In the fall of 1988, the international students on the DBU campus numbered 12. Having benefited from friendships with internationals as an undergraduate student, Dr. Gary Cook wanted to see this number increase and make DBU’s international program into a vibrant global ministry. He asked Harold Norris, who was serving as DBU’s vice president for financial affairs, and Rebecca Brown, a Decatur alumna with years of experience teaching the English language, to develop a department with a focus on not only teaching international students the English language, but also showing them the love of Christ. Soon the International Student Services department began programs offering cultural enrichment trips, airport pickups, conversation partners, clubs, American host families, and much more.

In addition, through these programs and other special events, DBU presented the gospel message to international students, ensuring that they understood the reason why DBU cared for them. Dr. Cook served as a model for this by opening up his home regularly for DBU international students to come and watch the Jesus video and providing copies of this video in their native language to view on their own. By the fall of 2012, the international student population on campus totaled 539 students, representing some 53 countries from around the world. With the addition of the new Global Missions Center, ministry to international students continues to grow, as the Lord brings the world to DBU’s doorstep in order to spread the Gospel, all to the glory of God.

(Above) Former DBU trustee Dr. David Moon, his wife, In Sun, with their family and friends at the dedication of the David and In Sun Moon International Center. (Top Right, left to right) Former DBU trustee Dr. Wayne Allen and his wife, Theresa, along with DBU alumni Dr. Sanjay Purushotham and his wife, Amy. (Right, left to right) Dr. Gary Cook with Katy Piper, Paul Piper, Jr., Shirley Piper, and Dr. Bob Garrett, DBU’s Piper Chair of Missions Professor. DBU presented The Pipers’ foundation (the Christ is Our Salvation Foundation) with the DBU Missions Award in 2008.