Dr. Aaron Fletcher, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at DBU, has recently completed his service as chair of the Dallas-Fort Worth Local Section of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Fletcher was elected to a three-year term starting in 2011 when he served as chair-elect.

The American Chemical Society is the largest scientific society in the world, with more than 160,000 scientists involved in the full spectrum of chemistry. The DFW chapter of ACS is the second largest in Texas, with 1,600 active members.

As chair, Dr. Fletcher organized monthly meetings, appointed members to committees, and served as a liaison to the National ACS for budget management and strategic planning. In October 2011, he worked with the student chemistry chapters of all of the DFW colleges to create a week-long event at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. During the week, the students provided chemistry demonstrations to over 4,500 visitors. To conclude the event, ACS members provided a career day in chemistry, describing the ways in which they use the study of chemistry in their various occupations. At the ACS National Meeting in 2012, the efforts were honored with the ChemLuminary Award for Outstanding Community Involvement during National Chemistry Week.

Dr. Fletcher joined the DBU faculty in 2008. He received a bachelor’s degree from York College in York, Nebraska, and completed his Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry at Colorado State University. He and his wife, Holly, live in Carrollton with their daughter, Maddy.

Dr. David Smith, Director of the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degree at DBU and Professor of Christian Ministry and Leadership in the Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership, served as the December 2012 Commencement speaker for the afternoon service. Dr. David Smith joined the DBU faculty in 2011 after having previously served as president of Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Georgia. During his 13 years at Brewton-Parker, Dr. Smith successfully led the college through SACS accreditation reaffirmation, saw campus enrollment increase by 20%, observed an increase in SAT cumulative scores for entering students by 25%, helped raise $55 million for capital improvement, operations, and endowment, and oversaw an increase in institutional endowment of 50%. Dr. Smith’s wife, Jackie, also works for DBU. They have two grown children, Tim and his wife, Michelle; and Alida and her husband, Matt.

For more than 44 years, Dr. Beverly Giltner has dedicated herself to teaching physics to DBU students, and now “The Giltner Laboratory” has been named in her honor.

“Dr. Giltner has dedicated her life to serving the Lord through teaching young people,” explained Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president. “It is only fitting that we take the opportunity to name this physics lab after her, a room where she has spent so much time explaining the intricacies of God’s creation to DBU students.”

In 1969, Dr. Giltner began as a full-time professor at DBU. At the time, she did not anticipate spending her entire career on University Hill, but she quickly fell in love with DBU. Over the course of her time at DBU, she has faithfully taught in the classroom while also serving in a variety of roles, including the Director of Institutional Research, a president of the Faculty Council, a faculty sponsor for the Texas Alpha Nu Chapter of Alpha Chi and the Society of Physics Students, and a director of the DBU Academic Computer Lab. In 1994, she was named dean of her college, and she maintained that role until this past summer, when she retired as dean but stayed on as a professor. In 2001, she was named a DBU Honorary Alumna, and in 2002, she was named Outstanding Faculty Member.

Dr. Giltner and her husband, Wil, (pictured above right with Dr. Gary Cook), live in Arlington and are long-time members of Fairview Baptist Church, serving on various committees and teaching Sunday School.