



Dallas Baptist

UNIVERSITY

Tom and Alicia Landry Welcome Center Dedicated

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Dedication of Landry Center Focuses on Character

Emphasizing its goal of shaping Christian character, Dallas Baptist University recently dedicated a new Welcome Center named after Tom and Alicia Landry.

Throughout their lives, both Tom Landry, legendary coach of the Dallas Cowboys, and his wife, Alicia, have shown a commitment to Christ as well as support of the mission of Dallas Baptist University.

Landry spoke many times in the university's chapel service and at DBU-sponsored youth rallies. He also served as honorary chairman of the university's largest annual fund-raiser, the Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award Dinner, in 1990 and in 1996. Landry received the award himself in 1991. Mrs. Landry was a recipient of the 1993 Ruth Award and has been a member of the DBU Women's Auxiliary Board for almost 10 years. When Coach Landry passed away on February 12, 2000, Mrs. Landry asked the DBU Chorale to sing at his memorial service at the Meyerson Symphony Center, an event Mrs. Landry remembered with great fondness during the Welcome Center dedication.

"I am sorry Tommy can't see how lovely it is," Mrs. Landry said of the new Landry Welcome Center. "But it



Bob and Carolyn Fanning (center) visit the Fanning Room in the new Landry Welcome Center along with members of their family, (from left to right) son Barry and his wife, Sherri, and son Mark. Long-time friends of the Landrys and of DBU, Mr. and Mrs. Fanning played an instrumental role throughout the planning stages and completion of the new building.

is my pleasure to say for us both how much we appreciate this honor, your kindness toward us, our close relationship with your school, and this meaningful dedication event. Thank you for it, always."

"It is a great honor for us to have our past and continuous association with the Landrys," said DBU President Gary Cook. "In a time when strong character is emphasized less than personal achievement, it is wonderful to have such a well-known, outstanding family

who exemplifies Christian character. We are grateful for the Landrys' lives, testimony, and relationship with our university."

"Having the university's Welcome Center named after individuals who embody positive Christian character exemplifies our dedication to not only educating our students but also mentoring them in moral and ethical behavior," said Dr. J. Blair Blackburn, executive vice president. This commitment to character development has been especially recognized by the John Templeton Foundation, who has named DBU to their honor roll of universities and colleges that encourage character development.

The Landry Welcome Center provides visitors and prospective



Wayne and Buena Stevenson talk with John Clem, DBU's director of development, during the dedication ceremonies for the Landry Welcome Center. The Stevensons have generously shown their support of the university through financial gifts and Buena's service as a member of the board of trustees.

students and their families with a complete overview of the academic programs and other opportunities offered at DBU. “This building allows us to centralize the entire enrollment process and creates one-stop convenience,” Blackburn said. The Welcome Center also serves as a place for people to quickly enter and gather information about the university or take time to meet with admissions advisors in the conference room or the multimedia room. Financial aid counselors are also available in the same location. “The Tom and Alicia Landry Welcome Center provides a wonderful atmosphere to illustrate how faith and learning are connected, showcase our commitment to building character, and relate these attributes to the lasting legacy of Coach Tom Landry,” added Dr. Blackburn.

During the dedication ceremony, speakers reflected on the Landrys’ legacy and character. Dr. Mac Brunson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, spoke of the lasting



Accompanying Mrs. Alicia Landry (center right) during the dedication were (left to right), son-in-law Eddy Phillips, daughter Kitty Phillips, and son Tom Landry, Jr.



Prior to the dedication, Dr. J. Blair Blackburn, DBU executive vice president, along with his wife, Michelle, helped provide tours of the new building to the attendees. Dr. Blackburn has served at DBU for over seven years and has overseen many building projects, including the planning and completion of the Landry Welcome Center.

impact of Coach Landry, saying “Even though Coach Landry has gone on to be with the Lord, yet the testimony of a godly man still speaks.”

Adding to these words was Bob Fanning, a retired Dallas attorney and lifelong friend of the Landrys, who stated, “Without hesitation, reservation or equivocation, Tom Landry was the greatest Christian in my life, and he has impacted my life as he has many others, and I am very, very grateful.”

The Hillcrest Reception Center, located in the Landry Welcome Center, is named after the Hillcrest Foundation, a major donor for the new building.

