

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY EQUINE SCIENCE QUARTERLY



From Our Stable To Yours
Summer 2023

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The Equine Science Center Goes To Texas For The 2023 Equine Science Society Symposium

The Equine Science Center took a large delegation to the 2023 Equine Science Society Symposium, this year hosted in Grapevine, Texas.

The symposium is a 4-day long event, which highlights research and extension throughout the equine

science community; including both educational institutions, as well as industry partners.

This year the Rutgers contingent included a large and diverse number of attendees. Three undergraduate students were in attendance to each present on their undergraduate

From The Clubhouse



We have a full calendar coming up this academic year, and we can't wait to see you at one of our upcoming events!

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer, in spite of the fact that it has been very hot and wet. Make sure that you and your horses stay hydrated at all times.

The Equine Science Center faculty, students, and staff have been very busy at some recent events and I can't wait to tell you all about them.

Our cover story features our recent trip to the 2023 Equine Science Society Symposium, this year hosted in Grapevine, Texas, where the Equine Science Center delegation had an eventful trip, be sure to check out the story on [Page 1](#).

Even though the weather did not cooperate on Ag Field Day, the horse show, judged by Buttons Fairfax, was a tremendous success in spite of torrential downpours (story on [Page 4](#)). We were able to show off our new interactive display screen located in the exercise physiology lab and broadcast the show live. Parents and friends of the horse handlers were able to watch the horse show live and stay dry!

During Ag Field Day at Rutgers Day, the lab was packed with people throughout the day who came in to get out of the rain, to get a tour of the Equine Exercise Physiology Lab, and to see the "High-Speed Horses" demos.

We had some special guests as well including Rutgers University President Jonathan Holloway and his spouse Ashling Colon, who brought a group of young people who posed for pictures with Jolee and Randy. For the full story, and pictures, take a look at [Page 6](#).

During the Equine Science Society Symposium, we were also excited to have a few award winners and honors. Check out [Page 14](#) and [Page 18](#) for those stories!

This past year our undergraduate students were also

super busy with research. As mentioned in the main story, three of our undergraduates presented at the Equine Science Society Symposium.

Their work focused on horse behavior and stress, which is highlighted on [Pages 16 - 17](#), and is this issue's "From The Lab." Congratulations to our students for all the hard work that they put into their research.

The Equine Science Center's fundraising initiative during New Jersey's "Month of the Horse," celebrated in June, focused on raising funds for the Ronald S. Dancer Memorial Scholarship. Check out the story on [Page 20](#) to learn about a special veterinary group that issued a challenge match to help us meet our goal.

If you would like to help endow the scholarship, you can do so at any time by either sending a check to the Equine Science Center, or donating via the online portal at: <https://give.rutgers.edu/dancerscholarship>

Also, be sure to check out the story about our New Jersey Equine Industry Summit: Summit Proceedings which are now available for download and viewing. The links are on [Page 21](#).

While the Equine Science Center was in Texas, there was also some great news coming out of the Horse Park of New Jersey. The Wunderlich family accepted the 2023 Governor's Award for Horseperson of the Year for all of the hard work and dedication that they have put into advancing the New Jersey equine community. To learn more about the Wunderlich family, as well as some other award winners (including a dear friend of the Equine Science Center, Ms. Gianna Tanzi), take a look at the story on [Page 22](#).

On July 5 Ellen successfully defended her doctoral thesis in the Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences Graduate Program at Rutgers University. Congratulations to Dr. Rankins; we are so proud of you! Ellen begins a post-doctoral position at the Temple Grandin Center on the Denver campus of CSU. Check out the story on [Page 24](#), as well as a link to the Zoom webinar recording.

Always popular, our Equine Science Center Summer Showcase brought together a wide cross-section of equine enthusiasts; all interested in learning about the current research and projects happening on-campus. See the story on [Page 26](#) for some wonderful pictures of the event.

Save the date of Thursday, November 9, 2023, for the Equine Science Center's Annual "Evening of Science & Celebration". The format will be hybrid and you will be able to attend in person or virtually.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you all at one of our events real soon! Take a look at the next page for just some of the events that we have in store!

Best,
Karyn

PARTNERS



New Jersey Farm Bureau's primary purpose is to represent the overall interests and improve the financial well-being of farmers and our \$800 million industry. NJFB activities are supported through voluntary membership and annual dues. Members have access to:

- Staff assistance on farming issues and regulatory problems.
- Educational workshops on topical issues such as farm labor, wildlife damage, and zoning.
- Weekly updates on legislation news and regulations affecting all aspects of farming.

It pays to be a NJ Farm Bureau member! For a full list of membership levels and benefits, or to sign up, visit: www.njfb.org.



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The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is an agency which oversees programs that serve virtually all New Jersey citizens. One of the Department's major priorities is to promote, protect and serve the Garden State's diverse agriculture and agribusiness industries.

In addition to the programs we offer to support production agriculture, NJDA also manages programs that feed schoolchildren, distribute surplus federal foods to soup kitchens and pantries that serve our needy citizens, conserve precious soil and water resources, protect farmland from development and preserve it for future agricultural use, expand export markets for fresh and processed agricultural products, and promote our commercial fishing industry, and administer the complete program of agriculture, food and natural resource education, which includes the State FFA Association.

For more information about NJDA, please visit: www.nj.gov/agriculture



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The lives of animals and humans are interconnected in deep and complex ways. We know that when animals are healthy, humans are healthier too. Across the globe, our 9,700 employees are dedicated to delivering value through innovation, thus enhancing the well-being of both. Respect for animals, humans and the environment guides us every day. We develop solutions and provide services to protect animals from disease and pain. We support our customers in taking care of the health of their animals and protect our communities against life- and society-threatening diseases.

For more information about Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, please visit: www.boehringer-ingelheim.us

UPCOMING 2023 - 2024 EVENTS

Homecoming & Family Weekend

Friday, October 13, 2024

Save The Date:
Friday Events and Tours of the
Rutgers Farms and Gardens

kylehart@njaes.rutgers.edu

Evening of Science & Celebration

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Cook Student Center
Rutgers, The State University of NJ
New Brunswick, NJ

kylehart@njaes.rutgers.edu

Horse Management Seminar In Person & Virtual!

Tuesdays in February, 2024

Save The Date:
In-Person - February 3
Virtually 13, 20, 27

Topics will be different on all dates!

carey.williams@rutgers.edu

Junior Animal Science Symposium

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Cook Student Center
Rutgers, The State University of NJ
New Brunswick, NJ

amelia.valente@njaes.rutgers.edu

For more events, visit our website @ esc.rutgers.edu



Despite the rainy, cold, and overcast weather “the show must go on” was the motto for everyone involved in the 2023 Ag Field Day Horse Show.

Kennis ‘Buttons’ Fairfax again volunteered his time to be the judge for the show and helped to keep everyone’s spirits high. Right before the show Buttons gave the students a pep talk, speaking to them about being proud of the work that they accomplished working with their horse to get them ready for the show.

Buttons also spoke about the importance of still going out there to compete, even on days when the weather isn’t cooperating, or when everything isn’t “just right;” you still go out there, put on your game face, and do your best.

Dr. Carey Williams, who runs the show as well

as the course that teaches the students to work with their assigned horse, echoed Button’s sentiment.

She spoke about the time that the students had put in throughout the spring semester, and how their families and friends were there to cheer them on.

While some of the horses weren’t too happy about the weather (or the presence of some event attendees who don’t know umbrella etiquette around horses...), each group did their best and everyone did a phenomenal job regardless of the weather conditions.

At the end of the show, after all of Buttons’ scoring was compiled; Dr. Williams awarded Wisner and student Natalie Kazar as the 2023 Ag Field Day Horse Show Champion, and Molly with Nathan McAfee as the Reserve Champion.





Ag Field Day

At Rutgers Day



While the day wasn't the best weather-wise, we still had a ton of visitors to the Equine Exercise Physiology Lab during Rutgers Day.

Attendees were treated to a warm and dry reprieve from the rain and weather outside, as they learned about the Rutgers Equine Science Center. Tours were given of the research lab, including information about the current research, past projects, and new initiatives.

The younger attendees played the interactive "Pasture Planning" game, where they received



Rutgers University President Jonathan Holloway speaks with Dr. Karyn Malinowski about the importance of the New Jersey equine industry, and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.



Rutgers University President Jonathan Holloway poses with Randy, one of the Rutgers University research mares, and Equine Science Center Founding Director Dr. Karyn Malinowski during the 2023 Ag Field Day at Rutgers Day.

their very own copy of the ever-popular “Equine Science 4 Kids” sports-bags & Activity Books.

Everyone was introduced to two of the research mares, Jolee and Randy, where they had a chance to interact with the horses and to get some photos of their time in the barn.

The Center was also able to showcase some of the new equipment in the lab, including the new interactive display screen which will be used for research and videoconferencing this fall.

The new screens in the lab allowed the “Ag Field Day Horse Show” to be viewed from an indoor location out of the rain, and was a huge success among the attendees who were able to take a seat and get warm.

Even with the rain, the Center had a packed house for the “High-Speed Horses Treadmill Demo”, which ran two times during the day.

Next year Kyle Hartmann and Dr. Carey Williams plan on streaming the Ag Field Day Horse Show live, this time including event commentary by the judge and Dr. Williams.

Join the Center next year, as the staff is currently working on some new give-a-ways and games!

Equine Science Society Symposium

Continued from Pg. 1



Dr. Taylor Ross, teaching instructor for the Department of Animal Sciences, meets one of the foals during the Highpoint Performance Horses farm tour.

research projects, which were each components of Dr. Ellen Rankins' doctoral research project.

Ragavi Raman presented "Effects of equine assisted activities on stress-related behaviors exhibited by horses," Sarah Paladino presented "Use of the Horse Grimace Scale to evaluate markers of stress in horses involved in equine assisted activities," and Kaitlyn Charles presented "Using qualitative behavior assessment to investigate horse well-being during equine assisted activities."

Dr. Rankins was also in attendance, and presented a portion of her doctoral research "Plasma cortisol responses of horses in equine assisted activities."

Dr. Alisa Herbst, who joined the Equine Science Center in the fall of 2022, presented "United States equine community: Information sources used and equine health-related issues considered most important," which highlighted the Equine Science Center's 2022 Equine Needs Assessment Survey.

Dr. Herbst also covered the research that she conducted during her time at the University of Kentucky with the presentations "US senior horses: When are they considered "old" and how does that affect their management?" and "US senior horses: Prevalence of medical conditions and routine preventative veterinary care."

During the business meeting, which also took place during the symposium, Equine Science Society (ESS) members were given updates on ESS finances, were told the location of the next symposium, and voted on officers and members of the board of directors.

Dr. Carey Williams, who was already serving on the board of directors, was elected as the new Secretary of the Equine Science Society much to the enjoyment of the Rutgers contingent.

The symposium also featured a day of industry tours (pictures of which are on the next page), where attendees were able to see the "Herd





For more pictures from the trip, please visit: <https://go.rutgers.edu/ESS2023>



The Equine Science Center delegation, consisting of faculty, students, staff, and alumni, pose for the biannual group photo at the awards banquet.

Experience with The Fort Worth Herd”, a tour of the Highpoint Performance Horses farm, a tour of the McCutcheon Reining Horses farm, and shopping at The Stockyards.

During the evening, attendees were treated to a night out at “Billy Bob’s” where there were line dancing lessons, and buck-off competition on the mechanical bull. The winner even received their very own Champion Buckle!

While the Equine Science Center delegation didn’t compete for the buckle, they did take their turn on the bull much to everyone’s enjoyment (pictures on the previous page).

On the final night, a closing ceremony and

awards banquet was hosted to end the symposium.

Dr. Kenneth McKeever was elevated to the rank of Fellow of the Equine Science Society; Dr. Karyn Malinowski received the 2023 Distinguished Service Award, the most prestigious honor that the Equine Science Society can bestow upon one of its members; and Dr. Ellen Rankins was awarded first place in her category for the Graduate Student Competition.

Overall the Center had an exciting time with awards, commendations, honors, and even an election victory. Everyone is already looking forward to the next symposium, which will be held in 2025.



Dr. Karyn Malinowski poses with Dr. Joe Pagan, CEO of Kentucky Equine Research, Inc. and sponsor of the 2023 Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Malinowski received the award for her lifelong commitment to students, the equine community, and the horse.

Dr. Karyn Malinowski Receives The Equine Science Society's Distinguished Service Award in Equine Science

Dr. Karyn Malinowski, founding director of the Equine Science Center at Rutgers University, received the Equine Science Society's 2023 Distinguished Service Award at the 2023 Equine Science Society Symposium in Grapevine, Texas, on Friday, June 9, 2023.

Presented to her during the Awards Banquet, the award is the most prestigious honor that the Equine Science Society can bestow upon one of its members.

The Distinguished Service Award in Equine Science recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of equine science.

Award recipients must also have a record

of significant accomplishments in teaching, research, and extension or service as it relates to the advancement of the equine sciences and horse industry.

"Dr. Malinowski's passion and dedication to the field of Equine Science, her passion for improving the care of the equine athlete, and her dedication to ensuring the viability of the New Jersey horse industry exemplifies the qualities of those receiving this award," said Dr. Kenneth McKeever, Associate Director of Research at the Rutgers Equine Science Center.

"Dr. Malinowski's career is a model of excellence in all three parts of the Land Grant

Mission, research, teaching, and outreach/service.”

Dr. Malinowski has served as a faculty member at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences since 1978 in various roles, including Extension Specialist in Equine Sciences, Animal Sciences Professor, Founding Director of the Equine Science Center, and the Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Her research and extension programs concentrate on improving the equine athlete's well-being and quality of life while ensuring the equine industry's vitality and viability, both statewide and nationally.

Most recently she served as the co-chair on Dr. Ellen Rankins' doctoral committee, supervising and acting as a mentor during Dr. Rankins time at Rutgers University.

After having the opportunity to drive the famous Niatross, she was bitten by the bug and spent several summers learning how to drive harness horses.

In 2001, Malinowski acquired her first Standardbred racehorse, Could Be Magic, who carried her to victory in her amateur debut in 2003 at Freehold Raceway.

Dr. Malinowski spends most weekends trail-riding, or jogging, her horses with her dear friend Wendy Hale at Gale's Way Farm; and spends her spare time exercising, reading, and enjoying her David Bowie CDs.

“I am deeply honored and humbled to receive this prestigious award from the Equine Science Society,” said Dr. Malinowski. “It has been my extreme pleasure to have worked for over four decades with top-notch young people and horses!”



Dr. Karyn Malinowski poses with her dalmatian handbag (her signature animal) in a black and white matching dress, celebrating after she received her award.



Profile pictures of the horse are used as a part of the Horse Grimace Scale scoring system.

Lab Notes - Students!

From The Lab:

Methods Of Evaluating Behavior & Stress In Horses



THE TOP 5 TAKE-A-WAYS

#1

Behavior analysis can be performed using a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods, and conclusions can be drawn about the welfare of a horse from these observations.

#2

Qualitative Behavior Assessment is an effective means of determining horse well-being through observing subtle changes in body language, and it can be done with minimal training or horse experience.

In addition to the work conducted by Dr. Ellen Rankins in her doctoral research, “The Human-Horse Interaction in the Context of Equine Assisted Activities (EAA),” several other projects utilized the data collected during the study.

The goal of these projects was to evaluate the stress levels of participating horses using three different observational methods: Qualitative Behavior Assessment, the Horse Grimace Scale, and Ethogramatic Behavioral Observation.

Each project was led by the respective undergraduate students, Kaitlyn Charles, Sarah Paladino, and Ragavi Raman, who recently presented their work at the 2023 Equine Science Symposium.

Qualitative Behavior Assessment (QBA)

Horses are very expressive in their body language, and QBA can utilize these subtle changes to identify the emotional state of the animal. Observers were provided with some videos of the horses in the study to watch, and they generated a list of terms they felt described how the animals were feeling.

They were then given back their own consolidated list of terms to score the horses’ behavioral expression from 0 to 100. These scores were then analyzed using a complex mathematical model, and it was found that EAA horses were correlated with terms describing comfort, but the control horses were described as anxious.

The Horse Grimace Scale (HGS)

Horses exhibit a wide variety of unique facial expressions, some of which are linked to pain and discomfort. The HGS is a scoring system designed to highlight six of these expressions.

Trained observers were presented with a profile image of a horse’s head and rated each of these behaviors on a scale of 0-2. A higher overall score is linked to more tension, and therefore a higher level of stress a horse is experiencing.

Images of horses actively participating in EAA and those who served as a control were scored, and it was found that there was no significant difference between the scores of the two groups of horses.

Ethogramatic Behavioral Observation

This method also uses body language to determine stress levels by employing an ethogram. This is a catalog of behaviors that is accompanied by a definition, picture, or video description.

Observers were trained in the use of an ethogram of 39 behaviors as well as the Behavior Observation Research Interactive Software (BORIS). The software was used to watch the videos of horses and record the number of occurrences or duration of a behavior.

Both experimental and control horses were observed, and it was found that the control horses were displaying significantly more of the stress-related behaviors.

#3

Horses actively participating in equine assisted activities did not appear to be adversely affected as defined by pain scores on the Horse Grimace Scale.

#4

An ethogram allows observers to label behavioral stress markers in horses; and those participating in Equine Assisted Activities did not affect the display of these behaviors.

#5

Facial and body behaviors are very complex in horses, but observations of these behaviors can provide clues into how the horse is affected by its environment.



Dr. Kenneth Harrington McKeever (left) poses with Dr. Joe Pagan, CEO of Kentucky Equine Research, Inc.(right), after receiving a plaque commemorating his elevation to the status of Fellow of the Equine Science Society, honoring his years of service to the society, as well as to the broader equine community.

Dr. Kenneth Harrington McKeever Elevated To The Rank Of Fellow Of The Equine Science Society

Dr. Kenneth Harrington McKeever, FACSM, FAPS, Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences at Rutgers University, and Associate Director of Research at the Rutgers Equine Science Center, was elevated to the rank of Fellow of the Equine Science Society during the 2023 Equine Science Society Symposium' Awards Banquet.

The rank of Fellow of the Equine Science Society is an elite member status reserved to recognize distinguished service to the horse industry and to the Equine Science Society over the member's many years of service.

"Dr. McKeever epitomizes what a Fellow of the Equine Science Society should represent in his long-standing contributions to the equine science field, which are vast; having truly changed the world of equestrian sports and its integrity, including horse racing," said Dr. Karyn Malinowski, Founding Director of the Rutgers Equine Science Center.

"I know of no other equine scientist who is more deserving of being named a Fellow by the Equine Science Society than Dr. Ken McKeever; he is truly extraordinary and will continue to give back to our profession for years to come."

On a basic level, Dr. McKeever's research has focused on comparative exercise and cardiovascular physiology.

He has a particular interest in the effects of aging on the integration of the cardiovascular, renal, and endocrine systems in the control of blood pressure, blood volume, and fluid and electrolyte balance.

On an applied level, his research has focused on the effects of performance-enhancing practices on the physiological responses of the equine athlete.

These studies are just part of the more than 200 book chapters, journal articles and proceedings papers, and more than 60 abstracts that have advanced the understanding of the athletic horse.

"I am humbly honored to receive this award from the Equine Science Society," said Dr. McKeever, "and thank those who nominated me and all the colleagues, students, and horses who

have contributed to our efforts to improve the welfare of the equine athlete."

McKeever's other accomplishments include: Past-President of the Equine Science Society, as well as serving as the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Comparative Exercise Physiology*, as a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, and as a Fellow of the American Physiological Society.

In his spare time, McKeever plays water polo goalie at the local, national, and international level.

He is an amateur genealogist and historian and is a member of the Descendants of the Founders of NJ, Sons of the American Revolution, Society of the War of 1812, Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, Mayflower Society, Sons of the Revolution, the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Society of Colonial Wars, the Order of Founders and Patriots in America, and the Jamestowne Society.



Dr. Kenneth Harrington McKeever, pictured with his wife Jennifer, at the 2019 Triennial Meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati held in Philadelphia. The Society of the Cincinnati is the nation's oldest patriotic organization, founded in 1783 by officers of the Continental Army who served together in the American Revolution.



The Equine Science Center's fundraising initiative during New Jersey's "Month of the Horse," which is celebrated in June each year, focused on raising funds for the Ronald S. Dancer Memorial Scholarship.

Launched at the 2022 "Evening of Science & Celebration," the scholarship was named after former New Jersey Assemblyman Ronald Dancer, who passed away earlier that year.

Assemblyman Dancer served as the assemblyperson from New Jersey's 12th Legislative District, as the Deputy Republican Leader in the New Jersey Assembly, and in the New Jersey General Assembly since 2002.

He was a former horseman, trainer, driver, and the son of the late Hall of Fame harness horse racing driver Stanley Dancer. Assemblyman Dancer professionally raced and trained harness horses from 1968 through 1998.

The scholarship will be given to an undergraduate student majoring in Animal Sciences with an equine emphasis, who has dedicated their time through service and leadership, just as former Assemblyman Dancer did throughout his entire career.

Foundation Equine Wellness and Performance (a mobile veterinary practice based out of Bordentown, New Jersey) decided to participate in the Equine Science Center's crowdfunding initiative this year. They issued a challenge match to anyone willing to donate; for every dollar that the Equine Science Center raises, Foundation Equine matched dollar for dollar up to \$1,000.

The challenge match was met, and overall the Equine Science Center raised \$4,000.

With only \$1,000 left in order to endow the scholarship, the Center hopes to meet this goal before the first round of scholarship recipients are announced at the Evening of Science & Celebration on November 9, 2023.

To donate to the Ronald S. Dancer Memorial Scholarship please visit:

<http://give.rutgers.edu/dancerscholarship>

**Foundation Equine
Wellness And
Performance's
Pledge:**

**Supporting The
Ronald S. Dancer
Memorial Scholarship
Fund**

The 2023 New Jersey Equine Industry Summit: Summit Proceedings Now Available

The 2023 New Jersey Equine Industry Summit brought together equine leaders, professionals, veterinarians, educators, owners, and enthusiasts throughout the tri-state area.

This all-day event included a keynote presentation on the “Economic Analysis of Equine Operations: Reducing Costs for Horse and Horse Farm Owners”; a panel discussion on “The State of the U.S. Racing Industry” with the President of the Jockey Club, Jim Gagliano, and The Executive Director of the U.S. Trotting Association, Mike Tanner; and afternoon breakout sessions on a wide range of topics.

Breakout sessions focused on horse health, the future of racing, land use policy, environmental stewardship, the integrity of equestrian sport, and industry sustainability by engaging youth in equine activities and leadership roles.

The Center’s needs assessment survey of industry participants was also a special feature of the program, where Dr. Alisa Herbst reviewed some of the preliminary results.

The summit proceedings are available in flip-page format, as well as a downloadable PDF, on the Equine Science Center’s website; and include a “Resources” box in each of the sections which highlight hyperlinked resources pertinent to each topic.

The proceedings are free and available to everyone, providing a broad view of the health and status of the New Jersey equine industry.



For your copy of the
Summit Proceedings, as well as to
view the proceedings in a page-turner
viewer please visit:

esc.rutgers.edu/news/2023njeisproceedings/



The Wunderlich family accepting the 2023 Governor's Award for Horseperson of the Year. Assistant Secretary Joe Atchison III, the acting New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture presented the award as a part of the 2023 New Jersey Month of the Horse Opening Ceremonies and Awards Presentations. - Picture provided by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

The New Jersey Month Of The Horse Opening Ceremonies & Awards Presentation

The 2023 Governor's Award for Horseperson of the Year was awarded to the Wunderlich family for its involvement and service to the equine industry over the last several decades.

The Wunderlich family accepted the award at the 66th Annual New Jersey Breeders Awards Celebration at the Horse Park of New Jersey to mark the Month of the Horse in the state.

"The Wunderlich family has been very active in many facets of the New Jersey equine industry for generations," NJDA Secretary Douglas H. Fisher said. "Their passion, dedication and service make them truly deserving of this honor."

The Wunderlich Family's involvement in the

equine industry has spanned more than 50 years, including three generations. They own and operate a successful training business, and have spent countless hours volunteering in many locations across the state and country.

Since 2008 Amy, Emily and Lori have worked to build Amy Wunderlich Performance Horses into a successful lesson, training, and breeding facility in Sussex County. They have coached and trained over 40 National and World Appaloosa Champions.

They teach more than 70 lessons weekly and have started more than 700 students with their innovative Mommy, Horsey and Me program,

which has provided many families hands-on experience, especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lori Wunderlich has been a 4-H leader in Sussex County for over 35 years, while Amy and Emily have been leaders for the past 20 years. The family has been involved at all levels of the 4-H program from local club events, officiating at state events, coordinating various contests and competitions, and acting as national team coaches and assistants. Emily currently is a program assistant with the state 4-H equine program. In addition, Lori has been a director of the Garden State Appaloosa Association since 1988 and is currently a National Director for the Appaloosa Horse Club. She has served as the National President of the Club since 2020.

Other family members not directly related to the equine industry but integral parts to this successful family include Dan Gurick (Amy's husband), Travis Vail (Emily's husband), John Wunderlich, and Daniel Wunderlich. Daniel served for 14 years as a director of the Horse Park of New Jersey, and chairman of the Jersey Fresh Three-Day Event for three years.

The third generation of Ryan and Nathan Gurick, and Mason and Wyatt Vail have started to follow in the footsteps with daily chores on the farm and an introduction to the show ring where they have already amassed year end awards in New Jersey and nationally.

This year's Bell Scholarship award recipient is Alejandra (Sasha) Burns. The \$1,000 scholarship is presented by the Equine Advisory Board and named for Ernest C. Bell, a horse breeder and one of the founders of the Equine Advisory Board.

Sasha's passion for horses began at a young age when her family relocated to a small town in the

countryside of Spain, where, with no prior exposure to horses, they took on three Andalusians and a Dartmoor pony.

As a teenager, she began teaching riding lessons with her Dartmoor pony to young children and as she got older her dream of pursuing a career in equine veterinary medicine began to solidify.

Sasha's academic career at Rutgers University includes doing research work with Dr. Carey Williams and Dr. Karyn Malinowski. In addition to her academic curriculum, Sasha has worked at Mid-Atlantic Equine Medical Center (MAEMC) as both a surgical and treatment technician.

She hopes to get her degree in veterinary medicine and pursue an equine surgical residency. Additionally, Sasha aspires to create a non-profit equine rescue organization, combining her knowledge of veterinary medicine and equine-assisted therapy to better assist horses and people.

The New Jersey Youth Horseperson of the Year, Agriculture Achievement Award Winner, Gianna Tanzi, is a sophomore at Howell High School.

Tanzi competes on the 4-H circuit and at open dressage shows. She also volunteers at a riding program for people with disabilities.

Editors Note: A special thanks to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture who provided the text for this article via a press release on June 13, 2023.



Gianna Tanzi, pictured above with her Monmouth County 4-H group, at the 2019 Equine Science Center Summer Showcase.



Presenting Dr. Ellen Rankins

**After A Long Journey
Marked By Delays Due
To Covid-19 And Other
Roadblocks, Dr. Rankins
Graduates From Rutgers
With Flying Colors!**

Dr. Ellen Rankins successfully defended her doctoral thesis in the Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences Graduate Program, under the Department of Animal Sciences at Rutgers University.

She presented her doctoral thesis, "The Human-Horse Interaction In The Context Of Equine Assisted Activities" to a full house at the New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health (IFNH), as well as to an online audience who joined via Zoom webinar.

Dr. Rankins' doctoral defense focused on her research into using Equine Assisted Activities (EAA) with Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and how these activities affect both the horse and the human who partake in the treatment.

"There has been research into how animals are affected by being used for support, and research into how humans are affected by support-animals during things such as therapy," said Dr. Karyn Malinowski, Founding Director of the Equine Science Center, and Co-Chair for Dr. Rankins' doctoral committee; "but up until Dr. Rankins' research we have very little research that has occurred looking at how EAA sessions affect both the horse and the human in partnership with one another."

Dr. Rankins' defense was immediately followed by a short reception with light refreshments for all who attended in person.

While the reception was happening downstairs, the doctoral committee met with Dr. Rankins to go over any further questions on her thesis and for final comments.

The deliberation was short, and Dr. Rankins was informed that she had successfully defended her doctoral thesis.

"We wish Ellen continued success in her Post-Doctoral position at Colorado State University's Temple Grandin Equine Center on the Denver Campus," said Dr. Malinowski.



Dr. Ellen Rankins poses with a contingent from Special Strides, a therapeutic riding center with facilities encompassing 200 acres of training areas (outdoor and indoor arenas) and wooded trails located in Monroe Township. This is where Dr. Rankins' research was conducted over the last 3 years.



Posing with her doctoral committee, Dr. Rankins is all smiles after successfully defending her thesis. (Pictured from left to right, Dr. Kenneth H. McKeever, Dr. Malcolm Watford, Dr. Ellen Rankins, Dr. Karyn Malinowski, and Dr. Andrea Quinn.)

To view a recording of Dr. Rankins' doctoral defense please visit:
<https://go.rutgers.edu/RankinsRecording>

THE 2023 SUMMER





SHOWCASE



Each year as a part of the Summer Showcase, the Equine Science Center staff gives a high-speed treadmill demonstration showcasing one of the many research tools used in the Equine Exercise Physiology Lab. Using the treadmill allows researchers to control both the speed, as well as the angle, in which the horse runs.



Dr. Carey Williams, and RU Wishbone (the articulated equine skeleton), give an equine anatomy lesson, focusing on the similarities and differences between horse and human anatomy and skeletal structure.

The Equine Science Center had a successful Summer Showcase, with record attendance this year as it was again hosted on the Rutgers Farm.

The event started with an introduction to the Equine Science Center by Center Director, Dr. Karyn Malinowski. Next, Dr. Kenneth McKeever gave a high-speed treadmill demonstration, which gave the audience an up-close view of Jolee on the equine treadmill.

The group was then broken into groups that rotated through each of the three sessions highlighting the work at the Center.

Dr. Williams gave a full equine anatomy lesson with the help of RU Wishbone, Dr. Alisa Herbst presented her Muscle Atrophy Scoring System (MASS), and Drs. McKeever and Malinowski gave a lab tour answering attendees' questions about the Center.

The Center was again joined by the Scarlet Kids, a day camp at Rutgers who brought a contingent of over 40 attendees; as well as a delegation from Delaware Valley University, including students from the Sydney J. Markovitz Equine Breeding Center



For more pictures from the event, please visit: <https://go.rutgers.edu/2023SummerShowcasePics>



Field & Beyond

DUKE FARMS

1112 DUKES PARKWAY WEST
HILLSBOROUGH, NJ • 08844

September 14th, 2023

9:00 AM-1:30 PM

Join us as we celebrate **Forty Years of Farmland Preservation** and honor the hard work and dedication of Somerset County's farmers. Learn about the challenges and opportunities facing our agricultural community, and new initiatives that support the future of farming.



TO REGISTER
Scan the QR Code
or visit:



dukefarms.swoogo.com/influencingag/

THE EQUINE SCIENCE CENTER PRESENTS

An Evening of Science & Celebration

Thursday, November 9th, 2023

6:00pm to 9:00pm

Cook Student Center, 59 Biel Road,
New Brunswick, NJ 08901



Keynote By

Dr. Jessica Leatherwood

From Tarleton State University

*"Welfare over Triumphs: Protecting the
Juvenile Performance Horse"*

Presentations

Welcome & Equine Science Center
Update

Keynote Address

Research Updates

Awards

The Gold Medal Horse Farm Award

The Spirit of the Horse Award



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RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Event Registration Closes: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 2022

To register, please go on-line to: <https://go.rutgers.edu/Evening2023>

Event fee: \$35 for adults & \$15 for full-time students

Please remit payment & mail to: Rutgers Equine Science Center

57 US Highway 1, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8554

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