

Dallas Baptist

UNIVERSITY

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DR. GARY COOK CELEBRATES FIFTEEN YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF DBU

DBU PRESIDENT DR. GARY COOK and his wife, Sheila, with sons David and Mark. Since Dr. Cook assumed the presidency on April 6, 1988, DBU has experienced unprecedented growth and financial stability. This special edition of the DBU Report provides an overview of the University's significant accomplishments and milestones during the past fifteen years under the dynamic servant leadership of Dr. Cook and his administration.

Special Fifteenth
Anniversary Issue

Except the LORD build the house...

This special issue of the *DBU Report* commemorates fifteen years of service at Dallas Baptist University by President Gary Cook. Over the last fifteen years, many things have changed as Dr. Cook has skillfully led the University to the place where it is today, but one thing remains the same on University Hill...a commitment to make DBU an institution where God is glorified.

Arriving at the University in 1988, Dr. Cook saw a great many challenges lying ahead of him. With conviction in his heart, he placed a special framed verse in his office, Psalm 127:1, which reads, "Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Over the years, this verse helped remind him of the One who could overcome every challenge the University faced.

With his belief in God's power, he asked for the DBU family to commit to turning the whole of the life of the University over to God in prayer and accordingly established the Intercessory Prayer Ministry.

The last fifteen years, therefore, stand as a testimony not only to the leadership of Dr. Cook, but also, and most importantly, to God's continual answer to prayer. Under the Cook administration, the University has grown in its academics, student enrollment, endowment, campus buildings, and reputation around the state of Texas and the United States. God has indeed demonstrated His willingness to hear and answer those who call upon His name.

When people arrive on University Hill today, they notice beautiful buildings, students full of potential, and a committed faculty and staff. In addition, they also see many Christian reminders, such as statues, sculptures, prayer gardens, and scripture verses on framed plaques. Much like the verse hanging in Dr. Cook's office, these reminders both demonstrate the University's commitment to its religious heritage and point people back to the reason why the University exists and the only One who can ever allow an institution or individual to succeed.

So as we commemorate these fifteen years of Dr. Cook's leadership, we give glory to God for all that He has accomplished. We also look to the future with joyful anticipation for all that God plans to do through DBU as we reflect on the verse that has become the theme verse for Dallas Baptist University these last fifteen years, Jeremiah 29:11.



Above is a picture of the scripture that Dr. Cook placed on the wall in his office when he first arrived at DBU, and it remains there to this day.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

-Jeremiah 29:11

Leading DBU for Fifteen Years

Dr. Gary Cook

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or the last fifteen years, Dr. Gary Cook has provided committed leadership to Dallas Baptist University. And thanks to this leadership, the school has been transformed from an institution on its last legs to a University that is running strong.

For those who know Dr. Cook, they know that besides his love for the Lord, his family, and DBU, he is a lover of long-distance running. In years past, he competed in marathons across Texas, and he even brought this love to DBU, establishing an annual fun-run called the Turkey Trot, held the week before Thanksgiving.

Running is a sport that in many ways is characteristic of Dr. Cook and his leadership here at the University. In order to run, and run well, an individual must possess energy, stamina, and above all, commitment to



Pictured above is the President's Office staff. From left to right: (front row) Craig Dunn, Mitch Bennett, Carrie Comstock, (back row) Danny Hassett, Andrew Briscoe, Blake Killingsworth, and Dr. Gary Cook.

the long road. At many colleges, commitment to the long road is not an attribute of its top leadership. A recent survey taken by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* states that the median number of years that presidents serve at universities is five, and only about 9% can claim to have stayed at their school for more than fifteen years.

Dr. Cook, however, is one of these special leaders who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to his school. His time on University Hill began back in 1988, when as a young thirty-seven year old, Dr. Cook assumed the presidency of a school that had many problems. Very few people are so young when offered such responsibility. In fact, the same presidential survey states that fewer than 1% of all presidents are under the age of forty, and only 11% are in their forties.

However, his youth became useful at DBU. Although the University possessed a rich tradition, its finances were struggling, its campus barren, and its survival as an institution in doubt. Many felt that the school might be closing in on its last days. But not Gary Cook, and with energy and conviction, he sought God's will for the troubled school.

Steve Blow, writer for *The Dallas Morning News*, describes well the story of Dr. Cook's coming to DBU, as he did so in a recent Baylor alumni publication.

"In 1988 came the biggest challenge of his life. That's when he was asked to rescue floundering Dallas Baptist University. Though many told him the task would involve insurmountable obstacles, he got a different answer one day during his daily devotional



reading. He can still cite the page number (199) in which he read of Joshua and Caleb's return from a reconnaissance mission to the Promised Land. Though the other spies reported that it was impossible to enter, Joshua and Caleb said nothing is impossible with God. So Cook took the 'impossible' job."

"For a time, he wondered if he had been on the wrong page that day. 'The next three years were the worst in my life. It was chaotic,' he said. 'I kept asking the Lord why he put me in this situation.' But gradually, with steadfast servant leadership, the situation began to turn around. Today, the school is robust and growing. Its enrollment and endowment have more than doubled under Cook's leadership. 'He was the key,' said Dr. Bill Pinson, retired executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. 'Gary brought a sense of vision, a high level of energy, and a sense of integrity.'"

"Cook says people's prayers saved the school. Others say it was Dr. Gary Cook. Both answers are undoubtedly right. For Dallas Baptist University, his servant leadership has been an answered prayer."

Fifteen years have seen many prayers answered here at DBU. We are indeed grateful for Dr. Cook's committed leadership and God's guiding hand.

DBU...Christ-Centered, Quality Higher Education

DR. GARY COOK

DBU PRESIDENT

15th

ANNIVERSARY

ACADEMICS

Expanding and Adding Programs

In 1993, the DBU faculty and board of trustees adopted a new mission statement for the school, one which emphasized the University's commitment to its Christian heritage as well as articulated the desired outcome of its students. Since that time, DBU classrooms have been infused with concepts of the integration of faith and learning and servant leadership, regardless of the subject matter. Business, chemistry, philosophy, music, and education courses, just to name a few, each stress the ways in which Christian conviction shapes an understanding of the subject and how this newfound understanding should in turn be used to serve others.

With this foundation of the integration of faith and learning and servant leadership, the University has dramatically expanded its programs and degrees. These new offerings have combined with DBU's many quality degree programs in order to meet the challenges of both a growing student body and a new millennium. Now more than ever, DBU produces servants ready to lead the world in whatever their vocational calling might be.

NEW UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Philosophy (1992)
Health Care Administration (1997)
Natural Sciences (1998)
Music Theory/Composition (1999)
Music Business (2002)

NEW GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Master of Arts in Counseling (1990)
Master of Liberal Arts (1990)
Master of Arts in Teaching (1994)
Master of Arts in Organizational Management (1995)
Master of Education in Higher Education (1995)
Master of Education in School Counseling (1996)
Master of Arts in Professional Development (2001)
Master of Arts in Christian Education (2003)

DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Dallas Baptist University is to provide Christ-centered quality higher education in the arts, sciences, and professional studies at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to traditional age and adult students in order to produce servant leaders who have the ability to integrate faith and learning through their respective callings.



Dr. Gary Cook (center) visits on the DBU campus with world-renowned pollster George Gallup, Jr. (left), and Michael Lindsay, who serves as the consultant for theology, religion, and culture for the Gallup Organization. In 1999, DBU awarded Mr. Gallup an honorary doctor of humanities degree, and in 2003, Mr. Gallup returned to campus to serve as the inaugural speaker of the George Gallup Distinguished Lecture Series.

STRIVING TO PRODUCE STUDENTS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Under the leadership of Dr. Cook and the commitment of the DBU family, the University has taken strides to continually increase the quality of academics at DBU. Over the past fifteen years, standards have been raised even higher to ensure the quality of incoming students, while programs and departments have been established to challenge and equip these willing minds. In addition, the University has continued to seek accreditation from a number of professional bodies so as to ensure DBU's high standing among other institutions of higher education.

- ◆ Campus schedule changed from a four-day week to a five-day week in order to provide a more traditional campus life
- ◆ Average SAT scores for incoming freshman class raised from 887 in 1992 to 1087 in 2003
- ◆ DBU twice named to the John Templeton Foundation's Honor Roll for Character-Building Colleges
- ◆ AIM (academic assistance) Program established

- ◆ In 1990, DBU began pursuing a relationship with Christ For The Nations Institute, helping CFNI graduates complete their undergraduate degrees at DBU. Beginning with only a handful of students in the early 1990s, by the fall of 2003, CFNI graduates at DBU numbered 238
- ◆ College of Fine Arts received accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music in 2001 for the first time
- ◆ Fall Break instituted in 1997

- ◆ Master of Liberal Arts program received endorsement from the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs in 1994
- ◆ Master of Arts in Counseling program endorsed by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors
- ◆ School of Leadership and Christian Education established in 2003 in order to administer the new Master of Arts in Christian Education degree
- ◆ College of Business granted accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs in 1995 for the first time
- ◆ Cumulative passing rate for DBU education majors on the Examination for Certification of Educators in Texas raised from 90.21% in 1998 to 98.47% in 2002
- ◆ Dorothy M. Bush College of Education received state-accredited certificates to its Master of Education program from the Texas Education Agency in 1995 for the first time

- ◆ Annual Summer Faculty Institute established in 2001 as an avenue for professional development and enrichment of the academic and spiritual life of DBU
- ◆ Added English as a Second Language and Intensive English Program for non-English-speaking international students
- ◆ Weekend College established in 1993, offering full-service adult degree programs that can be completed on Friday nights and Saturdays

- ◆ Pew College Society established by Dr. David Naugle, professor of philosophy, to prepare the next generation of Christian scholars



Dr. Charles and Mrs. Dorothy Shellenberger (center) are pictured here along with friends and family at a special ceremony next to "The Great Commission" sculpture on the DBU campus. The sculpture, which was dedicated in honor of the Shellenbergers, symbolizes not only DBU's dedication to providing quality education in the changing global environment, but also its desire to produce future leaders who serve the world for the cause of Christ Jesus.

NEW PROFESSORS CONTINUE DBU TRADITION OF EXCELLENT FACULTY

Over the past fifteen years, many new professors have joined the DBU family, each demonstrating a level of care and excellence that has always been a trademark of the DBU faculty. Nowhere is this continued tradition better demonstrated than in the Dorothy M. Bush College of Education. Charged with the task of preparing and training the next generation of teachers, professors in the College of Education bring their expertise into the classroom and, in turn, guide their students with both theoretical ideas and practical applications. DBU has been especially blessed to have so many recent additions to the college that have established records as principals and administrators. Combined, these professors have brought to DBU over one hundred years of experience in the administration of public and private schools.

FORMER PRINCIPALS TEACHING FUTURE EDUCATORS

Year Added to DBU Faculty	New Full-Time DBU Professors
1994	Dr. Peggy Trammell -former principal of Beltline Elementary School, DeSoto ISD
1997	Dr. Ken Thomas -former principal of John S. Armstrong Elementary School, Highland Park ISD -former principal of Preston Hollow Elementary School, Dallas ISD -former principal of Herbert Marcus Elementary School, Dallas ISD
1999	Dr. Denny Dowd -former associate superintendent of Arlington ISD -former principal of Gunn Junior High School, Arlington ISD
1999	Mr. Bob Burgin -former principal of Arlington High School, Arlington ISD -former principal of Nichols Junior High School, Arlington ISD -former principal of Korea Christian Academy, Taejon, South Korea
2003	Dr. Charles Carona -former principal of J. J. Pearce High School, Richardson ISD
2003	Dr. Nancy McLaughlin -former principal of Woodrow Wilson High School, Dallas ISD

In addition, two part-time professors now serve at DBU three days a week after retiring from their jobs as principals. Both now have offices in the College of Education and serve our students so very effectively.

1997	Dr. Linda Smiles -former principal of Carroll High School, Southlake ISD; Grapevine Junior High School, Grapevine ISD; Grapevine Middle School, Grapevine ISD
2002	Dr. Bill Gilbert -former principal of Brook Avenue Sixth Grade Center, Waco ISD; Hillcrest Elementary School, Waco ISD; North Waco Elementary School, Waco ISD; E. Ray Elementary School, Everman ISD; Hyde Park Baptist Junior and Senior High School, Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas



Pictured from left to right: (back row) Dr. Denny Dowd, Mr. Bob Burgin, Dr. Charles Carona, Dr. Bill Gilbert, (front row) Dr. Nancy McLaughlin, Dr. Linda Smiles, and Dr. Peggy Trammell. Not pictured: Dr. Ken Thomas who is on sabbatical for the 2003-2004 academic year.

FINANCIAL STABILITY AND GROWING CAMPUS MARK FIFTEEN YEARS OF PROGRESS

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inancial stability and a sound fiscal policy have been high priorities under the present administration.

When Dr. Cook became president in 1988, DBU had an indebtedness of \$5.8 million. By 1992 this burdensome debt had been paid off, allowing the University to address other pressing needs that had been postponed due to the past financial situation. DBU now maintains an annual balanced budget, finishing every year in the black for the past fifteen years.

One of the first things Dr. Cook did when he became president was to appoint key administrative staff members. Among the first to be named, seven months after Dr. Cook's tenure began, was Harold E. Norris, who retired from DBU in 2000 as senior vice president for financial affairs and chief financial officer.

Under the new fiscal policy, DBU has made great strides: built the \$4.5 million John G. Mahler Student Center debt-free; provided across-the-board salary increases for all faculty and staff each year from 1989 for a total of 58%; and increased the operating budget from \$9 million to \$42 million. In addition, the University assets have grown from \$27.7 million to \$71.1 million, and the DBU endowment has grown from \$8.9 million in 1988 to \$18.4 million in 2003.

NEW LAND ADDED TO UNIVERSITY HILL

- ◆ In 1988, Dallas Baptist University property totaled 200 acres
- ◆ In 1991, the University purchased 2 acres from TXU
- ◆ In 1994, the property expanded even more, thanks to the generous donation of approximately 86 acres by the Hexter Family
- ◆ In 1999, 4 more acres were purchased, and the amount of property owned by DBU now is 292 acres
- ◆ In 2002, an additional 25 acres of land between Mountain Creek Parkway and Mountain Creek Lake were leased by DBU
- ◆ In 1992, DBU began working with veterans to establish the DFW National Cemetery on 600 acres surrounding DBU on the North and the East

FACULTY/STAFF ACROSS-THE-BOARD SALARY % INCREASES, 1988-2003

1988	0%
1989	4%
1990	4%
1991	5%
1992	5%
1993	4%
1994	2%
1995	3%
1996	4%
1997	4%
1998	4%
1999	3%
2000	4%
2001	4%
2002	4%
2003	4%

TOTAL 58%



Dr. Gary Cook visits with DBU trustee Nita Ford and her husband, John, at a fall 2003 preview reception of the "Dead Sea Scrolls to the Forbidden Book" exhibit at the Biblical Arts Center in Dallas. DBU was pleased to serve as a host for the special evening.