

Drayton McLane

honored at 16th annual

Patriot Baseball Banquet

With the start of a new baseball season, the 2010 Patriot Baseball Banquet was the perfect time for players, coaches, fans, and families of the DBU Patriot Baseball Team to gather in eager anticipation for the upcoming season and to honor one of the game's finest Christian ambassadors, Drayton McLane, by naming him the recipient of the 2010 DBU Patriot Legends Award.

Mr. McLane serves as owner of the Major League Baseball team, the Houston Astros, and is Chairman of the McLane Group, the family holding company for several U.S. and international corporations. Mr. McLane previously spoke to the student body in Chapel, and in November 2008 he was honored with DBU's 2008 Russell Perry Free Enterprise Award.

A native Texan, Mr. McLane completed college and began working with his father who owned a wholesale grocery distribution center established by his grandfather in 1894. McLane served as vice president of purchasing and later as general manager of operations. He became president and CEO of McLane Company in 1978 and chairman in 1992. He was largely responsible for expanding the family business from a \$3 million a year operation into a \$19 billion enterprise. He sold the family business to Sam Walton and Wal-Mart in 1990, becoming one of Wal-Mart's largest



Dr. Blair Blackburn (right), DBU executive vice president, presents a special Patriot jersey to Drayton McLane, recipient of the 2010 Patriot Legends Award.

stockholders, and two years later he purchased the Houston Astros. The Astros' 2005 season was their most successful season, as they won the National League Pennant and advanced to the World Series, hosting the first World Series game ever played in the State of Texas.

Mr. McLane and his wife, Elizabeth, have two sons, Drayton III and Denton. Drayton III and wife, Amy, have two sons, Drayton IV and Brooks. Denton and wife, Amy, have two sons, Jeff and Jake. Mr. McLane is an active member of First Baptist Church in Temple, serving as a Sunday School Teacher for over 35 years, a Deacon, and a past Chairman of the Board of Deacons.

Mr. McLane spoke to those gathered and challenged them to be true champions in life, which meant more than just winning. For McLane, a true champion practices their faith boldly, works hard always, and gives every ounce of energy and effort for the sake of the team, seeking to serve others above themselves.

Afterward senior Ryan Enos shared his testimony. Also, head baseball coach Dan Heefner introduced this season's team members, making special introductions of the seniors. Heefner also encouraged those present to show their support for the Patriots during the 2010 season, which began on February 19.



Ryan Enos (left), a DBU senior outfielder, is pictured along with Drayton McLane. Ryan shared his testimony during the banquet.