



## DBU HIGHLIGHTS 2014

This past fall, the DBU Women's Auxiliary Board hosted its annual Yellow Ribbon Luncheon in the Hillcrest Great Hall in the John G. Mahler Student Center.

Prior to the beginning of the program, Sue Mitz, long-time DBU professor of music, provided piano music for those gathered, and Mary Stuart, president of the WAB, provided a special welcome and opening prayer. Following the prayer, Candy Dowd, chair of the Yellow Ribbon Luncheon and wife of Dr. Denny Dowd, DBU provost, gave a welcome and introduced the individuals who took part in the program.

Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, also provided a welcome and shared about the upcoming events on the DBU campus. In addition, he updated the building progress on both the new Jim and Sally Nation Hall, as well as the Dr. William B. Dean Learning Center. Following Dr. Cook, Dr. Gail Linam, DBU academic dean, shared a few words, and Aaron Zavala, DBU worship coordinator, sang "Bless the Lord, O My Soul." Candice Wright, executive director of the WAB, provided the closing prayer.

### DBU Celebrates SHIRLEY MITCHELL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY



### The Women's Auxiliary Board YELLOW RIBBON LUNCHEON



Members of the Yellow Ribbon Luncheon Committee included, Candy Dowd (Chairperson), Donna Dee Floyd, Pam Hall, Ann Kelley, Betty Rush, Linda Stephenson, Phyllis Tresnicky, and Susan Venable.

Pictured above is Marsha Pool (center), DBU master teacher and professor of mathematics, as well as Eddie Walker (left), DBU director of camp and sport ministry. Pictured right is (from left to right) Candy Dowd, Mary Stuart, and Sheila Cook, wife of Dr. Gary Cook.



Shirley Mitchell, DBU secretary for the College of Business, recently celebrated her 25th anniversary working at Dallas Baptist University. Shirley has been a light on campus throughout her time at DBU. When her daughter, Debra, entered DBU in 1988, one of Debra's friends mentioned that there was an opening in the College of Business. After applying and being interviewed by the university's new president, Dr. Gary Cook, Shirley was given the job in the College of Business in 1989, and she has remained an integral part of the office ever since.

Over the past 25 years, Shirley has been an assistant, leader, encourager, and mentor to countless students, faculty, and staff members. "Two things come to mind when you ask me about Shirley Mitchell," commented Dr. Dale Sims, dean of the College of Business. "The first is that she is always ready to pray with someone and give them a word of encouragement. The second is that Shirley sets a wonderful example for us in the College of Business."

She and her husband, Bill, live in Farmers Branch and have been married for 53 years. They have four children, 13 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. Their daughter Debra and her husband, Tom Guthrie, are both DBU graduates, as is their granddaughter, Julie, and her husband, Chad Rogers.



## DR. DALE SIMS AUTHORS BOOK Receives Honor from Alma Mater

Dr. Dale Sims, dean of the DBU College of Business and professor of management information systems, recently authored a book entitled, *Latvia Matters: The Adventures of a Large Man Who Stumbled Around in a Small Country*. The work recounts the time Dr. Sims spent in Latvia as Fulbright Scholar in 2006 teaching web design and marketing at Ventspils Augstskola College and is available through Amazon.com.

In addition, Dr. Sims' alma mater, Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, recently inducted him into the Southwestern College Scholars Hall of Fame.

Dr. Sims has been a professor at DBU since 1991 and was named the 2011-2012 Outstanding Professor of the year. In 2013, he was named dean of the College of Business, having spent the previous two years as associate dean. Dr. Sims and his wife, Debbie, have two children, Joshua and Laura.



## DBU Celebrates the Retirement of DR. BERNIE SPOONER

DBU recently held a special reception in honor of Dr. Bernie Spooner, who retired after serving for 12 years with the Gary Cook School of Leadership and the Graduate School of Ministry, serving in various roles, including the inaugural dean of the School of Leadership and professor of Christian education. Dr. Spooner joined the DBU faculty after "retiring" from the Baptist General Convention of Texas, where he served as 22 years as the director of the Sunday School and Discipleship division. In recognition for his service to DBU, the University has named a portion of the reference library in his honor, the Bernard M. Spooner Resource Collection.

Dr. Spooner and his wife, Pat (pictured left), are members of Plymouth Park Baptist Church in Irving, TX. They have two daughters, Joan and Jane, and four grandchildren.

## DBU Celebrates JOHN HUMPHREYS' 25TH ANNIVERSARY

DBU recently recognized John Humphreys for his 25 years of service to Dallas Baptist University with a special reception held in his honor on the DBU campus.

A native of Garland, John Humphreys first began at DBU in 1989 as an assistant to the vice president for financial affairs at DBU, having been asked to join the school by a family friend, Dr. Gary Cook, who had just been named president the previous year.

Over the course of the next 25 years, Humphreys would serve in a variety of roles, director of recruiting and administrative affairs for the College of Professional Studies, director of the DBU MBA program, director of DBU Mansfield, and Director of DBU Hurst-Colleyville, the position he currently holds. In addition, he helped to begin the DBU Wellness Program and served as its director of 10 years. In 2013, he was named the DBU Staff Member for the Year.

John and his wife, Jean, have been married for 32 years and have three adult children and one grandchild. They are active members of First Baptist Church of Arlington.



## DENNIS LINAM RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

DBU recently presented an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree to Dennis Linam during the Summer Commencement Service.

In 1988, he accepted an invitation from Dr. Gary Cook to join him on the administration at DBU. Over the past 26 years, Mr. Linam has served the school in a variety of ways as vice president of external affairs and currently as director of denominational and governmental affairs. Since his arrival at DBU, Dennis has become one of the most recognizable individuals on campus. Whether through serving as a greeter for dinners in the Mahler Student Center, managing booths at various denominational events, visiting Decatur alumni in their homes, spending time with DBU donors,



hosting alumni events, working with current students, taking international students under his wing, or a multitude of other acts of service and kindness, Dennis has become a friend and confidant to thousands. He has also been named a DBU Honorary Alumnus in 1993, a Decatur Honorary Alumnus in 2005, and the

DBU Staff Member of the Year in 2006.

Mr. Linam and his wife, Dr. Gail Linam, DBU academic dean, have two daughters, Dianne and Angela (pictured above left to right), and one son, Brooks, as well as a grandson.



## DR. RON SCATES SERVES AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Ron Scates, former pastor of Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas, recently served as the keynote speaker for the 2014 Summer Commencement Service.

A native of Maryland, Ron Scates attended college in San Antonio on a baseball scholarship and eventually traveled back to Virginia to attend seminary. Following seminary, he returned to San Antonio where he became associate pastor for youth ministry at First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio. A few years later, they went back to Maryland where he served as pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Baltimore for 11 years prior to accepting the call to become pastor of Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas in 2000, a role he served in for 13 years.

Ron and his wife, Anne, have been blessed with five children: Katie, Andrew, twins Michael and Emily, and Anna, who passed away as a young child several decades ago. They are pictured with Michael, who graduated during the service, and Emily.

## LEA SEDWICK RECEIVES NCAA ACADEMIC HONORS

Dallas Baptist senior midfielder, Lea Sedwick, was named to the NCAA Division II Capital One Academic All-America Team. The prestigious group is selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and recognizes the top performing players in the nation both on the field and in the classroom.

Sedwick, a senior from Kennedale, Texas, is a four-year starter at DBU and started all 89 matches for the Patriots during her four-year career. Over those four seasons, she totaled 83 points and netted 34 goals. In the classroom, Sedwick owns a perfect 4.0 grade point average as an Education major.

Sedwick is the lone member from the Heartland Conference and the only player to hail from the state of Texas among the 32 players on the First, Second, and Third Teams. She is also one of just three players on the First Team to have accumulated a 4.0 gpa.

Previously, Sedwick has twice been named to the Capital One Academic All-District Team during her career and is also a two-time selection top the Heartland Conference's President's Honor Roll.



## JUDGE KEN STARR SPEAKS ON PERSECUTED CHURCH

DBU recently hosted Ken Starr, president and chancellor of Baylor University (pictured left along with Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president) at a special luncheon focusing on the Persecuted Church. For several years, Judge Starr has been an advocate on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world, and Dr. Gary Cook asked him to speak about this topic to the DBU family.

Judge Starr shared with members of the DBU faculty and staff the plight of those who are facing persecution and death for the cause of Christ, especially those Christians in the Middle East, whose persecution has risen dramatically since the events of the Arab Spring nearly five years ago.

Named president of Baylor in 2010, Judge Starr previously served as dean of the Pepperdine University Law School. Prior to that, he was the Solicitor General of the United States from 1989 to 1993 and from 1994 to 1999 served as Independent Counsel for five government investigations.