

SUMMER 2025 EDITION

WILDCAT CANTER

**2025 SIGNATURE
INDUSTRIES CAREER
FAIR IS SEPT. 25**

[PAGE 8]

**UK HOSTS
INTERNATIONAL
STUDY ABROAD
EXPERIENCE
FOR UNILASALLE
STUDENTS**

[PAGE 10]

**UK SENIOR SECURES
INTERNSHIP
POSITION**

[PAGE 12]



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

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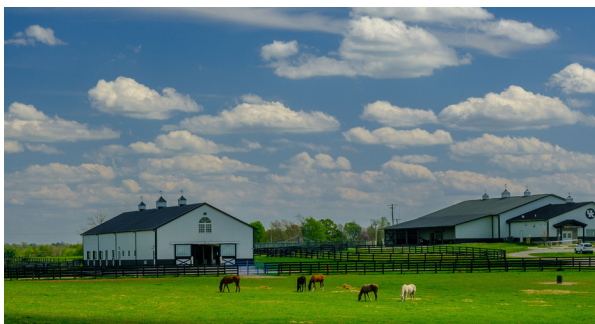


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HIGHLIGHTS



ALUM BRADEN HEATH LATEST RECENT GRAD NAMED FINALIST FOR NEWCOMER AWARD

Braden Heath, '25 grad of UK's Equine and Science Management program, was recently named as a finalist for the Newcomer Award as part of the Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards presented by Godolphin.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



A THOROUGHBRED IMPACT ON RODEO AT UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

The University of Kentucky is known for excellence in many sports. Rodeo is building toward becoming one of them. Founded in 2013, the team has steadily grown to incorporate barrel racing, bull riding, goat tying and team roping.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



TAD, A FIXTURE ON UK'S MAINE CHANCE FARM FOR 18 YEARS

"He has seen many generations of yearlings come and go at Maine Chance," said Laurie Lawrence, professor within UK's Department of Animal and Food Sciences who also directs the farm's efforts. "He should probably receive an honorary degree of some sort."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DEADLINES

JULY

7/29-9/5

Wildcat Wardrobe Clothing Drive

AUGUST

8/9

Cost Share Field Day

8/25

First Day of Fall Semester

8/28

Welcome Back BBQ

SEPTEMBER

9/5

Wildcat Roundup (Ag Roundup)

9/25

Signature Industries Career Fair, featuring Agribusiness, Distillation and Equine

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

WELCOME

HOLLY WIEMERS
UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS
COMMUNICATIONS &
MANAGING DIRECTOR



As summer wanes and the new semester that comes with fall quickly approaches on the horizon, the hot and languid late summer days are perfect for reflecting on the season.

For many of us, it's a time for growth. Some of our students are completing internships with companies in the industry, lending their passion and skills to the organizations within the industry who employ them. In exchange, they gain invaluable experiences in the workplace and enhance their skillsets. Those types of experiences are called experiential learning for a reason. We all learn by doing. We also often begin to gain clarity, either about what we wish to pursue in the future or by recognizing that some of the things

we tried on for size aren't a good fit for our future professional selves. Either scenario is a valuable use of our time and energy.

Others of us take a breath during this season and slow down a little. Whether we take the space we need to rejuvenate from a busy academic year or we spend more time with family and friends, travel or learn a new hobby, summer is often a natural pause between the bookended hustle of an academic year.

It's also a season when our horse industry is ramped up on high with events and opportunities. From structured equine sports competitions to more casual but equally hands-on equine participation, nothing captures our equine sensibilities like a season dedicated to our passions. And there is nowhere else quite like Central Kentucky for a daily dose of some kind of event or competition that involves horses.

Summer also marks a midpoint in our year celebrating the 20th anniversary of our program. We marked the occasion with an alumni tailgate at Keeneland and our annual Horsey Hustle 5K in the spring. In the fall, we will celebrate giving back to our industry with Mane Mission, a volunteer centered part of our anniversary celebration. Stay tuned for more information about how to have your year of volunteer hours collectively counted for recognition and prizes at the end of the year. We also plan to mark the

end of our year of celebration with a celebratory event recognizing the people who make this program so special.

While we are celebrating our past this year, we are also looking to the future with anticipation. If you've ventured on campus over the summer, you've seen a host of rapidly advancing construction projects. One of those is the [Martin-Gatton Agricultural Science Building](#), our future office home, which will be complete with a host of new classroom and student centric spaces. Tentative move-in is sometime during Spring 2026.

Here's to savoring the last several weeks of our collective summer and hoping it's a time of growth and/or rejuvenation, depending on your needs. We look forward to seeing our students and campus community again in the fall, with much anticipation for the meaningful milestones ahead.



Ag Equine Programs



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**EQUINE
SCIENCE
REVIEW**

**THE GRADUATE**
gallop

**IN ADDITION TO THIS PUBLICATION,
UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS HAS OTHER
READS IN ITS PUBLICATION STABLE.**

**CHECK OUT THE LATEST ISSUES OF
THE EQUINE SCIENCE REVIEW OR THE
GRADUATE GALLOP OR SUBSCRIBE HERE.**

UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS WELCOMES BRITTANY RAY AND BRIGID WHIPP

MEET BRITTANY



PHOTOS COURTESY BRITTANY RAY.

I'm Brittany Ray, an intern in the Ag Equine Programs Office at the University of Kentucky where I'm working toward a bachelor's degree in equine science and management. My journey has taken some unexpected turns, but helping others and living a life of purpose has always been at the forefront of everything I do.

I started my career in education, earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree as a reading specialist. For eight years I taught

first grade and served as a reading specialist in Danville, Kentucky. I loved helping students solve problems, hearing their wild stories and seeing that light in their eyes when they learned something new. But after 2020, the classroom changed significantly, and it no longer gave back to me the way it once had. I realized I needed to pause, reflect and rediscover the passion that first led me to education almost a decade ago.

That search brought me to UK Ag Equine Programs. I chose UK because of its vast network and the expertise and opportunities it offered to blend my love for learning, horses and community. I wanted to find a path that would allow me to combine my strengths and passions in new ways.

Outside of being back in the classroom myself, I've found new ways to enjoy life. Earlier this year, I bought my first horse and have been learning to ride alongside my two boys, ages 6 and 9. Sharing this experience with them has been especially rewarding. Reading has remained a constant joy in my life. I recently finished Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*, a reminder to cherish my upbringing and celebrate the life I'm creating for my family.

In the future I'd like to explore teaching at the post-secondary level. I plan to work as a teaching assistant this fall, exploring the

differences, and looking forward to discovering the surprisingly similar wild stories and big personalities, between first graders and college freshman. I'm also looking forward to taking courses like Thoroughbred investments, equine evaluation and animal breeding and genetics to pursue my interest in the Thoroughbred bloodstock industry.

As I look forward, I want to live a life that reflects my values – knowledge, compassion, family and fun while inspiring others to find their own paths with *grace and grit*.



PHOTO COURTESY BRIGID WHIPP.

MEET BRIGID

Hello! My name is Brigid Whipp, and I'm very excited to be one of the Ag Equine Programs' interns for the summer. I am from Frederick, Maryland, but I lived here in Lexington from ages 3-9 and always knew I wanted to come to the University of Kentucky.

I started riding horses when I was 12 and have been interested in horse racing and Thoroughbreds for as long as I can remember. The first barn I took lessons at also served as a place where off-the-track Thoroughbreds could have some letdown time before they moved onto their new careers, which is where I picked up my love of the breed as riding horses. After five years of learning, I purchased my horse, Jane, an OTTB, who I met at that barn and fell in love with. She moved down here with me in 2023, and lives at a farm close to Keeneland.

Initially my plan when I got here was to aim for vet school, but after my freshman year, I decided that vet school wasn't for me. I switched my path to leadership and communications after I took a communications course and loved it. I also discovered a passion for economics and have added two minors in economics. I have also enjoyed writing for as long as I can remember, with some of my favorite classes here being focused on writing.

My biggest professional goal would be to work within the Thoroughbred

industry in a hands-off position. I hope that through improving my communications and writing skills, I can help promote the sport, the breed and post-racing careers for Thoroughbreds.

I'm very excited to be able to connect my love of horses with communications, economics and writing for the internship this summer. I'm also looking forward to expanding my skills to other programs to become a more rounded out communicator.

ALUM BRADEN HEATH LATEST RECENT GRAD NAMED FINALIST FOR NEWCOMER AWARD

Braden Heath, '25 grad of UK's Equine and Science Management program, was recently named as a finalist for the Newcomer Award as part of the Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards presented by Godolphin.

The award recognizes an individual who has worked in any area of Thoroughbred breeding and/or racing for less than five years and shown commitment to – and ambition for – a career in the Thoroughbred industry, including a desire to improve and progress their skills and knowledge.

You can read more at <https://paulickreport.com/news/people/2025-thoroughbred-industry-employee-awards-finalists-runners-up-announced>

He joins several recent alums in being a contender for the honor, including the following:

- 2022: [Charles Churchill](#)
- 2023: [Deja Robinson](#)
- 2024: [Katie \(Ritz\) Petrunyak](#)



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY 2025 SIGNATURE INDUSTRIES CAREER FAIR SET FOR SEPT. 25



MORE THAN 400 PARTICIPANTS FROM 75 UK MAJORS AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS SIX OTHER UNIVERSITIES, PARTICIPATED IN LAST YEAR'S CAREER FAIR. PHOTO BY MATT BARTON.

By Holly Wiemers

The annual University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment 2025 Kentucky Signature Industries Career Fair returns Sept. 25.

This event, which takes place from 1-4 p.m. ET at the Gatton Student Center on campus, will feature three Kentucky leading industries: agribusiness, distillation and equine. Registration is now open to employers, who are encouraged to sign up by the Aug. 25 early bird deadline.

"This event will bring together

employers from across three very connected industries, and I am excited to see how that opens doors of opportunities for our students," said Savannah Robin, lecturer of career and professional development at Martin-Gatton CAFE and event co-organizer. "Participating in an event like this isn't just about these businesses, companies or farms recruiting for open positions—it's about building awareness and establishing long-lasting relationships with our students that can lead to employment in the future."

More than 400 participants from 75 UK majors and academic programs,

as well as six other universities, participated in last year's fair.

"While we are committed year-round to connecting our students with employers, our Signature Industries Career Fair is the best way to create that bridge between them and employers," said Seth DeBolt, director of UK's James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits.

UK Ag Equine Programs began a standalone career fair in 2009. In 2022, the college's equine and distillation programs joined forces to provide enhanced career opportunities to Kentucky and regional college students for two of

the state's most recognized industries. This year, an agribusiness emphasis joins the career fair for job seekers and prospective employers to meet.

"We're excited to continue creating opportunities where our students can connect directly with industry leaders, explore diverse career paths in agribusiness and agricultural economics and gain real-world insight," said Aslihan Spaulding, chair and professor within UK's Department of Agricultural Economics. "The fair also strengthens our alumni network, as former students return to inspire and guide the next generation—building a resilient, collaborative community rooted in agricultural advancement and innovation."



ANTHONY KOCH, HALLWAY FEEDS DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING, SHARED HOW ATTENDING A PREVIOUS CAREER FAIR AS AN EMPLOYER WAS BENEFICIAL FOR HIS BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORK.

UK alum Anthony Koch with Hallway Feeds shaking hands with a student at last year's career fair. Photo by Matt Barton.

Anthony Koch, Hallway Feeds director of sales and marketing, shared how attending a previous career fair as an employer was beneficial for his businesses and professional network.

"Our representatives were pleasantly surprised at the networking opportunities to meet other industry professionals and pleased with the quality and quantity of young people in attendance," Koch said. "The students were all prepared to have professional conversations about our company and available positions."

UK students from all majors, as well as alums and the broader community, are invited to attend. Student registration will open Aug. 1. Employer registration is now open. Rates are discounted for government and nonprofit organizations. Early bird pricing for employers ends Aug. 25.

For more information on registering, both as an attendee or employer, visit <https://students.ca.uky.edu/kentucky-signature-industries-career-fair>.

**KENTUCKY
SIGNATURE
INDUSTRIES**

**AGRIBUSINESS, DISTILLATION AND EQUINE
CAREER FAIR**

1:00 - 4:00 PM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025
GATTON STUDENT CENTER BALLROOMS

 Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



HOUSED IN THE UK COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, ONE OF THE TOUR SPOTS INCLUDED THE SPORTS MEDICINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SMRI) TO LEARN ABOUT THE EQUESTRIAN ATHLETE INITIATIVE. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAMILLE ESLAN AT THE UNILASALLE.

UK HOSTS INTERNATIONAL STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE FOR UNILASALLE STUDENTS, SHOWCASING HORSE INDUSTRY

by Christopher Carney

University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE), with leadership from UK Ag Equine Programs and the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, recently partnered with France's UniLaSalle — inviting a group of their students pursuing an Executive Master's degree in Equine Science and Business (MESB) for a unique study abroad experience.

For 15 days, students engaged with more than 30 groups — ranging from industry groups and nonprofits to horse farms and academic and research units across UK's campus, along with the broader equine community in Central Kentucky.

The goal was to showcase Kentucky's

horse industry and UK's land-grant mission, providing the international students valuable lectures, site visits and hands-on learning experiences while visiting the Commonwealth for the first time. Some of the site visits included the Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event, Keeneland and the Kentucky Derby.

"The master's students from UniLaSalle brought great enthusiasm and curiosity, while the Kentucky horse community warmly welcomed them and excelled in creating insightful, engaging educational experiences," said Meghan Wulster-Radcliffe, director of strategy for equine initiatives at Martin-Gatton CAFE and lead program organizer. "Providing training for international students

allows us to highlight the strengths of Kentucky's horse industry while fostering global connections and academic collaborations that will support equine agriculture's long-term growth and success."

This year's initiative marked this program's return, which was originally developed and led by Laurie Lawrence, professor in the UK Ag Equine Programs and Department of Animal and Food Sciences at Martin-Gatton CAFE, prior to being placed on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"UK was selected this year as our host partner due to its strong leadership in equine research, education and extension, and the unparalleled breadth of the Lexington horse

community,” said Camille Eslan, MESB educational coordinator at UniLaSalle.

Under the leadership of Wulster-Radcliffe and Eslan, relaunching this year’s program welcomed seven master’s students, two professors and an innovation development engineer from UniLaSalle. Organizers are planning to expand participation in 2026 and are exploring adding UK student participation starting in 2027.

Partners, organizations and farms:

Additional participants included Alltech, James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits, Bennie Sargent Quarter Horses, Blue Diamond Stud at Stonereath Farm, Defender Kentucky Three Day Event, Fayette Alliance, Godolphin at Jonabell Farm, Gluck Equine Research Center, Grey Ridge Farm, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Hallway Feeds, Jacobi Insurance, Keeneland, Kentucky Horse Park, Lakeside Arena, Maine Chance Farm, Maplecrest Farm, Mill Ridge Farm, Olive Hill Sport Horses, Racing Surface Testing Laboratory, Sports Medicine Research Institute, Spy Coast Farm, Stable Recovery, Three Chimneys Farm, The Jockey Club, UK Department of Agricultural Economics, UK Forage Extension Program, UK Department of Veterinary Science, United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and World Equestrian Brands.

Learn more about UK Ag Equine Programs at <https://equine.ca.uky.edu> and the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at <https://afs.ca.uky.edu>.



PARTICIPANTS TOUR ALLTECH. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAMILLE ESLAN AT UNILASALLE.



PARTICIPANTS ATTEND A SALE. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAMILLE ESLAN AT UNILASALLE.



PARTICIPANTS TOUR SPY COAST FARM. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAMILLE ESLAN AT UNILASALLE.



PARTICIPANTS TOUR USEF. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAMILLE ESLAN AT UNILASALLE.



ANGELINA SONOQUI. PICTURE BY SABRINA HOUNSHELL.

'I'M ONE STEP CLOSER TO MY DREAM JOB': UK SENIOR SECURES VALUABLE INTERNSHIP POSITION

by Angelina Sonoqui

Growing up in a fast-paced city isn't the usual path to gaining a passion for agriculture, but for Angelina Sonoqui, it was just the beginning. Currently a senior at the University of Kentucky, Sonoqui is majoring in equine science and management, part of the Ag Equine Programs, with a minor in agriculture economics.

During her time at the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Sonoqui developed a deep interest for agricultural policy and is eager to expand her knowledge while interning with the Marketing and Agricultural Communications Services team.

When Sonoqui learned about the internship opportunity, she was quick to apply.

"I felt like this would be the perfect opportunity, especially going into my senior year," she said. "I love highlighting success stories and having the opportunity to do that within a college that has given me so much. It's an amazing thing."

Originally from Tacoma, Washington, about 30 miles from Seattle, Sonoqui comes from a predominantly military family, offering her a diverse upbringing and strong appreciation for community. From a young age, she knew she wanted to work with animals, which sparked her initial goal of becoming a veterinarian.

When it came time to apply for college, Sonoqui focused on finding a school with both a strong community and pre-vet program. In addition, there were other important qualities that ultimately led her to UK.

"After touring UK's campus and learning about the countless opportunities within the college like clubs, facilities and the Living Learning Program, I knew this was the place for me," Sonoqui said.

Once on campus, she took advantage of every opportunity presented to her and began forming a deeper connection to the agriculture industry. These opportunities included gaining hands-on experience by traveling off campus to farms, going on industry tours with clubs, numerous networking opportunities and even the opportunity to host her own agriculture law and policy information night.

After completing her first semester, Sonoqui decided to switch her emphasis from pre-vet to pre-law. This decision came after

taking AFE 100 where she learned about the different avenues of agriculture. It was in this course Sonoqui discovered her passion for agricultural law, policy and advocacy.

"Growing up in such an urban area, I felt almost unaware of the role agriculture played in my life. I would just expect my grocery store shelves to be stocked and clothes in stores, without really thinking about who produced them," Sonoqui said.

Going into her final semester, Sonoqui feels confident about her knowledge of the industry from her experiences both in and out of the classroom.

"I believe interning with the Marketing and Agricultural Communications Services team will give me the confidence, knowledge and skills to become a great lawyer," Sonoqui said. "To truly advocate for agriculture, I need to be well-versed

in the issues and changes shaping the industry, and what better place to learn about those changes than from the very people who report on them. I feel like I'm one step closer to my dream job."

Now, as Angelina goes into her final semester at UK, she is eager to make the most of her time.

"It is definitely bittersweet, but I am so grateful for the community I have found, mentors and friendships, and overall, the opportunities that have helped me flourish," Sonoqui said.

After graduation, Sonoqui plans to attend law school where she plans to continue advocating for agriculture, conservation and underrepresented communities.

To learn more about our students at Martin-Gatton CAFE, visit <https://students.ca.uky.edu>.



SONOQUI ENJOYING HIKING AT THE GRAND CANYON.
PICTURE PROVIDED BY ANGELINA SONOQUI.

PRE-VETERINARY MEDICINE SEMINAR

WITH AUBURN UNIVERSITY'S
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE





EMMA DENNO WITH HER OFF-TRACK THOROUGHBRED TITAN, WHO COMPETED AS A RACEHORSE AS GOOD STUFF. DENNO AND TITAN COMPETE IN BARREL RACING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY RODEO TEAM. (COURTESY OF EMMA DENNO).

A THOROUGHBRED IMPACT ON RODEO AT UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

by Bethaney Beaver

The following story was written by Equine Science and Management student Bethaney Beaver during her internship with The Jockey Club through its Scholars & Fellows program, and features UK Rodeo Team member Emma Denno, an equine sophomore at UK. This is the third article Beaver published with America's Best Racing and has been shared with permission.

The University of Kentucky is known for excellence in many sports. Rodeo is building toward becoming one of them. Founded in 2013, the team has steadily grown to incorporate barrel racing, bull riding, goat tying and team roping.

Most horses on the team are Quarter Horses, but one team in particular stands out thanks to an off-track Thoroughbred named Titan who competed as a racehorse as "Good Stuff" and was sired by Popular. Emma Denno, Titan's owner, bought

him when she was 14 and started to train him on her own.

Good Stuff started his racing career in July 2015 and made his final start Oct. 28, 2017, at Golden Gate Fields. He won four of 11 races and earned \$21,210. Once ready to start his second career, Titan was retired from racing and bought by a private owner.



GOOD STUFF EARNED HIS FIRST WIN MARCH 26, 2017. (COURTESY OF EMMA DENNO).

Around that time, Denno was on the hunt for her next horse. She was looking for a Quarter Horse that had knowledge of the barrel racing pattern and soon realized that what she was looking for was either out of her budget or too far away. Then she came across Good Stuff on EquineNow. Luckily, he was in Modesto, California, and only a couple hours away from her home in Santa Rosa. The first time she tried him, it was a perfect match.

"I didn't try any horses after him, I decided I really liked him," said Denno, who renamed him Titan. "His goofy personality, athleticism and his build were deciding factors."

Thoroughbreds make great rodeo horses because they have the versatility as well as competitive nature to want to win.

"Titan is very competitive and always wants to be first," Denno said.



COMPETING FOR UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY (COURTESY OF EMMA DENNO).

Titan is proof that Thoroughbreds can be the best travel buddy, especially for competing. Denno said his experiences as a Thoroughbred racehorse helped him make a smooth transition.

"From him being on the track and getting to see the crowds and hear the loud noises, he was already exposed to those elements," she said. "Transitioning to rodeo crowds was not difficult since he was already acclimated to the travel and busy-ness."

Being in Thoroughbred-rich Kentucky was an important part of Denno's decision when choosing where to attend college. Kentucky holds many Thoroughbred events such as the Thoroughbred Makeover in October. At the Thoroughbred Makeover, OTTBs compete in barrel racing, among many disciplines, showcasing their versatility.

"I just fell in love with all the Thoroughbreds and all the heart," she said.

After touring the University of Kentucky, Denno said she felt the team and the welcoming atmosphere at the K Bar C ranch, where the team is located, would be the best place for both her and Titan. Because the rodeo team is relatively new, she viewed that as an appealing opportunity.

"I would rather be a big fish in a little sea than a little fish in a big sea," Denno explained.

When asked what advice she would give to someone buying an off-track Thoroughbred, Denno said, "Don't give up on them, be willing to work through any difficulties, they are very smart animals and willing to please."

After six years of owning Titan, Denno has been able to turn him into a fantastic barrel racing horse. They are on the University of Kentucky Rodeo Team's travel team for barrel racing and will compete in National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association college rodeos this fall.

See the story in its entirety on America's Best Racing: <https://www.americasbesttracing.net/lifestyle/2025-thoroughbred-impact-rodeo-university-kentucky>

For more about the Ed Brown and The Jockey Club partnership, read more here: <https://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/285687/ed-brown-society-tjc-providing-students-opportunities>

Incoming Pre-Vet Student Welcome

August 22nd 10:30am-11:30am

W.P. Garrigus, room B52



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPRING 2025 DEAN'S LIST STUDENTS!

DEAN'S LIST

SPRING 2025



EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

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AVERY ALLGEYER
MARY ALOST
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SPRING 2025



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EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

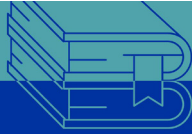
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DEAN'S LIST

SPRING 2025



EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

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MARY CAROLINE NONEMAN
ELLA O'BRIEN
VIRGINIA OHL
JILLIAN OSTROWSKE
LORALYE PAGE
MORGEN RADER
BRITTANY RAY
MEGHAN ROBBINS



DEAN'S LIST

SPRING 2025



EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

MARGARET ROBINSON
HALEY ROPEL
EMMA ROSE
SOPHIA SCHLICHT
GWENYTH SCHMIDT
ZELLA SCHNITZSPAHN
JULIA SERAJI
MARGARET SHUMAN
ANTHONY SINGH

LAUREN SLAVIN
ANGELINA SONOQUI
MEGHAN SORCABAL
CHRISTINA SPILOTIS
MADISON STEHLIK
ALEXANDRA STEWART
ISABELLA STILES
KAICE STOKES-TROTTER
SHYANNE SUTTER



DEAN'S LIST

SPRING 2025



EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

MADISON THOMPSON
ERIKA THORNELL
SUJATA THORNTON
LILY TYNAN
KEEGAN ULRICH
LANEY UNDERWOOD
CASSIDY VENABLE
ANGELA VESHIA
EMILY VIGER

AVA VRANY
CARRIE WAGNER
ESTELLA WAITS
SYDNEY WALKER
SADIE WARREN
MAGGIE WELCH
AVA GRACE WERGLEY
MACKENZIE WERNER
BRIGID WHIPP



DEAN'S LIST

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EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

GRACIE WOHLLEB
CHLOE YOUNG
MOLLY ZAHN
SYDNEY ZAIKOV
SARAH ZIESE



EQUINE STUDENT COMPLETES STUDY ABROAD TRIP IN LONDON AND IRELAND

Equine student Ella Hoehner completed a study abroad trip in May with the Gatton College of Business and Economics. During her time abroad, Hoehner visited London and Ireland through the program, as well as France and Scotland during personal weekend trips.

"While I was abroad, my biggest responsibility was to explore and connect with the culture while also learning how to fit into the role of an international student," she said. "I was responsible for attending class in the mornings as well as scheduled class explorations while also having time to spend on my own."

She said she chose to attend to gain the opportunity to get a glimpse into international business, with hopes that that experience would aid her in her desired career path of equine law.

"There is an endless list of things that I gained from this study abroad experience and I couldn't list them all if I tried! Between learning how to adapt to a new culture, learning to be flexible while also staying on a schedule and making new friends, the lessons learned, and experiences gained will be much appreciated in my future endeavors," she said. "My favorite part of my experience was meeting new people and making new friends who I will be in touch with forever. Being able to come back to UK in the fall and have a whole new set of people by my side is so exciting and I couldn't have had a better group of people around me if I tried."



PHOTOS COURTESY ELLA HOEHNER.

COST SHARE OPPORTUNITIES ON HORSE FARMS

Field day hosted by University of Kentucky Extension and Texata Farms

HIGHLIGHTS

- See conservation practices on a working farm
- On-site cost share applications
- Educational lectures
- Free to attend – breakfast included!

Event Information:

SAT., AUGUST 9, 2025

From 9 AM – 1 PM

4665 Troy Pike, Versailles, KY 40383



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.



RSVP at <https://CostShare.eventbrite.com> or scan the QR code

TAD, A FIXTURE ON UK'S MAINE CHANCE FARM FOR 18 YEARS

Join us this year as we celebrate 20 years of excellence and share the stories of a few of the horses who have impacted decades of UK equine students.

by Loralye Page



PHOTO BY LORALYE PAGE.

"On a warm March evening 18 years ago, Wild about Mari foaled Tad into the world. The chestnut colt was born at the University of Kentucky's Maine Chance Farm on March 16, 2007.

Purchased by UK for \$42 million on Oct. 11, 1967, the farm has served as a vital resource for decades of equine research, extension and teaching endeavors. Home to a small band of mostly donated mares whose foals are raised and prepped for sale at neighboring Fasig-Tipton, the farm is also site to years of important nutrition research and undergraduate education opportunities.

It was into this setting that Tad was born. Coming along in 2007, just as UK's new equine science and management undergraduate program was getting off the ground, he was the perfect age to be one of the first horses for the equine behavior and handling class held at the Pirri Pavilion. The Pavilion was built in 2007 and opened just in time for the program's first class of

46 students. He has never missed a year of class since then.

The class is only offered in the spring semester, so Tad spends his summer, fall and winter in various nutritional studies and babysitting.

"He has seen many generations of yearlings come and go at Maine Chance," said Laurie Lawrence, professor within UK's Department of Animal and Food Sciences who also directs the farm's efforts. "He should probably receive an honorary degree of some sort."

Over the past 18 years, Tad has interacted with many students, all of which have come to love him.

Student Emma Reeves wasn't assigned to Tad, but she was able to meet him through a friend that was.

"He has a great personality and is so smart. He catches onto the things we do in class very well," she said.

Some of the students that interact with him are also staff at Maine Chance Farm.

Alum Braden Heath worked at Maine Chance as a student employee during his time at UK. He remembers Tad fondly and said the staff gave him the nickname of "Tadpole." He was often found babysitting the weanlings that the students were tasked with caring for and preparing for sales.

Research projects are always underway at Maine Chance Farm. Most are focused on the nutritional needs of horses and comparing the digestibility of different feeds.

Lawrence heads up these research projects and has worked with Tad countless times. The majority of the studies are conducted by students and Tad has always been a favorite choice because he likes to eat.

When class isn't in session, you can find him somewhere on the farm happily munching away.

While many students have loved Tad, there are a select few who connected strongly with him. He has touched the lives of many students with his gentle and wise demeanor. One alum might never have never considered a career in the equine industry if it wasn't for Tad.

Joe Archambeau, class of '25, had never worked with horses and didn't start out in the Equine Science and Management degree program. He switched majors going into his junior year and was second guessing the decision. His perspective changed when he met Tad.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOE ARCHAMBEAU.

"I remember how friendly and smart of a horse he was, and I bonded with him pretty quickly," Archambeau said.

He fondly remembers learning with Tad.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MADILYN BLANDFORD.

"Not having any previous work or experience with a horse, getting to learn and do so many things for the first time with Tad was special to me," he said.

Anyone who has been around horses can agree that a good first horse can teach you many things and leave a lasting impact on your life. Archambeau loves Tad so much that he has even offered to buy him.

"I would buy him in a heartbeat, but I know Dr. Rossano would never part ways with such an amazing horse as Tad," he said.

Archambeau and Tad built such a strong connection, he even included Tad in his senior pictures.

"He is a well-mannered gentleman and easy to work with when you are learning new things," said student Madilyn Blandford.

Blandford was paired with Tad in the spring of 2024 for the class Mary Rossano, assistant professor within UK's Department of Animal and Food Sciences, equine behavior and handling class. Blandford returned in spring 2025 as a teaching assistant for Rossano. The class offers a unique opportunity for undergraduate students who did well in the class to return and help teach their peers. Being a TA is a great way to meet other students in the Equine Science and Management degree program and horses like Tad play a big role in students wanting to come back each spring.

Tad has touched countless lives of students over the past 18 years. He will continue to be a part of the equine behavior and handling course for years to come, teaching the next generation of industry professionals.




PHOTO PROVIDED BY LAURA HAAG.



Ag Equine Programs



PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING DRIVE THROUGH WILDCAT WARDROBE BENEFITS UK STUDENTS




PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING DRIVE

DONATIONS ACCEPTED
JULY 28-SEPTEMBER 5
AT COOPER HOUSE (1ST FLOOR)
OR AG NORTH (OUTSIDE N8)

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- » Clean, gently used professional attire
- » Men's, women's, and gender-neutral styles
- » Any colors and sizes
- » Accessories like ties, cufflinks, watches, bracelets, and necklaces

 **WILDCAT
WARDROBE**

The Center for Student Success, in partnership with Wildcat Wardrobe, is hosting a professional clothing drive (July 28-Sept. 5) and a pop-up (Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.) at the Ag Science Center North ground floor lobby. Wildcat Wardrobe provides free business professional clothing (suits, dresses, pants, shirts, skirts, shoes and accessories) to all University of Kentucky students regardless of financial need. Students can select up to three items for free by presenting their UK ID.

Leading up to the pop-up, the Center for Student Success is conducting a professional clothing drive from July 28-Sept. 5. Donations of gently used professional attire is welcomed. Ideal donations include clothing with minimal wear in a variety of colors and styles, as well as accessories like ties, cufflinks, watches, bracelets and necklaces. Donations can be dropped off in bins at any of the following locations: Cooper House (first floor) or Ag Science Center North (outside of N8).



Ag Equine Programs



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