

Retirees & Honored Guests

DR. JAMES FREERKSEN | *36 years*

Dr. James Freerksen joined the faculty of Liberty University, then called Liberty Baptist College, in 1978 and transferred to Liberty University Baptist Theological Seminary in 1991. Liberty has benefited from Dr. Freerksen's academic distinction as well as his passion for the Word of God and a fervent desire to help students understand and obey Scripture. Dr. Freerksen has instilled his love of studying the Greek New Testament in several generations of students while also serving as pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Lynchburg. Dr. Freerksen and his wife, Dorothy, have invested themselves in the lives of everyone at Liberty for 36 years, and we are extremely grateful for their ministry.

MR. DAVID EHRMAN | *35 years*

Mr. David Ehrman served as professor of music at Liberty University for more than three and a half decades. During that time, he taught piano and piano pedagogy, served as the coordinator of piano studies, and acted as a mentor to students. Mr. Ehrman joined the Liberty University faculty in 1976. He holds both a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and has completed additional postgraduate work at the University of North Carolina.

Mr. Ehrman is valued by his colleagues for his good counsel, gracious attitude, commitment to musical skill, and engaging humor. He faithfully invests in the personal, intellectual, and spiritual growth of the people around him. Additionally, Mr. Ehrman is a skilled performer and insightful piano pedagogy professional.

Mr. Ehrman is respected by his students as a compassionate and challenging teacher. Scores of his students have gone on to establish successful careers as music teachers, performers, and piano instructors.

Mr. Ehrman and his wife, Lisa, reside in Lynchburg and are the parents of three children, David Lee, Clare, and Brett.

DR. MONTY KESTER | *26 years*

Dr. Monty Kester grew up working on his family's farm in north-central Texas where he developed a lifelong affinity for hard work and perseverance. He earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics at McMurry College in Abilene, Texas, as well as a master's in mathematics and a Doctor of Education from Oklahoma State University (OSU). While at OSU, Dr. Kester met his wife, Phyllis, who was instrumental in his journey to become a Christian.

Dr. Kester taught at John Brown University in Arkansas and at Lee College in Baytown, Texas. He joined the faculty at Liberty University in 1987 and has taught virtually every course offered in undergraduate mathematics. His love for the Lord and for his students is evident to everyone who has had the pleasure of taking his classes.

Dr. Kester has had a tremendous influence on the Department of Mathematics and his wisdom and conviction will be greatly missed.

DR. JOHN GEORGE, U.S. Army Ret. | *24 years*

John George graduated from West Point in 1958 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. During his military career, Dr. George served in Vietnam, on the faculty at West Point, and at the U.S. Army Research Institute for the Behavioral Sciences in Washington, D.C.

After 22 years of service, Dr. George retired from the Army in 1980. For the next ten years, he organized and developed a ministry to cadets at West Point as the Staff Representative for the Officers' Christian Fellowship.

Dr. George joined the faculty of Liberty University in 1990. During his 24-year tenure as professor at Liberty, he oversaw all graduate and undergraduate distance learning courses, acted as chairman of the Management Department, and also served as an associate dean. Dr. George is currently an adjunct professor for Liberty's online program, and in 2014 he was honored with the title professor emeritus.

Dr. George and his wife, Judy, have two children and six grandchildren.

DR. PAUL YOUNG | *16 years*

Dr. Paul Young graduated from Houghton College in 1970 and then attended Officer Candidate School for the United States Coast Guard where he was commissioned as an ensign. After serving in the Coast Guard, Dr. Young pursued a career in marketing, working for both NCR and DEC. During this time, Dr. Young was responsible for the marketing and implementation of office, engineering, and manufacturing systems. Dr. Young has been part of the School of Business faculty at Liberty University for nearly 16 years, earning his Doctor of Business Administration in Marketing in 2008. Throughout his career, Dr. Young has not only achieved success, but has also demonstrated a sincere compassion for others and a willingness to help those in need.

Genuine friends of Liberty, Dr. Young and his wife, Nancy, have been a blessing to the School of Business.
