The Ailese Parten/Charlene Clay Root Endowed Scholarship

Ailese Parten was born in Limestone County, Texas. She earned her Bachelor of Journalism and her Bachelor of Arts degree at Baylor College for Women, now University of Mary Hardin Baylor, and her master’s degree from the Pulitzer School of Journalism at Columbia University in New York City. After serving her alma mater for 22 years as registrar, alumni secretary, and assistant professor of journalism, Miss Parten ran a gift shop for a friend in Amarillo for five years before she discovered that she liked people more than she liked things. She came to Wayland Baptist College where she served as director of public relations from 1952 to 1965. In these 13 short years, she influenced and touched the lives of numerous young people, among them, the children of Charlene Clay Root. Always grateful for the impact that Miss Parten had on her children, Mrs. Root made provision for a major contribution to a scholarship honoring this lady who has been described as “Southern Genteel and West Texas Tough.” Miss Parten died in 1995 and Mrs. Root died in 2003, but they live in our memories forever.