

SMU FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

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SMU's First Years From the beginning, SMU's founding president, Robert Stewart Hyer, knew that the quality of the new university he was leading would depend, in large part, on the caliber of the faculty he could attract to SMU's classrooms, laboratories and studios. Hyer began recruiting in 1914, and by the time SMU opened in 1915 he had hired 25 faculty members. These first professors helped to shape the mission and the curriculum – programs in liberal arts, theology and music. Others were added during the academic year, and by May the total had reached 38.

When Rice University opened in 1911, its president, Edgar Odell Lovett, recruited faculty members from as far away as Europe, offering annual salaries of \$4,000 to \$6,000. Hyer had only \$2,000 to pay the heads of his academic departments; even less for others.

Hyer's first hire as a professor, Frank Seay, came from Southwestern University. Seay would be considered the "star" of SMU's theology faculty during its first years. Seay had graduated from Southern University, studied law for two years, earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree at Vanderbilt and continued with graduate studies at the University of Chicago, Harvard, the University of Berlin and Oxford. He declined to take a doctorate, preferring to remain a "plain mister."

The first faculty member for the College of Arts and Sciences, John H. McGinnis, would teach at SMU for nearly four decades from 1915 to 1954 as a valued English professor, renowned throughout the Southwest and an important influence on his students. During his career he would edit SMU's prestigious *Southwest Review* through its first decades, begin a book page for *The Dallas Morning News* in 1916 and continue as its editor until 1948, and help found the SMU Press in 1937, serving as its editor until 1942 and always being its most important influence.

Ray Morrison was hired as SMU's athletic director; coach of football, basketball, baseball, and track; and supervisor of all physical training for men and women students – and he also had to teach math. Hyer told him he would have to assume other duties to merit his \$2,000 salary. When he asked Morrison what courses he might teach to justify that salary, Morrison suggested Latin or mathematics. Hyer chose mathematics. That fall Morrison taught two math classes five days a week, in addition to his multiple athletic responsibilities.

A Century Later In fall 2013 SMU had 727 full-time faculty; 83.6 percent of them hold doctorates or the highest degree in their fields. The male-female faculty ratio is 61.8 percent male and 38.2 percent female; ethnic minorities make up 19 percent of the faculty. The student-faculty ratio is 11-to-1.

Several faculty members have been elected to prestigious national academies. Those elected to the National Academy of Sciences are David Meltzer, Anthropology (2009); Lewis Binford, Anthropology (2001); and Fred Wendorf, Anthropology (1987). Faculty elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences are David Meltzer, Anthropology (2013); Charles Curran, Human Values (2010); David Weber, History (2007); Schubert Ogden, Theology (1985); and Albert Outler, Theology (1966). Delores Etter, Engineering, is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Thanks to support for SMU's two successful capital campaigns, A Time to Lead (1997–2001) and The Second Century Campaign (launched in 2008 and slated to run through 2015), SMU to date has added 52 new endowments for faculty positions for a current total of 98. The University has set a goal of reaching 110 by the end of 2015.

The tradition of excellence represented by SMU's first professors continues today as faculty members inspire students, create new knowledge and make an impact on society with their teaching, research and service.