I can only stand before you this morning with the support of my family. I am grateful to have Jason Walker ’90 whom I met at the Train Station, aptly named ‘College Station’ in the winter of 1989. Reveille would later attend our wedding and my little, small town of Mexia, Texas still talks about that dog in the church. Jason, thank you for supporting my passion for Aggie Moms and everything I do.

Our two daughters are my reason “why”. I am an only child and being blessed to watch these strong women grow up to love and treasure each other as best friends and sisters is beyond any blessing I could have asked for or imagined. Landry Ruth Walker Henthorne ’19 and Chaney Rae Walker ’21 you two absolutely wrecked me in the best way possible. Being your Aggie Momma has brought me unspeakable joy. Thank you both for constantly inspiring me to be better. I love who you have both become and I know God is just getting started on using your gifts and talents for His purpose. I will be cheering for you until my very last breath.

And in 2015, we met a young Aggie from Bartlesville, Oklahoma that wooed our daughter and then absolutely captured our hearts. He is far better than anyone we deserve and watching him love Landry AND Chaney is simply beautiful. Colin, thank you so much for embracing our crazy. You are such a blessing, and we could not ask for a better son.

So, as you can see. My life has been impacted in the best possible way by Texas A&M. There were absolutely roommates and professors along the way that might have never predicted this. They likely saw me during the most challenging season of my life. This place rocked everything about me from day one and let’s just say, we should all be hoping for my GPA soon at the gas pumps!

But by God’s grace, my faith was strengthened at Texas A&M and almost as importantly, my five years here taught me perseverance. There is an exact moment and place on this campus when I decided that I deserved a degree and would do whatever it took to earn it and that pivotal moment has given me strength and determination during a variety of challenges in my life.

So, when half my heart moved to College Station in the fall of 2015, we made up excuses to “connect with the campus” almost every weekend that fall! And when the rest of our heart enrolled in 2017, I knew it was time to get involved with something for me.

I was already the President of the Coppell Aggie Moms Club and I started attending Federation Meetings and events. I love you Coppell Aggie Moms and I absolutely will not get through this year without you. Thank you for all your support on this journey.

Jason and I attended the Fall Dinner that year at The College of Agriculture and ran into our long-lost friend, Katie Latham. Who would have ever known that night we would both be here today! Katie, thank you for making us feel so welcomed!

The next day was the Hurricane Harvey Meeting and I remember being very touched by The Federation’s Memorial Resolutions for Formers that had passed away. It’s funny what captures your heart, but at that meeting, I knew I wanted to get even more involved. I came to the Winter Dinner alone and someone at my table suggested that I apply for the Board. My kids were launched, I loved Texas A&M, why not!

I served as 2nd VP of Programs my first year and that job absolutely hit my sweet spot. I loved meeting all the speakers and student groups and I made lifelong friends that year with Student Body President, Amy Sharp Doyel and Muster Chair, Helena Shakesby Haerr both Class of 19. The following year was a little rough as I served as Treasurer. One of those professors that I mentioned earlier could have told you that math is not my sweet spot, and I struggled all year to update QuickBooks Online. And that’s when I became lifelong friends with Federation President, Cathleen Inman ’88. Cathleen taught me the leadership lesson of the shovel. She did not just talk about moving a mountain, but she picked up her leadership shovel and helped dig me out of a very big hole. Cathleen, I love you forever. Thank you.

Instead of stepping off the Board, as I planned, Cathleen encouraged me to apply again. That year I had the privilege of traveling to hold District Meetings. Some of them were on Zoom due to Covid restrictions, but that spring Diane Eckols and I got to meet so many talented and beautiful ladies across our organization. What a fun time we had together! Thanks for being my co-pilot, Diane! That semester of travel is when I met many of the ladies serving on my Board with me this year. My sparklers!

That spring I typed out a five-page application to be on the Board. I outlined my goals and many of those things are exactly what I want to share with you today. Don’t worry! I have condensed it! Seeing this Board come together is truly such a realization of a vision I believe God put on my heart over the last 18 months ago. So, this morning, I would love to share that vision for our year!

**GROWTH –**

1st VP Membership, Parent Socials – Cstat, Galveston, McAllen, Tailgates, Ring of Honor Moms

All of these Moms will be helping us “Widen the Front Door”. We want to grow our Clubs and our Membership across the state and nation. Our Clubs should look like our student population today and we must be more welcoming and inviting to ensure that happens. We will use our incredible Aggie Mom Ambassadors and Board Members to reach out to our first-generation Aggie families many of whom English is not their first language to enhance their experiences with TAMU. We want to target affinity groups on campus to serve Veteran students, Corps students, athletic families, and more. We will continue reaching out through New Student Conferences, Howdy and Hola parties and home game tailgates! We will continue working with TAMU recruiting to grow our out of state Clubs and families. We are also helping our Clubs strengthen or initiate Ring of Honor groups to bring back Aggie Moms that no longer have students on campus.

Growth is essential and it should be inevitable. We have 500,00 Former Students and 70,000 current students. We will put a great deal of effort this year into increasing our Membership through a variety of fun and creative ways! If you have not already loaded our Aggie Mom App on your phone, please don’t leave town without doing that!

OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS –

2nd Programs, 3rd VP Registration, Hospitality, 5th VP Boutique, Aggie Mom Camp and 6th VP District Meetings –

Our meetings and events will be warm, welcoming, beautiful, energetic, informative, fun, full of opportunities for connections, and did I say FUN? And yes, we want to get our Aggie Dads engaged. Sign up quickly when our events are posted on our website and social media. They will continue to sell out and we will commit to making them worthwhile.

OPEN COMMUNICATION

– our communication team will consist of Corresponding Secretary, Electronic Information and App, Social Media, 4th VP of Reports, and 7th VP of Directory –

This team will work together to ensure our communication is accurate, accessible, timely, informative, fresh, essential, and helpful and puts us in the best light every single time. We want to be where our Moms are – and that is on their phone! Our app, our website, our social media accounts will all be active, so join them if you have not. We will work to share the Good Bull stories of Texas A&M and Aggie Mom Clubs across the state, and we will work to have good master data to keep Moms up to date and in the loop. Be watching for our Podcasts to gain more insight into what is happening on Campus and with our Clubs.

DEVELOPMENT –

What can I say about Stephanie Collums and the team that she is building this year to help meet our budget goals? We get to say “yes” to so many more opportunities because of the financial strength and stability she has ensured. Our auctions and raffles will just keep getting better with Auctria and her leadership. Stephanie has enhanced and created donor relationships that will bless this organization for many years to come. I am proud to call Stephanie my dear friend! And I know that she works around the clock to think of different ways to enhance our entire organization with support from our donors and community. Stephanie, thank you for your endless support and helping me turn so many of my visions and crazy big ideas into reality!

BUSINESS –

consists of Recording Secretary, Parliamentarian, Historian, and Treasurer

These ladies ensure we have good records, and that we stay within our bylaws, and tax laws. This group is hard working and steady. We have grown to a point that we have to take the business of the Federation seriously, and we do! I am grateful to have some savvy business ladies joining us this year!

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

 One of my goals is to hear from students this year. Aggie Moms were founded to support student concerns and I think it is imperative that we stay connected with the pulse of our student body. I hope to work with various departments across campus this year to set these up. Stay tuned!

LEADERSHIP

Our President Elect will lead and continue to develop Aggie Mom University as she prepares herself to lead us in 2023-2024. Developing a pipeline of well trained, good leaders is very key to our future and I will work closely with Johnna Lenamon on this all year. And if you are standing on the outside of this organization looking in and you know you have things to offer, I invite you out of the periphery and into the CLUB!

Katie Latham, as VP at Large will work with our Former Presidents to cheer us on and support us throughout the year!

LOVELY, LIFELONG CONNECTIONS – THE PATSY WAY - you will hear a lot about that this year. Everything we do is to build beautiful, positive connections and friendships and support so that our Moms across the country can continue our mission “by individual and united effort to contribute in EVERY WAY to the comfort and welfare of the students and to cooperate with Texas A&M University in maintaining a high standard of moral conduct and intellectual attainment.” So, Clubs can continue to provide scholarships, care packages, advice, support and a network for our students.

Join for your student but stay for YOU. Once an Aggie Mom, Always an Aggie Mom are not just catchy phrases. They are intended to help Moms realize that these are not just the best years of life for your kiddos but can be such a beautiful season for the rest of your life as well!

All these things together define our year, they are GOOD BULL, and I could not be more excited or committed to these goals. A guiding verse for the year will be, “Finally, brothers and SISTERS, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is LOVELY, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.”

Thank you all for your time this morning. It is my profound honor to lead, and I expect you will work with me to not only meet our mission and see it through to the next century, but ensure we leave it better than we found it. That is our charge.

May God bless our efforts, our country and this great institution. Let’s get about this Good Bull!