

DBU Completes \$13.4 Million Hunt Matching Grant Program



During the spring Dallas Baptist University Board of Trustees meeting, President Dr. Gary Cook announced that the institution had raised \$7.9 million as part of the Ruth Ray Hunt Challenge Grant Campaign. By raising these funds, DBU has become eligible to receive a total of \$5 million in matching gifts from the Ruth Ray Hunt Philanthropic Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas. These gifts, combined with the \$500,000 gift given by the Hunt family to help formulate the campaign in 2000, bring the total funds raised through the Hunt Campaign to \$13.4 million.

"We are so pleased to have these gifts that are working to strengthen the mission and ministry of Dallas Baptist University," shared Dr. Gary Cook. "Mrs. Hunt was such a special lady, and she loved DBU. Thanks to her generosity, DBU will continue to grow and thrive in the years to come."

Married to the late H. L. Hunt, founder of Hunt Oil Company, Mrs. Ruth Ray Hunt was widely known for her kind-hearted generosity, and her gifts reflected not only her civic commitment, but also her religious devotion. She was very active in the life of DBU, serving on the board of trustees, hosting a number of receptions in her home for students, faculty, alumni, and donors, serving as an officer on the DBU Women's Auxiliary Board, and providing numerous gifts to the

University through the years. Mrs. Hunt passed away in 2000.

In 1985, Mrs. Hunt played an instrumental role in establishing a DBU tradition by commissioning the Boehm Company to create a porcelain "Ruth" statue for the Ruth Awards Luncheon, an annual luncheon sponsored by the DBU Women's Auxiliary Board that honors Christian women who exemplify the spiritual qualities of the Biblical Ruth.

The Hunt President's Dining Room, located in the John G. Mahler Student Center, is named after Ruth Hunt. This room has served as a wonderful place over the years to greet many of the University's distinguished guests. Also, the Hunt Foyer in the Landry Welcome Center was named in her memory.

Mrs. Hunt cared deeply about the welfare of DBU, once calling the University her "special heart-child" in a letter. She expressed that DBU stood as a "beautiful tribute to our church fathers who preached an uncompromising message of freedom and truth." Continuing, she said, "Hundreds of young people walk away from DBU's campus each year with the Word of God deeply embedded in their hearts, expressing an unshakable commitment to God, family, and country. They have always depended on dedicated supporters...who go the second mile to keep DBU strong and growing."