

Dean in demand

By JOHNSIE SIDDLE

Dr. Danny Akins reclines easily in his office chair. His eyes are smiling as he says, "Being Dean of Students at the Southeastern Baptist Seminary doesn't feel like a job."

On January 2, 1957, Danny was born to Lowell and Emma Lou Akins, Christian parents. Little Danny Akins grew up to be saved at the tender age of seven. From there his life would be dedicated to the Lord.

Since the time that Christ entered his heart, Danny Akins has come a long way. Married for 16 years to his wife, Charlotte, they have four boys ranging in ages between twins of 13 to a nine-year-old.

God called him to be a minister of the gospel. "I have a Bachelor's Degree in Divinity, and a PHD in Humanities — all at different schools," comments Dean Akins.

From behind a paper-laden desk he reveals, "I'm available as a friend and a counselor to the students." A flash of a smile, "I try to keep an open door policy!"

The benefits of being a Dean? "The joy of working with God's people and seeing them prepared for his work."

Dr. Akins has held jobs as a minister and as an Associate Pastor of two different churches. He continues to serve God as a minister, often preaching during the week at various places. "My home church is Faith Baptist but I'm never there," he says with a laugh. "Last year I preached in over 40 churches." As a member of the Historical Southern Baptist Organization, the ETS (Evangelical Theology Society) and the Patricians (an early church history group) it's hard for him to find time to attend meetings. When he does

have free time, he enjoys sports. "I used to play, but now I let my boys do it for me."

"Seminary students are the best." Dr. Akins has been a Dean at the Wake Forest Seminary for two years and three months, however, he held a position as a Dean at another school from 1989 until he came to Southeastern. "The youngest student here is a 19-year-old young lady and our students range into their 60's."

"I love people and want to see everyone do their best for the Lord." He presses his hands together between thoughts. "I try to express the importance of living like Jesus and honoring Him with your life."

Dr. Akins is responsible for all student services. Some of these duties include scholarships, mail, sports, foreign studies, and chapel. "My students come first, though."

A normal day for this Dean includes two hours of teaching Systematic Theology and Church History. After an hour of Chapel, he returns to the office to meet with students. During this time, he listens to any problems students may have and he counsels them. On an average day, Dr. Akins sees anywhere from five to 30 students. After an hour for lunch, it's back to the office to return phone calls and try to squeeze in some study time. When he leaves the office for good between 5:30 or 6:00 his day is not complete. If he isn't preaching, Dr. Akins spends time with his family at home. "I teach my values — truthfulness, faithfulness, kindness, and servitude to my family."

The Seminary recently introduced a plan to have a College where one can study for different Bachelor Degrees.

"They are also working on the area of Women's Studies and receiving a Master's in that area," states Dr. Akins. Other plans are for a Master's degree in counseling of a PHD in the same area. Although this will mean more work for an already busy Dean, he welcomes the challenge.

Some activities Dr. Akins has had the pleasure of joining are student run. "I got involved in a student revival group called the 'Bone Rattlers'. It thrilled me how God used them."

A man dedicated to serving the

lord and his people, Dr. Akins appears quietly content. "I'm usually upbeat and intense," he explains, "but my plane lines were mixed up yesterday and I had about four hours of sleep." Others, including his secretary, Lisa, see him in the same light. "He's either going 90 miles an hour or at a standstill," she said.

"Being able to serve the Lord is simply more than I could ever hope for," says a tired but smiling Dean Akins.

