

**ASSOCIATION OF RICE ALUMNI
MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Tammy Leong Taura Phone 703.471.1287 Fax _____
Address 13187 Ladybank Lane
City/State/Zip Oak Hill VA 20171-4052 Rice Class Year(s) 1984
Degrees/Majors/Years/Institutions Psychology, Managerial Studies
Occupation/Professional Field _____
Current Title/Position Marketing Director, Professionals in the City

The Meritorious Service Award is designed to recognize Rice alumni, faculty, staff, or friends who rendered significant, sustained voluntary contributions of energy, time, and creativity towards the advancement of the university. The following criteria will be considered:

- a) enrichment of some aspect of the Rice community through ongoing dedication and support
- b) commitment to the lifelong vitality 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 exemplify someone who would be described as a tireless ambassador or emissary on Rice's behalf.**

Please note that incomplete nomination forms cannot be considered.

Nominated by Kyle Frazier Phone 713.655.7100 Fax 713.655.7150
Address 3803 Sunset Blvd.
City/State/Zip Houston TX 77005

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 Edward A. Dominguez '82 Relationship Friend & Classmate
Address 1685 Cresthill, Rockwall TX 75087 Phone 214.947.4450

Name Memo Trevino '83 Relationship Friend & Classmate
Address 2322 Middlecoff Ln, Laredo TX 78045 Phone 956.723.2968

Ann Peterson

Friend & Classmate

Please return nomination material to:

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

or fax to: 713-348-5210

Frazier & Frazier

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BILL FRAZIER
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October 1, 2012

Association of Rice Alumni - MS 520
ARA Honors Committee 2013
Attn: Gloria Meckel Tarpley '81
ARA Past President & Committee Chair
P.O. Box 1892
Houston TX 77251-1892

RE: Nomination of Tammy Taura '84 for ARA Meritorious Service Award

Dear Gloria & Committee Members,

I am delighted to recommend Tammy Taura for the ARA Meritorious Service Award. Tammy is and has been a dedicated and generous volunteer for Rice University in a number of ways. The area where I am personally most familiar with her enthusiastic volunteer spirit is the ARA.

Tammy served on the ARA board from 1996 to 1999 during a time when I was a board member. She and her husband, Ken Taura '83, served as homecoming chairs a few years ago and she was one of the early mentors in the ARA's student alumni mentoring program. Beyond her service as an ARA board member, Tammy has served as the de facto head of the DC area regional alumni group, one of the largest ARA area groups, since 1997. Nearly every year she has organized the ARA send-off parties for incoming freshmen and their parents from the DC area. I doubt there is any Rice alum who has done more for the University in any of the ARA regional groups. Any time there is a Rice event in the DC area, Tammy is involved in planning and organizing some aspect of the event. It might be a reception following a lecture by a Rice professor to the DC alumni group, a reception on Capitol Hill honoring Rice's Centennial, a reception for the baseball team following their visit to the White House, or a visit by the Rice President or some other staff member; whatever the event, you can be assured that Tammy is involved in some way if it takes place in the DC area.

Frazier & Frazier
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ARA Honors Committee 2013
Attn: Gloria Meckel Tarpley '81
ARA Past President & Committee Chair
October 1, 2012
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Tammy has served the University in many other ways. She has been an alumni interviewer for the Admissions Office since 1999, conducting numerous interviews of prospective Rice students. Tammy is truly one of the leaders for the Class of 84. She has been involved with reunion activities nearly every time there is an event for her class, both for the homecoming committee and the reunion giving committee. For the last five years, she has also served the development office on the Centennial Campaign Committee. Tammy is one of those quiet, behind-the-scenes, very loyal supporters of the University. That is one of the many qualities that I really admire about Tammy.

In my opinion, Tammy is very deserving of this recognition by the ARA for her dedicated, continuous service to the University. If you have any questions at all or need any more information, I'll be glad to respond and help the committee.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyle Frazier", written in a cursive style.

Kyle Frazier '83
ARA Past President

GUILLERMO TREVINO

**220 Guadalupe
Laredo, Texas 78040**

October 1, 2012

Gloria Meckel Tarpley '81
ARA Past President and Committee Chair
Association of Rice Alumni – MS 520
PO Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892

Dear Gloria and Committee Members,

It is an honor and a privilege to write a note acknowledging Tammy Taura's hard work in support of Rice University and I heartily thank Kyle Frazier for nominating her for the Alumni Association's Meritorious Service Award.

Tammy has always gone out of her way to keep a broad range of Alumni aware of and involved with the University. She has also been a wonderful source of information for those seeking admission and their families. This is true not only for the Washington DC/Northern Virginia area where she has been most active, but friends and acquaintances from all over the US and the world have benefited from her tireless networking. She has never failed to respond to a request for help as is readily apparent from her long list of committee assignments and leadership positions with the Alumni Association and the University. The ever present smile, lack of drama, can do spirit, high personal integrity, and charming personality make her the perfect ambassador for our association and the University. I am happy to say that I feel better about my Rice degree, because so many people from all walks of life blend Tammy's warm spirit with the rigorous academic standards of the University to complete the image of a great place to live and learn. I hold her and her husband Ken in the highest regard and their friendship is one of the unintended fortuitous outcomes I value most from my Rice degree.

All the Best,

Guillermo (Memo) Trevino

**The Liver Institute at
Methodist Dallas Medical Center**

1411 N. Beckley Avenue
Pavilion III, #268
Dallas, TX 75203

October 17, 2012

Gloria Meckel Tarpley '81
ARA Past President and Committee Chair
Association of Rice Alumni – MS 520
PO Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892

Dear Gloria:

I am writing to support Kyle Frazier's nomination of Tamara Taura, Class of '84, for the Alumni Association's Meritorious Service Award. My friendship with Tammy began in 1981 as she completed her freshman year at Rice. Over the past 30 years, my relationship with her and her husband Ken, Sid Rich '83, has deepened. I had the privilege of serving as best man at their wedding! While I can wax on about Tammy from a personal perspective, I write to you today to describe how I view Tammy from a Rice alum perspective.

Tammy has always displayed a clear sense of direction when it comes to all things Rice. Although I'm not a member of the D.C. ARA area group, I have seen first-hand the leadership she displays and the subsequent respect she receives within that group. Several years ago, Renee Fleming gave a private performance in the D.C. area leading up to a Shepherd School celebration. Dean Robert Yekovich kindly allowed me to accompany him and his wife. Tammy attended as well, and I spent much of the evening hearing how Tammy keeps our D.C. alums engaged in Rice. Her admirers there span decades of graduates, but they are unanimous in recognizing that Tammy's creativity, communication skills, charm, and enthusiasm are inspiring and infectious. They specifically cited the send-off parties for incoming freshmen from D.C. and their parents that she helps to organize, which I understand are among the most successful of any area group's.

Tammy's contributions are not geographically limited to D.C., however. She and I served together on the Rice ARA board in the late '90s. She and Ken chaired Homecoming two years ago. She participated in the Centennial celebration, in D.C. and in Houston last week, where I can attest that her dancing skills are as crisp and elegant as they were during her tenure as a Rice Cheerleader!

Admittedly, I find it difficult to be objective about Tammy's candidacy. However, I served on and chaired the Laureates Committee more than a decade ago, and met recipients of this prestigious award. They share a tradition of tireless, lifelong service to Rice University, without consideration for personal gain or recognition. Tammy is such a person. She is unquestionably the embodiment of the ideals of William Marsh Rice. She is my friend, but she is Rice's legacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward A. Dominguez, MD FACP FIDSA

Sid Richardson '82

ANN PETERSON
16005 Singapore Ln.
Houston, TX 77040

Ms. Gloria Tarpley
Chair, ARA Laureates Committee
Association of Rice Alumni, MS-520
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892

October 14, 2012

Dear Gloria and the ARA Laureates Committee,

On the Saturday morning of the Centennial, some 20 or more D.C.-area alumni volunteers convened at 9:30 a.m. at Willy's statue for a photo-op. They had to have a picture, after all, to commemorate *as a group* that they had gathered for the Centennial. What other group of regional alumni volunteers would care? I'm not aware of any others who bothered to take a group photo. Our D.C. alumni volunteers are young and older, seasoned alumni volunteers and new alumni, they are ethnically diverse, and represent a variety of majors and professions. And they were all there thanks in no small part to the infectious enthusiasm, warm spirit, and savvy organizational skills of Tammy Taura '84, who has been the lead coordinator of the D.C. Rice alumni group since at least the mid 1990s.

I had the pleasure of working with Tammy in my capacity as an alumni staff member for 13 years in regional groups, and four years as executive director of the Association of Rice Alumni. In my experience, Tammy easily represents the elite of volunteers: that stand-out group we as staff always wish we had more of.

Several factors come to mind that distinguish Tammy among volunteers. The first is the length, depth, and quality of her service to Rice. For at least 17 years, and likely approaching 20 years or more, Tammy has served Rice—always thoughtfully, strategically, ever organized, and with joy, humor, kindness, and a love for Rice that permeates everything she does. She has spearheaded new events in D.C., such as the Small Group Dinners we organized for two years back in the late '90s. This idea was borrowed from our Dallas group, and in D.C. the dinners were organized one year by neighborhood and the next year by decade. They were successful, but a *lot* of work, and we put that event idea on the "occasional" list. On the "annual" list of events Tammy is involved with, and perhaps her favorite event, is the D.C. Student Send-Off. This event has been hosted since 1997 by Rob Quartel '72 and his wife, Michela English, with Tammy coordinating the swirl of volunteers it takes to make the event successful: purchasing supplies and décor, set-up, bringing sides and desserts (certain of which have become eagerly anticipated over the years), greeting guests as they arrive and making sure everyone is mingling well and feeling welcome, clean-up, and keeping everything on schedule. It is by several measures one of the most successful regional send-offs: one of the longest-running, among the best attended, and a favorite of students and parents alike.

A second factor that distinguishes Tammy among volunteers is her growth as a volunteer and the expanding roles she has taken on as volunteer. It is perhaps Tammy's growth as a volunteer—and in

particular, the realization that as the D.C. group's lead coordinator she doesn't have to personally take on every event if another volunteer fails to follow through—that has provided for her longevity as a volunteer. I think this was a bit of a revelation to both of us when Tammy decided this when I was a young assistant director. "I don't have to take on everything myself." *Strategic*. As a result, she has yet to burn out as a volunteer, and Rice has benefitted from her services for almost two decades. With regard to expanding roles, Tammy has, in addition to serving as the ARA's lead coordinator in D.C., served a term on the ARA board (1996 – 1999), been a RAVA volunteer, served as a D.C. Centennial Campaign Volunteer (2008 – present), on her Reunion Committee (1999 – 2000), and, along with her husband Ken Taura '83, served as chair of Homecoming & Reunion (2010) and on the steering committee of past Homecoming and Reunion Chairs for Homecoming & Reunion 2012.

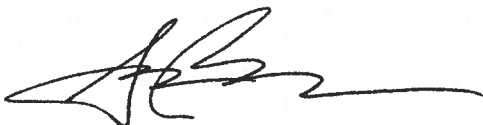
Perhaps the most important factor that distinguishes Tammy among volunteers is the pivotal role she plays in our D.C. group. As the lead coordinator of the group, she does far more than host the group's annual planning meeting and organize the volunteer effort behind the send-off. She is the social and organizational nexus of the group. I cannot overstate the importance of this role.

I'm not certain that it was Tammy who organized the D.C. group photo at Willy's statue; I couldn't tell from the post on the D.C. Facebook page, and Tammy wouldn't have made a point of saying who organized it. But she is the one who told me about it, and who insisted that I come (I live in Houston). "They all know you!" she exclaimed. "You're a part of the group." She's the one who knew who was expected to be there, and who fretted when they were late. "Where is Sheffy? What about Catriona and Jeff?" We took three different shots to accommodate everyone's comings and goings, and even got former Vice President for Resource Development Eric Johnson and his wife, Kathleen Minadeo Johnson, in on the action. (They live in the D.C. area now, he is an honorary member of the ARA, they occasionally attend Rice events, and they happened by the statue when we were there.) But it was Tammy who took charge, Tammy who made sure everyone felt welcome, and Tammy who made sure everything was just right.

The ARA for many years had a four-point mission statement, one of the tenets of which was "Creating Community." Through her efforts as a volunteer—the events she has helped plan and steward—Tammy helps to ensure that we have a vital and ongoing Rice community in the D.C. area. But it is the sense of community she has built within our D.C. leadership group—that sense of belonging that brings alums young and old to rally around Willy's statue with joy and laughter on the Saturday morning of Rice's Centennial weekend—that really makes Tammy special.

Tammy Taura is, and for almost 20 years has been, the lifeblood of our D.C. regional alumni group. For this, I respectfully submit to the Laureates Committee that she richly deserves recognition for the service she has so faithfully rendered to our community.

Very truly yours,



Ann Peterson '86