27th Annual

RUSSELL H. PERRY

Free Enterprise Award Dinner

2014 WAB Ruth AWARDS
DBU Celebrates HOMECOMING
Patriot Tennis Team SERVES IN CHILE
Dallas Baptist University named Don Hodges, founder and chairman of Hodges Capital Management, as the recipient of the 2014 Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award during the annual dinner, which was held on November 24 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. David Dean, former Russell Perry recipient and chairman and CEO of Dean International, Inc., served as honorary chair for the dinner with more than 1,400 people in attendance.

Ron Harris, founder and president of MEDIAlliance International, was the chair for this year’s dinner, as well as the evening’s emcee.

The 27th annual gala event recognizes and honors Texas leaders who use their God-given talents and abilities to make the most of opportunities created for them by the American free enterprise system. The event is named in memory of Dallas leader and philanthropist Russell H. Perry, whose life of service to Dallas impacted the lives of many. Mrs. Russell H. (Phoebe) Perry continues to be a friend to Dallas Baptist University. She and her late husband began their support of DBU in the 1960s.

Over the past 27 years, the dinner has raised more than $4 million in scholarship funds for over 1,800 DBU students.

As emcee, Ron Harris welcomed the attendees to the dinner and introduced Jim Nation and Dr. Robert Jeffress. Jim Nation, a member of the DBU board of trustees, led the audiences in the Pledge of Allegiance. Nation, along with his wife, Sally, who has also served as a DBU trustee, are long-time friends of the University and recently provided $2.5 million as the lead gift for the new home of the Gary Cook School of Leadership, Nation Hall, which is currently under construction on the DBU campus and will open in the summer of 2015.

Following the Pledge, Dr. Jeffress led the audience and offered the invocation. Dr. Jeffress serves as pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, Don Hodges’ home church. His wife is a current doctoral student in the Cook School of Leadership, as well as a DBU adjunct professor, and their daughter and son-in-law, Ryan and Julia Sadler, are both DBU graduates.

Dinner music was provided on the piano by Sue Mitz, DBU professor of music.
Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley, a well-known speaker and humorist and former faculty member at Dallas Baptist University, served as this year’s keynote speaker.

The DBU Grand Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Steve Holcomb, provided music for the more than 1,400 people who attended the event this year.

As the program began, Ron Harris invited Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, to the podium to provide a word of gratitude to those present. Dr. Cook gave special thanks to Don Hodges for allowing DBU to honor him with the award, and he also informed the crowd about the construction of two new buildings on campus, Nation Hall and the Dr. William B. Dean Learning, which was made possible through the generosity of David Dean and his family. Dr. Cook then shared about a new scholarship initiative that DBU will be undertaking in the months ahead.

Following Dr. Cook’s comments, DBU’s Grand Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Steve Holcomb, performed a patriotic medley entitled, “God of our Fathers,” with Dr. Bob Brooks, dean of the Graduate School of Ministry, providing narration.

After the performance, Ron Harris welcomed to the podium the evening’s keynote speaker, Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley. Dr. Rumbley, whose career has ranged from teacher, actress, historian, humorist, and author, has been a beloved member of the DBU family since the school’s relocation to Dallas nearly 50 years ago. From 1965 to 1977, she taught communication arts and led the drama department at Dallas Baptist. After a tenure serving at First Baptist Church of Dallas, as well as speaking and writing full time, she returned to DBU as an adjunct instructor in 1991 and was eventually named a distinguished adjunct professor. She was named an Honorary Alumna of DBU in 2010.

Since the beginning of the Russell Perry Dinners, Dr. Rumbley has served as the backup to the keynote speaker, always attending the dinner and ready to go on stage should the need arise. However, this year, it was decided to make her the main speaker, which proved to be a treat to all those who were present. During her talk, Dr. Rumbley reminisced about her life as a teacher and the early years of then Dallas Baptist College, as well as the transition that has taken place at the school over the past 27 years. She also talked about the free enterprise system and shared stories of how the economic system allows individuals to pursue their talents to pursue their dreams and give to the world.

At the conclusion of Dr. Rumbley’s talk, Cheryl Hall of The Dallas Morning News, introduced the a special video tribute to Don Hodges from friends and colleagues who offered their praise and congratulations.

Next, David Dean, chairman and CEO of Dean International, Inc., and also honorary chair of the dinner, came to the podium to introduce the honoree, Don Hodges, and present him with the Russell Perry Award. A 2006 recipient of the award, David Dean serves on the board of numerous charitable and community organizations and formerly was the General Counsel and Secretary of State for Texas Governor William Clements, as well as General Counsel for Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe.

During his introduction, Mr. Dean described the life and work of Don Hodges, who developed a unique talent for researching and selecting undervalued stocks and turning them into profit for others. He also welcomed to the podium Dr. Bob Brooks, who read excerpts from Don Hodges’ book, Horse Sense, Street Smarts, which is a collection of sayings
Jim Nation, current DBU trustee, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance at the dinner, along with his wife, Sally, who is a former DBU trustee and active member of the Women’s Auxiliary Board. The Nations recently provided the lead gift for the construction of Nation Hall, the new home of the Cook School of Leadership.

In 1955, Don married his childhood sweetheart Freddie Donaldson, and they raised three children, Camille, Craig, and Clark, all of whom are working partners with Hodges Capital Management. Don and Freddie recently celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary. They are active members of First Baptist Church of Dallas.

Prior to the evening’s dinner, Mr. Hodges had been hospitalized, fearing that he may not be able to make it to the dinner. However, through the prayers of many, and the determination of Don Hodges, he was able to come directly from his hospital room to the dinner. Although he was unable to walk to the podium, Mr. Hodges was given a handheld microphone, and he thanked all of those in attendance and shared about how various individuals helped to shape his work ethic and also his life. He then encouraged the crowd to likewise give of themselves and make a positive impact in the lives of others.

At the conclusion of the dinner, Dr. Mac Brunson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida, gave the benediction. Dr. Brunson and his wife, Debbie, are longtime friends with the Hodges from when Dr. Brunson served as the pastor of First Baptist Dallas.

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2014 DINNER COMMITTEE

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PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2013 Bob Buford
2012 Vester Hughes
2011 Norm Miller
2010 Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.
2009 Tom Leppert
2008 Drayton McLane, Jr.
2007 Andy and Joan Horner
2006 David A. Dean
2005 Pete Schenkel
2004 Noble Hurley
(posthumously)
2003 The Weir Furniture Family
2002 George A. Shafer
2001 Mary C. Crowley
(posthumously)
2000 Erle Nye
1999 Ross Perot, Jr.
1998 Jim L. Turner
1997 Rodger Meier
1996 W. Forrest Smith
1995 Lonnie “Bo” Pilgrim
1994 Bob Minyard, Liz Minyard, Gretchen Minyard Williams, Sonny Williams
1993 Boone Powell, Sr.; Boone Powell, Jr.
1992 Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper
1991 Tom Landry
1990 Maurice & Ebby Halliday Acers
1989 Trammell Crow
1988 John M. Stemmons, Sr.

Dr. Mac Brunson (left), pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida, along with his wife, Debbie, and their long-time friend and DBU supporter, Orville Rogers.

Dr. Adam Wright (far left), vice president and dean of the Cook School of Leadership, and his wife, Candice, along with Ted Harrod, president of Harrod Trucking, and his wife, Linda.

Dr. Robert Jeffress (far left), pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, and his wife, Amy, who is a current Ph.D. student and adjunct instructor at DBU, along with long-time friend of DBU, Andy Homer and his wife, Sarah.

Patsy Smith, long-time supporter of DBU and current member of the DBU board of trustees, along with Dr. Blair Blackburn, DBU executive vice president.

Dr. Gary Cook (center right), president of DBU, along with his wife, Sheila, and their sons, Mark (far right), who works for the Denison Forum on Truth and Culture, and David, who serves as a faculty member at DBU, and his wife, Nicole.

Former Russell Perry Award recipient Boone Powell, and his wife, Peggy, along with their grandson, Cooper Kelemen, who is a current DBU student.
We would like to thank all of the Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award Dinner supporters for providing scholarships for DBU students.

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Cheryl Hall, columnist for The Dallas Morning News, introduced the video tribute to Don Hodges.

Dr. Steve Holcomb, director of choral activities and professor of music at DBU, directed the evening’s music and the DBU Grand Chorus.

Dr. David Walls, president and CEO of Austin Industries and also a PhD graduate of DBU, and his wife, Jana.

John Clem, DBU director of development, and his wife Carole. For the past 27 years, John has organized the Russell Perry Dinner.

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