Does anyone else find it difficult to believe that with the years of anticipation and preparation for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, it has already come and gone? By now, hopefully we’ve all had a chance to take a few deep breaths and allow ourselves to reflect upon this extraordinary event.

WEG presented unique and memorable opportunities to our state, our university, our college, and many of us individually.

Our records indicate that the University of Kentucky had a total of 271 faculty, staff, students, and alumni volunteer at WEG in the UK Village and the Kentucky Equine Higher Education Consortium; in addition we know that at least 26 students and 5 faculty from the College of Agriculture volunteered for WEG directly. Undoubtedly, there are many others affiliated with the university that we don’t have on record.

I had the opportunity to volunteer both for WEG and for the university during the 16-day event. For WEG, I was a runner in the Dressage competition. Personally, it was a tremendous experience to watch every single ride in four days of competition. I may never again witness such an internationally elite level of rides in person; it left me believing that I, too, can ride a passage, piaffe, and one-tempi changes with one hand on the reins, the other waving to the crowd, down the centerline. Well…at the very least, it has inspired me to sit a little deeper in the saddle and ride with my legs a little longer!

As impressive as that dressage competition was, I may be even more impressed by the way the College of Agriculture and the University of Kentucky were showcased during WEG. Did you get a chance to see the UK Village? It was beautiful! The displays were professional and of the highest quality; the layout of the pavilion was inviting and no doubt encouraged interactions between volunteers and our visitors. We had the opportunity to visit face-to-face with visitors (including many prospective students!), both domestic and from abroad to discuss our education, safety, and health programs. The Saddle Up Safely quiz was a huge hit and certainly fostered plenty of useful discussion. I think that as WEG gets farther in our rearview mirrors, we will understand more fully the impact that our presence had not only on those who visited us, but also on the future growth of our equine-related programs in the college and university.

I consider it a rare privilege to have had guests from all over the state, the country, and the world congregate in our home, Lexington, to showcase our “Unbridled Spirit.” The Equine Initiative, the College of Agriculture, and the University of Kentucky all put their best feet forward and embraced the opportunity with open arms. Going forward from this experience, I would encourage each one of us to contemplate how we may both individually and collectively leverage our success at WEG to promote that which our college and university have to offer AND to not be satisfied – to search for ways that we can continually improve and grow our programs.

~Jill Stowe
Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics

In this Issue:
• WEG stats, stories and photos
• Planning for an equine career
• Upcoming club and team events
• Internship and job opportunities
As a lead-in to the World Equestrian Games, the University of Kentucky pitched several stories to the media to highlight the accomplishments of UK and all of its programs. The following are a few of the equine stories that were sent. Other equine news can be found at www.ca.uky.edu/news/?c=s&d=16.

UK students do their part at World Equestrian Games

By Natalie Voss

As the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games wind down, University of Kentucky students continue to do their part to help make the games run smoothly.

The driving force of the games is the volunteer workforce, and 26 UK equine science and management program undergraduate students have helped pull the load between classes.

Most of the students are staffing the Equine Village, which is an epicenter at the games for horse supply vendors, organizations and live demonstrations. Like the competition venues, the village needs a lot of hard-working volunteers to keep it running. One of them is Courtney Zimmerman who is working as a barn steward.

“The World Equestrian Games are a once-in–a-lifetime experience where there is a vast amount of opportunities available,” Zimmerman said. “I wanted to take advantage of the opportunities of meeting new people from all over the world and observing the various equine disciplines. Also as an equine science major, it just kind of seemed like a given to become involved.”

In addition, Zimmerman participated in the games’ opening ceremonies, serving at a checkpoint along the path between the athlete warm-up area and the main arena.

A few students were chosen to help with large-scale competition events, such as the endurance test. Amy DuKate, a junior in the equine science and management program, helped maintain barriers for team members. DuKate has ridden horses most of her life and has competed in eventing.

“I wanted to see what was new in the horse world… and I definitely learned a lot,” DuKate said. “I have been telling people that I met the world.”

DuKate said she saw competitors up close as she maintained the perimeter for horses and riders taking water breaks during the event; she ensured no unauthorized people entered and team members did not leave the appointed area.

Although Zimmerman had to juggle her class schedule with her World Equestrian Games duties, she sees her busy schedule as an opportunity to grow.

“I have had to become very good with time management,” she said. “I am excited to be a part of such a huge experience. I am also thrilled to see so many people collected in one place to support, cheer and marvel over all of the abilities of the horse.”

Zimmerman said she thought the opening ceremonies were impressive.
“When you are watching internationally-known people, it can be hard to remember that most of these people lead completely normal lives, but if you try to step into their shoes, then you can begin to realize how similar we all are,” she said.

Equine Initiative Internship Coordinator Elizabeth LaBonty said she is excited so many students are volunteering for the games.

“To have the (World Equestrian Games) in Lexington provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for UK students to volunteer and be a part of an internationally-prestigious event,” she said. “It should be inspirational and motivational for them as they begin to form their own career paths.”

College of Agriculture faculty lend a hand at World Equestrian Games

By Natalie Voss

While many faculty in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture have been greeting visitors at the 3,200 square-foot UK Village, several have been assisting with competitions at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.

College faculty members have assisted with the dressage, paradressage, eventing, endurance and translation services for the athletes.

Lori Garkovich, professor in the UK Department of Community and Leadership Development, kept busy at the games as a ‘scorer’ at the eventing and paradressage events. Garkovich has kept score previously for the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event and regional competitions for the Kentucky Dressage Association, Central Kentucky Riding for Hope and others.

Her duties vary depending on the phase of competition, but Garkovich said essentially she compiles information from judges and helps assign penalties when necessary and calculate final scores for the athletes and the announcer. She works with other scorekeepers to ensure no human or calculation errors affect the final result.

“These things are well documented, and there are multiple levels of confirmation to try and avoid a mix-up at the end,” Garkovich said.

Scoring can sometimes be a stressful job, especially in the cross-country portion of eventing where results come in individually per-jump for each of the multiple riders on the course at once.

Garkovich said she enjoys the opportunity to watch each test and course up close, and the camaraderie among scorekeepers makes the experience fun.

“You come together for this absolutely awesome event, you get together to catch up and get the chance to enjoy some fabulous riding, then you go your separate ways,” she said.

For her, the choice of which events to volunteer for was simple.

“I love dressage — the beauty and clarity of it. I probably never would have competed, if it weren’t for dressage,” said Garkovich, a former rider herself.

Jill Stowe, assistant professor in the UK Department of Agricultural Economics, shares Garkovich’s fascination with the discipline. She volunteered as a runner for the main dressage competition.

“I love the harmony between the horse and rider. When performed at the highest levels, the horses perform difficult movements, and yet it appears that the rider is doing nothing at all,” Stowe said.

Stowe wanted to volunteer at the dressage competition because she used to practice the discipline. She said her favorite part of the World Equestrian Games experience was sharing it with her mother, who also volunteered as a security worker for the first six days of the event.

“My mom and I have shared our horse experiences since I was 4, so it was incredibly special to experience an event like this with her,” Stowe said.
Elizabeth LaBonty, lecturer and internship coordinator for the UK Equine Initiative, also participated in the games as an assistant to the presidential secretary during the endurance competition. She was responsible for compiling each competitor’s timesheets and monitoring their global positioning satellite trackers.

Fernanda Camargo, associate professor for undergraduate education in equine science and management, served as a Portuguese interpreter. As a native Brazilian it was exciting for her to shadow for the Brazilian teams at the games.

Kristen Harvey, extension associate for equine activities, served as a scribe for the paraddrissage competition, recording the judges’ comments for riders to read after the show.

Eight Kentucky universities team up to welcome the world during the World Equestrian Games

By Holly Wiemers

When Kentucky appeared on a world stage for 16 days during the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, one display in the Equine Village asked visitors, “Where else for an equine education?” The answer can be found in the display itself, the result of a unique collaboration among universities and colleges in Kentucky with equine programs.

The consortium of schools banded together to let the world know that there is no better place to pursue an equine education than at a Kentucky university or college. It is the horse capital of the world, and in the opinion of the Kentucky universities and colleges collaborating on the shared display, Kentucky could make a case for being the equine higher education capital of the world as well.

This unique collaboration was led and funded by the University of Kentucky’s Equine Initiative and the University of Louisville’s Equine Industry Program. The two programs have been collaborating closely in recent years.

“There has been national attention given to the unprecedented degree of collaboration between the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky over the last four years on post-secondary equine education conferences, foreign tours and specialized courses, as well as on a variety of broader projects, such as the first Kentucky Youth Horse Festival and also the World Equestrian Games,” said Rich Wilcke, director of the University of Louisville Equine Industry Program.

“This unique and highly effective cooperation between UK’s College of Agriculture and U of L’s College of Business has been to the benefit of both the equine industry and the taxpayers of the commonwealth. It has also enabled the other private and public colleges in the state that offer horse courses to benefit from this spirit of statewide harmony.”

Nancy Cox, associate dean for research of UK’s College of Agriculture and administrative leader for the Equine Initiative echoed that sentiment. “The theme ‘Where else for an equine education?’ says a lot. It says that our goal, as we welcome the Games, is to send a collective message about our strong individual offerings. We have learned a lot about each other during the planning, and each program offers unique and valuable strengths. The best thing about the consortium is that the partners have created a strong foundation for continued collaboration to serve our students and the commonwealth.”

Programs represented, in addition to UK and U of L, are Asbury University, Georgetown College, Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Midway College, Morehead State University, Murray State University and Western Kentucky University.

The consortium has also created a website that lists each of the participating partners. Please visit www.kentuckyequineeducation.org to find out more.
Maine Chance student workers prepare for fall Thoroughbred sales

Every year, Maine Chance, the equine campus on the College of Agriculture’s North Farm, breeds a crop of Thoroughbred and Quarter-Horse foals. In the fall, student workers are each assigned a horse to prepare for auction, and spend four months handling and grooming their Thoroughbred yearling before the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling sale.

“I really don’t know which one will sell the highest, I have high hopes for all of them!” said Bryan Cassill, assistant farm manager at Maine Chance.

This year, seven yearlings are prepared to enter the sale, which began on October 25.

Those horses are:
- A colt by Daaher out of Blue Stream, prepared by Matt Zehnder; sold for $2,700
- A filly by Devil His Due out of Charlmar, prepared by Morgan Whitney; not sold
- A colt by Sun King out of Ionian Bride, prepared by Amanda Ellis; sold for $1,100
- A colt by Seeking the Best (IRE) out of Ixtapa, prepared by Claire Smedley; sold for $1,200
- A colt by Bob and John out of Philosophers Stone, prepared by Laura Stasinger; sold for $27,000
- A colt by Star Dabbler out of Queen O’The Igloo, prepared by Matt Grayson; sold for $2,500
- A colt by Don’t Get Mad out of Rebina Lake, prepared by Katie Kincaid; sold for $1,000

In other Maine Chance news, the farm has a new farm tech and is pleased to welcome Frank Berry to their team.

“He has been a great help with the farm and the yearlings,” Cassill said.
Planning for a career with horses at UK

By Jen Taylor

“I want a show barn with a bunch of very expensive sport horses.”

“I want to be a 4H agent.”

“I want to manage a quarter horse breeding operation.”

And perhaps the most common, “I have no idea.”

These thoughts come from a variety of students who have a passion for horses that has made them focus on a particular career as though they could not be happy doing anything else.

Still other students choose the equine program because they have don’t have a strong idea of what they want to do, just that they love horses.

If you have no idea what you want to do with horses, but know you love them and have the determination to attend college, then you are not alone. Many equine students are unsure of their dreams.

Erin O’Keefe, a sophomore from Detroit, says that growing up in a city didn’t provide the opportunity, to learn about all the different job opportunities with horses. She came to UK to find out, and classes like GEN 109 Careers in the Equine Industry will help her.

“UK has definitely exposed me to different aspects of the horse industry which is exactly what I want right now,” she said.

“When it comes to finding employment in the agriculture or equine fields, there is no substitute for practical hands on experience,” said Lisa Molloy, Lexington’s manager of New Vocations, a race horse adoption program. “You are dealing with live subjects - just like people, they all respond differently to different situations, some of which may not have been covered in class.”

Lisa encourages students to get the most out of a job or internship.

“The key to getting the most from any practical on-the-job-training is to observe and most importantly ask why,” Molloy continued. “Why are they doing it that way? Why is that way better than the way you were taught? What is the reasoning behind it?”

For some, the daily grind of entry-level farm job doesn’t seem the best way to enjoy their time with horses.

“I would get burnt out,” said Nicole Zullo, an equine management and agricultural economics senior. “The passion of working with horses might be lost.”

Successful horse people often say that hands-on experience and practical knowledge is crucial in getting a job with horses. Getting that experience takes work.

Fortunately networking for the horse industry at UK can be very easy. Students may end up working with people they took
Even student clubs and teams can be important networking tools. Groups such as the UK Equestrian Team, the Dressage and Eventing Team, the Horse Judging Team, Horse Racing Club, Pre-Vet Club and Ceres Sorority have helped students find employers and make valuable connections. One student was lucky enough to work for U.S. Olympic gold medalist show jumper Beezie Madden after she graduated, thanks to her connections on the UK hunt seat team.

“The location is great for Thoroughbreds but having general knowledge of horses carries over to any breed or discipline,” said Bob Coleman, associate director for undergraduate education in the equine science and management and faculty member in UK’s Animal and Food Sciences.

In fact, an internship can help determine a dream job. In the case of Meagan Newberry, working for a 4-H agent opened her eyes to the possibilities in the Cooperative Extension Service.

According to Newberry, the most valuable thing for her at UK was meeting a lot of extension office people.

“The internship was hectic, crazy, fun and helped me with time management and organization which I struggle with,” she said.

According to Coleman, the top two things employers ask for is an ability to communicate well and a good work ethic. A general understanding of horses comes third on that list and these are the things that the program tries to prioritize.

Coleman said this becomes a problem when many students don’t have a back-up plan because their dream job might not work out.

“I think all students should have a ‘Plan B’ and even a ‘Plan C’ because ‘Plan C’ might even become the dream job,” Coleman said.

UK gives students an opportunity to explore plan B through general studies, something students do not get at a smaller school.

“Planning and preparing are keys in this field,” Molloy said. “Think about what you are good at, what you like to do, what there is a need for in the market, and then try to put the three together. It might not always be possible to do what you always thought you wanted to do, so always be open to new learning experiences that will help you become a well-rounded horse person.”

Another tactic is getting a non-equine job and transferring the experience into a horse-related field. Zullo will look for marketing positions for both equine and non-equine products. If she does not get a job in the horse world she will take another kind of marketing for several years before trying to return.

A recurring theme in the equine program seems to be double majoring or minoring in a related area for added educational support. Erin O'Keefe is an equine science, English double major. She knew her parents would prefer she go to college, so she decided to study something she loves - horses. Always having done well in English classes she has decided to double major as a fall back option. This strategy can help others who may not be as certain of their exact goals in the equine field. Broader planning and preparing to be flexible can help students achieve even nebulous goals.

Kentucky 4-H hippology team wins national title
Kentucky 4-H hippology team members Luke Hopkins, Rebekah Green and Lydia Uhlyarik recently represented the state at the All American Quarter Horse Congress Hipology contest and took home the title of overall high team. Competing against 22 other teams from all over the country, Kentucky edged North Carolina by 12 points, demonstrating particular strength in the judging phase of the competition. Coached by Annette and Jennifer Whittle and equine extension associate Kristen Harvey, the team is supported by the Mid-East Quarter Horse Association and the Bluegrass State Appaloosa Horse Club. Congratulations to all involved!
Student Spotlight: Catherine Germer

By Natalie Voss

Catherine Germer, a senior from Indianapolis, had a more extensive internship experience than most students. For her equine internship, which is a graduation requirement in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture’s equine science and management program, she chose to continue the part-time job she had with Wolfram Farm. This gave her the chance to work a full year at the farm, while most students are only able to spend a summer or a semester at their internship sites.

“I did everything from breeding trips to prepping yearlings … it was a good experience,” Germer said.

Wolfram Farm is a small Thoroughbred breeding operation in Midway, Ky. Germer spent her time cleaning stalls, turning horses out, administering medications, teasing mares and preparing the farm’s two yearlings for sale.

Germer’s horse background was mostly confined to eventers before she took a job at Wolfram.

“I wanted to see what a Thoroughbred farm was really like and I got to see and do a lot more on a smaller farm,” Germer said.

She said she found the life cycle of a Thoroughbred racehorse was considerably different than the horses she had grown up working with.

“Thoroughbreds are so much more commercial … it’s just a different focus for a different type of experience,” she said.

Germer’s supervisor, Shannon Wolfram believes an internship on a facility like his is beneficial to any student aspiring to work in the equine industry.

“They’ve got to learn practical horsemanship,” said Wolfram.

A graduate of the University himself, he said that college provided him with knowledge in areas such as pasture management and nutrition that he relies upon every day but he couldn't do his job without the practical skills he learned out on the farm.

Wolfram, who has previously taught interns from Midway College in addition to UK, said that there are a few qualities a student must have to get the most out of their time on a farm.

“There’s one thing they’ve got to have—work ethic,” said Wolfram. “I want a kid that wants to work, to get out there and learn from the ground up.”

He also emphasized that punctuality is important to him, as it is to many farm owners and managers.

Germer, who graduates in December, is currently searching for a job and hopes her experience will help her find one in the equine industry.

For more information about the UK Equine Initiative internship program, contact Elizabeth LaBonty at elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu.
Job and Internship Opportunities

Internship Opportunities

Central Kentucky Riding for Hope is looking for a part-time riding instructor. Professional experience with mounted and non-mounted lessons and working with adults with disabilities required. Visit their website at www.ckrh.org for a full description and information.

Fares Farm is hiring racetrack grooms. Minimum one year of experience. Apply in person at Fares Farm, 3675 Van Meter Road.

Journal Communications, Inc. in Franklin, Tenn. is a full-service custom media company whose work includes agriculture-related topics. It is seeking students to build internships either in the company’s home office or remotely. E-mail knewsome@jnlcom.com for more information.

As always, please inform Internship Coordinator Elizabeth LaBonty (elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) before beginning a job or internship that you would like to count for credit. Remember that a for-credit internship is a graduation requirement for those in the equine science and management degree.

Job Opportunities

Journal Communications, Inc. in Franklin, Tenn. has an opening for a content coordinator in its agribusiness custom media division. Content coordinator will provide copy, coordinate freelancers, social media and maintain the website. For a full description or to apply, e-mail knewsome@jnlcom.com.

Thoroughbred Times has an opening for a Display Advertising Marketing Specialist. This position will be responsible for coordinate marketing materials in support of all Thoroughbred Times products. This is a part-time position. Applicants should send a cover letter, resume and salary requirements to Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 8237, Lexington, KY 40533.

Upcoming Events

**August 22 – November 21:** Hoofbeats and Heartbeats exhibit at the UK Art Museum. Admission is free for UK Students. Visit www.uky.edu/Art-Museum/ for details.

**November 16:** Second Kentucky Equine Networking Association meeting featuring Rich Wilcke of the University of Louisville speaking on planning and equine businesses. The meeting will be 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Holiday Inn North. Register at www.kentuckyhorse.org/kena
Clubs and Teams Update

Dressage and Eventing Team: Oct. 16-17 the Eventing Team hosted a cross-country clinic with Dorothy Crowell at Flying Cross in Louisville. The Dressage Team has three shows coming up: Nov. 6 and 7 at Otterbein, and Nov. 13 hosted by Findlay. The team would also like to announce that both sections of the team will now train with Lauren Nether, a local eventer whose farm is located off Tates Creek Road.

Equestrian Team: Next team meeting will be Nov. 9 at 8 p.m. in room A7 of the Ag Sciences North Building. The Team competed Oct. 23-24 at Miami University of Ohio and will compete again Nov. 13-14 at Midway College.

Saddle Seat Team: The team competed on Oct. 23 at Morehead State University and will compete again Nov. 13 at Master- son Station Park at 5:30 p.m.

Student Working Group: The group will have its first official meeting of the year Nov. 10 at 12 p.m. in the Equine Initiative conference room. Please e-mail Stephen Coleman at sjcole0@uky.edu for details.