

Southern Seminary names new dean of Boyce College

By SBTS COMMUNICATIONS

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. announced the appointment of Dan DeWitt as the new dean of Boyce College, the seminary's undergraduate school, April 19. DeWitt replaces Denny Burk, who is stepping down in order to expand his primary calling of writing and teaching.

DeWitt, who speaks widely concerning issues related to Christianity, apologetics and



Dan DeWitt. Photo by Jason Coobs

youth culture, has served as vice president of communications at the seminary and as lead pastor of Campus Church, Highview Baptist Church's campus ministry to the University of Louisville. DeWitt played a key role in organizing Boyce College's annual Give Me an Answer conference for high school students. Prior to his work at SBTS, DeWitt served as student pastor of Judson Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn.

DeWitt's wide-ranging ministry focuses on such matters as equipping Christian

students to communicate the Gospel to atheists, agnostics and other skeptics of a biblical worldview.

"Dan DeWitt brings a considerable skill set, tremendous commitment and precisely the kind of background and leadership we need as we look to the future," Mohler said.

Burk, who became Boyce's dean in 2008, will remain as a full-time faculty member at Boyce College and Southern Seminary. He said his decision to step down from day-to-day administrative responsibilities would

enable him to complete several research projects in the area of New Testament interpretation and to get back to his first vocational love: classroom teaching.

"It has been the thrill of a lifetime to serve as dean of Boyce College," Burk said. "But my administrative duties have left little time for teaching and writing. I am profoundly grateful to Drs. Mohler and Moore for allowing me to take up a regular faculty position so I can finish several book projects I've been putting off for the last three years."

Mohler and Russell D. Moore, senior vice president for academic administration and dean of the School of Theology at SBTS, commended Burk both for his leadership in the past and his potential for the future.

"Denny has served faithfully and well as dean of Boyce College," Mohler said. "I am eager to see what the Lord will do through him in this next phase of his ministry in writing, research and teaching.

"Denny was born to be a teacher," Mohler said. "And he has a courageous commitment to engaging the issues in a way that serves not only his students but also the church of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Moore announced the move to Boyce students in an April 19 college worship service, calling the combination of DeWitt as dean and Burk as biblical scholar a "dream team" for Boyce's future. Moore praised Burk as a strong and godly leader who very well

could be "the next A.T. Robertson," referring to the famous early 20th-century Southern Seminary New Testament professor. Moore introduced DeWitt as having both a brilliant mind and a compassionate heart, telling students: "You are going to love him."

DeWitt earned both the master of divinity and doctor of education degrees from Southern Seminary. He and his wife April have been married nearly 10 years and have three small children, Isaiah, Micah and Josiah. The DeWitts plan to move onto the seminary's campus in order to be fully accessible to Boyce students. 



Denny Burk. Photo by Jason Coobs

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