

June/July 2011

UK Equine Initiative
Student Newsletter

Equine Initiative goals for the next three years

This new job I have as Director of the Equine Initiative may be the crown of my career.



Like many of you, I started working with horses at a young age, which imprinted me with the horse gene forever. Having broken, trained and shown horses, I decided to get a degree in animal science. You're lucky to have an equine science degree program. There were none back in the 1960s.

My career has been teaching, research and service. This allows me to have a good understanding of the various components of the Equine Initiative. I have selected about seven components to concentrate on for the EI in the next year. These include a review of the curriculum and identification of emerging areas of research while fostering the already established area of equine research that has made UK famous.

One of the most important goals is to document the successes that the EI program has already experienced. Sometimes we get so busy

we forget to stop and evaluate where we have been.

One of my goals is to make the equine program at UK one of the best in the world. We are uniquely positioned with a large horse population, horse show facilities, sales facilities, racing facilities and the home to many horse organizations, veterinary clinics and the Gluck Equine Research Center. Somehow we must work to get students involved in all of these areas. I would encourage students to make the extra effort to experience as many of the equine opportunities in this area and at UK as possible. In this day of tight job markets, it is going to take some differentials to be noticed by a prospective employer.

I would welcome your thoughts as well. Let us know what you think and what goals you envision as we move forward into the next three years of my term.

Dr. Ed Squires, Director of the Equine Initiative

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Equine Farm and Facilities Expo a Success

The University of Kentucky Equine Initiative held its third annual equine field day June 7 at Shawhan Place in Paris, Ky. About 200 people participated in the event designed for horse farm owners. Highlights included talks about facility design, weed control, strategic deworming and spraying, seeding and mowing pastures. Additionally, equine businesses and organizations were on hand to provide information to attendees. The event was hosted by Shawhan Place, a premier Thoroughbred farm offering foaling, breeding, sales prep and consignment, breaking, lay-ups and pre-training services.



Clockwise from left: Matt Koch, part owner of Shawhan Place, opened the 2011 UK Equine Initiative third annual equine field day; Gus Koch spoke about facility design to equine field day participants as horses from Shawhan Place looked on; Ray Smith, PhD, professor and forage extension specialist at UK, as well as chair of the committee that organized the event, demonstrated selecting equipment and horse pasture management; and Bill Witt, PhD, a researcher in UK's department of plant and soil sciences, demonstrated controlling weeds in horse pastures.

Equine Clubs and Teams News & Events

A note to all clubs and teams

If you've clicked around on the equine section of the UK College of Agriculture website recently, you might have noticed a few changes. Over the last few weeks, we have been revamping all of the club and team pages. Send us your information so we can keep the club and team pages up-to-date. Please send information or pictures to include throughout the year to equineinitiative@uky.edu!

Dressage and Eventing Team

Eventing Team members participated at the MayDaze Horse Trial (May 27-29) and MidSouth Pony Club Horse Trial (June 24-26).

Results from MayDaze:

Training Senior Rider
Chelsea Urhahn, 5th place

Beginner Novice Horse
Emily Mysinger, 4th place

Beginner Novice Senior Rider
Courtney Carroll, 10th place

Results from MidSouth:

Beginner Novice Senior Rider
Kelly Kramer, 8th place

A big congratulations to Alison Koelling and Courtney Carroll for obtaining their H-A Pony Club ratings June 26!

Be sure to stop by our booth at the Pony Club National Championships at the Kentucky Horse Park, July 18-26.

We plan to attend several events as a team in the fall. Please email Courtney Carroll at ccarroll@uky.edu or Allison Koelling at ajko223@uky.edu if you are interested in attending as a rider or groom.



Courtney Carroll competes on Glamour Girl in the stadium jumping phase of the Beginner Novice Senior Rider division

Equestrian Team

UK Equestrian Team's Hunt Seat team places fifth at nationals; rider wins individual championship

By Chelsea Urhahn

The UK Equestrian Team's hunt seat division placed fifth overall at the International Collegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Nationals on May 2-6 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Ky.

This year marked the team's fourth consecutive trip to the International Collegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) nationals, and were among 374 equestrian teams to compete from across the nation.

Individual rider Ali Cibon claimed a national championship title in open equitation over fences. Lauren Patterson, team president, placed fourth in intermediate equitation on the flat, also as an individual.

"The team worked hard over the year and the dedication of both riders and their coach showed in their placing this year at nationals," said team faculty advisor Dr. Bob Coleman. "The support of Robert Murphy Stables and the coaching of Michelle Zimmer is appreciated."

During the team portion of the competition, Claire Smedley placed fifth in walk-trot-canter equitation and Brianne Goodnow placed sixth in novice equitation over fences and eighth in novice equitation on the flat. Riders Jessica Brown and Hannah Eldridge both won honorable mention in their team classes.

Another highlight of the week was team president Lauren Patterson winning the Sportsmanship Award.

"This award is one that a rider is nominated for and is a real honor for Lauren and the UK team," Coleman said.

The team has a legacy of top finishes at nationals with a third place finish overall last year as well as reserve champion in 2009 and national champion in 2008.

The UK Equestrian Team, a College of Agriculture club team, has approximately 70 riders who compete in IHSA shows. UK competes in Zone 6, Region 2. Region 2 is made up of Miami University of Ohio, Midway College, Morehead State University, Ohio University Southern, University of Cincinnati, UK, University of Louisville, Wilmington College and Xavier University. Established in 1967, IHSA encompasses 29 regions in nine zones and has more than 350 member colleges in 45 states and Canada, representing more than 6,500 riders in both hunt seat equitation, western horsemanship and reining.

IHSA competitions are unique from the horse shows with which most people are familiar. During IHSA shows, a rider randomly draws an unfamiliar horse's name and is then judged on his or her ability to ride that horse in equitation or jumping classes. This framework was designed to provide a level playing field for college riders and gives students the opportunity to compete in horse shows without having to own and care for their own horse.

For more information about the UK Equestrian Team, contact Coleman at rcoleman@uky.edu.

Horse Racing Club



After their successful event, "Inside Horse Racing: The Derby Experience," the club raised \$1,500 for the Thoroughbred Charities of America through admission sales and a silent auction. Pictured at left is the Horse Racing Club with the Horse Racing Radio Network's Mike Penna. Thank you to all of the sponsors and guests of the evening.

Be on the lookout for a full fall schedule as we have several exciting upcoming events!

Polo Team



One of the UK Polo Team's ponies, Diva, who was a runner-up for best playing polo pony at the United States Polo Association National Intercollegiate Championships at Cornell in Ithaca, NY, had to have emergency surgery in May.

Diva was treated at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital for ethmoidal hematomas that were putting pressure on her sinuses and blood vessels in her head. Diva has been an asset to the Polo team and, although they've only had her for a little over a year, has proved to be one of the best polo ponies in the country.

If you are interested in joining the Polo Team or want to learn more about it, please contact Posey Obrecht at poseyobrecht@aol.com or check them out on Facebook!

Saddleseat Team

Many of the Saddleseat Team's members are home for the summer competing in horse shows and preparing for the upcoming year. If you are interested in becoming a member or have any questions about the team please contact any of the Saddleseat Team officers!

- Jamie Weisbach: Jamieweisbach@ymail.com
- Kelly Ruhl: Kellyruhl4@yahoo.com
- Renu Ramesh: renu.r.ramesh@gmail.com
- Lindsey Goetzinger: lindsey.goetzinger@gmail.com

UK Ag
EQUINE

Student interns at USEF office and discovers broader horizons in the equine industry

By Chelsea Urhahn

Ethan Roetman, a senior majoring in Equine Science and Management from Stillwater, Minn., came to the University of Kentucky in pursuit of his dream of becoming a top trainer in the Saddleseat industry.

“My mother had Saddlebreds and Hackney ponies growing up so it was just assumed that I was to follow in her footsteps,” Roetman said.

While passing out ribbons at the World’s Championship horse show, Chuck Walker, director of the education department of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), approached Roetman about an opening for a student intern in his department.



“I tried to include Ethan in all of our department meetings, functions and as much of the daily routine as time would allow,” Walker said.

Roetman interned in the marketing and education departments at the USEF office in Lexington, Ky. Much of his time was spent filming and editing videos as well as interviewing people for a nightly post to the USEF Network online, particularly during the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. He also updated presentations and wrote a weekly newsletter.

“The most important thing that I learned was that the more you facilitate a learning environment for an individual and make them feel more welcome, the more willing someone is to go above and beyond their expectations. I know that having Mr. Walker invite me to every meeting, get together, luncheon, or planning event helped me to become more inspired with my work,” Roetman said.

“This was such a great internship match for both Ethan and Chuck,” Internship Coordinator Elizabeth LaBonty said. “Ethan was so open to learning new things and Chuck was so inclusive and such an excellent teacher.”

A senior this year, Roetman plans to continue training and riding and hopes to work under a head Saddlebred trainer before opening his own operation.

“I feel as though this internship has granted me with the opportunity to see a different side of the equine industry that would be a great place to work provided I ever have a change of heart about training,” Roetman said.

“I firmly believe that an internship should not be making copies and being subjected to ‘busy work,’ but a true learning experience,” Walker said. “Student interns are the future of the ever-changing equine industry and if companies are not willing to participate in the internship program, they are missing a great opportunity not only to educate but also meet and work to develop what might become their future employees.”

Jobs and Internships

There is a Morgan Horse show July 6-9 at the Kentucky Horse Park and the show staff is in need of one or two students to assist running the gate. There are two sessions, 9 a.m. until about 2 p.m., and 6 p.m. each day. If you are interested, please contact show manager Royce Adams at 859-824-3387.

A woman who recently adopted two horses from the Maker's Mark Secretariat Center is seeking a working student to ride her horses in exchange for board at her brand new facility. Student must be neat and organized. The farm is located off Troy Pike in Lexington, Ky. If you are interested, please contact Melissa DeCarlo at mdecarlo@thoroughbredadoption.com.

Kohler Stables, a Morgan training and breeding facility owned by Linda Doll in La Grange, Ky., is searching for two horse show grooms. Students need to know how to put on saddles and bridles and Linda will teach you the rest. Pay is \$11-\$12 per hour. Kohler Stables will provide health, life, vision and dental insurance. Please contact Linda at 502-222-5784.

Need grooms, exercise rider, apprentice rider and assistant trainer. Must be talented, experienced, dedicated to becoming the best and have impeccable character. 717-469-2300 Email: paul.truitt@agrariancountry.com.

BLUEGRASS EQUINE DIGEST

A free monthly online newsletter with the latest research and practical, use-it-today advice from the University of Kentucky's Gluck Equine Research Center and the Equine Initiative.

Sign-up at

www.thehorse.com/enewsletter/register.aspx

Like us on Facebook!

The University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture has several equine-related Facebook pages that present the latest news and events information. Stay up-to-date with UK's horsey happenings by following their activities on these pages:

- Equine Initiative
- Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center
- Saddle Up Safely



Equine Club Directory

Dressage & Eventing Team

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe

jill.stowe@uky.edu

President: Jen Brogie

jen.brogie@uky.edu

Equestrian Team

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman

rcoleman@uky.edu

President: Lauren Patterson

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Horse Racing Club

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence

llawrenc@uky.edu

President: Natalie Heitz

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Polo Club

Advisor: Dr. Roger Brown

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President: Posey Obrecht

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Saddle Seat Team

Advisor: Dr. Lee Edgerton

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You can also like us on Facebook!