Mike Simpson Receives Tom Landry Leadership Award
Dallas Baptist University hosted the third annual Tom Landry Leadership Award Dinner on Monday evening, March 23. The gala evening, with nearly 500 in attendance, recognized the lasting legacy of one of Dallas’ most famous citizens, Tom Landry, as it named Mike Simpson the recipient of the Tom Landry Leadership Award.

As the coach of the acclaimed Dallas Cowboys for 29 years, Tom Landry and “America’s Team” became the stuff of which legends are made. Their success came because 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.

Tom Landry’s life epitomized the most exceptional leadership and character qualities DBU strives to instill in its students every day. His faith in God, devotion to family, and dedication to integrity and service to others make Landry a real role model.

For this reason, the Tom Landry Leadership Award Dinner was inaugurated to ensure that Landry’s legacy would live on and serve as an example to DBU students and to others in Collin County. 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.
others in their community, and who demonstrate integrity in their personal lives. In addition, the proceeds raised from the dinner go to provide scholarships for Dallas Baptist University students in Collin County.

This year, Alicia Landry and Pete Delkus served as the honorary co-chairs of the event, and Dr. Jon Lineberger, associate vice president of DBU Frisco, served as this year’s chair. Pete Delkus, who is the Chief Meteorologist for WFAA-TV, also was the emcee for the evening’s dinner. During the dinner, the DBU Grand Chorus provided a special musical performance, and U. S. Congressman Sam Johnson, former recipient of the Landry Award, gave special greetings to those gathered. In addition, Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, welcomed those gathered and thanked them for their support of the dinner and of DBU’s work in Collin County.

The 2009 Landry Leadership Award Recipient Mike Simpson served as Mayor of Frisco from 2002 until 2008. During Simpson’s tenure, Frisco voters approved a $197.5 million bond package in 2002 and a $198 million package in 2006. These bonds allowed the city to build a new City Hall, Library, Police Station, Fire Station, Senior Center, Athletic Center, Heritage Center and Museum. During his term, over $239 million in local roads were built or were in the process of being built. While serving as Council Member and Mayor, the U. S. Census Bureau recognized Frisco as having the fastest growing percentage of labor force in the nation from 2000-2005. In 2007, Forbes magazine also ranked the city as the seventh fastest growing city in the nation.

An active member of numerous Frisco and Collin County boards and organizations, Simpson was named Frisco’s Citizen of the Year in 2004, Public Official Business Partner of the Year in 2005, and is a 21 Citizens for the 21st Century recipient. In 2007, the Miracle League named their baseball field the Mike Simpson Miracle League Field.

In December of 2008, Simpson was appointed to his current role as the Executive Director of the Arts of Collin County Performing Arts Hall and Park, a multi-city collaborative project of the cities of Allen, Frisco and Plano. Once complete, as CEO he will have responsibility for community relations, operation and staffing of this one-of-a-kind arts hall and arts park in the heart of Collin County.

Simpson and his wife, Sandy, have been married 46 years and are active members of First United Methodist Church of Frisco. They have three children—Becky, Mike and Keri—and five grandchildren—Zac, Trevor, Sam, Mary and Cami.
Ron Skaggs, chairman emeritus of HKS, an international architecture firm, and his wife, Sondra. Mr. Skaggs currently serves as a DBU Trustee.

Joel Allison (far left), president and CEO of Baylor Health Care System, along with his wife, Diane, and Dr. Gary Cook (far right), president of Dallas Baptist University, and his wife, Sheila.

Rep. Ken Paxton, Texas State Representative for the 70th District, which includes Collin County, led the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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