



# Patriot Baseball Banquet Kicks Off 2007 Season

FRESHMAN JEREMY PARRISH

With the start of a new baseball season, the 2007 Baseball Banquet was the perfect time for players, coaches, fans, and family of the DBU Patriot Baseball Team to gather in honor of those who have contributed to a winning team both on and off the field.

This year's celebration honored NCAA All-American Award winner Drew Holder as well as longtime supporter Doug Tabor, who received the DBU Patriot Legends Award. In addition, former Patriot team captain Ben Zobrist served as the evening's keynote speaker, and current ballplayer Jereme Wilson shared with guests his testimony.

At the beginning of the banquet, DBU President Dr. Gary Cook introduced one of the most accomplished alumni from last year's team, Drew Holder. He has received numerous awards, including First Team Louisville Slugger NCAA All-American, a first in DBU Baseball history. This past summer, Holder was drafted by the Houston Astros and currently plays in their minor league system.

Next to the plate was Doug Tabor, also a DBU alumnus and one of the Patriot Baseball Team's top fans and supporters and this year's Patriot Legends Award recipient.



(Pictured from left to right) DBU Executive Vice President Dr. Blair Blackburn, 2007 Patriot Legends Award Recipient Doug Tabor, and DBU Patriots Head Baseball Coach Eric Newman.



Former DBU Patriot and current major league baseball player, Ben Zobrist (pictured above center and right), along with his wife, Julianna, and DBU President Dr. Gary Cook. Zobrist plays shortstop for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.



photo courtesy Tampa Bay Devil Rays

Having twice graduated from DBU, in 1990 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and again in 1992 with an M.B.A., Tabor has maintained strong ties with the University by supporting the baseball program and continuing his education with classes in the Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership.

Returning to his alma mater, keynote speaker Ben Zobrist affirmed the team's continuing success from a spiritual vantage point. As examples of Christ, Zobrist stressed that the players needed to give all they have to pursue excellence on and off the field.

In 2004, Zobrist was a Patriot team captain, leading the team to a 44-16 record in their first season as a member of NCAA Division I. Finishing the season strong, Zobrist was drafted in 2004 by the Houston Astros and last year was traded to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. After being called up to the majors last season, Zobrist started the 2007 season as the starting shortstop for the team.

At the end of the celebration, head baseball coach Eric Newman introduced this season's team members, and Patriot Baseball supporter Harold Sadler offered the evening's closing prayer.