

SPECIAL MOMENTS

Over the past 10,000 days, several new traditions have been established throughout the DBU family, from study breaks to lectures to annual dinners and even fun runs. These events have helped create an atmosphere of energy and connectivity that has allowed DBU to grow, thrive, and unite in its mission to produce students who are Christ-centered servant leaders.



Dr. Gary Cook along with Dr. Adam Wright, DBU vice president and dean of the Gary Cook School of Leadership, at the groundbreaking ceremony of Jim and Sally Nation Hall, which opened this September and is home to the Cook School of Leadership as well as the DBU Chancellor's Office.

Dr. Cook with (from left to right) Dr. Blake Killingsworth, vice president for communications, Stephen Phillips, assistant to the president, and Andrew Briscoe, assistant vice president for advancement and director of alumni relations, all of whom were mentored by Dr. Cook while students at DBU. The picture was taken during a special luncheon celebrating 50 years of the University's ministry in Dallas.

Establishing new traditions

Beginning in 1988, Dr. Cook sought to begin new events on campus to create a sense of tradition on campus. The following is a partial list of events that have become part of the DBU landscape. The year in parenthesis denotes when tradition began.

Candlelighting Service (1988)
Christmas Dinner for faculty and staff (1988)
Christmas Tree Lighting for students, faculty, and staff (1988)
DBU Habitat for Humanity campus chapter (1988)
SWAT (Student Welcome And Transition) Week (1988)
Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award Dinner (1988)
Summer chapel services for faculty and staff (1988)
Christmas Decoration Day for faculty and staff (1989)
Decatur Spring Reunion (1989)
Norvell Slater Senior Adult Hymn Sing (1989)
Oak Cliff Good Samaritan Award Dinner (1989)
Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year Award (1989)
Spring Musical (1989)
Turkey Trot 5K fun run for students, faculty, and staff (1989)
Chapel increased from once to twice a week (1990)
Endowed Scholarship in honor of DBU personnel serving 25 years (1990)

Yellow Ribbon Luncheon (1990)
International Week (1990)
Thanksgiving Feast (1991)
Wellness Program (1991)
Habitat for Humanity Spring Break Trip (1992)
"Hanging of the Green" Chapel for students, faculty, and staff (1992)
Patriot Preview Weekend (1992)
Spiritual Rush Weekend (1992)
Thanksgiving Feast for dorm students, faculty, and staff (1992)
Blood Drive (1993)
Baseball Banquet (1993)
Athletic Banquet (1994)
Friday Symposium (1994)
Family Weekend (1995)
Life-size nativity display (1995)
Grandparents' Day (1996)
Operation Christmas Child service project (1996)
Campus Thanksgiving Decorations (1997)
Thanksgiving Testimony Booklet for faculty and staff (1998)
Memorial Day Service (1998)
Outstanding Advisor of the Year Award (1998)
Camp Day (2000)
Academic Honors Reception (2000)



Dr. Cook with Joan Trew, DBU board member, who donated the Called to Pray statue in honor of Dr. Cook.



Dr. Cook along with DBU alumni Miles and Allison Arnold. Miles is a current DBU trustee, and Allison is the current president of the DBU Women's Auxiliary Board.

Annual Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award Dinner

Established in the fall of 1988, the Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award Dinner annually honors Dallas-area business leaders. Over the past 27 years, the event has provided more than \$4 million in scholarship aid for DBU students. It has also hosted a number of distinguished speakers, including President George W. Bush, President Gerald R. Ford, First Lady Barbara Bush, Texas Governor Rick Perry, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Senator John Cornyn, and Dallas Cowboys legendary coach Tom Landry.



DBU senior, Jonny Cantwell, a marketing student from Albuquerque, New Mexico, is pictured with Dr. Cook at the Tom Landry Leadership Award Dinner in April of 2015.



Dr. Cook visits with DBU trustee Nita Ford and her husband, John, at the Museum of Biblical Art in Dallas during an event at which DBU served as a special host for the evening.

Annual Tom Landry Leadership Award Dinner

In the spring of 2007, DBU established the Tom Landry Leadership Award Dinner. The annual gala dinner, which is held on the campus of DBU, honors the legacy of Christian leadership as seen in the life of the late great Tom Landry. Tom and Alicia Landry have been DBU friends through the years, and Mrs. Landry graciously allowed DBU to begin this event in memory of her husband. Each year, an outstanding leader from either Collin County or Tarrant County is honored, and scholarship funds are raised for students from these counties.

- DBU Legacy Society, comprising people who have included DBU in their estate planning (2000)
- DBU Annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast (2001)
- Faculty Appreciation Day (2002)
- Friday Freshman Chapel (2002)
- Outstanding Staff Member of the Year Award (2002)
- Staff Appreciation Day (2002)
- William M. Pinson Lecture Series on Baptist History and Heritage (2002)
- George H. Gallup, Jr., Distinguished Lecture Series (2003)
- Servant Leadership Luncheon (2006)
- Global Sports Mission Initiative (2007)
- Scholars Luncheon (2007)
- Community Partners Luncheon (2008)
- Feast of Sharing (2009)
- Arbor Day Celebration (2010)
- Easter Eve (2010)
- MLK Service Day (2012)



This summer, the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas recognized Dr. Gary Cook for his care of and commitment to Hispanic students at DBU with an inaugural award named in his honor. The Gary Cook Servant Leadership Award was jointly presented to Dr. Cook by the Convención's Entrenat Leadership School, the Office of Hispanic Ministries of the BGCT, and Texas Baptists as a part of the group's annual meeting, which was held in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Cook also announced the creation of two special half-tuition scholarships that will be awarded to Hispanic Baptist students who attend DBU.