



TWENTY-YEAR FACULTY



A WORD FROM DR. GARY COOK: Since I first arrived at DBU as president 25 years ago, it has been my privilege to work alongside many wonderful members of the faculty, staff, and administration, as we have sought to be a university that is pleasing to God. In this spring issue of the *DBU Report*, I wanted to highlight some of our remarkable servant leaders who have devoted their lives to Christian education. Each of these faculty members have served for more than 20 years at DBU, and they are dearly loved by the entire DBU family. We are grateful to God for bringing them to DBU and allowing them to share their gifts with us.

Dr. Richard Baca, Professor of Music, has traveled, studied, and performed all over the world but has been blessed to call DBU home since 1983. "Every day at DBU has brought me some special memory," he says. "Memories of meeting the new crop of students each fall has always been a



Dr. Richard Baca, Music

time of joy, energy, and anticipation, and then watching these same students receive their degrees at graduation has given me even greater joy." To see the great growth in students over their college years has been an encouragement for Dr. Baca that DBU is succeeding in the mission of providing Christ-centered, quality education.

Another reminder of the Lord's work for Dr. Baca is how his love and affinity for languages has been a gift during his tenure at DBU, because of the many international students. Living in Puerto Rico, Dr. Baca learned Spanish; studying in Italy on a Fulbright Grant, he picked up Italian; during his doctoral work, he learned French; but when Chinese students started arriving at DBU, he wanted to communicate with those students and began learning Chinese. "It has been a great joy and blessing for me to welcome students from West Africa in French, students from the Far East in Chinese, or freshmen from Central and South America in Spanish, and to help make them feel welcome, just as I was made to feel welcome on my trips."

Dr. Mary Becerril, Director of the Master of Arts in Counseling and Professor of Counseling, first came to DBU in 1969 as a nursing professor but stayed for only a year. However, in 1979, the nursing dean asked her to return to the classroom, and Dr. Becerril came back. In 1992, the nursing



Dr. Mary Becerril, Counseling

program was phased out, but Dr. Becerril did not want to leave. "I never felt the need to say goodbye to DBU. Some people said I was in denial and that I had to leave, but by that time, my love for DBU was strong," she explains. Ironically, Dr. Becerril had almost earned her doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy. In what she calls an "almost humorous" situation, she transitioned into a faculty role in counseling, being named the program director for the Master of Arts in Counseling, a role she continues to hold to this day.

Although she did not originally plan to work in two different professions, nursing and counseling, Dr. Becerril says, "I have enjoyed it tremendously and plan to continue as long as I am allowed and able. I believe that more important than being an excellent practitioner in either nursing or counseling, is the opportunity to influence students and graduates to be excellent practitioners in life. In my personal career development," Dr. Becerril concludes, "DBU has been the guiding force, the support behind the scenes, and provided the opportunity for the tapestry of my career to unfold."



Dr. Bob Colton, Psychology

Dr. Bob Colton, Professor of Psychology and Counseling, has been strongly tied to DBU for most of his life. His father, a pastor in Dallas, was a member of the first committee that sought to bring a Baptist college to Dallas and later served as a DBU trustee. Dr. Colton's daughter also received her undergraduate degree from DBU, making the Coltons' love for DBU a family tradition. "I am very grateful for the privilege of teaching at DBU," Dr. Colton explains. "Our administration not only allows us to integrate our Christian worldview with our disciplines, but they actually strongly encourage us to do so. I consider that an incomparable blessing and find great fulfillment in being able to integrate Christianity with psychology in the classroom."

Serving since 1990, Dr. Colton counts it a privilege to work with DBU students, whom he describes as "polite, respectful, and often strongly interested in approaching their studies in the context of a biblical framework." Likewise, Dr. Colton has been daily blessed by his colleagues. "I receive much strength and support from my daily interactions with fellow faculty and staff members. Their gracious, kind, and cheerful words and attitudes provide daily encouragement to me. I have often been helped and supported by staff and faculty members when going through difficult trials or seasons in my life. They truly exemplify what Scripture must mean when it tells us to bear one another's burdens," he says.



Dr. Beverly Giltner, Physics

Dr. Beverly Giltner, Professor of Physics, has been the backbone of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics since 1969. During her tenure, she served 18 years as Dean; has been the Director of Institutional Research since 1996; helped establish the Computer Science and Physics majors; and was a member of the first 2001 Summer Faculty Institute. Dr. Giltner has

also received the 2001 Honorary Alumna Award from DBU and the Piper Outstanding Professor Award for excellence in teaching during the 2002-2003 academic year. Likewise, she helped oversee the establishment of the Texas Alpha Nu Chapter of Alpha Chi in 1973, which is still in operation.

Of her time at DBU, Dr. Giltner sees the Lord's provisions for not only a loving family and husband at home but also at work. "The wonderful faculty, staff, Dr. Cook, the Provost, the Deans, and especially the students are very precious to me," says Dr. Giltner, expressing she is particularly proud when former students return to update her on their families and their work for the Lord. Of course, Dr. Giltner does state how she's had to learn to wait on the Lord during her time at DBU—noting it once took her three years to find a good geology professor.



Dr. Stephen Holcomb, Music

Currently the Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music, Dr. Stephen Holcomb began his tenure at DBU in 1988. Although the campus is much different today, the gift of working with students and his colleagues remains a blessing. Of his favorite memories, Dr. Holcomb cites the numerous musical and opera productions performed by the College of Fine Arts, as well as choir

tours to perform at the White House, the TMEA and Southwestern American Choral Directors Association Conventions, the National Cathedral, the Meyerson Symphony Center, Bass Hall, and the Tom Landry Memorial Service. He notes, "I have been particularly blessed to have had incredibly talented students through the years that have made these performance memories something to cherish for a lifetime."

"My colleagues in the Department of Music will always be important to me: we share so much of our lives together; we are family. I see God at work every day as I teach and interface with students," Dr. Holcomb continues. "I sense God as I talk, advise, and counsel students about music, career choices, and challenges of life. It is more than just delivering knowledge: we share life together; we challenge each other to be excellent and seek to honor the Lord in all we do."



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Dr. Jean Humphreys, Sociology

“When I look back at the two decades I’ve taught at DBU since 1992, memories overwhelm me,” expresses Dr. Jean Humphreys, Associate Professor of Sociology. “When my husband, John, and I came to DBU, our daughter was entering first grade and our twin sons were in preschool. Our children grew up here, going to school, church, basketball and baseball games, plays and musicals. We all became part of the DBU community.” Dr. Humphreys is thankful to teach students about one of her passions, and she cites Isaiah 58 as inspiration: “If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness.”

As DBU has grown over the years, Dr. Humphreys relishes the memories of time spent both inside and outside the classroom with students. While she says there is nothing better for a professor than to see the light click in students’ eyes during a class discussion, she is also grateful for the memories of hosting students in her home for Spiritual Rush, organizing women’s retreats with Professor Marsha Pool and Dr. Dawna Walsh, or attending conferences, lectures, and Paideia retreats. “Through these years, I have been blessed to get to know so many people all around campus,” she says. “They have challenged me to think more clearly, compassionately, and completely. I am surrounded by friends and counselors.”

In 1988, Jamie Lash, Professor of Business, had been teaching at Baylor University for ten years when an unexpected phone call with an unexpected job offer from Dr. Gary Cook changed the course of his career. His wife, Marcy, knew the moment the phone rang that the Lord was working, and after visiting the campus, they decided to join God’s work at DBU, knowing He had great things in store. Professor Lash points out that he half expected to see tumble weeds blowing around the campus as desolate as the campus seemed that first day. When he heard Dr. Cook’s vision of developing servant leaders, Professor Lash knew that’s where he wanted to invest his life. Since starting at DBU in 1989, he has been instrumental in creating one of the most anticipated weeks on campus, Student Welcome and Transition Week (SWAT) for incoming students, as well as teaching Freshman Orientation and the Christian Leadership Scholarship class. Alongside his professorship, he also holds the title of Director of Student Development in the Student Affairs division.



Jamie Lash, Business

Professor Lash says he has learned to approach work based on long-time DBU professor Dr. Weldon Estes’ mentality, “You never know who you’re teaching.” For Professor Lash, that is his motivation, never knowing the awesome things God has planned for his students’ lives. He says, “If I can share something with them that will make their lives more effective, what could be better than that?”

Dr. Gail Linam, Provost, will never forget the day in 1988 when she and her husband, Dennis, were invited by Dr. Gary Cook to join his leadership team as he accepted the presidency at DBU. She remembers a profound sense of God’s calling, while looking expectantly to serving at a place with such need. Since 1992, Dr. Linam has been able to experience countless milestones in the University’s growth, including the establishment of the Cynthia Ann Estes Prayer Room, the Norvell Slater Hymn Sing, the Homecoming Extravaganza, the Decatur Reunion, and the Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel.

To describe how she has seen the Lord work in her time at DBU, Dr. Linam’s examples are countless. She is grateful for the accreditation of the Master of Education program when she was Dean of the College of Education, the expansion of associate degrees, the expansion of the Women’s Auxiliary Board, the reaccreditation of DBU by SACS in both 1998 and 2008, as well as DBU being advanced to a Level V institution and DBU being approved to offer doctoral programs in 2005.

As Provost, she is also particularly proud of DBU’s adoption of the service-learning initiatives that enhance students’ lives with field-based service and community involvement. Although too many to mention, Dr. Linam is grateful for the opportunity to have worked with faculty, staff, deans, vice presidents, and friends who faithfully pursue excellence at DBU for the glory of God.



Dr. Gail Linam, Provost

Dr. Deborah McCollister, Professor of English, began teaching at DBU in 1991. Dr. McCollister, or Dr. Mc, as she is affectionately known by the students, has also served as chair of the English Department. Of her favorite memories during her tenure at DBU, she names taking DBU students to the United Kingdom several times to see the literature come to life; having students gather in her home; and the Pew and Paideia events.

She says, "I see the Lord at work in the day-to-day routines of study, in discussions with students, in the communities of learning that evolve in the classes, and in visits in my office. Seeing the students discover the world in which God placed them is pure joy!"

"No doubt, administrators, fellow faculty, and staff have touched my life: they have been among my closest personal friends," Dr. McCollister continues. "However, I must emphasize that the students are the ones who most touch me with their sense of fun, their honest questions, their determination to change the world, and their desire to grow." Recalling several years ago when she battled cancer, Dr. McCollister says it was a welcomed and unexpected blessing the way students prayed for her, left her notes and flowers, and encouraged her during the difficult time. "Students are the primary reason that I enjoy my job, and I cannot imagine life without them," she concludes.



Dr. Deborah McCollister, English

It would be hard to find someone on the DBU campus who has not heard Professor of Music Sue Mitz play the piano. Professor Mitz attended the groundbreaking for DBC in 1964 and felt the Lord calling her to teach here. As a full-time member of the music faculty since 1970, she has helped students develop their musical talents to maximize their potential for the glory of God. She has been a cornerstone on campus, serving consistently as an accompanist for choral ensembles and providing dinner music for banquets and events too numerous to count.

Professor Mitz was presented an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from DBU in 2009. Reflecting on her time at DBU, she states, "What a joy to drive onto our beautiful Dallas Baptist University campus each day and work with such wonderful students, faculty, and administration!"

Additionally, Professor Mitz found-



Sue Mitz, Music

ed the DBU select voice ensemble Dayspring, performing in front of such notable individuals as evangelist Billy Graham, and former presidents Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush. She has served as a member of the Women's Auxiliary Board, as well as Sigma Alpha Iota, international music fraternity for women; and she has performed across the U.S., Europe, and Israel.

Dr. David Naugle, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, has seen God work in many ways since he began in 1990 as an adjunct faculty member and academic counselor. Several years later, he led the Adult Education, now known as Professional Studies, redesigning the initial course for adult students. He also authored the institutional publication used in the redesigned class. Then, Dr. Naugle was asked to help begin the philosophy department at DBU, which proved to be a dream come true. The Lord led him to start the Friday Symposium series for faculty, staff, and students 18 years ago, and through this weekly event, professors and other professionals have come to campus to share their insight and wisdom. Dr. Naugle also met his wife, Deemie, at DBU and will always be thankful for the impact she and their daughter, Courtney, have had on his life. He has authored three books;



Dr. David Naugle, Philosophy

assisted in designing the Developing a Christian Mind course, now a prerequisite for all incoming undergraduates; and is a DBU Distinguished Professor. Among his favorite memories are "starting the faculty band called 'Men to Boys' (I was the drummer). We played several homecoming gigs! Plus I have lots of great memories of relationships with students, faculty and staff."



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Deemie Naugle, Assoc. Provost

that is who DBU is; we are a living, loving, learning community centered around Christ and what He has done for us."

Deemie Naugle, Associate Provost, has been part of the DBU community for the past 30 years, making it the longest community she has been a part of next to her own family. Literally growing up on University Hill, Professor Naugle remembers attending DBC basketball games as a 10 year old. She enrolled as a student at DBU in the 1970s, a remarkably busy and fun time that gave her a strong Christian foundation. She returned to the University in 1983 as a counselor and recruiter and has since held positions including assistant professor, dean, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Assistant Provost, and currently Associate Professor of Professional Studies and Associate Provost. "God has blessed me in every position to work with godly men and women, faculty, staff, and students, who have taught me so much about life, work, family, and love," Professor Naugle expresses. She also met her husband, Dr. David Naugle, at DBU, and one of her fondest memories is their marriage in the Gaston Chapel. She also loved watching her daughter, Courtney, be baptized in the DBU pool by her husband when they were members of University Baptist Church on campus. "Every person I know at DBU has had some kind of impact on my life and has taught me life lessons, because



Dr. Mary Jane Nelson, Business

is in her 48th year of teaching, and she explains, "The time spent at DBU has brought me closer to God and deepened my faith as I interact regularly with wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ."

Of her lasting memories at DBU, Dr. Nelson recalls her first visit to DBU, the many hours spent on the College of Business accreditation with the ACBSP, and the innumerable relationships she has formed both personally and professionally. Particularly, Dr. Nelson is thankful for the friendships with colleagues who have been a continual source of encouragement to her, including Shirley Mitchell, John Humphreys, Gail Linam, Marsha Pool, Mary Fox, and all those in the College of Business. She is also grateful for the students with whom she has retained friendships through the years, watching their career growth, attending their weddings, and celebrating births of their children. A special memory for Dr. Nelson is also being able to teach so many of the DBU graduate students who have become leaders on the DBU campus as faculty or staff members.

In 1992, Dr. Mary Jane Nelson, current Professor of Management, accepted the position of Associate Dean and chair of the MBA program at DBU, transferring her career to Dallas after 25 years at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Oklahoma. She

Dallas Baptist College had been located in Dallas one year when Marsha Pool, Master Teacher and Professor of Mathematics, joined the faculty in 1966. "As I look back on my life, I can see how God orchestrated definite directional turns that guided me to being a mathematics professor at



Marsha Pool, Mathematics

DBU," she shares. Professor Pool vividly remembers attending chapel under a circus tent in the 1960s, and she has memories of painting the dorms before the fall semester started, and even teaching without pay during a winter session when the University suffered difficult financial times. She also served as the faculty representative on the committee that selected Dr. Cook as DBU's president in 1988.

Through all the memories, Professor Pool believes her greatest pleasure has come through sharing math concepts with students who have had difficulty understanding the subject. "For me, a recurring feeling of confirmation of my belief in the mission of DBU has been the sight that occurs after every graduation," she reflects. "When I see clusters of jubilant graduates and their supporters posing for photos and exchanging congratulatory hugs while moving around the covering and space from the Burg Center, I say, 'Yes, Lord, You have blessed us all.'" Professor Pool was awarded the University's highest honor of Master Teacher in 2004, a recognition for teaching excellence at DBU for more than 25 years.



Dr. Danny Rose, Communication

When Dr. Danny Rose, Assistant Professor of Communication, stepped onto campus in 1985 as a freshman, he had no idea he would one day be teaching communication classes in Horner Hall, a building which did not even exist at the time. "The fact that I ended up here as a student is pretty miraculous," he recounted. After graduating in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in communication, Dr. Rose joined the staff as Coordinator of Media Services, a job he thought would be temporary.

As the years progressed, Dr. Rose ably provided services across campus meanwhile earning a master's degree and then teaching courses in the Communication Department as an adjunct professor. "It was here that I started to see the allure of teaching: the interactivity with the students and the learning that takes place with not only the student, but the teacher as well," he expresses. Ten years later, inspired by his work with Media Services, Dr. Rose began working on his Ph.D. at UNT. After completing his degree, he joined the full-time faculty as Assistant Professor of Communication in August of 2011, and he could not be happier.

"The memories that stay with me involve seeing DBU emerge from a small private school that was a well-kept secret to the educational presence that it is today," Dr. Rose shares. Seeing God's hand as He has guided him through a variety of positions and degrees to lead Dr. Rose to this place is a true testament to God's ultimate provision.

When Dr. Dale Sims, Associate Dean and Professor of Management Information Systems, walked into his first DBU class in 1991, he came with extensive experience in the business world. With a young family to provide for and a career to consider, Dr. Sims placed his life in the Lord's hands, knowing God was working in a mighty way. "I knew that if this was the place where I was supposed to build a career that God would provide for our family needs. That reliance on the grace, mercy, and provision of God has taught me that God is always faithful," he recounts. Through his long career at DBU, Dr. Sims has enjoyed pouring into the lives of countless students as he has explained business principles and technology. DBU Commencement services are very special to Dr. Sims, as he often serves as a Marshal. "As I work with the students, I wonder what their future holds. I am so proud of them for earning their degree, and I want



Dr. Dale Sims, Business

them to succeed. I have seen many of my students, including my wife, Debbie, and son, Joshua, graduate and go on to very successful careers," Dr. Sims explains. He has received numerous recognitions, including selection as a Who's Who Among America's Teachers, a Who's Who in America, and in 2006, Dr. Sims was named a distinguished Fulbright Scholar.



Linda Stephenson, Library Science

Linda Stephenson, Coordinator of Public Services and Professor of Library Science, has been ably assisting students in the University library since 1987. Through her career at DBU, Professor Stephenson has seen the library advance from a completely paper check-out method and print collection to a widely diversified digital and print environment. "The library advances have been made possible greatly by the four library directors I have worked under: Pat Steffey, Mary Fox, Peggy Martin, and Debra Collins," Professor Stephenson explains. "Each one has been uniquely gifted to lead the library. My co-workers over the years have become my friends, and that is special in a workplace environment." Each change has brought challenges which have enabled her to grow professionally, as well as spiritually. "I have so many wonderful memories of my time here," she shares. "So many people here have made it the special place it is for me. I still feel a sense of wonder that I am part of this thriving, God-seeking, loving, ever-changing, learning community that is DBU." This is also the place where she was introduced to her husband, Jack, through former DBU staff member Kay Hulen. Professor Stephenson feels that her years as a reference librarian and professor have been some of the most fulfilling years of her life.



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Dr. Jim Underwood, Business

Dr. Jim Underwood, Professor of Management, joined the DBU faculty in 1989 through an unconventional route following a successful career as a banker. He brings a wealth of knowledge in business management, ethics, and relational interaction, as well as seminary training, to his classroom, and students are blessed each semester through his courses. One of his favorite classes through the years has been a graduate ethics class where he has had the opportunity to teach students from around the world, coming from different faiths and backgrounds. Through discussions of ethics and beliefs, Dr. Underwood has been given the blessing of also sharing the Gospel with hundreds of students.

"Over the past 20 plus years, God has allowed me to watch Him work in the lives of our students," Dr. Underwood expresses. The DBU faculty and staff have played a vital role in his life during his career. "I never forget that the Lord works through people whose hearts belong to Him, and I see evidence of that almost every day as students tell me of something that one of our faculty or staff has done to impact their lives," he shares. Dr. Underwood has authored numerous books on the topics of business, ethics, and management, including the *New York Times/Wall Street Journal* best-selling book *More Than a Pink Cadillac*. His commitment to Christian education and investing in the lives of his students is remarkable, and his impact will last for years to come.



Dr. Dawna Hamm Walsh, Art

Dr. Dawna Hamm Walsh, Professor and Chair of the Department of Art in the College of Fine Arts, came to Dallas Baptist College as a freshman in 1965, the very first year the doors opened on the new campus. She remembers living in Williams Hall dormitory, attending chapel in a tent, and taking classes from Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley and Dr. Weldon Estes. During her time as

an undergraduate, she was awarded a Fulbright-Hayes Summer Scholarship Grant, which allowed her to study art at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. After attending graduate school at the University of North Texas, she returned to Dallas Baptist in 1978 and began teaching art classes. Through the years, Dr. Walsh has taught every course in the art curriculum, with her favorite being Art Appreciation, Painting, and Drawing. Under her leadership, the art program grew from 13 art students to 70 talented art majors. She was also able to hire her father, Jack Hamm, as an adjunct professor and enjoyed the time that they were privileged to teach alongside each other. "Being able to teach with a great faculty who embrace the integration of faith and learning is an answer to prayer in my life," she expresses. "Every day I grow in my relationship with the Lord through my faculty friends, as well as our great DBU students."



Don Willis, Business

Although Donald Willis, Assistant Professor of Business, grew up in the city of Dallas, he had not heard of Dallas Baptist College until 1977, when he was teaching at Mercer University. When he learned of an open faculty position, he felt the Lord's calling to teach at DBU and was soon hired to head the Marketing Department for business students in 1978. During

Professor Willis' tenure, he has taught in the areas of marketing, finance, management, and statistics. He has been a cornerstone of the College of Business throughout the years, teaching and encouraging students in their academic pursuits. He has also served as the faculty advisor for the Executive Club. Professor Willis is a fellow of the Academy of Marketing Science and a member of the American Marketing Association. Throughout his time at the University, he has had many special memories including when DBU honored Christian evangelist Billy Graham and former U.S. representative Jim Collins. While there are many who have had an impact on his life, at the top of the list stands Mary Crowley. Her successes in the business world were remarkable; however, it was her generosity and love for helping others and sharing about Jesus that touched Professor Willis' life.