Wildcat Canter

December 2011

UK Equine Initiative Student Newsletter

> As winter sets in and the fall semester comes to a close, there is one thing sophomores and juniors alike should be thinking about in the coming

months -- your internship. Breeding season is just around the corner, and with it comes numerous internships with breeding farms, breed associations, and vet clinics. If you have completed EQM 101, EQM 105, ASC 320 and ASC 310, and have also attended a mandatory internship information meeting, you are eligible to go on your EQM 399 internship.

Most students have an idea of where they want to go for their internship, but I would like to challenge you to think outside the box. Maybe try an internship with a breed you don't know very much about or work with a discipline you don't have a strong background in. The more you stretch yourself, the more

rewarding the experience will be. And if you plan to go on internship this summer, the sky is the limit. You can apply for internships all across the country and spend the summer living and working somewhere you never before imagined.

Internships are like every other class you take during your academic career; the more you put into them the more you will get out. Until then, I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you all next year!

Elizabeth A. LaBonty, Lecturer and Internship Coordinator



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A class project with heart



As the semester draws to a close and students reflect on what they learned, some students in the University of Kentucky's Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program are also reflecting on what they gave.

Each year, students in the UK College of Agriculture's equine career preparation class choose a service partnership with a local nonprofit. In doing so, they are given the opportunity to give back to the community and invest in Kentucky's equine industry, while also gaining project management, event planning and communications experience, said Elizabeth LaBonty, lecturer and internship coordinator within the equine degree program.

This year, the class chose Angel Heart Farm, a Kentucky organization that uses equine-assisted therapy for children and their families facing chronic and life-threatening illnesses. The farm works with patients from Kentucky Children's Hospital and has established connections with Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Over the course of the semester, the students held two restaurant promotional events at Mellow Mushroom and Hugh Jass Burgers, where a portion of the restaurants' proceeds on that day were donated to

Angel Heart Farm. The class also held a Halloween event, in conjunction with the Make A Wish Foundation. Hearts at Halloween was specially tailored to Angel Heart Farm's clients, with activities that included trick or treating, pumpkin painting, jump decorating and horses in costumes. Two local restaurants, Red State BBQ and Rafferty's, donated food.

Students raised more than \$700 for Angel Heart Farm. They also helped raise awareness about an organization new to the area and created a memorable Halloween event for these children.

"Angel Heart Farm is very honored to have had such a great group of young horse people plan this special event for the farm.

Their hearts and talents played a major part of the success of the event," said farm owner Tracy Kujawa. "The students of UK are making a big difference in the lives of some very fragile children who share the same love and joy of being with horses and ponies."

"I am really proud of the students in this class. They were creative, hard-working and optimistic," LaBonty said. "It was such a great experience to get to partner with Angel Heart Farm and Kentucky Children's Hospital."

When asked what they learned from the project, one student, Irene Kaar said, "I learned that even though

some kids have a hard road ahead, they are still optimistic, which is incredibly inspiring." Other students said they learned some invaluable skills while working for a great cause.

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Sean Paul Ryan said for him it was, "the satisfaction of being able to give back and volunteer to help sick kids and donate to a good organization."

Natalie Heitz and Kaylin Corvett said this project taught them the importance of effective planning, teamwork, setting and meeting deadlines and what it takes to get people excited about attending.

Kaylin Corvett added that the project gave her "a sense of pride in knowing I was helping that farm and those kids." "I have a great appreciation for Tracy and what she does for these kids," Lindsey Precious said.



Helping to bring the project to fruition were UK Health-Care—Kentucky Children's Hospital, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Hugh Jass Burgers, Mellow Mushroom, Kentucky 4-H Horse Program, UK Equine Initiative, Saddle Up Safely, UK Equestrian Team, UK Dressage Team, Hodge's Arena, Red State BBQ and Rafferty's.





More information about Angel Heart Farm can be found at http://www.angelheartfarm.net.

By Holly Wiemers Photos by Kelly Ruhl



Norm Luba named 2011 Friend of the UK Equine Initiative

Norm Luba was named 2011 Friend of the University of Kentucky's Equine Initiative during the Kentucky Quarter Horse Association's annual meeting and banquet Dec. 10 in Lexington.

Luba, executive director of the North American Equine Ranching Information Council, was recognized for his leadership, vision and work on behalf of the Equine Initiative. Luba currently serves as the chair of the UK College of Agriculture Equine Advisory Committee and has been involved in the Equine Initiative since early in its formation and in college equine programming before that.

"Norm brings his interest and knowledge of the horse and the horse industry, plus a strong desire to make our equine programs the best they can be," said Bob Coleman, extension horse specialist and associate director for undergraduate education in Equine Science and Management.

"This award was created to recognize our stakeholders for contributions that elevate what we offer and challenge us to provide the best possible programs," said Nancy Cox, associate dean for research in UK's College of Agriculture, Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station director and administrative leader for UK's Equine Initiative. "Norm has provided valuable leadership in developing our undergraduate program, and he led the process to create the college's Equine Advisory Committee, and then agreed when we asked him to serve as its initial chair. In that post he has created lively, relevant and provocative discussions. He represents stakeholder leadership and engagement at its very best."

Luba has been a long-time supporter of equine activities at UK, including presenting at seminars, lecturing in classes and policy and procedures work for the state 4-H Horse Program and Horse College. He played a vital role in helping to shape the curriculum for the Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program, bringing his academic experience and knowledge of equine industry needs to the table.

Prior to his role with the North American Equine Ranching Information Council, Luba taught within the University of Louisville's equine business program, served as manager of the University of Maryland Research Center and taught within its equine program and worked in the Cooperative Extension Program at UMD.

He has been actively involved in the horse industry most of his professional life. He served as the executive director of the Kentucky Horse Council and developed the Racing Steward Accreditation Program. Luba currently serves on the Kentucky Quarter Horse Association's board of directors, the American Youth Horse Council, the Animal Welfare Council and the Sales Integrity Task Force. He also actively shows Quarter Horses and is competitive on a national level. Luba earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and master's from UMD.

"Norm has been extremely helpful to the UK equine program. As chair of the college's Equine Advisory Committee, he has provided valuable leadership in shaping our program," said Ed Squires, director of the Equine Initiative and executive director of the UK Gluck Equine Research Foundation.

The Friend of the Equine Initiative was created in 2005 to recognize a member of the public who has provided advocacy, funding or other extraordinary support for the UK College of Agriculture's Equine Initiative or a college or university employee who has generated an exceptional relationship with stakeholders that has been manifested in a new program, new advocacy success or new resources for the initiative. Past Friends of the Equine Initiative include Dan Rosenberg of Rosenberg Thoroughbred Consulting; Northern Kentucky county extension agent trio Don Sorrell of Campbell County, Dan Allen of Kenton County and Jerry Brown of Boone County; and David Switzer of Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Owners and Breeders Association.

By Holly Wiemers

Kentucky Equine Survey launches

An accurate assessment of the number of horses in Kentucky and their economic impact are two fundamental pieces of information unavailable to those who need it. A University of Kentucky College of Agriculture-led study will accurately quantify that information.

UK's Equine Initiative, in conjunction with the University of Louisville's Equine Business Program and the Kentucky field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and in partnership with the Kentucky Horse Council, will conduct a statewide comprehensive survey of all breeds of horses in 2012. The last comprehensive study of this kind was conducted in 1977.

"Making good policy for the horse industry requires good facts. This statewide, all-breed survey will gather information we currently do not have, including accurate estimates of the number of horses in Kentucky at the county level, the economic impact of the equine industry – including revenue and expenses, the value of land and buildings, and the state, federal and local taxes paid by equine operations. It will also build a framework for future research and equine health monitoring purposes," said Jill Stowe, UK assistant professor in agricultural economics, who is leading the project.

"In addition, this study will allow us to establish a sample frame to conduct follow-up studies roughly every five years to track changes in the industry. Knowing this information will establish a benchmark enabling the industry to nimbly adapt to changing market conditions," she said.

According to Stowe, many nearby states have conducted similar analyses recently, including Michigan, North Carolina, Maryland and Virginia, and in none of those states is the horse as critical to the economy as in Kentucky.

The announcement Thursday by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board on its approval of \$300,000 in state funds to the Kentucky Horse Council for an equine economic impact survey was one of the final pieces needed to launch the study.

More information about the Kentucky Equine Survey can be found at http://www2.ca.uky.edu/equine/kyequinesurvey.

By Holly Wiemers

UK's Saddle Up Safely Program Receives Partnership in Safety Award

Saddle Up Safely, a collaboration of 40 plus medical and horse organizations led by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Equine Initiative and UK HealthCare, was recently recognized by The Certified Horsemanship Association with its 2011 Partnership in Safety Award.

The Partnership in Safety Award, which has been presented annually since 1996, recognizes an individual or organization that has helped the equine industry and the horse riding community at large to promote safety awareness.

In addition to raising awareness and understanding of rider safety, the mission of Saddle Up Safely is to

reduce the number and severity of rider injuries, and to encourage injured riders to return to the sport via formal training in horsemanship.

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Bill Gombeski, director of strategic marketing for UK HealthCare, accepted the award on behalf of the Saddle Up Safely management team which includes Bob Coleman, associate professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences; Fernanda Camargo, assistant professor and Equine Extension Specialist,

Department of Animal and Food Sciences; Ed Squires, director of UK Equine Initiative, director of the Gluck Equine Research Foundation, Department of Veterinary Science; Holly Wiemers, communications director for UK's Equine Initiative; and Gombeski.

"The Certified Horsemanship Association was one of the first partners to join UK HealthCare in the Saddle Up Safely collaboration," Gombeski said. "We have benefited from the very active participation and safety expertise of the Certified Horsemanship Staff.



saddle up SAFELY

UK Equine Initiative education booth a hit at the Alltech National Horse Show



The University of Kentucky Equine Initiative recently participated in the educational pavilion of the Alltech National Horse Show Nov. 3-6 at the Kentucky Horse Park. UK's booth included interactive demonstrations and games, including bones of the horse, matching the grass to the hay it becomes, pervious concrete, nutrition, immunology of horses, identification of weeds, coat color genetics, horses and their corresponding shoes, tack costs, and art projects hosted by the UK Art Museum. Saddle Up Safely, a UK-HealthCare-led horse safety program, also participated.

How do you attract 1,000-plus school kids? You bring in a pony. Here, James MacLeod, VMD, PhD, John S. and

Elizabeth A. Knight chair and professor of veterinary science at the Gluck Equine Research Center, conducts a bone demonstration using "King," a resident Horse

Park pony and several volunteers from the audience, as well as a skeleton courtesy of Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital.

Tom Keene, hay marketing specialist within UK's College of Agriculture, and Lee Carol Greenwell, graduate student in Plant and Soil Sciences at UK, gives a forages demo to students from Clark County Elementary School.

Special thanks to Breeders' Supply for donating horse shoes that were used in the "match the shoe to the horse" game in the Equine Initiative booth at the Alltech National Horse Show.



Rood & Riddle offers club or team funding



Does your club or team want to host an event next semester? Due to the generosity of Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, the UK Equine Initiative has established a fund to help offset costs associated with activities by UK student equine clubs and teams. Each club or team may apply once per fiscal year and may be awarded up to \$500.

Funding applications go through an approval process and funds are given on a first-come first-saved basis. More information and copies of forms can be found online at www.ca.uky.edu/equine/StudentHub, under student clubs and teams.

In 2010-2011, the UK Horse Racing Club's "Inside Horse Racing: The Derby Experience" panel event and the Equestrian Team's Intercollegiate Horse Show Association show were both supported in part by the Rood & Riddle Fund.

The UK Equine Initiative would like to thank Rood and Riddle for its continued support of the equine industry and the University of Kentucky. If you would like to learn more about Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, please visit its website at, **www.roodandriddle.com**.



UK Dressage & Eventing Team



The Dressage and Eventing Team has had a very busy few months. First off, the UK Dressage A Team placed 2nd at Otterbein and President Jen Brogie was the high point rider. Teams A and B competed at Findlay Nov. 19-20. The team is looking forward to hosting a show next semester and has more great things planned for next year.

The Eventing Team also held a clinic Nov. 12-13 with international rider Hannah Sue Burnett. Burnett worked on stadium jumping techniques on Saturday and cross country on Sunday. On Saturday night, the team was treated to dinner catered by Fazoli's and Burnett spoke about everything from conditioning to representing the United States in the Pan American Games. Eventing Nation, a website read by most avid eventers, sent Samantha Clark to blog about the clinic, which was great publicity for the team.

If you would like to see videos, read more about the clinic or read Samantha's blog, please follow this link: **http://eventingnation.com/ home/2011/11/hannah-sue-burnett---homecoming-queen.html**.



UK Equestrian Team

The UK Hunt Seat Team has been very successful over the past months. The team competed at Morehead State University on Nov. 5 -6 and was the highest placed team both days. The team also recently competed at Midway College Nov. 19 & 20, and again won high point team both days. On Saturday, president Lauren Patterson won high point rider, and Megan Shader won reserve high point rider. On Sunday, Holly Huston was high point rider and Ronnie Nappi was reserve high point rider. Congratulations to all of our riders!

The UK Western Equestrian Team won reserve champion team Nov. 12-13 at Morehead. The team also honored senior

Claire Knox, as it was her last show with the team before graduation. Congratulations to the team and best of luck to Claire!

UK Horse Racing Club

The UK Horse Racing Club attended the Breeders' Cup on Friday, Nov. 4 as a team. The Club is planning many exciting things for next semester, so stay tuned. If you are interested in joining the club next semester, dues are \$15, and the next meeting will be held in January.

UK Polo Team

Both the Men's and Women's UK Polo Teams competed in Cornell University's William S. Field Invitational Tournament held Nov. 16-19. The men's team was bested by 20-12 on Wednesday, Nov. 16 by Cornell, and, despite a great effort, was defeated by Colorado State University on Thursday. Also on Thursday, the women's team beat Skidmore 31-7 and then defeated Cornell University 19-18 in the semifinals. In the finals, UK Women's Team lost by three points to the University of Virginia Women's team and won runner-up in the tournament.

The UK Polo Team is preparing for next season. The team will be hosting games at home and traveling across the country. If you are interested in playing polo next semester, please contact president Posey Obrecht, **poseyobrecht@aol.com**.

UK Equine Research Club

The Equine Research Club has been busy having meetings and making plans. In November members went to the Kentucky Equine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center (KESMARC) for a tour and had a joint meeting with Penn State's Equine Research Team via Skype.

In December, the club also attended the Animal and Food Science Graduate Association's Career Panel in the E.S. Good Barn, took a field trip to the Bodies Revealed exhibit at the Lexington Convention Center and held a journal article meeting.

In the spring , the club has plans to visit some of the industry research companies, as well as a trip to the Undergraduate Research Conference at Penn State at the end of March.

UK Saddle Seat Team

The UK Saddle Seat team attended a show hosted by Eastern Kentucky University on Nov. 12. Kelly Ruhl won first place in Walk, Trot, Canter, Beginner Patterns. Ruhl also won high point rider. Erika Salley won third place in Advanced Rails and fifth place in Advanced Patterns. Lindsey Goetzinger placed third in Novice Rails. Nicole Laroussa won first place in Open Limit and fifth place in Open Pattern. The team's next show will be hosted by the University of Louisville on Feb. 18 at Zubrod Stables.



Photo by Tim Holahan



Internship opportunities help student prepare for a career in hunter jumper industry

Jillian Gordon, a junior majoring in Equine Science and Management from The Woodlands, Texas, came to the University of Kentucky in hopes that one day she would breed and train successful Hunter Jumpers.

To help Gordon learn the ins and outs of the industry, she chose to do her mandatory equine internship at Pine Hollow Farm in New Caney, Texas, under legendary trainer Joan Waterman.

"I chose my internship because, for the industry I want to enter after college, she is simply the best," Gordon said. "There are no other trainers held in as high esteem as she is and she has been a successful and vital part of the hunter jumper world for over 50 years."

"Jill was one of the most impressive students I have worked with on placing their internship," said Internship Coordinator, Elizabeth LaBonty. "We originally started working on a local placement for her last December, during which time she was organized, diligent and focused. Jill knew exactly what she wanted to get out of her internship so I was not the least bit surprised when Ms. Waterman went on and on about how impressed she was with Jill when I did her evaluation."



Gordon braids a horse in preparation for a horse show.

While at Pine Hollow Farm, Gordon had the opportunity to travel to different shows around the country. Over the summer, Pine Hollow travelled with roughly 30 horses and 15 clients to shows in Lexington, Ky., Nashville, Tenn., and all over Texas and Colorado.

"I was able to show some of the sale horses and watch the entire sales process at each of the shows, which was a fantastic experience," Gordon said.

Spending time at Pine Hollow Farm gave Gordon many useful tools and a great insight in preparation for her ambitions in the equine industry.

"Working and interning at a farm like Pine Hollow showed me what a successful and esteemed sales facility looks like. Also, I was able to make many key contacts with top trainers in the country while on the road showing with Pine Hollow, which will also help me in the future," Gordon said.

Gordon said that one of the most important things that she learned during her internship was the attention to detail with regard to each horse each day.

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"Each horse is handled multiple times a day for extensive amounts of time, and never rushed in their individual training regimen. The patience and dedication to each horse's success is the center or Joan's entire program, and the horses are definitely happier because of it," Gordon said.

Throughout her time at UK, Gordon has learned to appreciate all of the opportunities the equine program and Lexington have to offer.

Gordon said, "With all the aspects of the sport horse industry, Lexington proves pivotal with the top research, veterinary and rehabilitation services in the country. By coming here, I have been able to open many doors and meet many contacts for my future."



Gordon's horse receives a pat on the rump after winning 1st place.

By Chelsea Urhahn



UK student competes in Pan American Games

Maria Montalvo, a freshman in the College of Education at UK, recently had the experience of a lifetime. Montalvo competed in dressage for her native country of Ecuador in the Pan American Games. The Games were held in Guadalajara, Mexico, on Oct. 14-30. The following is an interview with Montalvo about her Pan American Games experience.

What did you do to prepare for the Games?

We planned everything about a year before the Games. We had to make sure my horse and I were at the level we were supposed to be. We had to get a certain score to qualify and those scores had to come from specific shows. We had to have a strict training plan. I e-mailed my professors and told them about my trip before classes had even started to make sure it would be ok.

We also had to plan my flight, my family's flight, my horse's flight and all the paperwork that went with it in advance. The last month or so was very stressful with everything that had to be done in

order for us to go, but in the end everything worked out fine.

How did you get selected for the team? What was the process like?

The selection trials for the Pan American Games team was a very hard process. We had to train really hard to get the scores needed to qualify, going to the few qualifying shows available here in the region. Once the scores were received, we sent them to Ecuador to see if I would be a in the top four to make the team.



Making the team for Ecuador was very stressful because we had two riders in the U.S., one in Ecuador and one in Chile. It was hard to keep track of the rankings and all the paper work that goes along with process like knowing if we were on the team or not, and finding out what the Ecuadorian Equestrian Federation needed from us. There were many things like the horse's health certificate, passport, and many other little things that needed to be done at a specific time.

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What did it feel like to represent your home country of Ecuador at the Pan American games?

To be able to represent my country was something very special to me. I am proud to be Ecuadorian and representing Ecuador at the Pan American Games allowed me to demonstrate that.



These Pan Am Games were very important for my country because it was the first time Ecuador had ever sent a complete team in the three equestrian disciplines of eventing, show jumping and dressage. I am proud to have been part of this achievement.

Was it hard to balance school and international competition?

Balancing the whole Pan Am process and school was very difficult. I was extremely stressed out because I am a freshman at UK and that alone was

overwhelming, plus the stress from the training process and qualifying competitions. What allowed me to balance everything were my professors and my family.

My professors helped immensely because they allowed me to miss three weeks of classes and then make up all of the work when I came back. My family helped me a lot too, they helped me stay clam and focused. They also supported me through everything, which was the best. Without my family, I don't think I would have been able to manage.

What was your favorite thing about the Pan American Games?

I cannot say what my favorite thing about the Pan American Games was. Everything was so incredible, and I couldn't have asked for anything better. I had a great time with my horse; we enjoyed every moment and made the best of it. I met so many incredible people and felt like I had no competition because we were all so close. The hosts were also wonderful; everyone was so helpful and friendly. I had the experience of a lifetime and it was definitely the best three weeks of my life.

What will you never forget about your trip to the Pan American Games?

Everything! I don't think I will ever forget any part of that trip. I had such a good time with my horse, Navargo. I was with all day every day and he was so incredible during the competition. He acted like we were home which definitely helped me stay calm. He's the main reason why I enjoyed

the Pan Ams as much as I did.



My parents were a big part of everything. Without them I could not have done it. They were my support system, groom, trainer and my number one fans. They are the reason I was able to have this experience of a lifetime. My grandmother was very important through the whole process; she supported me through every step and was also my sponsor.

Another thing I will never forget was all the friends I saw that I hadn't seen in years and the new friends I made. I became friends with most of

the Chilean team, the Brazilian riders and many more. I hadn't seen many of the Equestrian team members in 10 years, and I had never met the other dressage team members.

Because we all stayed at the Pan American Village we became close friends. I roomed with Carolina, my teammate, and the Ecuadorian sports medicine doctor. I was also really close to the members of the eventing team. They also made my trip special because even though we either didn't know each other, or hadn't seen one another in a long time, we all bonded really well and made the most of the time we spent together.

I was the youngest so therefore everyone protected me. I felt like I had my teammates all my life and it was just another competition we spent together. We were all like this big family and they made me the little sister that is everyone's favorite. The time spent with them was always the best and I will never forget any of it. We were definitely a team and that feeling of belonging is something that I will cherish forever.

What is one thing you took away from your experience at the Pan American Games?

The most important lesson that the Games taught me was that dreams could be achieved. The Pan American Games had been my dream since before I can remember and I thought that's all it would ever be, a dream.

Even while I was there I felt like everything was too good to be true and that I would wake up at any moment. Now that I look back, I realize that anything is possible with hard work and faith.

What plans do you have for the future?

Right now my plans are to get horses ready for the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada, in dressage and eventing. These Pan Ams are close and a great opportunity. My family and I are planning on working with a few horses to see if we can qualify for those games.

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What do you plan to do once you graduate with your degree from UK?

Once I graduate, I plan to start my career and definitely keep riding. I might try to compete in the 2019 Pan American Games or shoot for the Olympics, I don't know. I'm at a point in life where I can only see a few steps in front of me so my future is simply the future.

By Chelsea Urhahn



The University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture has several equine-related Facebook pages that present the latest news and events information. Stay up-to-date with UK's horsey happenings by following their activities on these pages:

- Equine Initiative
- Gluck Equine Research Center
- Saddle Up Safely





Equine Club Directory

Dressage & Eventing Team Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe jill.stowe@uky.edu President: Jen Brogie jen.brogie@uky.edu

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Polo Club Advisor: Dr. Roger Brown rogerbrown@uky.edu President: Posey Obrecht poseyobrecht@aol.com

Equine Research Club Advisor: Dr. Kristine Urschel klur222@uky.edu President: Lindsay Good lindsay.good@uky.edu

Saddle Seat Team Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano mary.rossano@uky.edu President: Jamie Weisbach jamieweisbach@ymail.com

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