For 21 years, DBU students, faculty, and staff have lined up and taken off as a part of the Thanksgiving tradition, the Turkey Trot. Dr. Gary Cook began this tradition during his first year as president of DBU in order to encourage physical fitness and also to bring the DBU family together for fun.

Over the years, thousands have participated in this 5K event. Proceeds from the race go to benefit the DBU collegiate chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

This year’s event saw 302 students, faculty, staff, and extended DBU family members trotting. Finishing first was past-winner Felix Rodriguez for the men and Hannah Steffan for the women.

Adding to the family atmosphere of the fall fun run, trotters brought their children to participate, some pushing strollers along the way. In addition, the Cook family, including Gary, Sheila, David, who serves as a lawyer in Dallas, and Mark, who is a graduate student at Samford University’s Beeson Divinity School in Alabama, all took part in the trot.

“The Turkey Trot is a great tradition here at the University,” explained Chris Crawford, DBU director of apartment life and RecLife and coordinator of this annual event. “It is a place where faculty, staff, students, and alumni can come together and unite in wellness and fellowship.”