Baylor Mourns Loss of Supporter and Servant Leader

Baylor University Alumnus Honoris Causa Harry Chavanne passed away Oct. 24 in Houston at the age of 96. Along with his wife, Baylor alumna Hazel Prince Chavanne, who preceded him in death, the couple was committed to serving students and promoting Christian ethics education at Baylor.

“I recall Harry Chavanne saying, ‘I can accomplish anything in life as long as I don’t care who gets the credit.’ He was a wonderful example of a businessman who also was a servant leader,” said Terry Maness, dean of Baylor’s Hankamer School of Business. “His vision to emphasize Christian ethics in business education has served Baylor well and will serve the business community well as our students enter the professional world.”

Although Chavanne did not attend Baylor, his wife, Hazel, earned a BA in Speech Communication from the University in 1938, and he received Baylor’s Alumnus Honoris Causa designation, the highest honor bestowed by the university upon non-alumni. Together they supported the Harry and Hazel Chavanne Chair of Christian Ethics in Business at the Hankamer School of Business, as well as the Mary Ellen Chavanne Scholarship Fund, the William J. Boswell Chair in Law, Student Foundation, Armstrong Browning Library Guardian Angel Fund and the Library Book Fund. Chavanne was a member of the Old Main Society and the Baylor Alumni Association. Mr. and Mrs. Chavanne were recognized as members of the Baylor University Medallion Fellowship, first with the James Huckins and Pat Neff Medallions in 1989, then with the Presidents Medallion in 2004.

Mitchell J. Neubert, associate professor of Management and Entrepreneurship, currently serves as the Chavanne Chair of Christian Ethics in Business.

“The generosity of the Chavanne family has allowed us to devote particular attention to meeting the critical need for developing leaders of integrity, who practice business with clear ethical standards and demonstrate Christian character in the workplace,” Neubert said.