



UK Mourns the Loss of Connie Blount

Connie Blount, 18, of Park City, Utah, was killed in a hit-and-run accident near campus in the early morning hours of Sunday, April 13. Connie was a member of the UK Equestrian team and an Equine Science and Management freshman. She came to UK because of her love for horses and even though she was at UK less than a year, she touched the lives of so many people. If you were around Connie for very long, you knew who she was because of her outgoing attitude and kind nature. She always had a genuine smile on her face, whether it was in class, on horseback or when talking with friends. She brightened up any room and was such a joy to be around. She made you want to be a happier, kinder person. She will be missed by her advisors, professors, peers, teammates, friends and family.

Savannah Faye Craddock



UK Equine Initiative Student Newsletter

April 2008



Jason Headrick

All Aboard the Student Opportunity Train!

Student Welcome From Jason Headrick, Director of Student Relations, UK College of Agriculture

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping and the sound of hoof beats rumbles the ground around Keeneland- it must be springtime in the Bluegrass.

Winter has come and gone and left many wondering where this school year has gone. It seems like just yesterday we were planning for the fall. Now summer is here and many of you may not have jumped on board the UK opportunity train.

I bet you have heard the opportunity train sound off as it made its rounds and may not have chosen to get onboard. It's a free ticket and the places it can take you are totally up to you. It runs all year and is a great way to get from an undergrad career to your dream job after graduation.

If you don't know what the opportunity train is, pack your bags and think ahead to the approaching fall semester. The train is student organizations and volunteer experiences. When you begin to look down the road at internships and jobs post-graduation, your involvement in student organizations and community service can make your resume stand out from the competition. To a potential employer, the experiences and leadership development you get in organization involvement can be reflective on how you will take roles and foster leadership in the workplace.

Place yourself in the shoes of an employer or someone responsible for professional school admissions. Imagine you are interviewing three candidates. One has no involvement outside of the classroom; another is involved in two to three organizations; and the third is involved in two student organizations and holds an officer position in one of them. Who are you going to want to interview? Applicant one shows little interest in expanding his or her mindset. Applicant two shows some interest but didn't seem to take it to the next level. Applicant three shows promise as an emerging leader and the involvement shows the employer that this applicant can take on responsibility.

So as we look ahead to the fall semester, when the opportunity arises, consider joining a student organization and even running for an office. You might also see what opportunities can be found in the Center for Community Outreach on campus to volunteer and get involved in the Lexington community. It's going to pay off nice dividends to you in the future and make you glad you hopped on the train!

If you are interested in learning more about a student organization or opportunities for leadership and community development, stop by Student Services in N6 Ag Science North.

Jason

Equine Initiative Highlights

Calling All Students!

You are invited to help shape the direction of student involvement within UK's Equine Initiative and meet our new director at the "Equine Initiative Overview and Ideas for Future Student Participation Session."

Who's Invited: All undergraduate and graduate students with an equine interest.

What: Meet the director and help shape the future of UK's Equine Initiative student involvement, hosted by new Equine Initiative Director, Dr. Jamie MacLeod and Equine Science and Management Associate Director of Undergraduate Education, Dr. Bob Coleman.

When: Monday April 21, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Where: Culton Suite in the E.S. Goodbarn.

Why you should attend: To have a say in future student contribution and participation within UK's Equine Initiative. (And because there will be free snacks and beverages!) Suggestions, comments, past experiences and your involvement are requested for the future success of student programs through the Equine Initiative. If you have ideas or want to be a part of this decision making process, please be sure to attend.

RSVP: No RSVP is necessary, just show up. If you are unable to attend but would like to be involved, or if you have any questions, please contact Savannah Craddock at savy@uky.edu.

UK Horse Racing Club Updates

The UK Horse Racing Club hosted a Handicapping Seminar called "Betting for Beginners" on Thursday, April 3, in W.T. Young Library. UK student Sean Feld spoke about how to read the programs at races and what the statistics mean. The seminar that lasted nearly an hour had approximately 70 attendees.

The club also elected the 2008-2009 officer team for next year. The team is as follows:

- President- Katey Caddel
- Vice President- Natalie Voss
- Secretary- Laura Pepper
- Treasurer- Sean Feld
- Public Relations- Kate Benner

Horse Judging Team Updates

The UK Horse Judging Team competed at the Middle Tennessee State University Horse Judging contest Friday, March 28, and placed 8th out of 17 teams overall. They were just behind the extremely competitive teams of Kansas State, North Carolina State and the University of Florida.

The team consists of the following students:

- Lance Bowman, Animal and Food Science
- Blair Cecil, Animal and Food Science
- Keegan Gay, Animal and Food Science
- Amanda Smith, Animal and Food Science
- Jennifer Whittle, Agricultural Communications (minor in ASC)

The team's next competition will be the National Reining Breeder's Classic on April 19 in Katy, Texas. The team will then travel to Fort Worth on April 22 to compete at the American Paint Horse World Show.

Equine Initiative to Compete at Team Penning Event

The Equine Initiative has a team entered in the April 14 All Star Jockey Team Penning Event at the Kentucky Horse Park. Our team consists of Savannah Craddock, Dr. Melissa Newman and a yet to be determined jockey who will be assigned to the team.

The event benefits the Don MacBeth Memorial Jockey Fund, which helps riders injured in race-track-related accidents. The teams will try to pen three cows in under two minutes while comedian Tim Conway makes fun of them. Larry Mahan will serve as an honorary jockey this year for a yet to be determined team.

Gates open at 4:30. There is a dinner at 5 that is by reservation only (Judy McCarron at 859-361-0394) and the event starts at 6:30. General admission is \$10 and kids under 12 are free.

We hope you can join us at this fun event!! Please also feel free to share this invitation with any others you think would be interested in attending.

Team penning is a western cow horse event, where each team consists of three people. The team is given an allotted amount to get a specified amount of same numbered cows to the other end of the pen. They must then put the cattle into another pen and ride into the gate. As soon as two riders enter the gate the timer is stopped. The team with the quickest time and the correct number of cows in the pen wins the competition.

UK Equine Teams Nationals Bound

UK Equine clubs are riding toward success. The UK western team competed at its semi-finals competition on March 28-29, in Laurinburg, N.C. Here's a short profile about some of the riders who qualified to advance to nationals, which will be held May 8-11 in Los Angeles.

Emily Gaskin

Major: Ag Communications/
Animal Science

Team/Division/Class: Western
Team/Advanced Horsemanship
(I just moved up to Open
Horsemanship)

Riding Experience: I've been riding since I was able to put my feet in stirrups, probably for about 15 years. I show Quarter Horses through AQHA, along with competing on the UK team.

Other Hobbies: I love being outside and I enjoy playing basketball and spending time with my family and friends.

Future Plans: Upon completing my degree here at UK, I plan on working for a pharmaceutical sales company and continuing to show horses, of course!

How do you prepare for a show: Even though I have shown so much, I still get just as nervous each time I show, as I did the very first time I ever entered the arena. Preparing for a show often includes many hours in the barn riding and practicing, finding and cleaning my stuff and dieting to make sure I fit into my chaps!

What is your best experience with this team:

Although we always have fun, one of my favorite memories with the team was actually zones this year. We all rode down and stayed together, which was a lot of fun. Everyone was so supportive of one another and even though we were the smallest team there, we probably had the most fun! Not everyone made it but we were all crying and laughing together. I couldn't have made it without my teammates on the rail coaching me through it!



Gaskin in
ASC 102



Gaskin riding at
Zones

Lacey Werczynski

Major: Animal Science, Pre-vet
Hometown: West Winfield, N.Y.
Team/Division/Class: Western
Alumni Horsemanship and Reining
Riding Experience: 12 years
Other Hobbies: Soccer, running,
anything outside, my friends
Future Plans: Hopefully to go to
vet school

How you prepare for a show:
practice, practice, practice every
day; try and critique patterns; get the most input I
can and ride as many different horses as I can.
What is your best experience with this team:
Probably winning super-zones last year in California. I didn't expect it at all, but it was awesome. It was the greatest feeling and one of my biggest accomplishments. I couldn't have done it without all my team members, my coach and lots of other people by my side!



Lacey
Werczynski



Werczynski preparing for
her class at Zones

Grad Student Forum

The College of Agriculture's Equine Initiative at UK includes an exciting branch of Master and Doctorate-level research in equine related topics, including equine economics, land management and animal & vet science. Graduate students are encouraged to post summaries of their research interests at www.UnbridledNews.com, an online community for equine research, business, and related topics. The goal is to create an online graduate student equine research organization where students, faculty, and the equine industry can learn more about equine-related graduate work. The news forum is hosted by the chair of this new organization, Kimberly Brown (kimberly.brown@uky.edu).

Around the College of Ag

Professionalism Series: Interviews

By Savannah Craddock, from material developed in student teaching and from Nikki Knutson

Over the past few months we have taken you through a journey to discover the professional sides of online communication, from websites to e-mails and shared some stories of mistakes people have made along their journey in hopes that you can learn from them. This last portion is especially directed at the students who are approaching graduation or an internship. It is about the very important first impression of an employer -- the interview.

Interviewers can tell a lot about someone by their appearance, posture, handshake and how honest and thorough they seem to be in answering questions. Here are some things to take into consideration when applying for a job or internship this spring or summer:

Before the interview preparation:

- *Appearance:* Ensure that you are properly groomed and professionally dressed to match the job you're applying for.
- *No gum chewing:* This is a big distraction to interviewers. Do not chew gum during your interview. If you're worried about the freshness of your breath, pop in a mint prior to entering the room.
- *Identify your weaknesses:* If you know you have a nervous habit, identify it before the interview and be mindful of that habit as you answer questions. Popping a pen cap, cracking your knuckles and picking your fingernails can be distracting to your future employer and might keep them from listening to what you're saying.
- *Do some research:* The interviewer might have some questions about the company or business you're applying to. Be sure to show that you care about the company by doing a little research prior to your arrival.

During the Interview:

- *Have confidence:* Interviewers admire self confidence. Be sure to walk in the room with good posture (don't slouch) and speak up.
- *Handshake:* Have a good, firm handshake (no floppy wrists) and remember between two or three shakes are appropriate, more than that can be overbearing. Also be sure to shake hands both before and after the interview.
- *Eye contact:* This is something that many people don't take as seriously as they should. Make sure you are speaking to your interviewer and your eyes aren't wandering around the room. It could appear that you are lying if this is the case.
- *Answering questions:* If you are asked a question, be sure to answer all parts and answer honestly. You don't want to mislead the interviewer into thinking you are something you aren't. But also make sure you hit all parts of the question, because if you don't you might leave out some very important information.

After the interview

- *Ask questions:* - If you have questions throughout the interview, jot them down as they come along so that towards the end when of the interview you remember them and are ready to ask your own questions.
- *Get contact and follow-up information:* Be sure to find out if your potential employer will be contacting you and how soon you should expect to hear from them, or if you are expected to be contact them, when you should call. Be sure to get a business card with their phone number and e-mail address and/or leave them one of your own for future contact.
- *Remember to shake hands upon your exit!*

Interviews are always important because often it is an employer's first impression of you. Use these helpful tips for any interview, whether it be an officer in a club or an organization, an intern at a equine facility or when you're applying to be the manager at Southern States upon graduation. Making a good first impression is key to setting yourself apart from other applicants. Be sure to take that into consideration while you're preparing for your next interview and be prepared to wow them.

Student Spotlight

Dreams, Dedication and Kentucky Horse Racing

By: Savannah Faye Craddock

Just a kid from Texas

Billy Ajello, now 22, came to Kentucky from the Lone Star state of Texas. Ajello arrived not knowing a single soul and having very limited knowledge of the horse industry or the opportunities that it could hold. He had no idea that his life would soon be infiltrated with his interest and success in the Thoroughbred industry led him to his current situation, preparing for graduation with an Agricultural Economics degree and an emphasis in equine.

During his time at UK, Ajello became heavily involved in campus life. He is an Emerging Leadership Institute graduate and a member of the University Leadership Summit, Boxing Team, Trap and Skeet Team and a Phi Gamma Delta Alum.

Though Ajello didn't initially come to Kentucky because of horses, he found he wanted to get more involved in the community and not just on the college campus. After arriving in Kentucky, he discussed with his father how it might be interesting to work on one of the many horse farms surrounding Lexington. So Ajello did just that. He picked up a Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers' Club Directory and got a hold of Robert Courtney, Sr. and Robert Courtney, Jr. of Crestfield Farms and Stonebridge. Ajello worked for Courtney for three years. During his time there he worked with mares and foals and at numerous sales. It was during this time that he also found his niche in the Thoroughbred industry.

Ajello had to make his own way because he had no horse experience or previous knowledge. He learned from classes at UK, by joining equine clubs and organizations and by making lots of horse connections in the area. He also had the opportunity to work in a wide range of equine jobs, including the Jockey Club, the Thoroughbred Times (in the stallion directory), Crestfield Farms, Stonebridge Farms and his current job as a vet tech at Woodford Equine Clinic.

Through these opportunities he's had the chance to watch and learn about the horse industry and how the buying, selling and managing process works, he said. With all this work experience, he has figured out that his future career goals included being on the management side of a large Thoroughbred operation, whether it be as a bloodstock agent or a racetrack or farm manager.

Kentuckysoldierboy- a collegiate hopeful

In the fall of 2007, Ajello and friend Sean Feld came up with a plan. Feld's father is the owner of Bongo Racing Stable which is based in California. This company's mission is simple -- to enable racing fans throughout the world to discover the joys of Thoroughbred ownership at the highest level. With this mission it offers "regular" people around the world a chance to purchase shares of a Thoroughbred race horse and have partial ownership of that horse.

Ajello and Feld decided to follow through with this idea and capitalize on a new market for this company -- college students and young adults.

"We want to get people hooked! At least that's the plan," Ajello said, referring to his loyalty building plans for this group of people. "If we get them excited now, later down the road when they have careers and a little extra spending money, they may want to get involved again because they enjoyed it so much."

After Feld got the go ahead from his father and Bongo Racing, Feld and Ajello decided to attend the October Fasig-Tipton sale to check out potential horses. There they came across a foal sired by Tumblebrutus out of Offensive Threat. Tumblebrutus is a full brother to Giant's Causeway, one of the leading sires in Thoroughbred racing today. The foal was bred in Kentucky and consigned by Shawhan Place Farms, which is managed by UK graduate Matthew Koch and Equine Science and Management junior Gus Koch. After the purchase of this unnamed colt for \$5,500 (a bargain price for a Thoroughbred hopeful) and much deliberation, they decided to name him Kentuckysoldierboy. (Yes, this name is derived from the popular Soulja Boy song that continues to play on radios and in dance clubs around the U.S.)

After this purchase, Bongo Racing Stables offered shares of Kentuckysoldierboy for only \$250 for a 0.5% share of the horse. This cost derived of the estimated costs of the sale, training and upkeep of the horse. Numerous shares have been sold to UK students as well as across the U.S., including states as far away as California. Kentuckysoldierboy is currently in Ocala, Fla., where notable Raul Reyes is breaking him.

They haven't heard much from Reyes, but Ajello said that with a now 2-year-old "No news is good news!"

This spring, Kentuckysoldierboy will return to his home in Kentucky to be trained by highly-regarded Thoroughbred trainer Paul McGee. "We'll just have to see what happens, It's the excitement of the unknown," he said.



Billy Ajello

Thinking Back

There are a few things that Ajello and Feld would do differently before embarking on this project. But overall they are thrilled with the results thus far. Since Bongo Racing is based in California, if Kentuckysoldierboy is raced here, he will be the first horse to ever race in Kentucky with Bongo silks. This will be a very exciting moment not just for Ajello, Feld and Bongo but all of Kentuckysoldierboy's shareholders as well.

After this adventure, Ajello hopes that he and Feld will walk away having had the unique opportunity to work with some other very successful people in the industry. They will also have gained more experience with management, ownership and the art of making business connections, and then be able to use this opportunity to continually learn. "The day you stop learning is the day you stop being successful," Ajello said. With endeavors like this, Ajello hopes to be successful for a very long time.

In the end, UK has two students who are making history and not just around campus but in the Thoroughbred industry worldwide. Billy Ajello and Sean Feld had a dream, and then the desire and drive to make that dream come true. But it isn't just for themselves; it's a dream that makes horse racing come to life for the hundreds of people who have put their money and faith into Kentuckysoldierboy.



Kentuckysoldierboy at the training facility in Ocala, Fla.

Industry News

UK's Equine Initiative along with the Equine Industry Program at the University of Louisville will be sponsoring the Kentucky International Equine Summit will be held on April 28-29 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Lexington. If you are a member, officer or director in any equine industry or business your attendance during this event may be very beneficial to you and your organization. This event will feature three main topics which include:

- The Wellbeing of the Competitive Horse
- The Emerging Science of Horse Breeding
- The Equine Economy in the 21st Century

Other sponsors of this event include, Kentucky Equine Education Project, United States Dressage Federation, North American Equine Ranching Information Council, American Horse Council, American Saddlebred Horse Association and Kentucky Thoroughbred Association. For more information about this event or to register online (equine students get in free) go to www.kyequinesummit.com or you can contact Alisha Ward at arward.ward@louisville.edu.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

The spring time is peak scholarship application deadline season. For information on upcoming scholarships check these out.

- The Race for Education anticipates awarding at least \$400,000 in scholarships and hopes as much as possible can go to Kentucky horse farm workers and their families. Contact Elisabeth Jensen, Vice President, at (859) 252-8648 or visit www.racingscholarships.com/page.php?page=resources
- KEEP: www.horseswork.com/scholarship.htm
- KyQHA: www.kyqha.com/youth/scholarship.pdf
- Kentucky Horse Council Scholarship: www.kentuckyhorse.org/scholarships.shtml

JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

Help Wanted Classifieds:

Please note, classifieds listed here are not directly affiliated with UK or its equine programs, rather information passed along from equine businesses as an FYI.

The Kentucky Equine Humane Center announces the establishment of the KyEHC Internship Program. The KyEHC Internship Program is offered to students to help expand their knowledge through practical experience, giving them an opportunity to achieve professional competency through “hands-on” experiences in problem-solving, decision-making, and relational skills in a professional environment. Specific internships may be crafted to meet program requirements in the following areas: veterinary technician, pre-veterinary studies, horse husbandry, equine sciences, farm management or related areas. KyEHC can help students design a program to satisfy practicum, internship or independent study requirements within their major. On-site housing is provided. Interns will be selected from university and college applicants. Interested students should contact the Kentucky Equine Humane Center (KyEHC) for more information and an interview at 859.881.5849 or info@KyEHC.org.

Recovery Technician wanted for Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital. At least one year of experience in handling horses required. Must be able to stand up long periods of times, running, holding horses, lifting up to 75 pounds, climbing and sitting. Full-time job available, flexible hours required.

UK Student wanted to work in the Barn Crew/ Admissions at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital. At least one year of working with horses is required and a horse farm background is preferred. For more information regarding any of the Rood and Riddle job opportunities please contact amathes@roodandriddle.com

Suggestion Box

We want to hear from you! What are we missing? What should we change? What would you like to know more about? What information should we feature in an upcoming issue?

Your feedback is important and we welcome your comments! Please email equineinitiative@email.uky.edu and let us know what you think.

UK Graduate and Undergraduate students wanted for AQHA and APHA breeding facility in Edmonton, KY. Positions are open for both full-time and part-time DVM and also for handlers for foaling, turnout and breeding assistance.

Contact:

Amber Roberts

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