



Lillie Biggins Address at the Distinguished Alumni Gala

“To God be the glory, I thank and praise Him for allowing me to serve Him through service to others.

Congratulations to all of tonight’s awardees. I share your joy as we are all honored by this great University. I’m proud to be here with you tonight. My humble thanks to the U T Arlington Alumni Board.

I thank my family for all of their support on my life’s journey: my husband and best friend, James Russell; my sister, Alleyne Blair, who has been my mentor and life time coach. I have stood on your shoulders and hope that I’ve never disappointed you.

I also thank my work family for never being a barrier but always an encouraging support system to me; thank you.

I am also grateful for my DFW International Airport family for being here to support me. I know there are many places you all could have been tonight but you chose to be here with me.

Thank you - President Spaniolo, Dr. Poster and the Deans of this great university and for your continued work to prepare and enrich the lives of those who come to this place to prepare themselves for careers and enriched adult life.

Thank you Stephanie Thompson, UT assistant director for special events, for all of your hard work and for being such an effective nag; thank you for a job well done.

I’m so proud to be recognized by this outstanding School of Nursing, I stand before you the product of my parents, Maurine Birdwell, Mary Ellen Wyers, Ace Edwards, Myrna Pickard, Jean Allberth, Gladys Maryol, and Dorothy Westfall all who have touched all my life.

As a young nursing student I was excited about how, once trained, could I help others as a nurse; this faculty fed and nurtured that excitement during my training and practice. They cared about me as an individual and helped me on my journey.

Our School of Nursing has had two Deans, both outstanding leaders! I congratulate the faculty and thank them for making a difference in the lives of the thousands of young nursing students who they have trained and nurtured. Thank you for being here with me tonight, I’m proud to be a part of a profession that spells out courage.

We see this display of courage everyday in healthcare; the gentle way a hand is touched by a nurse, or the extra shift worked to be sure patients are cared for. This is a calling at its profound form.

Thank you Dean Poster for your kindness and intellect and for keeping our school and the dreams of many alive. Good Evening.”

Lillie Biggins, RN, Distinguished Alumna – UT Arlington School of Nursing – 2007