

DBU REPORT

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2006 VOL. XIX NO. 1



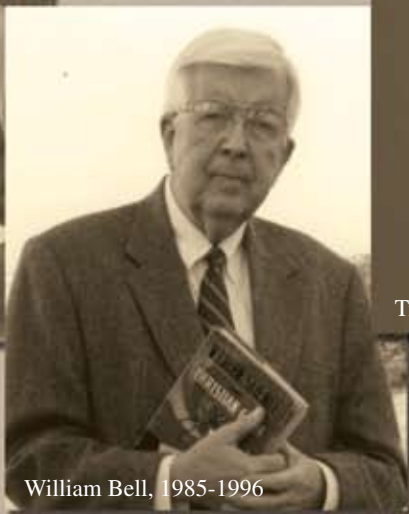
A TRADITION OF FAITH

The Deans of the Mary C. Crowley College of Christian Faith

Dr. Fred White Dr. William Bell Dr. Timothy Trammell Dr. Steve Mullen



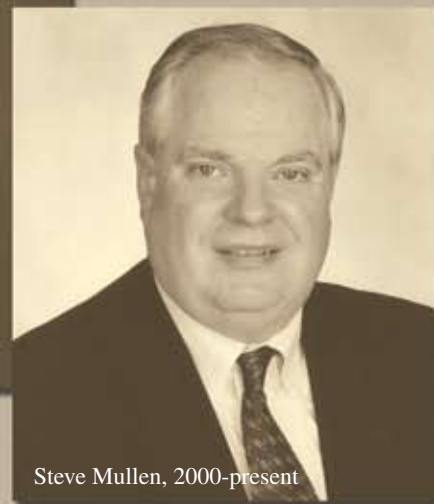
Fred White, 1965-1985



William Bell, 1985-1996



Tim Trammell, 1996-2000



Steve Mullen, 2000-present

A TRADITION OF FAITH

The Deans of the Mary C. Crowley College of Christian Faith

by Tim Gingrich

Every DBU student can tell stories about the professors who brought unforgettable experience and insight into the classroom. The Mary C. Crowley College of Christian Faith at Dallas Baptist University has a forty-one-year history of professors integrating faith and learning on the most fundamental level. Over the years, four professors have stood up to serve as dean: Dr. Fred White, Dr. William Bell, Dr. Tim Trammell, and currently Dr. Steve Mullen. But DBU students remember these professors most for being their wise counselors, living Bible commentaries, and life-long friends.

A true DBU legend, Dr. Fred White first led the Religion and Philosophy department, forerunner of today's College of Christian Faith. He served as the first chairman in 1965 and continued shaping the program for the next twenty years. His contribution to DBU, however, began much earlier, helping to establish the campus in Dallas, securing funding, and even recruiting the first freshman class. Over time, Dr. White has filled many roles, including twice serving as acting president of DBU. Even as Dr. White retired from full-time teaching, his relationship with DBU continued to thrive. For the next twenty years, he taught as a distinguished adjunct professor of religion. Today, Dr. White remains an inspiration to the DBU family of commitment to God and devotion to the mission of the institution.

Dr. William Bell has been drawing DBU students into the scriptures for nearly forty years. Joining the DBU faculty in 1967, he succeeded Dr. White as dean in 1985. For eleven years, he was dean of the College of Christian Faith, and he now serves as a senior professor of Biblical studies. Every student of Dr. Bell can recall his famous, classic style of explaining the Scriptures and theological insights, all while demonstrating his wit and humor and sipping on his Dr Pepper. "His knowledge of the subject matter is excellent," expressed one student, "but it's his ability to teach in such

an easy-to-learn way and his illustrations and examples that give you the clearest understanding of the concept."

Students know Dr. Tim Trammell as a professor who "exhibits the love of Jesus." Those who have heard his lectures also appreciate his sense of humor and surprise chocolates on test days. Dr. Trammell is currently a senior professor of Biblical studies and associate dean for the College of Christian Faith, having served as dean from 1996 to 2000. Throughout his thirty-seven years at DBU, Dr. Trammell has served in a number of roles, including dean for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, while simultaneously continuing his work teaching Biblical studies. Although an experienced and seasoned teacher of the Scriptures, many in his classroom best remember Dr. Trammell for his ability to relate to students. "He shared his great knowledge without arrogance," shared one student. "He listens attentively to his students, trying to connect to their message and heart."

The current dean of the College of Christian Faith is Dr. Steve Mullen. Over and over again, students speak of his ability to apply the Bible to their lives. "He has brought the Scriptures to life through his own love and enthusiasm for God's Word," said one student. Dr. Mullen's interest in students and Scripture first brought him to DBU in 1997 as assistant professor of adult education and assistant vice president for development. Shortly after arriving on campus, he came to the religion department and began serving as associate dean. Since 2000, Dr. Mullen has guided the College of Christian Faith as dean, making a deep impression on students. One shared that "Dr. Mullen has opened up his heart to the students. We feel like we have a special relationship with him."

DBU has been fortunate to have had four of the university's finest servant leaders serve as dean in a department that touches so many lives.