The Reeves were also special guests for the annual DBU Women’s Auxiliary Board Bluebonnet Luncheon. During the luncheon, several items from the Lord Braine Archives were placed on display. Among these items were several newly donated pieces, such as a congregation chair used during the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, a hard-cover program from the coronation, a photo album of Lord Braine’s political career, and a specially framed photograph of a new pillar clock that was recently dedicated in memory of Lord Braine in his home district of Castle Point. Wendy Goodwin, mayor of Castle Point, led the drive to raise funds for this permanent tribute to a legendary figure.

Lord Braine of Wheatley was the honorary chairperson of the DBU Board of Visitors and came to campus five times in the 1990s. For 40 years he served as a member of the British Parliament, representing various constituencies from Essex County. He was the senior ranking member of the House of Commons and upon his retirement from the House, he was named a Lord by Queen Elizabeth.

“I know Lord Braine would be at a loss for words with what DBU has achieved with his papers and memorabilia,” states Mrs. Reeves. “I hope that the DBU students who study his work will not only gain insights into the day-to-day workings of the British Parliament, but will also develop a deep appreciation of Lord Braine himself.”