

# UK Equine Initiative Student Newsletter

March 2008

## What's Important?

So, you are about to graduate or you just finished the first semester of your freshman year. Your grades are pretty good, and you're thinking about what you're going to do when you graduate.

Do you know what qualities employers are looking for in new graduates? What is most important?

Well, the single biggest complaint is that the new graduates cannot write. So much for the unimportance of English 101. We also know that 20 percent of a person's success is their knowledge in their major field.

Okay, what is it then?

It is first impressions. It is how you meet people. Do you show real empathy? Are you genuinely interested in them? Are you a good listener? How do you dress? How are your manners?

The answer then, in part, is communication, communication, communication -- written, oral and body language. You might answer that, "I'm really not a people person." Just remember, there are not too many jobs for hermits.

Read Stephen Covey's book "*The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*," and read it like you were going to teach it tomorrow. If you are not too sure of your manners, get a book. A growing number of employers are hiring investigators to observe potential employees when they are dining out just to see how they conduct themselves.

A good education is more than what you learn in the classroom.

Thank you,

Dr. Jim Smith



*Dr. Jim Smith is a practicing veterinarian at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute and currently leading an effort to determine the College of Agriculture's need for an equine extension veterinarian.*

*Smith earned his DVM from Kansas State University in 1958. After working in general practice in Kansas for a year, he joined KSU's Department of Surgery and Medicine as a large animal clinician. After a year there, he worked in Wichita, Kansas, in equine practice for two years. In 1962, Smith joined Hagyard Davidson McGee, now Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, where he still practices.*

An advertisement for the University of Kentucky Equine Initiative. At the top, it says "Serving Kentucky's horse industry through research and education". Below that, the text reads "University of Kentucky Equine Initiative". The main image shows a brown horse lying down in a field of straw, wearing a blue t-shirt with "UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY" printed on it. The text "We share the dream for his future..." is overlaid on the image. At the bottom, there is a logo for the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and the website address "www.ca.uky.edu/equine".

## Equine Initiative Highlights

### Dr. Jamie MacLeod named Director of the UK Equine Initiative

The Equine Initiative is pleased to announce that Dr. Jamie MacLeod has agreed to serve as the Director. While we are in the final stages of formalizing the appointment, Dr. MacLeod will begin immediately to interact with faculty and form a leadership team for the Initiative. Dr. MacLeod will serve on a part time (20 percent) basis, so that his productive research program in the Gluck Center can be maintained. In the coming weeks, he will be announcing more particulars about the executive team. The responses to his interview by faculty, staff and students indicate his high level of enthusiasm and vision for the Equine Initiative, as well as his dedication to the horse and excellence in scientific achievement.

If you have a question for Dr. MacLeod, email him at [equineinitiative@email.uky.edu](mailto:equineinitiative@email.uky.edu).

### UK Horse Racing Club

The UK Horse Racing Club will be host Rogers Beasley, Director of Racing at Keeneland Racetrack, at its next meeting Wednesday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will be held in the Gallery of the W.T. Young Library. There will be free food, door prizes and discussion of upcoming officer elections.



*PHOTO: Horse Racing Club president Shannon Frame presents a check to Jean Ann Tulloch of the Secretariat Center from proceeds raised during the club's trainer's event last semester.*

### UK Dressage Team

The UK Dressage team competed in the last show of the year on Feb. 17. Alison Wilaby qualified to compete in the 2008 International Dressage Association National Championship at Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts. on April 26.

### UK Polo Club

The women's polo team traveled to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville on March 13-16 and competed in the Intercollegiate Southeast Regional Polo Competition. This is the first time this team competed on the intercollegiate and national levels. Other teams that were represented at this competition were University of Louisville, Michigan State University and University of Virginia.

Team members who competed:

- Faith Hufford
- Tannis Marley
- Elizabeth Pallardy
- Mia Proto

### UK Equestrian Team

The UK Equestrian team competed in its regional competition on Saturday, March 8 at Morehead State University.

The following western riders placed first or second in their respective classes, which advances them to Super Zones, March 29-30 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, N.C.:

- Savannah Craddock - Open Horsemanship
- Emily Gaskin - Advanced Horsemanship
- Molly Peyton - Open Horsemanship & Open Reining
- Lacey Werczynski - Alumni Horsemanship
- Jennifer Whittle - Intermediate Horsemanship

The following hunt seat riders placed first or second in their respective classes to send them to Super Zones on April 12 at The University of Findlay in Ohio:

- Louise Boden- Advanced Equitation Flat
- Katie Masten- Open Equitation Flat & Open Jumping
- Kathleen Reed- Intermediate Equitation Flat
- Callie Schot- Open Equitation Flat & Open Jumping
- Becka Whichard- Advanced Equitation Flat

Callie Schot was also named the high point rider for the region and Larissa Kern was the reserve high point rider. The hunt seat team was the high point team in the region.

## Around the College of Ag

With spring break already over, there are just a few short weeks left of school. Please keep your calendar marked with the following important dates for the rest of the spring semester.

April 1-16: Priority registration for summer and fall 2008 terms  
April 17-May 2: Students permitted to change majors between colleges  
April 21-25: Degree audits for August and December 2008 graduates  
April 25: Classes end  
April 28-May 2: Finals week  
May 1-2: Finals week  
May 4: Graduation (college program at 8:30 a.m. in Rupp Arena)  
May 5: Spring grades due



### 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 and vet science. Graduate students are encouraged to post summaries of their research interests at [www.UnbridledNews.com](http://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**).

## Student Professionalism Series

Continuing our professionalism series, we move into tips from professors and advisors on how to e-mail in a professional manner. For this we have contacted two professors in the Equine Science and Management Degree Program, **Dr. Laurie Lawrence and Dr. Mary Rossano**. Below are some of their tips for current and perspective students on how to be professional while communicating via e-mail.

### Dr. Lawrence

"I get a lot of e-mails from students inquiring about our graduate program in Equine Nutrition. Each year I will have space for one or two new students, but I will get at least 10 or 15 inquiries," she said.

Some things that might give you a competitive advantage include:

- A well-written e-mail
- Complete sentences
- Correct grammar
- Limited spelling mistakes

These simple things leave a good impression with Lawrence, and other professors and employers expect them as well.

"On the other hand, an e-mail with spelling mistakes and poor grammar makes a bad impression. Why? Because it suggests to me that either the student didn't care enough to do a nice job, or that what they have sent is the best that they can do," Lawrence said.

### Dr. Rossano

- Give some thought about your signature file, especially links you provide within that signature
- Structure the e-mail so it has a greeting to the recipient and your name at the bottom

"I don't like when e-mails are just a sentence or two with no identifiers or greeting. And if the e-mail address doesn't indicate who sent the message, I may not know who it is from," Rossano said.

These are a few things you can take into consideration when communicating with professionals, professors, employers and other people that you might be trying to impress. Next month we will finish our professionalism series with a few tips about interviews, resumes and other important reminders for getting ready for a profession upon graduation.

## A Circus of Sorts

**Kelli Mardell** has found a unique niche in the horse industry. Originally from Roswell, N.M., Mardell moved to Paris, Ky. as a freshman in high school. She is currently a student at UK, enrolled in the Equine Science and Management Program.

Mardell is also employed at the Kentucky Horse Park, where she just got promoted to Entertainment Coordinator. In this position, she announces the Parade of Breeds, shows, Hall of Champions and other events that the Horse Park regularly hosts. She plans to enhance the Parade of Breeds show to add a little more excitement and have more disciplines and breeds from around the world. She also uses her own horse for events; he can do many tricks that she has taught him, such as standing on a pedestal, doing the Spanish march and bowing. She would like to continue working at the Horse Park in the future, especially since the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games are coming soon.

But it's Mardell's story prior to her return to UK that sounds similar to the plot of a blockbuster hit. After graduating from Paris High School in 2005, she received a scholarship to Centre College. During her first semester, she held a part time job at the Kentucky Horse Park. Since this is quite a haul to work every day, she soon transferred to UK to study Animal Science. This first job at the Horse Park sparked her interest in entertainment riding. Her manager had previous experience with circus and trick riding, and Mardell soon began to learn from her.

Then the plot thickened, as her semester at UK was coming to an end, Mardell decided to drop out of school and move to Florida to join the circus. She spent a semester in Florida traveling with a circus. During her time as a "carney" she performed at events such as Equitana and Equine Affair. She was also able to develop many skills needed to perform tricks and stunts with her own horses.

Now, when she says tricks, she means riding a horse sidesaddle and jumping a car and jumping her horse through a hoop of fire. To the average equestrian, jumping through fire may seem crazy, but Mardell says, "It's not that big a deal since it's only 2 feet high." Her time being a "carney" soon came to an end when she decided she could get hurt and didn't have a backup plan. This brings us back to the beginning of our story and Mardell's new adventure at the UK.

Future plans for Mardell include finishing school; currently she is taking only nine hours of classes a semester because she is working full time and because the Horse Park pays that much tuition here each semester. She says her experience with the program so far has been a very pleasant one and that she is very happy with her decision to come to UK.

Upon graduation, she would like to eventually start her own lesson program to teach children. More specifically, she hopes to open a behavioral disorder/equine therapy program.

"Eventually, I would like to start my own lesson program and teach kids," Mardell said. "Ultimately, I would really like to open an equine therapy program for kids with behavioral disorders. I feel equine therapy helps them so much."

In the end, steering off the main road for a little while got Mardell right back where she wanted to be. The experience she gained while traveling for a semester with the circus has given her the skills she needed to bring a new and exciting twist to the events at the Horse Park.

We would like to wish her luck in her future endeavors. Keep a look out for Mardell and her tricks at the next Horse Park event you attend.



PHOTO: Mardell Riding in Parade of Breeds at the Kentucky Horse Park

## Job & Scholarship Opportunities

*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.*

**Equestrian Director and Equestrian Assistant** wanted at Camp Kateri (located one-half hour southeast of Gainesville, Fla.). This camp is for girls 6-17 years old. Both positions are paid and applications apply to the June–August 2008 timeframe. Contact: Cynthia Wisner, Outdoor Education Manager, Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, Inc., (904) 291-0648, ext. 102

**Nursing staff technician** wanted for Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital. At least one year of experience in handling horses is needed. Some training with medical or horse care preferred. Full, part-time and seasonal job opportunities are available; **Surgery technician** wanted for Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital. At least one year of experience in handling horses required. Some training with medical or horse care preferred. Job openings available include full-time or part-time. Work days may vary from eight to 10 hours, five or six days a week;

**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. No licenses or certification is required. For more information regarding any of the Rood and Riddle job opportunities please contact [amathes@roodandriddle.com](mailto:amathes@roodandriddle.com)

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, [circlerstallionstation@yahoo.com](mailto:circlerstallionstation@yahoo.com)

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. If you are interested in applying you can contact the Kentucky Equine Humane Center, Inc at 859.881.5849, [www.KyEHC.org](http://www.KyEHC.org).

### 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](http://www.racingscholarships.com)**
- KEEP: [www.horseswork.com](http://www.horseswork.com)
- KyQHA: [www.kyqha.com/youth](http://www.kyqha.com/youth)
- Kentucky Horse Council Scholarship: [www.kentuckyhorse.org](http://www.kentuckyhorse.org)
- Kentucky Women in Agriculture Scholarship: [www.kywomeninag.com](http://www.kywomeninag.com)

## Contact Us

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You can also find us on  
**Facebook** under the  
Equine Initiative Group

### 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](mailto:equineinitiative@email.uky.edu) and let us know what you think.