

Wildcat Canter

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs Newsletter



**ESMA Graduation Reception
May 8, 2016**

Wildcat Canter



UK Ag Equine Programs Tailgate at Rolex

It wouldn't be Rolex without the pitter-patter of rain drops rising to the sound of thundering hooves. As athlete/horse combinations confidentially stride towards 1.20-meter tall logs and 2-meter top spreads, the cheering of equestrian fanatics electrifies the atmosphere. Around 82,000 people can come to the Rolex Kentucky 3-day CCI4* event each year in our very own Lexington, Kentucky. And this year, the University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management Alumni Tailgate Committee organized a tailgate on cross county day.



Program Spotlight-Jackie Wahrmund

Wahrmund earned two bachelor's degrees from the University of Kentucky in Animal Science and Agricultural Economics. After graduating, she attended the University of Florida, where she earned a master's in animal science. She then completed her doctorate in animal nutrition at Oklahoma State University.



Saying Goodbye to the Equine Programs

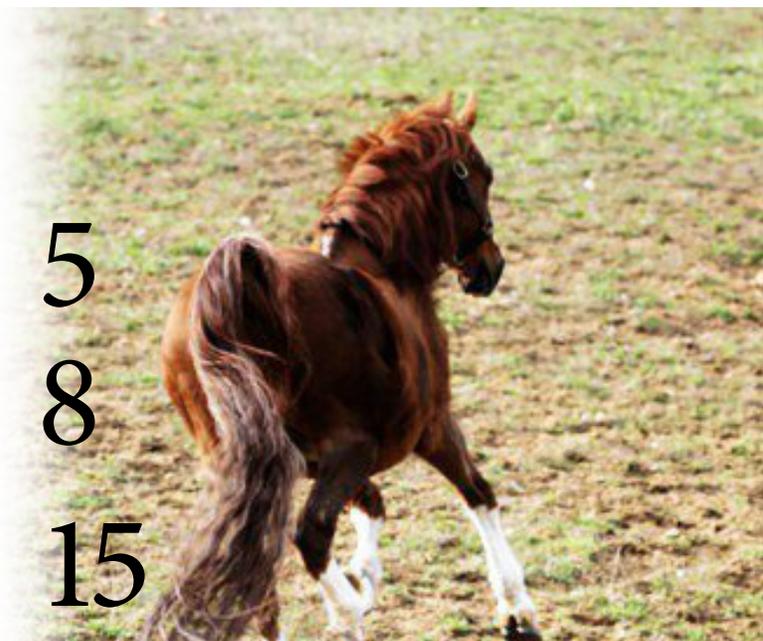
If you told me two years ago everything that I would do in my time as an intern at the UK Ag Equine Programs, I probably would not have believed you. If you told me every skill I would gain and lasting impression that each person in this office would give me, I would have thought you were exaggerating.

Other features:

UK Ag Students Grew Strong Through Their College Years

Student Professionalism Series

Congratulations to our 2016 Equine Science and Management Graduates!



Welcome

Summer. Hot days, outside activities and a different pace -- maybe not exactly slower, but certainly more fluid. And, in so many ways, summer is also a time of transformation and reflection. For our program, summer is typically a time of transition as we gear up for a new academic year just over the horizon.

This summer, especially, we are in the midst of a lot of change. We have welcomed several new people – new lecturers, Jackie Wahrmond – who started in May and who you can read more about in this issue, as well as Camie Heleski, who starts this fall. They will both be teaching equine courses, a huge need we have as we grow the undergraduate program. Susan Lephart has joined our organization and fills several important strategic roles for us. We are in the process of selecting an equine philanthropy professional (fancy way to say someone who will help us secure the donations that are so very critical for a program's success). My role has evolved to also include an organizational management component in addition to my communication function. Our longtime intern, Hannah, graduated and started a new chapter in her life and career and we are in the process of hiring a new intern. Finally, we have a transformation of leadership occurring. Our director for the past three years, Jill Stowe, handed over the reins at the end of her term in April and we've not yet named a successor.

As a program, we have collectively thought long and hard about what our next director needs to look like, what characteristics that person needs to embody and what kind of leadership is needed to move our program to the next level. Because, you see, we have big, big plans for this program. We've come a long way over our past 11 years, true, but for those of us involved in this program, there's so much further we plan to go.

We've also come to the realization that the director model we've had for the past decade might also need to evolve. As a program, we've been fortunate to have three very good leaders emerge from within our faculty ranks, each with strengths our program needed right at that moment. Jamie MacLeod, Ed Squires and Jill Stowe all stood at the helm and guided our program admirably during their time as director. All three had distinguished themselves with their research, believed strongly in this program and gave of themselves to further our organization. Now we turn to the process of finding our next director.

Stay tuned over the next few months as we finalize this critical part of our organization. Exciting times are ahead for our program!

*Holly Wiemers, MA, APR
Communications and Managing Director*



Upcoming Events/Deadlines:

June 4
Professional Roughtstock Rodeo Series
Kentucky Horse Park

July 22-24
Breyerfest
Kentucky Horse Park

July 28
Hagyard Lexington Classic Grand Prix
Kentucky Horse Park

July 30
Rood & Riddle Grand Prix
Kentucky Horse Park

July 30
Hats Off Day
Kentucky Horse Park

MASTHEAD

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UK Ag Students Grew Strong Through Their College Years

By Carl Nathe

Source: UKNOW

Jeffrey Mitchell Jr. and Shalara Wells will walk across the Rupp Arena stage at the University of Kentucky's Commencement ceremonies this Sunday (May 8) with a well-earned sense of pride and accomplishment. Mitchell will be the first person in his family to ever graduate from college, while the fact that Wells will receive her degree on Mother's Day holds some extra special significance. Both are graduating from UK's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Mitchell, from Louisville, Kentucky, grew up in an urban environment far from any farm pastures, yet always had a love for animals. During his teenage years at Cenral High School, he developed a strong interest in horses. While he did not grow up with any close role models in the equine industry, he was intrigued by the chance to study equine science business and management at UK.

"Over the years, I have seen people react with great surprise when I tell them about my passion for horses and my desire to make it my career," Mitchell said. "The business side of the equine industry is not something you see a lot of African-American males aspiring to. That's fine with me and makes me feel like I stand out in a crowd, not only because of my diversity, but also thanks to the education and experience I have been able to obtain while here at UK. It feels like I've gained a second family with similar interests during my time here."

Mitchell credits UK's award-winning MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences) chapter for helping develop him as a well-rounded person. The UK chapter of MANRRS just brought back to campus its fourth consecutive National Chapter of the Year Award.

"It's a terrific organization," Mitchell said. "I would not be where I am today without MANRRS."

Upon graduation, he plans to pursue a career in the animal health industry.

Quentin Tyler, assistant dean and director of the Office of Diversity in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE), had high praise for Mitchell.

"I have known Jeff for over four years and he has flourished academically, professionally and socially during his time at UK. The summer before his freshman year, he would always call my office and inquire about scholarships and other opportunities."

Tyler, who has served as the national professional president of MANRRS, added that Mitchell has been a great role model to other students and has been instrumental in the success of the UK chapter of the organization.

Wells, the valedictorian of her senior class at Hopkins County Central High School in Madisonville, Kentucky, will graduate with a degree in animal sciences on Sunday. Also a member of UK's MANRRS chapter, her path to graduation could very easily have gotten off track, yet she persevered.

While tackling a challenging course load, Wells is raising her son, Kyson, who turned five at the beginning of April. She also held down a full-time job during her years at UK, and took care of her now deceased mother during her final months.

"A great deal of my time, energy and attention has been diverted away from my academic pursuits during my four years at the university," Wells said. "Not only is walking across the stage a huge accomplishment for me, I think it symbolizes more than a diploma. I am living proof that with determination and the right people supporting you, anything is possible. Thanks go to my MANRRS family, phenomenal advisors and wonderful professors that have shown me compassion and patience through my tumultuous times."

The weekend following her graduation from UK, Wells will leave for a month of study abroad in the Dominican Republic. Upon her return, she will begin work on a MBA degree at UK.

Wells' long-term goal is an ambitious one.

"I hope to someday own and operate a conservation and rehabilitation organization for exotic, endangered animals such as tigers and lions," she said.

Natasha Saunders, extension associate for the Office of Diversity in CAFE said, "Shalara is an outstanding young woman who has managed to overcome and prevail with grace and resiliency despite the numerous obstacles life has thrown her way. It has been a joy to watch this young lady blossom into the fearless woman she has become; a bright young woman with blazing intelligence, energy and determination."

Yes, Jeffrey Mitchell Jr. and Shalara Wells both will remember UK's Commencement ceremonies of May 8, 2016 for a very long time.

This week, UKNow is featuring stories about our May and August 2016 graduates who will participate in the May 2016 Commencement Ceremonies this Sunday, May 8, at Rupp Arena. Undergraduate ceremonies will take place at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., and the Graduate and Professional ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. More than 2,400 undergraduates and approximately 500 graduate and professional students are expected to participate, marking the largest Commencement in UK's history. Overall, more than 3,200 undergraduate and 1,500 graduate and professional degree candidates have been submitted to the UK Board of Trustees for approval. For more information, visit www.uky.edu/commencement

UK Ag Equine Programs Alumni Tailgate at Rolex

By Hannah Niebielski

It wouldn't be Rolex without the pitter-patter of rain drops rising to the sound of thundering hooves. As athlete/horse combinations confidentially stride towards 1.20-meter tall logs and 2-meter top spreads, the cheering of equestrian fanatics electrifies the atmosphere. Around 82,000 people can come to the Rolex Kentucky 3-day CCI4* event each year in our very own Lexington, Kentucky. And this year, the University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management Alumni Tailgate Committee organized a tailgate on cross county day.

Over the past few months, an incredible group of individuals planned the details for our UK Alumni Rolex Tailgating Event; a themed tailgate – beach theme - with every detail working to brighten up the rainy day. Visiting Alumni lined up to take a photo in front of our picture wall (surf boards on sand), all the while munching on various delicious items like a homemade beach cake, and burgers and brats cooked by our very own Dr. Bob Coleman on his newly purchased (and not easily portable) propane grill. Not to mention, he was flipping these burgers and brats while wearing a bikini apron, purchased by this committee in appreciation of his grill master services. Guests also sipped out of flamingo straws on two of our very own drink creations – “Rolex on the Beach” and “Wildcat Punch.”

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Veronica Bill, Hannah Niebielski, Bob Coleman, Morgan Pyles, Ann-McCullough Wilkins and Kristen Wilson



Ann-McCullough Wilkins and her dog fishing during the alumni tailgate



Amanda Swider, Bob Coleman and Fallon Jackson



Cate Thomas, Jackson Buchanon, Sarah Sivinski and Kimberly Sivinski

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We saw many alumni at our escape to eventing paradise. I am grateful to have been a part of such a wonderful, fun and rewarding experience and to express my sincerest appreciation to my fellow committee members, Veronica Bill, Fallon Jackson, Jessica Lynn, Amelia Proto, Morgan Pyles and Ann-McCullough Wilkins for their hard work and dedication to each and every aspect of this event. Honorable mention goes to, of course, Dr. Coleman, Kristen Wilson and all UK Ag Equine Programs' staff as well.

This equestrian FEI event is one of the various uniting occasions that bring each one of us together for joyous celebration of our friendships with each other and with our equine counterparts. As UK Alumni or as current students stemming from all different places and backgrounds, we all already have two things in common, that horses are an integral part of our lives, and the knowledge that the UK Equine Science and Management degree has given us has the skills necessary to prosper.

Congratulations to those who are a part of this community and congratulations to those who will be in the next few years. And, on behalf of this year's 2016 Alumni Planning Committee, we look forward to seeing you at Rolex next year!



Ann-McCullough Wilkins and Dean Nancy Cox enjoyed taking photos at the alumni tailgate



Bob Coleman sporting his grilling attire



Alums Rachel Nelson, Michaela Lambert with friends



Bob Coleman, Reyn Foster and Amelia Proto

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 will explore what you can learn from others.

The People in Your Life

One of the best and hardest things about college is that it is a time of constant change. Your classes change, your professors, where you live, where you work, what you want to do, who you hang out with, all of it is constantly changing. It can be hard, sometimes you find a professor whose teaching style and topic you love, only to have the class be over 15 weeks later. Or it can be a blessing, sometimes you have a bad living situation but you know you can move in just a few months.

One of the best ways that you can grow and prepare for your future career is to pay attention to the people in your life. Throughout college and your entire life, there will be people who will come and go in your life. Some you will want there, some you won't. Some you will seek out; some will cross your path by chance. What is constant though, is that you can learn something from all of them.

The Broodmares

The broodmares in your life are your biggest fans. Quite often these are your parents, your friends, your significant others. These people think you hang the moon. They nurture you, teach you and help you grow. On your worst day or after your biggest mistake, they are the ones that pick up the pieces and help put you back together. They remind you who you are and always see the best in you. The broodmares in your life are invaluable. You can learn a lot from them. Always thank these people for their endless support and take notes. They can teach you a lot about supporting and wanting the best for others. It is important to not just have broodmares but to also be broodmares for others.

The Trainers

The trainers in your life are the people you go to for advice. They may be friends and family, but quite often they are professors, coaches, employers. These people are invaluable. They have the gift of wisdom and are willing to share their experiences and insight with you to help you make decisions. More often than not, you choose your trainers. As adults you choose who you go to, who you confide in and who you listen to. Choose wisely. Be sure to have trainers in your life who you respect both professionally and personally; they are the kind that will always steer you in the right direction.

The Vets

The vets in your life are the people who are sometimes painful to be around. The vets in your life can be the boss or teacher that seems so hard on you, the roommate or coworker who is difficult to get along with or the family member that is more negative than positive. They may hurt you or rub you the wrong way; they can even seem mean or insensitive. When the vets show up, often you want to run in the other direction. But they are extremely important in your life. You can learn a great deal from your vets about others, about managing relationships and about yourself.

My best advice would be to value the vets in your life as much as the others. They will expose things in you that you like about yourself and some that you don't. Learning to get along and appreciate all of the people in your life, not just the ones who are easy, is one of the greatest skills you can learn for a successful career.

The Other Horses in The Field

The other horses in the field in your life represent your peers. These are your classmates, your coworkers, the other members of your generation. They can be your greatest completion or your strongest support group. Horses in a field race against each other; it's their natural instinct. They may be out to win but they are not there to hurt each other.

Your peers will push you. They will make you work harder, study longer and do more. But they are not the enemy. You are all in this together and can also be each other's greatest allies. To have the career of your dreams you will have to out work your peers. This kind of competition can be healthy and good within the bounds of safety, integrity and mutual respect. The other horses in your field should cultivate all three in you.

Horses like Nyquist don't just happen. They are the result of good broodmares, top trainers, dedicated vets and valiant contenders. My best advice for you in seeking your career is to surround yourself with all of them. Learn from them, value them and don't just seek them...be them for others as well.



Program Spotlight-Jackie Wahrmund

By Alexandra Harper

Jackie Wahrmund is originally from Louisville, Kentucky.

Wahrmund earned two bachelor's degrees from the University of Kentucky in Animal Science and Agricultural Economics. After graduating, she attended the University of Florida, where she earned a master's in animal science. She then completed her doctorate in animal nutrition at Oklahoma State University.

Wahrmund is now a lecturer in the Animal Science and Equine Science and Management programs. Prior to coming to UK, Wahrmund was an assistant professor of animal science at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Most of Wahrmund's time here will be devoted to teaching undergraduate courses in Animal Science and Equine Science and Management. She will also advise students majoring in Equine Science and Management.

When asked what she was most looking forward to in her new position, Wahrmund said, "I am excited to start building relationships with students. I love to teach and I love advising students, so this position is perfect for me."

"I am also excited to be back in horse country so I can devote more of my professional efforts to serving the equine industry," she said.

In her spare time, Wahrmund has a small American Saddlebred breeding program. She enjoys researching bloodlines, selecting sires for her mares and watching the babies grow and develop into beautiful show horses. She also enjoys taking care of her two Jack Russell Terriers, Scout and Cooper.

Welcome to UK, we're glad to have you!



Saying Goodbye to the Equine Programs

By Hannah Forte

If you told me two years ago everything that I would do in my time as an intern at the UK Ag Equine Programs, I probably would not have believed you. If you told me every skill I would gain and lasting impression that each person in this office would give me, I would have thought you were exaggerating.

Let me list a few of the things I have done through this internship experience, and you can let me know if you believe them:

- Assisted with the annual UK Ag Equine Showcase and Kentucky Breeders' Short Course, topics with featured diseases that I cannot even pronounce.
- Interviewed and written about some of the most renowned equine researchers in the world.
- Traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to attend an equine publications seminar.
- Taught Bourbon County kindergarteners about horses as part of their agriculture week.
- Attended a luau-themed tailgate for ESMA Alumni at the Rolex Kentucky 3-day Event.
- Worked an Equine Programs booth in the heart of the 2015 Breeder's Cup Festival downtown.
- Planned Equestrian Olympics for the Welcome Back BBQ and thoroughly enjoyed watching students and professors struggle with the bouncy horse races.
- Listened to distinguished industry professionals such as Graham Motion, Buck Davidson and Shawn Florida speak at the Distinguished Lecture Series events.

And that is just a snippet of the things I have done in my time here. That list does not include the amazing people I have worked with nor the skills I have learned. I am better for being an intern in this office, and I can attribute every personal and professional success I have had over the last two years (and I am guessing many of my future accomplishments) to my time as a UK Ag Equine Programs intern.

This experience has helped me develop in every aspect of my life. Although I am sad to say goodbye to this position and especially these people, I am privileged to have been a part of this team. I know that everything about the past two years here – the people, the events, the time – will always be a very important part of my journey.

So, thank you to UK Ag Equine Programs and everyone that makes it wonderful for having me. Goodbye for now, but definitely not forever... I will probably talk to you all tomorrow!



Darley Flying Start Announces Trainees for 2016–2018 and Rebrand

Source: *Darley Flying Start News Release*

Darley Flying Start is proud to announce the latest intake of scholarship recipients for the two-year programme. The group for 2016 – 2018 is comprised of 12 individuals from six different countries.

This outstanding scholarship is provided to trainees to learn and experience management operations and leadership in the global Thoroughbred industry. The course includes accreditation from the University College Dublin Michael Smurfit Business School as a Graduate Certificate in Management. Graduates of Darley Flying Start are running their own enterprises or working for Thoroughbred industry leaders throughout Europe, in the USA, Canada, South America, Asia, South Africa, New Zealand, Middle East and Australia. Career areas include media, racing, breeding, bloodstock, sales, consultancy, veterinary, racetrack management and marketing.

In August 2016 Darley Flying Start will change its name to Godolphin Flying Start. The existing course structure, content and management will remain the same. Course Manager Clodagh Kavanagh says “I am delighted to announce the 2016 scholarship recipients. I look forward to launching our new name and logo in August following the graduation of the current second year trainees and before the 2016 trainees commence”.

The 2016 – 2018 trainees are:

- Jessica Berry (USA)
- Joe Callan (Ireland)
- Jack Carlino (USA)
- Tim Donworth (Ireland)
- Christopher Farrell (Ireland)
- Megan Hebbert (UK)
- Amie Karlsson (Sweden)
- Luke Morgan (Ireland)
- Todd Pollard (New Zealand)
- Laura Pouri-Robertson (New Zealand)
- **Madison Scott (USA, University of Kentucky)**
- Renshuai YI (China)

The 12 will commence their training at Kildangan Stud in Ireland on the 15th of August 2016.



Equine Genetics Researcher Lear Dies at 64

By Erica Larson

Source: *theHorse*

Teri L. Lear, PhD, an equine genetics researcher and associate professor of veterinary science at the University of Kentucky's Gluck Equine Research Center, died May 14 in Lexington, Kentucky, after a long battle with cancer. She was 64.

Lear developed a love for horses very early in life, especially Saddlebreds, leading to a lifelong study of horses as an owner, a student and later a research scientist, an obituary from Milward Funeral Directors, in Lexington, stated.

She earned her BS degree in biology at Indiana University Southeast, a MS in cytogenetics at the University of Louisville, and a PhD degree in genetics at the University of Kentucky. Lear became one of the foremost experts in cytogenetics of the horse, published numerous studies on equine genetics, trained MS and PhD students, and was one of the leaders in the Horse Genome Project—a project that resulted in the first map of a horse's genetic sequence. Lear also lectured to practitioners and horse owners alike at educational events on a range of genetic topics, including recognizing genetic diseases in day-to-day practice.

To read the entire story, visit <http://www.thehorse.com/articles/37580/equine-genetics-researcher-lear-dies-at-64>.



“see blue.” #selfie: Tiffany Molina

By Rebecca Stratton

Source: UKNOW

Want to get to know the people behind some of the biggest student leadership positions on campus? We did, too! That's why we've introduced "see blue." #selfie - a series on UKNow that lets student leaders from across campus tell us a little bit more about themselves and their organizations. Up this week, the 2015-16 president of the International Student Council, Tiffany Molina!

Molina is going to be a senior majoring in business management and equine science. She is from Honduras and was drawn to the University of Kentucky after her mother visited Lexington in 2010 for the FEI World Equestrian Games. Molina envisions the International Student Council as a leader in introducing UK to different cultures of the world. Learn all about Molina in her "see blue." #selfie!

UKNow: What is your major and what year are you?

Tiffany Molina: I am going to be a senior and I'm double majoring in business management and equine science.

UK: Where are you from?

TM: I am from Honduras.

UK: Tell me about your position on the International Student Council (ISC).

TM: For this year, I was president of ISC. ISC is basically the umbrella organization for international student organizations. What we do is join students of different cultures. A big goal is to have international students mingle with local students. I make sure that for the next year, when I'm no longer on the board, we secure funds to help other organizations host events. We host two events during the year to show the diversity of the university.

UK: What is your vision for ISC?

TM: I want ISC to grow and become something that helps not only the UK community, but Lexington. We worked with the Lexington Mayor's Youth Council this year. It's great that Kentucky's school system is taking a step to introducing Kentucky to different cultures of the world!

UK: What makes you so passionate about this organization?

TM: I think I love it because of the different cultures. I love meeting new people and gaining perspectives about how different nationalities see the world. Part of the college experience is meeting new people and expanding your network.

UK: What else are you involved in?

TM: This year I was part of Women Business Leaders in Gatton, the UK American Marketing Association...I'm in a lot of things. It's been crazy! I'm working with the International Student Leadership team and I also am a sitter for Wildcat Service Dogs.

UK: Has there been a teacher or employee that has made a positive impact on your time here at UK?

TM: Yeah! I feel like I've met awesome people willing to help me go the extra mile. I believe people in the College of Ag are super nice and are almost like friendly neighbors! I would say someone else that has helped me this year is my advisor in Gatton, and I so appreciate that!

UK: How often do you go home to Honduras?

TM: I go back quite a lot compared to other international students. I got to go back during Spring Break this year.

UK: What brought you to UK from Honduras?

TM: So, I was applying to different colleges and I didn't want to stay in Honduras. My mom came here for the World Equestrian games and encouraged me to apply at UK. I had never been to Kentucky before so I didn't know what to expect. I went ahead and applied. That's how I ended up coming here!

UK: What would you say is a major difference between the United States and Honduras?

TM: Personal space. Latin America in general - we love close contact with anyone. It was very hard meeting someone and getting used to handshaking. That's the biggest difference.

UK: What would you sing at a karaoke night?

TM: Probably that one Ed Sheeran song. The love song. "Thinking Out Loud!"

UK: If you had a warning label, what would it say?

TM: Loud. I feel like you know when I'm somewhere because I'm always laughing and it's super loud. I need to practice my inside voice!

UK: Have you ever had a secret admirer?

TM: I used to have one in the sixth grade! I remember he got me a rose....it was a fake rose. Through high school everyone made fun of him for it.

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UK: What's your favorite thing about Lexington?

CF: I think my favorite is how you have city life and then farm life. The beautiful landscapes - that's my favorite thing.

UK: Growing up, what did you want to be?

TM: A doctor.

UK: What is your dream job now?

TM: Right now, my ideal job would be working in equine business. I have an internship with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute in marketing right now to give me a perspective. They are an equine hospital.

UK: What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

TM: I love ice cream. It's my favorite thing! I would say my favorite flavor is caramel.

UK: If you were stranded on a desert with one person, who would it be?

TM: My boyfriend. He would be the only one able to deal with my madness!

UK: What is your favorite UK sporting event to attend?

TM: Basketball. Freshman year, being in the Eruption Zone was my main goal. By my sophomore year I wanted actual seats.

UK: If you could make anything a national holiday, what would it be?

TM: I think it would be a day honoring the beaches of the world. That's one thing I miss about being home.

UK: Who would you say knows you the best?

TM: I would say my mom because even when we are on the phone and I've had a bad day she knows just by the tone of my voice.

UK: If you could travel anywhere, where would it be?

TM: I would want to go to Dubai. I think that would be really cool!

UK: Have you ever studied abroad?

TM: I went to Australia last year with the equine program. It was awesome to see the differences. They are big into thoroughbreds. My dream was to hold a koala and I did it! It was really cute!

UK: If you could live anywhere, where would it be?

TM: I would want to live somewhere in the south of the United States. Kentucky is still the south, but I want a place less cold.

UK: You are happiest when...

TM: I have peace of mind I am happiest! A lot of times after an exam, even if I didn't do well, I am just happy it is over.

UK: Do you have any advice for an incoming freshman?

TM: I would say to take risks and try new things. Don't get stressed with school stuff.

"see blue." #selfies will appear every other Tuesday on UKNow. Know a student leader we should feature? Contact Rebecca Stratton at rebecca.stratton@uky.edu to nominate someone.



Congratulations to our 2016 Equine Science and Management Graduates!

By Kristen Wilson

The weekend started with a big win by Nyquist in the 142nd Kentucky Derby and ended with us celebrating our new University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management graduates. Forty-seven graduates were honored with family and friends and equine faculty and staff in attendance at the Spring Equine Science and Management Graduation Reception held on Sunday, May 8, 2016. Nearly 230 people celebrated this life-changing accomplishment of our grads over lunch and a short program following.

Bob Coleman, director of undergraduate studies for Equine Science and Management and extension horse specialist, served as the emcee, introducing each graduate and calling them forward as he told stories about their time at University of Kentucky in our program. Each story unique, it really displayed the diversity of the graduates within our program. Students received a gift on behalf of UK Ag Equine Programs, including alumni swag for them to proudly display as new Equine Science and Management alums.

Also a very important part of the day was that it was Mother's Day. Each mother in attendance was presented with a handmade ornament personally made by Coleman and his talented wife, Julie Coleman, to take home as a remembrance of the special day.

Our graduates will now be going forward onto different paths within the horse industry. Some will start new careers, others will pursue further education and some will start new internships within the equine industry to enhance their job skills. Wherever their paths may lead them, we surly wish them great success with wherever their degree and ambitions may take them.



Valerie Arcuri

*Favorite memory?
"March Madness! It's so amazing to see not only a school, but the whole community, come alive to support our team."*



Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Arcuri chose UK because it was one of the few schools that have a specific equine science major.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Arcuri said, "March Madness! It's so amazing to see not only a school, but the whole community, come alive to support our team."

After graduation, Arcuri would like to work for an equine pharmaceutical company.

Samantha Ayotte



"I simply felt like UK was the place for me and didn't want to look anywhere else."

Originally from Stewartville, New Jersey, Ayotte recently moved to Union, Kentucky, and started looking at colleges. The University of Kentucky was the first place she visited.

"When my family and I had our tour of the campus, I simply felt UK was the place for me and didn't want to look anywhere else," Ayotte said.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Ayotte said, "Definitely between getting to live with my best friend on the 19th floor of Kirwan Tower, getting to be a teaching assistant for the Ag Freshman Issues in agriculture class and Dr. Mary Rossano's EQM 105 class and working with the horses at Maine Chance Farm."

After graduation, Ayotte plans take a short month off for summer break, then return to UK for one more year to earn her MBA at the Gatton School of Business.

Ian Bennett

*Favorite memory:
"Buying the weanling filly I purchased with Madison Scott at the Keeneland November Sale."*



Originally from Pasadena, Maryland, Bennett chose UK because of the Thoroughbred Industry.

When asked what his favorite memory was while at UK, Bennett said, "Buying the weanling filly I purchased with Madison Scott at the Keeneland November Sale. I was doing the bidding, so it was quite exhilarating. American Pharoah's Breeders' Cup Classic run is a close second."

After graduation, Bennett plans to either work for a season breaking yearlings or work for a top East Coast trainer.

Krystal Blundell

"I chose UK because I wanted to be right in the middle of horse country."



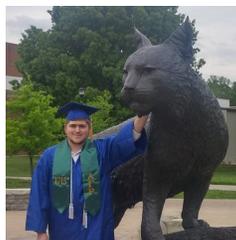
Originally from Vancouver, Washington, Blundell chose UK because she liked the equine program and wanted to be right in the middle of horse country.

Her favorite memory while at UK was meeting her roommates and traveling through Europe with them.

After graduation, Blundell will continue her role as assistant trainer and assistant breeding manager at Playmor Farm.

Alex Brannon

"After meeting Dr. Coleman and the rest of the professors in the department, I knew I made the right choice."



Originally from Winchester, Virginia, Brannon chose UK because of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the equine program.

"After meeting Dr. Coleman and the rest of the professors in the department, I knew I made the right choice."

When asked what his favorite memory was while at UK, Brannon said, "I have entirely too many memories to choose from, but one of my favorites was walking out of Susan Skees' office after my graduation audit, because at that moment, I knew that all I have been through in four years was worth it."

Hilah Brown

*Favorite memory:
"Working for the Blood Horse at the Breeders' Cup and seeing American Pharoah win the grand slam."*



Originally from Bluffton, South Carolina, which is a small, southern gem between Beaufort and Hilton Head Island, Brown chose to come to UK because of its location.

"I have never heard of the University of Kentucky before I started my college search, but after I got to the city for the first time and toured the campus, I was in love," Brown said. "The fact that Lexington offers the best of horse country, a big city and a college town all in one place, is kind of amazing."

When asked what her favorite memory was during her time at UK, Brown said, "It is a fair tie between working for the Blood Horse at the Breeders' Cup and getting to see American Pharoah win the grand slam, to being able to study abroad and experience Scotland."

After graduation, Brown hopes to move back to her hometown and operate a boarding and training facility.

Kimberly Cecere

"I got off the plane and saw horse pictures all over the walls of the airport; I was sold."



Originally from Littleton, Massachusetts, Cecere chose UK because of the horses.

"I got off the plane and saw horse pictures all over the walls of the airport; I was sold."

Her favorite memory during her time at UK was Bob Coleman's Capstone class and winning the National Championship.

After graduation, Cecere will continue working as an assistant to the director of riding at Bridgewater College and focusing on her riding.

Madalyn Dobson

*Favorite memory:
"Going to the different farm divisions for our ASC 102 class and attending the Distinguished Lecture Series with guest speakers, Buck Davidson and Graham Motion."*



Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Dobson chose UK because of the Equine Science and Management degree and its location in the heart of the Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry.

When asked what her favorite memory was during her time at UK, Dobson said, "Going to the different farm divisions for our ASC 102 class and attending the Distinguished Lecture Series with guest speakers, Buck Davidson and Graham Motion."

After graduation, Dobson will be accepting a position as client relations and equine operations at WinStar Farm.

Julia Fabiani

"I grew up with horses and Kentucky seemed like the perfect place to be."



Originally from Watertown, Connecticut, Fabiani chose to come to UK because she grew up with horses and Kentucky seemed like the perfect place to be. Fabiani's first time on UK's campus was when she registered for her first semester of classes.

When asked what her favorite memory was during her time at UK, Fabiani said, "My first animal research position, which was in a Neurobiology lab studying the suspension habits of New and Old World Monkeys. For a horse girl, this was new and uncharted territory, but I loved every second of it. It turned on my drive and passion for research."

Fabiani has since joined an equine parasitology laboratory at the Gluck Equine Research Center.

After graduation, Fabiani accepted an internship position at Equine Analysis Systems in Midway, Kentucky, for the summer. She will also continue her work with a Venture Start-Up project, RaceAssured, in addition to working in equine parasitology at the Gluck Equine Research Center. Within the next year, Fabiani will begin applying for doctorate programs to further her education in equine research and veterinary science.

Autry Graham

*Favorite memory:
"Meeting lifelong friends."*



Originally from Versailles, Kentucky, Graham transferred to the University of Kentucky to have the opportunity to learn about horses.

When asked what her favorite memory was during her time at UK, Graham said, "Meeting lifelong friends."

After graduation, Graham will be working as a public relations assistant.

Caitlin Halliwell

"I chose UK for the equine-centered culture around the University."



Originally from Los Altos, California, Halliwell chose to come to UK for the equine-centered culture around the University.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Halliwell said, "Participating in the Venture Studio Boot Camp and developing a custom riding boot company and participating and winning numerous entrepreneurial competitions."

After graduation, she plans to attend the accelerated MBA program at UK and develop her own marketing and graphic design business, focused on helping equine businesses in central Kentucky.

Josh Hennessy

Favorite memory: "All the friends and relationships I made that I'll keep long after graduation."



Originally from Troy, Ohio, Hennessy chose UK because he was interested in animal science and thought UK had the best program.

When asked what his favorite memory was while at UK, Hennessy said, "All the friends and relationships I made that I will keep long after graduation."

After graduation, Hennessy plans to pursue a career in the Thoroughbred industry.

Allison Henshaw

"I chose UK because my father is an alum and I always wanted to be a Wildcat!"



Originally from Shelbyville, Kentucky, Henshaw chose to come to UK because her father is an alum and she always wanted to be a Wildcat.

When asked what her favorite memory was from her time at UK, Henshaw said, "Leading my sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, to winning the Wildcat Cup and studying abroad this past summer in Australia with two of the Equine Programs' professors and my fellow classmates."

After graduation, Henshaw will be interning for the New York Racing Association. After her internship, she hopes to come back to Lexington and work in the office of a Thoroughbred farm.

AnnMarie Kadnar

"I have been in love with horses since I was 3 years old and what better place to study them?"



Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Kadnar chose to come to UK solely for the Equine Science and Management program.

"I have been in love with horses since I was 3 years old and what better place to study them?" Kadnar said.

When asked what her favorite memory was from her time at UK, Kadnar said, "It's hard for me to pinpoint one favorite memory, there have been so many! However, I do appreciate all the wonderful faculty, especially Dr. Bob Coleman, who have helped me develop into the person I am today."

After graduation, Kadnar will be continuing at UK with a master's in Plant and Soil Sciences.

Daina Kaugars

Favorite memory: "Meeting so many like-minded horse people and being able to pursue both my academic and my professional business goals at the same time."

Originally from Worcester, New York, Kaugars chose UK because she received a National Merit scholarship and couldn't say no.

When asked what her favorite memory was from her time at UK, Kaugars said, "Meeting so many like-minded horse people and being able to pursue both by academic and my professional business goals at the same time."

After graduation, Kaugars will be moving to Fort Collins, Colorado, to attend Colorado State University for graduate school. She will be getting a master's in agricultural and resource economics.

Marcelo Rizo Patron

Favorite memory: "Being able to play polo for UK."

Patron, originally from Lima, Peru, chose UK because it is the best place to be if you like horses.

When asked what his favorite memory was from his time at UK, Patron said, "Being able to play polo for UK."

After graduation, Patron plans to move to Argentina to work at a polo farm.

Jackie Post

Favorite memory: "Working in the cardiovascular research lab."



Originally from Little Rock, Arkansas, Post chose UK to pursue an education in equine science and management.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Post said "Working in the cardiovascular research lab."

After graduation, Post will be heading to veterinary school.

Kelli Powers

Favorite memory: "Getting that call that I was accepted into veterinary school and learning that all my hard work and dedication had paid off."



Powers, originally from Columbus, Ohio, chose UK because of the equine program and numerous networking opportunities within the Lexington area.

When asked what her favorite memory was from her time at UK, Powers said, "Getting the call that I was accepted into veterinary school and learning that all my hard work and dedication had paid off."

"Also making amazing friends that I plan to stay friends with for the rest of my life," she added.

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

Sarah Robertson

“I figured the Horse Capital of the World was the best place to get an equine degree, and I was right!”



Sarah Robertson is originally from Weddington, North Carolina.

“I chose UK because I figured the Horse Capital of the World was the best place to get an equine degree, and I was right,” Robertson said.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Robertson said, “My internship at WinStar Farm working with racehorses in the training and rehabilitation barns.”

After graduation, Robertson plans on applying to Auburn University for veterinary school and working as a veterinary technician.

Madison Scott

Favorite memory: “Forming a syndicate to purchase a weanling with an ESMA graduate.”



Originally from Austin, Texas, Scott chose UK because she wanted to become involved in the Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry.

When asked what her favorite memory was, Scott said, “Forming a syndicate to purchase a weanling as a pinhook investment with fellow ESMA graduate, Ian Bennett. This was a tremendous learning experience for both of us and was a demonstration and application of what we had been learning in the Thoroughbred industry during our time at UK.”

Scott has recently been accepted to the Darley Flying Start program, an international two-year course in the Thoroughbred industry and will begin after graduation.

Lauren Shelton

Favorite memory: “The countless equine management labs where we got hands-on experience with the yearlings.”



Shelton, a resident of Lexington, Kentucky, chose to come to UK because she had heard so many great things about the equine program. She also couldn’t think of a better place to complete her equine degree than the Horse Capital of the World.

When asked what her favorite memory was during her time at UK, Shelton said, “The countless equine management labs where got hand-on experience with the yearlings, and also the BBQ and Equestrian Olympics held every year.”

After graduation, Shelton hopes to pursue a master’s degree in equine genetics and breeding.

Sarah Sivinski

Favorite memory: “Attending the Kentucky Equine Research Clock It App talk at Fasig-Tipton.”



Sivinski, originally from Suwanee, Georgia, chose UK because she wanted to study equine science and Kentucky seemed like the perfect place for in-class and hands-on experiences.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Sivinski said, “Attending the Kentucky Equine Research Clock It App talk at Fasig-Tipton during last year’s Rolex with my closest friends and roommates, with William Fox-Pitt sitting behind us and several other UK Equine professors and faculty around the room. I realized how much of a community the equine industry is and that research can be appreciated by a variety of people.”

After graduation, Sivinski will be heading to graduate school to obtain her master’s degree.

Jackson Wells

*Favorite memory:
"Riding on the hunt seat team was an incredible experience spent with some of the most horse crazy people I have ever known."*



Originally from Roscoe, Illinois, Wells chose to come to UK because he wanted to make connections in the equine industry and earn a degree in equine business from the best school in the country.

When asked what his favorite memory was during his time at UK, Wells said, "Riding on the hunt seat team was an incredible experience spent with some of the most horse crazy people I have ever known. Everyone on the team felt like family and I would not trade my time with them for anything."

After graduation, Wells plans on staying in Lexington and working on the business side of the equine world.

Kathryn Wurst

*Favorite memory:
"Having the opportunity to complete my internship working every day with foals and learning what it takes to operate a large scale foaling operation."*



Wurst, originally from Cumming, Georgia, chose UK because both of her parents are from Lexington and are UK graduates, which while a part of her decision to come to UK, the main reason she chose UK was for the equine program.

When asked what her favorite memory was while at UK, Wurst said, "Getting the opportunity to complete my internship working everyday with foals and learning what it takes to operate a large-scale foaling operation."

After graduation, Wurst plans on staying in Lexington and working for a breeding farm with broodmares.

Congratulations to our other graduates as well...

Nicole Aden
Kaylan Borgel
Kelsey Davey
Matthew Grayson
Charlotte Hordum
Alexa McWilliams
David Park
Sophia Sigler
Rachel Womack

Autumn Allaire
Kate Bucciarelli
Elise Garrett
Hannah Hollinger
Daina Kaugars
Jeffrey Mitchell, Jr.
Ashley Rose
Corinne Smith

Ryan Ball
Lucia Cresci
Autry Graham
Taylor Hooks
Evelyn Latta
Emily Mountford
Amelia Sibrt
Lindsay Vance

UK Places Sixth Grad in Prestigious Darley Flying Start Program, More Than Any Other Program in the Country

By Alexandra Harper

With the recent acceptance of May 2016 UK Equine Science and Management undergraduate program graduate Madison Scott, the University of Kentucky became the U.S. university with the most graduates accepted into the prestigious Darley Flying Start program. Scott brings the total number of UK graduates accepted into this program to six, a crème de la crème list that also includes Kate (Benner) Hardy, Connor Foley, Natalie Heitz, Jackson Buchanon and Kyle Wilson.

“The UK Equine Science and Management program prepares students for Darley Flying Start in a way that no other program in the country can,” said Jackson Buchanon, alum and current trainee in Darley Flying Start. “Not only do the staff foster a culture committed to learning in the classroom, they also encourage students and help them get real, hands-on horsemanship experience with some of the largest global equine operations in the world. This approach of knowledge from the classroom coupled with horsemanship from the farm and track makes any UK student more prepared for the rigors of Darley Flying Start and their future careers.”

Darley Flying Start is a management and leadership training program that specializes in the international Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry. According to Darley’s stated mission, its duty is to recruit the most talented people worldwide and to give them professional training and an experience unmatched by any other, in turn achieving Darley Flying Start’s vision of producing committed industry leaders working in existing and emerging markets contributing to the long-term success of the Thoroughbred industry.

“I’m so proud of the students who have worked hard to get into this program,” Elizabeth James, Lecturer and Internship Coordinator, said. “The most common traits I have noticed among these students is that they all have a strong work ethic, positive attitude and are eager to learn. Our students who have gotten into Darley Flying Start have all been as confident as they are humble; it is an admirable combination.”

According to the Darley Flying Start website, the program is a two-year, full-time international management and leadership training course for the Thoroughbred industry. It was founded in 2003 by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum of Dubai. A total of 12 candidates are selected annually to receive the scholarship, which includes course fees, accommodation, transport, health insurance and a monthly allowance. Those individuals will spend time in Ireland, the United Kingdom, United States, Australia and Dubai. Darley Flying Start is accredited by the University College Dublin Michael Smurfit Business School as a graduate certificate in management (Thoroughbred industry). Other accrediting bodies include the University of Arizona (Racing Officials Accreditation Program) and Kentucky Horseshoeing School.

The application process consists of submitting a resume, original transcripts, three written references, handwritten cover letter, English language proficiency certificate dated within one year of application deadline, a color copy of driver’s license and a 30-second video introduction. If applicants are selected for a pre-interview, they have to provide a video showing their ability to ride a horse and complete online psychometric tests. From that group, applicants are then interviewed. Successful applicants are required to carry out pre-course reading and assignments and undergo a medical examination.

During the two-year program, mornings begin around 6 a.m. with trainees working hands-on as part of the stud or stable staff at the Darley operation. In the afternoon, trainees attend lectures for two hours that are supported by management meetings, visits or workshops on- or off-site. Along with the hands-on portion and class work, there are also a number of social events and race meetings to attend as part of the program, which offers the trainees a great opportunity to network with top industry professionals.

According to the organization, Darley Flying Start alumni come out of the program with numerous strengths. They have a network of business relationships, leadership and communication skills that ensures they can work across cultures. They also have a global Thoroughbred industry awareness from working in five different racing jurisdictions, and working hands-on with the most successful people across breeding, racing and bloodstock. Graduates of the Darley International Student Program continue to enjoy contact with current trainees and staff. A private online forum allows current and past trainees to continue to share information and thoughts. For more information on the Darley Flying Start Program, visit <http://www.darleyflyingstart.com/>.



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. This month's stories can be found at http://www.thehorse.com/enews/bluegrass-equine-digest/PDF/BED-May2016.pdf?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=bluegrass-equine-digest&utm_campaign=05-29-2016.

- Acyline to Suppress Stallion Testosterone Levels
- Climate Changes' Effect on Tall Fescue, Endophytes
- The Grass Guide: White Clover
- Genetic Testing at Gluck: Did You Know
- Grad Student Spotlight: Sarah Elzinga
- Research Project Changes Tall Fescue Handling Procedures

Stay Socially Connected to UK Ag Equine Programs

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has several equine-related social media pages featuring the latest news and events information.

Follow us on Twitter:

- UK Ag Equine Programs: @UKAgEquine
- UK Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center: @UKGluckCenter

Prefer Facebook? Like these pages administered by us:

- **University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs:** An overarching framework for all things equine at the University of Kentucky, including the undergraduate degree program, equine-related students organizations, equine research and outreach activities.
- **University of Kentucky Equine Alumni:** A community established for the alumni of the University of Kentucky's equine programs, including ESMA, graduate students and clubs and teams' members.
- **University of Kentucky Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center:** The mission of the Gluck Center is scientific discovery, education and dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of the health and well-being of horses.
- **University of Kentucky Horse Pasture Evaluation Program:** A service program offered to horse farms in Kentucky with the goal of overall improved pasture management.
- **Saddle Up SAFELY:** A rider safety awareness programs sponsored by UKHealthCare, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and many community organizations. It aims to make a great sport safer through education about safe riding and horse handling practices.

DRESSAGE AND EVENTING TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe, jill.stowe@uky.edu
 President: Elizabeth Lampert, eala229@g.uky.edu
 Facebook: UK Dressage and Eventing

HORSE RACING CLUB

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 President: Madison Scott, ukhorsereadingclub@gmail.com
 Facebook: University of Kentucky Horse Racing Club

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 Facebook: University of Kentucky Equestrian Team

WESTERN TEAM

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POLO TEAM

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SADDLE SEAT TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano, mary.rossano@uky.edu
 President: Audrey Schneider, UKSaddleSeatTeam@gmail.com
 Facebook: UK Saddleseat Team 2014-2015Group)

Clubs and Teams

Equestrian Team

Hunt Seat Team

The 2015-2016 school year was both busy and successful for the students on the hunt seat team. The success was noted at the Regional show held at Morehead State with a number of riders going on to Zones in Michigan. The results for the individual riders are as follows:

- Open Fences-Julie Dettman-2nd
- Open Flat-Julie Dettman-1st
- Open Flat- Jessica Pierce-7th
- Intermediate Fences- Hannah Hollinger-1st
- Novice Fences-Brittany Strube-2nd
- Novice Flat-Ashley Lowe-6th
- Walk/Trot-Hilary Ambrose-1st

Because of their successful rides, Hilary Ambrose, Julie Dettman, Hannah Hollinger and Brittany Strube qualified for Nationals in Lexington. The team, which was high team in the region, went to Zones and maintained its success by winning Zones, so the team also earned a spot at Nationals.

Haley Dowty, president of the team, said, "I am extremely proud of how hard the team has worked this year. The team has taken lessons and free rides as a time to truly improve our riding, and our efforts have definitely paid off. We have the most amount of rides at nationals since I have been on the team due to this hard work! We plan to continue working hard in the weeks coming before nationals and hope to continue our winning season."

At Nationals, UK's team was competitive in very tough classes with the following individual results:

- Walk Trot Hillary Ambrose was 4th
- Novice Equitation over Fences Brittany Strube was 9th
- Intermediate Equitation over Fences Hannah Hollinger was 3rd
- In both Open Equitation on the Flat and Over Fences Julie Dettman was 10th

In the team competition, the UK team finished 5th. A great season for Coach Diana Conlon and the team.



Clubs and Teams

Equestrian Team

Western Team

The Western Team had a successful season in 2015-2016 with three students advancing from the Regional show in Morehead to the Semi Finals held at MTSU in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. At the Semi Finals, teams from across the nation participated. UK had Jamie Henley and AnnMarie Kadnar in Novice Horsemanship while Sydney Hull participated in Open Horsemanship and in Open Reining. Jamie Henley was 6th in her class, which did not let her continue to Nationals, and Sydney Hull did place high enough at Semi's to represent UK at Nationals, where she placed 7th in Open Horsemanship.

The Western Division, like the Hunt Seat side, is tough competition and the UK team did well all season long. The team wants to thank Mr. Bennie Sargent for all his time and commitment to the team through lessons and coaching at the horse shows. When you go to an IHSA show, you know the UK riders in their black outfits with the UK blue scarves.

Lastly, the team thanks the horses they get to ride: Dixie J.R., Duke, Jerome, Ghost, Vern and Zeus. Always a great ride.

