

DBU announces the formation of its newest graduate degree, designed to equip leaders for local church ministries

Master of Arts in Christian Education



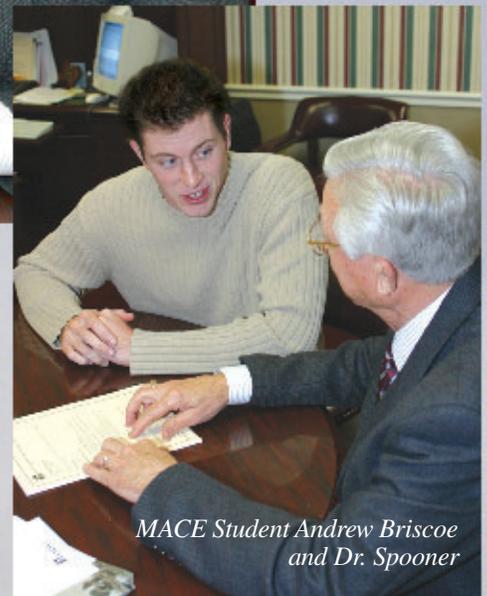
This spring semester, DBU officially began the newest addition to its growing number of schools and degree programs—the School of Leadership and Christian Education, which will offer the new Master of Arts in Christian Education (MACE) degree and also the existing Master of Education in Higher Education degree. The idea for the new MACE degree developed when it came to the attention of the DBU administration that students were expressing a desire to learn more about serving in the ministry and equipping laymen to serve.

“We found that many students and practitioners had most of the knowledge-base to serve in a church, but they were uncertain how to implement this knowledge,” explained Dr. Bernie Spooner, dean of the School of Leadership and Christian Education. “Because of many requests coming from students for this type of program, Dr. Gary Cook, president of DBU, decided to move forward with the School of Leadership and Christian Education and established the MACE degree program in response to this need.”

The new MACE program began this spring semester after nearly a year of careful planning and thorough research. In March of 2003, Dr. Cook asked Dr. Spooner if he would consider heading up the School of Leadership and Christian Education and begin planning the new MACE degree. Dr. Spooner, who holds both a master’s and a doctorate in religious education, easily assumed the role as MACE program developer. His reputation in churches throughout Texas is widespread, having served as vice president, president, and chairman of the board for the Baptist Association of Christian Education (formerly Southern Baptist Religious Education Association). He served Baptist churches for 15 years and taught for two years at



Dr. Judy Morris and Dr. Bernie Spooner



MACE Student Andrew Briscoe and Dr. Spooner

CONCENTRATIONS

adult ministry, baptist student ministry,
business ministry, children's ministry,
counseling ministry, education ministry,
general ministry, worship ministry,
youth ministry

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary before joining the staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, where he served 22 years as director of the Sunday School/Discipleship Division.

Last June, surveys were sent to nearly 1,400 ministry practitioners, including pastors and Christian Education leaders across the nation, but primarily in Texas. The survey focused on discovering the needs in ministry today and in what areas these individuals wished they had received more training. From this information, 27 competencies were developed. An advisory committee, made up of leaders among Baptist educators and ministry practitioners, was formed to offer suggestions, provide insight, and lend credibility to the program. The advisory committee, along with Dr. Spooner, agreed that it would take at least 42 hours to understand and gain all of the competencies needed to work most effectively in vocational ministry and in local churches today.

"Once a student completes 30 hours of core course work, plus 12 hours in a concentration, he or she will be prepared to serve as a minister of

education, minister of adults, minister of youth, minister of childhood education, a college-campus minister, and in other Christian education roles," explained Dr. Spooner.

Last fall, Dr. Judy Morris joined the School of Leadership team as director of the MACE program and is responsible for overseeing the marketing plan for the program as well as recruiting, admitting, and advising MACE students. Dr. Morris comes from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with 23 years of experience, having served as the associate dean for enrollment services. She holds a doctorate in education and has a passion for helping students find their calling in the ministry.

A unique aspect of the program involves field-based work, a component that Dr. Morris believes will play a crucial part in the success of students' careers once they are placed in ministry roles.

"We are learning that field-based ministry provides incredible hands-on as well as service learning experiences to students," said Dr. Morris. "Our goal at DBU is to assist students in taking the

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classroom knowledge and applying it in a field related to their desired ministry. This may involve doing field work at a hospital, a daycare, a church or even at a mission point."

Dr. Morris is working to build relationships with local churches, educational institutions, and other Christian organizations in preparation for students reaching the field-based section of their course work. Once a student has reached this level, they will spend 20 hours per week assisting in a field position related to their ministry interest. The work will be supervised, but it will involve more than shadowing a supervisor.

"We want DBU MACE students to get involved in the daily activities that go on in their particular field of interest," explained Dr. Morris. "We want them to find out what happens in a staff meeting, what happens in the budget meetings, and what the big picture is in their particular ministry field. We want the students to learn how to relate to and provide leadership for all types of people because that's the key to successful ministry in any field."

In addition to the field-based aspect of the program, the School of Leadership and Christian Education is designed around scripture and emphasizes the importance of faith-based learning in whatever discipline a student selects. This June, Dr. Bob Garrett will join the DBU faculty as a professor of missions, and the administration plans to add a missions concentration to the MACE program in the near future.

"This is an exciting time to be a student at DBU with the addition of this new school," said Dr. Cook. "I am happy to have so many talented faculty joining the University, and we believe the Lord has already chosen each student who will participate in the inaugural semester of the School of Leadership and Christian Education."

Dr. Spooner and Dr. Morris set an enrollment goal of 25 students for this first semester. That goal has already been met with 27 students this spring semester, and the fall semester is on track with over 110 prospective students. In addition to regular lectures, Dr. Spooner is organizing panel groups to

THE CORE CURRICULUM

Every MACE student will be required to complete each of the following ten courses



Introduction to Christian Education

taught by Dr. Bernie Spooner, dean of the DBU School of Leadership and Christian Education (M.A.R.E., Ph.D. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)



Biblical Servant Leadership

taught by Dr. Rick Gregory, DBU vice president for university advancement (M.Ed. Sam Houston State University, Ed.D. University of Houston)



Spiritual Formations and Worship

taught by Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president (M.A. University of North Texas, M.Div. Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, D.Min. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)



Philosophy and Principles of Christian Education

taught by Dr. Duke Jones, DBU director of enrollment services (M.A.R.E., Ph.D. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)



Christian History and Heritage

taught by Dr. William Pinson, former executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (M.Div., Th.D. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)



Systematic Theology

taught by Dr. James Denison, pastor Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas (M.Div., Ph.D. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)

participate in discussions in the classroom, and eight to nine sessions of the introduction course will involve guest lecturers from a variety of ministry fields.

“Students will hear from people who have served in the ministry for several decades, as well as the people who have only been serving for a few years,” said Dr. Spooner. “When the two different group testimonials come together, the students are able to get a visual of how ministry is changing and what needs to be done to equip the laity for service in the churches. To be successful in any ministry, you must be able to relate to the layman and take people with you—that’s what this new school will help students do when they complete the program—provide solid Christian servant leadership.” 



MACE Advisory Committee Members: (back row, l-r) Mr. Don Cannata, Dr. Royce Rose, Mr. Larry Fillingim, Mr. Tom Crow, Dr. Terry D. Bertrand, Mr. Bob Edd Shotwell, Dr. William Pinson, (front row, l-r) Dr. Bernie Spooner, Mrs. Dellanna O’Brien, Dr. Charles Tidwell, and Dr. Alva G. Parks. Not pictured: Mr. Bobby Bragg, Mr. Beau Colle, Dr. Winona Elder, and Dr. Bill Young.



Church and Business Administration

taught by Dr. Royce Rose, director of the Office of Theological Education for the Baptist General Convention of Texas (M.R.E., Ph.D. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)



Evangelism, Missions, and Growth through Ministry

taught by Dr. Bernie Spooner, dean of the DBU School of Leadership and Christian Education (M.A.R.E., Ph.D. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)



Developing Lay Leaders in the Church

taught by Dr. Charles Tidwell, distinguished professor of administration emeritus at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.R.E., Ph.D. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)



Church Staff and Member Relations with Field-Based Ministry

taught by Dr. Judy Morris, director of the DBU Master of Arts in Christian Education program (M.A.R.E., D.Ed.Min. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)

OTHER PROFESSORS IN PROGRAM

Prof. Debbie Bigler, DBU assistant professor of education (M.A.C.E. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)

Dr. Ozzie Ingram, DBU assistant vice president for administrative affairs (M.R.E. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ed.D. Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)

Dr. Gail Linam, DBU provost (M.R.E., Ph.D. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)

Prof. Ross O’Brien, DBU assistant professor of management (MBA Dallas Baptist University)

Dr. Alva G. Parks, DBU senior advisor to the president (M.A., M.S. Troy State University, Ph.D. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)

Dr. James Williams, former professor of adult education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.R.E., D.R.E., Ph.D. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)