Kathleen M. Gibson ’81 Recognized with Prestigious Distinguished Alumnus Award

AGEC alumna and member of the Tyrus R. Timm Honor Registry Kathleen M. Gibson ’81 received the Distinguished Alumnus Award, on Thursday, March 1, a high honor jointly bestowed by the Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University jointly. The Distinguished Alumnus Award “recognizes Aggies who have achieved excellence in their chosen professions and made meaningful contributions to Texas A&M University and their local communities.” (AFS website).

While at Texas A&M, Gibson’s leadership included her service with the student government, where she served as vice-president of the student body. Her continued service to Texas A&M University demonstrates a sincere and robust commitment to encouraging excellence, both in and outside the classroom at Texas A&M University. Gibson was instrumental in the development of the Texas A&M Foundation annual Women Wealth and Wisdom conference where she served as one of the inaugural keynote speakers in 2012. Her recent leadership service roles include serving on the Advisory Council for the Center for International Business Studies at Texas A&M and the Mays Business School Development Council. She joined the Texas A&M Foundation Board of Trustees on July 1, 2016.

Dr. Ed Rister ’74, Professor and Associate Department Head, and Patrick Williams ’92, Senior Director of Development, acknowledged in their jointly signed letter of support for the Distinguished Alumnus Award that Gibson’s “character and integrity, combined with her professional and personal accomplishments, are indeed ‘outstanding!’ She enthusiastically participates in and supports Texas A&M University, while being modest and unconcerned with being recognized for what she does.”
Gibson and her husband Robert are generous benefactors to Texas A&M. In addition to Endowed Century Club gifts through The Association of Former Students, the couple established the Jarvis E. Miller ’50 Excellence Fund for International Education in 2002 to support programs and activities within the Center for International Business Studies at Mays Business School.

Kathleen’s corporate achievements are extensive. Following her graduation, Kathleen joined Nations Bank (which later merged with Bank of America). During the 10 years from 1981 to 1991, Ms. Gibson held lending and management positions within the corporate bank, handling the lending and capital markets origination for large corporate clients and banks in the Southwest, Midwest and West Coast regions. From 1991 to 1998, Gibson had responsibility for the firm’s Cross Border Structured Finance and Project Finance origination activities in the Western U.S. She later became Managing Director for the Southwest Diversified Industries Corporate Finance group for Banc of America Securities LLC, with significant international responsibilities. She joined the Bank of America Private Bank in January 2000 as Dallas Market Executive and was promoted to Southwest Region President seven months later (August 2000). In this latter role, she had responsibility for providing financial services to the affluent markets in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada. From November 2001 to July 2002, Gibson served as Asset Management Group Risk Executive and then National Trust Executive for Bank of America Private Bank. In this role, she had responsibility for its trust, estate and charitable business.

In 2006, Gibson joined Citi as Head of Citibank Texas Commercial and President Citibank Texas. Later she was named President of the Central Region, Commercial Banking. For the past several years, she has served as President and CEO of Southwestern Medical Foundation, a leading charitable corporation supporting advancement in medical education, medical research and medical care.

While engaged in a robust, active professional career with numerous leadership roles, Gibson has been heavily involved in various community and civic opportunities throughout her life. She is Past Chair of the Board of The Association of Former Students at Texas A&M University, and Strategy Chair on the Board of the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations. She serves on the Boards of the SMU Tate Lecture Series, the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas, and Charter 100. She is a member of the Advisory Boards of the Institute for Excellence in Corporate Governance at UT Dallas and the DFW Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Program. Gibson is a member of the International Women’s Forum – Dallas, Dallas Woman’s Club, Marianne Scruggs Garden Club, and the Junior League of Dallas.

Outside of Texas A&M, Gibson has played an active role in community groups and civic engagement, including serving on the Dallas Regional Chamber Board and Executive Committee, chairing the Dallas March for Babies Walk, and serving on the Boards of Children’s Medical Center, Dallas Center for the Performing Arts Foundation, The Dallas Opera, The Lamplighter School, Dallas Citizens Council, The City Club, and the Dallas 2012 Olympic Bid Committee. In all of these strategic roles, Gibson’s wealth of experience as a senior corporate officer has been an asset.
Other notable achievements in Gibson’s professional career include recognition in the Dallas Business Journal as a ‘Top 25 Industry Leader in Women in Business’, and by the Profiles in Diversity Journal in the 10th Annual Women Worth Watching edition. She also has received several awards at Texas A&M, including being honored as a 2014 Fish Camp Namesake, and being a recipient of the 2014 Women’s Legacy Award. In 2003, she was inducted into the Tyrus R. Timm Honor Registry, the Department’s highest award of achievement for former students with less than 1% of its more than 11,000 graduates having earned this recognition.

Photo 3 Front Row (l to r): Jimmy Williams ’83, Chair, AFS Board; Porter Garner ’70, President/CEO, AFS; Robert Gibson (husband); Gibson’s Daughter; honoree Kathleen Gibson ’81; Gibson’s father; Ross Volunteer; Back row (l to r): Mark Klemm; Dr. Ed Rister ’74

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