

**ASSOCIATION OF RICE ALUMNI
GOLD MEDAL NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee JAMES CROWNOVER Phone 713-524-9511 Fax 713-526-0981
Address 3875 TWO HOUSTON CENTER 909 FANNIN STREET
City/State/Zip HOUSTON TX 77010-1011 Rice Class Year(s) 1965, 1966
Degrees/Majors/Years/Institutions B.A. ^{RICE} CHEM. ENG. '65, B.S. ^{RICE} CHEM. ENG. '66, MBA '68 STANFORD
Occupation/Professional Field RETIRED MANAGING DIRECTOR AND PARTNER
Current Title/Position McKINSEY & COMPANY, INC.

The Gold Medal is the highest award bestowed by the Alumni Association, and is designed to recognize Rice alumni, faculty, staff, or friends who have rendered extraordinary service to the university. The following criteria will be considered:

- a) outstanding service in promoting the ideals of the founder of the university
- b) unusually deep dedication to and advancement of the academic excellence of the university
- c) uncommon generosity of time and means in support of the university

Please attach a letter of recommendation describing the merits of the nominee. Consider the following question in support of the above criteria: **Does this candidate foster a true lifelong connection to, or influence upon, the university, showing concern for its ongoing vitality and helping to shape its future direction?**

Please note that incomplete nomination forms cannot be considered.

Nominated by DARROW G. ZEIDENSTEIN, Ph.D. Phone 713-348-6090 Fax 713-348-5166
Address P.O. Box 1892 RICE UNIVERSITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MS-82
City/State/Zip HOUSTON TX 77251-1892

Please list two other people (i.e., colleague, classmate) whom you have asked to write a letter of support to further validate your nomination.

Name DAVID W. LEEBROW Relationship _____
Address RICE UNIVERSITY, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT - MS 1 Phone 713-348-5050
P.O. Box 1892 HOUSTON TX 77251-1892

Name JOHN B. BOLES Relationship _____
Address RICE UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF SOUTHERN HISTORY MS46 Phone 713-348-6039
P.O. Box 1892 HOUSTON TX 77251-1892

Please return nomination material to:

or fax to: 713-348-5210

Office of Alumni Affairs – MS 520
Rice University
P.O. Box 1892
Houston TX 77251-1892



Darrow G. Zeidenstein, Ph.D.
Vice President for Resource Development

October 15, 2012

To the Members of the Association of Rice Alumni Laureates Committee:

It is my distinct privilege to nominate James W. Crownover '65 for your consideration to receive the Association's highest honor, the Gold Medal. On June 30, 2013 Jim will step down as chairman of the Rice Board of Trustees having skillfully guided the strategic decision-making of the university through both its most portentous and exultant occurrences. These include, among others: chairing the search committee that appointed David W. Leebron as Rice's 7th president; the advent of Rice's Vision for the Second Century as the guiding framework for the University's long-term ambitions; the decision to launch a \$1 billion fundraising campaign, the second-most ambitious campaign of its kind in the country when normalized by size of institution; the collapse of the stock market in 2008 and the implementation of two rounds of budget cuts across the university; the Rice-BCM merger talks and the ultimate decision not to move forward with the merger; the successful execution of Rice University's Centennial Celebration; and, finally, what we all hope will be the successful conclusion of the Centennial Campaign, with a current fundraising total of \$906 million. Throughout all of these changes of fortune and many others, Jim's keen intelligence and his by-consensus leadership style have served Rice Board of Trustees and the Administration very well. In the final analysis, Jim Crownover deserves a great deal of the credit for helping to steer Rice through these vicissitudes, as he deserves your vote for the Gold Medal.

On a more personal level of observation, I will tell you that Jim has been nothing less than a "dream chair" to work with on the campaign and the Centennial Celebration. Because

Jim understands that Rice must be successful in its Centennial Campaign to maintain its competitiveness, he has thrown himself into the day-to-day processes of identifying prospects, thinking through our fundraising strategy, and personally engaging and soliciting prospects for their philanthropic support. One of the more significant fundraising accomplishments Jim achieved was the gift of \$15 million from Rich and Nancy Kinder to establish the Kinder Institute for Urban Research. I would wager that fewer than three board chairs in 100 are willing to be as engaged in capital campaign fundraising as Jim is, and no one would be better at it than he.

In recognizing Jim Crownover's extraordinary service and dedication to Rice University with the Gold Medal, the Association of Rice Alumni would be acknowledging that he has carried out his duties as chair with the same dedication and acumen as his predecessors, all of whom have received the Gold Medal. The previous chair, Bill Barnett, received his Gold Medal in 2005 as he was stepping down and Jim Crownover was assuming the role of chair. I respectfully ask the committee to grant James W. Crownover this same honor and, in so doing, hold his years of dedicated service and leadership as a model to follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darrow Zeidenstein', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Darrow Zeidenstein



RICE UNIVERSITY

DAVID W. LEEBRON
PRESIDENT

October 16, 2012

Sent via electronic submission

Dear Members of the Association of Rice Alumni Laureates Committee:

I am writing to recommend James Crownover for the Association of Rice Alumni Gold Medal this year. I cannot think of anyone more deserving.

As you no doubt know, Jim Crownover has been chair of the board of trustees for over seven years, and was elected a trustee in 1999. Thus he when steps down next summer he will have served 14 years as a university trustee. Jim also chaired the search committee that brought me to Rice as President in 2004.

It has been an extraordinary privilege and pleasure to work with Jim, and he has been a remarkable chair. Although Jim and his wife Molly are philanthropic leaders in Houston and support many endeavors, including the United Way and the Houston Grand Opera, it's clear that Rice has been Jim's top priority. He has devoted immense time to Rice over the past seven years, spending so much time on the campus that we have jokingly referred to my conference room as Jim's office. He is always available, and always willing to put in whatever time is needed. There is no aspect of our success over that time in which Jim has not been involved. He has played a leading role in our campaign, and in the elaboration of our strategic plans. He stewarded the board through challenging financial times. He led a process-oriented discussion of our possible merger with the Baylor College of Medicine. He was intimately involved with the planning of our Centennial Celebration. He has met with faculty members to support our retention efforts. It is a consistent record of leadership, thoughtfulness, wisdom and generosity on every level. Whenever we have Jim's help, leadership, advice or engagement, he has been there for Rice.

The board of trustees has functioned beautifully under Jim's leadership, and the relationship between the board and the administration has flourished. On a personal note, one of the things that has kept me at Rice has been the joy of working with Jim, and through him with the entire board.

I hope the committee will forgive me if I speak forcefully. It's not only that I think it would be appropriate to recognize Jim's service with the Gold Medal this year; I cannot imagine not doing so. He has led Rice through a dynamic time, and has been at my side every step of the way. I recommend him with every bit of enthusiasm I can muster, and then some.

Warm regards,

David W. Leebron



THE JOURNAL OF SOUTHERN HISTORY

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October 16, 2012

Laureates Committee
Association of Rice Alumni
% Carrie C. Brown

Dear ARA Laureates Committee:

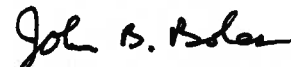
I write to enthusiastically support the nomination of James W. "Jim" Crownover '65 for the Gold Medal of the Association of Rice Alumni. I have known Jim since we were both at Rice together as students, and I watched his career take off with pleasure. After his degrees from Rice he earned an M.B.A. from Stanford, and then he joined McKinsey & Co. He led the firm's regional practice for a decade, co-headed its worldwide energy practice for five years, and served on its board of directors for the last eight years of his career. His acumen and drive led to his appointment to the board of directors of several major companies, including Weingarten Realty Investors. He subsequently joined the boards of both the University of Texas Health Science Center and St. John's School, and he also served on the board of directors of the United Way of Houston. Clearly he was recognized as one of the leading businessmen of Houston and respected for his vision and commitment to the public good.

Hence I was not surprised in 1999 when Jim was named a Rice University trustee, and I served on a committee with him shortly thereafter when he became a member of the School of Humanities Advisory Board. And because we both graduated from Rice in 1965, we have served together on reunion giving committees. To each appointment Jim brought his characteristic energy, vision, and strong values, and he always had Rice's best interests in mind. He also always worked to insure that Rice strengthen its aspiration for significant achievement; he never saw the trustees as mere caretakers but rather as promoters of the highest goals for the university, living up the distinguished legacy of our founding president and board chair. Jim led the search committee that brought David Leebron to Rice as our seventh president, and that selection process was a model of how to conduct such a search. Not the least of his achievements was convincing David first to take seriously Rice's interest in him and then persuading him actually to accept the position. I was pleased to learn in 2005 that Jim had become the successor to Bill Barnett as chair of the trustees, continuing our tradition of having strong, forward-thinking, effective board leadership. I believed then, as I do now, that it takes both a visionary president and a visionary trustee chair to really move a university forward. Time has proven that belief valid, and as a devoted Rice alumnus, I have been thrilled to watch Jim's leadership over the past seven years. In his support of the idea of a possible merger with Baylor College of Medicine, his promoting plans to increase the size of the student

body, and especially in his strong support of a very aggressive, even bold fundraising drive for \$1 billion, Jim has demonstrated the kind of commitment, vision, energy, and savvy so necessary for significant advancement in the rarified world of elite universities.

In his role as trustee chair I have watched Jim as he chaired meetings, served as master of ceremony at numerous Rice events, graciously introduced speakers, and moderated meetings, and on every occasion he represented Rice with dignity, class, and often a welcome dose of humor. In the last two years, as the Centennial Campaign has neared completion and the Centennial Celebration was ambitiously planned and then spectacularly completed, Jim was always there, with a smile, a word of encouragement, a measure of advice, and always a solid sense of what was best for the university. Of course he and his lovely wife Molly have been generous financial supporters of Rice, but they have contributed in so many ways beyond monetarily. Over the past century Rice has been lucky in its presidents and in its trustee chairs, and Jim Crownover has added luster to that latter position. He profoundly deserves the alumni association's Gold Medal for his years of service, for his example of commitment to the university, for his eloquent promotion of Rice's highest ambitions, and for his evident humanity and decency, which have inspired us all. It is a genuine privilege to support his nomination to receive Rice's Gold Medal next May at the 2013 Laureate's Dinner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Boles".

John B. Boles '65

William P. Hobby Professor of History
ARA Gold Medal Recipient, 2012