



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

EQUINE INITIATIVE



Welcome



I am honored and excited to introduce you to the Equine Initiative at Texas A&M University. Texas A&M is making a dedicated effort to develop the best collaborative equine program in the world. Our goal is to provide the equine industry with the most complete equine educational opportunities, the most knowledgeable faculty and the best equine veterinary care available anywhere.

Texas A&M is world renowned for its equine programs in the Department of Animal Science, the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and in Texas AgriLife Extension. Its research programs in equine reproduction and biotechnology, nutrition, epidemiology, genetics and various areas of equine disease prevention and management have notable reputations. For generations the 4H horse program in Texas has been a model for other states to follow.

Today our industry demands more than it ever has in the past. The needs of the horse industry of Texas, the nation and the world for scientific expertise, off-campus engagement, and graduates capable of leading the industry is greater than ever before. By combining the expertise available on its campus in veterinary medicine, animal science, business, facility and event management and international studies, Texas A&M intends to be the ultimate measure for all equine programs around the globe.

The administration of Texas A&M is committed to the goal of enhancing its connections to today's equine industry. Accomplishment of this vision will require strong partnerships between the various existing equine interests on campus, enrichment of existing curricula, greater and more detailed engagement activities, construction of state of the art facilities and finally support from the equine industry in Texas as well as the nation and the world.

This dream can be accomplished. I hope that you will take the time to dream and build with us. Most importantly I hope you appreciate the value of this plan to the equine industry now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Jim Heird
Executive Professor & Coordinator
Equine Initiative
Texas A&M University

Agriculture & Life Sciences



Horses have been a vital part of Texas A&M University since its beginning. The Department of Animal Science has been a leader in equine research, undergraduate instruction and graduate training for generations. Today Texas A&M is home to a nationally competitive horse judging program, NCAA equestrian team and men's and women's polo teams. The Texas AgriLife Extension Service has fostered the growth of Texas youth interested in horses as long as any state in the nation. At Texas A&M, we have been and remain committed to the horse industry.

The horse industry is changing and the demand for Texas A&M to lead and assist the equine industry is greater than ever before. We must graduate students who can move into leadership roles within the industry and our research must answer key industry and scientific questions. Our extension and outreach efforts must provide continuing education to equine owners and participants in Texas and beyond. Our clientele includes established breeders and professionals as well as the novice participant. As the land grant university of Texas, we serve the Texas equine industry - the largest in the nation.

In order for us to fulfill our potential as the most comprehensive equine educational program in the country we must work together. This will be accomplished through enhanced partnerships between the equine programs of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences. It also includes utilizing the expertise available in areas such as agricultural economics, business, government and policy, as well as traditional animal science courses and programs. By establishing the Equine Initiative, Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture and Life Sciences have the commitment of the leadership of Texas A&M to build the best program possible.

I, along with Dr. Eleanor Green, believe we can achieved recognition as the highest-ranked equine program in the nation. I invite you to be a part of this ambitious endeavor. Give us your support and your input as we embark on this journey to greater excellence in equine sciences. At Texas A&M we will not only continue our heritage of partnering with the Equine Industry, we will do even more to serve the horse industry of this great state.

Sincerely,

Mark Hussey
Vice Chancellor & Dean
College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
Texas A&M University



Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences



Throughout the course of history, beside the footprint of man is the hoof print of the horse. Nowhere else is this statement truer than in Texas. Historic ranches continue to thrive within an increasingly urban society alongside continually advancing technologies. The horse industry is a formidable force in Texas. Its nearly one million horses, comprising almost 10% of the nation's equine population, rank Texas #1 in total numbers of horses. The Texas horse industry is an economic powerhouse responsible for a \$5.2 billion impact on the state's economy, the creation of nearly 100,000 jobs, and the involvement of ½ million people. At Texas A&M University, the land grant institution of the State of Texas, we are fortunate to exist within this equine backdrop and at the same time be able to advance the health and welfare of both horses and the horse industry.

The College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M, one of the best in North America, takes its role seriously in serving Texas. It has created a notable equine program and arguably the best equine reproduction program in the world. The College is committed to equipping students with the medical knowledge and professional skills to be practice-ready upon graduation, and it is working.

Texas A&M boasts highly ranked colleges of veterinary medicine and agriculture. When veterinary medicine and agriculture “partner up,” they are unstoppable. Today they have joined forces to create the Equine Initiative. The Equine Initiative at Texas A&M University will earn acclaim across the horse industry through its impact on equine health and welfare and on the young professionals seeking careers in the horse industry and veterinary profession. Texas A&M's reputation as the best in the world will be well founded on the Equine Initiative's performance and success in advancing the horse industry and Texas A&M University.

As you learn about the Equine Initiative at Texas A&M, imagine the scope of collaborations and partnerships that will be built. Imagine how Texas A&M graduates will contribute to sustained viability of the horse industry. Imagine the skill set of equine veterinarians who benefit from the effort of the Equine Initiative before receiving their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Texas A&M University. Imagine how the rich heritage of Texas will be built upon as Texas and horses continue to be linked by many across the nation and the globe. Where else but in Texas? Gig 'em!

Sincerely,

Eleanor M. Green
Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Texas A&M University

The Equine Initiative at Texas A&M University



With a long history of teaching, research, equine medicine and outreach excellence, Texas A&M University has been a vital contributor to the equine industry for generations. Both the Department of Animal Science and the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences have been instrumental in providing the equine industry with knowledge and care that have advanced not only equine sciences, but the welfare of the horse as well. Today our past accomplishments are not enough. *The purpose of the Equine Initiative at Texas A&M is to collaboratively utilize our expertise to build an equine program that will graduate the industry's future leaders and generate research and veterinary medical care that will improve the industry and the care and welfare of the horse. Texas A&M will build complete and modern facilities from which to teach, train students and conduct research. Further, Texas A&M will be connected to the entire industry through extensive outreach activities.*

The Equine Initiative has developed four major imperatives. In each of these areas, the focus will be to enhance and improve upon Texas A&M's existing strengths in order to facilitate the completion the vision of the Equine Initiative. The four imperatives are *curriculum enhancement, outreach & engagement expansion, facility construction and partnership development.*



**Three-time
NCAA National Champion Caroline
Gunn is among the winningest
Varsity Equestrian riders
in Texas A&M
history.**

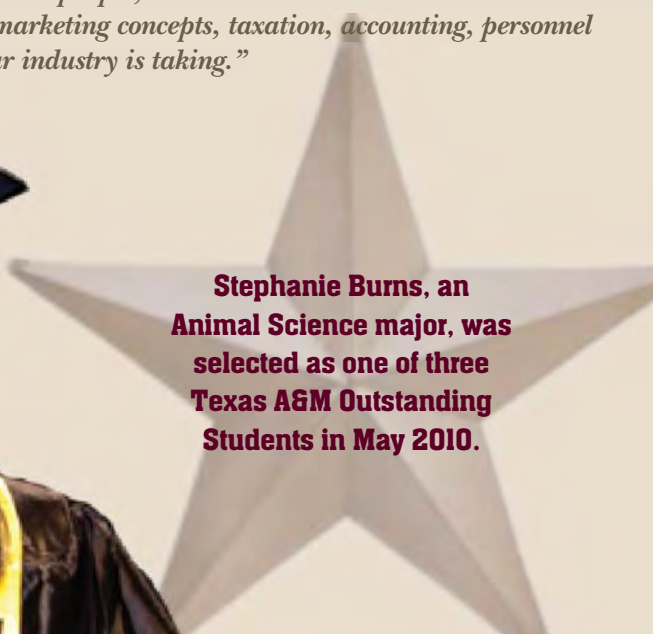


Curriculum Enhancement



With over 80% of the jobs in the equine industry in areas other than equine production, it is critical that Texas A&M's graduates are trained in all areas of the industry. Texas A&M needs to be certain that its curriculum trains students who are able to meet the industry's demand for expertise in all areas of equine studies, including science, business and management, international experience and leadership - and become the industry's future leaders.

Dan Rosenberg, international industry consultant and former President and CEO of Three Chimneys Farm in Lexington Kentucky, said it best during the program assessment in early 2010. *"In the 60's, early 70's, and before, our industry was a husbandry based industry. In the 70's, 80's and 90's we added science to our husbandry knowledge. Now is the time to move to a business based education model that will allow graduates to utilize not only the knowledge we have acquired for generations, but also to be trained to manage our people, our assets and our bottom line. This will require young people capable of understanding marketing concepts, taxation, accounting, personnel management, and the broad global approach our industry is taking."*




**Stephanie Burns, an
Animal Science major, was
selected as one of three
Texas A&M Outstanding
Students in May 2010.**



Outreach & Engagement Expansion



The Texas A&M Equine Initiative will encourage expanded engagement with the industry beyond existing excellence in Texas AgriLife Extension. The initiative will facilitate greater outreach education offerings to Texas and beyond. Texas A&M is a brand recognized and respected around the world. It is located in a state with a tremendous reputation for quality horses. By utilizing the total academic expertise on its campus, Texas A&M and Texas AgriLife Extension can meet the continuing education needs of the equine industry. With its historic brand, location and available expertise, the time is right for Texas A&M to become the world's leader in equine education.



**Texas A&M University
is the only veterinary school
in the state of Texas.
125 new veterinarians
graduate from Texas A&M
each year.**



Facility Construction



**The Texas A&M Varsity
Equestrian Western Squad
won its third
consecutive National
Championship in
April 2011.**

Texas A&M will develop state-of-the-art facilities from which to teach, house student activities, conduct research, and serve the industry. In order for graduates to be able to manage state-of-the-art facilities, they must be exposed to outstanding facilities. Students need to experience management techniques and practices that emulate the best in the industry today. In order to appreciate the vital partnerships that exist between veterinary medicine and management practices in successful operations, students must see these practices in action.

In addition to teaching and training students, Texas A&M has several student organizations that are recognized as the best in the country.

For example, in 2011, for the third year in a row and the fourth time in five years, the Texas A&M NCAA Equestrian Team earned a national championship in NCAA Western competition.



Facility Construction



The 2010 Texas A&M Men's Polo Team won another national championship and the Women's Team earned a reserve national championship. The Rodeo Team is and has for many years been one of the best programs in the country. The Stock Horse Team, although new, has begun to establish a tradition of excellence and enthusiasm, and the Parsons Mounted Cavalry is one of the most visible equine groups in Texas A&M's intercollegiate equine activities.

These are student equine groups and a part of a total equine program at Texas A&M. These outstanding student representatives of the university should be housed in facilities, on campus, of which they can be proud.

The goal of the Equine Initiative is to unite these excellent teams, teaching and research, and production programs at a single on-campus facility. This will be a facility for which not only faculty and students can feel a sense of pride and ownership, but one that all Aggies and Texans can proudly claim.

A photograph of a polo player in action. The player is wearing a maroon polo shirt, white breeches, a white helmet with a face mask, and a green wristband. They are riding a dark brown horse and holding a polo mallet. The horse is in a dynamic pose, with its front legs lifted. The background is a light beige color with a large, faint star graphic behind the text.

The Texas A&M Men's Polo Team was the 2010 National Champion, and the Women's Polo Team earned the 2010 Reserve National Champion title.

Partnership Development



The fourth imperative for the initiative will be a development campaign with three major areas of emphasis. These areas of emphasis are:

Construction of facilities.

In order to have the facilities previously described, the equine industry will need to help support this major undertaking. This is an opportunity to be a part of a unique dream—a dream to make Texas A&M the best in the world.

Partners supporting construction of the new facility will have unique opportunities to be recognized through naming rights including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- ★ Total Facility
- ★ NCAA Equestrian Barn, Arena & Locker Rooms
- ★ Polo Barn, Arena & Locker Rooms
- ★ Undergraduate Teaching Center
- ★ Mare & Stallion Reproduction Centers
- ★ Equine Nutrition Center
- ★ Outreach & Conference Center
- ★ Parsons Mounted Cavalry Facility



Partnership Development



Creation of endowments to support vital faculty positions.

Texas A&M is always in competition with other institutions to hire, retain and support outstanding faculty. In order to guarantee that the best people in the industry are hired, retained and prosper at Texas A&M, the establishment of endowed professorships is essential. These professorships will enable the University to offer competitive salaries and support to its best and brightest faculty members and leaders. The best programs are built and sustained by the best faculty. Endowed professorships are necessary to recruit and retain faculty of notoriety.

Endowments will be sought for the following faculty positions:

- ★ Coordinator of the Equine Initiative
- ★ Clinical Science Faculty
- ★ Equine Executive in Residence

Creation of endowments to support research, operations and facility management.

To be the best equine program in the world, Texas A&M must have protected and guaranteed funding for research, operation and facility management. The establishment of multiple endowments for support of research, student organizations and clubs, as well as overall operational support, is essential to reach the pinnacle of the equine world. These endowments guarantee that Texas A&M will be at the forefront of the equine industry now and well into the future.

Endowments to support the following areas are vital to the future success of equine programming at Texas A&M:

- ★ Facility Operating Endowment
- ★ Research Endowment
- ★ Teaching Endowment





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TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**



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