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EDITION

# WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

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# HIGHLIGHTS



## HORSEY HUSTLE 5K APRIL 1

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## INAUGURAL HORSESHOE BALL APRIL 21

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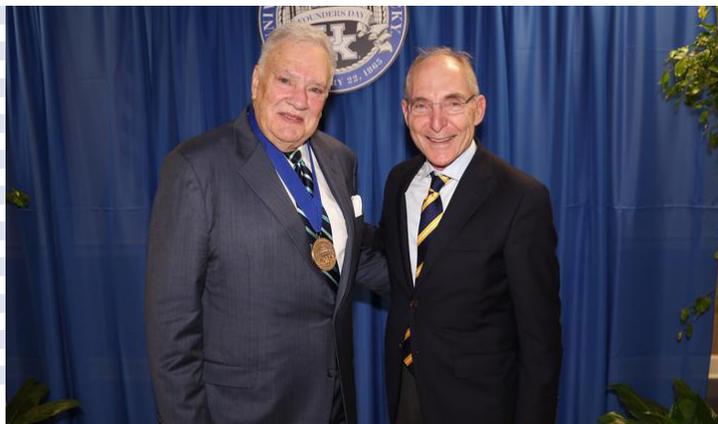
The 2023 Horseshoe Ball is April 21 and is co-hosted by UK Saddle Seat, UK Western Equestrian, UK Dressage, UK Polo and UK MAN-RRS. All profits from the Horseshoe Ball will support the five hosting clubs and teams.



## TOM HAMMOND AWARDED FOUNDERS DAY AWARD; ESTABLISHES EQUINE SCHOLARSHIP

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Tom Hammond, a 1967 graduate of the University of Kentucky, recently retired after a 50-year career in sports broadcasting that spanned across the Commonwealth of Kentucky and around the world. His dedication and success was recognized Wednesday when he was awarded the 2023 University of Kentucky Founders Day Award at a ceremony in his honor.



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

March 13-18 - Spring Break  
April 1 - UK Horsey Hustle 5K  
April 18 - Spring ESMA Internship Showcase  
April 26 - Last day of classes

Full event listings and details can be found [here](#).

# WELCOME

Hi everyone! My name is Emily Brown, and I am a senior in the Equine Science and Management program. I'm from Louisville, Kentucky, and my background is almost entirely in American Saddlebred horses. Coming to UK, I was looking forward to meeting other Saddlebred enthusiasts, but was also equally excited to meet people whose backgrounds have looked nothing like mine. By being a student of the ESMA program, we are presented with a unique opportunity to broaden our horizons in the horse industry beyond those we'd meet on our career paths outside of this program.

In addition to being an equine student, I am the president of the UK Saddle Seat Team, which is a recognized club sports team here at the University of Kentucky. Being selected to lead this team has been a great opportunity to grow a community that has, in the past two years, become more involved, impactful and inclusive through strengthening our relationship with UK Ag Equine Programs. In addition to my ESMA degree, I am also a Community Leadership and Development major. The leadership knowledge and experience the CLD program has offered me has been valuable beyond measure. It was, without a doubt, a combined effort between the CLD and ESMA programs that gave me the tools I needed to write my proposals for the UK Ag Equine Programs Student Experience and Applied Education Fund.

I am very grateful to be able to put both of my proposals into action. Because of the fund, the UK Saddle Seat team is now able to offer a riding lesson scholarship for ESMA students who demonstrate a passion for hands-on horsemanship but may not have access to that experience due to their financial situation. While we are all students of the ESMA program because we love horses, we cannot forget that formal hands-on horse experience is a privilege that not everyone has been lucky enough to obtain. As future professionals in the horse industry, I urge all of you to never forget that. In addition, the program has allocated funds to producing a formal end-of-the-year celebration, which we have named the Horseshoe Ball. The Horseshoe Ball will be held on Friday, April 21. The Horseshoe Ball, supported by UK Ag Equine Programs, is co-hosted by UK Saddle Seat, UK Polo, UK Dressage, UK Western Equestrian and UK MANRRS. The idea began for an event like the Horseshoe Ball largely from the Polo Ball, which was a formal event hosted by the UK Polo team from 2019 to 2020. I could not be more thrilled to have them on board for the Horseshoe Ball. We knew we wanted to have a formal dance for the community-building aspect but also wanted to build on this and see how we could transform the idea of a dance into a collaborative fundraiser that benefits our clubs and teams and is open to the entire ESMA program by promoting inclusivity, authenticity and the power of working together.

While it is my name as grant recipient, I could never accomplish anything without a really great team. Everyone in the UK Ag Equine Programs office has been very supportive and open to sharing their knowledge. Underclassmen, please get to know your professors and program staff, they want to help and get to know you! My UK Saddle Seat team exec board has been nothing less of exemplary as we work tirelessly to produce quality events and programming. Olivia Dapolite, PR chair of the Saddle Seat Team and a junior in the ESMA program, has been serving as an event coordinator for the Horseshoe Ball. Olivia has been an essential part of planning an event with a scope as large as the Horseshoe Ball. Ella Hampton, newly selected vice president for the Spring '23 semester, has gone above and beyond to be a proactive, quick learner and has spearheaded efforts for our Saddle Seat Team competition season.

Being able to create lasting and impactful programming such as the UK Saddle Seat Riding Lesson Scholarship and the Horseshoe Ball is a privilege that I do not take lightly. While such opportunities are most definitely the fruit of past labors, I feel a distinct responsibility to do UK Ag Equine Programs and my team justice. The vision for all of the work I've done with the Saddle Seat Team and efforts with the Scholarship and the Horseshoe Ball has been to build community and inclusivity. Community is the most valuable asset we can have.

As a freshman, I put myself into one box. It is okay to change your mind and find a new box. The success of being awarded these grants has encouraged me to continue making my own box. If you have an idea, write it down. Think about it. Evolve it. Tell people. Learn from them. Work on it until you get it right. Thank you to UK Ag Equine Programs, my team, my friends and family and all of you reading this for inspiring and empowering me to create such programming. I can't wait for what's to come.

For more information on the Horseshoe Ball, please visit @horseshoeballuky on Instagram. Ticket sales begin March 1. For more information on the UK Saddle Seat Riding Lesson Scholarship, please visit @uk\_saddleseat on Instagram. The Saddle Seat team is on an open-enrollment basis at the beginning of every semester. We accept show horse enthusiasts of all riding abilities.

*"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." -African Proverb*



## EMILY BROWN, '23

ESMA & CLD DUAL MAJOR

UK SADDLE SEAT TEAM PRESIDENT



## MASTHEAD

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**Ag Equine Programs**  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

N212 Ag Sciences Building North  
Lexington, KY 40546-0091  
Office: (859) 257-2226  
[equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu)  
[www.uky.edu/equine](http://www.uky.edu/equine)

Graphic design: Sabrina Jacobs

Cover photo: Mark Pearson Photography

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# CLUBS AND TEAMS DIRECTORY

## DRESSAGE TEAM

Advisor: Jill Stowe, [jill.stowe@uky.edu](mailto:jill.stowe@uky.edu)  
OfficialUKDressageTeam@gmail.com  
Facebook: UK Dressage and Eventing

## EQUESTRIAN TEAM

Advisor: Bob Coleman, [rcoleman@uky.edu](mailto:rcoleman@uky.edu)

### HUNT SEAT TEAM

President: Grace Beighler, [Uk.equestrianteam@gmail.com](mailto:Uk.equestrianteam@gmail.com)  
Facebook: UKY Equestrian Team

### WESTERN TEAM

President: Emily Carstens,  
[Ukwesternequestrian@gmail.com](mailto:Ukwesternequestrian@gmail.com)  
Facebook: UKY Western IHSA Team

## EVENTING TEAM

Advisor: Jill Stowe, [jill.stowe@uky.edu](mailto:jill.stowe@uky.edu)  
President: Hannah Warner, [warnerhannah12@gmail.com](mailto:warnerhannah12@gmail.com)  
Facebook: UK Dressage and Eventing

## HORSE RACING CLUB

Advisor: Laurie Lawrence, [llawrenc@uky.edu](mailto:llawrenc@uky.edu)  
President: Sarah English, [Ukhorseracingclub@gmail.com](mailto:Ukhorseracingclub@gmail.com)  
Facebook: UKY Horse Racing Club

## POLO TEAM

Advisor: Roger Brown, [rogerbrown@uky.edu](mailto:rogerbrown@uky.edu)  
President: Federico Puyana, [Fpu223@uky.edu](mailto:Fpu223@uky.edu)  
Facebook: U of Kentucky Polo

## RODEO TEAM

Advisor: Maggie Maynard, [maggie.maynard@uky.edu](mailto:maggie.maynard@uky.edu)  
President: Elaina Drummond, [ukrodeoteam@gmail.com](mailto:ukrodeoteam@gmail.com)  
Facebook: UKY Rodeo Team

## SADDLE SEAT TEAM

Advisor: Mary Rossano, [mary.rossano@uky.edu](mailto:mary.rossano@uky.edu)  
President: Emily Brown, [uksaddleseatteam@gmail.com](mailto:uksaddleseatteam@gmail.com)  
Facebook: UKY Saddleseat Team



# 2023 HORSEY HUSTLE 5K IS APRIL 1

By Gabby DiLemme, UK Wildcat Wrangler



Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 1 at Coldstream Park, for the second annual UK Horsey Hustle 5K Fun Run and Walk. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and race time is at 10:30 a.m.

Last year, the Wildcat Wranglers, a student ambassador organization for UK Ag Equine Programs, coordinated the Horsey Hustle 5K as a way to bring the local equine community together and benefit the UK Equine Student Experience and Applied Learning Fund. This fund provides financial support and allows equine students to gain horse-related experiences at the University of Kentucky. Recipients can use the financial support toward studying abroad, equine educational trips, participation in an equine-related club and much more. Due to the hard work of the Wildcat Wranglers, the race raised approximately \$2,500 for the fund last year.

Braden Heath, a junior in the Equine Science and Management undergraduate program, received money from the fund this year and plans to use it to resurrect UK's Horse Judging Team.

"We are in the early stages of the team, but we are hoping that these funds can help us go towards travel to compete in judging competitions. Our coach, Mr. Tim Jedra, is a well-known stock horse judge and hopes to take us to many competitions throughout the year," Heath said. "This club is a new opportunity for me and others. I came to UK with little horse experience, and Tim took me under his wing and has helped me become a better horseman. This money will help me and other team members gain new experiences and network with others in the industry."

Another recipient that benefitted from the fund was the UK Saddle Seat Team. Emily Brown, a senior in the Equine Science and Management undergraduate program and president of the UK Saddle Seat Team, said, "The UK Saddle Seat Riding Lesson Scholarship is an opportunity for Equine Science and Management students to receive hands-on riding and horse care experience outside of their degree with the UK Saddle Seat team at Wingswept Farm in Nicholasville, Kentucky, acting as facilitators. The ideal award recipients are ESMA students who might have little hands-on experience with horses, paired with little means to obtain such experience outside the classroom, but are eager to learn more about working in the barn and riding."

According to Brown, the scholarship will consist of a package of four riding lessons with basic horse care skills also being taught. There is NO past riding experience required. Long pants and closed-toed shoes will be required for the riding lessons. Safety helmets will be provided. Applications will be accepted from Feb. 6 to March

10. Riding lessons will be held following Spring Break.

The Wildcat Wranglers are eager to raise even more funds at this year's race to assist in supporting more student experiences like these. This year, the Wildcat Wranglers have organized family-friendly activities and food trucks following the race. Registration is now open, so make sure to take advantage of the early bird pricing until March 10 in order to receive a discounted registration rate and guarantee a t-shirt size. Registration runs through the day of the race.

Registration site - <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/71657/uk-horsey-hustle-5k-runwalk>

"We are excited to bring back the UK Horsey Hustle 5K for a second year. This year we are expanding the fun to include food trucks, family friendly activities and a silent auction following the race," said Kristen Wilson, senior academic coordinator within UK Ag Equine Programs and instructor for the Wildcat Wrangler student ambassador team. "The Wildcat Wranglers have done a fantastic job and are excited to increase their fund-raising efforts this year."



## UK EQUINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND APPLIED EDUCATION FUND AWARDS FOUR PROJECTS

The award recipients of this year's UK Equine Student Experience and Applied Education Fund have been announced. Proposals were reviewed internally and by philanthropy committee members of the UK Ag Equine Programs Advisory Board. Four proposals were selected for funding, each of which will engage and enrich the UK experience of multiple ESMA students and others.

- Senior student Emily Brown submitted a proposal on behalf of the Saddle Seat Team to provide riding lessons to ESMA students, focusing on individuals with limited riding experience or exposure to Saddlebreds.
- The UK Equestrian Team, both the Western and hunt seat divisions, received support to help with the costs incurred through hosting their respective intercollegiate horse shows.
- A proposal to revive the UK Horse Judging Team submitted by student Braden Heath was funded.
- Finally, Emily Brown was successful with a second application that received very positive reviews. She will provide leadership for an ESMA community-wide grand social event entitled the Horseshoe Ball, proceeds from which will benefit participating equine clubs and teams.

**UK Saddle Seat**  
**Riding Lesson Scholarship**  
POWERED BY THE UK AG EQUINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND APPLIED EDUCATION FUND

**Looking to gain more hands-on experience  
in the saddle and around the barn?**

**APPLY TODAY for the UK Saddle Seat  
Riding Lesson Scholarship!**

This opportunity will provide you with 4 riding lessons that include a hands-on horse care experience. We are seeking Equine Science and Management majors that have a passion for working with horses but might have little hands-on experience due to lack of funds to obtain such experience.

Award recipients will be taught by World Champion Saddle Seat Instructor and Coach of the UK Saddle Seat team, Stephanie Sedlacko Brannan and her staff at Wingswept Farm, which is only 20 minutes from campus. NO experience is necessary.



**UK**  
SADDLE SEAT TEAM

Applications can be directed to [uksaddleseatteam@gmail.com](mailto:uksaddleseatteam@gmail.com)  
ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

# YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE HORSESHOE BALL; TICKETS ON SALE NOW

By Emily Brown



**Horseshoe Ball**

April 21 Tickets \$45

Music by DJ KnockOut

Held at an all-inclusive Bayou Bluegrass venue  
Over \$1000 in door prizes from Lexington's best-loved businesses

Every ticket is an entry. More door prizes to be announced. Some prizes 21+ only.  
All profits support our hosting UK Ag Equine clubs and teams.

The 2023 Horseshoe Ball is a formal event planned for Friday, April 21, in celebration of UK's ag and equine clubs and teams, as well as equine students. ALL Equine students are encouraged to attend.

The Horseshoe Ball is co-hosted by UK Saddle Seat, UK Western Equestrian, UK Dressage, UK Polo and UK MANRRS. All profits from the Horseshoe Ball will support the five hosting clubs and teams.

The planning committee has collected more than \$1,000 in door prizes from favorite Lexington businesses, including Bluegrass Hospitality Group, Talon Winery and Revive Sauna and Salon. Every ticket is an entry. Some prizes 21+. More prizes to be announced. The event will be held at a Bayou Bluegrass venue and feature DJ Knockout, official sound of UK Athletics and The RedMile.

Attire is long dresses, suits, and ties. It is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to purchase tickets sooner rather than later as planners expect the event to sell out. The link to tickets can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/537813363247>. The password to ticket sales is: UKAGEQUINE2023.

For more information, visit @horseshoebal-luky on Instagram.



## Internship Spotlight

### MICHAEL CICCOLELLA

Wrangler, Sundance Trail Guest and Dude Ranch



Equine senior Michael Ciccolella recently traveled to Colorado for a summer internship working as a wrangler at Sundance Trail Guest and Dude Ranch.

Since opening in 2000, Sundance Trail Guest and Dude Ranch has provided a family-friendly vacation environment centered around horseback riding. Sundance Trail Guest and Dude Ranch prides itself on being the smallest dude ranch in the Colorado Dude and Guest Ranch Association, allowing the organization to truly connect with its guests.

"I was most excited for the memories and companionship I made throughout the summer. This internship was a great learning opportunity and gave me a taste of what life on a dude ranch is actually like. I learned from my fellow wranglers, as they are very knowledgeable when it comes to tending to herd needs and taking

care of their overall health. My boss Dan has been running the property for 22 years and is very experienced when it comes to running a dude ranch vacation get away," he said.

When asked about advice he has for people who are interested in similar opportunities, he stressed the importance of networking.

"You can send your resume to the Dude Ranchers Association. This will allow your resume to reach many different organizations across the country. Most dude ranches start reviewing resumes for summer employment in early January, so the sooner you give your resume to the Dude Ranchers Association, the better your chances," he said.

Following graduation, Ciccolella plans to move out west and work for a ranch. He would like to own his own dude ranch one day.



*Claudia Harding, a senior Equine Science and Management major, is a Communications and Student Relations Intern with UK Ag Equine Programs.*



## UK Saddle Seat Team Excels at ISSRA Show

By Brooklyn Shirah and Emily Brown

It was another great Gameday in the Bluegrass for the Saddle Seat 'Cats. The weather turned around just in time to show outside. The team had 17 riders hit the show ring. With a combined effort from every single rider, the team was able to solidify a 3-0 run for the 2023 ISSRA season.

"Every single team member is an integral part to show day and we are proud to work alongside our host barn Wingswept Farm to put together these horse shows," UK Saddle Seat President Emily Brown said.

"They blew us away with their horsemanship, poise and evident dedication to being the best they can be," Brown said. "Hard work pays off!"



These members received the High Point Rider title at the Feb. 25 show:

- Senior High Point Rider Harrison Goode
- Junior High Point Rider: Grace Dietrich
- Junior Reserve High Point Rider: Savannah Craven

## UK Polo Women's Varsity competes at Texas A&M on March 4-5

By Brooklyn Shirah



UK Polo is getting their horses back in shape after a winter break and weekly practices for varsity and club teams are going well. Both men and women's varsity teams will be playing at Nationals in April 2023.

The team has an upcoming fundraiser match on April 1. The event is open to everyone. The team encourages all to come out for a fun night!



# NOCHES DE POLO

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# TOM HAMMOND RECEIVES UK FOUNDERS DAY AWARD; ESTABLISHES EQUINE SCHOLARSHIP

By Meredith Weber, UKNow, Feb. 24, 2023

Tom Hammond, a 1967 graduate of the University of Kentucky, recently retired after a 50-year career in sports broadcasting that spanned across the Commonwealth of Kentucky and around the world. His dedication and success was recognized Wednesday when he was awarded the 2023 University of Kentucky Founders Day Award at a ceremony in his honor.

"On UK's 158th birthday, we have the privilege to celebrate an individual who has left an indelible mark on our university; someone who personifies goodwill and demonstrates – through their work and their spirit – a dedication to our Commonwealth," said UK President Eli Capilouto as he presented the award. "I want to congratulate Tom Hammond for this incredible and well-deserved honor. The university is proud to have someone like Tom who represents the best of what this place has to offer – a brighter, more hopeful future with citizens who leave their communities better than they found them."



Tom Hammond (left) with UK President Eli Capilouto. Hammond was awarded the 2023 University of Kentucky Founders Day Award at a ceremony in his honor on Feb. 22, 2023. Mark Cornelison | UK Photo.

Recognized as one of the leading TV sports broadcasters in the U.S., Hammond's career included covering college and NBA basketball games, college and NFL football games, thoroughbred horse racing and the Olympic Games. Hammond credits his UK education for his success and has been inducted into the UK Alumni Association's Hall of Distinguished Alumni; the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Hall of Fame; the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame; and is a UK honorary doctorate recipient.

"I have been very fortunate to have traveled all over the world to do some of the best sporting events on the planet, but one of the constants was when you return home and your plane is on final approach and look out that window and you see Calumet Farm. And you know you are coming home. That's always one of the best parts of any trip you take," said Hammond during his acceptance speech. "The honors you get from home, and from the home folks that know you best, are the best honors. That's why this one means so much to me."

Hammond received a Founders Day Award medallion and a one-time monetary donation of \$10,000 to be made in his name to an existing university philanthropic fund of their choice. Hammond plans to direct the donation toward the Tom Hammond Equine Scholarship in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Two \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded in Fall 2023 to students majoring in equine science and management with a minimum 3.0 GPA and demonstrated unmet financial need.

The Founders Day Award had not been given since 1958 and was reinstated last year in dedication to D. Michael Richey in recognition of his career as UK's vice president for philanthropy and alumni engagement. Since the award was reinstated in 2022, the executive director of the UK Alumni Association appoints a committee to review nominations and select a recipient each year.

"Founders Day is a special tradition at UK as we not only take time to reflect on our university's history, but also celebrate how far we have come by recognizing those that have made an impact in the Commonwealth" said Jill Smith, associate vice president for alumni engagement and executive director of the UK Alumni Association.

“With more than 280,000 alumni around the world, it’s a privilege to recognize Tom as one of our most influential and impactful graduates through this award.”

To learn more about the Founders Day Award, visit [www.ukalumni.net/FoundersDay](http://www.ukalumni.net/FoundersDay).

*As the state’s flagship, land-grant institution, the University of Kentucky exists to advance the Commonwealth. We do that by preparing the next generation of leaders – placing students at the heart of everything we do – and transforming the lives of Kentuckians through education, research and creative work, service and health care. We pride ourselves on being a catalyst for breakthroughs and a force for healing, a place where ingenuity unfolds. It’s all made possible by our people – visionaries, disruptors and pioneers – who make up 200 academic programs, a \$501 million research and development enterprise and a world-class medical center, all on one campus.*

*In 2022, UK was ranked by Forbes as one of the “Best Employers for New Grads” and named a “Diversity Champion” by INSIGHT into Diversity, a testament to our commitment to advance Kentucky and create a community of belonging for everyone. While our mission looks different in many ways than it did in 1865, the vision of service to our Commonwealth and the world remains the same. We are the University for Kentucky.*



The 16th Annual Pastures Please!! educational workshop was held Feb. 6 at the Fayette County Extension Office with more than 160 people in attendance. The event focused on pasture management following a drought year. Photo by Krista Lea.



## Ag Equine Programs

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

N212 Ag Sciences Building North  
Lexington, KY 40546-0091  
Office: (859) 257-2226  
[equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu)  
[www.uky.edu/equine](http://www.uky.edu/equine)