of equine-focused professionals. Danielle Jostes came on board in March as equine philanthropy director, a role that will capitalize on both her track record of fundraising in a university setting and her passion for equine and agriculture.

"To me, this position was the perfect combination of my profession and passion. I believe philanthropy has the ability to make such a meaningful impact, and as a horse owner and enthusiast, I am thrilled to join a great university located in the horse capital of the world," Jostes said. "Lexington's dominance of the equine industry and UK's equine focus make this a perfect opportunity to grow and continue the long-standing tradition of excellence in equine."

"I am so pleased to have someone of Danielle's passion and experience join the philanthropy team in the college. She will





be vital to attaining our goals to build the premier equine program for research and education in the world,” said Pamela Gray, senior director of philanthropy within the college.

According to Gray, Jostes will focus on connecting individuals and stakeholders in meaningful ways to the strategic priorities within the UK Gluck Equine Research Foundation and all of the college’s equine-related programs. She will serve as a conduit for their passion for the industry and will work to match that passion with the college’s strategic goals and objectives in serving the industry.

Jostes grew up in Central Illinois on a Quarter Horse farm, where her family continues to raise horses and farm hay. She comes to UK from the University of Louisville, where she served as assistant director of development and managed the philanthropy efforts of the departments of Ophthalmology and the Cardiovascular Innovation Institute within the School of Medicine. Before that, she was operations manager for the Clark Memorial Hospital Foundation in Jeffersonville, Indiana, and worked for the American Cancer Society in Louisville.

Jostes earned her bachelor’s degree in organizational communications with a minor in agriculture from Murray State University’s College of Business and Public Affairs and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in higher education from the University of Louisville.

“I am very pleased that Danielle has joined our program as the director of equine philanthropy. The UK Gluck Equine Research Foundation has provided important financial support to the Gluck Equine Research Center for the past 30 years and her position is intended to continue and expand those efforts by re-committing the board to its philanthropic mission,” said David Horohov, chair of the Department of Veterinary Science and director of the Gluck Equine Research Center. “Danielle brings the necessary experience, skills and expertise to facilitate this effort. I very much look forward to working with her and the board on this important task.”

“Danielle brings a unique enthusiasm and experience to this new position. We are excited to work with her to bring the UK Ag Equine Program to the next level,” said Mick Peterson, director of UK Ag Equine Programs and faculty member within the college’s Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.



**Ag Equine Programs**  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



## ***UK's Veterinary Science to Host Second Annual Three-Minute Thesis Competition for Doctoral Students***

***By Jenny Evans***

The University of Kentucky Department of Veterinary Science will host its second annual Three-Minute Thesis (3-MT) competition for PhD candidates (i.e., post-qualifying examination) graduate students to present their research projects on April 7 at 3 p.m. in the UK Gluck Equine Research Center auditorium.

Daniel Howe, professor and director of graduate studies in the UK Department of Veterinary Science, said the purpose of the 3-MT competition is to, "encourage the students to develop skills in communicating their research in a very concise and efficient manner."

The rules of the 3-MT, which were originally developed at a university in New Zealand, allow students three minutes to discuss their research using only one presentation slide and no gimmicks (e.g., props, costumes, songs, etc.)

Three faculty members from various departments in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will judge the competition.

The presenting PhD candidates will be announced the week of the competition via the UK Gluck Equine Research Center's Facebook page.

## ***UK to host second Equine Nutrition Short Course***

***By Holly Wiemers***

The second annual University of Kentucky Equine Nutrition Short Course will be held May 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Presented by UK Ag Equine Programs' Equine Nutrition Working Group, the event is intended for horse owners who want to understand how nutritional management can affect the health and performance of their horses.

Morning lectures will be held at the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and will cover determining if a horse needs an immune supplement; if a horse is getting enough (or too much) protein; healthy hay and grain; and horse nutrition myths and mysteries.

Afternoon labs will be held at UK's Maine Chance Farm and will cover hands-on horse evaluation tools for determining if a horse is fit or thin and what is fat or muscle; feeding through a horse's lifecycle, including the right feeds and supplements for performance, growth and reproduction; best hay feeding practices, including the determination of dry, soaked or steamed; and pasture and hay evaluation.

The cost of the course is \$75, which includes breaks, lunch and materials. [Online registration](#)



**Ag Equine Programs**  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

## Former UK Football Athlete Honors History Horseracing Athletes With Signature Gala

Source Lex18

Former University of Kentucky football player Ron Mack keeps up with sports. So imagine his surprise when he learned there were some great athletes from his neighborhood he'd never heard of.

"Lexington is the 'Horse Capital of The World.' I grew up around the horse racing industry, but it wasn't until recently I learned that without with historic contributions of African-Americans, we wouldn't have the horse racing industry that we do today," said Mack.

His newfound passion for sharing that history is why the athlete, turned event planner, is hosting a horse racing gala during Derby week, dubbed, The Legacy Ball. "The Legacy Ball will pay homage to those African-American jockeys and trainers who had a significant impact on the horse racing industry," Mack said. "Isaac Murphy and Oliver Lewis were both from the East End. Who better, than Lexington, to recognize these important historic figures?"

The Legacy Ball will be held May 5, in the brand-new Woodford Reserve Club; which is in the University of Kentucky Commonwealth Stadium. "Few have had a chance to set foot in this venue, since its opening during the 2016 season." Mack says his guests will enjoy food, music, dancing, simulated gambling, and of course, bourbon.

It will also feature a premiere, historical exhibit of African-American racing pioneers; created by renowned equine expert, and author of "The Prince of Jockeys", Pellom McDaniels. "He is the leading authority on African-Americans in the horse racing industry. We absolutely wanted to include him in this event," said Mack.

The event will not just be a walk down memory lane. The proceeds-- of what Mack promises to be a chic and culturally-enriching affair-- will benefit local charities and scholarships for African-American students, who aspire to pursue equine education at the University of Kentucky. Mack says, "I encourage everyone to visit our website, [www.legacyball.org](http://www.legacyball.org) to get your tickets today. This is an event you don't want to miss."

- Event Location: Woodford Reserve Club, University of Kentucky Commonwealth Stadium
- Event Attire: Black Tie or "Derby Chic"
- Event Price: \$100 Per Ticket
- Event Website: [www.thelegacyball.com](http://www.thelegacyball.com)







Ag Equine Programs  
College of Agriculture  
Food and Environment



## ***UK Ag Equine Programs receives \$6.8 Million gift from university alumnus and retired veterinarian***

*By Holly Wiemers*

John Pirri Jr., a retired veterinarian and alumnus from the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, has pledged a gift totaling more than \$6.8 million for the immediate and long-term facility needs for UK Ag Equine Programs' undergraduate efforts.

Pirri graduated from UK in 1951 with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and again in 1952 with a master's degree. He then went on to complete his degree in veterinary medicine from Iowa State University, and after a few stops along the way in Florida and Georgia, built a successful small-animal practice in Connecticut. He is now retired and resides in South Carolina.

While it has been more than six decades since Pirri was a student at UK, he has never forgotten his time in Kentucky. His love for horses and horse racing, as well as his memories of visiting Kentucky's top horse farms as a student, were part of what inspired him to give to a program teaching the future leaders of the horse industry.

"I never did forget Kentucky," he said. "I had a good time in Kentucky. I enjoyed myself in Kentucky. My memories of Kentucky have always been good."

Pirri always had a passion for horse racing, and while his studies were busy, he made time to go to the area farms, calling those visits his salvation. He visited top farms such as Calumet, Claiborne and Spendthrift, where he knew and followed the horses. He said the farms were used to him showing up on his "little putt putt bike." He studied genetics as part of his degree emphasis and was interested in the bloodlines of the racehorses he followed.

Pirri recalls fondly his time at UK. Back then, the equine educational landscape on campus was radically different than it is today. There was no equine undergraduate major and certainly no dedicated facility for teaching horse handling. Fast forward 65 years, and there is now an equine teaching pavilion on UK's Maine Chance Farm and an interdisciplinary equine major with approximately 315 students enrolled in the program.

However, the current teaching space on the farm, a very simple indoor pavilion for horse handling that was finished in 2007 is in need of renovations and expansion to accommodate the burgeoning needs of the program.

The pavilion will officially be named the Pirri Equine Teaching Pavilion. Renovations will include construction of teaching space equipped with smart classroom capabilities, installation of heating, ventilation and air conditioning in designated areas of the pavilion and construction of bathrooms compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"Dr. Pirri's gift enables our equine program to take a giant leap in service to our students. His passion for horses and students will enable another generation of students to grow and strengthen the equine industry," said Nancy Cox, dean of the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "We are honored by the confidence he has placed in UK Ag Equine Programs and appreciate the funding he has provided for this excellent facility."

"This is truly a transformational gift. It will provide our students a chance to put into practice what they have learned in their classes," said Mick Peterson, director of UK Ag Equine Programs. "Hands-on learning helps them retain the information they've learned and can even change how they think about the world."



University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Dean Nancy Cox and John Pirri, Jr, a retired veterinarian and alumnus



# UK Ag Equine Programs apparel for sale

Want to show y our school spirit? What better way than with UK Ag Equine Programs gear!

Find pullovers, t-shirts, tumblers, and more! Click [here](#) to purchase your items today!



University of  
Kentucky

Ag Equine Programs  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



# APRIL 1

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# UK **brAG** week

APRIL 10 - 14

## **MONDAY APRIL 10**

### **#UKbrAG Contest**

*Tell us why you love the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment using #UKbrAG on social media. Prize packages will be given to the best posts. Packages include a Kroger gift card and college swag.*

## **TUESDAY, APRIL 11**

### **#MyAgStory**

*How'd you get where you are? We want to know. Agriculture is a multifaceted industry and, who knows, you might just inspire someone to join the crew.*

### **Education Abroad Open House - free food**

**11:00 - 2:00 in 315 Bradley Hall (next to Chem Phys)**

*Stop by and chat with UK Education Abroad Peer Ambassadors - learn about scholarships, browse ag-related programs, and more.*

## **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12**

### **Ag Awareness Day**

**10:00 - 2:00 behind Memorial Hall**

*The highlight of UKbrAG Week is Ag Awareness Day! Stop by and chat with student clubs in the UK College of Ag, Food and Environment, learn about various community organizations, and grab a free "let the beet drop" t-shirt.*

## **THURSDAY, APRIL 13**

### **UK Barn Dance**

**7:00 - 10:00 Horticulture Research Farm**

*Move to your own beat or learn how to swing dance while listening to live music from Jack Ellis and enjoying a pig roast. All attendees receive a t-shirt with \$5 ticket purchase. Tickets may be purchased in the Ag Deli from 11:00 to 1:00 on April 5, 6, 10, 11, or at Ag Awareness Day.*

## **FRIDAY, APRIL 14**

### **Thank a Farmer**

*Take a moment to thank the farmers across the Commonwealth and the globe for all they contribute. Whether it's a tweet, a text, or a handshake, let farmers know you appreciate their hard work and dedication. Make your thanks public by using the hashtag #thankafarmer.*





## Complimentary digital access to *The Horse* for college students!



*The Horse: Your Guide To Equine Health Care* is partnering with equine programs at accredited colleges and universities to give students access to the magazine's digital edition through *The Horse Schoolmasters* program.

Through the Schoolmasters program, students will receive complimentary digital access to *The Horse* while enrolled at partner schools. Subscribed students will receive monthly notifications when new issues become available and have access to past issues for research.

Colleges interested in becoming part of *The Horse Schoolmasters* program can apply by completing a short questionnaire at [TheHorse.com/Schoolmasters](http://TheHorse.com/Schoolmasters).

Qualified schools are accredited colleges and universities with equine programs. Colleges will be required to complete the questionnaire before each academic year and will be provided an online form for students to subscribe.

For more information on the Schoolmasters program, contact Shawna White at [swhite@thehorse.com](mailto:swhite@thehorse.com).



**Sign up now at: [TheHorse.com/Schoolmasters](http://TheHorse.com/Schoolmasters)**



# Special digital access to *The Horse* for students at **the University of Kentucky**



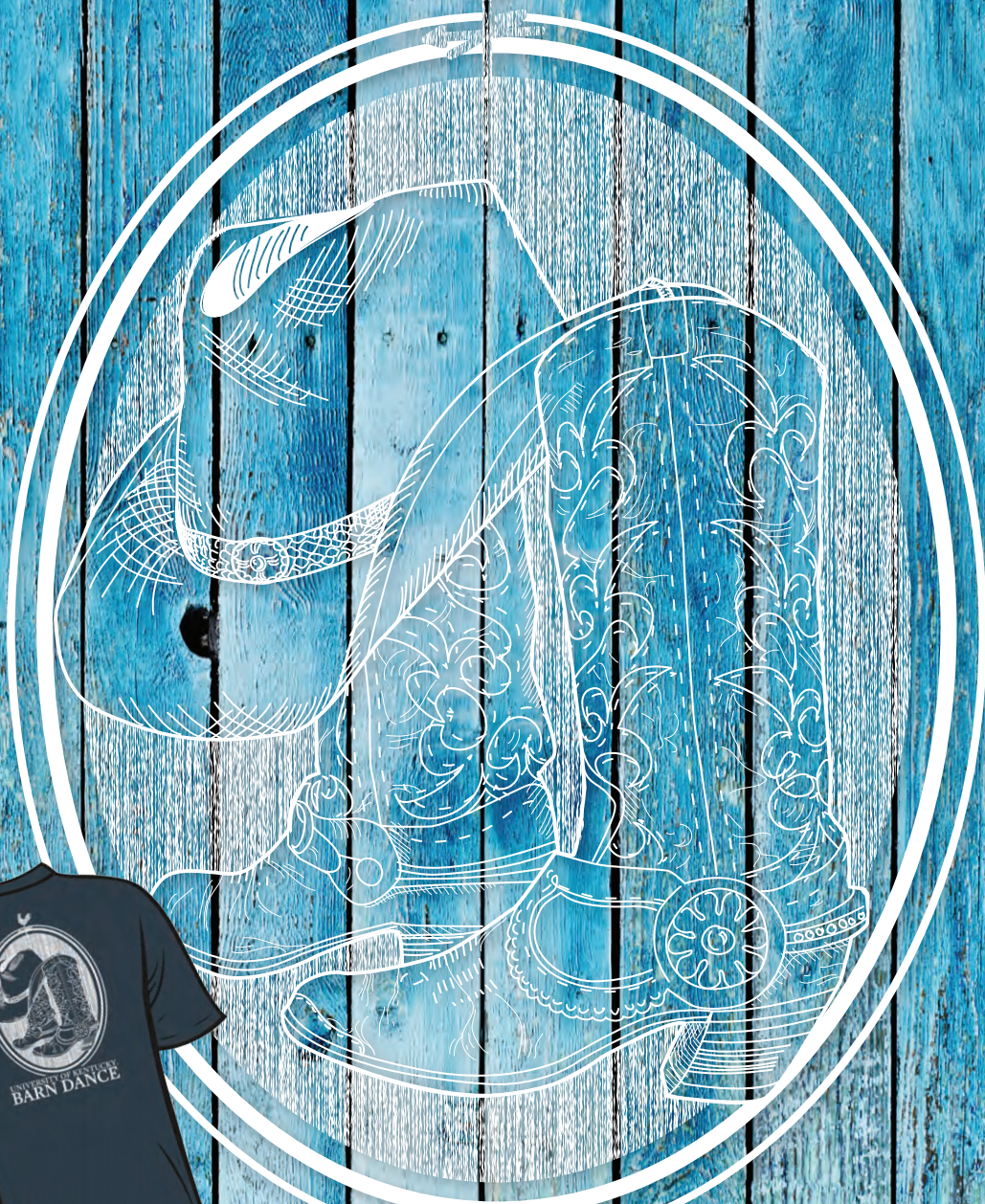
*The Horse: Your Guide To Equine Health Care* is partnering with your school to give you access to *The Horse* digital editions through our new Schoolmasters program. As a future leader in the equine industry, we know how important it is for you to have access to the latest news and information in equine health, care, and management to assist you with your academic pursuits. In addition to having access to each monthly issue, you will also have access to our archived issues for research.

To sign up, simply go to [TheHorse.com/UniversityofKentucky](http://TheHorse.com/UniversityofKentucky) and use your school email address to register. You will need to resubscribe each semester that you're a student. But don't worry, we'll send you a reminder email before the next semester starts!



**Sign up now at: [TheHorse.com/UniversityofKentucky](http://TheHorse.com/UniversityofKentucky)**





**THURSDAY APRIL 13 7:00 - 10:00 SOUTH FARM**

Move to your own beat or learn how to swing dance while listening to live music from Jack Ellis and enjoying a pig roast. All attendees receive a t-shirt with \$5 ticket purchase. Tickets may be purchased in the Ag Deli from 11:00 to 1:00 on April 5, 6, 10, 11, or at Ag Awareness Day on April 12. Visit [www.uky.edu/grow](http://www.uky.edu/grow) for more info.

**UK**brAG  
week

**UK** College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
**BARN DANCE**



**Equine Science and Management**

# **Student Study Break**

**Monday 4/24-Friday 4/28**

**8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**UK Ag Equine Programs Office**  
**Ag Science North, Room 212**



 University of  
Kentucky®

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Office: (859) 257-2226  
[equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu)  
[www.uky.edu/equine](http://www.uky.edu/equine)

