

## Spring Commencement Speakers

During the Friday afternoon Spring 2015 Commencement ceremony, DBU presented Bryan Carter with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree, followed by his commencement address. A native of Oklahoma City, Rev. Carter, pastor of Concord Church in Dallas, was raised in a Christian home and accepted Christ at the age of five. His father, the late Grover C. Carter, Jr., served as a bi-vocational pastor and in 1983 planted a new church, Charity Outreach Baptist Mission. Alongside his father, Bryan served in various roles at Charity Outreach, including teaching Sunday School, engaging in evangelism, driving the church bus, and even helping to remodel and maintain the church building. Whatever was needed, Bryan was there to serve.

It was at Oklahoma State where he met the love of his life, Stephanie. They have two daughters, Kaitlyn and Kennedy, and one son, Carson.

As senior pastor of Concord Church, Rev. Carter has carried forward the legacy of Dr. E.K. Bailey, former pastor of Concord Church. With a mission to “grow people,” Rev. Carter has expanded the discipleship ministries of the church, as well as its outreach work, and in the matter of 12 years, the church has tripled to more than 8,500 members. He also hosts the annual E.K. Bailey Expository Preaching Conference, which helps train other pastors on effective biblical



Dr. Bryan and Mrs. Stephanie Carter

preaching, and he serves as a frequent speaker in churches and conferences around the nation and around the world, including South Africa, Jamaica, Haiti, and Kenya.

James Byun first came to DBU in 2005 as a Ph.D. student. During the Thursday afternoon Spring Commencement service, he received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Leadership Studies and spoke to his fellow classmates. Born in Seoul, South Korea, James and his family immigrated to the United States when he was just two years old. After completing a degree in managerial economics from the University of California at Davis, James began to serve as a consultant at Watson Wyatt Worldwide. However, he felt called into the ministry and decided to move to Texas for his seminary education.

Dr. Byun went back to South Korea to be the founding and senior pastor of Lifespring Church, an international congregation centered in Songdo (Incheon), South Korea. He also serves on the faculty of the Global Leadership Development Institute of JAMA (Jesus Awakening Movement for America) and is currently serving on the Board of Directors at JAMA. In addition, he has served on the Board of Directors of Korean Baptist English Ministers' Fellowship (KBEMF).

Dr. Byun and his wife, Heather, have four children, Karis, Kara, Joshua, and Joseph. The Byuns reside in Songdo, Korea.

The Friday morning Commencement speaker was Dr. Jim Lemons. Dr. Lemons joined the DBU faculty full time in the summer of 2007, after serving 25 years in pastoral ministry in Missouri and the North Texas area. He holds M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and has done additional graduate study at Harvard University.

Dr. Lemons currently teaches in the Mary C. Crowley College of Christian Faith, the Graduate School of Ministry, and the Gary Cook School of Leadership. He has previously served as the director of the Master of Arts in Worship Leadership and the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry programs. He now serves as the acting director of the Master of Arts in Theological Studies program. Dr. Lemons was a 2013 faculty nominee for the Piper Outstanding Professor Award.

Dr. Lemons has been married for 32 years to his wife, Kathy. They have two grown children, Christopher (a current, part-time DBU student) and Alyssa (a 2010 DBU graduate), and four grandchildren. Dr. and Mrs. Lemons are members of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas.



Dr. James and Heather Byun



Dr. Jim Lemons