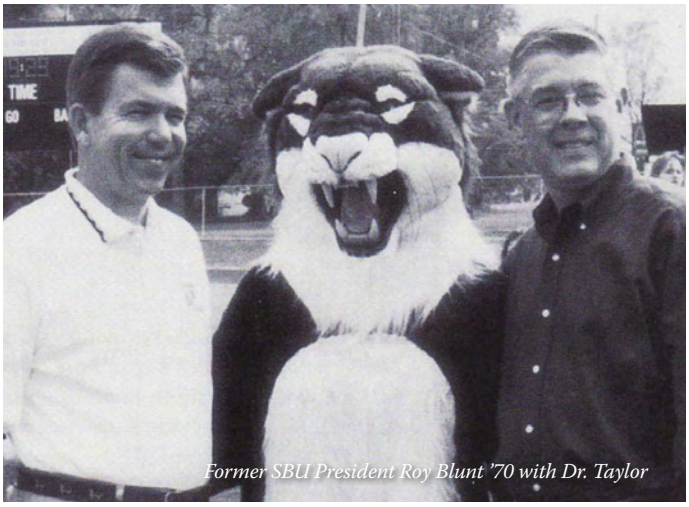

Former SBU President Roy Blunt '70 with Dr. Taylor

First Lady Judy Taylor and Dr. Taylor

It's All About the Students: Dr. Taylor Begins 15th Year at SBU

BY MARCY GREENWADE, CLASS OF 2010

The start of the 2010-2011 school year marked the beginning of Dr. C Pat Taylor's 15th year as president of Southwest Baptist University. Dr. Taylor, the longest serving president in the history of the University, reflected on his tenure.

"It's a big deal to me," Dr. Taylor said as he gazed across the campus from his second floor office. "I am the first president in our 132-year history to start my 15th year. I take pride in that, but it also tells me that I've been around for a long time."

Dr. Taylor smiled. "I'm getting old," he said. "When I came here I had black hair; look at it now. But despite the color of my hair, it's been good. Judy [Taylor] and I have enjoyed our time and feel like this is where God has placed us."

Prior to becoming president of SBU, Dr. Taylor served as chief academic officer at Oklahoma Baptist University. As senior vice president and provost, Dr. Taylor was responsible for OBU's five colleges. He had decided to stay at OBU until his daughter, Charla, graduated, but Dr. Taylor's plans took a slight change in direction when a good friend nominated him for the position as SBU president.

"Well, spring of Charla's freshman year I got a call from an old friend named Howard Barefoot, who was president of Union University at the time. He said, 'I'm looking at this job description at Southwest Baptist University, and I think it would be a good fit. I'm going to nominate you for it. Now we can do it one of two ways; you can send me an updated resume, or I can send this old one and embarrass the both of us.' I knew he meant it, so I sent him a resume," Dr. Taylor explained.

Dr. Taylor said he had no intention of filling out the application that he received in the mail from SBU, nor did he return the first phone call from SBU's search committee.

By the second time the search committee called, Dr. Taylor realized something, "When opportunity knocks, you open the door to see what's behind it. You may not want to do it. It may not be right. It may not even be God's will, but if you are serious about doing what God wants you to do, you pay attention. I had this realization that I wasn't paying attention."

After a long discussion with his wife, Judy, Dr. Taylor decided to pursue the presidential position at SBU.

After a seven-month nationwide search, Dr. C Pat Taylor was selected as the 24th president of SBU by the board of trustees on Aug. 20, 1996. Dr. Taylor described his presence at SBU as "a God thing." He said it was where God was telling him to be, and he listened. He assumed his duties as president on Oct. 21, 1996.

Since his arrival in 1996, Dr. Taylor has been instrumental in the success of the Partners in Excellence campaign, a ten-year fundraising effort which surpassed its $50 million goal. More than $62.5 million was raised during the campaign, which ended in June 2006.

One of Dr. Taylor's first contributions to SBU was the development of the school's mission statement. He described it as one of the most important assets contributing to the consistency of the University since his arrival. "I feel really good about our mission statement," Dr. Taylor said. "For 132 years we've been the same institution. We've always been driven by the great commission. We've always been driven to be Christ-centered, but we had never really captured the essence of that mission in a sentence."

"When I came, I felt like that was one of the first things that should be done. I'd ask people, what is our mission statement? I would get answers like, 'Well, we have one. It's in the catalog somewhere. It's good. It's a page and a half long, and nobody knows it.' So, I challenged our planning and advisory committee to sit down and write. We worked a year to develop that one sentence."

That one simple sentence has been memorized by hundreds of students and is lived out each day on the SBU campus, but the president's accomplishments do not stop there.

Under Dr. Taylor's leadership, the endowment funds have increased from $4.6 million to a value of $18 million today.

Dr. Taylor has committed himself to bettering the University through on-campus development, increases in the endowment funds, the mission statement and so much more, but he explained that none of these achievements was his greatest accomplishment. If you know Dr. Taylor, you will not be surprised by his answer:

"We've built new building so we could better fulfill the mission statement with our students. We've built our endowment so we can ensure that we can continue to fill the mission statement for our students for years to come. But my greatest accomplishment is that I have handed out 11,337 diplomas.

"After all, it's all about the students."

Welcome Week 2010

Dr. William Brown, Dr. Martha Hicks, and Dr. Taylor

Dr. Julie Bryant

Ken Spurgeon, Dr. Taylor, Levi Bridge

Fall Semester Begins with Third Largest Enrollment

BY STEVIE SPENCER, CLASS OF 2014

Southwest Baptist University began its 2010-2011 academic year with a formal convocation Aug. 25 in Pike Auditorium and its third largest enrollment.

The formal convocation is a tradition meant to honor faculty and their achievements. This once-a-year convocation began with the call to order by Kurt Caddy, director of university ministries, and was followed by the processional of the SBU faculty gowned in the colors of their respected colleges.

Dr. Duke Jones, associate professor of church ministry studies, led the invocation, and Andrew Campbell, assistant professor of music, accompanied by Melinda Jones, professor of music, led the student body in the singing of the Alma Mater.

President C. Pat Taylor welcomed students and faculty to the convocation, and everyone joined in singing the hymn "To God Be the Glory." After President Taylor introduced the executive cabinet members, Provost Bill Brown introduced the deans and new faculty members.

Award recipient Dr. Julie Bryant, assistant professor of education gave the Chapel address. She credited her award to her the influence of her past teachers, and she spoke on God's purpose for each person. Dr. Bryant shared an acrostic for the word PURPOSE, telling students that God has "P" plans to prosper them and made them "U" uniquely. She said God has a plan for them "R" right here and right now, gives them "P" promise and possibility, and all of this comes "O" out of his great love. Dr. Bryant told students they are called to be "S" seeking Jesus and imitating him, and each person has "E" eternal impact. Dr. Bryant challenged the students to use their gifts to serve others and to point them to an eternity in Christ.

President Taylor and Dr. Brown presented Dr. Bryant with the 2010 Orien Hendrex Distinguished Teacher award after her speech.

They also recognized Dr. Martha Hicks as the 2010 Parkway Distinguished Professor, awarded by Parkway Baptist Church each year. Dr. Hicks has been teaching for 14 years.

The Newcomer of the Year awards were given to Kenneth Spurgeon, an instructor for the Department of Education, and Levi Bridge, an admissions counselor.

Following the Newcomer of the Year Award, Dr. Andrew Campbell, accompanied by Melinda Jones, led students in the benediction, "The Lord's Prayer," arranged by A. Malotte.

Last Wednesday, students saw SBU faculty and staff members demonstrate the mission of SBU--"a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society."

"Wednesday's chapel showed me how my professors really care about students. It's inspiring to see how they support us and love what they are doing," said freshman Stephania Pecina.

Fall 2010 marks SBU's third highest enrollment year

First time freshmen:	**437**
Bolivar Campus Undergraduates:	**1,588**
Graduates:	**727**
Mountain View Campus:	**168**
Salem Campus:	**240**
Springfield Campus:	**640**
Total enrollment:	**3,669**

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