Dallas Baptist University has a dedicated faculty of 91 full-time professors. Competent and caring, DBU’s outstanding faculty members are committed to excellence in teaching and to the integration of faith and learning in every discipline. Active in local churches, DBU faculty model servant leadership on campus and in the community.
In 2003, 72% of full-time faculty members held doctorates or terminal degrees compared to 52% in 1988. In addition, another 16% are currently working on a terminal degree.

DBU was named to the John Templeton Foundation’s Honor Roll for Character-Building Colleges, recognizing colleges and universities that emphasize character building as an integral part of the college experience. DBU is one of 100 higher education institutions in 43 states to be selected for this distinction. DBU is one of four universities in Texas chosen for this honor.
Dallas Baptist University’s staff is committed to excellence in providing quality and caring support to the University’s growing student population. DBU’s strong staff is a reflection of the University’s commitment to provide necessary administrative resources to fulfill its mission for today’s students and tomorrow’s servant leaders.
Recently, Dallas Baptist University was pleased to honor several individuals who, over the last fifteen years, helped make DBU a success story. These servants invested their time and energy to see the dream of Christian higher education at DBU fulfilled.

From 1988 to 1999, every resident student at DBU knew the name of Edith Bond, who received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree this past December. Mrs. Bond served not only as the dean of students for DBU, but also as a friend, confidant, and surrogate mother for the many who made DBU their home away from home. Prior to her time at DBU, Mrs. Bond lived in Waco and served for nearly two decades as the elementary school and day school director at the First Baptist Church before accepting a position as assistant to Dr. W J Wimpee, the chaplain for Baylor University. Through this role, she met Dr. Gary Cook, and when he assumed the role of president at DBU, he invited Mrs. Bond to join him as dean of students. Beyond her role as counselor and mentor to students, Mrs. Bond also coordinated the inaugural Student Welcome and Transition Week, as well as DBU’s Candlelighting Services. Even after retiring from DBU in 1999, Mrs. Bond has remained actively involved in the life of the school through her involvement with the DBU Women’s Auxiliary Board and as a member of the board of trustees.

Mrs. Bond’s late husband, Dr. T. J. Bond, Sr., was chair of the chemistry department at Baylor. She has three children—Dr. Anedith Bond Nash of Columbus, Ohio; Thomas Jackson Bond, Jr., of Austin; and Robert G. Bond of Waco—six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Dr. Alva G. Parks stands as another member of the DBU administration that helped guide the school during the early years of Dr. Cook’s tenure. This spring, DBU was pleased to award Dr. Parks with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. Serving as executive vice president from 1990-1996, Dr. Parks coordinated the University’s daily operations in addition to the institution’s long-range planning. Ever the consummate administrator, Dr. Parks’ significant accomplishments include numerous capital improvements around campus, lobbying civic leaders at the local and state level, as well as conducting a comprehensive review of the institution’s policies, procedures, and personnel. Since his retirement in 1996, Dr. Parks has continued to provide invaluable service to the University, serving as a senior advisor to the president and helping coordinate many special projects.

Before coming to DBU, Dr. Parks served as minister of education at both First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, and Southside Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida. In 1971, he joined the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary as professor of administration. In recognition for his service, the seminary granted him a distinguished service award in religious education in 1993, and in 2001, the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association awarded Dr. Parks with the Distinguished Leadership Award. Dr. Parks and his wife, Doris, have been married for fifty-one years.
and have a son, Thomas Parks, and a daughter, Kathryn Parks King, as well as three grandsons.

When Dr. Cook became president of DBU in 1988, the University was over five million dollars in debt. By 1991, the University achieved debt-free status. One of the major reasons for this change came through the leadership of former DBU senior vice president for financial affairs, Harold Norris. In grateful recognition of his service to the school and his example of Christian stewardship, DBU recently awarded Mr. Norris with an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

Familiar with the world of finance, Mr. Norris, a Certified Public Accountant, had previously served both the LTV Corporation and the Centex Corporation in Dallas before accepting an invitation from Dr. Gary Cook to join the administration at DBU in 1988. In accepting the offer from Dr. Cook, Mr. Norris knew he had his work cut out for him, but as a part of a remarkable turnaround, within three years, Mr. Norris helped guide DBU to eliminate its $5.8 million debt and begin on the road to financial stability and success. Even after his retirement in 2000, Mr. Norris continues to serve the University in various roles as a senior advisor to the president. Mr. Norris and his wife, Mary Kathryn, have three children—Lisa, Scott, and Jennifer—four grandchildren, and one step-grandchild.

Another part of the success of DBU has come through the work of Dennis and Gail Linam. Joining the administration in 1988, the Linams put all their efforts into helping Dr. Cook build the University. As a way of paying tribute to their invaluable leadership, the University recently dedicated a room on campus in their honor—The Dennis and Gail Linam Room—located on the third floor of the Collins Learning Center.

Mr. Dennis Linam, who had previously served as a director of several municipal projects in Waco, began his work at DBU as a development officer and soon assumed the title of vice president for external affairs. In this role, Mr. Linam serves as director of the John G. Mahler Student Center, is the chief contact for DBU alumni, represents DBU to various state and local government agencies, and works as a liaison to churches and Christian organizations.

Dr. Gail Linam has also served in many ways at DBU. A respected author of children's Sunday School literature, Dr. Linam's tenure at the University began in 1988 with a position as the director of special programs and director of the associate degree program. Since that time, she has held many titles, including executive director of the DBU Women's Auxiliary Board, dean of the college of education, academic dean, vice president for undergraduate affairs, and now holds the current role as provost at DBU. The Linams have been married for thirty-eight years and have three children—Angela, Diane, and Brooks—and one grandchild.

Each of these individuals have poured their lives into seeing the University become more of what God wants it to be, and through their service, DBU has indeed been blessed.