According to J. C. and Opal Milstead, husband and wife for 54 years, Dallas Baptist University has a special place in their hearts—but for entirely different reasons.

J. C., who was a trust officer and estate secretary with the Baptist Foundation of Texas, visited all of the state’s Baptist colleges and universities during a 40-year career. He was very impressed with DBU. “I really like Dallas Baptist University,” J. C. says. “What I see gives me a lot of confidence in the school and the direction it is going.”

And J. C. has never been hesitant to place his money where his confidence lies. He and Opal have been faithful and consistent donors for many years, making cash gifts as well as setting up a number of charitable gift annuities with DBU.

“That place is my lifesaver,” says Opal, who graduated from Decatur Baptist College (forerunner of Dallas Baptist University) in 1942. A one-time scholarship paid for her first year, but as her second year rolled around, Opal’s parents could not afford the expense. Crop failures had hit the family hard.

Opal would not be denied, however. Her parents put up what little money they could, she found a job to earn room and board—and Dr. J. L. Ward, DBC’s president, loaned her the rest. It was a gesture that remains vivid in her memory, long after the loan was repaid. “I will always be grateful to Dr. Ward and DBC,” says Opal.

Much of the money that she and J. C. are donating through their gift annuities is going toward scholarships to help future generations of students. “The gift annuities,” says Opal, “are the grandest things ever. We get the payments (along with tax benefits) and have the satisfaction of knowing that our money will be used to do what we want done. Dallas Baptist University really has a special place in our hearts.”