

# Wildcat Canter



Summer 2009

UK Equine Initiative  
Student Newsletter

I trust that this edition of the Wildcat Canter finds you having a great summer, but thinking about returning to UK and the College of Agriculture for another great year. And a great year it will be!

As you know, the Equine Science and Management degree program was formally approved this past spring semester. Of course, we had begun admitting students into the program in the fall 2007 semester, well before its formal approval. The interest in, and demand for, this program resulted in an enrollment in the program of over 120 students at the time it was approved! And, we graduated our first student from the program in May. We will be welcoming our third class of students into the program this fall, and we are certainly excited about the talent and enthusiasm that will arrive on our campus with these new students! The program is doing quite well right out of the starting gate!

Hand in hand with the success of the program has been the visibility of our student organizations associated with Equine Science and Management. The Equestrian Team has been quite successful, earning National Champion honors in 2008 and National Reserve Champion honors this past spring. This is truly an outstanding accomplishment and indicative of the quality of the students involved and the coaching. The Horse Judging team was also very successful this year, with several members of the team doing taking honors at the 1st Annual Horse Judging Contest at the Equine Affaire in Columbus, Ohio. Beyond the Equestrian and Horse Judging teams, there are also opportunities to participate with the Dressage Team, the Polo Team, the Saddle Seat Team, or participating in the Horse Racing Club. I encourage you to become involved in one of these organizations, or one of the many other clubs in the College, when you return this fall. Being involved in these co-curricular activities can play a positive role in your success as a student and when entering the job market after graduation.

Beyond the College, excitement is building steadily for the World Equestrian Games to be held in the Lexington area September 25 through October 10, 2010. Our Equine Initiative, including the Equine Science and Management degree program, is the official Equine Program of the Games, and the University of Kentucky is an official sponsor. Therefore, there will be many opportunities for interested Equine Science and Management students to volunteer to be involved in preparation for and execution of the games. I encourage you to look for those opportunities to be a part of the games when you return to campus this fall!

For more information about any of the clubs and activities mentioned above, or to find links to other equine information, including the World Equestrian Games, be sure to check out the Student Hub on the College Equine Initiative website (<http://www.ag.uky.edu/equine>). On behalf of the entire College of Agriculture, I look forward to seeing all of you on campus again soon, and to all the great things that will be happening in the 2009-2010 academic year!

Yours in Equine Education,

Dr. Mike Mullen  
Associate Dean for Academic Programs

## In this Issue:

- 2009 Equine Field Day
- UK students study abroad in England to learn about the horse industry
- UK's MacLeod awarded two grants totaling \$1.1 million for equine health research
- Become a fan of the Equine Initiative on Facebook
- Equine students win national equine publications award



# Equine Initiative News

## Note from Dean Scott Smith

Associate Dean for Academic Programs, Mike Mullen, has accepted the position of Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education. This is the university's highest office dedicated to undergraduate education and instruction. Mike will have wide-ranging responsibilities for numerous undergraduate centers and initiatives. Both the university and the college will benefit from his leadership in this role. At the same time, his transfer will create a substantial leadership challenge for the college. Dr. Mullen has served as Associate Dean since 2004 and many advances have been made during his term.

Transition plans are not completed at this time, but we hope that Mike will remain at the helm of Academic Programs in the college through the arrival and settling in of a new class in August and September. It will probably be necessary for me to appoint an Interim Associate Dean some time before Oct. 1, and then begin the process of filling the vacancy later in the fall.

While we will certainly regret the loss of Mike from his current leadership role in the College of Agriculture, I know you will all join me in congratulating him and wishing him the best with this new opportunity.

## UK's MacLeod awarded two grants totaling \$1.1 million for equine health research

LEXINGTON, Ky. (Aug. 12, 2009) - James MacLeod, John S. and Elizabeth A. Knight chair and professor of veterinary science at the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center and director of UK's Equine Initiative, was recently awarded two grants totaling more than \$1.1 million over three years. Three other equine researchers in UK's College of Agriculture were also collectively awarded more than \$500,000.

To read more, visit [www.ca.uky.edu/news/?c=n&d=418](http://www.ca.uky.edu/news/?c=n&d=418).

## University of Kentucky Students Win National Award

Jennifer Whittle and Laura Pepper, were runners-up in an American Horse Publication Student Travel Award contest. For more information on this award please visit [www.kentuckyhorse.org/en/art/152/](http://www.kentuckyhorse.org/en/art/152/).

## Equine Initiative and Gluck Center debut Bluegrass Equine Digest

The Bluegrass Equine Digest is a new monthly electronic newsletter dedicated to providing free up-to-date information on equine research from the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture. Bluegrass Equine Digest brings together several entities, as content is brought to you by the UK Equine Initiative and Gluck Equine Research Center and the e-newsletter is brought to you by TheHorse.com and sponsor Pfizer Animal Health. To read the June issue, please visit [www.thehorse.com/enews/06282009.html](http://www.thehorse.com/enews/06282009.html) or download a PDF version at [www.thehorse.com/enews/equine-digest/BED-June09.pdf](http://www.thehorse.com/enews/equine-digest/BED-June09.pdf). To read July's issue, please visit [www.thehorse.com/enews/07262009.html](http://www.thehorse.com/enews/07262009.html) or download a PDF version at [www.thehorse.com/enews/equine-digest/BED-July09.pdf](http://www.thehorse.com/enews/equine-digest/BED-July09.pdf).

According to TheHorse.com, as of July 28, there were close to 5,000 subscribers. Help that number grow by signing up to receive the newsletter via email. Go to [www.thehorse.com](http://www.thehorse.com), visit e-newsletters in the left menu, then click on Bluegrass Equine Digest in the top right newsletter menu choices.

To submit a research story for an upcoming issue of the Bluegrass Equine Digest, or if you have feedback or suggestions about future content, please email Holly Wiemers ([holly.wiemers@uky.edu](mailto:holly.wiemers@uky.edu)) or Jenny Blandford ([jbl223@uky.edu](mailto:jbl223@uky.edu)).

UK Ag  
Equine

# Equine Initiative News Continued

University of Kentucky Equestrian Team featured on UK's front page  
Please visit [www.uky.edu/webuk/spots/spot-227.html](http://www.uky.edu/webuk/spots/spot-227.html) to see the write-up.

## Become a fan of the Equine Initiative on Facebook!

Now you can get up-to-date information on the Equine Initiative if you become a fan on Facebook. We will post upcoming events, important dates, newsletters and other information about the Initiative through the new Facebook page. So please become a fan today!

## UK Equine Initiative equine field day held June 27

UK held its first all-equine field day on June 27. Close to 125 people attended the daylong event at Maine Chance Equine Campus. Participants hailed from 29 counties in Kentucky and seven states outside of Kentucky.

To see photos from the event, as well as informational handouts given by each of the speakers, please visit [www.ag.uky.edu/equine/?p=198](http://www.ag.uky.edu/equine/?p=198).



# Student Spotlight: UK students travel abroad to England

## UK students go abroad to explore horse industry in England

Kentucky is considered the horse capital of the world. But horses were around long before Kentucky became a commonwealth and even before the United States had a revolution against the British government. Much of our historical background comes from the impact that England has had on the development of our country and even the impact it had on Kentucky's signature industry.

In conjunction with students from the University of Louisville, UK professor Jill Stowe travelled with six UK students to gain a better understanding of the horse industry, more specifically the Thoroughbred racing industry world-wide. Stowe and two students, Audrey Hamburger and Natalie Voss, gave great insight about their experiences and wanted to provide tips to students that may be interested in traveling abroad or studying the horse industry more in-depth in the future.

### Student Perspective

#### What was the most important thing you learned?

**Audrey-** I should have paid more attention in my history classes. It was amazing to see all the history books come to life!!

**Natalie-** The English Thoroughbred industry is very different from ours in terms of structure and the issues they face. They have either avoided or solved a lot of the problems we are dealing with now in the American industry and I think we can learn a lot through their solutions.

#### What was the most fun thing you all did while on the trip?

**Natalie** -On our free day in Stratford Upon Avon, some of us went horseback riding across the heath in the Cannock Chase Park. It was so neat to be able to have a more 'hands-on' experience within England's horse industry.

#### Would you recommend other students to participate in this trip if it was to occur again?

**Audrey-** Definitely yes! It was my first time out of the country, and I had the time of my life. The entire trip was geared towards horses and I LOVED it! It was really a bit of icing on my equine degree from UK.

#### If yes, what advice would you give a student taking this trip or traveling abroad in general?

**Natalie-**Be versatile and patient. Anticipate a long plane ride and having to switch subways and buses in London to get across the city. Above all, be respectful of your hosts and ask lots of questions!

**Audrey-** Know your itinerary. Study it before you go and investigate the places you will be visiting. Another piece of advice would be to get a good buddy to go. This way you have someone dependable who you can venture off with. You will also have someone who is willing to compromise with you so that you both get to see what you want to.

#### Did you learn anything new and exciting about the horse industry?

**Audrey-** I found the British racing industry to be fascinating. The jump racing was really neat and something seldom heard of here in the U.S. Another thing I found interesting is that a lot of the funding for training horse professionals comes from the government.

**Natalie** - Probably the most exciting thing for me was to learn that horse racing can be and is viewed as a real sport rather than a pastime or gambling entity.



## Professor's perspective- Dr. Jill Stowe

While in England, we were exposed to a wide range of activities related to the equine industry. In larger towns, we visited organizations in charge of the regulation of equine activities and learned about the political process of getting government to support various aspects of the horse industry. This included a tour of the House of Parliament and meeting with Member of Parliament who is the chair of the Racing and Bloodstock Committee. In smaller towns, we learned about the management and operation of many different equine disciplines, including racing (flat and jump), numerous Olympic disciplines, polo and even fox-chasing (the accepted alternative to foxhunting). Finally, we witnessed something especially unique in the ongoing preservation of the traditional and ceremonial importance of the horse in Great Britain.



This collaborative effort between U of L's and UK's equine degree programs had many benefits. First, as one would expect, we were exposed to unfamiliar activities and practices in the equine industry, and I strongly believe that there is value in diversity. Second, this program allowed all of our students, the future leaders in the horse industry, a head start in collaborating with each other. Third, at the most general level, traveling and studying abroad provides the invaluable opportunity to broaden one's horizons. More specifically, learning about England's equine industry gave us a more relevant understanding of how the United States' horse industry fits into the global picture, along with issues affecting the equine industry worldwide. Such an experience is clearly invaluable for the future leaders of our industry.

Overall, with the feedback from both the students and professors' perspectives, I found that according to them, the trip was well worth-while. It provided a once-in-a-lifetime experience and was one that provided a great mixture of entertainment as well as educational information by detailing the internal workings of the British racing industry. Be sure to stay posted for other student study abroad opportunities through the College of Agriculture throughout the year.

### Itinerary for British Study Visit June 2009

Monday June 8th - Arrived Suffolk, England

Tuesday June 9th - Newmarket

The British Racing School  
Tattersalls Sales Centre – meet Paul Reis, Bloodstock Manager  
Tour of National Stud\*  
Dalham Hall, Darley Stud (HH Sheikh Mohammed's U.K. stud operation)  
Evening Stables with leading racehorse trainer (John Gosden – trainer of Raven's Pass – Clairehaven Yard)

Wednesday June 10th – Berkshire

Newmarket Gallops – meet John Taylor  
National Horseracing Museum  
Windsor Castle visit\*  
High Goal polo at Guards Polo Club, Berkshire\*

Thursday June 11th – London

Visited with the British Horseracing Authority and Nic Coward (Chief Executive), The House of Commons – meet with member of all party racing committee, Chamber of Commons – view debate in the chamber\*London Eye - birds eye view of the nation's capital,

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### Itinerary continued

Friday June 12th – London

Royal Horse Artillery  
Inner-city riding school – 'Hoof' initiative  
Greenwich Park – site for the Olympic equestrian sports, London 2012

Saturday June 13th – London/Stratford-Upon-Avon

Trooping of the Colour – in honour of HM Queen's official birthday  
RSC Performance of 'As You Like It' at The Courtyard Theatre\*

Sunday June 14th – Stratford-Upon-Avon

Free day with optional visits & activities that could include:  
Sightseeing Stratford-Upon-Avon (incl. Anne Hathaway's Cottage)  
Jump racing at Stratford racecourse  
Horse riding at local riding centre

Monday June 15th – Warwickshire/Gloucestershire

The British Equestrian Federation –

Tuesday June 16th – Ascot, Berkshire

Opening day of Royal Ascot – day at the races\*

# UK Equine Initiative Internship Section

Matching the jobs of today with the graduates of tomorrow

**Excellent volunteer opportunity at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital.** Experience numerous aspects of equine medicine. No cleaning stalls. Contact: [elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) if interested.

Several positions are currently available at the **Kentucky Horse Park** in their administration, barn, and instruction departments. Contact: [elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) if interested.

**The Groom Elite Program** is looking for a part-time office assistant. This is an excellent opportunity. Please send your resume to [elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) if interested.

**Two equine communications paid internships** available for this fall. Please email [elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) if interested.

**Special Note: Equine Science and Management students who plan to go on an internship need to email Elizabeth LaBonty ([elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu)) as soon as possible to set up an appointment.**

## Industry News

### AQHA ride, Mammoth Cave Horse Camp

The Kentucky Quarter Horse Association presents an AQHA trail ride event at Mammoth Cave Horse Camp, Mammoth Cave, Ky., Sept. 24-27, 2009. Please visit [www.kyqha.com](http://www.kyqha.com) for more information.

## Equine Club Directory

### Dressage Team

Advisor: Drura Parrish  
[drura.parrish@uky.edu](mailto:drura.parrish@uky.edu)  
President: Emily Mysinger  
[ekmysi2@uky.edu](mailto:ekmysi2@uky.edu)

### Equestrian Team

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman  
[rcoleman@uky.edu](mailto:rcoleman@uky.edu)  
President: Lauren Patterson  
[llpaterson@uky.edu](mailto:llpaterson@uky.edu)

### Horse Judging Team

Advisor: Kristen Harvey  
[kjanicki@email.uky.edu](mailto:kjanicki@email.uky.edu)

### Horse Racing Club

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence  
[llawrenc@uky.edu](mailto:llawrenc@uky.edu)  
President: Katey Caddell  
[katey.caddell@uky.edu](mailto:katey.caddell@uky.edu)

### Polo Club

Advisor: Roger Brown  
[rogerbrown@uky.edu](mailto:rogerbrown@uky.edu)  
President: Tannis Marley  
[tannis.marley@uky.edu](mailto:tannis.marley@uky.edu)

### Saddle Seat Team

Advisor: Lee Edgerton  
[lee.edgerton@uky.edu](mailto:lee.edgerton@uky.edu)  
President: Katie Singleton  
[katie.singleton@uky.edu](mailto:katie.singleton@uky.edu)

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**KENTUCKY**

College of Agriculture  
Equine Initiative

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