Enrollment in equine courses increased 21% over last year.

**TEACHING PROGRAM**

- A new course was offered to teach students how to critically evaluate research with this year’s topic of managing obese horses and ponies.
- Terp equestrians traveled to 8 different farms and equine businesses this year learning and developing skills in forage testing, showing young warmbloods in hand, managing lesson facilities, training racehorses, rescuing starved horses, handling foals, and monitoring the recovery of horses after intense exercise.
- In April, students witnessed the birth of two new foals! Four foals are expected in 2017.
- Students trained, prepared, and sold Maryland’s Miracle and Blazing Terp in January grossing $9,500 for the breeding program.
- Our first Sport Horse, Cornerstone UMD, was shown in-hand by students at the International Sport Horse Registry/Oldenburg Registry Inspection this summer.
- Congrats to Maryland’s Best for becoming the second UMD foal to win at the racetrack! We now have a 100% win record for our Thoroughbred foals that have gone on to race!

**APPLIED RESEARCH**

Our turfgrass research received $21,000 in grant support

Our studies investigating novel uses of turfgrasses on horse farms are well underway. The first study is testing the wear tolerance of 16 turfgrasses while the second study in collaboration with Virginia Tech is investigating the palatability of the turfgrasses. We aim to investigate turfgrasses in a study using overweight ponies with new MS graduate student, Kristina Davis, next year.

A big thanks to the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station for supporting our research.

Horses graze turfgrasses to determine which ones they prefer.
EXTENSION PROGRAM

- We co-hosted the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International’s Regional Conference with the MD Council of Equestrian Therapies welcoming 200 people to our College Park campus in March.
- County Extension educators in Worcester, Montgomery, and Harford counties hosted education events for 87 people tackling important topics like equine nutrition, saddle fitting, and horse pasture management.
- While hosting the USDA’s National Environmental Impacts of Horse Operations Working Group, we traveled to Washington D.C. to visit with the American Horse Council and environmental grant organizations.
- Dr. Burk gave 12 invited talks on nutrition and pasture management educating 569 people from MD, VA, and DE.
- The Equine Session at the Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference was a huge success with 6 equine nutrition experts educating 75 people about feeding the elite equine athlete
- Certified Journeyman Farrier Mike Poe did a fantastic job educating 40 people in our Farrier Short Course held over four consecutive nights in October.

HIGHLIGHTS & SPOTLIGHTS

- Congratulations to our Maryland Eventing Team for placing 6th at the National Intercollegiate Eventing Championships.
- After graduation in May, breeding program alum Caroline Spieker is now working at Ashford Stud in Lexington, KY where the famed Triple Crown winner American Pharoah stands at stud.
- Congratulations to our Maryland Equestrian Team for hosting the regional finals and for having 2 members qualify for Zone Finals.
- Timothy Shellem was recognized by the Animal and Avian Science Department as the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year.
- Aubrey Jaqueth placed 2nd in the Graduate Student Poster Contest at the Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference.
- Jennifer Reynolds was awarded the Maryland 4-H Horse Program Youth Development Professional of the Year Award.

Thank you to our donors, sponsors, and supporters over the past year!

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Mr. Mike Poe
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