



**ROBERT FISHER, Ph.D.**  
**President, Belmont University**

Dr. Robert (Bob) Fisher serves as President of Belmont University, a position he has held since April 2000. During his tenure the university's enrollment has risen by nearly 70 percent while the campus itself has expanded significantly with the additions of the Curb Event Center and Beaman Student Life Center, the Gordon E. Inman Center, the Troutt Theater complex and several new residence halls and parking garages. In addition, he worked to secure Belmont as the host site for the 2008 Town Hall Presidential Debate, a historic event broadcast worldwide that also led to Fisher's selection as 2008 Tennessean of the Year.

But Dr. Fisher's greatest sense of accomplishment comes not from new campus structures, stronger endowments or a larger student body. Rather, he measures achievement through witnessing education's impact on each individual student. "The student is the focus of all our efforts here at Belmont," Fisher said, "and our top priority is meeting the needs of those students. My life's mission is to help create experiences that transform people, especially students, in ways that enable them to become all they were created to be."

Prior to his appointment at Belmont, Fisher was vice president for academic affairs at Arkansas State University for four years and was dean of the School of Business at Henderson State University, his alma mater, for 10 years. Fisher earned a B.S.B.A. from Henderson State, an M.B.A. from the University of Memphis and a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas.

In addition to his success as both faculty member and higher education administrator, Fisher is also an accomplished author with his most recent work, *Life Is a Gift: Inspiration from the Soon Departed*, released in 2008. Co-authored with his wife Judy, *Life Is a Gift* features a collection of lessons learned from interviews with 104 terminally ill patients of Alive Hospice in Nashville. Dr. Fisher previously co-authored *Real Dream Teams: Seven Practices Used by World-Class Team Leaders to Achieve Extraordinary Results*, published by St. Lucie Press, with Belmont's Vice President of University Advancement Dr. Bo Thomas.

Expressing knowledge gained from his business degrees and management positions, Dr. Fisher has published numerous articles on management and leadership and has consulted with a wide variety of organizations on human resource and strategic planning issues, including Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Alltel, Arkla Gas and the U.S. Department of Transportation, among others. In 1992, Fisher served in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as a Fulbright Scholar, conducting research and consulting with the National Institute of Public Administration. He also provided a keynote address at the Arabian Society for Human Resource Management Conference in Bahrain in 1998.

Active in his community, Fisher has served on the Board of Directors for the Greater Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Metropolitan Nashville, the Country Music Foundation, the Boy Scouts of Middle Tennessee, the Nashville Symphony, the PENCIL Foundation, the YMCA of Middle Tennessee, the Nashville Alliance for Public Education, TICUA, Cumberland Region Tomorrow, Fifth Third Bank and the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He is an active member of the Rotary Club of Nashville, participates in Nashville's Agenda, and is a 2001 graduate of Leadership Nashville. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Arkansas Enterprise Group, a division of Southern Development Bank.

Married for 38 years, Dr. Fisher and his wife Judy share in their commitment to Belmont University, where Mrs. Fisher provides support through her role as campus-wide coordinator of interior construction and exterior landscaping/lighting. The Fishers are the proud parents of three grown children and have two wonderful sons-in-law and four perfect grandsons.