

**ASSOCIATION OF RICE ALUMNI
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee: **Harold Charles Solomon** Phone: 954-390-6369 Fax: N/A
Address: 2733 N.E. 17th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33305

Rice Class Year(s): 1974

Degrees/Majors/Years/Institutions: Political Science (non-degree)

Occupation/Professional Field: Professional Tennis Player, coach

Current Title/Position: Owner, The Harold Solomon Tennis Institute

The Distinguished Alumni Award is designed to recognize Rice alumni who have advanced the interest and standards of excellence of Rice University through distinctive professional or volunteer careers. The following criteria will be considered:

- a) advancement of the value of one's profession; exceptional expertise and dedication
- b) significant professional innovations or research findings
- c) significant voluntary contributions of energy, time, creativity, and skills for the advancement of the community welfare, the arts, education, social or government service

Please attach a curriculum vita or other biographical information for the above nominee, describing his or her professional achievements, honors and awards, publications/inventions/innovations, and professional/civic activities, boards or affiliations. In addition to the curriculum vita, please provide a short letter of recommendation describing the merits of the nominee.

Consider the following question in support of the above criteria:

What qualities or achievements make this person a truly outstanding leader in his or her profession, and a role model for current Rice students?

Please note that incomplete nomination forms cannot be considered.

Nominated by: Cindy Lindsay Phone: 303.954.8525 Fax: N/A
Address: 1133 Timber Lane, Boulder, CO 80304

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

* (see attached) *

Name _____ Relationship _____
Address _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Relationship _____
Address _____ Phone _____

Please return nomination material to:
Lauren Linn or fax to: 713-348-5210
Assistant Director
Office of Alumni Affairs – MS 520
Rice University
P.O. Box 1892
Houston TX 77251-1892

Harold Charles Solomon

Harold Solomon began playing tennis at the age of five, and as a junior player he was ranked No. 2 in the United States in the 14, 16, and 18 age groups, and won the U.S. Boys 18 Clay Court Championship.

Harold earned All-America honors at Rice University and helped lead Rice to Southwest Conference Championships in 1971 and '72; winning the SWC Singles and Doubles championship in 1971. In 1989, Harold was inducted into the Rice Athletic Hall of Fame; an honor reserved for athletes who possess, in addition to outstanding ability in sports, other qualifications such as sportsmanship, character and integrity, and have brought great distinction to Rice University.

In 1972, Harold left Rice and turned professional. He captured a total of 22 professional singles titles. His professional career won-loss record is 564-315. He ranked among the world's Top 10 singles players four out of five consecutive years: 1976, 1978, 1979 and 1980. Harold was ranked in the world's Top 20 for 7 consecutive years between 1974 and 1980. He and his doubles partner, Eddie Dibbs, reached the No. 4 doubles ranking in the world in 1976, and ranked in the world doubles Top 10 from 1974 to 1976.

In 1980, his best year, he won 64 matches and lost 23. Also that year, Playgirl Magazine named him one of the 10 sexiest men of the year.

Solomon was a member of United States Davis Cup Teams in 1972, 1973, 1974, and 1978, going 9-4 in competition. His '72 and '78 teams won Davis Cup championships.

Solomon was inducted into the USTA Mid Atlantic Section Hall of Fame in 1994 and the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

Solomon was President of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) from 1980 to 1983. After 1983 he served on the ATP Board of Directors.

Solomon began coaching in the early 1990s. He is largely identified with women's pro Mary Joe Fernandez, whom he tutored for five years. He also helped Jennifer Capriati return to top form in the late 1990s. He helped lead her to two titles in 1999 and to the semifinals in the Australian Open. He also aided and refined the careers of Jim Courier, Justin Gimelstob, Monica Seles, Mirjana Lučić, Anna Kournikova, and Daniela Hantuchová. Solomon has also coached players in the finals of Grand Slam Events, and to Gold and Silver medals at the Olympic Games.

In 2006, Harold formed the Harold Solomon Tennis Institute in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Programs at the HSTI focus on top junior players from around the world who aspire to college and professional careers. HSTI develops young, promising tennis players, with special emphasis on sportsmanship and character building. Many of Harold's students are now on the professional tennis circuit.

02 December 2009

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

Robert Taylor
Past President, Association of Rice Alumni
Chair, Laureates Nominating Committee

Lauren & Robert,

Attached is the submission form nominating Harold Charles Solomon for the Distinguished Alumni Award.

I know Harold pretty well...he's my brother-in-law!

The attached 'resume' speaks eloquently about his incredible career in professional tennis, both playing and coaching. I wanted to address some of the more personal contributions of Harold in this letter.

Harold's career at Rice was extraordinary. He played for Rice during one of the heydays of Rice tennis when the overall team played at a very high level, winning Southwest Conference titles for three consecutive years. Harold was a young member of this team, but he stepped in, provided leadership and became very much a team player for the Owls.

Harold left Rice prior to graduating to turn pro. His win-loss record speaks for itself, but one other important factor is that Harold was not the typical tall player with an incredible reach. He was known as "the Human Backboard". He was notorious for frustrating his opponents with his lobs and relentless, methodical returns. His persistence in the game and finding the best way to utilize his talents made him a formidable opponent and a role model for younger tennis players.

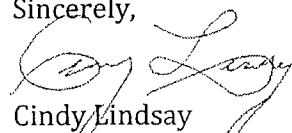
If there was a 'most likable' award on the professional circuit, Harold would have won it. He was never a 'big ego' player like so many of his peers. He was admired and respected and put his focus on the game, not the celebrity of being a world-class tennis player.

Harold has taken his determination into his post-professional life. He coached younger players to develop their game and created the Harold Solomon Tennis Institute to support young players. The institute provides unparalleled personal attention to students who aspire to college or professional careers. The Institute's mission is to develop well-rounded students by providing them with the information and training required to become successful both on and off the court.

Apart from his tennis work, Harold and his wife, Jan Lindsay Solomon (Rice '74), have been active in organizations addressing the problem of world hunger. Harold served as Chairman of the Board of End World Hunger, a not-for-profit organization that taught residents of low-income housing projects in the U.S. how to grow food and become self-sufficient and has been active in The Hunger Project, an international organization focusing on ending hunger in the world.

For all these reasons, I believe Harold should be recognized as a Distinguish Alumni of Rice!

Sincerely,



Cindy Lindsay
Jones '73

*Jan L. Solomon
2733 N.E. 17th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305
954 553-0435*

December 15, 2009

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

Dear Lauren,

This letter is in support of selecting Harold Charles Solomon for the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award.

I have known Harold Charles Solomon for most of my adult life. He and I met as freshmen at Rice University in 1970. We have been inseparable since then, celebrating our 31st wedding anniversary in October. I can honestly say that I have never met anyone in my life as fiercely committed to excellence as Harold. Harold never, ever gives up on himself or anyone in his life, pushing himself both mentally and physically to achieve extraordinary results. His career as a professional tennis player exemplifies his tenacity against all odds. He was told as a young child that he would never be a good tennis player, much less a great one. But, he defied all odds. In 1969 and 1970 he won the Orange Bowl World Junior Championships, followed by winning the US Junior Clay Court Championship title in 1970. He was an All-American while playing for the Rice Owls in 1972. He won the singles and doubles championships in the Southwest Conference in 1971 and 1972 as a Rice Owl before turning pro.

In his outstanding career as a professional athlete he won twenty-two ATP singles titles. He was a two-time semifinalist in the French Open in 1974 and 1980; and, a semifinalist in the US Open in 1977. One of his greatest achievements on the court was battling his way to the finals of the French Open in 1976. Unfortunately, he lost to Adriano Panatta in 4 grueling sets where he lost 13 pounds during the match in intense heat.

He participated in season ending Masters Championships six times – in 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, and 1980. His proudest moments on the court came in 1972 and 1978 where he represented the United States as a member of championship Davis Cup Teams. He was selected to represent the United States in Davis Cup play in 1972, 1973, 1974, and 1978. His professional tennis career culminated as a top ten singles player in the world for four out of five consecutive years – 1976, 1978, 1979, and 1980. And, in 1980 he reached his highest professional ranking on the ATP tour of number five. He will

always be remembered as “the thinking man’s tennis player,” as he was and is a master strategist of the game of tennis.

At the same time Harold was driving for that top five ranking, he had already made a commitment to the betterment of the game. He served as President of the Association of Tennis Professionals from 1980-1983, as well as a member of the Board of Directors from 1979-1983 and again from 1985-1987. He believed that a strong players’ association would strengthen the game itself. He worked for a unified voice that could be carried to tournament directors and sponsors alike, on behalf of all the players from number 500 to number 1. He sought major innovations in the game seeking higher prize money, global expansion of the tour, and better conditions for the players. He also served as a players’ representative for three years on the Men’s International Professional Tennis Council.

Harold served on the Board of Directors of the Women’s Tennis Association 2001-2004 and as Chairman of the Player’s Council of the WTA from 2001-2003. He took up the battle that Billie Jean King had fought for, for decades – equal prize money for women players. Although he did not see that come to fruition until recently, he tirelessly fought for the rights of professional women tennis players in the face of great odds against tournament directors and sponsors while serving on their Board.

He took a short hiatus from tennis working as a Human Resource Director for his father’s Budget-Rent-a-Car franchise empire. But tennis called him back to the courts. He began his brilliant coaching career working with Mary Joe Fernandez in 1991. He has since worked with some of tennis’ great players – Jim Courier, Monica Seles, Jennifer Capriati, Anna Kournikova, Elena Dementieva, and others.

Harold now partners with the all-time winningest NCAA tennis coach, Andy Brandi, at his Harold Solomon Tennis Institute in Fort Lauderdale. One of the great joys of his life is working with young players. He is committed to the success of every student, working with them on their physical as well as mental skills of tennis. He knows well the importance of combining thinking skills with the technical skills of tennis. You can’t have one without the other and expect to be a champion.

While achieving all of his amazing tennis results he tirelessly worked on the issue of hunger both domestically and internationally. He served as Chairman of the Board of End World Hunger, Inc. in Fort Lauderdale for three years during the 1980s, and has been a donor and activist for The Global Hunger Project since 1978, taking every opportunity to use his notoriety as a platform to advocate for the empowerment of hungry people to be the authors of their own destiny and to participate in ending their own hunger. He believes that hungry people are not mere victims or beneficiaries, but the key change agents in ending world hunger.

What words describe Harold Solomon? Dedicated, champion, hard worker, never gives up, a thinker, courage, driven, loves what he does, and practice, practice, practice.

How is he a role model for current Rice students? Two things: 1) He took what most people said was his disadvantage, his size, and made it his advantage. He was agile, fast, consistent, running down every ball, and wearing down his opponents. They knew he would not quit. He is a modern day hero for anyone who has been told he/she can't make the cut. 2) He is a 21st Century Leader – he communicates clearly and accurately what he will do and what he expects of his colleagues, staff and students. He lives by his word. He coaches his students to be critical thinkers on and off the court. He is a great listener, listening for the essence of what others have to say – he listens for the gold and listens to empower. He expects nothing less of himself than what he expects of others.

You could not find a greater role model for current Rice students or a better leader for what the world needs today – the ability to stay the course against all odds, and the embodiment of a new era of leadership for the 21st century.

I wish you success in your selection of the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award, and hope you will give every consideration to my hero, Harold Solomon.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Lindsay Solomon". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jan" being particularly prominent.

Jan Lindsay Solomon '74
Rice University Alumna



Zan Guerry
Chairman
and
Chief Executive Officer

January 11, 2010

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

Dear Lauren,

It is a pleasure to write a recommendation for Harold Solomon as a Rice University Distinguished Alumni. Harold indeed had one of the finest NCAA careers while at Rice.

After graduating from Rice, Harold has continued using his tennis ability and character in a career of dedication and accomplishments. He had an outstanding professional career, being ranked for several years among the top-five players in the world with wins over Vilas, Connors, Tanner and Dibbs.

After his professional playing career, he had several very successful coaching experiences, including Mary Jo Fernandez and Jennifer Capriati.

Still today, Harold is hard at work at his own tennis academy training junior tennis players.

Having known Harold during all these years I heartily recommend him as a Rice University Distinguished Alumni.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Zan Guerry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Zan" being more prominent.

Zan Guerry

CHATTEM, INC.
1715 West 38th Street
Chattanooga, TN 37409
(423) 821-2037
Ext. 201
FAX (423) 821-0395
E-Mail:
vel.keplinger@chattem.com

*Susan Kessler Rachlin
Gary Rachlin
2915 Pittsburg Street
Houston, Texas 77005*

December 16, 2009

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

Dear Laureates Nominating Committee,

We have known Harold Solomon for over thirty-five years and are proud to support his nomination for the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award at Rice University.

Susan and Harold's wife, Jan Lindsay Solomon '74, became friends their freshman year in Jones South and have remained life-long friends. Susan met Harold shortly after Jan began dating him at Rice, somewhere close to the time Susan and Gary began dating. That's a somewhat convoluted way of saying that we have all known each other quite a long time. We have stayed in close touch through the years and have vacationed with them twice in the last four years.

We have long admired Harold's drive and determination. He certainly accomplished a great deal during his career in professional tennis: winning twenty-two professional singles titles, being ranked in the top ten for several years, playing on the U.S. Davis Cup Team, and serving as the President of the Association of Tennis Professionals. His career has been fascinating in so many ways. During the summer of 2008, we vacationed in Vail with Harold, Jan, and two other Rice couples. He entertained us all thoroughly with his descriptions of being held hostage with the Davis Cup team following a coup in Nigeria and having to flee to the U.S. Ambassador's residence until the State Department could secure the release of the team, as well as being asked to play an exhibition match at the White House while George H.W. Bush was president.

Following his professional career as a tennis player, Harold has achieved continued success. He has coached young players, such as Mary Jo Fernandez, Monica Seles, and Jennifer Capriati, to success on the professional circuit. In recent years, he has created the Harold Solomon Tennis Institute in Ft. Lauderdale to support young players. Susan had the pleasure of visiting Jan and Harold this past March and was able to see first-hand his impressive institute and professional staff.


Finally, both Harold and Jan are fine human beings. In addition to tennis, Harold and Jan have been exceedingly active in organizations addressing the problem of world hunger. Most importantly, one of the nicest things we can say about Harold is that we are somewhat at a loss to say more about his accomplishments because he rarely speaks about them. He has never been a braggart; as a result, he has maintained his friendships with his many old Rice friends.

We are excited that our dear friend, Harold Solomon, may win a 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award. We enthusiastically support his nomination.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan Kessler Rachlin".

Susan Kessler Rachlin '74

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gary Rachlin".

Gary Rachlin '72



LISA A. GRATTAN
326 14TH Avenue, N.E.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 826-9351

January 10, 2010

Lauren Linn
Assistant Director
Office of Alumni Affairs, MS- 520
Rice University

Dear Lauren:

I am honored to write this letter in support of Mr. Harold Charles Solomon for the 2010 Rice Distinguished Alumni Award. I have had the distinct pleasure to have been acquainted with Harold in the area of professional women's tennis since the mid 1990s. We have maintained a close friendship over the years and it is without hesitation that I write on his behalf.

I first met Harold in approximately 1992 while I was serving as Tour Supervisor for the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and he was coaching one of the top payers on our tour, Mary Jo Fernandez. As a coach, he was widely regarded as a consummate professional; he was courteous and respectful to his players, and possessed a superb technical proficiency regarding the mechanics of tennis and coaching. Equally important, he possessed a professional bearing in all of his dealings with the other coaches, agents and Tour staff personnel of both the men and women's professional tennis associations.

Harold has maintained a fundamental and life-long commitment to the advancement of the game for all players. In 2001 he was chosen to serve on the Board of directors for the WTA and Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP, the men's tour), simultaneously. This was, in fact a historical first. No other individual had achieved this degree of mutual respect and confidence from both the men's and women's professional tours. He served in this role capably, and I recall his effectiveness in creating cohesion between the two tours. Harold was ultimately elected chairperson of the Players Council and served on the WTA Board of Directors with distinction.

Harold is a man of vision and tremendous leadership. He fought tirelessly for equal prize money for women at the Grand Slams at a time when equal pay for men and women players had never previously been achieved. I can say, without hesitation, that Harold had a formative role in planting the seed for women's pay equity in professional tennis. He also empowered and united women players in a unique way to see that their accomplishments could and should transcend their individual interests, and that they should work together collectively to advance the cause of excellence and equality in women's tennis.

Harold's work was both instrumental and foundational; he certainly is deserving of the Distinguished Alumni Award. I have been honored to know him and consider him both a tireless champion for the advancement of women's tennis and as trusted and loyal friend.

Sincerely,



Lisa A. Grattan

Lauren Linn

From: Nancy Brandi [familybrandi@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2010 9:41 AM
To: Lauren Linn
Cc: cindy.lindsay@alumni.rice.edu
Subject: Nominattion for Harold Solomon for Distinguished Alumni

I am writing on behalf of Harold Solomon, whom I feel deserves the nomination for the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award at Rice University.

It is hard to know where to begin with the success that Harold has experienced through his tennis career. He has experienced success as a player and after his retirement from competitive tennis as a coach.

As a player, he achieved a Grand Slam final, played for the U.S. Davis Cup Team, and reached a top 5 world ranking.

His coaching accolades include being the coach of such stars as Jim Courier, Jennifer Capriati, Ana Kournikova and Mary Joe Fernandez. Most recently, he opened the Harold Solomon Tennis Institute where success has carried over with helping such stars as Elena Dementieva, Vera Ducheveva and many young up and coming players. His involvement has helped his students win National titles, Orange Bowl titles and high rankings in the world of junior tennis.

Harold is a very dedicated and hard working individual who prides himself in being a student of the game and who continues to educate himself by spending hours of studying the modern game of tennis. His thirst for becoming a better coach pushes him day in and day out to put long hours on and off the courts with his students to help them succeed.

Once respected for his tennis playing achievements, he is now well respected as a coach. Recently, he was showcased on the Tennis Channel for his teaching knowledge and philosophies.

To the Rice student, Harold is an inspiration for success. At a height of only 5'5" he was a giant in the competitive world of professional tennis. His dedication to his students and to becoming a better coach, has catapulted him into being one of the top coaches in the world.

It is my great pleasure to endorse Harold and hope that he is recognized as Rice University's Distinguished Alumni.

!DSPAM:833,4b65a4ae53946837013877!

FROM : Andres Brandi

December 20th, 2009

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

Dear Ms. Linn,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write to you in support of Harold Solomon's nomination for the Rice University Distinguished Alumni Award. I have known Harold for 35 years. He is one of my closest friends. I believe our long relationship gives me a unique perspective to sing Harold's praises. After reading the award criteria I could not think of a more deserving individual.

As I am sure you are aware, Harold was one of the top tennis players in the world during the 1970's. He was a standout player in the juniors, at Rice and on the professional tour reaching a high ranking of #5 in the world. He accomplished all this through hard work, determination and a fair amount of talent. Most athletes of his caliber are not 5'6" tall and weighing in at 130lbs. His game and the success he achieved were truly remarkable.

While playing on the tennis tour Harold was also very involved in the business and political development of the game. He served as President of the ATP and eventually was elected as one of the first Tour Board members when the player's union and tournaments merged into the ATP World Tour as it is known today. Harold was one of the founding fathers of today's professional tennis structure.

After Harold retired from playing he became one of the premier coaches and mentors in tennis. His pupils included many well known champions such as Jim Courier, Mary Joe Fernandez and Jennifer Capriati. His success with Jennifer was exceptionally impressive in that she returned to great prominence and won a Grand Slam title after a period of complete collapse. His tennis expertise and mentoring talents are now being utilized at his own Tennis Academy in Florida where he works with up and coming juniors. He continues to inspire and nurture his pupils not only on the court but also off.

Harold's philanthropic accomplishments are also quite impressive. He and his wife Jan have been major contributors and participants in The Hunger Project for the past several decades. The Hunger Project is an organization committed to the sustainable end of world hunger. The organization works in thirteen countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America where it implements programs aimed at mobilizing rural grassroots communities to achieve sustainable progress in health, education, nutrition, and family income. Harold became involved long before it was fashionable for athletes or celebrities to do so. He truly is a man ahead of his time.

One would think that the above mentioned accolades would be enough for justifying Harold's nomination. However those accomplishments are all secondary to the personal integrity and moral responsibility that Harold has always projected. He is a father of two fantastic children, Rachel and Jessie. He is a devoted husband to his wife Jan. He is as true a friend as anyone could ask for. He is an honest and caring individual. These wonderful personal traits are the things that jump out when I think of Harold.

Rice University should be proud to claim Harold as one of their own. He is an exceptional example of what society should hope its citizens strive for in their lives. I cannot speak more enthusiastically in support of Harold receiving this well deserved honor.

Sincerely,

Bruce Manson
Global Head of Business Rates Trading
Bloomberg LP
731 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022
(212) 617-2693

December 27, 2009

Dear Association of Rice Alumni Laureates Committee:

I first saw Harold Solomon on the tennis court hitting with another top junior player in 1970. My first reaction was to think that he may be a good junior player but he would probably not be a good man player because although he was steady he was small and did not hit the ball hard enough.

Boy was I wrong. He decided to come to Rice much to my pleasure and immediately convinced me that he was a player. He had heart and great desire to be a top player and was willing to put in the work that it takes.

Upon entering Rice I expected him to play 3 or 4 on the team but he immediately proved that he would be playing number 1 ahead of two all American players. His work efforts immediately spread among the other team members and he became the leader of the team as a freshman.

Harold went on to have a very successful tennis career. He got to the finals of the French open in 1976 as well as 3 other semifinals in grand slam events. His was ranked as high as number 5 in the world. This was an amazing accomplishment for a player that lacked the natural ability of his peers but made up for it with hard work and determination. When you played Harold you knew you were going to be out there for a long time and there were not going to be any easy points.

In 1980, he became president of the Association of Tennis Professional which showed the respect his fellow players had for him. He was a big influence back when the tennis players were struggling to gain respect with sponsors, tournament directors and the USTA.

Harold and Jan (a Rice graduate) have been very active in the World Hunger Program and have raised a great deal of money for this charity. He was chairman of the board of End World Hunger.

Harold's coaching career has taken him in many directions. He coached Mary Jo Fernandez for 5 years and helped so many other players such as Jennifer Capriati, Jim Courier etc.

Harold and his partner now operate the Harold Solomon tennis academy in Florida and he is still on the court teaching young kids and seasoned professionals. I visited him last year with my grandson and nephew and was very impressed with the organized workouts with all the player and coaches. He is as committed, hard driven and determined as the early days of his own career

There are many ways to judge the success of an individual and in almost every way I believe that Harold has succeeded. He has a very successful and happy marriage, his children have been very successful, and his coaching career is outstanding and much respected among the whole community.

Rice should be proud to have him as an alumni and I feel privileged to have been part of his life.

Samuel Giammalva
Rice Tennis Coach 1959-1973