

## The Federation of Texas A&M Mothers' Clubs President's Message

April 18, 2015

It was by Fate that I ended up attending Texas A&M University and that I am, therefore, standing here about to receive one of the most cherished honors of my life.

By my junior year in high school, I was accepted to Rice University on the Early Admission program and had paid my deposit. However, as the months passed, I decided to visit colleges during Spring Break of my senior year of high school. I visited Rice and then on to A&M.

What I remember most about that visit to A&M was going to the impressive Administration Building and meeting with Dr. R.C. Potts, Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture. He was a very warm and engaging gentleman. He took a very special interest in me and after that visit, I changed my mind and decide that I was headed to Aggieland! There was one problem though – because it was so late in the semester and only the second year that women had been living on campus, there were no dorm rooms available. Dr. Potts assured me that he would work something out – just to trust him!

In early June 1973, Fate intervened again. We were packed up to go camping in our travel trailer, stopping to visit grandparents first. Before we headed to our destination, my mom checked with Dr. Potts on the housing situation. He said – if I would come to A&M, enroll in Summer School and work for the summer – he had a job for me and he could get me a dorm room for the summer and fall. Don't ask me how that worked, but it did.

We made a detour to Aggieland and set up a dorm room in almost NEW Krueger Hall with sheets, towels, and the bare necessities from a camping trailer! Did I mention, that I only had camp clothes with me? No coordinating bedding with a roommate and certainly no new clothes to start college that summer! And so my journey to Aggieland began with History 105 and 106 and washing laboratory glassware in the Biochemistry Lab of Dr. George Bates on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the old Heep Building which was right across the street from the Commons and Krueger Hall. Not exactly how I had envisioned spending my last summer before college!

I didn't have a car or even a bicycle at that time. I only visited my family once that summer – when they came to get me to attend a relative's wedding. No bike – no problem – we just walked to the Grove to watch outdoor movies and to the Cain Natatorium to go swimming. Both venues are gone now - having made way for future progress.

So, by the heartfelt interest of a caring Dean that touched my heart - my life was changed forever. I am sure there are many other stories of similar interest that brought countless students to A&M that might have gone elsewhere.

Yesterday, it was my great honor to dedicate our Federation Yearbook to the Division of Student Affairs. This large division is made up of many departments and is responsible for the non-Academic pursuits that make up the priceless "Other Education" that our Aggies receive. It is the part of student life that fills any voids in the heart created by leaving all that is familiar – family, friends, and home.

(We have recognized several members that are with us today).

I'd like to recognize *Office of the Vice President Representatives* that are with us this morning.

We, as Aggie Moms, share a common Vision with Student Affairs – that of preparing our Aggies for a life of service and leadership. We share common Principles – that of Caring, Diversity, Respect, Integrity, Excellence, and Service.

I read a quote from an A&M student, “If I had to tell you about Aggie values in one sentence I would simply ask the question: How can I be of service?” I would say the same could be said of Aggie Moms.

In 2001, early in my son’s Senior year in High School, he was thrilled to learn that he had been accepted to Texas A&M. Then in 2005, we were equally excited when our daughter, Taryn, was accepted to A&M. Being maroon blooded Aggies, it was a dream come true when our children were admitted to A&M - since we had brainwashed them from birth!

Later in 2001, I read about an Aggie Moms’ meeting and was eager to join right away even though Stephen had not yet graduated from high school. And so it began, fourteen years ago, I became a part of an organization that supported so many things that were close to my heart – Texas A&M, my children, and serving something greater outside of myself.

I saw how Aggie Moms gave their hearts for their clubs and their purposes and this University.

I saw how the University respected and honored the Aggie Moms’ heartfelt service and their donations to Scholarships and Student Organizations.

I saw how the Association of Former Students recognized the Federation of Aggie Moms as an Affiliate organization with a common purpose.

I saw how Aggie Moms are in the hearts of their Aggies and at the heart of serving this University and its students.

Considering this, I have selected the theme for next year to be – ***“Aggie Moms – Deep in the Heart of Aggieland”***.

I would be remiss if I did not thank all the past leadership of this wonderful organization. With each office that I have held, I am always appreciative of the vision, dedication, and legacy of the ladies that have served before us. They laid the foundation so that we can continue the tradition of serving our Aggies and this wonderful University. I have served with so many wonderful ladies on this Board. I appreciate all that each of you have done and the friendship that we share in our common purpose.

I would also like to thank the Collin County Aggie Moms for supporting me and allowing me to represent the Collin County club on the Federation board for the past seven years. I am looking forward to serving this year with some fellow Collin County members who will serve in appointed positions.

I would like to my husband, Steve, for all of your love, patience and support while I have served on the Federation Board. Just hang on for one more busy year!! We share maroon blood and a love of A&M that runs deep and we have loved being football season ticket holders since 1999.

To my children, Stephen, class of ’06, and his wife, Natalie, and Taryn, class of ’09, her husband, Ben, and their precious daughter Ivy, our first grandchild and future class of ’36 – we hope – I am so proud of all of you. Thank you for allowing me to be an Aggie Mom and sharing special events with me and even sharing birthdays with Aggie Mom Events – Taryn, who’s birthday is April 12.

I thank my parents, who are no longer with us, for the support they gave me so that I could attend this great University. My mom was an Aggie Mom and I aspired to do the same someday. They loved A&M as if it was their own Alma Mater.

Thank you to my brother, Terrell, for always having my back and being “my person”. I am so proud of you and all that you did while you were at A&M and are still doing today.

Thank you to my mother-in-law, sisters-in-laws, nephews, niece, and other extended family members – your support means the world. I especially would like to thank my talented nephew, Trent Pruett, class of '08, environmental design major, for designing several logos including my logo that you see here today.

Finally, to my Aggie friends that are here today, we have shared the sweetest of times since we were 18, made wonderful memories and are still making them. The Aggie sister bond we share is like no other. You are dear to my heart.

On behalf of the entire Federation, a heart-felt thank you. I love this University and all that it stands for as my second home. It is part of my identity.

Thank you for this great honor and for the opportunity to serve as your Federation President this coming year,

**Troie Pruett Burch '77**  
**Federation President**  
**2015-2016**