



# The International Center

*Meeting the Needs of DBU's Growing  
Number of International Students*

**F**lanking the door to the new International Center are two passages from the Bible: John 3:16 and Jeremiah 29:11-13. Each one describes a God whose love and care provide us hope, salvation, and security in our lives.

Their location in front of this new building is especially significant, for this is the message that so many students from across the world hear when they become a student at Dallas Baptist University.

This past spring, DBU was pleased to officially open its doors to the International Center. The 12,000-square-foot building is home to the DBU International Student Department and the Intensive English Program and features two large multi-purpose rooms, four classrooms, a kitchen, a lounge, a study area, and a ground and second-level porch that overlooks the DBU pond and Mike Arnold Fitness Trail.

Over the years, the dramatic growth of international students has necessitated a building of this nature. In 1988, DBU had 12 international students enrolled on campus. Today, DBU's international population numbers

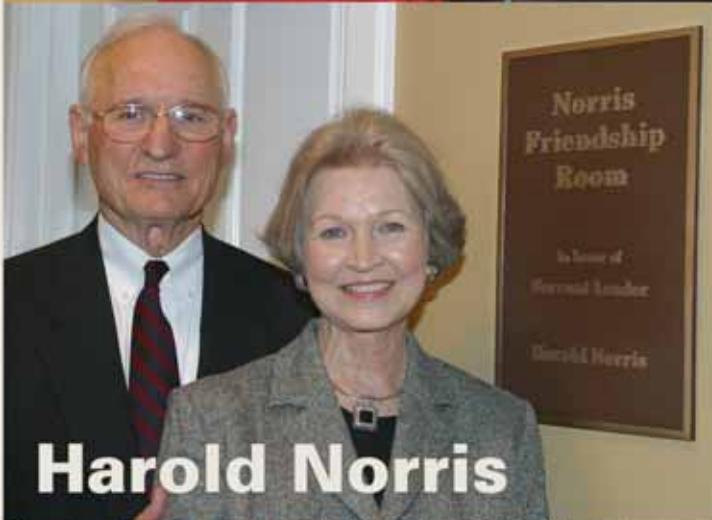
325 students, representing over 50 countries from around the world.

"With the increasing number of international students comes a growing ministry opportunity," explained Rebecca Brown, director of international student services. "We believe God has brought the world to us so that we can bring His message of love and hope to the world. This beautiful new building has helped us continue to increase our ability to minister to the needs of these students."

The International Center creates an environment that fosters and builds relationships within the DBU student population. It serves as a meeting location for Bible studies, student gatherings, study groups, and campus wide events. One of the most important aspects of the International Center is that it is a wonderful place to grow friendships between international and American DBU students. The International Center bridges cultural gaps, builds a sense of community, encourages global friendships, and provides opportunities to share the love of Jesus Christ.



**Erma Barnett**



**Harold Norris**



**Rebecca Brown**



**Ann Boyles**

## International Center Rooms, Arbor Dedicated in Honor of Servant Leaders

Dallas Baptist University dedicated three rooms and a prayer arbor at the International Center in honor of the following servant leaders.

Erma Barnett has shown her great love for DBU through the years by serving on the DBU Board of Trustees, participating as an active member of the Women's Auxiliary Board, and lifting DBU up as a senior adult prayer partner. In 1997, Mrs. Barnett was honored with the Ruth Award to acknowledge her dedication to God, family, others, and Christian education at Dallas Baptist University. The International Center computer lab, named in honor of Erma Barnett, offers a place for ESL students to do Internet research, write compositions, develop their vocabulary, and learn the basics of word processing. Mrs. Barnett is pictured above left along with DBU President Dr. Gary Cook.

Harold Norris served DBU faithfully from 1988 to 2000 as its chief financial officer, culminating in his appointment as senior vice president for financial affairs. Under his leadership, DBU eliminated a \$5.8 million debt and achieved debt-free status in 1991. Mr. Norris was awarded the honorary Doctor of Humanities degree in 2003 and continues to serve DBU as a member of the board of trustees. The Norris Friendship Room offers a picturesque view of the DBU pond and serves as a place of fellowship for international and American students. Mr. Norris is pictured left, along with his wife, Mary Kathryn.

As the director of international student services, Rebecca Brown has worked to build DBU's international student program, which currently includes 325 students from over 50 countries. Mrs. Brown has previously served as the director of DBU's University Writing Center and helped in its developmental stages. The room named in honor of Rebecca Brown is used for a broad variety of academic classes. Mrs. Brown is pictured left along with her family, (l-r) son Cedric, husband Dr. Don Brown, son Seth, and Seth's wife, Shannon.

Ann Boyles has an unmistakable compassion and love for international students and for helping them adjust to American culture. She has served DBU for the past 11 years as the director of the Intensive English Program and has even opened her house to several exchange students. The prayer arbor next to the International Center is named in honor of Ann Boyles for her faithful service to DBU, and it offers a place for students to reflect and pray. Mrs. Boyles is pictured bottom left, along with her family, (l-r) son Scott, husband Dale, and daughter Sherry.