1989    COLLINS LEARNING CENTER

Although it was nearly 20 years old, by 1988 the Collins Learning Center still stood incomplete. DBU did not have the funds over the years to complete the construction of the third floor, although it did have a large theater for use by the DBU drama department. By 1990, DBU had finished out the top floor, converting it from a small theater to faculty offices, classrooms, the College of Business office suite, and two major lecture halls.

$1.24 MILLION

1992    MAHLER STUDENT CENTER
Dallas businessman John Mahler and his wife, Marjorie, provided the lead gift of $1 million for the construction of a new student center on the DBU campus; however, a design concept had not yet been established. Dr. Cook felt the Lord leading DBU to construct a replication of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, thus beginning new colonial-style architecture on the DBU campus.

When the Mahler Student Center opened in 1992, the school did not have the funds yet to complete the lower level. Over the next several years, as various other campus maintenance projects were addressed, the school raised the needed money to convert a lower-level storage area into suites for the campus bookstore, Cashier’s Office, Financial Aid, Registrar’s Office, Undergraduate Admissions, and eventually Graduate Admissions.
As the student population grew, the number of on-campus students also grew. While in 1988, DBU only had some 360 students on campus, 10 years later, every dorm room was filled, and in some cases flowing over. The decision was then made to proceed ahead with a new dormitory, and DBU turned to the Christopher Wren Building on the campus of the College of William and Mary in Virginia as the inspiration for its first new dormitory in more than 30 years. Thanks to the generous support of DBU trustee Donna Spence Slette, this location quickly became a warm and welcoming home for many students.

Students continued to come to DBU, and once again, the dorms quickly became filled. Yet instead of building a new dorm, the administration decided to proceed in a different direction, providing the convenience and freedom of apartment life for students while still allowing them to live on campus. In 2002, DBU opened up its first of five buildings which made up the Colonial Village Apartments.

DBU decided to name the first two of these buildings after long-time friends and donors of the school: D. Harold Byrd, Jr. and Noble Hurley. Each apartment provides two bedrooms and two baths for students, who are able to live on campus all year around, with a total of 506 students living in the Colonial Village Apartments. These upperclassmen not only find the continued support of living on campus, but they also provide leadership for younger students.
Apartment life would not be complete without a clubhouse for the residents to meet, greet, and spend time together. In 2002, the Ebby Halliday Center, named after DBU friend and Dallas real estate legend Ebby Halliday Acers, opened its doors, providing classroom and meeting spaces for students, as well as offices for DBU faculty members and staff.

Sensing a need for a central location to welcome prospective students to campus, DBU opened the new Tom and Alicia Landry Welcome Center in 2002. The Landry Center was connected to the Mahler Student Center, providing visitors with convenient access to both Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions, as well as Financial Aid, the Registrar’s Office, the Cashier’s Office, and also a media center with an opportunity to view videos highlighting the mission of DBU.