Dallas Baptist University celebrated 40 Years on University Hill during a very special Homecoming Week. In 1965, classes began as DBU officially opened its doors after relocating the school from Decatur. Forty years later, members of the DBU family flooded the campus to remember those early years and celebrate the bright future that is ahead for Dallas Baptist University.

The Homecoming Weekend kicked off with the annual Homecoming Alumni Banquet. Alumni from across the country filled the Hillcrest Great Hall as the University honored both the 2005 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, Dr. Michael Stuart, and the 2005 Honorary Alumnus of the Year, Professor Jamie Lash.

Following the dinner, a crowd gathered in the Burg Center for the special Homecoming Extravaganza, a variety show featuring the talents of members of the DBU family. Performances included juggling, singing, poetry, and a special talk by Dr. Bill Thorn, DBU president emeritus. After the curtain closed on the Extravaganza, a Thanksgiving Celebration reception was held in the Patriot Café, sponsored by the DBU Women’s Auxiliary Board.

Dr. Michael Stuart, current chair of the Council of Dental Practice of the American Dental Association, received the 2005 DBU Distinguished Alumnus Award. After graduating from Dallas Baptist College in 1974, Dr. Stuart went on to earn a Master of Church Music degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Baylor College of Dentistry. Since 1986, Dr. Stuart has maintained his dental practice and currently sees patients at his office in Mesquite.
Dr. Stuart’s many organizational leadership roles in dentistry have included parliamentarian of the Texas Dental Association, chair of the managed care task force of the Dallas County Dental Society, editor of the Dallas County Dental Society, Secretary-Treasurer for the Dallas County Dental Society, chair of the reference committee on dental care of the Academy of General Dentistry, and president of the Texas Academy of General Dentistry. In 2002, he was nominated for the Texas Dentist of the Year Award.

Besides his ministry in the dental field, Dr. Stuart has served as a music minister at churches across North Texas since 1970. His wife, Kathy, is a retired educator and principal. The Stuarts have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Jamie Lash, DBU professor of business and director of student development, was named the 2005 Honorary DBU Alumnus. Joining the University in 1989, Professor Lash has served in a number of capacities, including director of admissions, coordinator of the Christian Leadership program, professor for the incoming freshman student introduction class called “Foundations for Excellence,” and camp speaker for the annual PaceSetters Camp held on the DBU campus.

A native of Connecticut, Professor Lash attended Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, where he met his wife, Marcy, and the two completed their undergraduate and master’s degrees from Baylor University. They remained in Waco and were both invited to join the Baylor faculty. Professor Lash taught both economics and finance and received the Baylor Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year award. When Dr. Gary Cook became president at DBU in 1988, he invited Professor Lash to come and join the University faculty.

In addition to his role as a professor and mentor on the DBU campus, Professor Lash is a frequent speaker at churches and retreats throughout the United States. For six years, he maintained a radio ministry in Dallas and Washington, D.C., and he has also co-authored a book entitled This Was Your Life! with Rick Howard, which is in its fourth printing. Jamie and Marcy Lash live in Grand Prairie and have three children.