



KENNETH AND LUPE SMITH

GIVING A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE TO DBU

Kenneth and Lupe Smith have a special place in their hearts for DBU. Whether it is teaching in the classroom, serving on committees, or giving their time for University organizations, this couple finds ways to give a lifetime of experience to students.

Born and raised in Chicago, Kenneth Smith headed off to Washington and Lee College in 1937 for his undergraduate education, as his father wanted him to pursue a law career. However, after his first year, and following a summer project, he was convinced that he wanted to become a geologist.

World War II interrupted his plans as he was drafted for the war and began training in the special services sector, stationed in Europe. He spoke French prior to the war, and the military wanted him to become a translator, but of Italian, not French. After six months of training, he passed the government's Italian proficiency exam, allowing him not only to translate conversational Italian, but also to handle political or technical documents as well.

Following the war, Smith returned to Washington and Lee and finished his degree in 1947. He then went on to enroll in the Ph.D. program at Columbia University (New York). He completed his course work within three years, and in 1950 he left New York for the University of Michigan to serve as a professor in their Geology Department

for two years while he completed his dissertation.

With Ph.D. in hand, he began working for Continental Oil, serving as a field geologist and also supervisor over many larger projects, including Continental's interests in Alaska for his final nine years.

When the company opened an office in Alaska and asked Dr. Smith to man this location, he declined, and they moved him to a new position serving over their uranium sector. Shortly thereafter, he left Continental to form his own consulting firm with a few friends. For many years, Dr. Smith traveled frequently, helping to explore and evaluate oil and mineral deposits in various countries. Eventually, he left the firm to begin a solo venture where he continued in the same consulting role but concentrated his efforts in the United States.

While flying from Houston back home to Dallas one day, Dr. Smith sat next to a lady named Lupe. Lupe had just taken her father back to Houston in order to catch a plane to San Salvador, her family's native country. On the plane, the two soon found themselves having a wonderful conversation. By the time the plane had landed, they had exchanged phone numbers and made arrangements for a dinner date. Two years later, they were married.

Raised in San Salvador, Lupe dreamed of becoming a U.S. citizen. In 1960, she boarded a plane for Dallas at

age 18 to discover life in America. With the assistance of her sponsors, the McFarland Family, she began attending Park Cities Baptist Church. At Park Cities, she became a member of Mrs. Earline Burgess' Sunday School class, and during this time Mrs. Burgess took Lupe under her wing and became a spiritual mentor to her. In addition, Ben New, one of the assistant pastors at the church, walked Lupe through the meaning of salvation. With Mrs. Burgess faithfully at her side, Lupe made her decision, walked down the aisle at Park Cities Baptist, publicly professed her faith in Christ, and was later baptized by Dr. Herbert R. Howard.

On September 17, 1965, Lupe realized her dream of becoming a U.S. citizen as she was sworn in by Judge Davidson. Attending the service that day were the McFarlands and Mrs. Burgess.

Prior to meeting Dr. Smith, Lupe joyously taught Sunday School for pre-schoolers. After Lupe and Dr. Smith met, the two began attending Park Cities together, and he likewise became a member and was baptized by Dr. Howard. Lupe continued in her teaching role for a total of 17 years, and often, Dr. Smith would join the class, helping her with the children. Initially serving as a substitute, Dr. Smith gradually served on a more regular basis until he himself became a permanent Sunday School teacher in 2006.

Outside of Park Cities, Lupe volunteered for five years in elementary schools for the Dallas Independent School District. She worked in the offices and nurse's stations, as well as in the libraries. From time to time she would enlist Dr. Smith to come and talk with the youngsters about the fascinating world of geology.

Dr. Smith became involved with Dallas Baptist University through a friendship with Vera Ford. A friend of DBU, Mrs. Ford

knew of the school's need to find quality adjunct instructors. Knowing Dr. Smith's background, she encouraged him to consider teaching on a part-time basis. She arranged for a meeting with DBU's provost, as well as Dr. Beverly Giltner, the current dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The meeting proved dear to Dr. and Mrs. Smith, for over the years Dr. Giltner has become one of their closest friends. According to Dr. Smith,

“The feeling that you get at DBU is like nothing else. This place does something for you that even sometimes you don't experience in church. I love being a part of DBU.”

“She is the most wonderful person you could ever have for a boss.”

From 1990 to 2005, Dr. Smith taught geology at DBU. Those 15 years proved to be some of the best of his life as he poured his knowledge of geology into the lives of hundreds. When asked to choose a favorite memory while at DBU, Dr. Smith claimed that it was like choosing one's favorite Christmas. So many memories are so special that it is impossible to choose just one.

Lupe likewise has become involved in the life of DBU, attending many events as a member of the DBU Women's Auxiliary Board. Each time on campus, she feels something special that assures her she is investing her time wisely.

“The feeling that you get at DBU is like nothing else,” said Lupe. “This place does something for you that even sometimes you don't experience in church. I love being a part of DBU.”

Kenneth and Lupe spend summers in Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin, on land that has been in the Smith family since 1916.



Robert Whitfield, DBU advancement officer and international recruiter, along with Kenneth and Lupe Smith in their Dallas home. They are pictured along with a wooden sculpture that Lupe's father crafted for a church in their home town in San Salvador.

They attend a small community church in town, the same church where Dr. Smith's father served as one of the original founders. Following in the family's heritage of service, the two actively volunteer in helping to orchestrate annual community events, such as the donation of goods and a fishing tournament.