

DBU REPORT

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2007 Russell H. Perry Dinner Honors Andy and Joan Horner

Bo Pilgrim (left), co-founder and senior chairman of Pilgrim's Pride, served as the honorary dinner chair for the Russell Perry Dinner, which honored the work and ministry of Andy and Joan Horner (center), founders of Premier Designs, Inc. Texas Governor Rick Perry (right) gave the keynote address for the over 1,200 present.



Dinner Chair Ron Harris congratulates the 2007 Russell H. Perry Award honorees, Joan and Andy Horner.

2007 DINNER COMMITTEE

Bo Pilgrim
honorary chair

Ron Harris
chair

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
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20th Annual

RUSSELL H. PERRY AWARD DINNER HONORS ANDY AND JOAN HORNER

Dallas Baptist University proudly named Andy and Joan Horner as recipients of the 2007 Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award during the annual award dinner held on November 19 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas.

Texas Governor Rick Perry served as the keynote speaker for the evening, and Bo Pilgrim, senior chairman and co-founder of Pilgrim's Pride, Inc., was the honorary chair of the dinner,

which saw over 1,200 in attendance. Ron Harris, DBU assistant professor of communication and former CEO of KCBI

90.9 FM in Dallas, was this year's dinner chair and master of ceremonies.

The annual gala event marked its 20th anniversary as it continues to honor Dallas leaders whose lives are testimonies of achievement in free enterprise and service to the community. The event is named in memory of Dallas leader and philanthropist Russell H. Perry, whose life of service to Dallas impacted many lives. Mrs. Russell



During the dinner, the DBU Grand Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Stephen Holcomb, DBU director of choral studies and professor of music, performed a medley of songs highlighting the enduring American spirit.

H. (Phoebe) Perry continues to be a friend of the city of Dallas and especially DBU. She and Mr. Perry began their support of the institution in the 1960s.

Over the past 20 years, the dinner has honored many North Texas leaders, and in doing so, has raised over \$2.6 million in scholarship funds for over 1,100 DBU students.

Absent from the dinner for the first time was Dr. Gary Cook, president of DBU. On October 12, 2007, he was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia and hospitalized, undergoing treatment and observation for a total of 32 days. The evening of the dinner marked the end of his first week back at home, and even though he could not attend the event in person, he made a special call in to the

dinner, thanking everyone present for their prayers and well wishes.

"You will never know how grateful I have been for your

Dr. Cook gave special thanks to Ebby Halliday Acers, who was the underwriter for the event, and Bo Pilgrim, the honorary dinner chair. Both individuals are former award recipients and have provided generously to DBU and to the Russell Perry Dinner over the years. He also thanked Governor Perry for not only serving as the keynote speaker, but also for calling him while he was in the hospital.



Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert and Park Cities Baptist Church Senior Pastor Dr. Jim Denison pause in prayer for DBU President Dr. Gary Cook. Mayor Leppert asked Dr. Denison to come forward to provide this prayer for Dr. Cook's health and recovery from leukemia. Dr. Cook was unable to attend the dinner, but he did call in and give special greetings to those gathered.

Following Dr. Cook's greetings, DBU alumnus and staff member Mamo Ishida gave his testimony

prayers and your cards and e-mails," Dr. Cook told the audience. "During this time, I have felt God's presence very close to me, and I do feel He is going to totally restore me to good health."

of how he came from Japan to DBU, and how God worked through all of this to turn him to Christ. As Mamo shared his story, many DBU international students stood beside him, highlighting DBU's growing



1992 Russell H. Perry Award recipient, and founder and CEO of the Cooper Aerobics Center, Dr. Kenneth Cooper (left), along with his wife, Millie (right) and DBU alumna and trustee, Amy Jones.



Dallas County Community College District Chancellor and DBU trustee and distinguished adjunct professor Dr. Wright Lassiter, along with his wife, Bessie.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2006-David 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,
 J.L. Sonny Williams
 1993-Boone Powell, Sr.,
 Boone Powell, Jr.
 1992-Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper
 1991-Tom Landry
 1990-Maurice and Ebby Halliday Acers
 1989-Trammell Crow
 1988-John Stemmons, Sr.



Former Perry Award recipient Ebby Halliday Acers (left), along with Brent Christopher, president and CEO of the Communities Foundation of Texas, and his wife, Alyssa.



John Clem, DBU director of development, has worked to organize each of the last 20 Russell Perry Dinners.

international program. Since 1988, the number of DBU international students has increased to over 500, representing some 50 countries. Recently, Andy and Joan Horner established a scholarship at DBU for international students, ensuring that future students like Mamo will be able to come to DBU and experience a Christ-centered education.

Also in attendance that evening was Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert. Mayor Leppert gave a brief word of greeting to those

gathered and talked of how fortunate Dallas was to have a school such as DBU.

"DBU not only integrates a quality academic environment with values and being a Christ-centered institution, but in reality proves that values and Christ-centered focus enriches higher education, and that is what is so special about Dallas Baptist University," Mayor Leppert said.

After Mayor Leppert spoke, the DBU Grand Chorale gave a special musical performance

and then honorary dinner chair Bo Pilgrim came forward and introduced Governor Perry for the keynote address, which is printed on page 7.

This year, the Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award Dinner honored Andy and Joan Horner—entrepreneurs who have built a phenomenally successful business based on Biblical principles.

Andy Horner was the youngest child from a poor household in Ireland and now, with his wife, Joan, is leading a com-



Generous donors of DBU, Orville and Esther Beth Rogers.



Mrs. Margaret Nichols, longtime friend of DBU, along with former DBU trustee Vester Hughes.



Charlie Frazier, Dallas attorney and former chair of the DBU board of trustees, and his wife, Lisa.



Mamo Ishida, DBU alumnus and current staff member, shares his testimony of how he became a Christian while at DBU.



Dr. Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, provided the invocation for the dinner. Andy and Joan Horner are longstanding and active members of First Baptist, Dallas.



Columnist Steve Blow brings greetings on behalf of The Dallas Morning News, who co-sponsored this year's dinner.

pany with 28,000 independent representatives. Andy and Joan Horner have a remarkable success story—and they give God all the credit. Andy completed high school in Canada and served in the North Atlantic with the Canadian Navy during WWII, then returned home and married Joan, the girl of his dreams. Fulfilling Joan's lifelong dream, they immigrated to the United States in 1950 and made their way to Dallas.

After successfully moving up the corporate ladder in Dal-

las, Mary Crowley founder of Home Interiors & Gifts, asked Andy to help build her direct-sales company. Joan was Mary's confidant and traveling companion during this tenure. In 1985, at an age when most are ready to retire, Andy and Joan co-founded their own direct-sales jewelry company, Premier Designs, Inc. Based on Biblical principles with a philosophy of serving, caring, and sharing, the growth of the company has been steady and at times astounding.

Since 1951, the two have been active members of First Baptist Church, Dallas, and Andy was instrumental in the founding of the KCBI radio station. Andy has served on numerous boards, including Word of Life International and the Direct Selling Association. In 2004, Andy and Joan were named Entrepreneurs of the Year by Ernst and Young. They have been married for over 60 years and have five children, 14 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.



Former Perry Award recipient and 2007 honorary chair Bo Pilgrim (right) along with his son, Ken Pilgrim (left), who is serving as a DBU trustee, and current U.S. Congressman Jeb Hensarling (center).



Former chair of the DBU board of trustees Derrel Renfrow, along with his wife and current member of the DBU board of trustees, Dorothy.