

# A TOWERING FEAT



## Booker Towers Dedication Honors Cal U Family

Throughout the years, alumnus and University benefactor William R. Booker '74 has made invaluable contributions to California University with his generosity, as well as being a friend and mentor to countless students and individuals.

A dedication of the Booker Towers honoring the life and memory of Mr. Booker's parents, Harris Taylor "Harry" Booker and Elizabeth Hulings "Betty" Booker, highlighted the morning of Homecoming Day 2007.

"We know that these towers will stand as a beacon of hope, a sign of welcome and a source of inspiration to all who will pass through them," said Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. "The Booker Towers represent an entrance to the life of the mind. They also represent a means of achieving a clear intellectual grasp of art and nature and the presence of dignity, as well as foibles, in the makeup of every human being."

Serving as emcee at the dedication was June Pickett Dowdy, vice president for University advancement. Father Clifford Hulings '51, brother of Betty Booker, gave the invocation and benediction. Other featured speakers were Ryan Barnhart,

president, Student Association, Incorporated; Albert Filoni, president, MacLachlan, Cornelius and Filoni; and Margaret "Peggy" Scherer, sister of Betty Booker. Dr. Armenti's niece and University Choir member, Angela Dolph, sang a moving rendition of Betty Booker's favorite song, *Toora-Loora-Loora*.

Scherer explained how her family had been connected with Cal U since the 1920s and how Betty Booker came to the University to earn nursing credits for subsequent admittance into John Hopkins' Nursing School.

"Our family has been a small part of the University for a long time," she said. "These towers are here for our grandchildren and great grandchildren. Harry and Betty

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Booker were an ordinary couple who raised a large family of nine children with discipline, encouragement and an abundance of love, and that love has been returned 900 percent."

The 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient, Bill Booker, explained how he was raised in a humble, spiritual and educated home. Both of his parents served their country in World War II, with Harry as a master sergeant for the U.S. Army Signal Corps and Betty as a Lieutenant Army nurse in North Africa and the Middle East.



President Angelo Armenti, Jr. and his wife, Barbara, present a commemorative gift of the Booker Towers to University benefactor Bill Booker '74 and wife, Candice. Also shown are Margaret "Peggy" Scherer, sister of Betty Booker; and Father Clifford Hulings '51, brother of Betty Booker.



Margaret "Peggy" Scherer, sister of Betty Booker, offers some humor while explaining her family's longstanding history with California University as Bill Booker and President Armenti enjoy a laugh.

He explained that his parents taught him the value of hard work, education and commitment, shaping him into the man he is today.

President Armenti called the towers a portal to integrity, civility and responsibility and stated how the very word "tower" itself connotes powerful protection against the negative or destructive forces in life. He also emphasized Cal U's new entrance to the campus that includes Old Main Park with its traditional wrought-iron fence, the new Duda Hall and the Booker Towers, all of which present a special welcoming feature that says to all who enter, "Come in. You are welcome here. You are home," he said.

*Booker dedication speech on page 14...*