

HELPING AMERICA'S YOUTH



First Lady Laura Bush Visits DBU Campus

This November, Dallas Baptist University had the distinct privilege of hosting United States First Lady Laura Bush on campus. The First Lady served as the keynote speaker for the southwest regional Helping America's Youth Conference, which was held in the Hillcrest Great Hall of the John G. Mahler Student Center.

These conferences, which have been held at five other locations across the nation, work to encourage and educate those who are manning the front lines to help troubled and at-risk youth, especially boys. The focus of the conference particularly connected with DBU's long-standing mission to produce servant leaders as well as the University's desire to see DBU students engage in a lifetime of service to their communities.

In her remarks, the First Lady described the problems in today's society. "We all know that the challenges facing young people in the United States today are far greater than they were for children just a generation ago," Bush said. "Drugs and gangs,

predators on the Internet, violence on television and in real life are just some of the negative influences that are present everywhere today."

To combat these dangers, Bush highlighted ways in which various groups are coming together to serve the community and help these children.

"To make sure every child is surrounded by these positive influences, even more adults must dedicate themselves to helping young people," she said. "Adults should be aware of the challenges facing children, and then they should take an active interest in children's lives. Adults, and especially parents, should build relationships where they teach their children healthy behaviors by their own good example."

Prior to her speech, the First Lady met with Sheila Cook, wife of Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, and also Dr. J. Blair Blackburn, DBU executive vice president, and his wife, Michelle. Dr. Cook was unable to attend the event because he was hospitalized, undergoing treatment for leukemia at the time.