

Dr. Shannon E. (Pratt) Phillips hails from Toronto, Canada where she grew up riding and competing in the hunter ring on the A circuit. Her love of horses and science led her to study equine nutrition and exercise physiology for both her Master of Science (from the University of Kentucky) and her Doctor of Philosophy (from the University of Guelph). Dr. Phillips is currently a Professor of Equine Nutrition in the Department of Animal Science at North Carolina State University. She joined the faculty at NCSU in 2006 where she teaches in the field of equine science and nutrition, both via traditional face-to-face classes and online. Her field of research focuses on glucose metabolism, insulin resistance and obesity in horses as well as nutrient requirements of both equine and canine athletes. She received numerous accolades for her teaching and research efforts, including The Equine Science Society and American Society of Animal Science Equine Science Award in 2019, the North Carolina State University Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor award in 2017, the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, the Equine Science Society Outstanding Educator Award in 2017, the North Carolina State University Outstanding Teacher Award in 2013, the Gertrude Cox Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching and Learning with Technology in 2014, and was elected as a North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teacher Fellow in 2014. She is a member of the Equine Science Society, North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, American Society of Animal Science, American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition and the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists. She is a Past-President of the American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition and is currently on the Board of Directors for the Equine Science Society and is the host of the 2019 meeting. She has numerous peer-reviewed papers, and written two books, several book chapters and hundreds of articles for popular press magazines. She lives in Raleigh with her husband Brian, children Oliver and Isabel and several pets. In her spare time she plays tennis and competes in the hunter ring with her horse, Moulin Rouge.



Dr. Joann Kouba

Kansas State University

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University. I received my Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Science from Northeast Missouri State University. I completed my MS at Clemson University and my PhD at Texas A&M University, both in Reproductive Physiology.

I joined the KSU faculty in 2001 and currently hold an 80:20 teaching / research appointment. I have served as the primary instructor for 11 different on-campus equine courses and 2 distance equine courses, which I first offered on-line in 2004-2005. After my early efforts to expand the equine curriculum, KSU added the undergraduate Equine Certificate in 2004. Beyond my on-campus classes, I also believe in enhancing student educational opportunities through international experiences. I have led 75 students on three international study tours to six countries. In addition to teaching, I also serve as the undergraduate advisor for 50-65 students each year.

My involvement in equine education extends outside of the classroom, including serving as a past advisor for the KSU Horseman's Assoc. for 15 years and organizing a number of equine extension activities, including the annual KSU Equine Reproductive Short Courses.

My research program initially focused on the effects of dietary supplementation with omega-3 fatty acids on the mare's estrous cycle. More recently, I began investigating the impact of various factors, including pregnancy, lactation, weaning and breeding, on the mare and foal microbiome. I attended my first "ENPS" meeting in 1997 and presented for the first time in 2001 in Lexington, KY. Since 2001, I have brought numerous KSU graduate students to ESS to present their research, served as a graduate student competition judge several times, and currently serve as a member of the Reproductive Physiology Committee.

In addition to ESS, I am a member of the American Society of Animal Science, North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, and the National Academic Advising Assoc. My personal equine interests include cutting and reining Quarter Horses, but my students know my dream horse to own would be a Friesian stallion!

In regards to my vision for the future of ESS, I believe there are a number of issues that could be addressed over the next few years. One area would be increasing member connectivity by renovating the ESS website and creating Facebook (beyond the student page) and Twitter accounts where all members could post job/internship opportunities, graduate student openings, etc. An expanded social media presence would also be beneficial in our role as an advocate for equine science and research. Recording and archiving oral presentations and making those available to members and/or meeting attendees, similar to what ASAS currently does, could also be explored. Graduate students are the future of ESS, so incorporating additional targeted programming for them, both during our meetings and during the off year would be beneficial. Other off year programming, including webinars or "techniques" symposia, should be investigated in terms of both interest and feasibility as a way to increase membership benefits. If elected, I look forward to working with ESS officers and Board members, as well as the general membership, to make our association the best it can be and a true champion for the horse!



Jessica Lucia Leatherwood, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University

Dr. Leatherwood is an assistant professor at Texas A&M University with both a teaching and research appointment. Prior to that, she was an assistant professor at Sam Houston State University where she taught many equine and other related animal science courses.

Teaching responsibilities at Texas A&M University include both graduate and undergraduate courses focusing on the equine industry and careers, nutrition and health, special issues, and research. Courses at Sam Houston State focused on behavior and training, nutrition, equitation, foaling, reproduction, horsemanship, selection, and overall equine science. Dr. Leatherwood has received three teaching awards during her career.

Dr. Leatherwood has 16 refereed publications, 61 abstracts, and 2 books on teaching to her credit. She has been awarded over \$750,000 in research support as a PI or Co-PI during her career. She has collaborated with researchers from five other universities besides Texas A&M. Her research interests are varied but she has special interest in finding methods to mediate intra-articular inflammation in young horses. She has given numerous invited presentations at the international, national, and state level during her career.

She is a member of the Equine Science Society, the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists, North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, and the American Society of Animal Science – Southern Section of Animal Science.

Dr. Leatherwood has been involved on committees for various professional and industry organizations including ESS, the American Quarter Horse Association, American Youth Horse Council, Southern Section of Animal Science, the National Collegiate Horsemen's Association, the National Western Stock Show, the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo, Brazos Extension Horse Committee, the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, and many others.

Besides getting more involved with the Equine Science Society, Dr. Leatherwood would like for Texas A&M University to host an upcoming ESS Symposium. As a result, being on the board would aid her in helping to plan such a symposium if that location would be selected.



Dr. Kari Turner
ESS Board of Directors Nominee



Dr. Kari Turner received her undergraduate degree in Animal Science from the University of Florida, and then went on to Virginia Tech for her Master of Science under the direction of Dr. David Kronfeld. She completed a research project investigating the effects of long-duration exercise on immunoglobulins in endurance horses. Discovering her love for teaching, she decided to get her Ph.D. so she could teach at the university-level. She completed her doctorate with Dr. Brian Nielsen at Michigan State University, looking at the impact of nutritional sodium zeolite A supplementation in the equine and bovine. Following completion of her doctorate, she accepted the position of Assistant Professor and Equine Extension Specialist at the University of Georgia in 2005 with an 80/20 instruction and extension appointment. Dr. Turner is currently an Associate Professor at UGA, and instructs 3-5 courses per semester focusing on a wide variety of topics. These include Equine Exercise Physiology, Horse Production and Management, Equine Science Seminar, Companion Animal Care, Companion Animal Biology and Management, and two Freshman Odyssey Seminars (Horse Racing and An Animal's Purpose). She has been recognized for her teaching efforts by Departmental, College, and University-level groups as well as Nationally. Dr. Turner is also the Youth Equine Extension Specialist for the State of Georgia, and provides leadership to programs such as the 4-H State Hippology Contest and the State 4-H Horse Show. Her research areas of interest are varied, and include equine exercise physiology, life skills development through youth activities, and effectiveness of different teaching methods in a college classroom. Dr. Turner serves on a number of different committees at many levels. She currently serves on the ADS Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the CAES Undergraduate Affairs Committee (Chair three times), UGA Committee on Student Life, UGA University Council, and the President's Faculty Advisory Committee, and is a past member of the UGA Educational Affairs Committee and UGA Executive Committee and was previously on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Equine Affiliated Academics (NAEAA).

Dr. Turner has been a member of ESS since her graduate school days in 2003, and has attended every conference since then. She has served the Society as a member of the now inactive Membership Committee. Her primary interests are teaching and extension, and she would like to see ESS continue to grow in those areas. She also shares a similar goal with probably every member, and that is to see the membership and involvement increase. Reaching out to and encouraging more faculty without research appointments to attend, bring their students, and present at ESS, is important. She has been very pleased with the increase in undergraduate presentations over the years, and would like to see this trend continue. She would also like to try to encourage and maintain collaborations between society members so that more research can be conducted, particularly in times of low budgets and horse numbers, and also so that students (both undergraduate and graduate) can make more contacts and increase their networking, hopefully resulting in more career and graduate school opportunities.

Dr. Kristine Urschel is an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at the University of Kentucky. She completed both her BSc (Animal Science; 2002) and PhD (Nutrition and Metabolism; 2007) at the University of Alberta, Canada. She then completed her Post-Doctoral training in equine nutrition at Virginia Tech. Her research program focuses on protein and amino acid nutrition and metabolism in horses, and she employs isotopic and molecular biology techniques in her research. She is one of only a few researchers in the world using stable isotope techniques to study whole-body protein metabolism and amino acid requirements in horses. Her research also investigates the activation of signaling pathways regulating protein synthesis in the skeletal muscle. In addition to her research program, she is the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the BS degree in Equine Science and Management, a program that currently has over 300 enrolled students, advises approximately 40 undergraduate students and teaches an undergraduate Animal Physiology course. Dr. Urschel is a member of the Editorial Board for Domestic Animal Endocrinology and recently accepted a position as the Section Editor (Companion Animal and Equine Nutrition) for the Journal of Animal Science.

Dr. Urschel received the 2015 American Society of Animal Science Early Career Achievement Award and the 2015 ASAS Southern Section Young Animal Scientist Award- Research. Her graduate students have been the recipients of several research awards, including several awards in the Equine Science Society oral presentation competitions.

Dr. Urschel has been a member of the Equine Science Society since 2009, when she attended her first ESS meeting. She has attended every meeting since 2009 and her students routinely present their research in the nutrition, production and management and equine biosciences sections. She has been a member of the Equine Science Society Nutrition Committee since June 2016, and in this role has contributed to the abstract review process and served as a Session Chair for the 2017 and 2019 meetings. She has also served as a judge for the student competitions in 2013 (Exercise Physiology section) and 2017 (Undergraduate section). Finally, she has been involved with the student professional development activities, serving as a panelist in 2011 and assisting with the elevator pitch workshop in 2019.

If elected, Dr. Urschel looks forward to having the opportunity to continue to contribute to this organization as a member of the Board of Directors. She has a special interest in continuing to foster professional development activities, particularly for student members, but is willing to help out wherever needed.

