

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Twenty-Nine

12 March 2021

Dr. Banks named as Texas Aggie President



On 3 March, Dr. Banks was named by the TAMUS Regents and Chancellor as the next president of TAMU. The announcement started a 21-day period by Texas law after which the Regents will confirm her to the office.

M. Kathryn Banks is Vice Chancellor of Engineering and National Laboratories for The Texas A&M University System.

She also holds the following positions:

- Dean of Engineering, Texas A&M University
- Director, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station
- University Distinguished Professor
- Harold J. Haynes Dean's Chair Professor

Banks oversees coordination and collaboration among the engineering, academic and research programs at seven universities throughout the Texas A&M System, as well as three state agencies: the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI). Banks is also TEES director, overseeing research administration, technology commercialization and technology workforce development. Between the engineering agencies, she has oversight of \$310 million in sponsored research.

As dean of Texas A&M's College of Engineering, University Distinguished Professor and holder of the Harold J. Haynes Dean's Chair in Engineering, Banks leads one of the largest engineering schools in the country, with 20,800 students and 700 faculty. Banks is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers. She leads the A&M System national laboratory engagement and serves as a board member and principal executive engaged with Triad National Security, LLC for the management and operation of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Banks is the principal investigator for the recent \$65 million cooperative agreement with the CCDC Army Research Laboratory. This cooperative agreement is part of the A&M System initiative with Army Futures Command and the new George H.W. Bush Combat Development Complex, a \$130 million investment by the System and State of Texas

Dr. Banks said: *"This is a tremendous honor. The core values of Texas A&M, its rich traditions, unique culture and commitment to the greater good is the very foundation of this great University and resonates deeply with me. I hope to build upon that framework in our pursuit of preeminence, without losing what makes Texas A&M so special. Texas A&M is one of a kind, and there is nowhere else I'd rather be."*

Dr. Banks, your quote here is most welcomed by us! Congrats to you from the Sul Ross Group!

Natalie Parks Elected as TAMU Student Body President – Denton Texas, Communication Junior



What Qualifies you for this position? I have been really involved on campus in my time here. Selfless service is my favorite Aggie Core Value, and I tried to make that known in everything that I do. From the second I set foot on campus, I knew I wanted to get involved. I started by joining a (Freshman Leadership Organization). I was in Fish Council, which is the representative body of the freshman class so that's an extension of Class Councils, so I've been in that since the beginning. I currently serve as the junior class president, which my favorite thing that I've ever been able to do here, but also very involved in the Greek life side of things. I'm in a sorority, Kappa Delta specifically, where I served on the leadership council as the vice president of community service. Currently I'm serving as the executive vice president of Panhellenic, which is the governing body of sororities.

What is Your Platform? My platform is built off the premise of creating a TAMU by You. After a long research period of figuring that stuff out behind the scenes, I narrowed everything down to three platform pillars, which are wellness, because wellness influences student success; inclusion, because tradition is what connects us to the Aggie Spirit but also each other. All those things combined and all the action items beneath those pillars – because that's also something that is super important to me is choosing platform pieces that are actually possible – so all of those just combine to create the TAMU by You vision.

If You Could Have Dinner with Anyone, Who Would It Be? James Earl Rudder, the one and only, because without him, I would not be sitting here in front of you today. He helped to integrate Texas A&M from an all-male military school to having women and people of color and just contributed to creating the diverse community that we have on campus here today.

Congratulations, Natalie! The SRG Board of Directors looks forward to working with you and your Aggie Team in 2021-22!

From Porter Garner '79, President and CEO of The Association of For

**Regents Name Sole Finalist to Become
26th President of Texas A&M University**

Howdy!

3 March 2021

It was great to have so many of you join us last Saturday for The Association of Former Students' virtual Spring Leadership Council Meeting! If you were unable to participate in this important meeting of our governing body, a recording of the meeting, along with a copy of the slides, are available on our Leadership Council's secure page of our website at [AggieNetwork.com/LeadershipCouncil](https://aggienetwork.com/LeadershipCouncil). Please note you will need to be logged into our website to access the meeting materials. If you do not have an account or forgot your password, please follow the online directions as appropriate.

As you serve the worldwide Aggie Network in your volunteer leadership role, a valuable resource is The Association of Former Students' 2021 Resource Guide, which can be viewed online at tx.ag/ResourceGuide. (If you would like a printed copy, please email Cecilee Herd '95 at CHerd95@AggieNetwork.com.) As Aggies, we have an incredible story to tell. This premier publication contains facts and information about The Association, Texas A&M University and the A&M System, which would be very beneficial to you as you serve the Aggie Network.

Earlier this afternoon, The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents named a sole finalist to become the 26th president of Texas A&M University. The press release announcing Dr. Kathy Banks, Vice Chancellor of Engineering and National Laboratories for The Texas A&M University System, Texas A&M's Dean of the College of Engineering and Director of the Texas A&M Experiment Station, as the sole finalist can be read online at tx.ag/Finalist. Dr. Banks is a proven and respected leader, who well understands the power and impact of the Aggie Network. Through her leadership of the Texas A&M College of Engineering for the last nine years, she has seen first-hand the inspiring experience of what it means to be a Texas Aggie. I look forward to working closely with her as she guides Texas A&M to continued excellence.

On behalf of our entire team, thank you for your dedicated leadership and support in serving The Association of Former Students — the premier alumni organization in the world! We are most appreciative of each of you!

Gig 'em!



Porter S. Garner III '79
President and CEO

Some “elderly” SRG food for thought

In light of the statement (see above) that our new TAMU named President, Dr. Banks made; along with her reference to General Rudder by our newly elected Student Body President Natalie Parks (see above), we call your attention to what (then Colonel) Rudder wrote to Mrs. Rudder on 6 January 1945 just after the Battle of the Bulge. This was after his 109th Infantry Regiment had been in the direct brunt of the Battle of the Bulge German attack out of the Ardennes. His combat unit was on the left side of the attack axis (referred as the “left shoulder”). He was outnumbered and out gunned, but he brilliantly led a defensive operation that delayed the Germans from closing the south side of the defensive “circle” around Bastogne – enabling Patton’s divisions to close successfully. At any rate, if you want to read all about it (and you should), you can find it in Dr. Thomas Hatfield’s book Rudder in the chapter on “Battle of the Bulge.”

Pertinent to the two referenced above, here is what General Rudder wrote Mrs. Rudder in the letter that gives us insight to and counsel for today! It is on page 239: *“Our lives must be so complete that we can make up for the time that has been stolen from us. We must plan to give the world the kind of children who can stand the tests that they are certain to face as they grow and take their places in an ever more complimented way of life.”*

Hatfield goes on to say that General Rudder *“was becoming more inclusive in his concerns about society, people and the institutions that serve them!”* We can all pay attention to these sage words of advice and remember the man that said them and what he had just faced. The rest of the story is that he knew what he was talking about and lived it while here at AMC!

The Virtual SRG Business Meeting and the Induction of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Class of ’66, Monday 8 March 2021



The SRG business meeting and program included remarks from Dr. John Junkins, our Interim TAMU President. He discussed important topics such as the recent naming by the Regents of our new TAMU president, Dr. Banks; the redesign project for the Academic Plaza, and what kind of guidance he has given the Task Force for Campus Historical Displays. He mentioned those who are working on the project that will tell the historical compendium

established by great Aggie leaders, while at Aggieland, that make and will keep AMD/TAMU great. He cited the program approved by the Regents to increase African American student enrollment, his dealing with the pandemic, actions taken and damages resulting from the severe cold weather, and several other subjects. He was kind enough to remain with us during the entire program. Afterwards, he stayed for

some great discussions with the SRG Board members! We appreciated his interest and were honored. **We salute him for his leadership and service.**

Other agenda items included: remarks by Porter Garner '79, President and CEO of The Association of Former Students; an overview of the Aggie Park project by Marty Holmes '87 of The Association; the SRG membership vote affirmation of the nominated SRG 2021-22 Board of Directors; the SRG membership's vote ratification of recommended changes to the SRG Constitution; remarks by our SRG president Tom Reid '61; and the introduction and brief remarks from the new 2021 SRG president, Joe Ashy '62.



In the induction ceremony for the Class of '66, the Class Agents represented their classmates, wherein they alternately called the names of those who had registered for the conference as (virtual) attendees. Larry Jerden '66 gave the 1966 class history, which was an excellent overview, humorous at times, and well done. Larry (see photo), in addition to Kevin Andrews '66 and Mike Anderson '66, each received their induction citations from Porter Garner '79.



Tom Reid '61, for outstanding leadership as Board member, and the 2020-21 SRG President, received well-deserved recognition from Porter Garner who read and then presented him a proclamation of thanks on behalf of the SRG Board and The Association. The outgoing members of the Board, Tom Wisdom '60 (Immediate Past President), along with Joe Powell '60 and Brant Laycock '61, were also recognized for their service to the SRG.

Almost 200 viewers joined in the program virtually. You can go to the Aggienetwork.com website and find the video recording of the proceedings at: tx.ag/2021SRGVirtualMeeting

Family Weekend and Final Review Information



Dates are set for both Family Weekend events and Final Review. There will be Corps Family Weekend activities on Friday, April 9th and Saturday, April 10th. Final Review will be on Friday, April 30th, with the first Pass in Review at 9 AM. Both events will take place at Kyle Field on the Texas A&M University campus.

- **April 9 & 10 Family Weekend**

April 9—Kyle Field

4:30 pm Open Kyle Field for family members. Families sit on the west side of Kyle Field
 5:00 pm Corps of Cadets steps off the Quad
 5:30 pm Corps March-in to Kyle Field
 6:00 pm Aggie Band Halftime Drill Performance
 6:30 pm Major Flag Awards presentation
 7:00 pm Ceremony concludes

April 10—Kyle Field

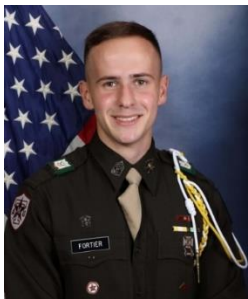
9:00 am Open Kyle Field for family members. Family members sit on the west side Kyle Field
 9:30 am Fish Drill Team performance
 10:00 am Ross Volunteers performance
 10:30 am Events conclude

- **April 30, Final Review, Kyle Field**

8:00 am Kyle Field opens for family members. Families sit on the west side of Kyle Field
 8:30 am 2020-2021 Corps of Cadets steps off from the Quad
 9:00 am 2020-2021 Corps of Cadets conducts 1st pass in review
 10:15 am 2021-2022 Corps of Cadets steps off from the Quad
 10:45 am 2021-2022 Corps of Cadets conducts 2nd pass in review
 12:00 pm Event concludes/Kyle Field closes

For more information, please go to: <https://corps.tamu.edu/>

The Corps Commander for 2021-22



Connor Fortier – Congratulations!

Fightin' Texas Aggie Track Teams at National Championship Meet



In Fayetteville, Arkansas (this weekend of 11-13 March), the Fightin Texas Aggies competed in the NCAA championships, and our women finished second nationally thanks in major part to the incredible performances of **Tyra Gittens**. Tyra won the national championship in a record-setting pentathlon performance! And then she followed that

with another National championship performance (school record) in the high jump!
Congrats, Tyra!!

Shirley Briggs

We are so sad to report that **Shirley, the dear wife of Ridley Briggs '54**, for 67 years in marriage, passed away on 8 March in Mount Vernon, Texas. The burial service will be Sunday afternoon in College Station at 1400 hours at the Aggie Fields of Honor Cemetery. Ridley remains a very active and supportive past President of the Sul Ross Group. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family!

Notes:

SRG Bulletin Sign-Up Reminder: Anyone (Ags and non Ags, SRG Ags and all other Ags too) can “opt in” and sign up by going to:
<https://www.aggienetwork.com/theassociation/sulrossgroup.aspx> and simply putting in your name and email address, and then clicking on “submit.” You will then automatically receive all the SRG Bulletins.

If you wish comment to those who decide:

Chancellor Sharp: chancellor@tamus.edu

The Board of Regents: vickie@tamus.edu or jbelle@tamus.edu

President Banks: engineeringyed@tamu.edu

Interim President Junkins: junkins@tamu.edu

Interim Provost Weichold: m-weichold@tamu.edu

Athletic Director Bjork: rrabun@athletics.tamu.edu

You can reach us at: SRGpresident@aggienetwork.com. The Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD) are responsible for producing and editing these SRG Bulletins, with transparency and advice from The Association of Former Students, under whose auspices we operate. We do so in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution's Purposes, which is keeping our represented SRG Membership informed in a timely manner. To access information about us as the elected SRG Board of Directors, and our Constitution, we shall soon have an “SRG Tab” on The Association's website at: aggienetwork.com so you can access information about us.