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Serving His Lord and His Alma Mater

MATT MURRAH

VICE PRESIDENT FOR TECHNOLOGY

Matt Murrah, and his wife, Karen, along with their children Molly (age 10), Daniel (age 5), and Mae (18 months).



MATT MURRAH

SERVING THE LORD AT DBU

Matt Murrah has been involved with DBU for over 17 years. He first came as an undergraduate student in 1993, and although the campus looks much different today than it did years ago, it still stands on the same Christ-centered principles, which is why Matt believes in DBU.

The Lord has used DBU to change Matt's life in many ways, but maybe nothing as much as a particular chapel service. While sitting next to his roommate Jeremy Dutschke (now DBU's director of the Ph.D. in Leadership Program), Matt elbowed Jeremy, motioned towards a girl named Karen on the praise team, and said, "If I could meet a girl like that here, I'd be blessed."

Matt eventually married that girl, and fifteen years later, they have three children, ages 10, 5, and 18 months. Their oldest, Molly, recently participated in DBU's production of "The Music Man." Daniel, the middle child, is all boy, and loves sports and playing pranks. Their baby, Mae, is the extrovert, and according to Matt her favorite hobby includes throwing things from her high chair.

During his time at DBU, Matt has worked in numerous offices all over campus. Each time he has proven his work ethic and managerial skills, and, as a result, he has been promoted to positions with more responsibility.

He started out as a freshman tennis player, was elected Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges, and then was hired as assistant to the dean in the College of Adult Education (now the College of Professional Studies). Matt also served as assistant to the vice president for enrollment and administrative affairs, the web master, and the resident director of Sharp Hall.

He left for a short time after completing his MBA and went to the H-E-B Grocery Company to participate in their School of Retail Leadership, but he did not stay away from DBU for long.

In 2004, Matt returned to start his doctoral work in the Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership and began serv-

ing as the director of athletics. In that role, he aided in the transition of the Patriot baseball team from NCAA Division II to Division I and helped start DBU's NCAA Division II basketball team. He also guided the refurbishing of the athletic facilities. From there, Matt became the director of enrollment services and then the director of alumni and community relations, a position which he held until being named the vice president for technology in 2009.

"Matt's done an outstanding job coming into our department, listening, learning, and getting involved," said Doug Williams, associate vice president for information technology. "Under his leadership, we've seen major updates in our Academic Labs and system enhancements."

Matt, however, points towards the capabilities of his team. "I am constantly amazed at their intellect and ability," he stated. "It is truly a joy to see them accomplish so much in helping our campus. We have such a talented group in the information technology area."

While Matt is quick to praise the work of those around him, Michael Stewart, project manager for information technology, stated, "He gives the credit to us, but it's really him and the wisdom the Lord has given him."

"I've learned so much from Matt just by watching him and how he leads," continued Michael. "Whatever the project, he wants to do it and do it right."

Certainly the Lord has blessed Matt's time at DBU. "It is an honor to serve here," Matt concluded, "and to aid in fulfilling the mission of DBU, which is to produce servant leaders who integrate faith and learning through their respective callings. It is a great mission and can only be fulfilled because we serve a great God. To Him be the glory."

Pictured above is Matt Murrah with members of his team in information technology (from left to right): Doug Williams, associate vice president for information technology; Keith Gochá, datatel programmer; Michael Stewart, project manager; Matt Murrah, vice president for technology; Anu Chivukula, web developer; and Matt McComas, network administrator.