

From Deep Roots to Playing Above the Rim

Dr. Darrell Bock '71, acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author of *Breaking the da Vinci Code*, returned to Kinkaid this past December for the first time in many years and was struck by how different the campus appears.

While the look of the campus has indeed changed dramatically since 1971, Dr. Bock's recollections insist that some things about Kinkaid have remained constant. In the physical sense, he fondly remembers endless hours of pick-up basketball on the same concrete courts that today entertain current students. And in the ways that Kinkaid prepared him for his future career, Kinkaid remains true to the tradition of excellence in education.

Dr. Bock is the Executive Director of Cultural Engagement and Senior Research Professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, one of the leading conservative seminaries in the world. While many people may not be inspired in the direction of their careers until college, Dr. Bock says his inspirations go all the way back to the deep humanities background he received as early as the second grade at Kinkaid Lower School, where the example was set for the treatment of differing cultures and languages. The diversity and education offered at Kinkaid gave him a strong background in cultural differences and an understanding of the great religions, which are both paramount to his current position as Executive Director of Cultural Engagement. Dr. Bock explains, "Cultural Engagement is the intersection of life and theology on everyday topics such as immigration, social injustice, domestic violence and, also, more traditional religious topics. It is the application of religious core values to everyday life and tensions." Dr. Bock believes his Kinkaid background, combined with growing up during the beginnings of the Civil Rights movement, prepared him well for the religious and cultural diversity in the real world. His general complaint about education is that spiritual values are often a missing piece of the puzzle, but Kinkaid instilled in him most of the core values necessary to be sensitive to a variety of differing people and positions.

Dr. Bock's love of teaching, which developed into an ongoing career spanning 35+ years, has great roots in his experiences at Kinkaid as well, particularly to the stellar teachers and administration, who he considers models for his own teaching techniques. He remembers very affirming teachers, particularly **Celina Kilpatrick**, **Edith Carroll** and **Leo Cheney**, who gave him "confidence that was life-changing". Dr. Bock went on to say, "The ability to chisel at the edges



Dr. Bock teaching in Chiang Mai, Thailand



Dr. Bock and his wife, Sally, celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary with their family

but keep the core is the essence of good teaching, and that model is what I took from Kinkaid and use every day." At times, the quality of teaching at Kinkaid even surpassed what he experienced at the collegiate level, which he appreciated much more once he began his own teaching career.

Although Dr. Bock does not have much time for leisure outside of his busy career, which takes him around the globe for speaking engagements and panel discussions on topics of Christian faith, his incurable passion for Houston sports remains unchanged. The self-proclaimed "Houstonian exile in Dallas" manages to follow and root for Houston teams from all over the world! He is also quick to smile at the thought of Field Day and the senior Tug of War. "Go Gold!" He cherishes the lifelong friendships he made at Kinkaid and the memories of the buzzer beater that sealed the 1971 SPC Basketball Championship for Kinkaid with classmates, teammates and life-long friends, **Danny Carroll '71** and **Milton West '71**. That season the Falcons went 21-4 with only 5 home games. As a Kinkaid student, Dr. Bock also participated in Cross Country and Photography, with his work featured in his senior yearbook.

Dr. Bock's list of professional achievements is nothing short of impressive. He is notably author of 40 books, a Humboldt Scholar, awarded from the German government for three one-year sabbaticals at Tübingen, one of the world's leading universities in Theology, media consultant and expert on religious background for movies and TV, including *The Passion* and ABC News, research professor, blogger, podcast host, pastor, consulting editor and theological consultant. Despite Dr. Bock's many successes, the accomplishments that he is most proud of are his roles as husband, father to his two daughters and son, and grandfather.