

Supporting Christian Education For Future Generations



Fred and Clairene Herold are a part of the DBU story, stretching back to its days in Decatur. Since their first introduction to the school, they have held a fond place in their hearts for DBU. They believe the best years are still to come, and the Herolds are committed supporters of Dallas Baptist University.

Clairene's connection with DBU began early in her life. Growing up on a dairy farm near Mineral Wells, Texas, the business dried up when the Great Depression hit, and the family had to move into town. Shortly thereafter tragedy struck as her mother, father, and one of her brothers all died while Clairene was still young.

After graduating from high school, the Women's Missionary Union at her church, FBC Mineral Wells, decided to help Clairene go to college and approached her with an offer to attend Decatur Baptist College. Clairene gladly accepted, and with nothing more than a suitcase, a box, and a make-up kit, Clairene found herself in a new town, at a new school, and looking at a new future.

Her first job was mopping the kitchen floors at DBC, which turned out to be an act of Providence. Dr. J. L. Ward, president of DBC for over 50 years, often ate lunch in the cafeteria with the students, and one day, he met Clairene. Impressed with her work ethic, kindness, and attention to detail, Dr. Ward asked her to serve as an assistant to the dorm mother on campus. Clairene accepted, and eventually she also worked in Dr. Ward's office.

After graduating with her associate's de-

gree, Dr. Ward offered her a private loan to continue her studies at Baylor, a loan Clairene proudly states was paid off in full.

During her time at Baylor, she met a young former airman named Fred Herold, who likewise had grown up on a dairy farm. World War II, however, interrupted his studies at Baylor, and for three years, Fred served as a pilot in Europe, flying on 30 missions.

He returned to Baylor following the war and enrolled in a statistics class where a beautiful young lady from Decatur Baptist College caught his eye. Fred and Clairene dated for a while, but were separated when Fred moved to Dallas for a job and Clairene moved back to Decatur to serve as a professor. After a year apart, the two were married in June of 1948, and have remained together for 64 years.

The couple continued to live in Dallas and soon joined Wilshire Baptist Church, where they have been for over 60 years. Clairene stayed home and raised their two children, Larry and Dianne, and Fred worked for the Federal Reserve; he then spent 25 years employing individuals for Van Waters Rogers in Dallas.

In 1965, Clairene's alma mater, Decatur Baptist College, moved to Dallas. Clairene and Fred both attended the original ground-

breaking ceremony in Dallas, but in the years that followed, they had little connection with the school, like many others. This changed in 1988 as the new DBU president, Dr. Gary Cook, and Dennis Linam, new DBU vice president for external affairs, decided to hold Decatur Baptist College reunions every Spring.

Clairene and Fred began attending these reunions and reconnected with the school they had known so well. "DBU is a beautiful place and filled with such wonderful Christians," Clairene shares. "The faculty and staff are top-notch, and they care about people."

Fred, who developed a reputation over the years for accurately sizing people up at Van Water Rogers, knew good things were in store the first time he met Dr. Cook. "I could recognize that he was a quality person," Fred explains, "and he was giving his life to this school."

"When you go there," Fred continues, "you are not a visitor, you are not a guest — you are family."

From this reconnection with DBU, Fred and Clairene decided to give generously to DBU by establishing gift annuities with the Baptist Foundation of Texas. In this way, they can continue to help DBU financially in the years to come. Although Clairene will tell you the financial loan from Dr. Ward was paid off years ago, the investment that DBC made in her life continues to be repaid.

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