

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

Nominee William Lance Berkman Phone (713)782-0710 Fax None
Address 5 Farnham Park Drive
City/State/Zip Houston, Texas 77024-7501 Rice Class Year(s) 1998
Degrees/Majors/Years/Institutions Academic (No deg).
Occupation/Professional Field Major League Baseball Player
Current Title/Position First Baseman for the St. Louis Cardinals

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 Bill Arhos Phone (512) 472-9518 Fax None
Address P. O. Box 5082
City/State/Zip Austin, Texas 78763

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 Ken Burns, Documentarian Relationship _____
Address Maple Grove Road, Walpole New Hampshire 03608 Phone (603) 756-3038

Name Wayne Graham Relationship Acquaintance
Address Rice Athletics, MS 548, P. O. Box 1592, Houston, Texas 77251 Phone (713) 348- 6022

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

Association of Rice Alumni

Attention: Rose N. Sundin

Office of Alumni Affairs, MS 250

P. O. Box 1892

Houston, TX 77251-1892

July, 2012

Dear Association of Rice Alumni:

The purpose of this letter is to place in nomination the name of Lance Berkman for a 2013 Rice Distinguished Alumni Award.

Lance's career accomplishments as a baseball player have been extraordinary at every level. Despite his exceptional high school hitting records, no professional teams or major baseball schools took notice of Lance and, Wayne Graham, on a tip from a Texas Ranger scout, signed him to a partial scholarship at Rice.

At Rice, Lance joined future major leaguers Jose Cruz, Jr. and Bubba Crosby for two highly successful seasons including the final Southwest Conference Tournament Championship, making Rice the SWC baseball champs, "forever".

It was Lance's third season that was most extraordinary. He won the WAC "triple crown", hitting for a .431 average, smashed 41 homeruns and batted in 134 runs. He also led the conference in runs and hits. Nationwide, Lance ranked 11th in batting, 2nd in runs scored, 3rd in hits, second in slugging percentage and FIRST in homeruns, total bases, and runs batted in. He was named the National Collegiate Player of the Year, and first team All-American. He also was most instrumental in leading Rice to its first ever appearance in the College World Series in Omaha.

Lance passed up his senior season at Rice and was picked in the first round of the Major League Draft by the Houston Astros. After a little more than a year in the high minors including Triple A New Orleans, Lance became a fulltime Houston Astro, beginning a career which has seen him emerge in a head to head competition with long time Braves star, Chipper Jones, to become the second best switch hitter in the history of Major League Baseball. There was, after all, only ONE Mickey Mantle. There are so many statistical categories in baseball, it has become very difficult to compare Berkman and Jones who have not chosen to excel the most....in the same categories. They are tied for second, at least, in one category. They each had 45 homeruns in a season a National League Record for switch hitters.

Lance had 13 excellent seasons with the Houston Astros including one trip to the World Series in 2005. He has had 100 or more hits in 12 of his 14 seasons. He has batted in 100 or more runs 5 times, led the National League with 128 in 2001 and knocked in 136 in 2006. He led the league in doubles in 2001 with 55, a National League Record and again with 46 in 2008. His 55 doubles 5 triples and 34 homeruns

in 2001 set the current Major League Record number of extra base hits by a switch hitter at 94. He batted .331 the same year. His lifetime Major League Average is almost an even .300.

Lance has been selected to play in 6 All-Star Games. Five times in his career, he has ranked among the top TEN in batting averages. From 2001 through 2006, Lance led all switch hitters in total bases, extra base hits, on base percentage, and slugging percentage.

Lance has hit 359 Major League homeruns to date, placing him at 75th on the all time major league homerun list. Twelve more and he will have passed JOE DIMAGGIO, RALPH KINER, and GIL HODGES.

Towards the end of the 2010 major league season, Lance was traded to the New York Yankees to bolster their quest for another World Series appearance. At season's end, the Yankees decided not to pick up Lance's contract option which made him a free agent. The St. Louis Cardinals quickly signed him to a one year contract which began one of the most remarkable stories in the history of Major League Baseball.

Due to nagging leg injuries which affected his swing, Lance's 2010 year was not up to his usual standards. After signing with the Cardinals, he was able to correct the health problems, lose some weight and reported to spring training in 2011 in excellent physical condition. With Albert Pujols in a terrible hitting slump, Lance carried the Cardinals for the first half of the season and, prior to the All-Star Break, had a .300 batting average, scored 47 runs, had hit 20 homeruns, and 58 runs batted in. He was voted into his 6th All-Star game during this time. At the season midpoint, he already had better numbers than most every day players have in an entire season.

In spite of his heroics, the Cardinals began to fade in August and on August 24 with but 32 games remaining on their schedule they were 10 AND ½ GAMES BEHIND in the wild card race. Miraculously, they won 23 of the last 32 and won the wild card on the last day of the season, one game ahead of the Atlanta Braves, the greatest comeback in MLB history.

I will digress here, since this is beginning to sound like a baseball melodrama instead of a Distinguished Alum Nomination and point out that the Holy Grail of Baseball (once the bags of money are put away) is to play on a team that wins a World Series. In 1995, Lance Berkman's Astros team was swept 4 games to 0 by the Chicago White Sox and Lance's career was winding down and he had no World Series Ring. Sometimes it is just not meant to be. If you are a baseball fan and I asked you which one of the following players has not gotten a World Series ring, what would your answer be: Barry Bonds, Ted Williams, Ty Cobb, Ken Griffey, Jr., Tony Gwynn, or Willie McCovey. If your answer is ALL OF THEM, you are hard core. None of them ever played on a World Series winning team.

Lance Berkman's case for Rice Alumni Distinction and perhaps his Baseball Hall of Fame's most important credential came with one swing of a bat, one of thousands of swings he has made.

For Lance to get a ring, he and his Cardinals had to defeat the Philadelphia Phillies 3 games of 5 for the Division Championship which they did, 3 games to 2. Then they had to beat the Milwaukee Brewers 4 of 7 for the National League Championship, which they did, 4 games to 2.

The World Series would be between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Texas Rangers, best 4 of 7. The Cardinals won the first game, the Rangers the second. The Cardinals won the third game in Arlington as Albert Pujols became the third player in history to hit 3 homeruns in a World Series game.

The Rangers won the next two games in Arlington and the series headed back to St. Louis with the Cardinals trailing, 3 games to 2.

Then came game six which turned out to be perhaps the greatest World Series Game in Major League History. The Cardinals entered the bottom of the 9th trailing by two runs but had two men on base with David Freese batting, down to his last strike. He sliced a long fly to right field which barely eluded the right fielder and it fell for a triple and the tying runs scored.

All of the jubilation was erased when the Rangers got a two-run homerun in the top of the 10th to go ahead by two runs. In the bottom of the tenth the Cardinals had two runners on and one scored on a fielder's choice. With two outs Lance Berkman was the next hitter. He gets behind two strikes in the count. The next pitch was in on his hands but he was able to punch a soft single into centerfield. The tying run scored and for the second straight inning, the Cardinals were able to avoid losing the series with two strikes on the potential last hitter. Many wondered why they didn't walk Lance intentionally. It's an old baseball adage that you never put the winning run on base intentionally. Although David Freese won the game with a walk off homerun in the 11th and he was named the Most Valuable Player of the game, Lance Berkman's contribution was monumental. He hit a two run homerun in the first inning with two outs to tie the game. He got three hits and scored 4 runs and tied the game with his single in the bottom of the tenth.

A much relaxed and relieved pair of Cardinals sat at the press conference desk, David Freese and Lance Berkman. Lance summed it up as only he can. He said, 'Growing up, we all dreamed of hitting a homerun or the game winning hit to win a World Series. All of you kids out there be careful what you wish for. It was not whole lot of fun being at the plate with two strikes and the entire season resting on my shoulders'. Freese nodded in agreement.

With wind knocked out of their sails, the Rangers lost game seven to the Cardinals 6 to 2. In the last 9 World Series game sevens, the home team had prevailed.

Lance Berkman was voted Major League Baseball's "Comeback Player of the Year".

Lance has had a long and distinguished career and earned his "ring" over the long haul and at the moment of truth. (One player who was traded at midseason got a ringjust because he had been on the team). I know that choosing a Distinguished Alumnus among a number of nominees is difficult because you have to compare disparate disciplines and determine the extent of distinction among them. Lance Berkman's ability over time, to hit a small round ball traveling in excess of 90 mph with a round bat, has been phenomenal and he is one of the greatest hitters the game has ever known.

The last chapter in his baseball story would be induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Clearly, he has a very good chance.

LANCE BERKMAN'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As an Astro, Lance Berkman for many years was involved with "Berkman's Bunch". This program was designed to give children from the Houston area a chance to attend an Astros game and experience baseball in a personal way. Many of the Berkman's Bunch kids were less fortunate children who otherwise may not have had an opportunity to attend an Astros game and were chosen from a variety of organizations by The Methodist Hospital System and Berkman. From 2000-2008, approximately 4,000 children participated in Berkman's Bunch.

One particularly poignant example to illustrate Berkman's generosity and sensitivity occurred during batting practice before a game. Berkman took extra time to meet with Andrew Horn, a young man dying from brain cancer. Horn's final wish was to meet Berkman and, in the words of his family, "Andrew was having a rough night, but he was aware of what was going on and was really excited when Lance came up and spent time with him. " Horn passed away a few days later.

Other instances of his generosity and giving spirit over the years include: financially supporting with a \$100,000 donation, the Yellowstone Academy, a private, Christ-centered school serving exclusively children from low-income families; making personal appearances to visit patients and employees of local hospitals; and supporting the Sunshine Kids—a support group for children with cancer and their families—by visiting and signing autographs on their ballpark visits.

Berkman also regularly participated in the Astros winter caravans, where he and his teammates visited schools, hospitals and malls, signing autographs, taking photos and interacting with Astros fans. Berkman serves as the spokesperson for The Methodist Hospital Stroke Research program and he also hosts a holiday party for families at the Fort Bend County Women's Center, where he reads stories to children and hands out gifts.

Lance Berkman and his wife Cara are listed at 7th on the list of the 30 most charitable celebrities with gifts totaling \$2, 412,245.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT SUMMARY

***Winner of the 2011 World Series with St. Louis**

Six Time All-Star....2001, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011

***Named the National League Comeback Player of the Year in 2011**

***21st among active players in batting average (.296)**

***3rd among active players (36th all-time) in on base percentage (.409)**

***9th among active players (32nd all-time) in slugging percentage (.545)**

***4th among active players (19th all-time) in OPS (.954)**

***Led National League in Doubles (55) in 2001**

***Led National League in Runs Batted in (128) in 2002**

***Lance Berkman holds the National League Record for most single season RBI's (136) as a switch hitter**

***Lance Berkman holds the National League Record for most single season Home Runs (45) as a switch hitter (Tied with Chipper Jones)**

(A Complete list of Lance Berkman's statistics, Career, By Year, and Individual Categories by year)

(Also included is a support letter from Award Winning Documentarian Ken Burns of Florentine Films who produced "Baseball: An American Epic", a 9-part series, for PBS. He also produced "The Civil War", which also premiered on PBS.)

In summary, Lance Berkman is one of the most popular players in the game, both with the fans and the players. His upbeat demeanor and infectious sense of humor have made him a clubhouse favorite and he has always been a leader there.

I have personally seen nearly ALL of his televised at bats as a Major Leaguer and he has played great skill and enthusiasm wherever he is on the field always giving 100 percent and playing the game cleanly. I have NEVER seen him get involved in a play that might injure an opposing player. Not once has he crashed into a catcher in a close play at home plate but rather than possibly hurt someone who is vulnerable, he chooses to make a creative slide to avoid a tag. He has great ability to do that at every base and it is evident that the umpires recognize this particular talent. Generally, if a ball beats a runner to a bag, it is an automatic out, but not when Lance goes in, especially head first. The umpires pay close attention to his hands and he has eluded many a tag on a throw that beat him to the base. He will, in order to help his team, attempt to break up a double play at second base, but never with a vicious slide that could destroy a knee of an opposing second baseman or shortstop. He has had some personal experience with bad knees.

I think Lance is a most deserving choice for a Distinguished Rice Alum Award (as well as a Distinguished Human Being Award).

So far, his mandatory drug test results have revealed nothing but bubble gum and sunflower seeds.

Sincerely,



Bill Arhos

(Additional Support Letters to Arrive Separately)

Lance Berkman 12 | 1B

Status: 15-day DL

Full Name: William Lance
Berkman Born: 2/10/1976 in Waco, TX
Bats/Throws: S/L HT: 6'1" WT: 220 Bio >
Debut: 7/16/1999 College: Rice

Last 10 Upcoming Quick Splits

DATE	OPP	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	AVG
04/09/2012	@CIN	3	2	1	0	0	2	2	0	.308
04/10/2012	@CIN	3	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	.375
04/17/2012	CIN	5	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	.333
04/18/2012	CIN	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	.348
05/13/2012	ATL	5	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	.321
05/14/2012	CHC	4	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	.344
05/19/2012	@SF	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	.308
05/17/2012	@SF	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	.325
05/18/2012	@LAD	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	.341
05/19/2012	@LAD	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.333
TOTALS		32	6	11	1	3	2	9	1	.344



Berkman on injury



Berkman's game-tying blast

More Video >

More Video >

LANCE BERKMAN STATS SUMMARY

Get Lance Berkman gear at the St. Louis Cardinals shop >

SEASON	G	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	IBB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	GO/AO
MLB Totals	1787	6198	1115	1836	3381	410	29	359	1197	1155	156	1239	85	48	.296	.409	.548	.955	1.02
Minors Totals	295	1034	193	319	589	75	2	57	217	208	19	212	19	10	.309	.426	.550	.977	0.38

LANCE BERKMAN CAREER STATS

Game Logs

Splits

Batter vs. Pitcher

ALL

MLB

Minors

Regular Season

Batting

Fielding

BATTING Regular Season Career Stats

YEAR▲	TEAM	LG	LEVEL	G	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	IBB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	GO/AO
1997	KIS	FSL	A (Adv)	53	184	31	54	100	10	0	12	35	37	4	38	2	1	.293	.417	.543	.961	-
1998			Minors	139	484	96	146	274	38	0	30	102	97	11	98	6	4	.302	.422	.568	.988	-
1999	NEW	PCL	AAA	84	226	42	73	117	20	0	8	49	39	1	47	7	1	.323	.419	.518	.937	-
1999	HOU	NL	MLB	34	93	10	22	36	2	0	4	15	12	0	21	5	1	.237	.321	.387	.708	1.04
2000	HOU	NL	MLB	114	353	76	105	198	28	1	21	67	58	1	73	8	2	.297	.388	.561	.949	1.07
2000	NEW	PCL	AAA	31	112	18	37	83	4	2	6	27	31	2	20	4	4	.330	.479	.563	1.042	-
2001	HOU	NL	MLB	158	577	110	191	358	55	5	34	128	92	5	121	7	9	.331	.430	.620	1.051	0.98
2002	HOU	NL	MLB	158	578	106	189	334	35	2	42	128	107	20	118	8	4	.292	.405	.578	.982	0.85
2003	HOU	NL	MLB	153	538	110	155	277	35	8	25	93	107	13	108	5	3	.288	.412	.515	.927	0.89
2004	HOU	NL	MLB	180	544	104	172	308	40	3	30	108	127	14	101	9	7	.318	.450	.568	1.018	0.85
2005	HOU	NL	MLB	132	468	78	137	245	34	1	24	82	91	12	72	4	1	.293	.411	.524	.934	1.25
2005	RR	PCL	AAA	4	14	2	4	5	1	0	0	1	3	1	4	0	0	.286	.412	.357	.769	0.50
2006	HOU	NL	MLB	152	536	85	189	333	29	0	45	138	98	22	106	3	2	.315	.420	.621	1.041	0.88
2007	HOU	NL	MLB	153	581	95	158	288	24	2	34	102	94	11	125	7	3	.278	.388	.510	.896	1.13
2008	HOU	NL	MLB	159	554	114	173	314	46	4	29	106	99	18	108	18	4	.312	.420	.567	.986	1.10
2009	HOU	NL	MLB	136	480	73	128	234	31	1	25	80	97	14	98	7	4	.274	.399	.509	.907	1.16
2010			Minors	4	14	4	5	10	2	0	1	3	1	0	5	0	0	.357	.375	.714	1.089	0.25
2010			MLB	122	404	48	100	167	23	1	14	58	77	7	85	3	2	.248	.368	.413	.781	1.44
2011	STL	NL	MLB	145	488	90	147	267	23	2	31	94	92	17	93	2	6	.301	.412	.547	.959	0.80
2012	STL	NL	MLB	13	42	8	14	24	5	1	1	4	6	2	10	1	0	.333	.429	.571	1.000	2.00
MLB Totals			MLB	1787	6198	1115	1836	3381	410	29	359	1197	1155	156	1239	85	48	.296	.409	.548	.955	1.02
Minors Totals			Minors	295	1034	193	319	589	75	2	57	217	208	19	212	19	10	.309	.426	.550	.977	0.38

NEWS STORIES

Cardinals Notebook: June 29, 2012
Inbox: What's on Trade Deadline agenda?
Furcal, Beltran eye All-Star start; Yadi needs help
Cardinals Notebook: June 22, 2012
Six Cardinals make push for All-Star start
Cardinals Notes: June 14, 2012
Furcal, Molina in tight All-Star voting races

PHOTOS



View Photos >



View Photos >

MLB.com photo store Click here to purchase

FANTASY NEWS

Rehabbing in Houston, Berkman greets Cards
Cardinals first baseman Lance Berkman visited
with his teammates in Houston as he continued
his rehab from right knee surgery on Tuesday.

Search by Roster

Team: St. Louis Cardinals

Season: Current

St. Louis Cardinals
ROSTER

Matt Adams	1B
Bryan Anderson	C
Carlos Beltran	RF
Lance Berkman	1B
Mitchell Boggs	P
Barret Browning	P
Chris Carpenter	P
Matt Carpenter	1B
Adron Chambers	CF
Maikel Cleto	P
Zack Cox	3B
Allen Craig	RF
Tony Cruz	C
Daniel Descalso	2B
Brandon Dickson	P
Chuckie Fick	P
Sam Freeman	P
David Freese	3B
Rafael Furcal	SS
Jaime Garcia	P
John Gaub	P
Tyler Greene	2B
Mark Hamilton	1B
Steven Hill	C
Matt Holliday	LF
Jon Jay	CF
Joe Kelly	P
Pete Kozma	2B
Kyle Lohse	P
Lance Lynn	P
Victor Marte	P
Kyle McClellan	P
Yadier Molina	C
Jason Motte	P
Adam Reifer	P
Shane Robinson	CF
Marc Rzepczynski	P
Fernando Salas	P
Eduardo Sanchez	P
Skip Schumaker	2B
Adam Wainwright	P
Jake Westbrook	P

Player Search

SHOP THE

MLB.com
PHOTO STORE

Your source for
official Cardinals
2012 MLB photos!

SHOP NOW >

Awards and Honors

MLB PLAYERS CHOICE NL COMEBACK
PLAYER
2011: St. Louis (NL)

ALL-STAR

2001: Houston (NL)
2002: Houston (NL)
2004: Houston (NL)
2008: Houston (NL)
2008: Houston (NL)
2011: St. Louis (NL)

HOME RUN DERBY PARTICIPANT

WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP
2011: St. Louis (NL)

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

6/24/2001: Houston (NL)
5/5/2002: Houston (NL)
4/18/2011: St. Louis (NL)
5/2/2011: St. Louis (NL)

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

COMEBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR
2011: St. Louis (NL)

ASTROS MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

2001: Houston (NL)
2002: Houston (NL)
2004: Houston (NL)
2008: Houston (NL)
2008: Houston (NL)

TEX POST-SEASON ALL-STAR

2002: Houston (NL)
2004: Houston (NL)
2006: Houston (NL)
2008: Houston (NL)

5/2004: Houston (NL)
5/2008: Houston (NL)

1998:

Seasons in Top 25 of Major Categories

AVG

2001	.331	(4th in NL)
2002	.292	(18th in NL)
2004	.316	(10th in NL)
2005	.293	(18th in NL)
2006	.315	(7th in NL)
2008	.312	(5th in NL)
2011	.301	(11th in NL)

HOME RUNS

2001	34	(18th in NL)
2002	42	(3rd in NL)
2003	25	(25th in NL)
2004	30	(20th in NL)
2005	24	(25th in NL)
2006	45	(4th in NL)
2007	34	(5th in NL)
2008	29	(15th in NL)
2009	25	(19th in NL)
2011	31	(9th in NL)

RUNS BATTED IN

2001	126	(7th in NL)
* 2002	128	(1st in NL)
2003	93	(20th in NL)
2004	108	(10th in NL)
2006	136	(3rd in NL)
2007	102	(14th in NL)
2008	106	(9th in NL)
2011	94	(11th in NL)

OBP

2001	.430	(5th in NL)
2002	.405	(9th in NL)
2003	.412	(7th in NL)
2004	.450	(3rd in NL)
2005	.411	(5th in NL)
2006	.420	(5th in NL)
2007	.386	(14th in NL)
2008	.420	(3rd in NL)
2009	.399	(8th in NL)
2011	.412	(3rd in NL)

SLG

2001	.620	(8th in NL)
2002	.578	(8th in NL)
2003	.515	(18th in NL)
2004	.568	(11th in NL)
2005	.524	(15th in NL)
2006	.621	(3rd in NL)
2007	.510	(20th in NL)
2008	.567	(4th in NL)
2009	.509	(17th in NL)
2011	.547	(5th in NL)

OPS

2001	1.051	(8th in NL)
2002	.982	(7th in NL)
2003	.927	(10th in NL)
2004	1.016	(6th in NL)
2005	.934	(8th in NL)
2006	1.041	(3rd in NL)
2007	.896	(17th in NL)
2008	.986	(3rd in NL)
2009	.907	(12th in NL)
2011	.959	(4th in NL)

RUNS

2001	110	(14th in NL)
2002	106	(9th in NL)
2003	110	(7th in NL)
2004	104	(12th in NL)
2006	95	(22nd in NL)
2007	95	(20th in NL)
2008	114	(4th in NL)
2011	90	(14th in NL)

STOLEN BASES

2008	18	(23rd in NL)
------	----	--------------

WALKS

2001	92	(10th in NL)
2002	107	(4th in NL)
2003	107	(5th in NL)
2004	127	(2nd in NL)
2005	91	(8th in NL)
2006	98	(8th in NL)
2007	94	(7th in NL)
2008	99	(4th in NL)
2009	97	(7th in NL)
2011	92	(4th in NL)

HITS

2001	191	(8th in NL)
2002	169	(12th in NL)
2004	172	(20th in NL)
2006	169	(21st in NL)
2008	173	(16th in NL)

DOUBLES

* 2001	55	(1st in NL)
2002	35	(21st in NL)
2003	35	(21st in NL)
2004	40	(12th in NL)
* 2008	46	(1st in NL)

TRIPLES

2001	5	(15th in NL)
2003	6	(9th in NL)



[Official Info](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Help/Contact Us](#) [Accessibility](#) [Job Opportunities](#) [Advertising Opportunities](#)



© 2001-2012 MLB Advanced Media, L.P. All rights reserved.

The following are trademarks or service marks of Major League Baseball entities and may be used only with permission of Major League Baseball Properties, Inc. or the relevant Major League Baseball entity: Major League, Major League Baseball, MLB, the silhouetted batter logo, World Series, National League, American League, Division Series, League Championship Series, All-Star Game, and the names, nicknames, logos, uniform designs, color combinations, and slogans designating the Major League Baseball clubs and entities, and their respective mascots, events and exhibitions.

Use of the Website signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy \(updated 06.19.2012\)](#).

KEN BURNS
Maple Grove Road
Walpole, New Hampshire
03608

May 29, 2012

Association of Rice Alumni
Office of Alumni Affairs MS 520
PO Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to nominate the extraordinary baseball player, and Rice graduate, Lance Berkman, for a Distinguished Rice Alumni Award for 2012. I cannot think of someone in the world of sports, who had his "basic training" at Rice, who is more deserving.

Berkman, as I am sure you already know, is one of the greatest switch-hitters in the history of the game. If his career had lasted only a few more seasons, he would be knocking at the door of Mickey Mantle, one the true Immortals in baseball history.

Berkman still holds the record for most extra base hits (94) by a switch hitter in a season. And he has led his league in doubles twice, and in runs batted in—the true barometer of power and consistency—once. And he joins Mantle as the only switch-hitters to have 40 or more home runs in a season—twice.

For all of this, and more that illustrates his greatest on and off the field, I hope you will honor me by considering my request that you honor Lance Berkman.

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. My office number is: 603-756-3038.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Burns", written in a cursive style.

TRR

DEAR CANNIE,

I UNDERSTAND THAT LANCE BERKMAN HAS BEEN
SUGGESTED TO BE HONORED AS A RICE UNIVERSITY
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI - WHAT A GREAT IDEA -
AN ALUM THAT IS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS FEATS ON THE
FIELD AS WELL AS FOR HIS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT -

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD MY SUPPORT FOR LANCE.

Sincerely,

T.R. Beckley '54

AUG 3, 2012

DEAR MS. BROWN,

I WOULD LIKE TO HEARTILY RECOMMEND LANCE BERKMAN
FOR THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD. HE HAS HAD
A GREAT CAREER AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF HIS
PROFESSION. FURTHER, HE IS A MODEL CITIZEN
AND A GREAT CONTRIBUTOR TO HIS COMMUNITY.

SINCERELY

Wayne Seaborn

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

Nominee William Lance Berkman Phone 713-782-010 Fax _____
Address 5 Farnham Park Drive
City/State/Zip Houston, Texas 77024 Rice Class Year(s) 1998
Degrees/Majors/Years/Institutions B.A. Sports Management (incomplete)
Occupation/Professional Field Major League Baseball Player - Philanthropist
Current Title/Position Player, St. Louis Cardinals

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 Art Gottschalk Phone 713-348-2567 Fax 713-348-5317
Address Rice University, MS-532, 6100 Main Street
City/State/Zip Houston, Texas 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 William Arhos Relationship friend
Address 2200 Schlle, Austin, Texas Phone _____
Name George F. Will Relationship acquaintance
Address georgewill@washpost.com Phone _____

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



The Shepherd School of Music
Office of the Dean

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

Dear Ms. Linn,

I am Art Gottschalk, a professor here at Rice University. And I would like to endorse the nomination of Mr. William Lance Berkman as a Distinguished Rice Alumnus. You are probably aware that Lance Berkman attended Rice for three years, from 1995 to 1997, before entering Major League baseball. During his time at Rice, he was named the National College Player of the Year in 1997, and a Baseball America first-team All-American, which landed him an invitation to the White House with Bill Clinton. You are likely aware, also, of his future Hall of Fame status as a player; he has a list of career achievements that goes almost unrivalled in baseball, and his career is not yet over. But you may be less aware of his philanthropic activity, as he quietly, and often anonymously, gives away millions of dollars to charitable causes, and ranks number seven overall in Parade Magazine's *Giving Back* listing of philanthropy by celebrities. Much of his money supports "forgotten children" in Africa, Vietnam, and the Philippines. He is also beloved by his team-mates, coaches, and fans, as a man of intelligence, kindness, and remarkable wittiness. He is one of the last true role models for our children to be found in professional athletics in America today.

Others will wax more eloquently on Mr. Berkman's deservedness and character. People more informed than I can discourse for hours upon Mr. Berkman's impact upon the sport of Major League baseball. But I am proud, as a faculty member, of the kind of athletes that Rice consistently creates, because they embody the seemingly lost tradition of the scholar-citizen-athlete that colleges are supposed to support, and generally, these days, do not. And William Lance Berkman is *exactly* that which Rice wishes to project, nationally, as our image.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. I am attaching a communication that I just received from political columnist and recognized baseball expert George F. Will, endorsing Mr. Berkman's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Art Gottschalk', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Arthur Gottschalk
Professor, Rice University
Ext. 2567 gottsch@rice.edu

Rose N. Sundin

Subject: FW: Lance Berkman

From: "Sarah M. Walton" <sarahm@atlantech.net>

Date: July 17, 2012 8:10:50 AM CDT

To: <gottsch@rice.edu>

Subject: RE: Lance Berkman

July 17, 2012

Dear Prof. Gottschalk:

I am not sure what momentum I can impart to the altogether splendid idea of honoring Lance Berkman as a Distinguished Rice Alumnus. But based on an evening spent with him--at dinner at the White House--and on the fact that he is so widely admired within Major League Baseball, I am confident that he would be a worthy recipient of this honor.

Lance is, as I am sure the Rice community knows, not only intelligent but personally engaging, in part because he has something that is, I think, an indicator of intelligence--a lively, captivating wit. Combined with his philanthropic work, all this makes him an example of the greatness of your institution, which once moved me to say, in a column, that "Harvard is the Rice of the Northeast."

Sincerely,

George F. Will

(sent by Sarah Walton, Secretary/Scheduler – Office of George F. Will)

Dr. Arthur Gottschalk
Professor, Music Composition
The Shepherd School of Music
Rice University MS-532
6100 Main Street
Houston, TX 77005-1892
(713) 348-2567



St. Louis Cardinals, LLC

700 Clark Street • St. Louis, MO • 63102-1727

June 27, 2012

Association of Rice Alumni
Office of Alumni Affairs, MS 520
PO Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892

Dear Rice Alumni Association,

This letter is in support of Lance Berkman's nomination to become a Distinguished Alumnus of Rice University.

Lance was a vital part of our 2011 World Championship team, and not only for his talent on the field.

His reputation throughout the league as a leader, both on and off the field, was a central reason in our pursuit of Lance and in bringing him to our organization. We were seeking a clubhouse leader to be a vital part of the chemistry that brings all personalities together on a team. What we got with Lance was not only a veteran on the field whose talent speaks for itself, but a leader whose presence in the clubhouse is one that instructs young players, encourages teammates, lightens the mood and can bring humor to tense times.

His personality, leadership, character as a man, father, man of faith and tremendous talent is why, after just one season with St. Louis, he was voted – by his teammates – as the recipient of the Darryl Kile Award in 2011. [This award is given annually by vote of teammates, to the Cardinals player who most exhibits the qualities that Darryl brought to the clubhouse: good teammate, great friend, fine father and humble man.]

I thank you for considering this nomination for Lance Berkman as a Distinguished Alumnus of Rice University.

Sincerely,

John Mozeliak
Sr. Vice President & General Manager

CC: Bill Arhos

JM/MY

From: gwalker [mailto:gwalker@rice.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2012 12:31 PM
To: Carrie C Brown
Subject: Lance Berkman Award Recommendation

Ms. Carrie Brown
Association of Rice Alumni
Office of Alumni Affairs, MS 250
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892

Re: Nomination of Lance Berkman for 2013 Rice Distinguished Alumni Award.

Why should Lance Berkman be considered for this award? One word: WINNER! Lance is a winner as an athlete, community leader and ambassador for Rice University. His integrity is without reproach, and he thrives as a role model for both adults and children. It is my strong belief that Lance Berkman is the ideal candidate to receive this year's Distinguished Alumni Award.

While at Rice, Lance was named All- American, Player of the Year, and led Rice to its first of seven College World Series appearances. He is a member of The Rice Athletic Hall of Fame. Moving to the professional level, his accomplishments only get better! To name a few: he was a key member of the 2011 World Series Championship Team, was named to the All Star Team six times and was named The Comeback Player of the Year in 2011. He has earned many more baseball awards, but these three alone should put him in an elite position for the Rice University Distinguished Alumni Award.

Lance is always generous in sharing of his time and resources. He is very visible at hospitals, malls, schools and churches speaking, signing autographs, and interacting with the fans. Lance supports many non profits organizations such as Spring Spirit Baseball, a program for at risk children to learn baseball skills, Yellowstone Academy, an academic school for under privileged students, Berkman's Bunch, an organization which provides baseball tickets to low income children, and the Sunshine Kids, another organization to support under privileged children in learning baseball skills. Lance is also involved in many other community activities. His giving is ranked 7th on the list of the 30 most charitable celebrities with gifts of \$2, 412, 245.

Lance has always been a very positive ambassador for Rice University. Lance never misses the opportunity to express how Rice and Coach Graham have inspired and contributed to his success. He has also given back to Rice Baseball financially with a \$100,000 gift for the upgrade of the baseball field at Reckling Park.

In summary, my primary reason for recommending Lance Berkman is for his integrity and the positive role model he represents to children as well as adults. In this day and time "true role models" are scarce! Lance is an humble, well grounded and down to earth individual. What you see is what you get everytime. Lance Berkman is the real deal!

Gene Walker '66
Past President, Board Member
The "R" Association

LAW OFFICES
**ABRAHAM, WATKINS, NICHOLS,
SORRELS, AGOSTO & FRIEND**

NICK C. NICHOLS, P.C.
RANDALL O SORRELS, P.C. *†
BENNY AGOSTO JR., P.C. *
DANIEL D. HOROWITZ, III, P.C. *
MUHAMMAD S. AZIZ, P.C. *

CLYDE J. "JAY" JACKSON, III *
CHELSIE KING GARZA
BRANT J. STOGNER *
SAMMY FORD IV

FRANK J. BATTAGLIA, M.D., J.D.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

800 COMMERCE STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-1776
(713) 222-7211
FAX (713) 225-0827
1-800-870-9584
www.abrahamwatkins.com

DALE FRIEND
RETIRED PARTNER
FRANK T. ABRAHAM
(1924 - 2004)
W.W. WATKINS
(1920 - 1987)

* BOARD CERTIFIED: PERSONAL INJURY TRIAL
LAW. TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

† BOARD CERTIFIED: CIVIL TRIAL LAW
TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

July 17, 2012

Ms. Carrie Brown
Association of Rice Alumni
Office of Alumni Affairs, MS 250
P. O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892

RE: Nomination of Lance Berkman
2013 Distinguished Rice Alumni Award

Dear Ms. Brown:

It is my understanding that Lance Berkman has been nominated for the 2013 Distinguished Rice Alumni Award. I am honored and proud to fully support this nomination and pledge full support on behalf of Lance Berkman for this very prestigious award.

I have had the opportunity to know Lance Berkman and members of his family for many years and kept abreast of his professional and personal career since his enrollment at Rice University.

In my opinion, Lance Berkman meets all the qualifications necessary for this very prestigious award and certainly has advanced interests and standards of excellence of Rice University through his professional and volunteer career. He has excelled in his profession and distinguished himself among his colleagues and peers as indicated by his record and standing and has contributed to the advancement of the community with various individual organizations. The interests and standards of excellence associated with Rice University aluminate the professional and personal career of Lance Berkman.

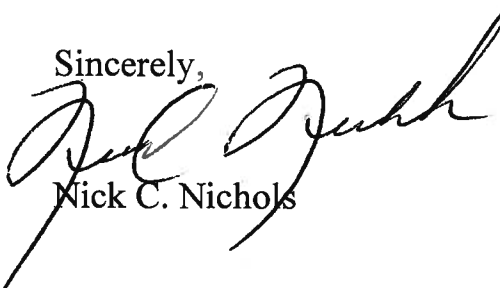
July 17, 2012

Page 2

This writer is a graduate of Rice University and the University of Texas School of Law and has been honored as the recipient of the Distinguished Rice Alumni Award. My wife and I proudly have served as community associates at one of the colleges at Rice University and I am presently a Director of Student Aid Foundation Enterprises organized by my late partner, Frank Abraham regarding the Exchange Program between Cambridge University and Rice University. I am also a member of the R Association, the Rice Owl Club, the RBI Club and have funded a Rice Men's Basketball Endowment Scholarship together with contributions to the Tudor Fieldhouse.

In closing, your consideration of this nomination and the full support and recognition as pledged by this correspondence would greatly be appreciated. If I can provide any additional information, I will be honored and proud to do so. Thank you in advance for your courtesy and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick C. Nichols", written over the printed name.

Nick C. Nichols

NCN:dj

Rose Sundin

From: Carrie C Brown [carriebrown@rice.edu]
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 12:12 PM
To: sundin@rice.edu
Subject: for Berkman file

From: Papajohnwolda@aol.com [mailto:Papajohnwolda@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 11:07 AM
To: Carrie C Brown
Subject: (no subject)

Hi Carrie, This is my recommendation for Lance Berkman receiving The Distinguished Alumni Award.

Lance has been a wonderful Ambassador for Rice. He has handled himself with class on and off the field. He deserves the honor.

Thanks, John Wolda

August 22, 2012

James T. Fox
Senior Vice President-Investments
Wealth Management Advisor

Ms. Carrie Brown
Association of Rice Alumni
Office of Alumni Affairs M S 520
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892

Dear Carrie,

It has come to my attention that Lance Berkman has been nominated to receive the Rice Distinguished Alumni Award. I wholeheartedly concur. Lance has distinguished himself as one of the elite players in his profession for many years. He has brought honor to Rice University, the City of Houston, as well as his family and friends.

Let's not miss an opportunity to recognize one of Rice's all time great athletes and individuals.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



James T. Fox
Wealth Management Advisor
Senior Vice President - Investments

1221 McKinney, Suite 3900 • Houston, Tx 77010 • Tel: 713.658.1362 • 800.300.0515 • Fax: 713.574.2646
jim_fox@ml.com • www.fa.ml.com/fox_group

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management makes available products and services offered by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (MLPF&S) and other subsidiaries of Bank of America Corporation.

Investment products:

Are Not FDIC Insured	Are Not Bank Guaranteed	May Lose Value
Are Not Deposits	Are Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency	Are Not a Condition to Any Banking Service or Activity

MLPF&S is a registered broker-dealer, member Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) and a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of America Corporation. Merrill Lynch Life Agency Inc. is a licensed agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of America Corporation.

1275 N. Stuart Place Road
956-366-3900

Matt F. Gorges

Harlingen, Texas 78552
matt@gorgesinvestments.com

August 15, 2012

Association of Rice Alumni
Att'n Ms Carrie Brown
Office of Alumni Affairs
P O Box 1892
Houston, Texas 77251-1892


To Whom It May Concern;

The purpose of this letter is to recommend Lance Berkman be honored to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award for our school.

Mr. Berkman represents everything that being distinguished in a special way means. We all know him to be one of the best professional baseball players of the current era. More importantly he is widely recognized as a role model for thousands of people young and old for his day to day conduct and the manner in which he lives and communicates. He is a person of unquestionably high character and moral values.

I consider it a distinct honor to offer this recommendation.

Sincerely,


Matt Gorges

MFG/mgh

Carrie C Brown

From: kenny.baldwin [kenny.baldwin@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2012 11:35 PM
To: Carrie C Brown
Cc: Papajohnwolda@aol.com
Subject: Distinguished Alumni Award

Hi Carrie,

I tried to call you today to discuss Lance's nomination, but not sure if you received my message. I thought I would go ahead and send you an email with my formal recommendation that Lance Berkman receive our upcoming Distinguished Alumni Award. I am sure many people will readily acknowledge Lance's accomplishments on the baseball field where he clearly satisfies the criteria for advancing the interests and standards of excellence of Rice through a distinctive professional career. I certainly join the ranks who would advocate on his behalf based on the unique and clear legacy he has left at Rice, with the Astros, Yankees and Cardinals. His leadership contribution to the Cardinals during the 2011 season and, in particular, during the World Series, clearly distinguishes him among Rice alumni, although it isn't unique for Lance given his leadership contribution during the Houston Astros World Series run and our own first ever Rice Owls College World Series run. These and many other accomplishments are clear support for Lance's distinction on the field. What is more impressive to me is the distinction Lance carries as a husband, father, citizen, role model, and friend.

Lance's strong Christian faith and sincere spirit are evident in the way he discharges each of these roles in life. I have recently had the good fortune to work directly with Lance to serve underprivileged youth in the north Spring Branch area of Houston. While this initiative is but one of many where Lance has taken the initiative to help others, it has provided me first hand observation of his leadership impact across a community. He brings sincere empathy, thoughtful responses to complicated situations, resources and resourcefulness to carry out the mission, and his personal credibility to help leverage the work of others. His personal conviction and commitment have been inspiring to me and our entire team, prompting us to carry on to, as Lance coined the phrase, 'change hearts to change lives'. His contributions to our program, combined with numerous other social, religious and civic contributions Lance has made, clearly support Lance's recognition as a distinguished ambassador of Rice University in terms of his capacity to give energy, creativity, time and resources for the advancement of community AND individual welfare. I enthusiastically support Lance Berkman's nomination for the Rice University Distinguished Alumni Award.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

KB

Association of rice Alumni

Attn: Ms. Carrie Brown

Office of Alumni affairs MS520

P.O. Box 1892

Houston, Texas 77251-1892

Re: Rice Distinguished Alumni Award

While so many Alumni have distinguished themselves for this award, one in particular stands out as a superb candidate for this award.

Lance Berkman has carried Rice's honor in many more avenues than most of us know. From those contributions I do know of, Lance is without a doubt a distinguished alumni.

Lance first of all has distinguished himself as one of the most respected and superior athletes in Rice history. He first was an All American baseball player and led the team toward a program that now ranks as one of the best in the country.

He has reached All Star selections several times as a professional and played on World Series championship teams.

His reputation has been a great recruiting tool for Coach Graham and has helped bring quality students and athletes to Rice.

Besides his athletic ability, he has become a sought after speaker at gatherings both athletically and academic in nature. He always contributes much of his overall success to Rice University and the many attributes it has to offer.

Lance has shared financial success with Rice programs and gives unselfishly in that regard.

Lastly his spiritual leadership is well known throughout the community and the world of athletics. In this era of world turmoil this maybe one of the greatest contributions he makes. I am sure his devotion has been an inspiration to all that have been fortunate to hearing his messages.

Lance is without question worthy of the Rice Distinguished Alumni Award and it is an honor to recommend him.

Jerry L. Sims Class of 58



Billy E. Hale
11823 Wilcrest Drive
Houston, Texas 77031

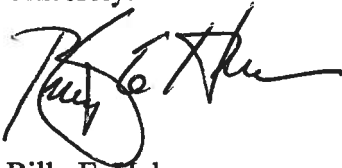
August 8, 2012

Association of Rice Alumni
Attn: Ms. Carrie Brown
Office of Alumni Affairs M S 520
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, Texas 77251-1892

Dear Ms. Brown,

Please consider this letter as a recommendation that Lance Berkman be awarded the Rice University Distinguished Alumni Award. The rationale for this suggestion needs no supporting evidence since he may be one of the most well known Rice alumni ever and his accomplishments in his field of expertise are well documented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billy E. Hale", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Billy E. Hale
Class of '64

BEH:dh