

# Wildcat Canter



Summer 2013

**Welcome!**

## **A message to alumni, parents and friends!**

To move forward, sometimes a look back at where we have been is in order. Since the launch of our comprehensive equine program, the College has progressed with lightning speed. We were thrilled to have 45 students in our brand new degree program in 2007. Eight years later we average 230 students enrolled as Equine Science and Management majors. Additionally, the College has several graduate students in the fields of nutrition, reproduction, economics and equine health.



While we are thrilled to have such a positive response to our program, we are experiencing growing pains and challenges that require attention. Our focus for the next few years is to seek private funds to invest in not only facilities but also our students and faculty. Currently, we have a teaching pavilion on the University of Kentucky Maine Chance Equine Campus whereby students in courses that require hands-on work with horses can meet that is contained and under roof. It does not, however, have classroom space or restroom facilities. Our first priority for the program is to raise funds to expand the facility to include restrooms and one or two classrooms with state-of-the-art technology.

Additionally, we wish to increase the number of scholarships available for our equine students. Our enrollment ranges from first-generation college students with high financial need based funds, to students with exceptionally high test scores and grade point averages. Let's face the facts. Very few families can afford to pay full tuition and room and board without some type of assistance.

We want to recruit students who not only perform in the classroom, but who will also become productive members of the industry, whether that is in communications, farm management, medicine, law, business or teaching. The availability of scholarship assistance can help us attract the type of students who will continue to improve the program.

Likewise, we hope to attract donors to invest in funds that will support internships, teams and clubs, as well as our research efforts. The one difference between having a program that is sufficient and having an exceptional educational experience is private funds.

We hope that our alumni and friends will consider investing in UK Ag Equine Programs. Collectively, you can make a difference in our future and in the future of the equine industry.

*Marci Hicks*  
*Associate Director of Advancement/  
Director of Development*  
*College of Agriculture, Food and Environment*

### **In this issue:**

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## Internship opportunity of a lifetime

*With Morgan Whitney*

My choice to attend the University of Kentucky was one of the best decisions I ever made. Coming out of high school in Chicago, I was fairly certain I wanted to pursue a career in event planning in the equine industry. Thus, a major in equine science and management and hospitality management and tourism, in addition to a minor in business, seemed like a natural choice.

With such specific majors, I found myself directed to only a few colleges in the U.S., UK being one of them. Once I arrived on campus, I knew that I had found my new home. Not only were the professors the top in their fields, but they focused greatly on a curriculum that encouraged me to learn through experience, which I have always found is the best teacher. After meeting more people from the area and feeling the great sense of community and hospitality at UK, I knew that this was the place for me.

I was blessed to have been around horses most of my life. I started riding as a child and immediately fell in love with horses. Since then, I have held many jobs in the equine industry, including coordinating at barns, breeding racehorses, training off-the-track Thoroughbreds and, as of late, organizing equine events. Each position provided invaluable lessons I will carry with me the rest of my life. My past positions have shown me that hard work and dedication pay off and enable you to accomplish your goals. I have also learned the value of forming relationships and finding a place where you can thrive while always being yourself. I feel the equine program at UK allows students to take their skills, apply to them to the curriculum, and then ultimately in real life scenarios.

Being able to work at Spruce Meadows has been the opportunity of a lifetime. Spruce Meadows is recognized within the industry as the gold standard in putting on equestrian events and is not only known as one of the top show jumping venues in the world, but also for its precision, class and integrity. I was drawn to Spruce Meadows

***Every once in a while a student comes along who really pushes the boundaries of what a program has to offer. Morgan Whitney is that kind of student. She enters every class eager to learn, approaches challenges with a smile and strives to get the most out of each experience. It is not often that international internship opportunities come along, and even rarer that students are able to capitalize on them. But this internship is an example of what happens when a student is willing to venture into the unknown and the industry is willing to invest in the next generation. I could not be more proud of Morgan or more thankful to Spruce Meadows for this internship experience.***

*Elizabeth LaBonty, Lecturer and Internship Coordinator*



because I feel the organization holds many of the same values I do. In addition, there are few places in the world in which I would be exposed to so many different types of events at such a high caliber than here in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. My internship has been one of the greatest decisions I ever made. I love the job I have and feel blessed every day that I get to work and learn alongside such an incredible staff.

Part of the reason I feel I have learned so much in my time here is because I have been exposed to so many facets of the industry. Spruce Meadows is a dynamic facility that branches out into multiple industries, allowing me the opportunity to experience parts of all of them. At Spruce Meadows, I am a coordinator within the larger sections of hosting and special features. In this position, my daily responsibilities vary greatly. If we are in our Summer Series, which features show jumping at an international level, I work with our sponsors in our skyboxes and venues, overseeing the events of the day and executing aspects of the overall show. When tournaments are not in season, Spruce Meadows hosts many beautiful wedding ceremonies and receptions, as well as business meetings and functions. In this aspect, as the main point of contact for Spruce Meadows, I have had the opportunity to put to use the skills I learned regarding event and wedding planning. One of the things I love most about this position is that there is never a dull moment nor two

days alike. Whether I am planning a full-scale event or giving a barn tour, I have tried to take away as much from this experience as possible.

During my time at Spruce Meadows, I have also had the wonderful opportunity to work with some of the best show jumping course designers in the world, speaking to them about what makes a good course and how one starts based on the level of the class. I have also had the opportunity to speak with judges about the sport and gain insight into what makes a good jumper and the qualities they look for when reviewing various horses. I've given many barn tours to guests, explaining the history of the horse and introducing them to various aspects of breeding, training and showing.



While there are so many things I have learned through this internship, the one that has stuck with me most has been applying the skills I possess as well as those I learned at UK. I believe having the opportunity to practice and hone your skills is an invaluable asset and I am truly grateful to Spruce Meadows for allowing me that opportunity.

Looking back at my favorite part of this internship, I would have to say it has so far been planning a wedding in 48 hours. Calgary was hit with a devastating flood this summer and many couples lost their original wedding venues. In order to help the community, Spruce Meadows took on as many additional weddings as it could. I was entrusted with one of these weddings. The turnaround time from when the wedding was

booked until it occurred was 48 hours. It was my first solo wedding ever, and I was thrilled to have the opportunity to push myself and honored that my managers had such trust in me. Through hard work and dedicated organization, the wedding came along wonderfully and the couple was incredibly thankful.

After I graduate, I hope to obtain a position at Spruce Meadows or a facility of this caliber, and continue to work in the event planning and equine industry. I believe I have found the job I wish to pursue as a career and feel that this internship has given me such great insight into the industry as well as hands-on experience in this position.

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## Check out the July issue of the Bluegrass Equine Digest!

Stories this month include:

- Researchers recommend three-tiered EIA testing
- Methods for controlling equine parasites in the environment
- Commentary: biosecurity for infectious disease control
- New test helps vets diagnose placentitis in pregnant mares
- New tool detects effects of endophytic alkaloid consumption



[www2.ca.uky.edu/equine/bed](http://www2.ca.uky.edu/equine/bed)

## UK Ag Equine Programs hosts its fifth annual Farm and Facilities Expo

The University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs held its fifth annual Farm and Facilities Expo June 19 at Tollgate Farm in Georgetown, Ky. Approximately 200 people attended the event for horse owners. Highlights from the day included talks given by UK faculty and equine professionals about drainage and footing for exercise areas, how to set-up temporary fence, benefits of rotational grazing, hay production and testing and incorporating cattle into equine operations.

Equine businesses and organizations as well as experts from UK in equine nutrition, equine Cushing's disease and plant and soil sciences were also in attendance to provide information to attendees.

Tollgate Farms is owned by Troy Rankin, who breeds, trains, and races Thoroughbred horses and recently had two run in the Breeders' Cup. Tollgate Farm is a diverse operation that also produces hay for both on-farm use and sale, grows tobacco and row crops and raises beef cattle.



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## Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital scholarship spotlight

*By Alexandra Harper*

Virginia Stilwell, a junior majoring in equine science and management with a minor in biology was a recipient of the Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital scholarship from 2011-2012.

Stilwell grew up in a military family and moved around frequently, but she said she considers Manassas, Va. her hometown.

Stilwell said she plans to apply to veterinary school with the goal of becoming an equine veterinarian and establishing a therapy center for rehabilitating abused horses and incorporate at-risk social groups for joint healing.

“The scholarship has helped me pay for school,” she said.

Some of Stilwell's hobbies include working with and riding horses, volunteering with Love on Leash events with her dog Wendy, coaching Upward Basketball and playing intramural sports. She is also very involved with Calvary College Ministry, Pre-Vet Club, and the READ Club.



# State 4-H horse show exemplifies participant hard work and success

By Caroline Ecklin, 4-H Horse Program intern and senior-Equine Science Major

The 2013 Kentucky 4-H State Horse Show took place July 7-13 at the Kentucky Expo Center in Louisville. During our time there, we got to watch many different horse disciplines perform, including the divisions of dressage, hunter, walking/racking/mountain, western, special needs riders, miniature horses and drill team.

The 4-H youth were 9 to 18 years old. Some of the participants had done 4-H shows in the past, while others were beginning their 4-H journey. This exciting week was very eventful and brought together many family, friends and fans.

Day by day, the horses and participants showed us what horsemanship is all about. Some days were better than others for the riders; however everyone kept their heads up and performed to their best abilities. No matter how many faults or bad trips these riders had, they were there to learn and create an even better relationship with their big 4-H horse family.

The first day we split the divisions between the indoor and outdoor ring. The dressage division and miniature horses were held in the outdoor ring, while the hunter divisions were held in Broadbent Arena. During the first day of each division, showmanship classes were always the first to go. These classes tend to be very important to 4-H, giving human and horse participants a chance to prove their relationship with one another. We want our youth participants to understand that riding is not just about how fast you can go around a barrel, or how well you do over fences, but it is about the connection between horse and rider.

After showmanship classes, the division classes quickly followed. These were the exciting classes that each child and family worked hard at to succeed.

Although the weather got a little rough, no amount of rain, heat or 60 mile-per-hour winds could hold back these riders. The riders were up early making sure their horses, and gear, were ready for the next event. The preparation time it took these youth each day amazed me, and no matter how early or late the riders get done, the horses looked amazing by the time they entered the ring.

The State Show ended with its most popular event, Drill Team. Drill Team consists of a group of riders performing in sync to a mix of music. It takes time and patience between horses, riders and team, to make sure everything went smoothly and they moved to the music correctly. These performances ended the week with a bang! Awards were given out, dedications were read and the 4-H family all came together to show its love for this foundation. It was a great week full of exciting moments.

The 4-H Horse Program would like to thank everyone who was involved and who gave their time and commitment to support our participants. Without our volunteers, judges, workers, children, families and horses, this program would not exist. Another successful State 4-H Horse Show has ended, now we all rest and prepare for another eventful year in 2014!



## Travel photo contest

By Erin Morgan

With school out, warm weather and good times, UK Ag Equine Programs is hosting a summer photo contest. Take a picture with your UK equine gear, email it to [equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu), and you could win a gift certificate to the Ag Equine Store! Photo submissions should be e-mailed no later than Aug. 15. Up to three images may be submitted per person. Two winning entries will be announced in the August issue of the *Wildcat Canter*.



# Name change reflects broad work of UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

*By Laura Skillman, Agricultural Communications director within UK's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment*

On July 1, the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture became the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. The new name better communicates the broad depth and evolving scope of the college's degrees and programs.

The change incorporates the college's expanded role that occurred nearly a decade ago with the merger of the College of Human Environmental Sciences into the College of Agriculture and also responds to new needs and opportunities. Research, teaching and outreach programs within the college encompass farms, forests, food, fiber, families and communities.

"While we continue our fundamental ties to production agriculture, we have expanded to include all the pervasive and essential enterprises based on renewable natural resources," said Scott Smith, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "We are aligned with the wider and more diverse interests of those we serve, including a new and rapidly growing population of undergraduate students. And across Kentucky, many now see agriculture to include not only farming, but also agribusinesses, and the full reach of food systems from local to global."



Agriculture, food and environmental systems are key components of Kentucky's economic future, and the college is playing a prominent role in those areas with its programs, Smith said.

Home to 14 academic units offering 27 academic programs, the college had more than 2,500 students, and 476 students received bachelor degrees in the 2012-13 academic year.

Since 1865, the college has been committed to improving the quality of life for Kentuckians. It has carried out its federal land-grant mission, signed into law by former President Abraham Lincoln, by developing cutting-edge research through its Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station and by providing research-based information to residents in all 120 counties through local offices of the Cooperative Extension Service.

Each year, more than 3,300 plant samples are processed at the Plant Disease Diagnostic Labs; 60,000 cases a year are completed at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory; 61,000 soil analyses are completed at Regulatory Services; and more than 4 million people engage in a Cooperative Extension Service activity.

"We did not select the new name with the acronym in mind, yet we recognized that we may become known by our initials as CAFE. If so, we embrace many of the qualities that suggests: service, the indoor and outdoor human environment, good fare and a community atmosphere. Perhaps CAFE will even conjure up the image of a variety of excellent selections for our employees, students and constituents around the commonwealth-- a great menu of opportunities."

The name change was approved in December 2012 by the UK Board of Trustees after first being approved by the college's faculty and staff and endorsed by the University Senate. More information about the college and the programs it offers can be found at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/> or contact the local extension office. A list of county office locations can be found at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/county>.

## Undergraduates gain research experience

*By Laurel Mastro, graduate research assistant*

Kristine Urschel, an assistant professor within the Department of Animal and Food Science, is devoted to introducing undergraduates to the field of equine research. Beyond advising for the Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines (R.E.A.D.) Club, Urschel has employed five undergraduates to work in her laboratory over the past year.

“Getting laboratory experience as an undergraduate is essential for any student who wants a career in a scientific field,” Urschel said. “It is important to take the scientific principles presented in the classroom and apply those ideas to the laboratory in order to enforce what students learn.”



Two undergraduate students worked in the Urschel laboratory during the summer. Kerri Webster and Katherine Cybulak both came to work in research, each bringing their own diverse background.

Webster came to the University of Kentucky from Maine, where she worked as a certified dressage instructor and competed in Prix St. Georges-level dressage. After starting her classes at UK, Webster sought out opportunities to work in research. She heard about Urschel’s research from a previous intern.

“I started out volunteering in the lab, but after a while Dr. Urschel hired me on as a part-time undergraduate research assistant,” Webster said.

Webster, who began working in the Urschel laboratory in November 2012, said she has learned a lot during her time in the laboratory.

*Katherine Cybulak (left) and Kerri Webster work on western blotting techniques as part of their undergraduate research internships*

“I hope the research experience I have gained will help me to get accepted into a graduate research program,” she said. “I would eventually love to teach and work as a riding instructor at an equine-based college.”

In addition to working in the Urschel laboratory, Webster has furthered her equine research experience by working on a research project in equine reproduction with

Karen McDowell, an associate professor and researcher within the Gluck Equine Research Center. When Webster isn’t doing research or attending class, she also teaches riding lessons in dressage.

Cybulak came to UK from Cazenovia College in New York with a desire to learn more about research.

“As part of our curriculum, we have to do an internship,” Cybulak said. “I knew I was interested in the science portion of the equine industry and I thought I could learn the most from this particular internship.”

During her time in the laboratory, Cybulak said she has mastered western blotting techniques and learned to analyze plasma samples for amino acid concentrations. The internship has also made her realize that research is the field she wants to go into after graduation from Cazenovia.

“I’m definitely interested in equine nutrition,” Cybulak said. “Now I just need to decide if I am going to pursue this interest by going to graduate school or veterinary school. Either way, I have found out that research is very a big interest of mine.”

Beginning in August, both Webster and Cybulak will be part of a research trial to determine the validity of a new sampling technique for use in horses. Both students will gain hands-on equine research experience, as well as further their laboratory skills as part of the project.

If you are interested in learning more about equine research, please contact R.E.A.D. president Virginia Stillwell ([virginia.stilwell5@uky.edu](mailto:virginia.stilwell5@uky.edu)) or Urschel ([klur222@uky.edu](mailto:klur222@uky.edu)).

# UK Ag Equine Programs well-represented at annual Equine Science Society Symposium

By Jenny Evans, *Gluck Equine Research Foundation Coordinator*

Eighteen members of the University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs attended the annual Equine Science Society Symposium May 28-31 in Mescalero, N.M.

Oral presentations by faculty members included:

- Amanda Adams, an assistant research professor at the Gluck Center, Identifying the role of a “caloric restriction mimetic,” resveratrol, in Equine Metabolic Syndrome and its implications for targeted therapy
- Bob Coleman, associate director for undergraduate education in equine science and management and extension horse specialist, A state-level study of Kentucky’s equine industry: the 2012 Kentucky Equine Survey
- Mary Rossano, associate professor in UK’s Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Comparison of demographic characteristics, animal science subject knowledge, academic performance and critical thinking skills in students majoring in animal science and equine science
- Ed Squires, executive director of the UK Gluck Equine Research Foundation, Effect of season and reproductive status on the incidence of equine dystocia
- Jill Stowe, director of UK Ag Equine Programs and associate professor in agricultural economics at UK, The non-market valuation survey: an innovative addition to the Kentucky Equine Survey



Rossano, Squires and Stowe also were panel presenters.

Eleven graduate students from the UK College of Agriculture gave oral presentations.

Presenting from the Department of Animal and Food Sciences were:

- Steffanie Burk, doctoral candidate, Passive transfer of antibodies that recognize larval *Parascaris equorum* excretory-secretory antigens
- Ashley Fowler, master’s candidate, The availability of dietary phosphorus to long yearlings and mature horses
- Taylor Hansen, master’s candidate, Feed composition and animal factors affecting forage digestibility by horses, and Effect of early exposure to maternal docosahexaenoic acid on memory and cognition in weaned foals
- Brittany Harlow, doctoral candidate, Effects of hops (*Humulus lupulus* L.)  $\beta$ -acid extract on inulin fermentation by equine fecal microflora in vitro
- Laurel Mastro, master’s candidate, Pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction does not affect various measures of insulin sensitivity in old horses
- Laura Strasinger, master’s candidate, Foal behavior during the early neonatal period, and The relationship of coprophagy to fecal microbial species richness in neonatal foals
- Sara Tanner, doctoral candidate, Threonine supplementation does not increase protein synthesis in weanlings receiving a grass forage and commercial concentrate
- Catherine Whitehouse, master’s candidate, Responses in fecal pH from low to high starch intakes in healthy horses

Presenting from the Gluck Equine Research Center:

- Julianne Kalmar, master’s candidate, Factors impacting freezability of stallion sperm
- Melissa Siard, doctoral candidate, Effects of polyphenolic bioactive compounds (pterostilbene, resveratrol, curcuminoids, quercetin, and hydroxypterostilbene) on pro-inflammatory cytokine production in vitro

Poster presentations by graduate students included:

- Mieke Brummer, recent doctoral graduate, Interrelationships among selenium status, antioxidant capacity and oxidative stress in the horse
- Ashley Fowler, An in vitro method for determining phosphorus availability in horse feeds
- Brittany Harlow, Microbial species richness of equine fecal microflora in horses challenged with antibiotics

*Continued on next page*

Several students also received graduate student competition awards, which were sponsored by the North American Equine Ranching Information Council. In the production and management competition, Hansen took top honors while Strasinger placed second and Mastro placed third. In the nutrition competition, Siard placed third.

Also at the meeting, Harlow was elected by the graduate students to the Board of Directors as the graduate student representative. Coleman was appointed executive secretary of the Equine Science Society.

The symposium included 209 researchers, extension personnel and industry representatives from the United States and nine other countries. There were six invited speakers, 107 oral presentations and 44 poster presentations. Proceedings from the meeting were published in the May issue of the Journal of Equine Veterinary Science.

Held every two years, the next symposium will be in 2015 in Florida and hosted by the University of Florida.

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## UK professor relishes watching her students succeed

By Amy Jones-Timoney, Kody Kiser

Source: UK Now

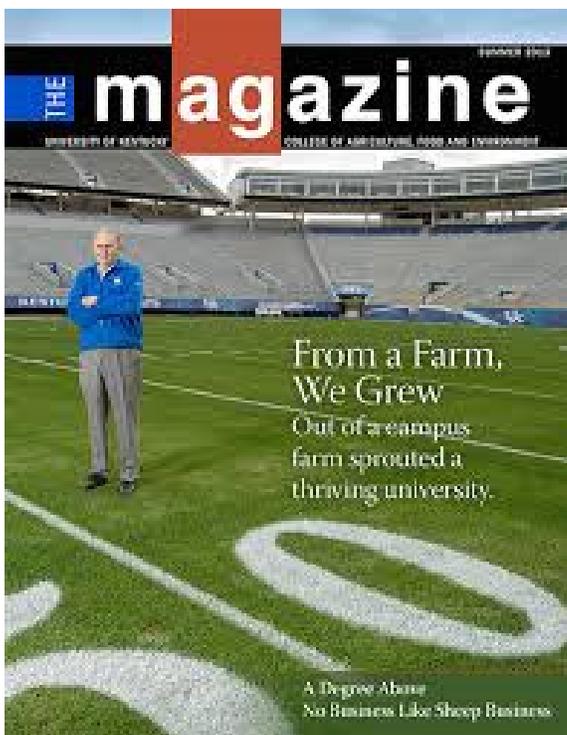
University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Professor Roberta Dwyer spends a lot of time in the classroom preparing students for careers in veterinary science.

Click on the link below to watch the video and discover why Dwyer thinks the time she spends outside the classroom advising her students is just as important.

<http://uknow.uky.edu/content/uk-professor-relishes-watching-her-students-succeed>

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## Read the Summer 2013 issue of The Ag Magazine online now!



The Ag Magazine is a quarterly publication highlighting the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

To view current and past issues, please visit  
<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/magazine/2013/Spring2013/index.html>



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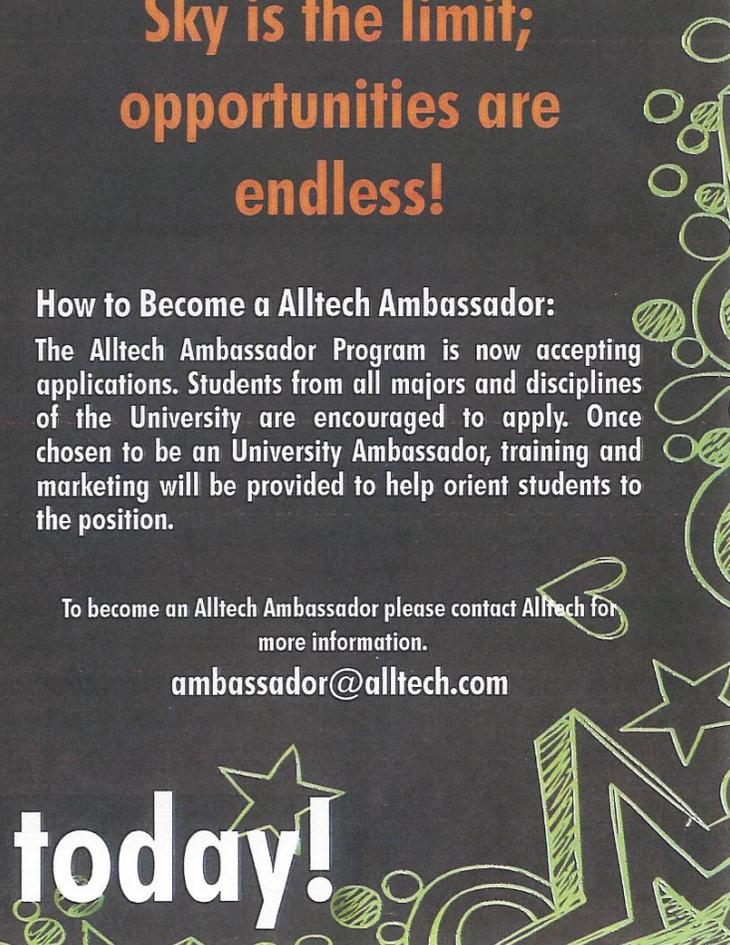
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# Sri Lanka's Ambassador Visits UK

By Carl Nathe, UK Public Relations

On Friday, July 12, the University of Kentucky hosted a visit by the Sri Lankan ambassador to the United States, Jaliya Wickramasuriya, and his wife, Mrs. Priyanga Wickramasuriya, for the purpose of exploring the development of academic affiliations between UK and one or more universities in Sri Lanka, an island country of just over 20 million people located in the northern Indian Ocean, near India.



Left to right: Udeni B.R. Balasuriya, professor in the Gluck Equine Research Center; Eli Capilouto, UK President; Chris Riordan, UK Provost; Jaliya Wickramasuriya, Sri Lankan Ambassador to the United States; Mats Troedsson, Gluck Equine Research Center Chair; Nancy Cox, Associate Dean for Research in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment; Ben Chandler, former United States Congressman; Mrs. Priyanga Wickramasuriya; Marcus E. Randall, professor in the College of Medicine; Fred DeBeer, Dean of the College of Medicine; Susan Carvalho, Vice Provost for International Programs; and Robert Means Jr., Executive Dean in the College of Medicine

Ambassador Wickramasuriya and UK officials discussed proposals for joint cancer research projects between UK and the University of Peradeniya and the National Cancer Institute of Sri Lanka and, potentially, opportunities for mutually beneficial education and training programs in the two countries. The partnership may later be extended to include infectious diseases and equine management, or other disciplines related to agriculture and equine science.

The proposed affiliation between institutions in the two countries was initiated at the request of Dr. Frederick de Beer, dean of the UK College of Medicine, with the goal of expanding UK's international outreach program to developing countries in Asia. He requested that Dr. Marcus E. Randall, professor and Markey Foundation Endowed Chair in Radiation Medicine in the UK College of Medicine, and Udeni B.R. Balasuriya, professor of virology at the Gluck Equine Research Center in UK's Department of Veterinary Science in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, establish a link with academic and research institutions in Sri Lanka. Both are scheduled to visit Sri Lanka in August, when they will meet with collaborators and discuss research projects involving UK.

One of the initial projects is a study of the incidence of oral and cervical cancers linked to human papilloma virus (HPV) infection in Sri Lanka. The main goal of this project is to build the capacity to address the high cervical cancer burden in Sri Lanka through both research and education. Scientists from both countries will analyze clinical, epidemiological and virological data to establish correlations between HPV and oral/cervical

cancers. Findings from this study will help to implement improved diagnostic, prophylactic (vaccination) and treatment plans to help patients in both countries. Furthermore, residents and medical students from both countries will participate in this research project through an exchange program.

The study will be undertaken in collaboration with W.M. Tilakaratne, professor of oral pathology, Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya, and Dr. Kanishka Karunaratne, director and consultant gynecological oncological surgeon at the National Cancer Institute in Maharagama, Sri Lanka. Markey Cancer Center Director Dr. Mark Evers, Cancer Control Program Associate Director Thomas Tucker, James Graham Brown Endowed Chair and professor of toxicology Daret St. Clair, and Associate Director for Translational Research and Alfred Cohen Chair in Oncology Research Vivek Rangnekar will be UK's key collaborators on this project. The long-term goal is to establish state-of-the-art research and educational programs, which will hopefully attract extramural funding from government and non-government agencies. Ambassador Wickramasuriya's visit to Lexington is designed to formalize these relationships.

UK leadership, including President Eli Capilouto, de Beer, and Dean Scott Smith, of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, have expressed their strong support for this endeavor.

"UK's international partnerships with leading institutions around the world offer opportunities for our faculty, staff and students to engage in creative discovery with other scholars," Capilouto said. "Potential collaborations between UK and the National Cancer Institute of Sri Lanka can yield breakthroughs in science that impact the quality of treatment at home and abroad."

Wickramasuriya expressed his enthusiasm for this cooperative undertaking.

"I commend the University of Kentucky for its thoughtful and timely efforts to initiate academic partnerships with universities in Sri Lanka," he said. "Joint cancer research and other collaborative opportunities will not only build educational and training capabilities, but these projects also have tremendous potential to benefit the lives of many people."

Capilouto hosted a luncheon for Ambassador and Mrs. Wickramasuriya at Maxwell Place on Friday. The ambassador then met with representatives from the Markey Cancer Center and other campus officials before taking a tour of Keeneland Race Course and Ashford Stud.

## Education Abroad Opportunities for Students

By Ann Leed, Geri Philpott and Kristen Wilson, academic coordinators within UK's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Taking part in an education abroad opportunity during your undergraduate career can be a very satisfying and rewarding experience. Below are some informational materials to assist students in learning more about these international experiences.

Common questions students ask when thinking about going abroad:

- **When should I go?** - If you are interested in participating in a general study abroad program, going early in your academic career might be better, allowing you to satisfy UK Core requirements. If you are interested in a “major” specific program, then later in your academic career might be more beneficial. Studying abroad during the last semester of college is not recommended due to how long it takes for UK to receive transcripts from international schools.
- **How do I search for education abroad programs?** – Using the search feature on the education abroad website <http://www.uky.edu/international/educationabroad/>, students can search based on location, area of study, language, etc. If using the area of study search tool, you are encouraged to think outside your major type classes and look at other courses you still need. For example, an Animal Science student is required to take several biology classes, so instead of just searching for animal science programs, you could search for biology programs to expand the field.
- **What is the first step in going abroad?** – Attend one of education abroad first step information sessions, held Monday and Tuesday at 4 p.m. or Wednesday and Thursday at 3 p.m. on the third floor of Bradley Hall.

Program types offered through Education Abroad:

- **UK Sponsored** – This is a UK faculty directed and lead program. Students will take a UK class while abroad and earn a UK grade. Generally these types of programs are offered during the summer, winter intersession and spring break. This type of program is great for students who are somewhat uneasy about traveling abroad, as they will be with a group of UK students and have a faculty leader throughout the experience.
- **UK Sponsored Embedded** – Similar to a UK sponsored program, but students will be part of a class that meets on campus prior to and/or after they go abroad as a group. For example, Ag Economics had a class that met during the spring semester and over spring break went abroad as part of the class.
- **UK Consortia (CCSA, KIIS)** – Multiple schools combine to put on a study abroad program. This allows students to be with a group of similar college students throughout the experience. A faculty member leads the group.
- **UK Direct and Exchange** – A very independent and immersive study abroad option. In many cases the student will be the only UK student on the campus and will take classes in the host country language. This program works best for in-state students in terms of the financial costs. The major difference between direct and exchange programs is in a direct program students will be billed by the university they are taking classes at, and in an exchange program the student will be billed through UK.
- **UK Partners** – An independent and immersive study abroad option offered by companies whose business is study abroad programs. Wide offering of programs available. Many times there are additional excursions available to students. Works best monetarily for out-of-state students.

The UK Education Abroad Office information:

- The EA office has a large resource center with brochures of every program. Students, staff and faculty can visit and browse anytime during business hours. The office is located on the third floor of Bradley Hall (545 Rose Street).
- Students can schedule an appointment with an EA advisor at:  
**[http://www.uky.edu/international/contact\\_an\\_advisor](http://www.uky.edu/international/contact_an_advisor)**
- Additional information can be found at **<http://www.uky.edu/international/students>**

## UK- In the heart of horse country

By Courtney Zimmerman

First published in *Sidelines Magazine* in June 2013

I realized as soon as I stepped on the University of Kentucky's campus that it was where I belonged. Located in the heart of Lexington, Kentucky, the Horse Capital of the World, I knew that my time there was going to be life changing. I originally began my academic career as an Animal Science major, in the hopes of becoming an Equine Veterinarian for a racetrack. Two chemistry classes later (and the realization I have a weak stomach), I decided that this was not my path and changed my major to Equine Science and Management, a brand new degree program at UK.



I felt a little intimidated when I joined the program because I didn't have as much horse experience as everyone else. I had taken lessons and gone to horse camp like most young horse-crazed girls, but then other activities and the expense of horse-back riding became too overwhelming, so it fizzled. Fortunately, the great thing about the equine program at UK is that it's accommodating to every level of horsemanship. In addition to the equine degree program, there are also many opportunities for participation in equestrian clubs. I chose to join the University of Kentucky Hunt Seat Equestrian Team - a team affiliated with IHSA- my sophomore year and learned a great deal about horses and equestrian sport.

There were many other options that the university offered, including the Polo Team, Dressage & Eventing Team, Western Equestrian Team (also affiliated with IHSA), Saddle Seat Team, Horse Racing Club and Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines (READ) Club. With so many options, it was difficult to choose just one!

Living in the Bluegrass State and in the heart of horse country was a dream come true. Before I attended UK, I had no idea that it was possible to be completely surrounded by so many horse enthusiasts and have equine activities right at my fingertips. The University of Kentucky campus is minutes from Keeneland racetrack, world-famous horse farms, and most importantly, the Kentucky Horse Park. The Kentucky Horse Park is home to world-class equine events, such as the Rolex Three-Day Event and it has also hosted the IHSA National Championships. As a member of the UK Equestrian Team, I was able to volunteer at Rolex each spring and witness premiere athletes up close - I even got to work the out gate during stadium jumping!

In addition to that, in 2010 Lexington hosted the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (which actually was another reason why I chose to attend UK). This was a huge ordeal - thousands of people came to Lexington and the Kentucky Horse Park and there was even a countdown to the Opening Ceremonies in the middle of downtown.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work the Opening Ceremonies and see (and chat with!) each rider as they made their way to the ring. I also volunteered as a barn steward in the Equine Village, which hosted various equestrian demonstrations such as equine extremist Tommy Turvey, the United States Hunter Jumper Association, Double Dan Horsemanship, the Paso Fino Horse Association and many others! Not only was it an incredible experience, but it provided me opportunities that I most likely would not have enjoyed had I not attended the University of Kentucky. On top of all of that, these experiences look great on a résumé!

I had the time of my life at the University of Kentucky and consider Lexington and the Bluegrass my second home. I highly recommend UK's equine programs to anyone who is looking for a valuable equine education, no matter his/her skill level or experience. For more information about the University of Kentucky and its Equine Programs, check out <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/afs/equine>.

*Photos courtesy of Courtney Zimmerman. About the writer: Courtney Zimmerman is from Cincinnati, Ohio and graduated from the University of Kentucky with a B.S. in Equine Science and Management. She is currently working on her M.A. in Communication at Northern Kentucky University. She works at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden as a zookeeper in the Children's Zoo.*

## Kentucky Horse Park now gives guests the next day free

General Admission Ticket Now Includes Two Days of Horses, Museums and Equine Competitions

*Source: edited news release*

In ongoing celebration of its 35th anniversary, the Kentucky Horse Park will now give guests free admission to the next calendar day when they purchase a general admission ticket. Essentially a two-day ticket, guests will have more time to explore the park and be entertained with the daily activities and presentations, museums and many equine competitions and special events throughout the year.

“As the park has grown over the last 35 years, we have come to realize that, with all of our activities plus the numerous horse shows we host on our grounds, we are more than a day-trip to many people,” said John Nicholson, executive director of the Kentucky Horse Park. “We want to be financially welcoming to our guests as well as customer friendly, allowing them to leave and return refreshed to enjoy more of the park. We also expect this new ticket to help area accommodations secure additional room nights from guests who will now spend the night instead of leave our region.”

The Kentucky Horse Park is THE place to get close to horses and there are horses of all types and sizes showing in the twice-daily Horses of the World Show. Odd Job Bob, a flashy Gypsy Vanner horse imported from Ireland, and movie-star horse from the movie *The Greening of Whitney Brown*, can often be seen in the show along with many rare and unique breeds of horse such as the Marwari, the Stonewall Sport Horse and the Akhal-Teke, as well as many favorite, better-known breeds of horse.

Daily equine presentations at the park include the Hall of Champions Presentation, where visitors can meet racing legend Cigar, and Kentucky Derby winners Go for Gin and Funny Cide, among other champions from the worlds of Thoroughbred, Standardbred and Quarter Horse racing.

One of the park’s newest and most popular attractions, the Kids Barn, which features interactive exhibits that are both entertaining and educational for the 12-and-under set, is a hot spot with the young-at-heart set as well. Park staff host daily hands-on activities with resident horses in the barn each day, including White Prince, the rare, white Thoroughbred.

General admission includes three different equine museums. The International Museum of the Horse, a Smithsonian Affiliate, explores man’s relationship with the horse throughout history. The American Saddlebred Museum & Gift Shop, the “Showplace for Saddlebreds,” is the home of Kentucky’s first native breed of horse and is exhibiting “The Art of Selling with Saddlebreds: The Show Horse in Vintage Advertising” through January. The Wheeler Museum in the United States Hunter Jumper Association headquarters, exhibits memorabilia from the hunter jumper sport and the Show Jumping Hall of Fame.

In addition, the Kentucky Horse Park hosts equine competitions and breed shows, special breeds weekends and community events throughout the many competition and show facilities located on park grounds, most of which are included with park admission. Events are scheduled nearly every weekend at the park throughout the year, and a full listing of these events and their dates is available at [www.KyHorsePark.com](http://www.KyHorsePark.com).

General admission (includes the next day FREE) is \$16 for adults and \$8 for children 7-12. Children 6 and under are always admitted free of charge when accompanied by a paying adult. Admission includes the International Museum of the Horse, a Smithsonian Affiliate, and the American Saddlebred Museum & Gift Shop. Additional activities such as horseback riding, pony rides and tours to area horse farms are available through the park and are offered at an additional fee.



## AG EQUINE PROGRAMS Equine Store

Want some new UK Equine gear? Find jackets, scarves, bags, and more!

Employees Logging In for the First Time

Click Here

To Enter as a Guest

Login Here



In response to requests for merchandise featuring UK equine logos, UK Ag Equine Programs has launched an online store. Find UK Ag Equine or Gluck Equine Research Center logoed items from t-shirts to coats to tailgating gear all in one spot. Visit [www.ukagequinstore.com](http://www.ukagequinstore.com) and login as a guest.

Visit [www.ukagequinstore.com](http://www.ukagequinstore.com)

## Upcoming Events

### Aug 1

Final deadline for submission of all required documents to the Office of Admissions for undergraduate admission, for the 2013 Fall Semester, excluding freshmen who will be considered on a space-available basis

### August 22

Department of Veterinary Science Equine Diagnostic Research Seminar Series, 4 p.m., Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Respiratory Endoscopy, Gary Priest, DVM, Harthill and Priest Equine Surgery

### August 26-27

Opening-of-term add/drop for registered students

### August 27

Last day a student may officially drop a course or cancel registration with the University Registrar for a full refund of fees

### August 28

First day of classes





## **SAVE THE DATE!**

First Lady Jane Beshear's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual

## **HORSES *and* HOPE Trail Ride**

Saturday, September 14, 2013  
Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington

[www.horsesandhope.org](http://www.horsesandhope.org)

## Equine Club Directory

### Dressage & Eventing Team

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe, [jill.stowe@uky.edu](mailto:jill.stowe@uky.edu)  
President: Aileen O'Brien, [aileen.obrien216@gmail.com](mailto:aileen.obrien216@gmail.com)

### Equestrian Team

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman, [rcoleman@uky.edu](mailto:rcoleman@uky.edu)  
Hunt Seat President: Hayley Dowty,  
[uk.equestrianteam@gmail.com](mailto:uk.equestrianteam@gmail.com)  
Western President: Allie Board,  
[allison.board@uky.edu](mailto:allison.board@uky.edu)

### Horse Racing Club

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence,  
[laurie.lawrence@uky.edu](mailto:laurie.lawrence@uky.edu)  
President: Audrey Boslego, [audrey.boslego@uky.edu](mailto:audrey.boslego@uky.edu)

### Polo Club

Advisor: Dr. Roger Brown, [rogerbrown@uky.edu](mailto:rogerbrown@uky.edu)  
President: Posey Obrecht, [poseyobrecht@aol.com](mailto:poseyobrecht@aol.com)

### Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines (READ) Club

Advisor: Dr. Kristine Urschel, [klur222@uky.edu](mailto:klur222@uky.edu)  
President: Virginia Stilwell, [virginia.stilwell5@uky.edu](mailto:virginia.stilwell5@uky.edu)

### Saddle Seat Team

Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano, [mary.rossano@uky.edu](mailto:mary.rossano@uky.edu)  
President: Nicole Laroussa, [nlaroussa@gmail.com](mailto:nlaroussa@gmail.com)

## Contact Us

UK Ag Equine Programs  
N212 Ag Sciences Building North,  
Lexington, KY 40546-0091

Office: (859) 257-2226; Fax: (859) 323-8484  
[equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu); [www.ca.uky.edu/equine](http://www.ca.uky.edu/equine)

Director of the UK Ag Equine Programs & Dickson  
Professor of Equine Science and Management:  
Dr. Jill Stowe

Associate Director for Undergraduate Education in  
Equine Science & Management: Dr. Bob  
Coleman

UK Ag Equine Programs Communications  
Director: Holly Wiemers

Equine Lecturer and Internship Coordinator:  
Elizabeth LaBonty

Equine Academic Program Coordinator:  
Kristen Wilson

UK Ag Equine Programs Operations and  
Communications Coordinator: Alexandra Harper

UK Ag Equine Programs Communication Intern:  
Erin Morgan

