

The new Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel has ushered in a new chapter of memorable moments in the life of Dallas Baptist University. Among the most special was the recent November 8 dedication of the Nita and John Ford Foyer, which was highlighted with a concert by highly acclaimed artist Sandi Patty. With 39 Dove Awards, 5 Grammy Awards, 4 Billboard Music Awards, and a 2004 Gospel Music Hall of Fame induction, she is the most awarded female vocalist in contemporary Christian music history.

John and Nita Ford, who provided a significant donation, were two of the most instrumental supporters of the campaign to build the magnificent Pilgrim Chapel. DBU named the chapel's new and elegant foyer in recognition of their generosity. Over the years, the Fords have provided aid for the construction costs of several of the campus' facilities,

as well as for scholarship funds for students in need. Nita is a former DBU trustee and was awarded the Ruth Award in 2006 for her dedication to God, family, and Christian higher education. John is currently the chairman of the Methodist Health System Board of Directors and a member of the DBU Tom Landry Leadership Award Dinner Committee.

"We are delighted by the Fords' generous gift," said Adam Wright, DBU assistant to the president for advancement. "They have supported DBU for many years, and their latest and most sizable act of kindness went far in seeing a long-standing dream become a reality. We are grateful for their friendship and their commitment to support our efforts of providing our students an environment conducive to Christ-centered quality education."

Pictured above: Sandi Patty (center) along with John and Nita Ford.