Expanding DBU's Horizons

Patsy Smith’s Generosity Allows DBU to Establish a Regional Academic Center in Tarrant County
Dallas Baptist University is pleased to announce a recent donation of $1 million in land and building costs by long-time DBU supporter and current trustee Patsy Smith.

The land, which is located in Hurst, Texas, will be home to the Herman and Patsy Smith Center, a 12,000-square-foot educational facility which is currently under construction and will be the future location of DBU’s academic center in northeast Tarrant County, known as DBU Hurst-Colleyville. This new building will continue in the DBU, colonial-style architecture and will reflect elements of Thomas Jefferson’s design of one of the oldest buildings on the University of Virginia campus, Pavilion VII, also known as the Colonnade Club.

“Patsy and Herman Smith have been very generous with DBU for the last 20 years, and we are most grateful for this latest gift,” shared Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president.

Patsy Smith and her late husband, Herman Smith, have been highly involved with DBU over the years. From 1979 through 1988, Herman served on the board of trustees, and in 1992 Patsy joined the board and has served for a total of 11 years. Through the Herman and Patsy Smith Charitable Foundation, the Smith family has provided generous support for DBU student scholarships and building campaigns, including the Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel, which is currently under construction on the DBU main campus. In 1991, DBU presented Herman Smith with an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree, and in 2006 the DBU Women’s Auxiliary Board presented Patsy Smith with a Ruth Award for Christian service.

Prior to his death, Herman Smith served as president of Herman Smith & Company and worked to develop land throughout Tarrant County. In addition, he was a former president of the National Association of Home Builders. Patsy Smith took over the company when Herman passed away in 1994 and has continued the family’s legacy in land development and philanthropic activities. Patsy is a past chair of the Home Builders Institute, an education and job training arm of the National Association of Home Builders. As a part of her work with HBI, she established the Patsy and Herman Smith Fund for Excellence in the Trades in order to help students undergo training in the housing industry.

For the past several years, DBU has had a presence in Tarrant County through DBU Hurst-Colleyville, which is located in Col-

Herman Smith, former DBU trustee.
leyville Town Center. Since that time, hundreds of students have been able to take undergraduate and graduate courses, receive academic counseling, and register for classes, in addition to discovering what academic opportunities are available at DBU.

The new location in Hurst will be approximately two miles down the road from DBU Hurst-Colleyville’s current facility in Colleyville. Construction on the 12,000-square-foot Herman and Patsy Smith Center began this past spring, and the first classes at this location will begin in January 2009.

The Herman and Patsy Smith Center at DBU Hurst-Colleyville will feature four classrooms equipped with the latest in-classroom technology, as well as office space for the DBU Hurst-Colleyville staff. The center will offer a full array of educational support services for students throughout the northeast Tarrant County area. Courses will be offered that lead to the completion of the Bachelor of Business Studies, Bachelor of Arts and Sciences, Master of Business Administration, Master of Arts in Management, and Master of Education in School Counseling degrees. In addition, the center will include over 2,400 square feet of first floor retail space that will be available for lease.

“When we established DBU Hurst-Colleyville and DBU Frisco, we were seeking to expand our vision of offering classes and programs to students when and where they needed them,” said Dr. J. Blair Blackburn, DBU executive vice president. “DBU Hurst-Colleyville follows that same vision and will bring the college classroom and educational support services to those students whose schedules demand flexibility and convenience.”