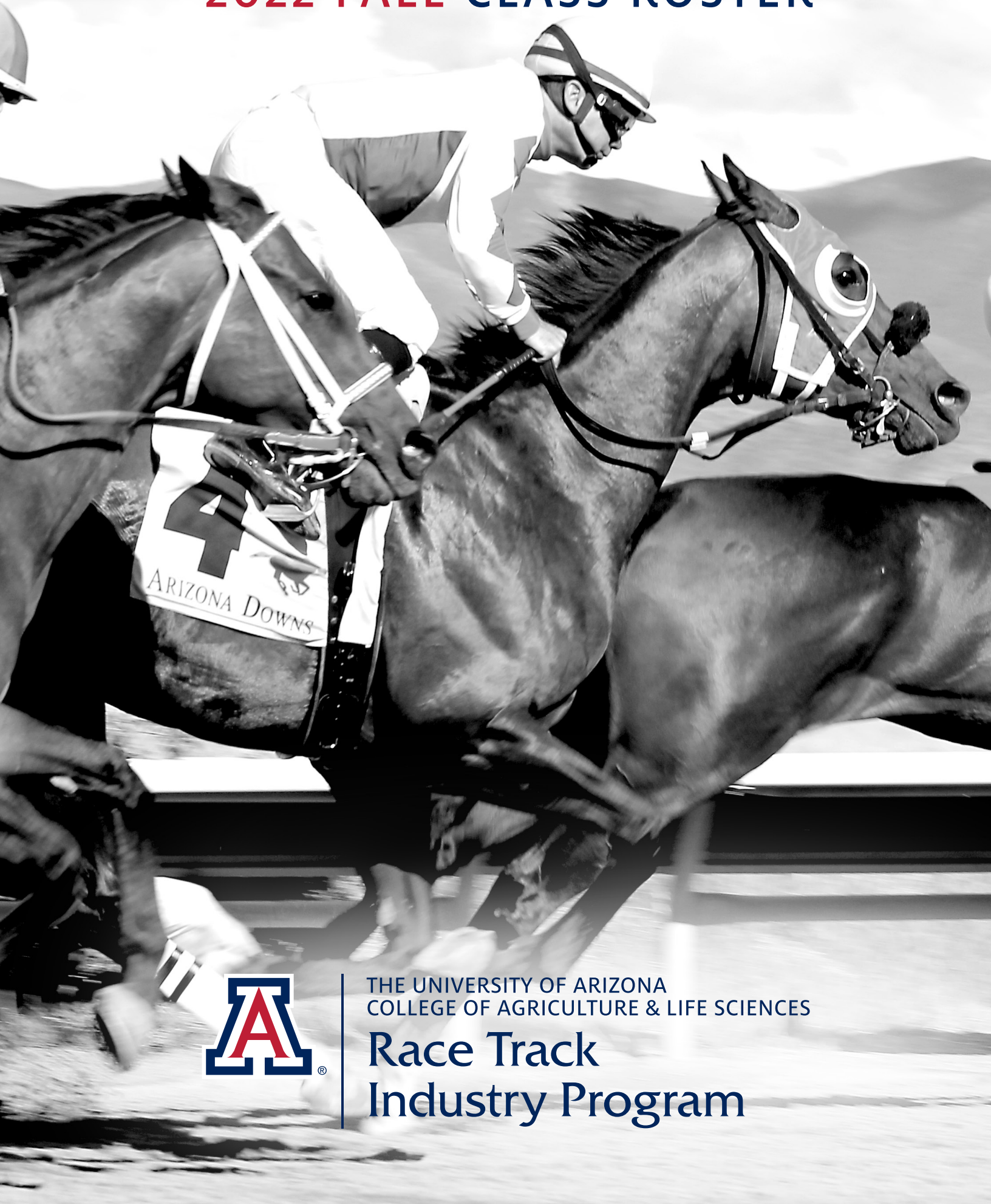


# 2022 FALL CLASS ROSTER



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

**Race Track  
Industry Program**

# THE 2022 STUDENT YEARBOOK HAS GONE DIGITAL

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*Learn more about the Race Track Industry Program students by reading through these short biographies.*

*Additional information on each student, along with field trip recaps and summer internship experiences, can be found online at [rtip.arizona.edu/yearbook](http://rtip.arizona.edu/yearbook)*



## **MOHANAD ALMOKHADM**

Mohanad originally left Saudi Arabia to study mechanical engineering in the US, selling his horses to finance his education. After obtaining his B.S. and working as an engineer at an oil company, he “heard the call of the track” after watching Arrogate’s unforgettable race at the Dubai Cup. He found the RTIP and was inspired by the slogan to “Follow Your Passion.” Mohanad is looking forward to getting more exposure to the racing industry and learning its best practices in a proficient way. He plans on taking his knowledge and experience back to his home country one day – especially after the launch of the Saudi Cup.



## **BEN ATKINSON**

Ben is a junior in the RTIP and is from Scottsdale, Arizona. While he has no family ties to racing, he became very interested in the sport through summer trips to Del Mar. Ben’s first internship as an RTIP student brought him full circle, as he had the opportunity to work in the Del Mar racing office. Most of Ben’s time was spent at the backside racing office in the mornings and helping where needed in the afternoons. He worked as a patrol judge and learned by watching races with the stewards. Ben is pursuing the business side of the industry and his interested in track management.



## **KAMRYN KOUTRAS**

Kamryn grew up in New Jersey and worked primarily for private boarding facilities. She is an RTIP senior with plans to become an Equine Sports Medicine Technician. Kamryn spent this past summer with local large animal practices, where she shadowed routine examinations of thoroughbred mares. She hopes to grow her career by working at a large-scale equine hospital and research facility. She can combine her lifelong love of horses with her passion of science and medicine to provide state-of-the-art therapy and diagnostics to our equine athletes.



## **MICHAEL SANDULLI**

Michael, an RTIP senior, hails from Connecticut and has horse racing in his blood. His grandparents owned Thoroughbreds and he has always felt a strong connection to the sport. Michael’s goal of becoming a trainer is what drives him to be the best that he can be. During his enrollment in the RTIP, he worked in the Shug McGaughey barn as a hotwalker and part-time groom. Michael believes one would be hard pressed to find a more personable, likable, and talented trainer than Shug. During those two summers, Shug passed on a wealth of knowledge and advice to Michael for which he is incredibly grateful.



## **CJ SEAY**

CJ moved around a lot during her childhood before settling in Virginia. She became involved in riding and showing hunter/jumper horses, though it wasn’t until later that she began exploring the horse racing industry as a profession. She came to the RTIP with the goal of becoming a Bloodstock Agent. Her passion is to work in the quarter horse or greyhound industry. A trip to Indiana Downs for the AQHA Challenge Championships sparked an interest in learning more about training. CJ’s ultimate goal is to move to Australia to train and race her own greyhounds.



### **ERIC DECOSTER**

Eric is in his third year with the RTIP. He has spent the past two summers working in New York. In 2021 he interned with Wanamaker’s, an online Thoroughbred auction company, helping to develop their monthly catalogs. In the mornings, he also worked as a hot walker for trainer Ray Handal. This past summer Eric spent 12 weeks interning with the NYRA Racing Department. He gained a greater understanding of how the racing office functions and shadowed many different roles on the racetrack. Eric hopes to become a Racing Secretary or work in Executive Management at a major racetrack.



### **ALICIA (ALI) EVANS**

Ali comes to us from “up the road” in Phoenix and joined the RTIP this semester as a sophomore. She has been working with horses for the past seven years in various disciplines, although she prefers western pleasure. Ali learned to ride while working for two local trainers. She also learned to play water polo while working for an equine vet clinic! She has a strong love of animals and a desire to care for them. Ali’s current career goal is to be a trainer but admits that may change as she learns about the different areas of the industry.



### **NATHAN KLEIN**

Nathan calls Chapel Hill, North Carolina home. The 2010 Breeders’ Cup, won by Eldaafer, and called by Trevor Denman, was the first race he ever watched. Denman soon became one of Nathan’s heroes. Some of Nathan’s fondest racing memories was watching racing on TV, sound muted, as he practiced race calling himself. Memorizing horse’s names and announcing their position as they raced across his television is not what every young kid does on a Saturday, but that is Nathan’s passion. Since enrolling in the RTIP this Fall, Nathan has already called his first race at Turf Paradise – this time from the announcer booth!



### **HAILEY SHIFFER**

Hailey grew up in California and has been riding since age five, competing mainly in barrel racing. Watching Zenyatta win at the 2009 Breeders’ Cup led to her pursue a career in horse racing. Hailey worked a breeding season at Rolling A Ranch before being hired at Checkmate Thoroughbreds where she sales-prepped horses for the Fasig-Tipton, CTBA, and Keeneland sales. While enrolled at the RTIP, she interned at Lane’s End Farm in 2021. She spent the Spring/Summer of 2022 working as the on-air handicapper at Rillito Park and Arizona Downs. Hailey’s career goal is to own her own rehab/retraining center.



### **OLIVIA (LIV) TASHLEIN**

Liv has loved horses for as long as she can remember and started riding at age nine in her home state of Connecticut. She has trained newer Off the Track Thoroughbreds in hand and under saddle to prepare them to succeed in other areas of the sport, including dressage, jumpers, hunters, and cross country. She also owns and trains a former racehorse. Liv recently found the RTIP and is excited to increase her knowledge and connect with those within the racing world. Her current plan is to own and operate a sales & breeding operation.



### **ALDO ZAMORA**

Aldo was born in Mexico City and is the proud son of a jockey. Del Mar, Santa Anita, Los Alamitos, Portland Meadows, and Emerald Downs were all part of his earliest memories. Aldo always loved handicapping and reading the Racing Form, so he jumped at the chance to become a jockey agent for his dad. After hustling for eight years, Aldo decided to pursue a managerial position at the track. This is his first year in the RTIP, studying the management side of the business. He believes in the importance of having a strong connection between the frontside and backside with the ultimate goal of growing the popularity of our sport.



Photo: Hailey Shiffer