

TOM LANDRY LEADERSHIP AWARD DINNER

H O N O R I N G

DR. BILL TOLAR

Dallas Baptist University hosted the ninth annual Tom Landry Leadership Dinner on Saturday, April 18, on the DBU campus. The annual event recognizes the lasting legacy of one of North Texas' most famous citizens, Tom Landry, with more than 240 guests in attendance at this year's dinner.

Honored as the ninth recipient of the Tom Landry Leadership Award was Dr. Bill Tolar, former pastor and seminary professor whose ministry has touched the lives of thousands of believers.

This year's honorary chair was Alicia Landry, wife of the late Tom Landry, and the chair for the evening was Dr. Brent Taylor, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton. Ron Harris, DBU trustee and president of MEDIAAlliance International, served as the evening's emcee.

The dinner was held in the Hillcrest Great Hall of the John G. Mahler Student Center, followed by the award program, which took place in the sanctuary of the Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel. Following the program, attendees gathered in Sadler Hall for a special dessert reception.

Dr. Taylor welcomed the guests in attendance, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by U. S. Congressman Sam Johnson, who was himself the recipient of the first Tom Landry Leadership Award, presented in 2007. Neal Jeffrey, associate pastor of pastoral care and preaching at Prestonwood Baptist Church, provided the evening's invocation. At the conclusion of the meal, Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, gave a brief word of welcome and invited the guests to proceed to the Pilgrim Chapel for the continuation of the program.

Upon entering, the DBU Grand Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Steve Holcomb, DBU professor of music and chair of choral studies, provided a medley of patriotic songs.

Ron Harris greeted those gathered in the sanctuary and introduced Dr. Cook, who shared about various events taking



place on the DBU campus, as well as two special *DBU Reports* that were passed out. The first issue is designed to highlight the signs and symbols that mark DBU as a Christ-centered institution. "The reason we published this issue," explained Dr. Cook, "is because we felt like the Lord prompted us to impress upon our students to follow Jesus and take Him wherever they go." The second *DBU Report* issue features the buildings on campus. This special edition highlights the journey of building a college campus over the tenure of Dr. Cook's presidency. Each new construction, each new renovation, and each new facility has been fully paid for without incurring any lingering debt. According to Dr. Cook, "This wonderful accomplishment is thanks to the hard work of so many who have served and helped DBU through the years. Yet more than all of that, it is a testament to the faithful provision of God who answers prayers and can make streams of living water run throughout a desert."

After Dr. Cook's remarks, Ron Harris returned to the podium to introduce a special video tribute in honor of Dr. Bill Tolar. Dr. Tolar has served faithfully for many years in Tarrant County



and the entire state of Texas. Born in Louisiana, Dr. Tolar turned down a full four-year academic scholarship to LSU in order to study ministry at Baylor University. Graduating from Baylor with bachelor's and master's degrees, Dr. Tolar continued his education to earn both Master of Divinity and Doctor of Theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been selected as "Distinguished Alumnus" by both of his alma maters.

Since 1950, Dr. Bill Tolar has been serving churches and the Baptist denomination in many different capacities. He served as pastor for three different churches, Welborn Baptist Church, Speegleville Baptist Church, and Central Baptist Church, as well as interim pastor for more than 50 different churches.

In the 1960s, Dr. Tolar began his career as a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. For the next 40 years, he would serve as dean of theology, vice president for

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Page 2 (Top) 2015 Tom Landry Award recipient Dr. Bill Tolar and his wife, Floye, along with members of their family.

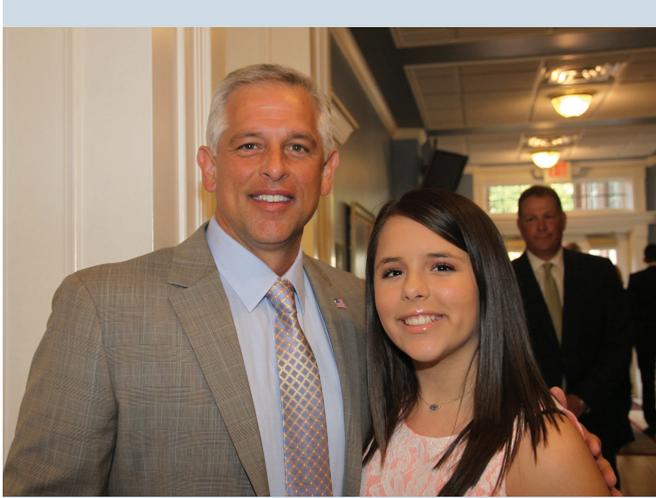
(Lower) More than 240 individuals gathered in the Great Hall on the DBU campus for the dinner portion of the event; following the dinner, those gathered went to the Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel for the award presentation.

Page 3 (Top) Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, along with U. S. Congressman and former Tom Landry Award recipient, Sam Johnson.

(Second from top) Ron Harris, DBU trustee and president of MEDIAL-iance International, along with his wife, Judy. Ron served as emcee for the evening.

(Third from top) Neal Jeffrey, associate pastor of pastoral care and preaching at Prestonwood Baptist Church, who provided the evening's invocation, along with Blair Robinson, assistant to the dean of the Gary Cook School of Leadership.

(Lower) Ron Skaggs, DBU trustee and former chair of the architecture firm HKS, Inc., along with his wife, Sondra.



(Top) Mike Arnold, DBU alumnus and member of the board of trustees, along with his daughter, Abby. Mike served as a member of the Tom Landry Dinner Steering Committee.

(Middle) Former Tom Landry Award recipient Wayne Stevenson, along with his wife, Buena, who serves on the DBU board of trustees.

(Lower) Dr. Larry Taylor, head of the Prestonwood Christian Academy, along with his wife, Delinda. Dr. Taylor received his doctorate in leadership studies from DBU's Gary Cook School of Leadership.

(Right) The DBU Grand Chorus performs a medley of patriotic and religious songs under the direction of Dr. Steve Holcomb, DBU professor of music and chair of choral studies.

academic affairs, interim president, distinguished professor of biblical backgrounds, and special consultant to the president before retiring in 2005. He also led some 80 trips to the Middle East with students and church members through the years, becoming an expert on the Holy Land. For the last eight years, Dr. Tolar has served as an adjunct professor at DBU.

Dr. Tolar and his wife, Floye, currently live in Fort Worth, and attend Agape Baptist Church, where they are members. He and Floye have two adult children, William and Lora Mae, and several grandchildren.

Following Dr. Tolar's remarks, Dr. Gary Singleton, pastor of The Heights Baptist Church in Richardson, gave the benediction. Dr. Singleton also serves as the first vice chair of the DBU board of trustees. Then Dr. Bob Brooks, dean of the DBU Graduate School of Ministry, closed the evening by leading the group in the singing of "God Bless America." Following the ceremony, a dessert reception was held in Sadler Hall, which is located in the lower level of Pilgrim Chapel.

Past recipients of the Tom Landry Leadership Award include: Gil Stricklin (2014), 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).





Friends of Dr. Bill Tolar, Dr. Ray Moore, Alice Curtis, Gloria Brister, and Kathy Dehoney Evitts.



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(Top): Longtime friends of DBU, John and Nita Ford, along with Dr. Cory Hines, DBU vice president for advancement and graduate affairs. John served as a past member of the Landry Dinner Steering Committee, and Nita serves as a member of the DBU board of trustees.

(Middle): Paul and Charla Vinyard. Paul is the founder of Babe's Chicken Dinner House restaurants, and Charla served as a member of the Dinner Steering Committee.

(Lower): Dr. Bob Brooks, dean of the DBU Graduate School of Ministry, leads the congregation in singing, "God Bless America."