

October 2012

UK Ag Equine Programs
Student Newsletter

Pursuing a Career in Equine Research

What steps should be taken to prepare for a career as an equine science researcher? Scientific research is not something that many students have in mind when they are choosing what degree to pursue in college; however, this can be a very rewarding career path.

To work as an equine researcher, students will generally need to pursue some type of graduate degree program: at least a MS (Master of Science, which takes approximately two years post-bachelor's degree) and oftentimes a PhD (approximately three years post-MS degree). Once in graduate school, students will take graduate level courses in the areas related to their research focus and will work with a faculty advisor to design, conduct,



analyze and interpret a research project or projects. Usually a given advisor can only accept one or two students each year and often there are many more applicants than there are available places. Acceptance into an equine science graduate program can be extremely competitive. Therefore, it is critical for a student considering graduate school to set themselves apart from the other applicants. Although fantastic GPA and exceptional GRE (Graduate Record Examination) scores are important, most faculty advisors are also looking for a student that has some undergraduate research experience and have taken the opportunity to network and develop contacts that can be used as references.

UK Ag Equine Programs offers many opportunities for undergraduate students to get meaningful research experience. Some students have completed their Equine Science and Management internship requirement by working with equine researchers at UK and elsewhere, while others have been hired to work in a research lab or at a research farm. In 2011, a small group of students established a club called 'Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines,' or READ, to expose students to the research going on at UK and in the Lexington area, with the goal of encouraging undergraduate students to get involved with ongoing research at UK.

Most faculty members are passionate about their research and eager to share it with any interested students. So if you are a student considering graduate studies in the future, consider contacting a faculty member in an area that you find interesting and seeing whether you can get involved with any ongoing research.

Kristine Urschel
Assistant Professor
Department of Animal and Food Science
(and Faculty Advisor for the READ club)

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News and Announcements

UK Lecture Series Presents Conversation with Olympian Reed Kessler

Reed Kessler, the 18-year-old equestrian phenomenon who became the youngest competitor in the 2012 Summer Olympics equestrian field and the youngest U.S. Equestrian Team member in history to take part in the games, will speak at the University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs' Distinguished Industry Lecture Series Nov. 15. Sponsored by Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, the event will take place at 6:30 p.m. EST in the Ag Science Building's Seay Auditorium on the UK campus. It is free and open to the public.

Kessler, who now calls Lexington home, helped her team secure a sixth place finish in show jumping in the London games. She is also the current U.S. Equestrian Federation National Show Jumping co-champion.

Team USA lists Kessler's other career highlights as winning the Show Jumping Hall of Fame Junior Jumper Championship at the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival and the bronze medal at the 2010 Adequan FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships.

Because of her age, Kessler only became eligible to ride in the top-level competitions in January, but has quickly climbed the ranks. Her list of accomplishments over just the past year is lengthy. A small subset of that list includes finishing seventh in the World Cup Qualifier at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, fifth as part of Team USA in the National Cup at the Masters in Spruce Meadows, 10th in the Euro Grand Prix in Gijon, Spain, winner of the Prix Vicompte Arthur in Chantille, France, winner of the Pfizer Horse Heath Series at Spruce Meadows, winner of the Hagyard World Cup Qualifier in Kentucky, second in the Hagyard Grand Prix of Kentucky, third in the Olympic Observation Trial in Kentucky, U.S. Olympic Committee Female Athlete of the Month in March and winner of the U.S. Olympic Selection Trials.



"Featuring Reed Kessler for this series is exciting," said James MacLeod, scientist in the UK College of Agriculture's Gluck Equine Research Center, past director of UK Ag Equine Programs and event coordinator. "It is an honor to pay tribute to Reed, *Reed Kessler with her horse, Cylana, during the 2012 Olympics.* and we hope the public takes advantage of this special opportunity to learn more about this accomplished young equestrian." *Photo: Courtesy of the Kessler family.*

Reed graduated this year as a straight A student from the Professional Children's School in New York City, which enrolls sixth through 12th-grade students who are actively pursuing challenging goals while attending school. Its students include actors, musicians, dancers and athletes.

Kessler and her family purchased a 125-acre parcel of Cobra Farm off of Newtown Pike in Lexington in 2012 and relocated from New York City.

The Distinguished Lecture Series began in the fall of 2009 and has become a signature program of UK Ag Equine Programs. It is designed to showcase important figures from the equine industry in an informal setting. Dan Liebman, past editor-in-chief for The Blood-Horse magazine, has interviewed all of the participants, and Dan Rosenberg, of Rosenberg Thoroughbred Consulting, has served as emcee. Hagyard Equine Medical Institute has sponsored all but one of the events.

"We are very appreciative of the sponsorship of Hagyard Equine Medical Institute for this signature event," said Nancy Cox, associate dean for research in UK's College of Agriculture and administrative leader for UK Ag Equine Programs.

Past series participants include Keeneland President Nick Nicholson in November 2009, accomplished equestrienne Nina Bonnie in April 2010, Keeneland's Ted Bassett in April 2011 and Zenyatta owners Jerry and Ann Moss in September 2011.

By Holly Wiemers

Kentucky 4-H Foundation Launches New Website

The Kentucky 4-H Foundation is excited to announce the launch of its new website, <http://www.kentucky4h-foundation.org>, which offers a fresh new look and user-friendly navigation to better interact with our visitors. Some features the new site include:

- About KY 4-H Foundation
With 24.5 percent of the K-12 population of Kentucky participating in 4-H, there are several different programs and people all over the Commonwealth involved in 4-H. Follow up on the board of directors and staff, as well as a review of the 4-H mission, history and testimonials.
- Support KY 4-H Foundation
The Foundation recognizes its outstanding donors, with special emphasis on the Leadership Circle Investors. Without financial support and dedication, 4-H wouldn't be able to continually enhance and expand the Kentucky 4-H Program.
- Alumni
Want to keep in touch with the friends you made through 4-H? Want to share your 4-H experience with others? Remember significant 4-H programs and conferences that encouraged you to become a leader? The website's Alumni section inspires alumni to reconnect with the 4-H program and other alumni.
- Connecting with You
Kentucky 4-H constantly strives for new and improved ways to connect with its members. Be sure to share what you think of the new website! Another way to stay in touch and informed about the Kentucky 4-H Foundation is to check out the KY 4-H Foundation Facebook page or follow on **Twitter @KY4HFoundation**.



Calling All Wildcats!

Check out the student blog about our UK Ag students and their See Blue experiences:
<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/academics/>

Follow all the College of Ag's student happenings by liking University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Facebook page!

see blue.
in the College of Ag

Welcome to the New UKAg Equine Webstore

How to access the site as an employee:

Step 1: Go online @www.ukagequinestore.com

Step 2: Enter your Username

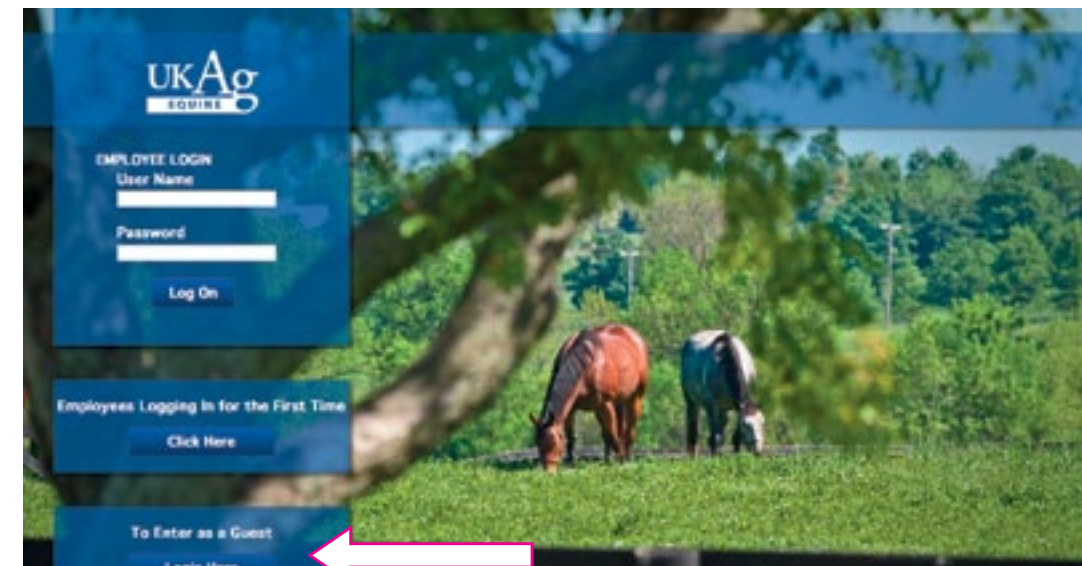
Step 3: Enter your Password



How to access the site as a public user/student:

Step 1: Go online @www.ukagequinestore.com

Step 2: Select to Enter as a Guest



UK Ag Equine Programs is excited to announce the October 31 launch of its new online Ag Equine Store! Shop 24/7 and get all the new Equine Programs gear here. From t-shirts to coats and tailgating gear, you'll be ready to show your equine pride! You will be able to browse our selection of apparel and gift items and find that perfect item for you or a friend!

Log on and shop with your PC, Tablet or Smart Phone

www.UKAgEquineStore.com

Welcome New Ag Equine Programs Communications Interns

Kelli Crosby

I grew up in Kingsport, Tenn., but moved to Lexington after graduating from high school in 2000. I studied marketing and finance at the University of Kentucky for three years before taking a break from school to work full time. Working gave me a better perspective of both the career and educational goals I continue to pursue. I am grateful for all of the experiences that I had both in school and while working; it is all of these things that have guided me to the path that I am on now. I am very excited to be working with the Equine Programs staff. I feel confident that I have much to learn from these distinguished individuals and hope that with their guidance I am able to gain the necessary experience to accomplish all of my goals.



Erin Morgan

I am so pleased to be named an equine communications intern! I plan to write stories as well as take photographs for the *Bluegrass Equine Digest*. I also will help edit and compile content for the *Wildcat Canter*. My other duties include attending various equine events and serving as a representative for the Ag Equine Programs. I've only worked for a few weeks, but I love it already!

I am originally from Cary, N.C. I have a twin sister who attends North Carolina State, so we always love a good rivalry when UK plays NC State in sports! I love photography and enjoy photographing sunsets, horses and wildlife. Currently, I am a sophomore studying Equine Science and Management. I also serve as an ambassador for the College of Agriculture.



A Foot in the Door Leads to a Job in the Industry

One of the best ways students can get their feet in the door of the equine industry is to pursue an internship that allows them to work side-by-side with experts in their field of interest. That is exactly what Ashlie Manno, an Equine Science and Management junior, did while working for Lexington Equine Surgery and Sports Medicine. The internship provided Manno with valuable hands-on experience, but she also proved she was such a hard and reliable worker, they hired her as a part-time surgery technician upon completion of her internship requirements.

Manno was directly supervised by Lauren Morici, Surgery Director for Lexington Equine Surgery and Sports Medicine. When asked what it was that made Manno an indispensable part of their team Morici said, "The fact that she comes in, does what needs to be done, without asking, indicates the kind of initiative needed to go far in any industry."

According to Morici, everyone at Lexington Equine Surgery and Sports Medicine recognized the drive and willingness within Manno to take the initiative and do whatever needs to be done, thus make everyone else's jobs a little easier.



"Ashlie is a very driven student," said Elizabeth LaBonty, Internship Coordinator. "She knew exactly what she wanted to get out of her internship and went out and did it. Her drive is impressive."

Manno's responsibilities at Lexington Equine Surgery and Sports Medicine included drawing blood, shooting and assisting with radiographs, giving equine patients their pre- and post-surgery medications as well as assisting with post-surgery recovery. She also learned how to prepare both the patients and the room for surgery. This preparation included clipping and scrubbing the surgery site on the patient, setting up the surgery room with needed implements and a lot of cleaning and disinfecting to maintain a sterile environment.

"I learned and improved on many things," said Manno, "including the anatomy of the horse, many different types of procedures, different medications, and proper sterilization technique."

Upon graduation from the University of Kentucky, Manno plans to pursue veterinary school her time spent with Lexington Equine Surgery and Sports Medicine has been a crucial part of both her education and experience in the equine industry.

By Kelli Crosby

Check out the October issue of the *Bluegrass Equine Digest* at www2.ca.uky.edu/equine/bed



Wildcat Canter • 6



Wildcat Canter • 7

Clubs and Teams

Dressage and Eventing Team

The Dressage and Eventing Team hosted a clinic with event rider Eric Dierks Oct. 6-7 at Masterson Station Park. The clinic focused on dressage/stadium jumping on Saturday and cross country on Sunday. Participation was greater than expected at both the clinic and the question and answer dinner the team hosted Saturday night at the Cats Den.

Equestrian Team

Hunt Seat competition schedule:

- Nov. 10-11, hosted by Morehead State University
- Feb. 2-3, at Midway cohosted by the University of Cincinnati and Midway
- Feb. 23-24, at Lakeside Arena hosted by University of Kentucky

The Western Team competed in its first horse show this year on Sept. 30. Congratulations as the team finished as high point team at both shows on Sunday. Also, congratulations to Allison Board, who was the high point rider for both shows, and Jessica LaVoie, who was high point rider for one show. This was the most successful show the UK Western Equestrian Team has ever had.

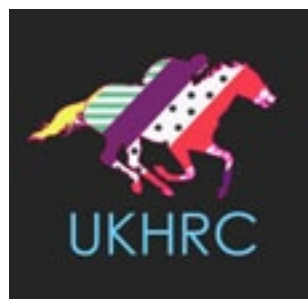
And, a membership update: Last year's team had 12 riders. This year there are 31, the largest group the Western Team has had.

Western schedule:

- Nov. 17-18, in combination with the Hunt Seat show hosted by Morehead State University
- Feb. 2-3, hosted by Midway
- Feb. 9, hosted by Morehead State University

UK Horse Racing Club

The Horse Racing Club traveled to Stonestreet Farm in Versailles, Ky., to visit Rachel Alexandra on Thursday, Oct. 11. They were able to meet and take photos with her. The Horse Racing Club also made trips to Keeneland during the Fall Meet. In particular, on Oct. 20, they met with Mike Battaglia, who spoke to them about handicapping. The club enjoyed watching races and then met with trainer Wayne Catalano.



On Nov. 3, in the Cat's Den, the Horse Racing Club will hold a viewing session for the Breeder's Cup.

READ

The mission of READ (Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines Club) is to raise student awareness of research done in the agriculture field at the University of Kentucky and to help members gain research experience. The next meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 5. Lindsay Good, a graduate student, will be presenting her research experience related to equine and poultry. She will also share one of her studies with the club.



Clubs and Teams

Polo Team

UK's Polo Team has been very busy this semester, and is about to get much busier!

The team hosted its first home game on Oct. 20 against the University of Pennsylvania and won. The match was held in the team's new arena at West Wind Stables on Haley Road in Lexington, Ky. It was a great weekend and the team received many compliments on both its ponies and its new location.

Over the same weekend, members of the junior varsity team traveled to California to play in the Mustang Madness Tournament at the Central Coast Polo Club. They had a great time and represented UK very well.

Polo schedule:

- Nov. 2, Varsity men and women at the University of Virginia and junior varsity women compete at Culver Academy (double header)
- Nov. 9, Virginia Tech at University of Kentucky (varsity women and men)
- Nov. 13, William S. Field Invitational Tournament at Cornell University (varsity women)

If you have any interest in playing polo but do not have time to play for the team, the team is introducing a Wildcat Boot camp. Wildcat Boot camp is a weekly lesson for \$25 on Wednesday evenings. Come out and ride the UK Ponies and learn the "Sport of Kings." Additional information can be found on the U of Kentucky Polo Facebook page.

The U.S. Polo Association Interscholastic/Intercollegiate Program recently announced that the 2013 National Intercollegiate Championships will be held in Houston in April.



UK Equestrian Team Horse Spotlight: Duke

The University of Kentucky's Western Equestrian Team is lucky to have a great group of horses to use. Riding with Bennie Sargent at High Point Equestrian Center, the team is privileged to ride horses that are often shown outside of Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. Although all of the horses the team gets to ride are special, Duke has proven himself to be more than just a lesson horse.



The 12-year-old sorrel Quarter Horse with very special ears is loved by the team, as well as his novice amateur rider he has carried to many wins in trail, showmanship, horsemanship and hunt seat equitation. Within IHSA, Duke is a sought after draw at the horse shows. He is that perfect horsemanship horse that takes care of his riders and knows his job. His versatility was apparent this year when he went from the first western IHSA horse show of the year and, three days later, left for the American Quarter Horse Association Novice Championships in Tennessee. With his novice amateur, Duke won fourth out of 145 horses in hunt seat equitation. On the last day of the show, Duke was a finalist and top 20 out of nearly 200 horses in horsemanship.

There is something special about a horse that can be a good lesson horse as well as a competitive show horse. The Western Team is lucky to have found such a special horse as Duke.

Equine Programs Alumni Spotlight: Courtney Carroll

Transitioning from student to graduate can sometimes be an uncertain step, but the UK Ag Equine Programs is invested in making that transition as easy as possible. Courtney Carroll, a 2012 University of Kentucky graduate with a bachelor's in Equine Science and Management capitalized on the types of opportunities available by attending the Ag Equine Programs Equine Career Fair in March. At this event she was able to network with companies to find a position that really piqued her interest.

Through contacts made at UK's Equine Career Fair, Carroll is now employed as Technology Specialist for Milburn Equine with her main focus on client communication and education products EquiHealth and DIA. Carroll is also the sales trainee for the Lexington area, and has accounts she calls on for all of their veterinary supply needs.

Carroll said, "The best part of my job is getting to travel all over the country to speak at events, demonstrate Milburn's programs and meet people at trade shows."

So far, she has traveled to several large conventions to speak about its products, including the Opportunities in Equine Practice Seminar, Equine Business Management Strategies Seminar, Northeastern Association of Equine Practitioners and the Florida Association of Equine Practitioners. After attending a few local seminars in Lexington, Carroll will travel to Anaheim, Calif., to work at the American Association of Equine Practitioners convention this December.

During her time as an undergraduate, Carroll interned at the Gluck Equine Research Center in the Immunology Lab with David Horohov, William Robert Mills chair and professor at the Gluck Equine Research Center. There she gained invaluable hands-on research and lab experience as well as the opportunity to make numerous professional connections.

"The more students work to take advantage of opportunities at UK, like making the most of their internship and attending the Equine Career Fair, the easier it is for them to find jobs and succeed," said Elizabeth LaBonty, Internship Coordinator and Lecturer.

Carroll said the best advice she can offer a student wanting to get into the veterinary supply industry is to find work with veterinarians. Veterinarians want to work with people who have first-hand knowledge of the equine industry and have worked in it. Employers also like to see that a potential employee can multitask and has the ability to balance school and work.

Carroll's experience at UK's Equine Career Fair is an example of the importance of networking. During the fair, Carroll met Derrick Drinnon, Director of Equine Sales for Milburn.

According to Drinnon, participating in the career fair was an easy decision for his company because it allowed UK and its students an opportunity to learn more about Milburn. Meeting Carroll at this event and adding her to the Milburn team was a positive outcome for the organization.

"Companies today more than ever need new ideas and talent," he said. The fair was positive for Milburn because it presented Carroll the opportunity to make a "first and lasting impression" that was both very positive and energetic, he said.

Courtney Carroll, courtney.carroll@milburnequine.com

Sales Trainee / Technology Specialist

Webster Veterinary Supply / Milburn Equine Wildcat Canter • 10
(859) 629-2136



University of Kentucky

Dressage and Eventing Club

Presents a Fall Clinic

With 4 Star Event Rider **Eric Dierks!**

Masterson Station Equestrian Park

Lexington, KY

November 17th and 18th

The clinic will focus on the 3 phases of eventing, however

"Whether doing straight Dressage, Eventing, or Hunter/Jumpers, the basics of going straight and balanced are the same. I can help you teach or fix the basics to make your everyday ride or competition more progressive and successful."

-Eric G. Dierks, winner of the Retired Race Horse Trainer's Challenge

Clinic Rates

- \$200 if registered before November 7th,
- \$225 before **November 14th registration deadline.**
- \$150 for club members; Call for Pony Club discounts

Checks made out to **Dressage Team**

Stabling is Available at Masterson, \$35 a night (straw only)

CALL OR EMAIL SHALISE FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION FORM

Shalise04@hotmail.com

814-577-9492

| More info can be found on Eric at | www.ericdierks.com



Equine Initiative Report Now Online

Since the formation of the Equine Initiative in March 2005, (now known as UK Ag Equine Programs) the equine landscape at the University of Kentucky and within the College of Agriculture has been dramatically altered. The Equine Initiative considerably added to the noteworthy but decentralized equine work being done in the College prior to 2005. The formation of the Equine Initiative allowed the public access to all of UK's equine programs through one front door and was a commitment by the College to Kentucky's equine industry to offer the same excellence in horse services as it did in other species and aspects of agriculture. It also provided a collaborative structure that crosses all three land-grant university missions of research, teaching and extension, something that makes the program unique and noteworthy.

In seven short years, a remarkable amount of accomplishments have occurred, thanks to the efforts of many dedicated administrators, faculty and staff. The following report is an effort to highlight many of those accomplishments and to provide a historical document of the years of the Equine Initiative (2005-2011). To view the report online go to http://www2.ca.uky.edu/equine-files/EI_Report_FINAL4.pdf.

2012 Kentucky Equine Survey Reaches Critical Funding Goal; Data Collection Closed Oct. 12

A critical fundraising threshold was met this month for the 2012 Kentucky Equine Survey, a statewide comprehensive survey of horse breeds. The state's equine industry and its supporters, among them organizations, businesses and individuals, responded to the challenge of raising enough funds to be eligible for an equal amount from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

The University of Kentucky's Ag Equine Programs and the Kentucky Horse Council partnered on the 2012 Kentucky Equine Survey, in conjunction with the Kentucky field office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service and the University of Louisville's Equine Business Program. The last comprehensive study of this type was conducted in 1977. To read more about the survey go to <http://news.ca.uky.edu/article/2012-kentucky-equine-survey-reaches-critical-funding-goal-data-collection-closes-oct-12>.

By Holly Wiemers

Like us on Facebook!

Like us on Facebook!

The University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture has several equine-related 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:

- UK Ag Equine Programs
- Gluck Equine Research Center
- Saddle Up Safely
- UK Horse Pasture Evaluation Program



January 15 Deadline for 2013 AHP Student Award Contest

The 2013 American Horse Publications Student Award Contest will award up to three \$750 travel awards to attend the AHP Seminar in Colorado Springs, Colo., on June 20-22, 2013. Travel Award winners have an opportunity to meet leading equine publishing professionals and discuss career possibilities during the three days of educational sessions and related activities.

One Travel Award winner will be selected at the seminar as the 2013 Student Award winner. The Student Award winner will win a cash award of \$1,000 plus an all-expense paid trip hosted by Publishers Press to one of its two-day customer education seminars in Louisville, Ky., to have a unique experience to learn the printing process.

Students are eligible to enter the contest if they are a high school senior or an undergraduate college student during the 2012-2013 undergraduate college year, with at least one semester before graduation at the time of application. All qualified applicants will receive a complimentary student annual membership, a complimentary student registration certificate for the annual seminar and a critique of their resume. The AHP Student Award Contest is open to residents of the US and Canada only.

Student Award applicants are required to send a completed application form plus additional information by Jan. 15, 2013. Eligible students may access guidelines and application at the AHP website at http://www.americanhorsepubs.org/students/student_award/index.asp.

Source: modified news release

Interested in a Career in Equine Publishing?

American Horse Publications offers many opportunities to students wishing to become involved in the equine publishing industry.

AHP Student Membership is open to high school, college and graduate students for an annual fee of \$25. Student members receive a certificate of membership, an opportunity to attend the AHP seminar at a reduced registration fee, listing in the online Membership Directory, the AHP e-newsletter, AHP For the Record and eligibility for student classes in the AHP annual Awards Contest.



The AHP Internship Program was designed specifically for college students who have an interest in horses and seek a career in equine publishing. This program is a great way to provide students with the resume-building experience that's so critical to today's career market. Interns gain valuable hands-on real life experience and member publications and businesses acquire additional help when and where they need it most. The 2013 AHP Student Internship Listings and applications are now available online at http://www.americanhorsepubs.org/students/internship_program/index.asp.

For more information on American Horse Publications and its student programs, visit <http://www.americanhorsepubs.org> or contact: Judy Lincoln, AHP Student Program Coordinator at (386) 760-7743 or AHorsePubs2@aol.com.

Equine Club Directory

Dressage & Eventing Team

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe, jill.stowe@uky.edu
President: Jen Brogie, jen.brogie@uky.edu

Equestrian Team

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman, rcoleman@uky.edu
Hunt Seat President: Samantha Smith,
smsm224@g.uky.edu
Western President: Allie Board, allison.board@uky.edu

Horse Racing Club

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence, llawrenc@uky.edu
President: Audrey Boslego, aabo224@g.uky.edu

Polo Club

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

Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines (READ) Club

Advisor: Dr. Kristine Urschel, klur222@uky.edu
President: Rose Digianantonio, rndi223@g.uky.edu

Saddle Seat Team

Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano, mary.rossano@uky.edu
President: Nicole Laroussa, nlaroussa@gmail.com

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UK Ag Equine Programs Communication Interns:
Kelli Crosby and Erin Morgan

