



1964-2004

DBU Celebrates 40 Years Since Groundbreaking



On May 3, a luncheon was held in the Hillcrest Great Hall of the John G. Mahler Student Center. The luncheon remembered the groundbreaking ceremony for Dallas Baptist University, and among the many who attended the luncheon were those who were there on that special day in 1964.

On that day, on a vacant southern Dallas hill overlooking Mountain Creek Lake, hundreds gathered to consecrate land and ask God's blessing on a venture of which many had spent years dreaming. The trustees of Decatur Baptist College, which was founded in 1898, had agreed to requests from the Dallas Baptist Association to transfer the school to this new location. Representatives from Decatur Baptist that day included Decatur President Dr. Otis Strickland, who served as Dallas Baptist's first president, members of the Decatur board of trustees, and DBC professors, staff members, and students.

Also there that day were Dallas-area Baptists who had committed themselves to support the new Dallas Baptist College. Among those stood Dr. Fred White, who helped spearhead the transfer; Dr. Charles Pitts, a future president of Dallas Baptist; and Sue Mitz, who would soon join the faculty and remain a part of the University to this day.

Now in 2004, their dreams have become a reality. No longer is the hill vacant, but rather it has become a vibrant, bustling campus, filled with beautiful buildings and young minds eager to learn.

The special luncheon held on May 3 honored that spring day as many remembered the service. The invocation was given by Rev. Jeff Pritchard, former chair of the board of trustees of Decatur Baptist College and Dallas Baptist College. Also, Bill Rogers, who serves DBU as an advancement officer and was there that day in 1964 along with his parents, Orville and Esther Beth, helped to arrange the showing of a special home movie of the groundbreaking ceremony.

In addition, Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley, distinguished DBU adjunct professor of communication, gave a special talk about DBU during those early years. Dr. Rumbley served at DBU for many years as a professor.

A special treat came for many as DBU President Dr. Gary Cook announced the appointment of Sue Mitz as a full professor. Sue Mitz has served as an assistant professor and an associate professor at DBU since 1965.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, Dr. Fred White spoke. Now fully retired from DBU, Dr. White helped guide the school in those early years, as well as recruited the first class of Dallas Baptist and then remained a part of the University as an administrator, professor, and special assistant until 2002. Dr. White reminded the crowd of the difficult days that DBU faced during its formative years in Dallas. He then went on to talk about the faithfulness demonstrated by God these last sixteen years as the school's enrollment, endowment, and buildings have grown under the leadership of Dr. Cook.

In forty years, the campus of Dallas Baptist University has come a long way. Once cow pasture and rattlesnake country, now University Hill has become a training ground for servant leaders and an institution committed to the integration of faith and learning. To God be the glory, great things He has indeed done.



Pictures from top to bottom: (1) DBU Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Communication Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley; (2) Long-time DBU supporters Orville and Esther Beth Rogers, along with their son, DBU staff member Bill Rogers; (3) (clockwise from center) Former DBC Trustee Rev. Jeff Pritchard, his wife, Laura Pritchard, John Kendall, Marcia Kendall, and DBU staff member Carol Reid; (4) (from left to right) Dr. Ed Spann, Dr. Gail Linam, Dr. Bob Brooks, Professor Sue Mitz, and Dr. Gary Cook.