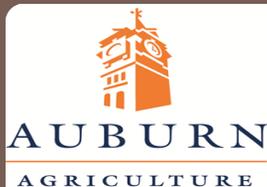


Equine Program News



DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES

Equine Science

Greetings from the Loveliest Village on the Plains!

Spring semester is over, graduation is complete, and the faculty and staff are enjoying a brief pause before jumping right back into the summer term activities.

This spring several students have been taking advantage of out-of-classroom activities. One team of students assisted with the temperature, pulse, and respiration monitoring following the cross-country phase of eventing for the Poplar Place Farm CIC *** Horse Trials in Hamilton, GA. Another group assisted with the pulse and respiration checkpoints for a NATRC-sanctioned competitive trail ride at Heart of Dixie in Troy, AL. One goal of these activities is for students to see how classroom concepts of horse care and exercise physiology apply to the real world. At the same time many of the students are seeing and experiencing these horse sports for the first time, broadening their appreciation for the diversity of activities in the horse industry.

Summer is no time to slow down around the Equine Program. Equine and pre-vet Animal Sciences students are registered for the Equine Reproductive Techniques and Equestrian Coaching courses which are only offered in the summer term. The State FFA Horse Judging contest will again be held at the Horse Center this June. The State 4-H Horse Show may be held in Montgomery in July, but it pulls several of our faculty and students to the grounds of Garrett Coliseum for the various educational and show activities. Research projects are being planned, Extension programs are getting organized, and very soon we have a full calendar. You can keep up with us through our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/TheEquineProgramAtAuburnUniversity>.

Program Leaders

Dr. Betsy Wagner

Associate Professor
334.844.7503
elw0001@auburn.edu

Dr. Cindy McCall

Professor
334.844.1556
mccalca@auburn.edu

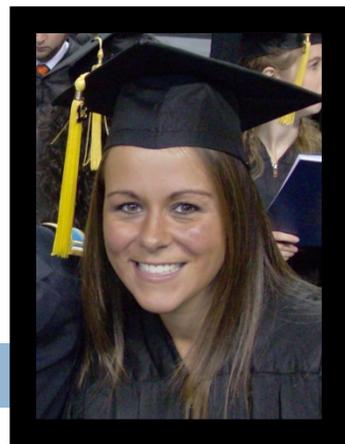
Angela Chandler

Horse Center Manager
334.844.1570
asc0007@auburn.edu



<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/ansc/>

Spotlight on – graduating senior Ashley Thompson



A native of Oak Grove, AL, Ashley Thompson spent her last semester at Auburn University as the Department of Animal Science's Horse Center intern. The program allows juniors and seniors in the equine science curriculum to gain internship experience while still taking a few classes on campus. Her special project for the internship was to research and develop a business plan for a boarding stable, which she presented to the senior horse production class.

What was your involvement with horses prior to college?

I took riding lessons when I was 11 years old and then got my first horse when I was 12. We rode in the local Christmas parade, went trail riding, competed in barrel racing and other timed events at the local shows and rodeo, we were a part of the Silver Spurs 4-H horse club's drill team, and even roped some and showed in English walk/trot classes. Throughout my high school career I was lucky enough to gain the trust of the other boarders at my barn and they would pay me to feed and care for their horses pretty much every day and I absolutely loved it. Everything I have done with horses has been pretty much on my own because I am the only horse person in my family.

Why did you choose to major in Animal Sciences – Equine Science Option at Auburn University?

My original plan was of course vet school and I had always been an Auburn fan because my older half-sister graduated from Auburn (the rest of my family members are serious Alabama fans). I worked at a vet clinic for 3 years prior to college and I have always loved animals. I also wanted to gain as much knowledge as possible about horses, not only for a career but for my own personal benefit.

How has the Horse Center internship helped you prepare for a career after college? What have you learned?

The internship has allowed me to be more confident with different things that I normally do not have to do on a daily basis with horses (standing wraps, IV injections, blood draws, the different drugs that are commonly used, etc.). I wanted to gain management skills and more experience from the internship and I did just that. The skills I gained could help me in the future if I ever have my own boarders or boarding business. Also, the project that I put together allowed me to have to call on different sources and people that I probably would have never talked to otherwise. It was a really great experience.

Tell us about your upcoming internship with University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

I am very excited to have this opportunity and it is a good feeling to know that I will start a paying job one week after graduation that is related to the things I have studied for the past 4 years in school. I will be interning as a county agent with a focus on the 4-H program, however, I will get to see all aspects of the extension system. I will spend time in Harris County as well as Muscogee County and I will also get to go to camp with the 4-H kids for two weeks. Extension has always been an interest to me so this internship will allow me to see if it is something I want to do as a permanent career.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen in the Equine Science program?

Get involved with as many clubs and organization as you can and stay involved. Those groups and clubs offer so many opportunities that you may not get otherwise. Make as many friends as you can and participate in as many departmental Spring Break trips and career fair opportunities or networking events as you can. And ask questions!! If you are curious about a career, just ask someone that is in that career field. People are so willing to help college students so take advantage of it! And study hard because it's worth it in the end.

Organization Updates

Horseman's Club

Heavy rain and storms forced the cancellation of the club's Saddle Up for St. Jude Trail Ride in Tuskegee National Forest this April. Watch this space in the next newsletter for information on the fall benefit trail ride.

The Horseman's Club has had an active schedule this semester. Spring events have included volunteering at a local therapeutic riding facility, teaching the basics of horse care and safety to kids at the College of Agriculture's "Get Ag-tive" Youth Field Day, and the annual camping trip and trail ride. The club closed out the semester with a bonfire and social at Dr. Wagner's house. Officers for the 2013-2014 year are Connie Fike, president; Rachael Thomas, secretary, Andrea Sokel, treasurer; AJ Hackett, publicity; Steven Williamson, historian; and Sarah Hunter, St. Jude chair.



Stock Horse Club

Members of the newly-formed stock horse club have been meeting weekly for practices with local trainers. Business meetings are held once a month.

At the Alabama Stock Horse Association show in Montgomery in March two club members competed for the first time as collegiate exhibitors. Club president Katie Hill and vice president Krista McGukin entered in the pleasure and trail classes. There were some horse show jitters but both ladies came out of it with a positive attitude and a few specific goals to work on before the next show.

Equine science junior Katie Hill has been leading the effort to get the club and competitive group organized. Contact Katie, ekh0013@auburn.edu, for more information

Organization Updates continued...



Equestrian Team

Auburn University's NCAA Equestrian Team capped off their season by winning the Overall and Hunter Seat titles at the National Collegiate Equestrian Association's National Championship in Waco, TX. This is the third time the team has won each of those titles with previous Hunter Seat titles in 2008 and 2011, and winning the Overall title in 2006 and 2011.

Prior to the national competition, Auburn finished second to South Carolina in the inaugural Southeastern Conference Equestrian Championships. The SEC championship tournament was held at the AU Horse Center. In regular season matches the host school provides all of the horses additional horse power. Each visiting school brought 12 horses for the Championship, and one of the Horse Center's pastures was converted to a miniature tent city to accommodate the temporary stalls. The two straight days of competition had fans from Auburn, Georgia, South Carolina, and Texas A&M filling the stands and cheering on their riders.

For more information on the equestrian team go to <http://www.auburntigers.com/sports/w-equest/aub-w-equest-body.html>.



<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/ansc/>

Photos provided by AU
Athletic Department



WANTED: Internship Partners

We know from student surveys and class activities the majority of our equine students have somewhat limited exposure to the horse industry before coming to Auburn University. Their hands-on horse experience is often limited to what they learned caring for their own horses or helping out at their boarding or training barn. For half of our new students last year, they were the only person from their household that was involved with horses. Our students also recognize the importance of gaining additional work experience before seeking their first full-time job after graduation, and they look to our faculty and staff for help in finding those summer jobs and part-time work.

So who do we look to in helping our students find those work opportunities? You, of course! As most of us know, finding employment in the horse industry is often about networking. Very few internships and jobs are openly advertised, especially in the hands-on side of the industry. A college student with limited industry connections can easily become discouraged when they are unable to advance and broaden their work experience. College coursework can only go so far on a resumé.

Sometimes internships and job opportunities are right under our noses, but we just don't see them. It could be a needing summer assistant for a lesson program, assigning someone to organize or create a client education event, or mentoring a student who someday will have a job like your own. It could be an existing position or one that is brand new. For example, our Horse Center intern program was created two years ago to fill a need for equine students who wanted facility management experience; they have more responsibilities than the average student worker, and they come out of the program better prepared for a career after graduation.

Are you willing and able to help develop the next generation of horse industry leaders? Maybe you know of another industry professional or equine business that has an opportunity for an Auburn University Equine Science student. The benefits to employers and sponsors are often intangible, but there is a special feeling of pride and accomplishment in helping a student discover their potential.

Let us know! Contact Dr. Betsy Wagner at elw0001@auburn.edu or 334-844-7503 so we can begin connecting our students to these great learning opportunities.

The Equine Program Newsletter is published quarterly by the Department of Animal Sciences at Auburn University. Your comments and alumni updates are welcomed. Please forward future requests and additions to the mailing list to Candace Vann at cpv0002@auburn.edu.

Upcoming Events



- May 16** Summer classes begin
- June 4** FFA Horse Judging Career Development Event, part of the State FFA Convention; Department of Animal Sciences Horse Center, Auburn, AL
- July 8-12** State 4-H Horse Show; Garrett Coliseum Complex, Montgomery, AL; Contact Bob Ebert, ebertra@auburn.edu or 334-844-1563, for more information
- August 14** Horse Grazing Management Clinic; Montgomery County, AL; Contact Jimmy Smitherman, smithji@aces.edu or (334)270-4133, for registration information

