



## 17th annual **Patriot Baseball Banquet** honors **Dr. Blair Blackburn**

The seventeenth annual Baseball Banquet allowed players, coaches, fans, and family members of the DBU Patriot Baseball team to gather in eager anticipation of the next several months. During the night, DBU also honored one of their own, Dr. Blair Blackburn, executive vice president, for his years of service at DBU.

Dr. Blackburn came to DBU in 1995 as the assistant vice president for development. Since that time he has held many roles, such as dean of the College of Adult Education and vice president for enrollment and administrative affairs. In 2002, Dr. Blackburn was officially named the University's executive vice president. As executive vice president, Dr. Blackburn oversees the student affairs, enrollment, and administrative affairs divisions of the University, as well as the athletic department.



Dr. Blackburn and his wife, Michelle, are the proud parents of three children: Taylor, Betsy, and Parker. The Blackburns are members of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler.

During the banquet WFAA-TV's chief meteorologist and DBU board of trustees member Pete Delkus gave his testimony. Prior to becoming a weatherman, Delkus was an All-American pitcher in college. He signed with the Minnesota Twins organization in 1987 after graduating college. After six years of playing professional ball, Delkus's career ended due to injury.

That injury led to Delkus eventually becoming a meteorologist at a local news station. Speaking to the players, Delkus charged them to work hard in everything that they do. Perseverance, in light of his life changing injury, helped him never to give up.

Delkus, along with his wife, Jacque, and two children, Emily and Peter, reside in Dallas and are members of Parkway Hills Baptist Church in Plano.

To end the evening, Dan Heefner, Patriots baseball head coach, introduced the 2011 team. Their season began on Friday, February 18.

*Pictured Above Left: Ryan Erwin, director of athletics, hands Dr. Blair Blackburn a personalized Patriot baseball jersey. Above Right: Dr. Blackburn (far right) with his wife, Michelle, and children (left to right), Taylor, Betsy, and Parker. Left: WFAA-TV chief meteorologist Pete Delkus shares his testimony.*