

# *Wildcat Canter*

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER



MAY 2017



### ***Equine Reproduction Internship Highlights Career Possibilities for Student- PAGE 5***

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### ***A Circus of a Tailgate- PAGE 10***

At the 2017 Rolex Three Day Event, UK's Equine Alumni pitched their (circus) tent for a day of tailgating beside Saturday's cross-country course. Organized by alumni, for alumni, this event was spearheaded by academic coordinator Kristen Wilson and director of undergraduate studies Bob Coleman.



### ***Congratulations to the Spring 2017 ESMA Graduates- PAGE 11***

On Saturday, May 5, 2017, 36 Equine Science and Management students walked across the big stage at Rupp Arena as the closing to their undergraduate careers. Following the ceremony, graduates and their families were invited to attend the Equine Science and Management Graduation Reception at the Good Barn on campus.



### ***Other Features***

Alumni Spotlight - PAGE 7

UK Equine Farm and Facilities Expo to be Held June 8 - PAGE 24

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 8, Equine Farm and Facilities Expo, 3-8 p.m., New Vocations at Mereworth Farm, 719 Dolan Lane, Lexington, Kentucky
- June 29, UK Department of Veterinary Science Equine Diagnostic Research Seminar Series, 4-5 p.m., Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Topic: Evolution of Equine Infection Control Management; Speaker: Josie Traub-Dargatz, DVM, MIS. Dipl. ACVIM, Colorado State University

**The 3 C's of life are choices, chances and changes. You must make a choice to take a chance or your life will never change.**

*Author unknown*

Welcome! Over 18 years ago, I made the choice like many of you to be part of this college and great university. Taking a chance on a major, a college and embarking on a journey unaware of the change that I was going to undertake.

By taking a chance, I gained a mentor that became a father figure, received career guidance, experienced my first flight to a university-sponsored conference and landed my first internship with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. That was followed by multiple job offers, and an advisor that prepared me for my life during and after college. As many of us have selected the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment as our next home, we are fortunate to engage with several members of our university community that are equipped to be the family away from home and the family one never had.

In my early years, I was simply focused on myself, my development, my career and finding my niche. Through experiences and constant reflection, I found out that I was not truly living. One does not truly live until they make a difference in the lives of someone who can never repay you. Having an attitude of service and paying it forward guided me toward my career choice and landed me in the College of Agriculture, Food Environment to make a difference in the lives of those that I encountered. That is what we all have in common as students, faculty and staff. The ability to sculpt minds, nurture hearts and create diverse leaders.

A time in which universities across the country and even on our campus experience challenges to create an inclusive environment in which our faculty, staff and students can be successful, I am excited to be a part of a college that recognizes and celebrates the diversity that we bring. Particularly, being a part of the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's second Intercultural Awareness Day, highlighting more than 40 women from all areas of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Additionally, I am equally proud to conclude my service of a three-year term in the presidential capacity for the National Society of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS). And last, but not least, I enjoyed the opportunity to watch the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment students capture their fifth consecutive National MANRRS Chapter of the Year.

As we conclude this year and look forward, I reflect about the best thing I have been a part of this year. I would definitely say that that best experiences have been the people, the friends that I have made and the opportunity to see students grow and develop. Particularly, I get excited seeing everyone in our college embrace a vision and mission of inclusion and moving forward in their life with a purpose, showing passion and displaying a collective voice. As you head into the summer months, I challenge you, whether you graduated or are transitioning to another year in our college, to reflect about your year, continue to embrace your journey no matter how difficult it may seem and always remember that you may not be there yet, but you are closer than you were yesterday!



*Quentin R. Tyler, PhD*  
Assistant Dean/Director for Diversity



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## Equine Reproduction Internship Highlights Career Possibilities for Student

By *Maddie Regis*

Michaela Yowaiski, an Equine Science and Management junior at the University of Kentucky, has been riding since she was 6 years old, has been an active member of the United States Pony Club and 4-H and has evented and fox hunted for many years. So naturally, she was interested in majoring in something equine-related when she chose a college.

"I first fell in love with Lexington when I first visited in 2012 for the United States Pony Club Festival. I also really liked UK's campus and it was one of the few schools to offer an equine major," she said.

When Yowaiski began to think about where she wanted to do her internship, she said she knew she wanted to be closer to her home of Front Royal, Virginia, so she could continue riding and competing. Yowaiski chose Equine Reproduction Concepts (ERC), as it fit these criteria and had already piqued her interests.

"I had an interest in equine reproduction, had visited ERC with 4-H in the past and it was a good option that was close to home," she said.

Yowaiski was the only intern at ERC during the summer she worked there, which allowed her to experience a little bit of everything that went on.

"I was able to assist in all of their procedures," she said. "This included, but was not limited to, evaluating semen; preparing it for shipment; handling stallions for collection; assisting with collection; keeping stallion and mare records; giving IV, IM and oral meds; performing uterine lavages; assisting with embryo transfers and artificial insemination; and palpating and ultra-sounding mares."

By choosing Equine Reproduction Concepts as her internship site, Yowaiski said she was able to learn a lot of the very important procedures involved in the breeding process, an opportunity she appreciates .

"I learned the most about how to manipulate the mares' reproductive cycles and syncing them with estimated breeding time," she said. "I really enjoyed being able to successfully palpate and ultrasound a mare by the time I was finished there."

Yowaiski's internship supervisor, veterinarian Kevin Dippert, was very impressed with her work ethic and ability to learn.

"She was exposed to a lot of reproduction services and excelled at the techniques that we do," he said. "An internship during peak breeding season means very long hours and she was there whenever we needed her, from early in the morning to late at night. She was hard working, efficient and a pleasure to work with."

Although Yowaiski is still undecided on what career she wants within the equine industry, she said she is now interested in equine reproduction thanks to her internship.

"This internship opened my eyes to more job possibilities and showed me my interest in equine reproduction," she said.



## ***AHP Names the Student Travel Award Winners for 2017***

***Source: Edited American Horse Publications release***

Searching for students with a passion for both horses and publishing is what AHP has been doing since 1993. The AHP Student Award competition has discovered a long list of talented young people who have become an asset to the equine publishing industry.

Three students have risen to the top to become 2017 AHP Student Award finalists. They have earned an opportunity to meet leading equine industry professionals and discuss career possibilities during the AHP Equine Media Conference. Each Travel Award Winner will receive a \$750 travel award to attend Saddle Up for Scottsdale in Scottsdale, Arizona, on June 15-17, 2017 for three days of educational sessions and related activities.

American Horse Publications is pleased to announce the three Student Travel Award winners for 2017. One of those award winners is University of Kentucky's Taylor Pence, who recently earned her degree in marketing from UK. Pence served as past president of the UK Dressage and Eventing Team.

"I tell the story of the equine athlete and the humans who work with them through my lens and writing," said Taylor. "Horses and photography are central to my core."

Taylor's interest in horses began at age 7 competing in saddle seat and eventually transitioning to eventing. Her passion for photojournalism started when she became involved with the University of Kentucky independent student newspaper, The Kentucky Kernel.

"I've known Taylor since her sophomore year when she came into the newspaper eager to get started," said Chris Poore, UK Student Publications Director. "It's refreshing, these days, to see a student so eager. She pursues her interests in horses – and academics – with the same intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm."

In addition to being the photo editor for the Kernel, Taylor added the position at the UK Gluck Equine Research Center to write multiple stories for the Bluegrass Equine Digest and thehorse.com.

"Taylor is a shining star that stands out among her peers," said Jenny Evans, Taylor's supervisor at the UK Gluck Center. "Besides her amazing creative photography, video, design, writing and marketing communications skills, she is also a natural leader."

As for her future plans, Taylor said this is just the beginning. "My future will aspire and allow me to continue finding new perspectives, crazy places to put remotes, and moments that are unique to anyone lucky enough to have a career as a multimedia storyteller."

Taylor is the daughter of Lissa and Stephen Pence, Concord, North Carolina

The three finalists will be interviewed by the Student Award Committee on Thursday afternoon at the AHP Equine Media Conference in Scottsdale. One student will be announced as the 2017 AHP Student Award Winner at the How the West Was Fun Party sponsored by Central Garden & Pet on Friday, June 16, 2017. The Student Award winner receives a cash award of \$1,000 plus an all-expense paid trip hosted by Publishers Press to one of their Two-Day Customer Education Seminars in Louisville, Kentucky. The two runner-ups will also receive a cash award. All cash awards are sponsored by AIM Equine Network.

American Horse Publications offers students interested in a career in equine publishing with several opportunities to participate in its association. To request information about any of AHP's student programs, please contact: Judy Lincoln, American Horse Publications, (386) 760-7743, e-mail: [ahorsepubs2@aol.com](mailto:ahorsepubs2@aol.com). Information is also available online at the AHP [web site](#).



**Autry Graham, '16**  
**Farm Photographer,**  
**Taylor Made Farm**

*By Maddie Regis*

**Where is home for you?**

I am originally from Versailles, Kentucky.

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

I wasn't involved in the horse industry until my junior year of college, when I transferred to UK and changed my major to Equine Science and Management.

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

My career goals were to find a job within the Thoroughbred industry where I could learn as much as possible.

**Where are you currently employed?**

Taylor Made Farm.

**What are your current job responsibilities?**

At Taylor Made Farm, I am the farm photographer and serve as an assistant to our experience director. On a day-to-day basis, I take photos of every horse on the farm every month, which is both sent to owners and archived. During the sales I take photos of every horse we consign and they go on our website, which can be accessed by our clients. In addition, I also take photos for all types of marketing purposes, which include but

are not limited to paddock photos of every foal on the farm, race photos during Keeneland race meets, marketing photos of horses we have coming up in sales and workout photos of race horses we are involved in. At Taylor Made, we have also created and opened a store, The Taylor Made Shop, which has everything from California Chrome t-shirts and hats to equestrian jewelry to mint julep candles. I help create and find products for the store. I also assist in giving Horse Country tours at the farm.

**What led you to this position?**

I originally began an internship at Taylor Made Farm after meeting Frank Taylor at a Miranda Lambert concert at Rupp Arena. Before interning at Taylor Made, I was a marketing intern at Hagyard. Without the help of Mrs. James and Dr. Rossano, I would not have been able to find my niche in this industry.

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

I currently work for Taylor Made Farm and I am a member of the UK Equine Alumni Chapter.

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

My best advice I can give is: work hard, say yes to everything, don't complain, and write thank-you notes to everyone you have an encounter with. This industry may seem large, but it's a very small world and you'll be amazed at what some hard work and positive energy can do for you!

 University of  
**Kentucky**<sup>®</sup>

**Ag Equine Programs**

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

## ***More than a pretty face; study shows agriculture's impact to Woodford's economy***

***By Carol Lea Spence***

Very few would dispute the beauty of Kentucky farmland in the lushness of spring. But a study by the University of Kentucky's Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky shows that agriculture is more than just a pretty face. In Woodford County, agriculture and the businesses that support it are responsible for one out of three jobs and \$565 million in annual revenue.

The CEDIK study was unveiled at a recent news conference at the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's C. Oran Little Research Center in Woodford County. The study examines the influence of the agricultural cluster to Woodford County's economy.

"As a college, we are proud to assist counties in characterizing the value of agriculture and equine enterprises on economic development," said Dean Nancy Cox. "This research takes a lot of time and effort, and the methods used by CEDIK produce unique and sound insights."

Traditionally, employment associated with agriculture has been confined solely to production. The study's authors expanded that view to include not only production agriculture, but businesses that produce agricultural inputs, wholesale and retail businesses and service-based businesses that are dedicated to agriculture, such as veterinary, finance, recreation and transportation. Authors Alison Davis, Simona Balazs, Joe Kercksmar and Melody Nall assert that including these types of businesses shows the true importance of the agricultural sector in the area.

"We often focus on more traditional industry as representing a predominantly large share of employment, so the tendency is to focus on manufacturing, health care and education. But in these counties like Woodford County, agriculture and the equine industry are equally as important to their local economy," said Davis, UK agricultural economist and executive director of CEDIK. "We drive by and see these pretty farms and think, this is a beautiful place to live, but they are also significant contributors to the local economy."

When the agricultural cluster is defined to include companies with some or all of their business related to agriculture in the county, it is estimated that 2,783 jobs are attributed to the cluster. Without an agricultural base in the county, many of those businesses would not exist.

"Woodford County has a relatively small employment base; there are just under 10,000 full-time employees in the county," Davis said. "One of every five jobs is directly attributable to agriculture and its supporting services, and if you widen that to include the multiplier effect of the agricultural cluster, then it's one out of

three. That's a pretty significant market share for a county the size of Woodford."

In Woodford County, agricultural production is among the top five industries, with manufacturing leading in the number of jobs. Government, educational services and retail trade round out the top five. Woodford County has a higher concentration of employment in animal and crop production than the national average. The higher the concentration, the more likely support industries will be present in the area.

In addition, it is estimated that the ag cluster contributes \$1.1 million to the local tax base through payroll taxes. Approximately 14 percent of total properties in the county are farms, which generate \$5.2 million in property taxes—25 percent of the total tax base.

In addition to the \$565 million in annual revenue, the researchers found that the county's agricultural cluster generated more than \$340 million in additional income, profits and dividends.

One of the unique aspects the study examined were stud fees for the Thoroughbred industry in Woodford County. The county is home to 11 of the top 20 Thoroughbreds covering mares in the country. The sales tax imposed on those services gets turned around into breeders' incentive funds.

"While the stud fees that are posted aren't necessarily the final prices that are negotiated, it's still a really significant source of revenue and sales tax revenue," Davis said.

Because of the increasing pressures on land use, the researchers looked at the effect of a loss in production agriculture. They found that if production agriculture declined by 10 percent or \$26.8 million, there will be an overall additional decrease of more than \$8.4 million in output. Part of that loss would come from approximately \$2.4 million reduction in sales from business spending. Businesses involved in food products, truck transportation, warehousing, veterinary services and wholesale trade, just to name a few, would be most affected by a reduction in production agriculture in the county. The loss suffered by industries as a result of a reduction in household spending, what's known as the induced effect, would be even greater, approximately \$6 million.

"The ag industry is not necessarily the most important industry, it's not the largest industry, but it's important for these communities—particularly small communities—to have a diverse portfolio of economic development strategies and industries. This study illustrates that in Woodford County, it's an important part of the economy, and it should be an important part of the discussion with economic development professionals, educators and planners in the county." Davis said.

Sponsors of the study include Kentucky Performance Products, Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Inc., Pisgah Community Historic Association and Woodford Forward. The full study can be found [here](#).

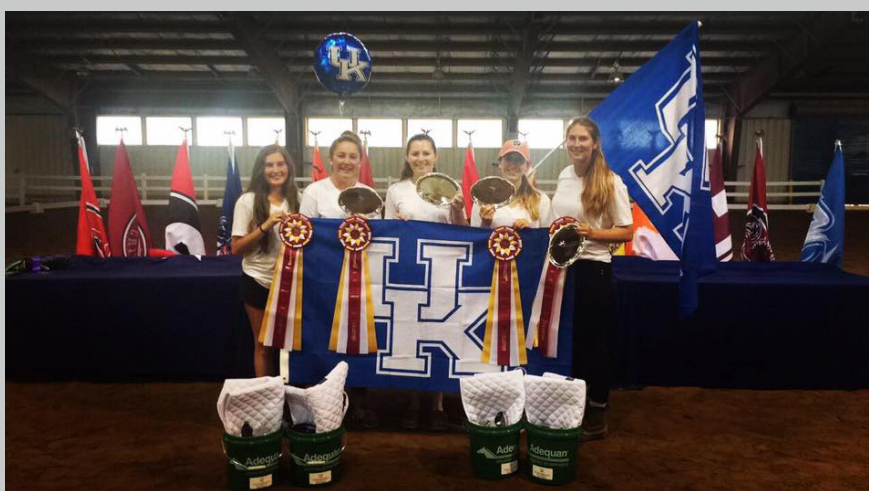


**Dressage and Eventing Team**

This past weekend the UK Dressage and Eventing Team competed in the Second Annual USEA Intercollegiate Eventing Championship held at the Virginia Horse Trials (VHT) in Lexington, Virginia. There was a total of 81 students representing 17 colleges and universities. The Reserve Champion title went to the University of Kentucky, which consisted of Alexa Ehlers riding Amistoso, Mia Fox and Sport Tracker, Emma Higgins and Jones Player, and Michaela Yowaiski and Darla Doll.

The USEA Intercollegiate Program was established to provide a framework on which Eventing teams and individual competition could display at universities and colleges across the country.

Congrats on a great job!



**DIRECTORY**

**DRESSAGE AND EVENTING TEAM**

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe  
 President: Taylor Pence  
 Facebook: UK Dressage and Eventing

**HORSE RACING CLUB**

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence  
 President: Sidney Boots  
 Facebook: UKY Horse Racing Club

**EQUESTRIAN TEAM**

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman

**HUNT SEAT TEAM**

President: Jennifer Manning  
 Facebook: UKY Equestrian Team

**WESTERN TEAM**

President: Sydney Hull  
 Facebook: UKY Western IHSA Team

**POLO TEAM**

Advisor: Dr. Roger Brown  
 President: Bennett Baughman,  
 Facebook: U of Kentucky Polo

**R.E.A.D. CLUB**

Advisor: Dr. Kristine Urschel,  
 President: Amy Hansen  
 Facebook: READ Club

**RODEO TEAM**

Advisor: Monty Ott, monty.ott@uky.edu  
 President: Jarret Martinez,  
 Facebook: UKY Rodeo Team

**SADDLE SEAT TEAM**

Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano,  
 President: Audrey Schneider  
 Facebook: UKY Saddleseat Team

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

## A Circus of a Tailgate

By Jackson Wells

At the 2017 Rolex Three Day Event, UK's Equine Alumni pitched their (circus) tent for a day of tailgating beside Saturday's cross-country course. Organized by alumni, for alumni, this event was spearheaded by academic coordinator Kristen Wilson and director of undergraduate studies Bob Coleman.

The now annual event featured a carnival themed tailgate, complete with popcorn, cotton candy, clown noses and games. Guests slipped on hats and wigs for the photo booth, while horses competed on the cross-country course not even 50 yards away.

Preparations for the tailgate began months in advance, as the Alumni Tailgate Planning Committee brainstormed ideas for a theme. Concepts ranging from rock n' roll to groovy 70's were pitched, but carnival was voted upon unanimously as this year's theme.

Over burgers and laughter, friends reconnected at one of the greatest equestrian competitions in the world. It's clear that hundreds of miles or months apart are not factors for Equine Program Alumni. Friends greeted each other like they had back in their college days in Ag North's Deli.

Most attendees sported Wildcat pride, as UK blue covered most of the tailgate. As each alum left the tailgate at the end of the day, they carried this pride with them back to their homes across the nation. UK's Equine Alumni may be full of young faces, but each one represents a unique wealth of knowledge and experience that can only be provided in the heart of horse country.

Looking forward to future alumni events, only time will tell what these graduates will have to share as they continue to work and develop the horse world.



## Congratulations to the Spring 2017 ESMA Graduates

By Kristen Wilson

On Saturday, May 5, 2017 36 Equine Science and Management students walked across the big stage at Rupp Arena as the closing to their undergraduate careers. Following the ceremony, graduates and their families were invited to attend the Equine Science and Management Graduation Reception at the Good Barn on campus.

Faculty and staff were in attendance to meet and greet with the graduates and their families over lunch followed by a short program recognizing each graduate. Bob Coleman, director of undergraduate studies for Equine Science and Management and extension horse specialist, took time to tell a short story or fun fact about each graduate recognized, sometimes embarrassing and other times bringing tears to people's eyes as they reminisced on the memories they had made during their time at the University of Kentucky.

Each of these graduates have their own unique plans for what to do after graduation. Many will go on to working hands-on with horses on farms; others will pursue graduate and veterinary school to further their educations; and still others will go into either sales, marketing, the medical field or many other aspects of the diverse horse industry. Each student will stamp their mark within the part of the industry they are most passionate about and we wish them nothing but the best in doing so.



**Megan Douglass**

*"I decided that Lexington was the best place to pursue a degree in equine science and management because of the opportunities in the equine industry and its unique culture."*

Originally, from New Waterford, Ohio, Megan Douglass chose UK because it was the best place to pursue a degree in equine science and management because of the opportunities in the equine industry and its unique culture.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Douglass said, "During my last semester of college, I took classes I thoroughly enjoyed with professors who were passionate about teaching and were genuinely interested in their students' thoughts on the subject.

"I also had many of my friends in those classes which further stimulated conversation in class because our different backgrounds provided learning opportunities," Douglass said.

After graduation, Douglass plans to travel to Australia to work for Arrowfield Stud for the southern hemisphere breeding season, and then hopefully travel to Ireland for the northern hemisphere breeding season.



**Lucia Cresci**

*"I knew I wanted to work with horses and the equine department at UK is one of the best, plus it's minutes from the best horse country in the world."*

Originally, from Verona, Kentucky, Lucia Cresci chose UK because she knew she wanted to work with horses.

"The equine department at UK is one of the best, plus it's minutes from the best horse country in the world," Cresci said. "I am happy to be a part of UK's equine science and management legacy."

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Cresci said, "I really enjoyed being a teaching assistant for EQM 105; the best part was watching the students improve and connect with the horses."

After graduation, Cresci will be attending veterinary school at Auburn University.



**Chelsea Folmar**

*"If you want to study anything horse related, it would be difficult to find a more fitting place than the 'Horse Capital of the World.'"*

Originally, from Luthersburg, Pennsylvania, Chelsea Folmar chose UK because of the wonderful scholarship and industry opportunities it provided.

*"If you want to study anything horse related, it would be difficult to find a more fitting place than the 'Horse Capital of the World.'"*

When asked what her favorite memory was while attending UK, Folmar said, "I really enjoyed my opportunity to intern at an equine hospital in Ireland."

*"I never thought I would have such an incredible chance to see the world, and it is something that I will never forget."*

Starting this fall, Folmar will be attending Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine.



**Brandon Gadberry**

*Favorite memory? "Being able to meet all my friends, professors and industry professionals through the courses I took as well as being able to attend the numerous UK sporting events as a student."*

Originally, from Lexington, Kentucky, Brandon Gadberry chose UK because he wanted to stay close to home and get a degree in an equine-related program.

When asked what his favorite memory was while at UK, Gadberry said, "Being able to meet all of my friends, professors and industry professionals through the courses I took as well as being able to attend the numerous UK sporting events as a student."

After graduation, Gadberry plans to work at Three Chimneys Farm as yearling groom.



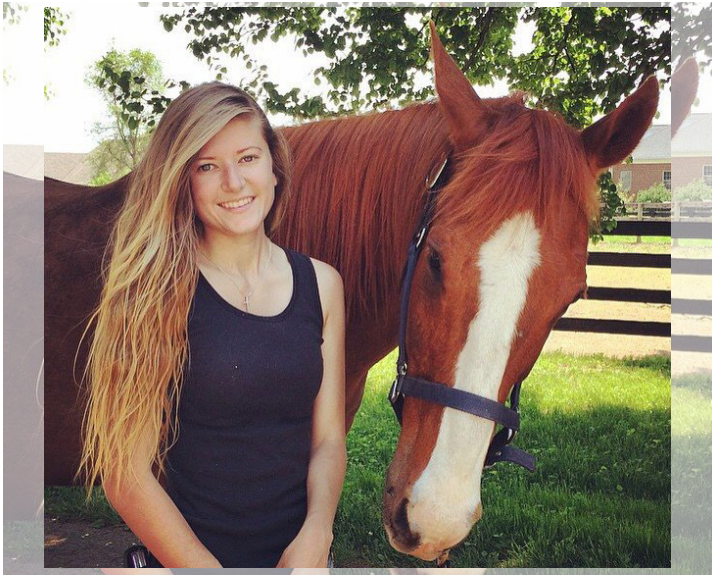
**Rachel Henry**

*"It was a constant, ongoing adventure that I'm sad to see come to an end."*

Originally, from The Plains, Virginia, Rachel Henry chose UK because of the equine science and management program, its amazing professors and her love for Lexington.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Henry said, "I don't think I can choose one specific memory from my time at UK, as it was a constant, ongoing adventure that I'm sad to see come to an end."

After graduation, Henry plans to join the United States Air Force as a pilot.



**Samantha Latza**

*"I chose UK because of the equine program."*

Originally, from Memphis, Tennessee, Latza chose UK because of the equine program.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Latza said, "There were too many wonderful memories to choose from."

After graduation, Latza hopes to work for a therapeutic riding center.



**Eva Mangan**

*"It is close to home and has a great equine program!"*

A native of Lexington, Kentucky, Eva Mangan chose UK because it was close to home and has a great equine program.

When asked what her favorite memory was while attending UK, Mangan said, "The many opportunities I was offered, as well as all the fun events that UK offers throughout the year, such as the water balloon fight!"

After graduation, Mangan will be attending Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Tiffany Molina Martinez**

*Favorite memory: "Winning tickets to Big Blue Madness my freshman and sophomore year!"*

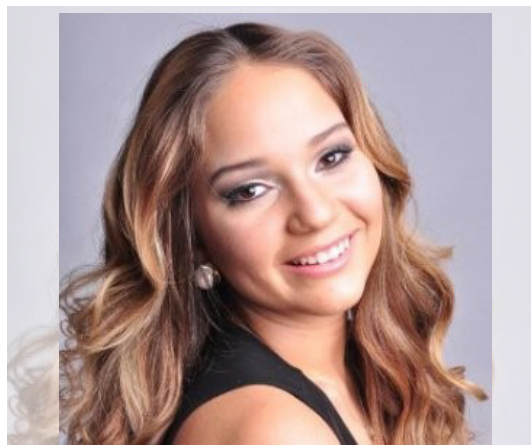
Tiffany Molina Martinez is originally from Tegucigalpa, Honduras. She chose UK because her mother came to the World Equestrian Games in 2010 for a FEI general assembly, fell in love with Lexington and encouraged Martinez to apply to UK.

"I'm so happy I did because I found my second home in Kentucky," Martinez said.

When asked what her favorite memory was during her time at UK, Martinez said, "Winning tickets to Big Blue Madness my freshman and sophomore years!"

"It was the best way to get introduced to the crazy, dedicated and passionate Big Blue Nation," Martinez said. "I'm for sure bleeding blue for the rest of my life"

After graduation, Martinez plans to start the one-year MBA program at UK.



**Lauren Mullins**

*“One of my favorite moments was helping one of my favorite mares foal her first filly at Maine Chance Farm.”*

Originally, from Washington Court House, Ohio, Lauren Mullins chose UK because she had originally planned to be a large animal veterinarian with an emphasis in equine veterinary medicine. She had a history working with racehorses and figured Lexington was the place for her.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Mullins said, “The majority of my favorite moments from my time at UK involved working at Maine Chance Farm.”

“One of my favorite moments was helping one of my favorite mares foal her first filly,” Mullins said. “Working on the farm has made me grow as a horseman and a person and I can’t imagine these past few years without the amazing people I have met there.”

Mullins is currently in Ireland to experience their horse industry. She also has a few job offers to work in equine reproduction or gain more experience as an overall farm worker.



**Michelle Newman**

*“I chose UK because of its beautiful location, atmosphere and campus.”*

Originally, from East Northport, New York, Michelle Newman chose UK because of its beautiful location, atmosphere and campus.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Newman said, “It’s too hard to pick one favorite memory.”

After graduation, she plans to work for Diana Conlon of Olive Hill Sporthorses.





**Marie Noel**

*Favorite memory: "Living in 203 Dantzler the past two years with what has become more than just a house full of roommates, but a house full of family."*

Originally, from Elizabethtown, Kentucky, Marie Noel chose UK because she loves the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and knew it had a lot to offer to help her prepare for veterinary school.

When asked what her favorite memory was, Noel said, "Living in 203 Dantzler the past two years with what has become more than just a house full of roommates, but a house full of family."

After graduation, Noel will be starting veterinary school at Auburn College of Agriculture Medicine.

**Michaëlle Perros**

*Favorite memory: "I enjoyed my time working at Maine Chance Farm."*

Originally, from Danville, Kentucky, Michaëlle Perros chose UK because it has all the areas she liked to study.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Perros said she enjoyed her time working at Maine Chance Farm."

After graduation, Perros plans to finish a degree in music education.



**Haley Reichenbach**

*"I was excited for the hands-on opportunities provided by the College of Agriculture!"*

Originally, from Stanford, Kentucky, Haley Reichenbach came to UK because she was excited for the hands-on opportunities provided by the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

When asked what her favorite memory was while attending UK, Reichenbach said, "I have so many great memories at UK; It's tough to choose just one!"

After graduation, Reichenbach will be taking a gap year to intern and apply for veterinary school .



**Allison Raftery**

*"I chose UK because of the equine opportunities both within and outside of the equine program."*

Originally, from Loveland, Ohio, Allison Raftery chose UK because of the equine opportunities both within and outside of the equine program.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Raftery said, "I don't have one specific memory, but I have friends from UK that I know I'll be friends with forever."

After graduation, Raftery plans to work for Equine Analysis in its technology department.



**Foster Roberts**

*"I was able to pursue an equine-based education while remaining in the hot spot for my job market in central Kentucky."*

Originally, from Georgetown, Kentucky, Foster Roberts chose UK because he was able to pursue an equine-based education while remaining in the hot spot for his job market in central Kentucky.

When asked what his favorite memory was while at UK, Roberts said, "Attending the Cowboy Up for a Cure Rodeo was one of my favorite experiences."

After graduation, Roberts plans to relocate to Simpsonville, Kentucky, and assume the assistant trainer position under Stachowski Farm.



**Paige Schanke**

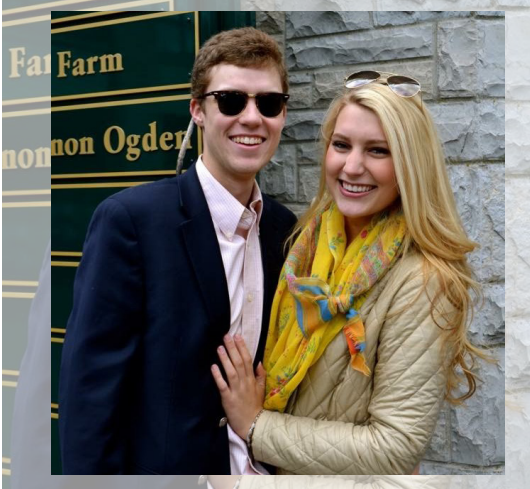
*"I chose UK when I was 10 because I would be surrounded by horses...I was a crazy horse girl then, and still am today!"*

Originally, from Neenah, Wisconsin, Paige Schanke chose UK when she was 10 because she would be surrounded by horses.

"I was a horse crazy girl then, and still am today," she said.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Schanke said, "My time spent in the equine office for advice, laughter and academia are among my most favorite UK memories."

After graduation, Schanke plans to move to Duluth, Georgia, as she prepares to be a small animal pharmaceutical representative for a multi-national company.



**Alyssa Schuster**

*"I chose UK for the equine program and its proximity to home."*

Originally, from Bellbrook, Ohio, Alyssa Schuster chose UK for the equine program and its close proximity to home.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Schuster said, "Those with the friends I've met during my time here."

After graduation, Schuster will be teaching horseback riding lessons in Nicholasville, Kentucky.

**Emma Smith**

*"I came to UK to be in the Horse Capital of the World and to become connected within the industry."*

Originally, from Needham, Massachusetts, Emma Smith came to UK to be in the Horse Capital of the World and to become connected within the industry.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Smith said, "Meeting so many people who became close friends, being able to learn so much from a variety of great professors, and all the great experiences that this school let me have."

After graduation, Smith plans to work within the Thoroughbred industry and further her education.



**Morgan Thibodeaux**

*"Everyone at UK made me feel like part of a family and a community."*

Originally, from Louisville, Kentucky, Morgan Thibodeaux chose UK because it was one of the only schools with a pre-veterinary track that was close to home.

"I toured a couple of other schools and none of them compared to UK," Thibodeaux said. "Everyone at UK made me feel like part of a family and a community."

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Thibodeaux said working at UK's Main Chance Farm.

"I was able to learn more about the Thoroughbred industry than I ever thought was possible," Thibodeaux said. "I also made some lifelong friends during my time here."

After graduation, Thibodeaux hopes to obtain a career in the equine industry while putting her business minor to good use.

**Allison Thomas**

*Favorite memory: "Traveling to Australia for two weeks with the Horses Down Under study abroad program."*

Originally, from Roswell, Georgia, Allison Thomas chose UK because of the horses.

When asked what her favorite memory was, Thomas said, "traveling to Australia for two weeks with the Horses Down Under study abroad program."

After graduation, Thomas plans to work on a training farm with off-the-track Thoroughbreds.



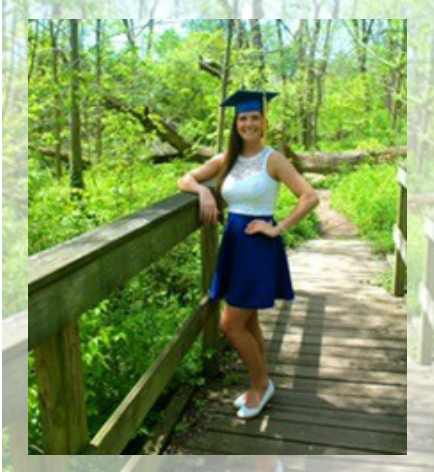
**Destiny Timmons**

*"My family has always been fans of UK and I fell in love with the area and surrounding horse farms."*

Originally, from Meade County, Kentucky, Destiny Timmons chose UK because her family has always been fans and she fell in love with the area and surrounding horse farms.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Timmons said searching the entire campus for five hours to find her roommate's lost car key.

After graduation, Timmons plans to continue working on her horse experiences.



**Nicole Welch**

*Favorite memory: "Working at the Gluck Equine Research Center and the amazing people I have met along my journey here."*

Originally, from Cumming, Georgia, Nicole Welch chose UK because a friend of hers told her about the equine program, so she applied on a whim and ended up being accepted.

"When I came to visit campus I fell in love with UK and with Kentucky and my decision was made," she said.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Welch said, "Working at the Gluck Equine Research Center and the amazing people that I have met along my journey here."

After graduation, Welch plans to get her veterinary technician license and work at one of the major equine hospitals in Lexington.



*Congratulations to our other graduates as well...*

- Caitlyn Benedetto
- Alexandra Bertke
- Corbin Blumberg
- Erin Daugherty
- Anastasia Fischer
- Sarah Fragomeni
- Brandon Gadberry
- Evan Keeseey
- Heather Kirby
- Allison Kreindler
- Michaela Lambert
- Samantha Latza
- Faith Miller
- Susan Parker
- Lauren Walling

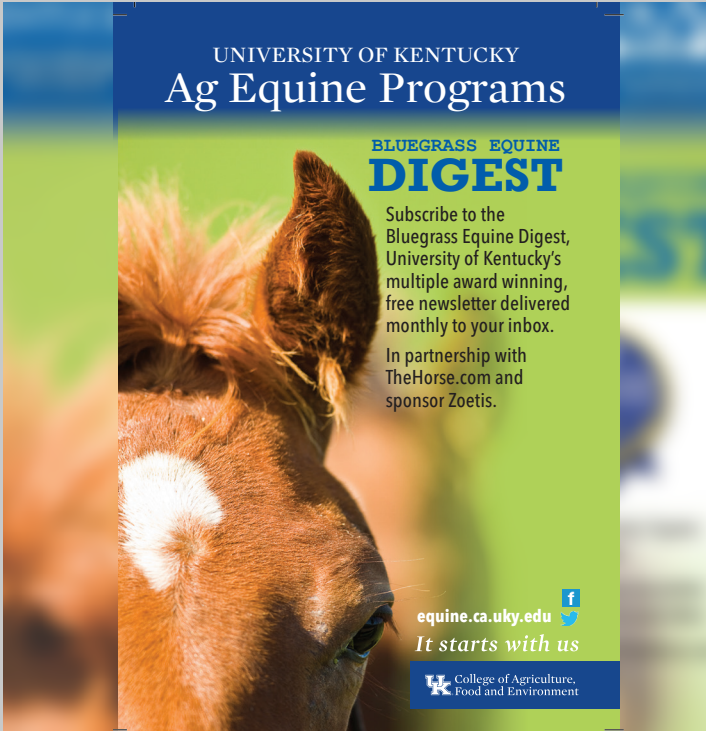
ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bluegrass Equine Digest**

Check out the May 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.

- Endocrine Diagnostics for Broodmares
- Causes of Aged Horse Deaths
- Eastern Kentucky Equine Wellness Clinics
- Equine Cardiotoxins



## ***UK Equine Farm and Facilities Expo to be Held June 8***

***By Maddie Regis***

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs will host an Equine Farm and Facilities Expo from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. EDT Thursday, June 8, at New Vocations at Mereworth Farm, 719 Dolan Lane in Lexington. The event is free, and a meal will be provided.

Horse owners and farm managers will have the opportunity to visit exhibitor booths and see a range of equipment and supplies for horse farms of all sizes. UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment specialists will provide instruction about practical aspects of management for equine operations including barn design, farm site planning, nutrient intake regulation and horse pasture management. Specialists will also staff informational booths. Farm tours will be available as well.

"The expo provides horse farm owners and managers a hands-on event that shows practical solutions for facilities and pasture management. We appreciate New Vocations hosting this event and opening the farm's gates to the public," said Ray Smith, forage extension specialist in the UK Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

Founded in 1992, New Vocations has grown into the largest racehorse adoption program in the country. Its mission to rehabilitate, retrain and rehome retired racehorses has led to the placement of over 6,000 individuals, with over 450 retirees entering the program each year.

Mick Peterson, UK Ag Equine Programs director, encouraged people to attend for the chance to learn something new about horses or horse facility management.

"The Farm and Facilities Expo provides a unique opportunity to not only think about the efficiency of your property, but also to learn more about potential health and safety benefits for both animals and people using the facilities," he said.

While not required, an RSVP is appreciated for food planning purposes. Please email [equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu) to RSVP. For more information about this and other UK Ag Equine Programs events, visit our [website](#).





# UK Ag Equine Programs polos for sale

Want to show your school spirit? What better way than with a UK Ag Equine Programs polo!

Click [here](#) to purchase yours today!



## ***Animal Science Alum featured on Kentucky Sports Radio***

Before the Kentucky Derby, Kentucky Sports Radio asked fans to share their Kentucky Derby stories and a University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment alum was chosen.

Keith H. explains how the Derby helped transform his life.

*Source: Kentucky Sports Radio*

I can honestly say that nothing has had a larger or more far reaching impact on my life than the Kentucky Derby, and that impact happens to be intimately intertwined with the University of Kentucky. I grew up in Louisville, so like any Louisvillian, the Derby and the festival leading up to it were always huge events for my friends and family and myself. Whether it was waking up super early and going to the balloon race as a small child, getting harassed by the cops in the middle of a rain storm at Thunder, or trying to sneak bourbon in plastic bags taped to our inner thighs into the infield, the Kentucky Derby has been the foundation for so many great memories throughout my lifetime. The first time I ever won money gambling was when I was eight years old and my dad gave me two dollars to put on a horse when we were at a Derby party. I put it on Silver Charm, got back 10 bucks, and was ruined for life.

Fast forward to my Sophomore year in college at UK. I started school undeclared because I had no idea what I wanted to study. After the end of your second year in school, they require you to choose a major and I still had no clue what I was going to do. All I knew was that having a normal old 9 to 5 office job sounded like absolute misery, so I knew what I didn't want to do. My buddy who I grew up doing Derby stuff with, who was my roommate at the time in Haggin Hall (no longer exists, praise be!), told me that UK had a horse farm and that maybe I should check it out and see if working with horses might be something that interested me. I did not grow up around horses, I had never ridden horses, and I knew nothing about them other than what I had learned from going to the track (not much), but I was open to the idea because I did not have a better one. I met with my advisor, declared Animal Science as my major on a complete whim (the Equine Science major had not been established yet), and signed up for Animal Science 101.

To read the entire story, click [here](#).



## *Equine Chapter Participates in Successful Inaugural Call to the Post Derby Bash Celebrating UK Ag & HES Alumni*

*By Holly Wiemers*

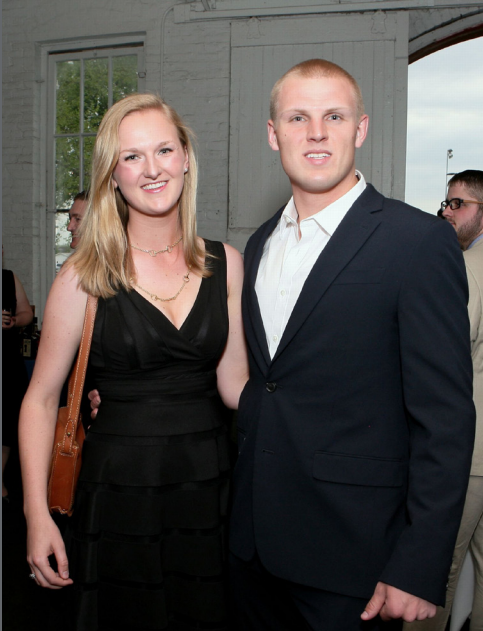
The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment threw a party for its alumni, and by all accounts, the inaugural event lived up to the hype.

Held at the Red Mile's Round Barn on April 28, the Call to the Post Derby Bash included a happy hour, dinner, drinks and live music from the band Superfecta.

Proceeds raised through the sale of event tickets, live and silent auctions and a bourbon pull will go to supporting area chapter scholarships.

The Equine Alumni chapter participated with a table at the event, generously hosted by Dean Nancy Cox and UK Ag Equine Programs Director Mick Peterson. Equine Alumni Chapter co-chairs Courtney Calnan and Hannah Niebielski attended, as did UK Ag Equine Programs staff Alexandra Harper and Holly Wiemers.

Planning for next year's event is already underway. Join in on the fun on April 28, 2018.



## UK Ag Equine Programs Summit on Developing Tomorrow's Equine Workforce Held

By Holly Wiemers

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs held its second Equine Summit April 26 at Spindletop Hall. The event focused on developing tomorrow's workforce.

Close to 100 people, including five academic institutions across three countries, attended the sessions over the course of the day. UK faculty and staff attended as invited panelists offered insights on how UK's educational programs contribute to developing a relevant workforce and engaged in roundtable discussions identifying current industry needs and future trends. The event was sponsored by the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) and the North American Equine Ranching Information Council (NAERIC).

The summit brought together a cross-section of equine industry leaders, recruiters and thought leaders representing a broad range of organizations. The summit represents a philosophy of collaboration between the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and key industry leaders to identify new initiatives, strengthen existing programs and advance student professionalism and preparation to join the equine workforce.

The opening speaker of the day was Alex Waldrop, NTRA CEO, whose talk, "Equine industry perspectives: What is the industry and how big is it?" set the tone for the day.

In his remarks, Waldrop gave industry stats, from the number of horses to the economic impact of the industry and how Kentucky and UK grads fit into that world. He talked about a highly decentralized gaming policy in the U.S., an explosion of interest in animal welfare and the challenge of that scrutiny to the industry. How the industry answers those challenges in the coming years will be the key to the future of the industry, he said.

"The challenge for horse racing and breeding, and for all equine pursuits in the 21st century, is not just local, it is not regional and not even national," he said. "Our challenge is to think globally about how Kentucky's rich tradition in equine agribusiness will compete in a very challenging sports gaming and entertainment environment in the coming years. That is what students graduating today from the UK Equine Program need most of all – a broad range of skills and attitudes that will help them participate in rapidly changing international environment for horses and horse-related activities."

He challenged UK's program to train students to help create demand for horses and horse sport in order to ensure a vibrant industry. "Do you want to make sure there is always a market for these incredible animals produced in such rich supply here in Central Kentucky? Then start focusing on ways to not only supply the industry with graduates to care for the animals but think about ways to use the UK educational environment to supply graduates prepared to help create demand for these amazing creatures," he said.



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*Following Waldrop's talk, David Switzer, member of the college's equine industry external advisory committee, consultant and longtime advisor to the college, addressed the topic "Where are we in the industry and the status of industry and careers?"*

*He touched on the skills needed by graduates for a changing world, how the job a graduate may enter into most likely will look very different from the one he or she has a decade or more later. He also touched on the environment of increased scrutiny into animal welfare issues and maintained the importance of skills such as communications and mathematical ability and business acumen in an industry that is so diverse.*



*"The Summit was a unique opportunity to get input from the equine industry," said Mick Peterson, UK Ag Equine Programs director. "Listening to the industry allows us to help guide our graduates into careers in the industry that are impactful. The support of NTRA and NAERIC made this event possible and we look forward to working with partners both in Kentucky and in the international equine industry as we fine tune our program."*

*The day consisted of four panels focused on segments of the industry. Common themes emerged from the day, and included a consensus of the importance of skills in communication, business, information and technology on top of the core skills students emerge with from UK's equine undergraduate program. Additionally, an understanding of the industry is considered crucial, as are interpersonal skills and some work or internship experience.*

*The first panel of the day focused on equine health and nutrition careers and skills. Panelists included Karl Dawson, vice president and chief scientific officer, Alltech; Derrick Drinnon, regional president equine, Patterson Veterinary; John Francis, vice president and general manager, MWI Animal Health; Jeannie Jeffery, national director of equine sales, Henry Schein Animal Health; Kenton Morgan, equine technical services, Zoetis; Mary Grace Rutland, veterinary field sales manager, Neogen; Deborah Spike-Pierce, veterinarian and incoming CEO, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital; Bryan Toliver, senior associate director, equine sales, Boehringer Ingelheim; Brandon Tucker, equine team leader, Zoetis; and Clark Weaver, director of equine, MWI Veterinary Supply.*

*The second panel focused on racing and breeding careers and future directions and needs within that segment. Panelists included Bryan Cassill, animal resources manager, UK Maine Chance Farm and president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers' Club; Matt Koch, co-owner, Shawhan Place Farm; Kenny McPeek, owner, McPeek Racing; Magdalena Racing Partnerships and Magdalena Farm; Joe Morris, senior vice president of West Coast Operations, the Stronach Group; and Fred Sarver, owner, Cornerstone Farm.*



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The final panel of the day focused on graduate and professional education and included Emma Adam, freelance consultant and surgeon/internist; Jim Chiapetta, senior managing IP counsel, Boston Scientific; Stephen Koch, executive director, Safety & Integrity Alliance, National Thoroughbred Racing Association; Jamie MacLeod, professor of veterinary science, UK Gluck Equine Research Center; and Walter Robertson, attorney at Stites & Harbison PLLC.

The UK Ag Equine Programs Summit was created in 2015 in response to the 10th anniversary celebration of UK Ag Equine Programs. The first event in April 2015 celebrated the achievements of the first 10 years of the program and set out to refresh existing and establish new research relationships by improving public-private partnerships and explore ideas for new projects. Local equine practitioners and special invite-only organizations met with UK equine researchers to discuss how UK and the industry can better work together and to brainstorm a vision for future endeavors.



## Equine Alumni Chapter Forms as part of UK Ag & HES Alumni Association

By Holly Wiemers

Equine alums from the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment now have the option to join an interest-specific chapter within UK Ag & HES Alumni Association. Alumni of the college have traditionally become members of geographically-based chapters upon joining the college's alumni association. Membership options expanded starting this year, with equine now one of only a handful of new interest area chapters that have formed.

Equine alums are broadly defined as not only graduates of the current Equine Science and Management major – a relatively new major within the College, but also as graduates from other majors in the college who might have pursued an emphasis in equine, participated on one of the equine clubs and teams or are currently part of the equine industry.

The inaugural Equine Alumni Chapter Board of Directors is as follows:

- Courtney Calnan '12– Co-Chair
- Hannah Niebielski '12– Co-Chair
- Leah Alessandroni '13– Secretary
- Morgan Pyles '14– Treasurer
- Krystal Blundell '16
- Erin DesNoyers '14
- Autry Graham '16
- Annie Hickey '15
- Jake Memolo '14
- Amelia Proto '10
- Jackson Wells '16
- Ann McCullough Wilkins '15



Like and follow the Equine Alumni Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/UKequinealumni/>) to keep up-to-date on equine alumni news and events. Visit <https://alumni.ca.uky.edu/content/about-us> for details on how to join this new chapter and the UK Ag & HES Alumni Association or contact [equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu) to get in touch with UK Ag Equine Programs.



# SPRING 2017 DEAN'S LIST

## *Equine Science and Management*

Chloe Bellerive	Anastasia Fischer
Alexandra Bertke	Laughlin Flanagan
Erica Bischoff	Chelsea Folmar
Corbin Blumberg	Hollis Glowniak
Justin Bray	Margaret Holloway
Isabel Brizuela	Micah Hurt
Claire Burnham	Anna Intartaglio
Elizabeth Burwell	Heather Kirby
Alessandra Campana-Emard	Michaela Lambert
Blake Chandler	Samantha Latza
Shannon Clancey	Samantha Laurel
Autumn Cooper	Dominique Lien
Hanna Darrow	Olivia Lowe
Erin Daugherty	Benjamin Lynch
Laura Davis	Madison Maavere
Sabrina Decamp	Eva Mangan
Dakota DeCuffa	Aracely Marin
Michaela DeNardo	Misty Medeiros
Olivia Desch	Emily Mercier
Mary Dettmering	Faith Miller
Megan Douglass	Anna Montero
Riley Drumm	Lauren Mullins
Nicole Feeney	Michelle Newman



# SPRING 2017 DEAN'S LIST

## *Equine Science and Management*

Marie Noel  
Meredith O'Connell  
Anna Paterek  
Justin Pedoto  
Caroline Petrine  
Monica Pinkerman  
Clara Pollard  
Allison Raftery  
Morgan Reece  
Haley Reichenbach  
Katherine Ritz  
Meghan Riviello  
Amber Roher  
Emma Sanchez

Sydney Segal  
Caitlin Shilan  
Stella Silverman  
Emily Sklar  
Allison Thomas  
Kelly Thomas  
Emma Tilghman  
Anastasia Vialov  
Lauren Walling  
Anne Wilferth  
Samantha Winslett  
Julianna Witt  
Haley Zynda

*UK Ag Equine Programs Presents*  
**Equine Farm & Facilities Expo**  
**Thursday, June 8, 2017**  
**3:30-8 p.m.**

*in conjunction with*

**New Vocations at Mereworth Farm**  
719 Dolan Lane, Lexington

Program

3:30 p.m. *Registration*

4 p.m. *Walking tours & exhibitor booths*

5 p.m. *Welcome*

5:15 p.m. *Meal and announcements*

6-8 p.m. *Educational sessions, concurrently every half hour*

- **Barn Design – Dr. Bob Coleman**
- **Farm Site Planning– Dr. Morgan Hayes**
- **Horses on Pasture: Controlling Nutrient Intake– Dr. Laurie Lawrence**
- **Practical Horse Pasture Management- Dr. Ray Smith**



*Founded in 1992, New Vocations has grown into the largest racehorse adoption program in the country. Its mission to rehabilitate, retrain and rehome retired racehorses has led to the placement of over 6,000 individuals, with over 450 retirees entering the program each year.*

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

**RSVP to [equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu) or 859-257-2226**



 University of  
Kentucky®

Ag Equine Programs  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



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

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