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DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY REPORT



Eighth Annual *Tom Landry Leadership Award Dinner*

2014 Tom Landry Award Recipient Gil Stricklin (center) along with honorary co-chairs Alicia Landry and Bo Pilgrim.

TOM LANDRY LEADERSHIP AWARD DINNER HONORS *Gil Stricklin*

Dallas Baptist University hosted the eighth annual Tom Landry Leadership Award Dinner on Saturday, March 22, on the DBU campus. The annual event recognized the lasting legacy of one of North Texas' most famous citizens, Tom Landry, with more than 350 guests in attendance.

Honored as the eighth recipient of the Tom Landry Leadership Award was Gil Stricklin, president, CEO, and founder of Marketplace Ministries, Inc.

This year's honorary co-chairs of the dinner were Alicia Landry, wife of the late Tom Landry, and Bo Pilgrim, CEO of Pilgrim Enterprises. Dr. Jerry Carlisle, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Plano and DBU trustee, served as the dinner chair for the program, and Ron Harris, former DBU faculty member and current president of MEDIAAlliance International, served as the evening's emcee.

Dinner was held in the Hillcrest Great Hall of the Mahler Student Center, fol-

lowed by the award program held in the Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel Sanctuary and a dessert reception in Sadler Hall.

Dr. Carlisle welcomed the guests in attendance, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sam Johnson, U. S. Representative and 2007 Landry Award recipient. The evening's invocation was then led by Wayne Stevenson, founder of Control Systems International and 2011 Landry Award recipient. DBU President Dr. Gary Cook gave a brief welcome and invited guests to proceed to Pilgrim Chapel after dinner for the continuation of the program.

The DBU Grand Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Stephen Holcomb, performed "The Star-Spangled Banner," with DBU student Summer Coleman as the soloist. The Grand Chorus then performed a musical medley of patriotic songs narrated by Dr. Bob Brooks, dean of the Graduate School of Ministry.



Ann and Gil Stricklin

Ron Harris gave introductions, and then Dr. Cook expressed a word of gratitude to those in attendance for their support of DBU and student scholarships that would be made possible through their generous gifts. Dr. Cook then asked DBU music student and vocal artist Brian Hull, whose recent YouTube video of "Let It Go" from the Disney movie *Frozen* won him national stardom, to expound upon his experiences and perform a segment of his song.

Following Brian's presentation, Dr. Cook introduced a video presentation about DBU's history and mission. Afterwards Ron Simmons, Texas State Representative and DBU alumnus, introduced the keynote speaker for the event, fellow Texas State Representative and former NFL player Scott Turner.



2014 DINNER COMMITTEE

Alicia Landry, Bo Pilgrim . . . Honorary Chairs
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Turner explained his life journey and how he found that the true meaning of leadership is stewardship under God’s rule and service to people in God’s way. Through the influence of former NFL players Darrell Green and Tim Johnson, Turner grew in God’s calling to leadership and humility.

“We need more servant leaders...to live and to lead with godly humility and unshakable conviction,” stated Turner. “We have to be the best we can be as Christians...God has called us to take dominion over leadership roles in every facet of life.”

Turner challenged the audience to follow after Gil Stricklin’s footsteps and answer the call to lead the world through humility, service, and godly influence.

Following Turner’s address, Ron Harris returned to the podium and introduced a special video presentation recognizing Gil Stricklin as this year’s Landry Award honoree.

The Tom Landry Leadership Award Dinner was inaugurated in 2007 to ensure that Landry’s legacy would live on and serve as an example to DBU students and to others in Collin County.

As the coach of the acclaimed Dallas Cowboys for 29 years, Tom Landry and “America’s Team” became a Texas legend. Their success came as a result of character and a commitment to excellence. In Landry’s mind, the credit for all this success came from his faith, management strategies, and leadership style.

(Pictured from top to bottom) Ron Harris, DBU trustee and president of MEDIAAlliance International, served as the emcee for the dinner.

Scott Turner, former NFL player and current Texas State Representative, provided the keynote address.

Dr. Jerry Carlisle, DBU trustee and pastor of First Baptist Church of Plano, served as chair of the event; he is pictured along with his wife, Dedi, DBU Women’s Auxiliary Board Member.

Former Landry Award recipient U. S. Congressman Sam Johnson (left) is pictured along with Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, and Dr. Cook’s wife, Sheila.



Tom Landry's life epitomized the most exceptional leadership and character qualities that DBU strives to instill in its students every day. His faith in God, devotion to family, dedication to integrity, and service to others have made Landry a lasting role model to this day.

The Landry Leadership Award is given to those individuals who use their God-given talents and abilities to excel in their chosen field of work, who provide and exhibit exceptional leadership, who are committed to serving others in their community, and who demonstrate integrity in their personal lives.

Directly after the video, Alicia Landry and Bo Pilgrim presented the Landry Leadership Award to this year's recipient: Gil Stricklin.

Gil Stricklin was born and raised in North Texas. After working in the railroad industry, Gil began serving in the military, serving for 37 years as a chaplain. He also served as a special assistant to Dr. Billy Graham, traveling around the world with the noted evangelist, working with the international media.

Colonel Stricklin earned a B.A. degree in business from Baylor University and a communications degree from Texas Christian University. He later went on to receive a bachelor's and master's degree in theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also graduated from the Army War College and the National Defense University, the highest military education, and holds a master's degree in geo-political science. In addition, he has received an honorary doctorate from Dallas Baptist University.

Gil Stricklin and his wife, Ann, to whom he has been married since 1958, have been long-time members at

(Pictured from top to bottom) More than 350 people gathered in the Great Hall on the DBU campus for the dinner portion of the event; following dinner, those gathered went to the Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel for the presentation of the award.

Texas State Representative and DBU alumnus Ron Simmons, along with his wife, Lisa.

Ken Paxton (far left), Texas State Representative, and his wife, Angela, are pictured along with fellow Texas State Representative Scott Turner and his wife, Robin.

DBU alumnus and current trustee Mike Arnold (far right), is pictured along with his wife, Mandy, along with Chip and Nicki Loper.



First Baptist Church of Dallas, where Gil serves as an ordained deacon. He and Ann have two sons, Art, married to Belinda, and Cliff, married to Robin, as well as four grandchildren.

On January 1, 1984, Gil and Ann entered a new stage of service as they founded Marketplace Chaplains USA, a company designed to provide employees of corporate America with chaplain services. Drawing from his nearly 40 years of military and corporate chaplaincy experience, Stricklin grew the service company to reach hundreds of thousands of employees and companies all over the world. Today, Marketplace Chaplains USA has over 2,500 marketplace chaplains serving across the United States and around the world.

"I deeply appreciate Dallas Baptist University and all that it has done for Ann and me," reflected Colonel Stricklin. "I do not deserve this honor, but I will spend the rest of my life trying to live up to it."

Past recipients of the Tom Landry Leadership Award include Tillie Burgin (2013), Fred Moses (2012), Wayne Stevenson (2011), Dr. Jeff Warren (2010), Mike Simpson (2009), Dr. Jack Graham (2008), and Congressman Sam Johnson (2007).

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Adam and Candice Wright

(Pictured from left to right) DBU trustee Ron Skaggs (far right) is pictured along with his wife, Sondra (far left), and their son, David, who is seen with his wife, Kim, and their sons, Mark and Kyle.

Boone Powell, former recipient of the DBU Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award, is pictured along with former college roommate and former recipient of the DBU Oak Cliff Good Samaritan Award, Jim Palmer.

Wayne Stevenson, a past recipient of the Tom Landry Leadership Award, is pictured along with his wife, Buena, who serves as a DBU trustee.