

23RD ANNUAL PATRIOT BASEBALL BANQUET

The 23rd annual DBU Patriot Baseball Banquet was held on February 6, the weekend prior to what has turned out to be a stellar season. This year, the dinner honored Dr. Jim Broaddus, president and CEO of FJW Construction, with the Patriots Legend Award. In addition, the dinner featured highlights from the previous year, a preview of the upcoming season, a word from former Ronald Reagan special assistant, Jim Kuhn, and a conversation with David Murphy, the guest speaker for the evening.

Dr. Jim Broaddus currently serves as head of FJW Construction, who built not only Horner Ballpark, but also the Patsy and Herman Smith Center for DBU Hurst-Colleyville and Joan and Andy Horner Hall. In addition, FJW is currently working on the construction of the Dr. William B. Dean Learning Center. In 2000, Dr. Broaddus founded Broaddus & Associates, a program management firm that has managed over \$6 billion worth of construction projects. The company acquired FJW Construction in 2008.

Among his many endeavors prior to founding Broaddus & Associates, Dr. Broaddus served for several years as the commanding officer of the Presidential Retreat at Camp David, Maryland, during the tenure of President Ronald Reagan. Jim Kuhn, a long-time friend and colleague of Dr. Broaddus, served as the executive assistant for President Reagan and briefly shared with those gathered about President Reagan and his admiration and respect for Dr. Broaddus.

Following the presentation of the Patriots Legend Award, Reagan Ratcliff, DBU sports information director and voice of DBU Patriot Athletics, did an extended interview with the evening's guest speaker, David Murphy. Murphy, a former member of the Texas Rangers, is currently playing outfield for the Cleveland Indians. Murphy shared about his experiences as a member of two World Series teams, as well as the ways in which his faith in Jesus impacts his daily life as a Major League Baseball player.

After the interview, members of the 2014 Patriot team were recognized for winning the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament with a specially designed ring commemorating the accomplishment. Then Dan Heefner, DBU head baseball coach, spoke about the philosophy of Patriot Baseball to develop players as both athletes and young men who exemplify the character of Christ. He also introduced members of the 2015 squad and provided a preview for the upcoming season.

Pictured to the right: (Top, left to right) Connor Smith, DBU director of athletics; Nate Frieling, assistant athletic director; David Murphy, special guest speaker; Dan Heefner, DBU head baseball coach; and Dr. Blair Blackburn, DBU executive vice president. (Second from top, from left to right) Members of the FJW Construction team, Eric Churchill, David Bowlin, Glen Whatley, Dr. Jim Broaddus, and Bobby Whatley. (Third from top, right) Jim Kuhn, government relations council for Broaddus & Associates and former executive assistant to President Ronald Reagan. (Lower) Reagan Ratcliff, DBU sports information director, interviews David Murphy during the dinner.

