



## 25th DECATUR REUNION

honors Joyce Sellars '51, '73 and Nell Bowles



Dallas Baptist University hosted the 25th Annual Decatur Baptist College Spring Reunion for alumni and friends on Friday, April 19. During the program, the class of 1963 was honored for their 50th Anniversary, and the class of 1953 was recognized for their 60th Anniversary.

In the 1890s, several individuals began working to launch a college that would educate Baptists in North Texas. With the backing of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Decatur Baptist College opened its doors in the fall of 1898, and by the 1960s, it had become the world's oldest continuing junior college. In 1965, the school moved to Dallas and soon became a four-year institution, but the foundation laid in Decatur has helped Dallas Baptist University become what it is today—a school focused on Christ-centered education and the production of servant leaders.

Starting in 1989, DBU President Gary Cook and then-DBU Vice President Dennis Linam began hosting special Decatur Baptist College reunions, and this spring marked the 25th time that the Decatur and Dallas Baptist family gathered in honor of DBC and to celebrate DBU.

This year's reunion celebration was held on the DBU campus, in conjunction with the 25th Annual Norvell Slater Senior Adult Hymn Sing held in Pilgrim Chapel. Additionally, Mrs. Nell Bowles was recognized with the Decatur Honorary Alumna Award, and Mrs. Joyce Sellars was presented with the Decatur Distinguished Service Award.

Honorary Alumna recipient Nell Bowles has strong ties to Decatur, serving as the pastor's wife at First Baptist Church of Decatur for several years as her husband, Dr. Ed Bowles, was the pastor. Currently, her son, Ron, is the dean of the College of Fine Arts at DBU.





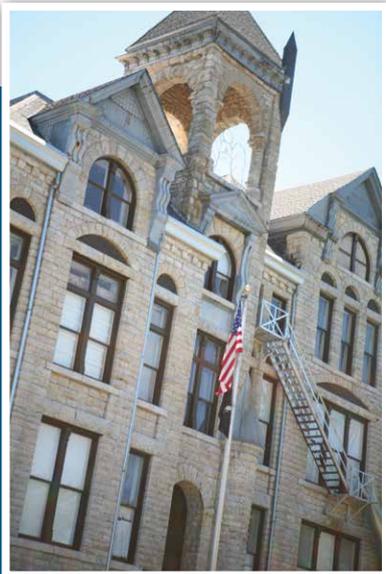
Distinguished Service Award recipient Joyce Sellars is a graduate of both Decatur Baptist College in 1951 and Dallas Baptist University in 1973. She has remained active in the DBU Women's Auxiliary Board, is a DBU trustee, and a strong supporter of the University.

Following the luncheon, attendees joined hundreds of senior adults from across the Metroplex for the Norvell Slater Senior Adult Hymn Sing. Led by Dr. Ozzie Ingram, DBU associate vice president for administrative affairs, those gathered filled the sanctuary with beloved hymns of the faith. Held each spring, the Hymn Sing honors the memory of Norvell Slater, whose radio show, "Hymns We Love," encouraged thousands across the Dallas-Fort Worth area for decades.



(Page 12, top) Dr. Cory Hines, DBU vice president for advancement and external affairs, along with Decatur Baptist College Alumni Richard and Ruth Keathley ('53); (middle) Members of the Class of 1963 celebrating their 50th anniversary; (lower) Honorary Alumna recipient Nell Bowles with her son, Ron Bowles, dean of the DBU College of Fine Arts.

(Page 13, left) Distinguished Service Award Honoree Joyce Sellars with son, John; (right) Joyce Sellars, along with family and friends at the Decatur Luncheon; (lower) members of the Billman Sunday School Class at First Baptist Church of Dallas, with Joyce Sellars.



## HISTORY OF DBC

Founded in 1898, Decatur Baptist College originally began as a two-year college located in Decatur, Texas. The initial enrollment was 105 students.

In 1965, the college moved from Decatur to Dallas, under the name Dallas Baptist College. In 1968, DBC became a senior college, adding the third and fourth years of study to the school. By 1985, the name of the school changed once more: this time to Dallas Baptist University, as it has remained.

Although the name and location has changed over the years, Dallas Baptist University is thankful for the tradition and legacy found in Decatur Baptist College. Each year, the alumni from Decatur Baptist College are honored in a special reunion.