



*HALL OF FAME
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1986-2025*

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1986

Dwight F. Davis (St. Louis, Missouri)*

Dwight F. Davis was an incredible international pioneer for US tennis. The most notable accomplishment of Davis was the foundation of the international tennis competition the Davis Cup in 1900. Originally called the International Lawn Tennis Challenge, it was later renamed in his honor. In the inaugural competition between the United States and Great Britain, Davis was the captain of the team that won the event. He was also a member of the 1902 team that won the challenge. Outside of Davis Cup competition, Davis had a very successful career. In singles, he reached the Mens Singles title match at the US Championships in 1898 and 1899. In doubles, he won the Mens Doubles title at the US Championships three years in a row from 1899 to 1901 with Holcombe Ward. Davis and Ward were Mens Doubles runners-up at Wimbledon in 1901. Davis also had a positive impact on tennis politically. In 1911 Davis created the first municipal tennis courts in the United States as St. Louis public parks commissioner. Davis also served as president of the USTA in 1923.



Charles McKinley (St. Louis, Missouri)*

Charles McKinley's international career is one to be remembered. His most notable achievement? He won the Wimbledon singles championship in 1963, and he never lost a single set the entire tournament. McKinley continued a stellar singles career by winning the US Clay Court Championship in 1963 and 1964, as well as winning the US Indoor Championship in 1962 and 1964. His doubles career included winning the United States Doubles Championship three times alongside his partner Dennis Ralston. McKinley was a member of the US Davis Cup team in 1963 that defeated Australia. McKinley was inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island in 1986.

1988

D. Keedy Campbell (Kansas City, Missouri)

D. Keedy Campbell was inducted to USTA Heart of America Hall of Fame in 1999. Campbell served as the first president of USTA Missouri Valley from 1946-1955. Also, he served as chairman and corresponding secretary of the Rockhill Tennis Club. Campbell organized and ran many prominent events such as the Western Championship and Western Sectional Doubles Championship at Rockhill Tennis Club.

Harris M. Coggeshall (Des Moines, Iowa)*

Born in 1907, Harris M. Coggeshall had a quick rise to tennis fame. Coggeshall was introduced to tennis in 1917 by his father, H.H. Coggeshall, and within seven years he became a city and state champion in Iowa. As a sophomore at Grinnell College, he defeated Takeichi Harada, a former Davis Cup competitor who held the No. 3 ranking in the United States. Coggeshall also played basketball at Grinnell where at one point he led the Missouri Valley Conference in scoring. Professionally, Coggeshall found success in his doubles game. In 1929 he advanced to the finals for the National Indoor Doubles, as well as a finals appearance in National Clay Courts Doubles the following year in 1930.



Marvin P. Richmond (Leawood, Kansas)*

Marvin Richmond was born in 1913. After attending Westport High School, he later would go on to earn a B.S. in Economics, a L.L.B. in Law, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Harvard. Richmond served as an officer in the US Army Air Force in World War II. Richmond served as the president of USTA Missouri Valley from 1969-1970. A decade later, Richmond became the president of USTA from 1981-1982. Richmond has an award named after him in the NAIA level of college tennis called the Marvin P. Richmond Outstanding Player Award that is presented to an athlete who exhibits outstanding play, leadership, and sportsmanship.



T.H. “Curly” Vaughan (Winfield, Kansas)*

The Mr. Tennis of Winfield, Kansas, T.H. Vaughan was born in 1892. After earning a Masters degree from the University of Kansas, Vaughan taught physics at Winfield High School and was the schools tennis coach. While teaching at Winfield, Vaughan went on to serve in World War I for two years as a captain of a field artillery unit before returning home to teach and coach. Vaughan would go on to serve as president of USTA Missouri Valley from 1958 to 1960. In 1963, Vaughan won the Marlboro Award, which is an international award for outstanding service to tennis. The T.H. Vaughan Tennis Center in Winfield, Kansas was dedicated in his honor in 1965.



1989

Gerald Perry (Springfield, Missouri)*

Perry was a champion and a gentleman on the court, an ambassador of tennis for his family, his town, and his section. Perry, of Springfield, MO., was unanimously selected as the 1989 inductee into the USTA Missouri Valley's Hall of Fame. Perry was proclaimed 'Mr. Tennis of the Ozarks.' He was a state high school champion, a four-time college conference champion, and coached Southwest Missouri State to four singles and five doubles championships. He was involved off the court as a private and public tennis court constructor, a consultant to the Springfield Park Board and an adviser to SMSU and Drury College. Along the way, Perry was always a sportsman, a promoter, and a class act. He was an excellent role model. The USTA Missouri Valley is proud to include Perry among its Hall of Fame honorees.

1990

Francis Baxter (Edmond, Oklahoma)*

Most devoted tennis players have tried to give something back to the sport that has meant so much to them. Baxter has been giving a lot back to tennis for over thirty years and is still giving. The number of hours Baxter has donated is astounding. Furthermore this man of integrity has excelled in all his tennis related activities only some of which will be shared. Baxter started teaching tennis in 1956 and in 1970 joined the staff of Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma as varsity tennis coach, PE instructor, and intramural sports director. Several of his former students have documented the positive influence he had on them as a coach, friend, and role model. He was honored as NAIA District IX Tennis Coach of the Year six different years. The administrative offices Baxter has held in the state, section, and national tennis associations are far too many to list here. The number of committees he has served on is equally impressive. A person does not create this type of record without outstanding work and devotion.



Earl H. Buchholz, Sr. (Sedalia, Missouri)*

Buchholz is honored for his distinguished and outstanding service in teaching and promoting the game of tennis. It has been said that there is nothing relating to tennis about which Buchholz was not knowledgeable. Buchholz's biggest asset was his ability to progress a student through the various stages of learning. He was considered an unsung hero of Sedalia's youth tennis program. He preferred to teach kids before they learned anything about tennis and before they had a chance to acquire habits. He liked to start them at three or even younger. Buchholz spent many hours with Sedalia's young tennis enthusiasts, but only charged a nominal fee for his valuable time. In September 1989, Buchholz was accepted into the United States Professional Tennis Association in Honorary Memoriam.

Charles D. Cunningham (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

Cunningham first distinguished himself as an outstanding tennis player while playing for the University of Oklahoma. He was a winner of four individual conference titles; two in singles and two in doubles, helping OU win four conference titles. Cunningham continued his winning ways after college, playing in the open division for years, followed by a distinguished senior tennis career. La Fortune Park Tennis Center opened

in 1970 and has had only one pro and Manager. During his tenure, he has:

1. Given over 15,000 tennis lessons.
2. Endeared himself to every tennis player in the area.
3. Served as vice-president of the USTA Oklahoma for five years and president for two years.
4. Served as president of the Tulsa Area Tennis Association since 1977.
5. Organized the first men's and women's tennis league in Oklahoma which currently accommodate about 600 players.
6. Answered thousands of calls regarding tennis.

Cunningham and his wife, Nancy Cunningham no doubt deserve a thanks for the honor given La Fortune when it was designated an "Outstanding Tennis Center" by TENNIS magazine and again later by USTA.

Bill Price (St. Louis, Missouri)

Price was a champion Table Tennis player and coach before he made the transition to playing and coaching tennis. He found table tennis an excellent tool in helping to develop the skills of his tennis students. "The two prime requisites for developing a first-rate tennis player are desire on the part of the pupil to learn the game and the ability to do so," he says. Price reiterates that the desire to work must come from within, that it is unwise to force a youngster. Allow tennis to become important without becoming absolutely everything. Price's insight for applying his teaching skills to different students was sheer genius. Even in the days of "classical styles" he never tried to force everyone into the same mold of style or training methods. He took what each player did best naturally and maximized it, making stroke changes only if absolutely necessary. Price had an understanding with his student's parents- free coaching with no parental input, comments, or interference whatsoever. Parents were allowed to quietly watch from a distance. He reasoned that one coach; one voice was all one kid could handle at a time. Although Price coached only a few kids in his "spare time" after work, he produced an amazing number of champion players including Al Holtman, Chuck McKinley, Mary Ann Eisel Beattie, Justina Bricka, and Bobby McKinley. He produced an equal number of players who received tennis college scholarships. Price has certainly earned his place of honor in the Missouri Valley Tennis Hall of Fame.



Len Prosser (Shawnee Mission, Kansas)

Prosser took the advice of his Sunday School teacher in 1928 and attended Kansas University, graduating in 1932 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. He lettered three years in tennis, playing No. 3 singles and No. 1 doubles. He was now in a position to get a job that gave him enough time to greatly improve his tennis game. Prosser won more USTA national championships than most people could ever imagine. Would you believe 20?, 30?, 40?. How about 55! Yes, that is fifty-five, when you add four singles, eight mixed doubles, and 43 men's doubles titles. That is indeed an impressive record. Prosser also found time to win over

100 other tournaments- mostly in the USTA Missouri Valley. The Missouri Valley Tennis Patrons Association was formed in the late thirties with Prosser as its first president. It was formed to provide free lesson to youngsters not able to pay for them. In 1983 Prosser was honored by being selected to play for the United States on the Crawford Cup Tennis Team for the Seniors World Championships. The USA won the Championship, which was played at Brand, Austria.

1991

Clarence Dyer (Durant, Oklahoma)

Dyer started winning tennis tournaments in 1932 and continued winning for over 35 years. Coach Dyer's teams won 17 Oklahoma Collegiate Championships in 25 years and had a match record in NAIA National Tournaments of 182 wins, 66 losses, and 15 ties. Nine of his players were NAIA All- Americans. Coaching awards include NAIA Award while serving as president of coaches' association, Sports Headliner Award from the Oklahoma City Press Club, United Savings /Helms Athletics Foundation Coaches Hall of Fame, NAIA Athletic Hall of Fame, and Southeastern Oklahoma State University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Tom McSpadden (Muskogee, Oklahoma)

"Mr. Tennis of Muskogee" has over 60 years of tennis experience. In 1937, McSpadden started devoting many hours toward promoting and developing tennis in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He instructed many players regardless of age, organized the Muskogee Tennis Club and inter-city competition. For 18 years, McSpadden worked as an unpaid citizen-coach of tennis fundamentals, philosophy, and sportsmanship, giving equal time to all players. He often reminded his students "it's not important to win but it is important to try to win." In 1936, he was the Oklahoma Collegiate Conference singles champion. He continued his winning ways in senior tennis, teaming with his brother Ray to win state titles in 45, 55, 60 age divisions.

The Ward Parker Family (St. Louis, Missouri)

Ward has played in 141 Muny finals, winning 96 of them while Merceina was winning 70. Their off court contributions to tennis include many years of teaching, coaching, directing tournaments, holding office in local tennis associations and conducting junior development programs. The family won many USTA Missouri Valley singles, doubles, mixed doubles, and father-son titles in more than 20 junior and adult categories. Larry and Jim won the 1968 USTA Missouri Valley men's doubles champions. All four have won national championships, with Jim compiling 38 (including two father-son titles) and one doubles championship with Larry. Jim and Larry competed internationally at the U.S. Open, Australian Open and Wimbledon. For three years each, Jim was named to the Junior Davis Cup team, Italia Cup team (35 & over), and the Dubler Cup team (45 & over). Larry has conducted clinics on behalf of the USTA and the state department in Asia, Africa, and South Pacific, while Jim has served as a Goodwill Ambassador to Burma. Both were head tennis pros at major tennis clubs.



1992

Jack Buss (Des Moines, Iowa)*

Buss has been a leader and innovator for over 30 years on the local, state, and USTA Missouri Valley level. He was an early member of the Des Moines Tennis Association board and served in various capacities from committee member to president. He directed local tournaments, promoted junior tennis programs and helped raise funds for a these programs. As director, he increased interest by offering extra doubles events such as Family, Grandfather, Century, and "fat man". Buss' parties for all players were very popular and no doubt also increased tournament interest. He also found time for the Iowa district and the USTA Missouri Valley. He was director of the Iowa District Closed Tournament for four years, chairman of the Iowa ranking committee for 12 years, and was the originator, editor, and publisher of the Iowa Net News. He also served terms as ITA president, executive secretary, and ITA Hall of Fame selection committee member. He is one of the original inductees in the select group. Buss also served as USTA Missouri Valley executive secretary, secretary, vice president, president, represented on the USTA executive board, originator, publisher, and editor of the USTA Missouri Valley yearbook, director of eight tournaments and many more. Buss also found time for community service not related to tennis and also for his Alma Mater, Drake University.

Lucile Davidson (Independence, Missouri)

Davidson was ranked in the USTA Missouri Valley for 25 years and also ranked nationally most of those years. In 1976, she earned the No. 1 national ranking in doubles. She accumulated about 50 USTA Missouri Valley titles, winning four in one year. During this same time span, she also won many open tournament titles in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. One of Davidson's most important events occurred in 1955 when she became the mother of a baby boy. One of Davidson's friends described her as a caring and enthusiastic person with consideration for others and always willing to share a smile and her good humor.

Ed Doane (Tustin, California)

Doane started playing tennis in 1936 in Kansas City and won his first doubles event three months later. In singles, he has won the Iowa State, Nebraska State, Kansas State, Tri State (Burlington, Iowa), Kansas City and Jayhawk Opens. He won between 25-30 singles and doubles senior sectional tournaments in Missouri Valley and Southern California. He has 13 national titles, three singles (45 indoor, 50 hardcourt and 55 hardcourt) and 10 doubles titles from age divisions 50 through 70. His national singles rankings were No. 2 in the 50 and 55 division. In doubles, he received national rankings of No. 1 in the 55's, 65's, and 70's.

1993

C.J. Hixon (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

Hixon graduated from Fort Smith High School where his tennis victories include four consecutive Arkansas State High School singles championships and a doubles championship. Hank Iba and a full basketball scholarship attracted Hixon to Oklahoma A&M. Although studies and basketball kept him busy, he still found time to win a Missouri Valley tennis singles championship and graduate in 1955. Hixon had been a resident of Tulsa since 1960 and continued to win titles. He and Ollie Gresham won the doubles indoor and outdoor championships in 1990 and again in '91. In 1992, he was inducted into the Arkansas Tennis Hall of Fame. This man we call C.J. walks softly and carries a big serve and overhead smash.

Wally Smith (Ponca City, Oklahoma)

Smith is a man of all sports, having played and coached football, basketball, track and tennis. The Ponca City Tennis Center has been renamed in his honor. He has a Masters degree, and has worked on his Doctorate. He coached at several small schools in Oklahoma and Kansas before settling in Ponca City in 1950. His high school tennis coaching record is most envious, with 13 Coach of the Year awards. He has been impressive as a speaker at tennis clinics and writer of tennis articles. He has been a positive influence on many young athletes. Character, leadership, achievement, diligence, discipline, and integrity may all be used when one talks about Coach Smith.

Dave Snyder (Austin, Texas)

Snyder is a graduate of Winfield High School and the University of Texas and earned his Masters degree from the University of Arizona and his Ph.D from Ohio State. In singles play, Snyder never lost a set in high school competition. He was the state champion for two years, USTA Missouri Valley men's finalist in 1952, and a quarter finalist in the USTA National Junior tournament, earning the No. 12 national ranking. At the University of Texas, Snyder played on three Southwest Conference championship teams, captained the 1956 team and was also a doubles champion. He continued winning tennis play for several years after graduation.

Snyder achieved tennis excellence as a coach, first at the University of Arizona, then the University of Texas. He was named coach of 1961 American Junior Davis Cup, and coach of the American Men's and Women's teams at World University Games in Italy. In 1985, he was Wilson Sporting Goods Intercollegiate Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the Longhorn Hall of Honor in 1988 and was Sharp's Collegiate Coach of the Year in 1990.

1994

Wray Brown (St. Louis, Missouri)*

Brown played for Washington University in St. Louis. Brown was the sensation of the tournament when he went to Philadelphia in 1922 and was the runner-up for the National Collegiate title. That same year, he won the first of his seven Missouri Valley titles over a ten-year period. In 1925, he was ranked No. 10 in the U.S. and was named to the Davis Cup squad in 1926.





Earl "Butch" Buchholz, Jr. (St. Louis, Missouri)

No St. Louis player could match Dwight Davis' achievements until Buchholz came along in the late 1950's. He became the first player ever to win a junior Grand Slam: Wimbledon, U.S., French, and Australian titles. Buchholz was a Davis Cup member at 18, and turned pro at 19 and was ranked as high as No. 5 in the world. He later became commissioner of the World TeamTennis and executive director of the Association of Tennis Professionals. He was founder and chairman of the Lipton Players

International.

Beverly K. Buckley (Des Moines, Iowa)

Buckley traveled from her Iowa hometown to play juniors in the Missouri Valley and was in the top ten for 16 singles, 14 singles and mixed doubles. She was number one in 1969 in both 16 singles and 18 doubles. That same year, Buckley won the Championships sectional in 16 singles and 18 doubles. Nationally, she was in the top 50 juniors for 16 & 18 singles and 18 doubles in 1969. The following year, she was ranked No. 6 in 18 doubles and No. 45 in 18 singles nationally. She was also ranked No. 8 nationally in women's doubles in 1975. In 1975, she turned pro at the U.S. Open and was ranked as high as No. 101 in the world in 1977. Her pro career lasted from 1975-79. Buckley was the head women's coach at Rollin College, Winter Park, Florida where she attended in 1971-75. While playing for Rollins, her team was ranked in the top ten nationally all four years and finished No. 3 at Nationals in 1975. In 1975, she was seeded No. 1 nationally in collegiate doubles based on an undefeated season.

Joy Rodenberg (Lincoln, Nebraska)

Rodenberg volunteered in tennis for years and was a member of the USTA Board of Directors. She had been on many committees including USTA Junior Tennis Council, chair of Junior Sanctions & Schedules, Junior Wightman Cup, and Junior Federation Cup, Boys 18 national ranking, Olympic, Club membership, line umpire at the U.S. Open, Nominating and chair Player Development. Sectionally, Rodenberg was vice president of juniors, president, sectional delegate, endorser, chair ranking review, chair nominating committee, awards committee, referee and umpire for sectional junior events and national satellite and age division events. In Lincoln and the Nebraska district, Rodenberg conducted umpire clinics and ran tournaments. She was a referee for the Big East matches, junior events, money tournaments, secretary/treasurer for Lincoln Tennis Foundation and vice president of the Lincoln Tennis Association.



Mervyn Webster (Wichita, Kansas)*

As a junior, he represented South Africa at the Orange Bowl Sunshine Cup and Nations Cup in 1966. In 1967, he played Wimbledon and French Open juniors and was a junior member of the Dais Cup team with Cliff Drysdale, Bob Hewitt, and Frew McMillan. Webster played for Wichita State University where he won the Missouri Valley conference singles three times and the doubles twice. He played in the NCAA Tennis Championships three times. He played throughout Europe and had

exhibition matches against Bjorn Borg, Drysdale, John Newcombe, and Ken Rosewell. Webster has served in many offices on the Missouri Valley board including first vice president of adults, secretary, Education and Recreation chairman, vice president of juniors for two terms, president and sectional delegate. His USTA volunteer committee list is extensive: Education and Recreation, Individual Membership, USTA Circuits, Clinicians Advisory, Grievance, Junior Davis Cup, Wightman cup, Player development (chairman of USTA Area Training Centers), USTA executive committee and vice chairman of the Sports Science committee. Webster was the director of tennis at the Wichita Racquet Club, coach of the Wichita Advantage (World TeamTennis), and coaching Lori McNeil on the professional circuit.



1995

Jodie H. Adams (Springfield, Missouri)

Adams has extensive experience in the field of tennis and recreation. She has been a leader as well as a player. On the volunteer level, she was a community development trainer for the USTA, President of the USTA Missouri Valley, state treasurer for the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association, chairman of the budget and finance committee of the MRPA and is a member of special projects committees for the MRPA. She has served on several USTA committees which included executive board member delegate, chairman of the Presidents' Committee and Men's and Women's Professional Circuits. She was also chairman of the Schools Program, Technical and Testing, and Junior Recreational. At the sectional level, she was the vice president in Education & Recreation, officer in charge of marketing committee, chairman of the Yearbook committee, and chairman of National and Regional Grants. Adams has been a speaker at the National Parks and Recreation Conference, Oklahoma and Missouri Parks & Recreation Conferences, USTA leadership workshops, Missouri State Women's Leadership Conference, and National Federation of High School Conference. She has been the tournament director for the USTA Men's Professional Tennis Classic and the National Public Parks Tennis Championships. She was the Administrator of Leisure Services of the Springfield Parks and Recreation Department in Springfield, Mo. Her special assignments involved the construction and operation of the \$4 million Cooper Indoor/Outdoor Tennis Complex. She also supervised and evaluated full-time supervisors and supervisor aides. Her major areas were training, development, and budget responsibilities within facility management, sports administration, senior citizen's programs, programs for the disabled, departmental advertising, retail and concession sales, and Speaker's Bureau. Adams attended Southwest Missouri State University where she received her Masters in Public Administration.

Carol Hanks Aucamp (St. Louis, Missouri)

Aucamp is a native to St. Louis, MO. She attended Washington University where she was a two-year letter winner as the first woman to compete on a men's varsity team. She compiled career records of 19-5 in singles and 17-3 in doubles, while playing second and third singles, and number one doubles. Aucamp was ranked in the U.S. top 10 for five years. She competed in Wimbledon four times (1961, 1963, 1964, and 1967) and reached semifinals of the U.S. National (now U.S. Open) in 1964. She also earned a world ranking of No. 9 in 1964. Aucamp has nine U.S. Women's Titles: Indoor singles in 1963, Hard Court singles in 1962, Indoor doubles with Mary Ann Eisel Beattie from 1963-65 and Nan O'Connell in 1958, Clay court doubles with Justina Bricka in 1961, Indoor Mixed doubles with Chauncey Steele, III in 1963, Hard Court Mixed doubles with Jim McManus, and Intercollegiate doubles with Linda Yeoman in 1962. Aucamp was a recreational tennis player and was very active in her church missionary work. Aucamp and Mary Ann Eisel Beattie were among the first inductees into the St. Louis Hall of Fame.

Mary Ann Eisel Beattie (St. Louis, Missouri)

Beattie is a native of St. Louis, MO. She attended Washington University in St. Louis. Beattie was ranked in the U.S. top 10 from 1964 to 1971. Her singles rankings were No. 10 in 1964, No. 5 in 1965, No. 6 in 1966, No. 3 in 1967, and No. 4 in 1968. She also had a No. 1 ranking in doubles. She played at Wimbledon nine times, getting to the singles quarterfinals once and the doubles semifinals twice with Valerie Ziegenfuss. She won the U.S. indoor doubles title with Carol Hanks Aucamp where they beat Billie Jean King and Judy Nixon. Overall, she won 10 U.S. titles including indoor singles and doubles, U.S. Open junior champion and the mixed doubles at Forest Hills with Peter Curtis. Beattie played on the Wighman Cup in 1965, 67, 68, and 69 and the Federation Cup team in 1968. During her junior years in Missouri Valley, Beattie has numerous singles and doubles titles. She was a recreational player and one of the top women amateur golfers in the St. Louis area.

1996

Harold "Buck" Balzer (Buhler, Kansas)

Balzer lettered in tennis as a high school freshman and again as a freshman at Pittsburg State University after three years at Lehigh, which did not have a tennis team. Balzer spent two and a half years in the Army and then married his wife, Darlene in 1948 along with graduating at PSU. The Balzers moved to Buhler where he taught industrial arts for 38 years. During the 38 years he coached tennis for 31 years, basketball for 14 years, track for six years and horseshoes for five years. Balzer's tennis teams played in the state championships 24 years in a row, placing in the top four 23 times. Balzer was selected to the Kansas State High School Activities Hall of Fame in 1980, and the next year was National District 5 Coach of the Year. He served as treasurer of the Kansas district for five years. Balzer is credited with starting and coordinating the popular Junior Novice Tennis Tournament Program 17 years ago.

Justina Bricka (St. Louis, Missouri)

Bricka is a 1965 graduate of Washington (Mo.) University. She has an outstanding tennis record, winning numerous girls' singles and doubles titles in the USTA Missouri Valley. Her style of play, which included extraordinary touch and thoughtfulness that outweighs most opponent's strokes, helped her to go on to further glory. She won four U.S. Junior titles. In 1961, Bricka and another USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame member, Carol Hanks Aucamp, won U.S. Women's Clay Court Doubles championship. In 1962, she won the Swiss Doubles titles with Margaret Court Smith. This same team reached the finals of the French and Italian Championships. Bricka and another St. Louis native and Hall of Fame member Mary Ann Eisel Beattie won the Irish Doubles Championship. In 1964, Bricka played in 15 tournaments, winning 35 matches, losing only 13 and won two singles titles. Bricka played recreation tennis and teaches at her own tennis facility in St. Louis, Mo.

Kate Cushing (Tulsa, Oklahoma)*

"Play Tennis America," "Grow the Game!" These may be new phrases to some of you but not to Cushing. "The Eternal Lady" has been accomplishing this for most of her life. She has spent 43 years as a Physical Educator and tennis coach. Cushing has the admiration and respect of parents, students, and other tennis coaches. She taught responsibility, sportsmanship, fair play, respect for others yet fear no one, along with how to develop physically, emotionally, and intellectually through the challenging sport of tennis. All of this was done with unbound energy, unequalled compassion and the most loving and firm rules of discipline. Through USTA Schools Program, Cushing has introduced tennis to countless students as a life long adventure filled with unlimited sources of opportunities. She viewed learning as a process initiated by teaching and supported by on going excitement and discovery. Cushing has installed the qualities in students that have helped them to reach their potential in tennis and in life.



Ted Drewes (St. Louis, Missouri)*

The late Drewes was a champion of the parks, both St. Louis and nationally. In 1916, he won the National Munny Recreation Federation title, the forerunner of the National Public Parks. After 1927, when he won his fourth successive National Public Parks titles, he was described as "the Bill Tilden of municipal tennis." He also won the St. Louis City title in 1917-1920, and then won the district in 1921, 25, and 32. He won 14 singles and 14 doubles (with nine different partners) titles during the years 1918 to 1935. In addition to Drewes'

outstanding playing record, he coached the Concordia College tennis team for over 20 years without pay. He also donated money for tennis courts and lights.

Philip L. Edwards (St. Louis, Missouri)

Edwards began playing tennis as an adult but with his natural athletic ability and determination, he quickly began to excel. He coached high school varsity boys' tennis at Principia for 20 years, plus girls for several years. His boys won two state championships, two sectional titles and several league titles. Many of his summers were spent teaching tennis at various camps and clinics

including assisting with Junior Davis Cup boys in Saturday mornings. In the USTA Missouri Valley, Edwards won nine doubles championships with six different partners plus three singles championships. In the National Senior Championships, Edwards has won three gold balls for playing with Bobby Riggs on grass, Ralph Hart on clay and Dan Walker indoors. He won six silver balls with three different partners and reached the finals in two singles championships. Edwards was awarded national doubles rankings ten times, No. 3 twice, No. 5 five times, one time each for No. 4, No. 6, and No. 7. Edwards has an excellent international tennis record. His best rankings were No. 4, No. 8, and No. 11. No European or American has equaled his record of seven Los Monteros ITF Championships in a row. Edwards played on the Bitsy Grant Cup team in Austria in 1993 and five times with the Gordon Cup team against Canada.

1997

Lucien Barbour (Winfield, Kansas)*

Barbour played competitive tennis for over 58 years. He was a state high school champion two years, nationally ranked in juniors, lettered on the varsity tennis team at Stanford for three years, has won USTA Missouri Valley open doubles twice and ranked many times in juniors, adults, and seniors at the sectional level. He served as secretary of USTA Missouri Valley from 1958 to 1960 when T.H. Vaughan of Winfield served as president. He was active in the formation of the Kansas District in 1956 and served as its first president. He was tournament director of the Winfield Tennis Tournament, now the Kansas State Open, since it began in 1948. He passed on the legacy from T.H. Vaughan that youngsters learn to give back to the game of tennis.

Anne (Mona Schallau) Guerrant (Scottsdale, Arizona)

Guerrant started her tennis career in Iowa City when she beat her first two opponents 10-0. After that tournament, she went on to big-time victories, and world travel. In 1976, she was ranked No. 6 in the nation, No. 11 in the world and was the No. 1 doubles team with Ann Kiyomura. She headed to Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla. where she was picked to represent the United States in the World University Games in Turin, Italy in 1970. She soon started to travel the world playing in China, Russia, Japan, England, Italy, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, New Zealand and Australia. She played Wimbledon six times. Also in the 70's, Guerrant teamed with Billie Jean King and Rod Laver in World Team Tennis competition and played on the U.S. Wightman Cup teams in 1974, 1975, and 1976. Guerrant has been inducted into the Des Moines Sunday Register's Iowa Sports Hall of Fame and now plays tennis for fun. She has won the USTA 35 and 45 age divisions.

Richard (Dick) Johnson (Ballwin, Missouri)*

Johnson has 25 national senior titles including seven singles and 18 doubles. He also has 16 national senior finalist titles. Johnson was ranked No. 3 nationally in singles and No. 1 in doubles seniors. He was ranked No. 1 in the age divisions of 40, 45, and 50 singles and doubles. He received a No. 3 national ranking in the 35 age division. Johnson has represented in U.S. in the Duller Cup, Stevens Cup, and Fred Perry Cup. He also won the doubles and was the runner-up in singles at the ITF World Seniors Championships. While attending Kalamazoo College, he was a finalist in NCAA Small Schools Doubles. Johnson was the tennis director and teacher at the St. Louis Country Club.



Nora Prosser (Merriam, Kansas)

The late Prosser was a champion tennis player at an early age. At the age of 16, the year in which she met Len Prosser, she won the Kansas City Championship in the girl's and women's division. She and Len, who became her husband when she was 20, were both winners of many tournaments during those early years. Prosser teamed up with Ludy Davidson, a member of the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame and soon became unbeatable in the National Public Parks and the Missouri Valley Tournaments. Although Prosser's career was shortened by rheumatoid arthritis, she won over 200 state, sectional, and national titles from 1931 to 1972. She was Women's Champion eight times. She has been ranked as high as No. 2 nationally. In 1988, Prosser became a member of the Greater Kansas City Amateur Sports Hall of Champions.

Frank Ward (Jenks, Oklahoma)

In 1967, Ward directed his first Tulsa World Tournament and directed every Tulsa Area Tennis Association Tournament. That same year, he started "Tulsa Tennis," the TATA teaching program at several parks and the program continues today. In 1969, he started Junior Team Tennis, which consists of matches between city groups. In the 1980's he became the first USTA Area Training Center administrator and director. Ward worked with city and county parks departments to improve facilities for players. TATA paid for resurfacing 15 courts, windscreens for four parks, new nets with center straps, 30 new roll-dries and replaced 10 rollers.



1998

W.E. Steve Broadie (Wichita, Kansas)

Broadie has been an avid tennis player most of his life. He was a member of the Kinsley High School team in Kinsley, Kansas and went on to play collegiate tennis at Southwestern University in Winfield, Kansas. Broadie won both the Wichita city and Kansas state titles in the Men's Open division at the age of 43. Along with his doubles partner, he won the USTA Missouri Valley Section 55 doubles title in 1969. A finalist in the 65 doubles division at both the national hard court and indoor championships, Broadie captured the national 75 singles title in 1989. Well known on the Senior Florida Winter Circuit, he won the Florida Grand Prix in two consecutive years in the 80's division.

Dr. Donald Klotz (Iowa City, Iowa)*

Dr. Klotz has received several awards in recognition of a lifetime of service to the sport of tennis. A native of Iowa City, he played tennis for the University of Iowa where he won a conference doubles title. Following three years in service, he returned to the University of Iowa in 1946 and completed his graduate degree. In 1947, Dr. Klotz became the head tennis coach at the University of Iowa. He guided the 1958 team to the Big Ten Championship. Several of his players gained national recognition and some even international fame. Several innovations in the teaching and play of tennis came from Dr. Klotz. His volley method of teaching tennis has been recognized as one of the best ever developed and has been adopted worldwide. His research regarding a subsurface watering system for clay courts led to a federal patent in 1965.



J.C. Louderback (Arkansas City, Kansas)

Louderback spent 36 years as the tennis coach at Arkansas City High School. Among his numerous accomplishments during his tenure, he produced 20 singles and doubles state champions. Louderback was twice named National High School Regional Coach of the Year, and also received Kansas State High School Coach of the Year honors four times. An outstanding singles and doubles player, Louderback was ranked in the USTA Missouri Valley top four in Men's 35, 45, and 55 singles and doubles for 30 years. He was inducted into the Southwestern College Athletic Hall of Fame, and later the Kansas Coaches Tennis Association Hall of Fame. Louderback has served as president of the Arkansas City Tennis Association for 41 years, and is a former president of the Kansas District. Louderback was an advisory member of both the Nike and Prince professional staff and spoke at numerous clinics and other tennis functions throughout our section and nationally.



Jim "Coach" Reed (Winfield, Kansas)

Reed began his coaching career in 1956, and returned to the profession two years later following time spent in the military service. During his tenure at Winfield High School, Reed's tennis teams won 16 league championships and his players captured 19 singles and doubles titles. He received his bachelor degree at Southwestern College in Winfield. Reed was selected as the Coach of the Year for the Wichita Area Coaches Association in both 1962 and 1963. He was the recipient of the High

School Coach of the Year award for District 5 in 1978, along with the National High School tennis Coach of the Year distinction. In 1993, Reed was inducted into the Southwestern College Athletic Hall of Fame. In 1998, he became a member of the Kansas Tennis Hall of Fame. As a highly acclaimed competitive tennis player, Reed has won numerous USTA Missouri Valley tournaments, USTA League Tennis Sectional Championships and advanced to the USTA League Tennis National Championships numerous times.



S.L. Shofner (Prescott, Arizona)

Shofner began playing tennis in his senior year in high school. A natural at the sport, he played four years of varsity tennis at the University of Central Oklahoma (formerly Central State). He won both conference and the NAIA singles championships during his senior year, resulting in the school's first national title. Shofner was ranked No. 1 in Oklahoma and in the USTA Missouri Valley Section 35's and 45's age divisions in singles and doubles for approximately 15 years. In 1969, he won the 35's and 45's singles and doubles National Championships. The following year, Shofner was nationally ranked No. 2 in singles and doubles. His longtime doubles partner was Ollie Greshman, and the duo were hard to defeat. Shofner was inducted into the University of Central Oklahoma Tennis Hall of Fame and Basketball Hall of Fame in 1995.

1999

David Bryant (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

Bryant has a long successful tennis history dating back to his success as the Oklahoma State High School Champion. His college career was interrupted with military service in 1966, and later resumed when he transferred from Oklahoma Baptist University to Southeastern Oklahoma State University where he was an All-American three years. He turned pro in 1973 and toured full time for three years participating in three international Tours and Satellites in Pacific Northwest and Missouri Valley. Bryant was in Oklahoma City as Quail Creek's Director of Tennis since 1987. Additionally, he played in the finals of 30 National USTA Doubles Championships, winning 18 doubles titles, one single title and the runner-up in doubles 11 times. He has also won seven National USPTA Doubles Championships, six National USPTA Singles Championships and the 1998 USTA Missouri Valley Adult Player of the Year award. Additionally, Bryant was part of a team that represented the United States in the Canada Cup.

Dr. George Milton (Emporia, Kansas)

Dr. Milton earned a B.S. at Rice, a M.S. at North Texas State, and Ed.D. in Physical Education in 1960, 61, and 66. He taught at Emporia State University since 1965 as well as coached the Men's Varsity tennis team. In 1976, George began coaching the Varsity Women's tennis team. Dr. Milton has been active in the Kansas District since 1972 as a tournament director, vice president and president. As a player, he earned state and USTA Missouri Valley rankings in both singles and doubles. He served as USTA Missouri Valley adult council representative, league coordinator and education and research committee representative. To say that Dr. Milton loves tennis is an understatement, for he once played for 92 hours and seven minutes, earning him a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records. The purpose of his tennis "Marathon" was to raise money for youth tennis scholarships. He is also the founder of "Coaches Corps", an organization dedicated to teaching tennis to the inner city.



Cliff Price (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

Price grew up in Ada, Oklahoma where he played junior tennis and earned the No. 1 ranking in boy's 18 singles and a No. 5 USTA Missouri Valley ranking. He played No. 1 position in both singles and doubles position for Oklahoma State University where he graduated in 1970. He won the Big 8 singles title in 1968, was runner-up in 67 and 69, and was a Big 8 doubles finalist in 1968. He continued his winning ways since college days earning the No. 1 ranking in Men's singles four times, no. 1 in USTA/MV Men's 35 singles twice and top ten national ranking in Men's 35, 40, and 45 singles. He reached the finals in



the 1989 USTA 40 Hardcourt Championships singles and doubles titles and was named USPTA Missouri Valley Player of the Year in 1994 and 1995, and Pro of the Year in 1996.



J. Hal Surface, Jr. (Kansas City, Missouri)*

Surface is one of the best tennis players to come out of Kansas City. He won many Kansas City Open junior titles, and in 1932. He earned the title of Missouri Valley Junior Singles Champion. Surface played national tournaments as a junior and reached the finals of the National Clay Court Championship. As an adult, he won the Missouri Valley Men's Singles Championship four times and the doubles once. He competed in collegiate tennis at the University of Texas, then went on to the highest level of tennis in the 1930's and early 40's. In 1936, he competed in England at the Queen's Tournament, Wimbledon and the

French Championships with Don Budge, Gene Mako and many others. He has a long and illustrious tennis career. In addition to the famous players mentioned, he has victories over Gardner Malloy in a National Championship and Bill Tilden in an exhibition match.

Dr. Steve Wilkinson (St. Peter, Minnesota)*

Wilkinson played No. 1 singles and doubles at the University of Iowa from 1960 to 1963. He competed on the international circuit in 1964 and 1965. He earned USTA National rankings in Men's Open and 35's. Additionally, he won a string of USPTA National titles in the 35's and 45's beginning in 1976, played on USA World Cup teams in 45's, 50's, and 55's, and was ranked No. 1 in USTA 55 singles in 1997. In addition to playing and coaching, Wilkinson served on the National USPTA Executive Committee for 18 years. He is the founder and director of the Tennis and Life Clinic, started in 1973, in which over 1,000 coaches, players, and parents attend each year. His Tennis and Life Camps develop better tennis skills, a healthy lifestyle, good sportsmanship, and positive self-esteem in players of all ages and abilities. Over 300,000 students have trained at TLC on the Gustavus Adolphus College.

2000

Louis Gerdes (Omaha, Nebraska)*

Gerdes won more than 100 adult tennis tournaments. A member of the University of Missouri tennis team, Gerdes also captured five Omaha singles titles and seven doubles titles. At age 39, he captured the singles and doubles title of Omaha, as well as the city and state titles in the 35's, 45's, and 55's divisions. He dedicated his life to the game of tennis and its development in Nebraska. He pushed for and accomplished the expansion of two tennis centers in Omaha. He is truly an inspiration to many players.

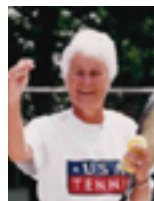
Ollie Gresham (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

Gresham learned to play tennis at age 14 at Will Rogers High School. After high school, he went on to play college tennis for the University of Tulsa where he helped lead the team to an undefeated season in 1954. He captured several USTA Missouri Valley Championships in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. In 1983, Gresham and his son, David, were ranked No. 4 in the nation in the Father-and-Son Division.

Judy Levering (Stowe, Vermont)

Levering was born in Kansas City, Missouri and attended Northwestern University. As first vice president of the USTA, Levering championed the naming of what was then the new Arthur Ashe Stadium at Flushing Meadows in honor of the three-time Grand Slam winner and transcendent American icon. Levering became the first woman president of the USTA when her two-year term began January 1, 1999. Prior to her role as president, she served as USTA vice-president in

1997-98. Levering has been honored with several USTA national awards, including the Community Service and Service Bowl. She has competed in all levels of senior tournaments, and has been a finalist in the USTA Mother & Daughter Championships.



Marilyn Mueller (St. Louis, Missouri)*

A nine-time St. Louis District singles champion, Mueller's accomplishments also include five-time Missouri Valley singles champion, eleven Dwight Davis singles titles, eight Dwight Davis doubles titles, and ten Dwight Davis mixed doubles titles. Additionally, she won six Martin J. Kennedy singles titles, eight Martin J. Kennedy doubles titles, and six Martin J. Kennedy mixed doubles titles. Mueller also captured two National Public Parks doubles titles and two National Parks 40's doubles titles.

Homer Robinson (Tulsa, Oklahoma)*

Robinson has been very active in tennis organizations since 1967. He served as a board member, treasurer, vice-president and president of the Tulsa Racquet Club. Additionally, he served as vice-president for the Tulsa Area Tennis Association, vice-president of the Oklahoma District Tennis Association and represented Oklahoma on the Adult Council of USTA Missouri Valley. Robinson served as chairman of the Selection Committee of the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame for 12 years.

Dr. Bryce Young (Hilton Head, South Carolina)

Dr. Young served as president of Peak Performance Training and is a certified member of the PTR, USPTA and Association for the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology. His clients include the USTA, various college tennis teams, ATP and WTA tour professionals and World TeamTennis teams. At Bethany College (Lindsborg, KS), Young's teams earned 10 Conference championships in 10 years. He was voted Kansas Coach of the Year five times and received an award for Outstanding Educator.

2001

Junior Coen (Kansas City, Missouri)

Coen was known as the greatest tennis player ever born in Kansas City, MO. In 1929, he was ranked No. 8 in the county, while playing major tournaments such as Wimbledon, Forest Hills and the French Open. A protégé of Bill Tilden, Coen was a quarterfinalist at Forest Hills at only 17-years-old and was the youngest player in the Davis Cup history at the age of 16. He was also instrumental in the building of Rockhill Tennis Club, in Kansas City, Mo.

Dick Gilkey (Edmond, Oklahoma)

Gilkey captured two Oklahoma State High School No. 1 singles titles. After high school, he attended the University of Oklahoma where he won three Big East titles. In 1980, he became Manager and Head Pro at the Oklahoma City Tennis Center where he has built a reputation as one of the best tournament directors in the United States.

Gene Land (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

Land won a total of 41 Missouri Valley tournaments and earned a No. 1 ranking in 10 different years. Land attended Oklahoma State University and Central State University, winning the NAIA singles title in 1955. He served as tennis coach at Northwest Classen and Muskogee High Schools and captured several state championships.

Don McNeil (Chickasha, Oklahoma)

McNeil was known as the best tennis player ever to come from the state of Oklahoma. In 1939, he captured the French Open singles and doubles titles and went on to win the National Clay Court, National Intercollegiate and U.S. Open titles, earning him the No. 1 ranking overall in 1940. McNeil also won the 1944 U.S. Open doubles title. He was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1965 and later the Oklahoma Sports and Tennis Halls of Fame. McNeil died in 1996.

Gerald Perry (Springfield, Missouri)

Perry has captured over a dozen National Public Parks Championships and six PTR International Championships. He won three Big East Conference singles and doubles titles at the University of Oklahoma between 1967-69. He competed in several professional tournaments, including Wimbledon, French Open, and Italian Championships. He owns and operated the Gerald Perry Tennis

Company and has built and/or resurfaced over 5,000 tennis courts

2002

William Davis (Seminole, Oklahoma)

William Davis first started playing tennis in high school. He was awarded a tennis scholarship to the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and as the No. 1 singles and doubles player, led the Volunteers to the Southeastern Conference tide in 1951. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1953 and won the Southeastern Conference Air Force tournament. He has been nationally ranked in the top five nearly every year in singles and doubles since 1981. In 1976, William won his first National Senior tournament and in 1979, teamed with Hugh Stewart to win the National Hard Court doubles title. He has won a total of 43 gold balls for winning 43 national tournaments and was a finalist in many other national tournaments, earning several silver balls. He has been selected every year since 1987 to represent the U.S. in Senior Cup matches. William and his wife, Lynne have five children and all are active in tennis. In 1992, he purchased Twin Lakes Racquet Club in Seminole, Okla. where he coaches several junior tennis players, including many state champions.

Ralph Hart, Jr. (St. Louis, Missouri)

Ralph Hart was a member of the Grinnell College tennis team, in Grinnell, Iowa, and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He teamed with his son and won the St. Louis Municipal Father and Son doubles title twice. In addition, he won 14 St. Louis Municipal singles titles and teamed with Ward Parker to capture 13 St. Louis Municipal doubles titles in the 40-75 age divisions. Ralph won the Missouri Valley Open singles title in 1941 and the Men's 65 singles and doubles in 1987. He continued to win the National Public Parks 55's singles title and was a finalist in the doubles division. Hart teamed with Phil Edwards and played in three ITF sanctioned tournaments, winning the 65's doubles title in all three tournaments. They also won the 65's National Clay Court Championship in 1988. Hart assisted Ward Parker for many years in running the Esquire Tournaments at Triple A. Ralph is married and has three children.



Mary Norwood-Rompf (Newport, Rhode Island)

Mary Norwood-Rompf is originally from Oklahoma City, Okla., and currently serves as Head Tennis Professional at the International Tennis Hall of Fame, in Newport, RI. She played professionally on the WTA for two years ranking in the top 100. In 2001, Norwood-Rompf won the USTA National Grass Court Open singles and doubles championships and placed third in the mixed doubles division. In 2002, she won the National Grass Court doubles title, both women's and mixed, and was a finalist in women's singles. Norwood-Rompf is the former Associate Director of Adult Tennis Programs at the Nick Bollettieri Tennis

Academy in Bradenton, FL and Director of Junior Tennis/Associate Head Pro with the Gold's Tennis Division in Kansas City, Mo. In 1994, she was chosen as Maureen Connolly Brinker Player of the Year, awarded annually to that player who exemplifies the "courage, determination and grace of a true champion." She was chosen as the USPTA Pro of the Year for the USPTA/Missouri Valley Division three consecutive years and in 1995, was awarded National USPTA Female Pro of the Year. She attained a USIA top 10 junior national ranking every year from age 12 to 18 and was a four-time Oklahoma State High School Champion. She won 14 national titles in singles and doubles, ranking as high as No. 3 in singles and No. 1 in doubles. She was a three-time NI-American at the University of Southern California and was a member of their 1985 National Championship team. Married in 1996, Bill and Mary Rompf joined the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1998 and together offer numerous educational and instructional tennis programs for both adults and juniors at all play levels.

Patsy Rippy-Bond (Sandy, Utah)

Patsy Rippy-Bond was born in Oklahoma City, Okla., and started playing tennis at the age of 10. She graduated from Shawnee High School, in Shawnee, Okla., and soon became one of the top tennis players in the state of Oklahoma. She captured four state high school singles championships and was selected as Shawnee High School Athlete of the Year during her senior year. On a National level, she captured five doubles championships and was runner-up in singles each time. After

earning a two-year tennis scholarship to Odessa Junior College, in Odessa, Texas, she won the United States Lawn Tennis Association (USLTA) National Championships in her first year. Patsy represented the U.S. in the Pan-American Games in Winnipeg, Canada, winning a gold medal in doubles and a silver in singles. She also represented the U.S. in the pre-Olympics Championships in Guadalajara, Mexico, capturing a gold medal in doubles play. Patsy still competes in various tournaments and has held pro and assistant head pro positions with El Paso Tennis Club of Albuquerque, N.M. and Canyon Racquet Club, in Salt Lake City, Utah. A graduate of the University of Texas-El Paso with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, Patsy is married to Kenneth Bond of Salt Lake City, Utah, and has three children; Chris, Rebecca and Karen. She is currently teaching third grade at Beehive Elementary School in Sandy, Utah, the town she now calls home.



Bill Rompf (Newport, Rhode Island)

Bill Rompf currently serves as Vice President and Director of Tennis at the International Tennis Hall of Fame, in Newport, R.I. Before coming to Newport, he served as General Manager for the Gold's Gyms Tennis Division in Merriam, Kan., heading all operations and expansions in the racquet sports area. Rompf is the former Vice President and Executive Director of the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Bradenton, Fla. While at Bollettieri's Academy he directed summer camps and worked with the management of numerous professional players, including Andre Agassi, Jim Courier, Anna Kournikova, Mary Pierce, Monica Seles and Pete Sampras.

He was the majority owner and Director of Tennis for the Rompf/Summerfield Tennis Academy in Oklahoma City - the first tennis academy in the region to promote national level junior tennis. Over 2,500 juniors began their tennis careers at the Academy, which produced 85 USIA/Missouri Valley and 35 USIA champions, as well as seven National Sportsmanship Award winners between 1976 and 1986. As a junior player, Bill was consistently ranked No. 1 in Iowa and as high as No. 3 in the USIA Missouri Valley. Rompf was also a member of Stanford's No. 1 ranked college freshman team in 1969. After graduating from Stanford in 1972, Rompf went on to play the Mini-Grand Prix Tour in South America, winning singles and doubles championships in both Colombia and Ecuador.

2003

Bill Brown (Arroya Grande, California)

Bill started his impressive tennis career as a player at Creighton Prep High School, in Omaha, NE. He went undefeated in high school singles competition, winning the state high school championship four consecutive years. Brown continued his tennis career at the University of Notre Dame, serving as team captain and achieving an All-American status in 1967. During his professional singles career, Brown defeated national champions from ten different countries. His accomplishments in doubles are just as impressive, winning eight international doubles titles.

Cliff Buchholz (Fort Collins, Colorado)

Cliff has amassed numerous Section and District singles and doubles titles as a junior growing up in St. Louis, MO. He was a finalist at the 1963 U.S. Men's Indoor Doubles Championship and a semi-finalist in doubles at the U.S. Nationals (formerly the U.S. Open). During a four-year period, Buchholz earned National singles rankings of No. 18 and No. 24, as well as No. 4, No. 8 and No. 14 in doubles competition. Buchholz had impressive wins over well-known players such as Stan Smith and Arthur Ashe. He has developed and operated clubs and tennis schools across the country and is a former co-Tournament Director of the NASDAQ-100 Open (formerly Lipton Championships).

Bob Green (Atlantic Beach, Florida)

As a child, Bob has fond memories of playing tennis at Dewey Park, in Omaha, NE. From the courts at Dewey Park, Green went on to Creighton Prep High School and won three state titles and three Metro Conference titles. He served as captain of Boston University's tennis team and was honored as Outstanding Male Student Athlete. In 1984 he was ranked No. 132 in the world when he entered the U.S. Open by winning three qualifying matches. He continued to win his first three matches in the main draw before losing in the quarterfinals to the No. 1 ranked player in the world and eventual

tournament champion, John McEnroe.

Phil Landauer (Hillard, Ohio)

As a collegiate player, Landauer earned a tennis scholarship and played No. 1 singles and doubles for the University of Arkansas. He has coached over 100 nationally ranked juniors, including four national champions and several Orange and East Bowl winners. He has captured 13 gold balls by winning four national singles championships and nine national doubles championships. Landauer has also done well in international competition, serving as a member of seven straight victorious Gordon Cup teams, a champion Dubler Cup team, and two-time champion Avory Cup team.

Nancy Pearce-Jeffett (Dallas, Texas)*

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Jeffett was an accomplished all-court player who rose to No. 10 nationally in the USLTA Girls' 18 division in 1946. Nancy started playing tennis in 1943 and was coached by the legendary Earl Buchholz. She founded the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation with the late Maureen Connolly in 1968. In 1970, she organized the Maureen Connolly Brinker Memorial Tournament, and in 1975, the tournament became the Virginia Slims of Dallas. A pioneer of women's professional tennis, she has organized and founded local, national, and international tennis competition. Since 1976, she has served the International Tennis Hall of Fame as Director, member of Executive and Nominating committees and Honorary Life Director.

2004



John Bregin (Merriam, Kansas)

John Bregin grew up in St. Joseph, Mo. playing baseball and basketball. He received a tennis scholarship to Northwest Missouri University in Maryville, Mo., and won the MIAA singles and doubles championship four consecutive years. During his senior year he was awarded the Howard Leach Award for Outstanding Athlete/Scholar. He spent a majority of his time teaching tennis and building a tennis club. The first indoor/outdoor tennis club in the Kansas City metro area was completed as the Kansas City Racquet Club, Inc. in 1969.

John was the sole owner, head professional and manager. John has been a USPTA Missouri Valley Division member since 1966 and has been involved in the USTA at the local level for 40 years, Section level for 32 years and National level for 28 years.

Don Dippold (St. Louis, Missouri)*



Although he played high school tennis, Don Dippold received an athletic scholarship to the University of Missouri-Columbia for basketball. After military service, Don taught business subjects at Beaumont High School and coached tennis and basketball for ten years. He also served as the tennis pro at Westwood Country Club for 28 years. Although Don won local and Section tournaments in his younger years, he did not find time for adult tournaments until the age of 65 when he entered the USIA National 65's Indoor Championship. He defeated the top three seeded players to win the

championship and his first gold ball. In the 70's age division, Don played on grass for the first time and won two more gold balls, one for singles and another for doubles. He also won a USTA National 70 singles and doubles Category II Championship. Don was selected for the British team and won the World Championship in 1996 and again in 1997. He has played in the ITF World Championships in Austria and Australia and has earned a National Ranking as high as No. 2 in singles and doubles and a world ranking of No. 4.

Don Gardner (Wichita, Kansas)*



Don Gardner has often been referred to as Mr. Tennis of Wichita. He possesses a deep love for the game of tennis. He spearheaded the formation of the Wichita Tennis Patrons Foundation. During his tenure as President, he led and directed fund-raising projects to help promote tennis in the Wichita area for over 10,000

players. He also served as President of the Missouri Valley Tennis Association in 1978-79. Thanks to chairman Don Gardner, the City of Wichita grew in stature and attracted the top players in the USTA Missouri Valley. City officials were seriously considering building several two and three tennis court layouts throughout the city. Don was strongly opposed to this plan and did everything he possibly could to get backing for one major tennis complex in a central location. He even made trips with city officials to other states having the type of facilities he was certain would be best for Wichita. Riverside Tennis Complex, a first class tennis facility was built in downtown Wichita. Many have praised Don for his efforts and vision toward this fine facility.

Ken Lidie (Bellevue, Nebraska)*



A native of Frederick, MD, Ken Lidie was a three-sport star in high school, and during summer months, he played baseball and softball in city and state leagues. While still in high school, Ken entered the Army Air Corp where he served as a paratrooper in World War II. He first picked up a racket and ventured into the world of recreational tennis when he was in his mid-30's while stationed in New Hampshire. He continued playing at the recreational level during the next 10 years. It wasn't until he was in his mid-40's, while stationed at Offutt Air Force

Base in Nebraska, that he began playing sanctioned tennis tournaments. During this time, he also held the title of Air Force Champion in tennis and racquetball and represented the Air Force in several inter-service military tournaments. His competitive tennis career includes being Nebraska State Champion and Missouri Valley Champion in multiple age divisions in singles. He regularly won in lower-aged divisions in state play in singles and doubles. After his retirement from the Air Force, Lidie traveled the U.S. playing in USTA National tournaments, winning a gold ball and two silver balls in singles. He played well on all four surfaces reaching at least the quarterfinals on each. In 1985, he won the National Hardcourt and was ranked the No. 3 player nationally in the Men's 60 division. He's also the winner of several National Public Parks titles and is a Canadian Open champion. In addition, Lidie traveled worldwide to compete in ITF tournaments in such places as Yugoslavia, Italy, France, Australia and New Zealand.

Su Oertel (Mason City, Iowa)



Su Oertel is a former National Public Parks Champion. From 1985-98, she won 14 championships in singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Oertel continued her dominance for many years, winning District championships in Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota. She played in 613 singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches during 1972-95 and won 75 percent of her matches. Oertel, an active player in the USTA Pro Circuit, currently serves as Associate Professor of HPE and Women's Tennis Coach at Luther College. She earned her doctoral degree in Physical Education/Sociology of Sport. Oertel gained experience at several clubs and

schools, as well as the Tennis and Life Camp which is operated by past USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame inductee, Dr. Steve Wilkerson. Oertel was honored in 1985 as one of the Outstanding Young Women of America. The Cedar Rapids Gazette named her one of the Top Ten Coaches of the Century in 1999.

2005

John Allen Been (Houston, Texas)

John claimed the singles state championship at Shawnee (Okla.) High, during a strong junior career that saw him climb to No. 28 in boys 18 singles and No. 6 in doubles. He paired with tennis icon Barry MacKay in the boys 18 doubles. John was one of many players who benefited from working with legendary tennis coach Paul Duffield. After his success in junior ranks, John rolled up more wins on the college court, playing tennis at the University of Houston. He captured three conference singles titles and four conference doubles titles. Later, John won several national doubles titles with partner Richard Schuette, and won the National Public Parks doubles title three times with Ollie Gresham, another member of the Missouri Valley Hall of Fame. John has owned his own insurance business



in Houston for the last 45 years, and his tennis playing has extended into the seniors divisions.



Dr. Harry Clifton Burrus (Winter Haven, Florida)*

He played professional football, intercepting three passes off Cleveland Brown Hall of Famer Otto Graham—in one game. He was responsible for bringing Arthur Ashe to St. Louis in 1960, for the future US Open champ's senior year of high school, and he frequently traded ground strokes with a youngster named Jimmy Connors. Dr. Harry Clifton Burrus Jr. led a remarkable life, and he definitely left his mark on the tennis world of the USTA Missouri Valley. At Washington University in St. Louis, Dr. Burrus served as athletic director and greatly increased the number of varsity teams at WU. He and his wife Wilma created the Sports Skills School, a camp for elementary students that introduced them to archery, swimming, gymnastics, basketball, track and tennis. Dr. Burrus was an instrumental figure in the development of the Dwight Davis Tennis Center. In 1966, Dr. Burrus moved to Fairfield, Iowa, where he and Wilma both were professors at Parsons College. He also coached Parsons' tennis team. At that time through the early 1970s, he began playing National Father and Son tennis, and at one time World Tennis Magazine listed him and his son No. 2 in the United States. In 1973, Dr. Burrus moved to Florida, becoming a full-time tennis pro. He achieved the highest rating of the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA) as a "Master Pro." The USPTA had Dr. Burrus ranked No. 1 in the nation in mens 65 singles. After serving in the military during the 1940s, Dr. Burrus, who was born in Slaton, Texas, earned his Masters and Doctorate degrees from Columbia University in New York. While at Columbia, he played three years of pro football in the All-America Conference, which was eventually absorbed into the National Football League. For his three picks off Graham, he received a \$75 bonus. Dr. Burrus graduated from Big Spring (Texas) High School in 1936 at just 15 years old.



Jacque Croft (Overland Park, Kansas)

Jacque Croft is a two-time winner of the USTA Missouri Valley Distinguished Service Award, and in 2002, she received the USTA Volunteer Service Award for 15 years of service to the USTA. Her love of tennis can be traced back to her days at Harding High School in Oklahoma City. She was an outstanding scholastic athlete, lettering in three sports, including tennis. Jacque and her late husband Bert had a son, John, and a daughter, Suzanne. Both of their children played junior tennis, and in the mid-1970s, Jacque started playing tennis seriously again, renewing her involvement in both junior and adult tennis. She has been ranked many times in the age divisions of the Heart of America and Missouri Valley – in singles, doubles and mixed. Nearly every junior, adult and league competitor who has played in a Missouri Valley section tournament during the last 20 years has probably seen Jacque behind the tournament desk. What many have never seen is the hours of behind-the-scenes work she does for the tennis community to improve the game for players of all ages and skill levels. This remarkable woman has served two terms as the Heart of America president and has held numerous other positions, both officially and unofficially in the district. She has served as the chairperson of the junior selection committee for the USTA Area Training Center. Jacque has served the USTA Missouri Valley in several capacities as a board and a committee member, chairperson, tournament director and umpire. She has been a longtime tournament director of the USTA 65, 75, and 85 National Indoor Championships in Kansas City, where she has handed more gold balls to the great Dodo Cheney than just about anyone else.

Dr. Richard Mechem (Fredericksburg, Texas)

Dr. Richard Mechem established himself as an outstanding player when he won the Kansas state high school singles championship in 1945. Two years later, he was playing No. 1 singles at Stanford. A two-time Central Intercollegiate Conference champion at Washburn University, Mechem's outstanding play continued after college as he earned several high rankings in adult competition in the Missouri Valley, New Mexico and Florida. Dr. Mechem has been an instrumental part of player development wherever he has lived, including his time here in the Missouri Valley. He



was the president of the Topeka Tennis Club from 1950-51, and was the head men's tennis coach at the University of Kansas from 1952 through '56. He lived in Florida for awhile, then moved to New Mexico. Since 1995, he has resided in Fredericksburg, Texas, where he owns and operates the Barons Creek Racquet Club. His daughters Nikki and Marisa both play college tennis, Nikki at Texas A&M and Marisa at Denver University.



Frank A. Thompson Jr. (St. Louis, Missouri)*

How many people could board that they were once a Wimbledon semifinalist? In tennis' most prestigious event, Frank A. Thompson Jr. once reached the semis of the senior men's doubles. Frank's love for and success in the game began at an early age. As a successful player in the St. Louis junior ranks, he won 16s and 18s city titles. He captained his St. Louis Country Day School tennis team. He continued his tennis excellence as captain of the University of Virginia singles team, leading the Cavaliers to an undefeated season in 1939. In 1940,

Frank enlisted in the Navy, serving throughout World War II. He saw action during the invasion of Normandy on D-Day. After his military service, Frank proved tennis success was, for him, ageless. He won several national doubles tournaments, including indoor titles in the 45s division, grass court titles in the 55s and clay titles in the 65s. Frank was selected to represent the United States in several international competitions, including the 1966 Gordon Cup, 1967 Osuna Cup and 1981 Britania Cup. Frank was president of the St. Louis Tennis Association (1954-55) and vice president of the Missouri Valley Tennis Association (1952-57). He also served as chairman of the 196 United States vs. Ecuador, Davis Cup tie held in St. Louis. Frank made news off the court when, in 1963, he backed legislation to open the historic Triple A facility in Forest Park to "personals of all races, creeds and color." He also founded the Triple A Youth Foundation to underwrite tennis costs for talented juniors. He showed himself to be both a scholar and athlete. He studied at Cambridge University in England. Frank was inducted into the St. Louis Hall of Fame in 1994.

2006

Dave Freeborn (Lexington, Missouri)



Freeborn, is the USTA Missouri Valley's only posthumous inductee in the Class of 2006. Freeborn, a former letterwinner at the University of Wisconsin in the 1920's who captained an undefeated team in his senior year in 1928, turned into an exceptional senior player. Freeborn won three different USTA National doubles championships in the 1970's on three different surfaces with three different partners. In 1972, Freeborn won the National 65 Clay Court Championships with partner Sam Shore, and a year later added the National 65 Indoor

Championships with partner Marshall Christopher. Freeborn collected one last gold ball in 1978, at the Men's 70 National Hard Court with Emil Johnson. He was also heavily involved with getting the first senior age division started in the USTA Missouri Valley, starting the program in Lexington, Missouri.



Jay Louderback (South Bend, Indiana)

Louderback, the longtime coach of the Notre Dame women's team, is one of the most decorated coaches in collegiate tennis history. In his 26-year coaching career, Louderback has posted a career 510-324 record (through 2005-06 season) for three schools, Iowa State, Wichita State and Notre Dame. He currently ranks third-best among active coaches in career wins. Louderback has directed his Notre Dame squads to 14 consecutive Top 30 year-end finishes, and has won the Big East Coach of the Year six times. He was also a

terrific player, winning the Missouri Valley Conference doubles and singles championships in 1976 while a player for Wichita State. Louderback will join his father J.C. Louderback, a 1998 inductee, into the Missouri Valley Hall of Fame. The Louderbacks will be the fourth father-son pair (Earl Buchholz, Sr./Earl "Butch" Buchholz, Jr and Cliff Buchholz; Gerald Perry/Gerry Perry; The Ward Parker Family and sons) to be inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame.

**Terry Miller (Overland Park, Kansas)**

Miller was instrumental in the formation of Kansas City USTA Leagues. A longtime volunteer for the USTA, Miller has run local tournaments in the Kansas City area for the last three decades, including the very successful Kansas City Open held each summer. Miller has also been renowned as a player from her beginning junior days. Miller was an elite junior player, and was selected to compete at the Girls' 18 Nationals in Philadelphia. She was also a member of the United States Wightman Cup team in 1964.

Miller has continued her tennis excellence right on through the adult and senior divisions, always being among the top-ranked players in singles, doubles and mixed in open divisions in the Missouri Valley. Miller has been a teaching pro at several facilities in the Kansas City-metropolitan area including Blue Hills Country Club, KC Racquet Club, Milburn Golf & Country Club and Woodside Tennis and Health Club. In 1987, Miller won the Distinguished Service Award from both the Heart of America and the USTA Missouri Valley.

**Dave Riley (Tulsa, Oklahoma)***

Riley, a former USTA Missouri Valley Section President (1997-98), vice-president and president of the Oklahoma District Tennis Association is the first of three members of the 2006 Hall of Fame Class from Tulsa. He is also the first-ever USTA Missouri Valley Section President from Tulsa. As a former Section President, Riley also served as the Missouri Valley Section Delegate to the USTA from 1998-2002, and was appointed a Presidential Appointee to the Executive Committee in 2002-2004, under former USTA President

Alan Schwarz. Riley was a former collegiate player at Southeastern State College in Durant, Okla., and during his adult playing career he has been ranked in the top five in the Missouri Valley Section in nearly all age groups from 35's up to the 60's. He has won more than 60 Oklahoma District and Missouri Valley USTA Tournaments.

**James Russell Warner (Tulsa, Oklahoma)**

Warner is best known for being the longtime tournament director of the USTA Challenger of Oklahoma, which has been held at Philcrest Hills Tennis Club for all but two years since 1988. Warner is also the Executive Director and Head Teaching Pro at Philcrest Hills. A USPTA Master Teaching Professional who has taught players from beginning ranks up to world-class ATP-ranked and WTA-ranked professionals, Warner also served on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Valley Division of the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA) and Oklahoma District of

the USPTA. Warner was a past president of the Oklahoma District (2000-01). He remains a USTA Schools Program clinician, a coach/scout for the USTA Area Training Center, and the captain of several USTA League Tennis teams that play out of Philcrest Hills. Warner's past awards include the USPTA Missouri Valley Community Service Award (1994), the USPTA Professional of the Year for Oklahoma (1995). The USTA Challenger of Oklahoma event was also recognized as the Section's Adult Event of the Year in 2005. A former college player at the University of Tulsa, Warner is also an author of three books, including "The 10 Commandments of Tennis."

2007**Barbara Fackel (Rock Island, Illinois)***

Barbara has been a volunteer with the USTA for the last three decades, serving in a variety of capacities at both the section and national level, and always with distinction. A former USTA Missouri Valley section president (1995-96), Barbara's contributions to the growth of the sport have been many and varied, and always at a grassroots level. She is currently the chairperson of USTA Nominating Committee. Barbara has been actively involved in junior competition since 1980, beginning

on the Missouri Valley Junior Tennis Council with her children's



involvement with the sport, all three of whom ended up playing college tennis at Division I schools. She has served as the section's Boys' 16's and 18's junior endorser since 1984, and was on the Youth Competition and Training Committee for the USTA for more than 15 years (1988-2004). She has also been a much sought-after presenter and speaker, holding workshops for the USPTA World Conference and several of the organization's division conventions. Currently the USTA Vice Chair of Community Development Committee, Barbara's community tennis building footprints have been left in many areas throughout the nation, none more so than her native Quad Cities area. She was the founder of the Bi-State Community Tennis Association, and has been instrumental in helping put together annual events like the Tennis in the 'Hood/Tennis Block Party annual event held each year in Davenport, Iowa and Moline, Ill. Her accomplishments have been lauded by the USTA. She has been given both the Eve Kraft Distinguished Service Award (1997) and the ITF Tennis Educational Merit Award (2007), two of the national governing body's highest service awards.



Ken Flach (St. Louis, Missouri)*

Ken made his name early on as a high-ranked junior in the section, coming out of the St. Louis suburb of Kirkwood, Mo., where he attended high school. His tennis education was shaped by his early instructors – Gloria Connors and Butch Buchholz, and he went on to become ranked No. 1 in the USTA Missouri Valley in boys' singles each year. His first year of 14's, won the Orange Bowl in Doubles with Paul Annacone. He went on to star at nearby Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, winning the Division II singles and doubles titles three years running (1981-83) before turning pro with teammate Robert Seguso. Ken reached as high as No. 54 in singles on the ATP Tour, but his true success came in doubles. One of the greatest doubles players in US history, Ken won a total of 36 career titles as a professional, including six Grand Slam titles - 3 men's with Robert Seguso (US Open, 1985; Wimbledon 1987 & '88), one with Rick Leach (US Open 1993) and two mixed with Kathy Jordan (1986 Wimbledon, 1987 French Open). Ken also was a Davis Cup stalwart in the mid-1980's to early 1990's with Seguso. The duo compiled an 11-2 record, and helped lead the US to a Davis Cup final in 1991 against France. In all, Ken won more than \$2 million in career prize money as a professional. Since retiring from the pro tour, Ken has been a USTA High Performance Developmental coach, and also served as the men's tennis coach at Vanderbilt University from 1997-2005, building the school into a winner, leading the school to its first NCAA Tournament berth (1999) and NCAA finals appearance (2003).



Bob McKinley (College Station, Texas)

Bob McKinley grew up in the St. Louis area, and became a successful junior, claiming section titles in every age group despite growing up at roughly the same time as Jimmy Connors. Bob reached a No. 1 junior ranking in the nation before shipping off to San Antonio, Texas, for Trinity University, where he would begin making a lasting mark in the school's tennis history, both as a player and coach. While at Trinity, McKinley earned All-American accolades all four years (1969-72), helping the Tigers to three straight NCAA finals (1970-72), including an NCAA team championship in 1972. He also reached the NCAA doubles finals in 1971 with Dick Stockton. He made a stab at the pro tour, and reached Top 50 in the world in the ATP rankings, including a Round of 16 Wimbledon appearance in 1972. He transitioned into a successful coaching tenure at Trinity (1975-84), coaching seven NCAA All-Americans, and reached NCAA team finals (1977, '79) and compiled a 219-57 record at the school. He was also named the NCAA Men's Coach of the Year in 1977. He later became the Director of Tennis at the famed John Newcombe Tennis Academy, and has since taken on a new challenge, as assistant men's coach at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Bob is a member of the St. Louis and Texas Tennis Hall of Fames, as well as a member of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Hall of Fame. McKinley is a member of the St. Louis and Texas Tennis Hall of Fames, as well as a member of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Hall of Fame. His brother, Charles was inducted into the first Missouri Valley Hall of Fame Class in 1986.

2008



Gayle David Bradshaw (Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida)

He didn't pick up his first tennis racquet until he was 13, but tennis has been Gayle David Bradshaw's life since that day. Bradshaw was sent to the courts to keep him occupied and that occupation has taken him to the Big 8, US Open, the ATP and to the forefront of the innovations to the game over the last 20 years. As a junior, he won two Oklahoma High School Boys State doubles championships in 1966 and '67 while attending Shawnee High School (Shawnee, Okla.). He then went to the University of Oklahoma (Norman, Okla.) on a tennis scholarship and only played the 1969 season. Following college, he became a teaching professional in Norman, Okla., then moved to Augusta, Ga., and began his tennis career as a teaching pro. Shortly after moving to Augusta, Bradshaw became the USTA Circuit Tour Director. While in Augusta he also served as the US Open Tournament Referee, serving from 1986 - 89. Following the '89 championships, he was asked to work for the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP). Since joining the ATP in 1990, Bradshaw has given his heart and soul to the game of tennis in countless ways. Bradshaw served as Tour Supervisor from 1990-2005, Director of Officiating from 1997-2002, Vice-President of Officiating from 2002-2005 and now serves as the Executive Vice President of Rules and Competition, a post he's held since 2005. He is also a retired Davis Cup Referee and ATP/ITF/WTB Gold Badge Referee. In his role with the ATP, he supervises officials worldwide. He also serves on the ATP Executive Committee, ITF Rules of Tennis Committee, ITF Technical Committee, the Tennis Anti-Doping working group, the Tennis Anti-Corruption working group, and is a member of a joint team charged with evaluating and approving systems for electronic review. "I am in a position where I can make a difference for the better," Bradshaw said. "Hopefully I played a small part in the growth of tennis over the last 30 years."



Patricia Graham (Kansas City, Missouri)*

A tennis player for the last 40 years, Patricia Graham has been the consummate player and volunteer. She first picked up a racquet in 1969 after watching her husband play at Rockhill Tennis Club in Kansas City. Finally, one day after practice, Patricia started hitting around with her husband and a life-long love affair was born. In just six years, Patricia would have a Missouri Valley ranking; something she would earn every year until 1993. She has also been a nationally-ranked senior player since 1993. Her highest national ranking was in the 30s. Playing has been her passion, but she has also given back to the game through her decades of volunteering. She began serving as an officer on various committees in the Missouri Valley in 1973 and served for ten years. In 1989, she became president of the Heart of America district, a position she held for three years. For several years, she was chair of the Missouri Valley Adult Competition Committee and currently serves as the vice-chair of the USTA Adult Competition Committee. She was the tournament director of the USTA Women's 65, 75, 85 National Indoor Championship from 1980-93 and has served as the tournament director of the USTA Women's 40 National Indoor Championship and USTA Women's 50 National Indoor Championship for the last four years. In addition, she has been the captain of the Maureen Connolly Cup team since 1992. Splitting her time now between Kansas City and Florida, she served on the Adult Tennis Council in Florida from 1993-2005. Throughout her days as a volunteer in the Missouri Valley, she teamed with Jacque Croft and Terry Miller on almost every occasion, doing everything from creating draws to running the tournament desk. Her long shot goal? Win a gold ball when she is 85. "I've had a wonderful tennis career," Graham said.



Steve Prosser (DeSoto, Kansas)

Born into a tennis family, it was only natural that Steve Prosser (DeSoto, Kan.) would pick up the racquet at a young age. His parents, Len and Nora Prosser, have both been inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Len in 1990 and Nora in 1997. With parents who were tennis enthusiasts in every sense of the phrase, Steve literally wore out his first racquet because it had been too big for him and he dragged it around the court. Growing up in Kansas City, Steve attended Shawnee Mission East High School where in 1959, he became the Kansas State 6A High School Singles Champion. That

year he also was the Missouri Valley Sectional 18 Doubles winner and reached the semifinals in singles. High school over, championship in hand, his love of the game didn't fade. He and his father traveled the country competing in multiple United States Lawn Tennis Association (later to become the USTA) National Father and Son tournaments. "My dad was a really good player," Prosser said of his father who won 57 national championship gold balls. Steve has two silver balls to his credit. Len and Steve were USLTA National Clay Father and Son finalists in 1961 and 1962 and that year they also reached the semifinals in the national grass championships and the national hard court championships. Over a seven-year span beginning in 1967, Prosser and his friend David Bryant, another USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame Member (1999), won 54 doubles tournaments throughout Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Prosser continued to play in various section championships until recently. Now living in DeSoto, Kan., Prosser has given back to the game by instructing high school players, "building the game from the ground up," he says.



Leigh Strassner (St. Louis, Missouri)*

After a career in tennis spanning over 60 years, Leigh's induction into the Missouri Valley Hall of Fame is long overdue. As a junior, Leigh earned a No. 2 section ranking in boys 16 singles and a No. 8 national ranking in boys 16 doubles, and reached as high as No. 32 nationally in boys 18 singles. Following his junior success, Leigh moved onto collegiate tennis and captained his Colgate University team in 1957. He also qualified for the National Indoor in New York, losing to the legendary duo of Vic Seixas and Tony Trabert in the second round. He was elected St. Louis District president from 1974 - 1977,

and then he served two years as the Missouri Valley section president from 1979-80. Leigh served two terms on the USTA's Board of Directors from 1981-1984 when he was the Central Region vice president. He was also a delegate to the Executive Committee from 1979-1986. Leigh has served on many USTA national committees, including the Nominating Committee, Tennis Facilities Committee, Membership Committee, Budget & Finance Committee, Sanction & Scheduling Committee, League Committee, Education & Recreational Tennis Committee and also the planning group for 1982 Davis Cup quarterfinal tie with Sweden, which was held in St. Louis. Leigh has been awarded two Missouri Valley Distinguished Service Awards, and his family was also recognized as the Missouri Valley Family of the Year. In 1997, Leigh was recognized by the USTA for his 20 years of service at the national level. In 2005 he was inducted into the St. Louis District Tennis Hall of Fame. Leigh continues to stay involved in the Missouri Valley, serving as an advisor to the St. Louis district since 1977, and operating his company, Strassner Tennis Court Builders, based in St. Louis.



2009

Nick Taylor (Wichita, Kansas)

A question asked of almost any top athlete is how they were able to get so good in order to become the best. For Wichita's Nick Taylor, hours hitting tennis balls against the garage door was the answer. Taylor is currently ranked No. 3 in the world by the ITF quad singles rankings, is the reigning Olympic gold medal doubles champion and holds doubles titles at both the Australian and US Opens. Taylor was driven to be competitive from an early age and it started with battling a rare congenital

disease: arthrogryposis, which means, when translated from Greek, "curved or hood joints." This severely limits Taylor's range of motion and



thus he must use an electric wheelchair to compete against the best in the world. The simple fact is that Taylor only picked up a tennis racquet when he was in eighth grade because he wanted to play a high school sport and his options were extremely limited. He started against the garage door before he ventured out onto an actual tennis court, and it didn't matter if it was cold, rainy, or that he had blood running down his hand because he was working so hard – he was determined to become good at tennis. It quickly became his escape from the challenges he faced in his young life. That competitive edge started to become apparent because he would take his tennis racquet with him to school every day, hit in the gym at lunch and even hit around during his study hall time. "The racquet went everywhere with me," Taylor says. "If I got madder, I could just hit the ball harder." Playing as much as he did in those early days, he would often hit against his garage door every night until the sun was well on its way to the next day. "I wanted to be good. I wasn't going to stop." He became the first wheelchair player in Kansas athletic high school history to compete against and defeat able-bodied players. Since around 1999, when he started making his splash on the international stage, Taylor has been a strong competitor. His accomplishments include over 100 tournament titles, two US Open doubles titles, two Australian Open doubles titles, two Olympic gold medals, various ITF Super Series titles, 10 straight World Cup Teams, the USTA's 1999 Wheelchair Player of the Year and now he is a member of the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame Class of 2009. Aside from his on-court success, Taylor is a force off it as well. He has served as the tournament director for the Via Christi Wichita Open, a USTA Women's Pro Circuit event for the last two years and as co-director for the two years before that. He serves as the volunteer assistant coach for the Wichita State University men's tennis team. In 2004 after his first Olympic gold, he was presented a key to the city of Wichita by mayor Carlos Mayans. For the last nine years he has also served as the director of the Annual Thunder vs. Plunder Wheelchair Hockey exhibition held in Wichita. This event has raised over \$55,000 in the last nine years for the local wheelchair sports group. He stays involved in so many things because, as he says, "I love helping out and raising the money for the various causes." His impact is even felt around the university campus anytime a new building or sports venue is being built as he makes sure the wheelchair accessibility options are the best they can be. With all of his accomplishments on the court, sometimes it can be surprising that he keeps coming back. He's often asked, especially after his second Olympic gold medal, when he'll call it quits. "I just love competing and I find different things to drive me," he says laughing. "I just want to keep competing so right now, London is the goal." When he first picked up the racquet at 14, it was a far-fetched dream to have wheelchair sports be a part of the Olympics, but all that changed in 2004. And now, it's all starting to happen and grow to a point few dreamed possible. That's his other motivation: "Why would I want to stop when it's finally started to happen? We've all worked so hard to make this possible." The selection into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame caught the young Taylor by surprise. Believed to be the youngest member ever to be inducted at age 29, he joked maybe it was time to hang it up. "It is a tremendous honor. To be inducted while I'm this young but also while I'm still going says a lot about the success I've had."



Skip Walther (Columbia, Missouri)

Growing up in Kirksville, Mo., Skip Walther wasn't a tennis player. He was a ping pong player—and a good one. Then when he was 15, he and his friend Scott traded their paddles for racquets and a new challenge. The transition from a ping pong table to a tennis court was an easy one for Walther, although he wasn't able to beat his friend. From what he could tell, they were the only two tennis players their age in Kirksville, but that didn't stop them. Scott beat him every time they played. That is, until their senior year, the first year their high school had a varsity boys tennis team. Walther was

finally able to come out on top in a challenge match and was their No. 1 player that year. "It (Kirksville) was a really good environment for me to learn to play tennis," Walther says. "There was a core group of adults who helped us grow in the game and would drive us all over to play tournaments." With a few years of tennis under his belt, Walther headed off to the University of Missouri, continuing to play tennis. While at Missouri, Walther was a four-year varsity letterman and in his senior year, helped lead Missouri to the

Big 8 Conference Championship. Out of college, Walther played less and less as he began his legal career, but the game called him back 10 years later. He hasn't looked back. His resume boasts a laundry list of professional associations and appointments, but he continues to make time for tennis, playing over his lunch hour most days. Walther is a two-time gold ball winner, with one singles and one doubles title. His singles title came in the 2000 Grass Court Championships in the 45 singles division in Philadelphia. "In the final, I played as well as I could humanly play. I truly never realistically thought I'd win a national title," Walther says. His tennis resume says something else about his ability to win and compete. In addition to the two gold balls, he has two silver balls and eight bronze balls. He has won six Category II National Championships and won multiple National Public Parks Championships. Walther has also been a member of six international team competitions. Back in 1992, Walther was awarded the Heart of America's Player of the Year award and ten years later he was awarded the 2002 USTA Missouri Valley Adult Player of the Year award. He also served as the Missouri district president from 2004 - 2006. Now he is a member of the 2009 USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame class. One of his career highlights occurred this past summer. His son had never really played tennis, but on a visit asked his father out of the blue to hit some balls. "It was one of the most fun things I've done this year," Walther says. "It was an absolute treat to hit around with my son."



Sheldon Weiner (Rock Island, Illinois)*

Sheldon was born and raised in the Quad Cities area and only left briefly for a few years after college when he ventured to Brooklyn, New York, to try to make his way as an artist. He returned home, got his master's degree, and became a teacher and a tennis coach. He graduated from Rock Island High School in 1956. He graduated from Augustana College in 1960 and then received a master's degree from Western Illinois University. He was a College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin singles and doubles tennis champion for three years while at Augustana. He eventually evolved

into "Mr. Tennis" in the Quad Cities. He coached tennis players who were champions and beginners, adults and youths. He was noted for his recruiting ability at St. Ambrose University, bringing talent from around the nation and even from outside the country into the St. Ambrose tennis program and as scholarship players. In addition, he also ran tournaments, clinics, coaches' clinics and gave free lessons. He was a tennis pro at Rock Valley Athletic Center and at the Life Fitness Center. He was owner/manager of QuintCity Racquet Club in Bettendorf from 1974-84. While coach at Rock Island High School, he set a record of 108 consecutive dual meet victories. He also coached for 18 years at St. Ambrose University where he coached the team to 16 District XV Championships in 18 years and went onto the NAIA national tournament. He holds a career record of 427-135. Oliver Rivera, a player under Weiner at St. Ambrose from 1979-83, said that of all the people he met while at college, Weiner and the tennis team made him feel at home. He is also credited with getting former Missouri Valley president Barbara Fackel involved in the Iowa district back in the 80's. Weiner was the 1992 winner of the "Arthur Ashe Service to Tennis" award, which was presented during the US Open in New York. As a player and a coach, Weiner had a record that was enviable. He always believed that tennis was only one part of his players' lives. He was inducted into the St. Ambrose University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1987 and the Iowa Tennis Hall of Fame in 1989. He served as the Iowa district president from 1984-1988. He was also a member of the board of the Missouri Valley Tennis Association and director of the Rock Island and Davenport park boards summer tennis programs.



2010

Charles "Goose" Doughty, Jr. (Wichita, Kansas)*

He may have been a basketball star in his younger days, but Charles "Goose" Doughty has become a legend in tennis. For the last 47 years, Doughty has served as a coach and a volunteer in tennis at Heights High School and McAdams Park in Wichita after leaving the game of basketball at age 29. Before getting into tennis, Doughty played AAU basketball and also

played a season for the Harlem Globetrotters. When he left the game, his search for a new sport brought him to tennis. When he picked up a racquet for the first time, he fell in love and wanted other kids in Wichita to do the same. As he became more and more passionate about tennis, his only regret was not getting into it 20 years sooner. But he quickly made up for lost time. While an instructor at Heights, Doughty brought tennis to the school. There were courts across the street and for years, Doughty introduced dozens of students to the game. After leaving basketball, he wanted to give kids options besides the sports with a large orange ball. But with Doughty leading the way, a generation of kids was shown there was more than one way and more than one sport to play. Over the years, Doughty has held clinics, run tournaments and worked with some of Wichita's top players. He's also worked with the Wichita Boys and Girls Club to introduce even more kids to the game and lifelong friendships. It's working with kids and adding positive reinforcement to neighborhoods where it was lacking that has made all the difference to Doughty. Over the last 47 years, Doughty has helped teach two generations of Wichita children self-discipline, honesty, integrity and hard work. He's seen his students and their parents grow stronger because of tennis. 50 years ago, the local courts rarely had real nets up because no one played and now, because of Doughty's efforts, the courts are always in use. When told he had been selected for induction into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Doughty was honored and said simply that he couldn't have written a better script. Wichita and tennis are better because of the life and career of Charles Doughty, Jr.



Tommy English (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

Tommy English was born October 31, 1950, in Birmingham, Alabama, and grew up in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He was annually ranked as one of the top juniors in Alabama from 1963-1968. In '68, English and Charlie Owens were ranked No. 1 in doubles in Alabama as well as in the Southern High School Championship Division. After high school, he attended Marion Military Junior College, earning All-Southern honors in tennis before transferring to the University of Alabama in 1969 on a full tennis scholarship, where he

lettered twice. English continued his tennis career as the manager of the Southern Grass Tennis Academy from 1970-72. He also went on to work at the University Club in Houston, Texas. From 1973-75, English was the senior vice-president and director of American Tennis Centers, Inc., in Houston. In 1977, he moved to Oklahoma City where he was the general manager of The Courts, an indoor/outdoor tennis facility. Soon after, English and a group of investors purchased Summerfield Racquet Club in Oklahoma City where he served as owner and general manager until 1988. While at Summerfield, English brought women's professional tennis to the city and handled the operation of the tournament for 15 years. This led to his involvement in the operations of the Virginia Slims Legends events in Oklahoma City, Nashville and Denver. He was also the color commentator and tennis sports advisor for KWTV for four years. In 1988, English and his wife Patti moved to the Greens Country Club where as director of tennis, he oversaw the building of a new tennis facility which included both indoor and outdoor courts and a clubhouse. English has been honored by ClubCorp as the CCA South-Central Tennis Pro of the Year and, under his leadership, the Greens was named Tennis Club of the Year in 1996. English was inducted into the CCA Hall of Fame in 1998. In addition to his duties at The Greens, English is active in public tennis as a founding director of Tennis OKC, Inc., a not-for-profit organization that was formed to help the city boost its tennis facilities. He also consults on many tennis projects nationwide, specializing in court construction, lighting and design. English has been a member of USPTA since 1971 and is also a member of the USTA and a national advisory staff member for both Nike and HeadPenn Racquet Sports.



Paul Lockwood (Norman, Oklahoma)

When Paul Lockwood was seven years old, he volunteered to be a ball kid during an annual Memorial Day tennis tournament in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he had the opportunity to work Chuck McKinley's match. (McKinley is a 1986 USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame Inductee.) Shortly after that match, Lockwood went to his parents and asked to play tennis. The rest, as they

say, is history. From age seven on, Lockwood played tennis. His growth in the sport earned him a place on the University of Oklahoma men's team where he was a three-time Big Eight Singles Champion (1974-76) as well as the Big Eight Doubles Champion in 1976. His record as a player for Oklahoma was 68-29. In his time as a player, he helped the Sooners capture two conference titles and was also elected captain of the team in his final campaign. After college, Lockwood became the assistant coach at Oklahoma under the legendary Jerry Keen before moving on to be head coach at the University of Tulsa. Following a year with the Golden Hurricanes, Lockwood traveled the United States as a touring professional for two years, participating in the 1979 US Open Qualifying tournament in Flushing Meadows, New York. He earned a world ranking in both singles and doubles. But then the "opportunity of a lifetime" came along and Lockwood returned to the University of Oklahoma, only this time as its new head coach. It was the job he had always dreamed of and he stayed for 22 years. In that time, he amassed 325 wins, the second-most in Oklahoma history and one conference championship (1992). He was also a two-time Big Eight Coach of the Year and his teams earned ITA All-American honors for nine years. His career also includes accolades such as a No. 4 singles ranking in boys 12 (1965) and a No. 1 ranking in boys 12s doubles (1965). He is a 2009 inductee into the Oklahoma Tennis Hall of Fame. He and his wife Debra have two daughters, Lauren and Allison.

James Wadley (Stillwater, Oklahoma)

*adapted from official Oklahoma State Athletics biography
James Wadley came to OSU from Duncan High School in 1973 and made an immediate impact. Wadley began his playing career in McAlester, Oklahoma, where he was a two-time state champion. He went on to play collegiately at Southeastern Oklahoma State where he was a two-time All-American at the NAIA level. He helped lead his team to four straight conference titles and four consecutive appearances in the NAIA Tournament. Now entering his 37th season at the helm of the Cowboys, coach Wadley is easily the longest active tenured coach at Oklahoma State University. During his coaching campaign, he has enjoyed tremendous success that has seen his teams win 12 Big 8 Conference championships. Wadley was named the ITA Regional Coach of the Year in 2001, 2003 and 2005. In 2005, Wadley won the award after guiding the Cowboys to a 22-7 record, a conference championship runner-up and a national ranking as high as 13, the best in program history. He won the 2003 award after his team jumped from 73rd to 19th in the rankings, the biggest improvement in the country. Wadley has been named conference coach of the year 13 times and his teams were honored as ITA All-American teams back-to-back in 2002-03. During his career, his teams have made 16 NCAA Tournament appearances, including a string of five straight Big 8 from 1983-87, when he went 31-0 in conference play. The period between 1978-87 is referred to as the "Decade of Dominance." Wadley went 65-2 in conference matches during this time. Wadley has compiled a career record of 630-285 and has coached 105 individual conference champions to 65 singles titles and 40 doubles titles. His 630 career wins rank sixth among active Division I coaches, and 14th overall. Wadley coached Pavel Kudrncak to three national titles in 1997-98. Kudrncak won the ITA National Clay Court Championship in 1997 and he won the Indoor Singles Championship in 1998, plus a doubles title with Martin Dvoracek in 1998. Wadley also coached Fran Krepelka and Matt Prentice to the World TeamTennis National Title in 2001. He has also coached two national players of the year.



2011

Rex Coad (Wichita, Kansas)

If one has been around the game of tennis at all in the Wichita area, they're likely familiar with the name of Rex Coad. Coad grew up in the Wichita area, began his competitive career as a junior netter in the USTA Missouri Valley section and played collegiate tennis at Wichita State University. Following his graduation from Wichita State, Coad became involved in the local tennis industry with the Wichita Racquet



Club, where he would spend the next 20 years of his professional career. Concurrently, he became the men's tennis coach at Wichita State. As a player at Wichita State University, Coad compiled 104 singles wins, a school record, and was named the team's most valuable player in 1975, 1976 and 1978. After completing his competitive eligibility, Coad took on the leadership of the Wichita State University Men's Tennis program. During his nine year tenure (1980-1988) as head coach, his teams won the Missouri Valley Athletic Conference title every year. The team achieved a top-20 NCAA ranking in 1980 and 1981 and reached the final 16 of the NCAA Team Championships five times during his career. In recognition of his coaching achievements, Coad was named Missouri-Valley Conference Coach of the Year in 1980, 1981, 1984, 1985 and 1986. He was inducted into the WSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995 as both a coach and player. In May of 2010, Wichita State permanently recognized Coad's contribution to the tennis program by naming the stadium courts at the school the "Rex Coad Championship Courts." From 1985-1997, he volunteered in many Kansas District Tennis Association and USTA Missouri Valley positions and was chairperson of the Junior Competition Committee from 1995-1997. Following a 20-year association with the Wichita Racquet Club, Coad has been the tennis professional at the Wichita Country Club since 1998. It is evident to those who have watched him work that he truly loves to teach the game of tennis. The achievements of those he has mentored speak for themselves and include multiple Missouri Valley junior champions, KSHAA State High School Champions and a community of significantly improved club level players.



James "Buddy" Fields (Wichita, Kansas)*

James "Buddy" Fields, a former football standout, starred on the gridiron for Hutchinson County Junior College in Hutchinson, Kansas. But a passion for competing between a different set of lines soon took hold. Fields played tennis occasionally as a child, but he started playing more seriously after graduating from college. Like many in the Wichita area, Fields was introduced to the game by Missouri Valley Hall of Famer Charles "Goose" Doughty, a fixture in the local tennis community. Fields' children quickly caught the tennis bug and he followed by beginning to play frequently with them. The family started to play at McAdams Park in Wichita and were frequent participants in the programs there. Soon, Fields began to coach in the local parks, helping develop many players in the Wichita area through his tireless efforts. As his sons grew older and into strong players -- two of them played at Wichita State University -- the family founded the BK Tennis Academy in Wichita. The family owned and operated the facility through 2009. A frequent competitor in American Tennis Association (ATA) tournaments, Fields dominated the competition in his later years. He was ranked as high as No. 1 in the ATA as an adult, winning the ATA 45s singles national title three times as well as the 55s national title once. In addition to the ATA tournaments, Fields also competed in USTA national tournaments, finding success there. In 2007, he reached a national ranking of No. 9 in the 60s singles division and No. 1 within the Missouri Valley section. In his professional life, Fields started his career at Boeing Aircraft Company in Wichita as a human resources manager, and worked there until his retirement in 1999. Fields is married to Deloris Fields and they have three sons, Barry, Brent and Kenny. In recognition of the Fields' accomplishments and contributions to tennis, the family was named the 1997 USTA Missouri Valley Tennis Family of the Year.



Janet Thomas Griffith (Broken Arrow, Oklahoma)

It was on Janet Thomas Griffith's 10th birthday that she received a gift that would change her life. Her father gave her a tennis racquet in hopes that she would like the sport as much as he did. Turns out, she did. A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Janet's junior career is filled with accomplishments. She was consistently ranked among the top two players in the Missouri Valley section in both singles and doubles. In 1968, she achieved her highest USTA national junior ranking of No. 4 in the Girls 14s division. Janet also remains proud of winning four sportsmanship awards during her junior career, at both section and national tournaments. After her decorated junior career, she attended Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma, and finished her

freshman season with a spotless 22-0 record. She advanced to NCAA nationals and was selected to play on the Junior Wightman Cup team. She then transferred to Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, for her sophomore year, where she ranked among the top 15 amateurs in the nation. After that season, she married and moved to Norman, Oklahoma, where she played on the first-ever OU women's tennis team in 1975. After graduating college, Janet continued playing in adult tournaments throughout the nation. In 1980, she won the state and regional Equitable Family Tennis Tournaments and made the quarterfinals of the national tournament, held concurrently with the US Open in Flushing Meadows. In 1985, she won a Virginia Slims qualifying tournament in Oklahoma City and advanced to play in the main draw. She also won two individual adult tournaments, the Missouri Valley Indoor 25-35 women's singles title in 1983 and the section's Indoor 35 singles title in 1989. Janet also found success not just as a player, but as a coach. From 1980-85, she led the Oral Roberts University women's tennis team. In 1985, she was named Coach of the Year in the Oil Country Athletic Conference. Besides teaching private and group lessons to all ages, Janet directed local tennis tournaments, and coordinated team tennis groups, after-school programs and clinics. She worked with the USTA's NJTL program, giving lessons to underprivileged children -- giving back to the game that gave her so much. After serving as a USPTA professional from 1981-1991 at three clubs, Janet retired from teaching and founded S & J Vending Company, where she is the owner and operator. She has been married to her husband for 27 years, and they have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Jane Pratt (St. Louis, Missouri)*

Jane Pratt was involved in the game of tennis her entire life. She was a player, an organizer, a supporter and a fan since the first day she walked onto a court. Jane is remembered as a crafty, solid doubles player on the court. In 1969 and 1976, Jane and Marilyn Mueller won the National Public Parks Senior Women's doubles title. In 1976, they held the No. 1 national ranking in senior women's doubles. Their success continued, as the duo won the women's doubles title at the National Senior Olympics in 1993 and 1995. Off the court, Jane's contributions were immense. In 1965, she became president of the Municipal Tennis Association, serving for 43 years in that role. For more than 40 years, she was a fixture at Dwight Davis Tennis Center. Judy Dippold, a fellow tournament director, remembered Jane by saying, "What she did for tennis was unbelievable. Her willingness to be out there every summer was incredible. The love of Jane's life was the Dwight Davis Tennis Center." Her work at Dwight Davis included serving as one of the founding board members of the facility, as well as recruiting new volunteers. She tirelessly campaigned to improve the facilities. She helped raise money for the tennis center and contributed her own funds. Her contributions have helped Dwight Davis Tennis Center become one of the best public tennis facilities in the nation. She told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in 1981, "People ask you what the rewards are. There are rewards, but not the kind most people think of. When you see a tournament go through pretty much the way you projected, you have a sense of really having done something. That's all." That same year, friends and tournament players came together to honor Jane. They collected funds to send both Jane and Marilyn to New York City to the US Open, an event that Jane had never attended despite it being a lifelong dream of hers. In her professional life, Jane was an elementary school teacher, serving the St. Louis schools for more than 45 years. Jane is indelibly linked to St. Louis tennis. Her efforts to support tennis in countless ways in the St. Louis area left a permanent positive impact on the sport. The game of tennis is better because of her tireless efforts.



Kim Steinmetz (St. Louis, Missouri)

Kim Steinmetz, a life-long St. Louisian, was born December 22, 1957. She began playing tennis when her dad signed his three daughters up for group tennis lessons at the local public park. Kim, the youngest, was seven years old. At the time, her dad hoped that one of the girls would learn tennis well enough just to play with him. Little did he know that tennis would change the course of Kim's life forever. From the start, Kim loved and embraced the game. Tennis and tennis tournaments quickly became a regular part of Kim's



summers. She won her first tournament barely more than a year after she hit her first tennis ball. Her junior career culminated with a Missouri Valley ranking of No. 1 in singles and doubles in both the 16s and 18s division and a national ranking of No. 15 in the Girls 18s. Kim was the first woman to receive a full tennis scholarship at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She attended SMU for two years, followed by two years at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. There, as a captain, she led her team to two top-10 NCAA finishes. During her collegiate career, Kim was a two-time All-American and Trinity's 1980 Woman Athlete of the Year. After graduation, Kim joined the professional tennis circuit and initially reached a world ranking of No. 188. Within three years, she rose into the Top 100 and competed against such greats as Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, Pam Shriver and Billie Jean King. She owns doubles victories against Steffi Graf, Jo Durie, Betty Stove and Hana Mandlikova. Her biggest win came in singles at the 1988 US Open, when she defeated the eighth-ranked player in the world, Natasha Zvereva. Kim's professional tennis career lasted 10 years and included 26 Grand Slam tournament appearances. She retired in 1990 and immediately began her second passion, teaching others about the game she loved. Kim was a member of the 1994 St. Louis Aces and in 2000, she was inducted into the St. Louis Tennis Hall of Fame. Kim, still doing what she loves, is currently the tennis director at the Missouri Athletic Club in St. Louis.

2012

Judy Dippold (St. Louis, Missouri)

During her 50 years in tennis, Judy Dippold has done just about everything the game has to offer. Introduced to tennis as an adult in the early 1960s, she began playing frequently, taking lessons and becoming an active club player. She then started to work in the tennis world to, as she says, "support my habit." It wasn't long before Missouri Valley Hall of Fame member Leigh Strassner encouraged her to get involved with the St. Louis district, where she eventually held every office the district had – secretary, treasurer, vice president and then President. In 1992, she was hired as the first-ever St. Louis District Executive Director. But above all, Dippold's legacy will forever be linked to her contributions on the tournament side. She has run countless events over the last many decades, firmly believing in tennis' ability to teach life lessons. Dippold has imparted her famous motto, "you're either a winner or a learner" to the thousands of players who have come across her tournament desk. Dippold has been a national tournament director since 1992 and continues to run between 17-20 tournaments per year, including four national events. She has been recognized by the St. Louis district more than 20 times for an Outstanding Tournament and seven times by the Missouri Valley section. The section's Distinguished Service award was presented to Dippold in 2008 and the St. Louis district's junior awards are named in her honor. Dippold lives in the St. Louis area with her husband, Russ, to whom she's been married for more than 30 years. They have six children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandson. Fittingly, the couple were married on a tennis court and held a 24-hour-long reception at the courts. Of being inducted into the Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Dippold says, "It's such an amazing honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. I never expected it or even dreamed of it. I never thought I'd be inducted simply for doing something that I love, but really, that's the best honor I can think of."



Micki Schillig Feldmann (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

Growing up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Micki Schillig Feldmann initially didn't care much for tennis. Her father and brother played, so she did, too. But then came the day when, around the age of 10, she won her first tournament and got "that little plastic trophy," and suddenly, she wanted more. From there, Feldmann's tennis career took off. She began to find success at the district and section level as a junior, and eventually at the national level. While playing at a tournament in California, her game caught the attention of coaches from around the country. She was heavily recruited by a number of schools and eventually chose to attend San Diego State University over Stanford. At SDSU, Feldmann experienced soaring success. She was a three-time All-American player and reached



the first-ever NCAA women's singles final. All told, she compiled a 105-36 career record at the school, earning her a spot in the school's 1995 Athletic Hall of Fame class. After college, Feldmann played on the professional circuit from 1983-1986. She played in four US Opens and three Wimbledon championships, reaching as high as No. 81 in the world rankings. Along the way she encountered players like Pam Shriver, Andrea Jaeger and Gabriela Sabatini. Following her time on the pro circuit, Feldmann moved back to Iowa and became the head women's tennis coach at the University of Iowa. She coached nine seasons there and was named the Big Ten Coach of the Year in 1990. Feldmann currently lives in her hometown of Cedar Rapids with her husband, Dennis, and their son, Mac. She works at Westfield Tennis Club. Of being inducted into the Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Feldmann says, "Sometimes I think it's a little funny to get awards for just doing what you do. But when you step back and look at it, this is a big honor and I'm so grateful to be recognized like this. I can't believe it."

Edmund Serrano (St. Louis, Missouri)*



Edmund Serrano was known throughout tennis not necessarily for his on-court prowess, but as an inventor who changed the way tennis was played. A long-time friend of Dwight Davis, Serrano put forth two inventions in 1934 that improved the sport. Serrano was born in Mexico before moving to the St. Louis area at the age of 10. His father was the Mexican consul of the United States. In 1905, Serrano won the first St. Louis high school city tennis championship as a member of the Central High School squad. The first invention, the Tennis Robot Machine, was among the first ball machines ever invented and could hold up to 90 balls at a time for drills, tossing them

across the court at different speeds and angles. Retailing at \$475, it began appearing at clubs and universities, first across the region and then across the world. The second invention was the Serrano No Awl Racquet Stringer, which greatly improved the ease and speed with which it was possible to string a racquet. Before his invention, stringing meant arduously pushing strings through the racquet frame's holes with an ice pick and awl. His invention eliminated the need for this and, after a few years, the invention appeared at nearly every tennis venue around the world. These two inventions greatly changed tennis for the better, propelling it forward and making it more accessible and easier for players and coaches alike. Serrano was also an avid player, winning singles and doubles titles at the senior and district level throughout his life. He was inducted into the St. Louis District Hall of Fame in 1994. He passed away in 1985, at the age of 99 after a lifetime of lasting contributions to tennis.

Meredith Geiger Walton (Kingwood, Texas)

Growing up in Edmond, Oklahoma, Meredith Geiger Walton was introduced to tennis, like so many others, by tagging along to the lessons of older family members. She took a quick liking to the game and began hitting balls against a backboard with a sawed-off wood racquet. From there, her game took off quickly. She began taking lessons at age eight from Missouri Valley Hall of Fame member Bill Rompf and started playing tournaments across Oklahoma, and then across the section. Her rankings jumped and she found herself winning tournaments not just at the section level, but the national level as well. She spent many years at the top of the Missouri Valley junior rankings and finished her junior career with 10 USTA gold balls and four silver balls. She also played for Casady High School in Oklahoma City and went undefeated during her four years there. Following her junior success, Walton played collegiate tennis at Arizona State University. She was an All-Pac 10 conference player in 1994 and 1995. After college, she played for three years on the women's professional tour, where she was able to travel the world, winning several doubles titles. But Walton didn't just excel on the court with her game. Among her proudest accomplishments was winning the Bill Talbert National Sportsmanship award as a junior, which was presented at the International Tennis Hall of Fame. After her playing career, Walton moved on to the coaching ranks, finding success there as well, being named the 2007 USPTA Texas Touring Coach of the Year. She worked at several tennis facilities before becoming the assistant women's tennis coach at the University of Texas from 2000-20002. She then was the Director of Tennis for



the St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin until 2008 before moving on to take the head women's tennis coaching job at the College of William and Mary. After four successful years at Williams and Mary, Walton recent moved to Kingwood, Texas, to be closer to family along with her husband, Matt, and two sons, Jett and Cash. Of being inducted into the Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Walton says, "This is such an honor. The Missouri Valley is my roots, it's my home. So many of my memories and friendships came from the Valley. It's shaped who I am, and the people I've met are amazing."



2013

Ron Cobb (St. Louis, Missouri)

Before Ron Cobb arrived at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the newspaper did not have a permanent tennis-writing position and, according to Cobb, didn't see a great need for one. But Cobb changed that. For the next 16 years, Cobb covered tennis far and wide in the St. Louis area for the paper's readership of more than 300,000. Cobb persuaded his editors that tennis deserved the same coverage that other sports received. This led to Cobb covering local junior and adult tennis, as well as legendary high-level events

like John McEnroe's 1982 Davis Cup victory over Mats Wilander in St. Louis, a 6-hour, 39-minute affair. Perhaps most impressively, Cobb covered tennis for the Post-Dispatch primarily on his own time. His full-time duties for the paper were as an editor, which consumed most of his on-the-clock hours. So, believing deeply in the importance of covering tennis, Cobb would cover tennis after putting in a full day the office. In addition to writing about tennis, Cobb was an accomplished player as well. He lettered in tennis while a student at the University of Missouri and won four St. Louis district championships in the men's 35s division as an adult, leading to a No. 1 ranking in the division in 1990 and 1991. His passion for the game as a player came through in his writing and occasionally gave him the rare opportunity to cover events in which he was also a player. Though Cobb was a fan of all major sports, he felt particularly in his comfort zone while writing about tennis. As both a player and fan of the game, he believed deeply in the idea of giving tennis a larger presence. Thanks to that passion, Cobb's writing provided tennis a prominent platform that helped spread tennis across the St. Louis area and beyond. His 25-year tennis-writing career also included several years at a newspaper in Memphis. Of being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Cobb says, "Being elected to the Hall of Fame tells me that people who share my love of the game believe that what I did in tennis and for tennis was valuable, appreciated and worthy of recognition. That means a lot to me."



Kevin Hedberg (Topeka, Kansas)

In the Topeka area, Kevin Hedberg's impact on tennis as a player, coach and volunteer is indelible. A native Kansan who was first introduced to tennis in sixth grade by means of a \$3 Spaulding racquet, Hedberg graduated from Topeka High School in 1970 after earning two top-4 finishes in singles at the 6A level. He then attended the University of South Florida on a tennis scholarship, where he played for four years while earning a degree in history. Hedberg has served as a teacher in the Topeka schools for over 30 years and

during that time has amassed one of the most impressive tennis coaching resumes anywhere. Coaching both boys and girls tennis at Washburn Rural, his teams have won 34 regional titles and competed in 21 state championships, winning 11. He has coached 41 different players who have been named to All-State teams. His favorite coaching memory came in 2005, when Washburn won its third consecutive Kansas state team title, including a first-place doubles finish for his son, Trevor. For his efforts, Hedberg has been named the Kansas High School Coach of the Year 18 times. As an adult player, Hedberg has continued to stay active. He has played in 19 USTA Missouri Valley age division championships over the years, winning 10 of them, both in singles and doubles. He has also served as a volunteer at the local level, including four years on the Topeka Tennis Association board and one term as president. For much of the 1970s, he directed the Jayhawk Adult and Junior tournaments, while also running countless other area tournaments. Of

being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Hedberg says, "Looking at the list of members, I feel unworthy and humbled, as so many are legendary tennis figures. I remember people who helped me along the way, specifically Jimmy Parker, who patiently taught me the ins and outs of the game. I am very grateful and have already ordered my shirt that reads, 'The older I get the better I was!'"



Joe McGuire (Kansas City, Missouri)

A native of Chicopee, Massachusetts, Joe McGuire began playing tennis with his brother on the local public courts. He played in his first tennis tournament at age 13, finishing second to his brother in the 15-and-under city championships. He played varsity tennis for four years at Cathedral High School in Springfield, Massachusetts, winning the New England Team Championships. In 1973, he graduated from the University of Massachusetts and moved to Orlando, Florida, where he embarked on a professional tennis career. During his pro tennis career, he played in five Satellite Circuit events and ATP events in countries around the world. In 1977, McGuire moved to Kansas City, where he played for more than 30 years. During that time he accumulated more than 25 section titles, including four in the Open division. McGuire has been ranked in the top 10 of the USTA national rankings more than 10 times and has one gold, seven silver and four bronze balls in singles and doubles. He has also traveled to compete in ITF tournaments in Europe, winning titles in Austria, Italy, Greece and Croatia. In what McGuire describes as his favorite tennis memory, he has been selected 10 times to represent the United States in international competition with the Gordon Trophy International Team, where he amassed a 16-3 record. Having had the opportunity to play such extensive international competition has given him perspective on the game. McGuire says, "One of the many great things about playing tennis is no matter what country you're from or what language you speak on the courts, the rules and scoring are the same." He currently a teaching professional in the Tampa, Florida, area where he continues to grow the game of tennis by teaching and developing players of all ages. Of being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, McGuire says, "It is an honor to be inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame and being included with some of the great tennis players from the Missouri Valley, and still be alive to enjoy it."

Doug Smith (St. Louis, Missouri)

Growing up in Aberdeen, South Dakota, Doug Smith first picked up a tennis racquet when his mother presented him and his twin brother with matching racquets for their 13th birthday. Without any tennis background, Smith and his brother turned to the "T" section of the encyclopedia and gathered what little information they could from that entry. From there, Smith was hooked. Following his own successful junior tennis career, Smith embarked on a path that made him instrumental in the development of many junior tennis players across the Missouri Valley section. In 1977, Smith began work at the Sunset Tennis Club in St. Louis, coaching a small group of once-a-week junior players that soon blossomed into a program of more than 250. He created a Grand Prix circuit that offered tournaments to district players in the winter, resulting in tournament trips to Chicago, Memphis, Kansas City and more. In 1979, Smith co-created the section Junior Tennis Council along with Joy Rodenberg. And from 1980-1997, Smith worked as the Tournament Coordinator for the section's junior circuit, handling records, seeding and scheduling year-round. Smith has also found success as a high school coach. He's spent the last 15 years as the coach of St. Joseph's Academy in St. Louis, winning the state championship in nine of those seasons. Smith has received a host of awards in his career, including the section's Outstanding Contributor to Player Development, the Missouri State High School Coach of the Year and the St. Louis district teaching professional of the year. Smith is also a member of the South Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame. Of being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Smith says, "I feel that induction into any Hall of Fame is the ultimate testimonial validating a sustained period of achievement. Some people set out with a definite career plan and unwaveringly follow their dream. Never did I think this would be the



direction my career, and my life, would go. And never could I have dreamed that it would lead to the honor of induction into the Missouri Valley Hall of Fame.”

Bruce Vosburg (Omaha, Nebraska)*

Many know Bruce Vosburg from his ever-present place on the USTA Missouri Valley's grievance committee, which he has chaired for more than 34 years. While handling grievances and complaints may sound like a thankless job at times, Vosburg has enjoyed the impact his role has had. “I enjoy defusing what's often a volatile situation,” he says. “I'm able to help the parties involved realize and accept what actions were wrong, contrary to the rules and being able to convince them to avoid that problem or mistake in the future. And for juniors, it's a chance to help them develop character.” But it's not just a fair and honest handling of grievances that defines Vosburg's career. The Nebraskan has enjoyed an accomplished life on-court as well. First picking up a racquet as a child to play at a nearby public court, Vosburg's junior career saw him win the Nebraska state high school championship in singles and doubles, along with earning a top-10 section ranking. From there, Vosburg attended the University of Notre Dame, where he started for three years for the Fighting Irish. After college, he continued to play frequently, winning multiple adult titles and holding top-5 section rankings in various age divisions. In addition to playing, Vosburg has given back by teaching the game. He taught children's programs for the Omaha Parks and Recreation Department and was the head teaching professional at Happy Hollow Country Club. In 1978, Vosburg founded the Omaha Tennis Association Adult Mentor tennis program for juniors, a program that is still going strong today. Vosburg has also served in other volunteer roles, including as president of the Omaha and Nebraska tennis associations. He's served nationally as well, most recently as a member of the USTA Constitution and Rules committee since 2009. For his efforts, Vosburg was awarded the section's Distinguished Service award in 1986 and has been inducted into the Nebraska Tennis Hall of Fame. Of being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Vosburg says, “It's a great honor, especially when I consider those who have been honored before me in the Hall of Fame.”



2014

Stephen L. Gerdes (Omaha, Nebraska)



It's not often that someone is the chair umpire for a USTA Pro Circuit-level match before they even win a high school state championship, but that was the case for Steve Gerdes. Gerdes, a native of Omaha, Neb., and graduate of Princeton University, first umpired a match in 1966 at the age of 14, which began a lifelong involvement in tennis, particularly in the USTA Missouri Valley. Gerdes returned to Nebraska after graduation to attend law school at the University of Nebraska, where he was also a volunteer assistant coach in the mid-1970s. In Omaha, he served as a board member of the Omaha Tennis Association from 1975 to 1985, serving as President from

1982 to 1984. He served as a member of the Omaha Tennis 2000 Steering Committee, which raised \$1.4 million to finish the Koch Family Tennis Center at Tranquility Park. He also served on the Omaha Tennis Facility Committee from 1997 to 2000, which prepared a master plan for repair and renovation of existing tennis facilities and the addition of new tennis facilities. At the section level, Gerdes has served as treasurer, first vice president, president, delegate and general counsel over the last four decades. He was awarded the USTA Missouri Valley Distinguished Service award in 2004. At the national level, he joined the United States Tennis Association's Officials Committee in 1973, and became Editor of *Friend at Court* in 1989, a role in which he continues today. Gerdes' player record was impressive, too. A two-time high school state champion in Nebraska, Gerdes played four times in the USTA Boys National Tennis Championships in Kalamazoo, Mich., and was ranked in the top 10 in his age group for juniors in the USTA Missouri Valley Section for seven straight years in the 1960s. In his senior year at Princeton University in 1974, the team was 13-0, Ivy League Champions and ranked 10th in the nation. He was also among the top

20 Father/Son doubles teams in the early 1970s with his father, Louis, who is also a member of the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame. The duo once played Bobby Riggs and his son Larry at the National Father and Son Tournament. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Gerdes says: "It certainly is an honor to be recognized. I think that all of us who are in the hall of fame are really there as part of a celebration of our sport. There are many people who are deserving of being in a hall of fame and the hall of fame is something that enables us to celebrate our sport."

Jim Klousia (Springfield, Missouri)



It was as a young child that Jim Klousia, a native of Monett, Mo., first watched tennis on television. He wanted to try the sport himself, and asked to borrow his mother's old racquet. On a regular basis, Klousia would make a 45-minute walk to the closest courts and either hit against the wall, or hope someone would show up looking to play. "I played high school tennis and really enjoyed it, but I thought it'd be the end of tennis for me," he says. After high school, Klousia went to work on the railroad, but quickly realized that digging ditches wasn't something he was interested in. Thankfully, Klousia had an offer from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. to play tennis. Klousia followed a successful playing career at Southwest Baptist University with an illustrious career of various USTA district and section championships. He graduated from Southwest Baptist and took a job with Colgate-Palmolive Co., in Mississippi but continued to have an interest in getting back into tennis. He answered a call to return to Springfield and coach at Missouri State University, formerly Southwest Missouri State. Klousia served as men's tennis coach at Missouri State University from 1979 to 2005, guiding his team to 10 conference titles and was named Coach of the Year six times. He finished with the second-longest coaching tenure in Missouri State athletics history, and is only one of two coaches at the University who won championships in three different conferences. Klousia's career record in dual meets was 324-271. In 1988, he became director of tennis at Hickory Hills Country Club in Springfield, where he continues to work today. In 2006, Klousia received the Springfield Missouri Parks Board lifetime achievement award. He was also inducted into the Missouri State University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008, and the Southwest Baptist University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2013. Through the 1970s, 80s, 90s and early 2000s, Klousia held a top-10 rating in the USTA Missouri Valley. In 2007, he won the USTA Category II national championship in the 45 & Over doubles division with partner Phil Carter. He also earned second place in the tournament in singles. "I just enjoy the competition," he says. "It's a great sport and like any good sport it is going to teach life lessons. But I think tennis is the best life lesson teacher out there." Of being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Klousia says, "I'm just really honored that I get this recognition. I was looking through who else had been inducted and to think that I'm considered to be in the same category, I'm kind of amazed."

Ken Veney (Sydney, Australia)



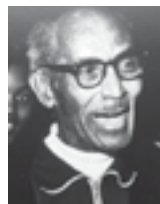
When Ken Veney first picked up a tennis racquet, he was invited by a neighbor to a lesson. As it happened, Veney's friend had little interest in continuing the sport after the lesson, but Veney quickly loved the game. With support from Veney's brother and mother, he continued playing. His mother even built a brick wall at the family's home for Veney to hit against. At age 10, he began competing in state, regional and national tournaments in Australia, where he resides again. It was from those humble beginnings that led Veney to play some of the game's greatest players including Bjorn Borg, Yannick Noah, Johan Kriek and Hank Pfister. "When I got to play Bjorn Borg — that was really the pinnacle," Veney said. "Just how deep he hit the ball and what a difference it was playing against him." Veney, formerly of Leawood, Kan., had an accomplished playing career that includes No. 1 rankings at both section and national levels. He also attained a world ranking from the International Tennis Federation in Men's 35s singles and doubles in 2004. Veney directed programs and facilities all over the USTA Missouri Valley including Tulsa Southern Tennis Club, Shangri-La Resort on Grand Lake, Okla., Millennium Tennis & Fitness in Joplin and Hallbrook Country Club

in Leawood, Kan. He was also named the USTA Heart of America Outstanding Contributor to Youth High Performance & Player Development in 2000, 2001 and 2004, and USTA Missouri Valley Adult Player of the Year in 2004. Veney is a past president of the USTA Missouri District and former vice president of the USPTA Missouri Valley division, both in 2001 and 2002. He was also honored with the USPTA's Industry Excellence Award in 2001, and was most recently named the USPTA Missouri Valley 35 & Over Player of the Year in 2010. "I think tennis is the greatest game of all," Veney said. "If I didn't have tennis, I would have no clue what I would be doing. I met great people and made so many friends. It's also given my family so many opportunities to travel, and it's what brought me home." Of being inducted into the USTA Hall of Fame, Veney says, "I'm just thankful. I feel very, very lucky. It does make you stop and make you realize it's really not about me, it's about everyone else who got me to where I am."

2015

Richard Hudlin (St. Louis, Missouri)*

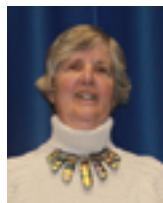
The late Richard Hudlin changed the course of tennis history in St. Louis with his courage and determination. Hudlin graduated from the University of Chicago, where he played tennis from 1926 to 1928 and was the first African-American captain of a Big Ten Conference team. Following college, Hudlin moved to St. Louis where he began teaching social studies and coaching tennis. In 1945, Hudlin was successful in filing a lawsuit which opened the doors for anyone, regardless of race, to participate in municipal tennis events within the city of St. Louis. Hudlin spent 36 years as the coach at Sumner High School, where he coached players of all abilities.



He also served as President of the Muny Tennis Association in St. Louis and was the first black member of the St. Louis District Tennis Association. In 1992, Hudlin was inducted into the St. Louis Tennis Hall of Fame. During his lengthy coaching career, Hudlin had an impact on one of the greatest tennis players in history. Hudlin coached Arthur Ashe during Ashe's senior year at Sumner High School. Using a fast hardwood surface to coach Ashe at the St. Louis Armory, Hudlin converted Ashe from a back court player to a serve and volley specialist. Hudlin was one of several coaches and pros operating out of the Amory at the time. Hudlin also worked with Renee Blount, Bruce Foxworth and Juan Farrow. Hudlin continued teaching into his mid 70s. He passed away in 1976, just one year after Arthur Ashe won his only Wimbledon title. Hudlin also spent time coaching Althea Gibson in addition to the hundreds of other youth and adults he coached. Martin Rogers, who came to know Hudlin in 1973 a few years before Hudlin passed and continued to learn more about his legacy, said Hudlin's influence is still felt in St. Louis today. "Race is a great divide in our country, so for a man to do what he did in 1945, to have the courage to do it and the belief—it's phenomenal." Rogers continued, "He was a great man. We were lucky to have him in this community."

Cornelia Salmon-Robertson (LeCompton, Kansas)

Cornelia Salmon-Robertson had humble beginnings in the game of tennis. In the 1950s, she



begin stringing racquets and running the clubhouse at Tower Grove Park in St. Louis for her uncle, Earl Buchholz. (USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame Class of 1990) From there she began a long, dedicated career in parks, recreation and coaching. She started teaching tennis in the late 1960s for the Topeka Parks and Recreation Department and Shawnee County Parks and Recreation Department. She also managed the 12 courts at Hughes Tennis Center in Topeka. In 1983, after a stint working at Wood Valley Racquet Club, she started coaching at Topeka Hayden High School. As head coach, she led the boys' team to 14 state tournaments and the girls' team to

15 state tournaments, producing a total of seven 4A state champions. While at Hayden, she also served as Athletic Director and Assistant Athletic Director. In 2002, she was inducted into the Kansas Tennis Coaches' Hall of Fame. Salmon-Robertson was also a recreational player, participating in various leagues and tournaments. In fact, she played in leagues before USTA Adult Leagues were formally organized in 1980. Away from the court, Salmon-Robertson, a native of Jefferson City, Mo., served as the first female president of the Topeka Tennis Association in the late 1960s,

early 1970s and again in 2015. In the 1970s, she helped start junior team tennis in Topeka. “We wanted to get the kids playing,” she said. “We did it differently than they do it now. We held tryouts in an effort to keep the teams even.” She has also volunteered her time with a number of causes including the Warrior Transition Battalion, Special Olympics, and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Boys and Girls Club. For 30 years, Salmon-Robertson offered her time to an annual tennis day in Topeka, exposing hundreds of kids to tennis annually. The event was a part of the “Tennis in the Hood” program, providing tennis to inner-city children who otherwise couldn’t afford tennis lessons. She learned from a young age to give back to the game when she had the opportunities. “There’s a need and I can do it and love doing it,” Salmon-Robertson said. “It’s a joy for me to volunteer.” Salmon-Robertson also spent time as an employee of the USTA Missouri Valley for 14 years from 1999 to 2013, serving as the Tennis Service Representative for USTA Kansas. Salmon-Robertson served as section liaison for USTA Wheelchair Tennis and conducted clinics for wheelchair players, as well as special populations throughout the USTA Missouri Valley. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Salmon-Robertson says: “This is a great honor, I didn’t expect to get in the first year I was nominated. I was very surprised and very honored. My uncle and my two cousins are in the Hall of Fame (Earl H. Buchholz, Sr., 1990; Earl Buchholz, Jr., 1994; Cliff Buchholz, 2003) and I thought ‘wouldn’t it be a great honor to be there with them. It was a surprise I got in this year, but I feel it is a great honor.”

Mark Rosewell (Maryville, Missouri)



Mark Rosewell is among the most successful college coaches within the USTA Missouri Valley. His coaching career at Northwest Missouri State University has spanned three decades and resulted in over two dozen championships. Rosewell, who is a native of Lexington, Mo., began playing tennis at Lexington High School. He then played collegiately at the University of Central Missouri, earning a bachelor’s degree in physical education and master’s degree in industrial safety engineering. He started his coaching career as a graduate assistant at UCM in 1980. He then went on to compile a 22-27 record at UCM as head coach in 1982 and 1983. Since taking the helm at Northwest Missouri

State in 1984 as both the men’s and women’s head tennis coach, Rosewell has lead the Bearcats to 24 MIAA Conference regular season championships (12 men, 12 women), seven MIAA Tournament championships (6 men, 1 women) and 32 NCAA Tournament appearances (18 men, 16 women). He has a career record of 1,013-481, making him just the second MIAA coach in any sport to reach 1,000 wins, which he earned on April 13, 2015 in a men’s victory over Washburn University. He has been named the MIAA Coach of the Year 25 times, with the most recent coming in 2015. “It was a great tennis school with a great history and tradition long before I got here, and I was fortunate to come up here and get the position,” Rosewell said. Rosewell has also served as a volunteer for the USTA Missouri Valley. He assisted with the ‘Tennis in the Hood’ program helping to run events in Kansas City, St. Louis, Omaha and Des Moines. “To me, that was the best thing we ever did,” he said. “We touched a lot of people’s lives. It was a pretty good experience.” He’s also served for one term on the USTA Heart of America’s board of directors. He was inducted into the USTA Heart of America Hall of Fame in 2008. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Rosewell says: “I’m really excited and really touched. It’s an honor, there’s no doubt about it. I guess humbled is a good word.”

Verne Weber (Bellevue, Nebraska)



Verne Weber has held leadership positions in every level of tennis governance, from local community tennis associations to the United States Tennis Association national level. Weber, a native of Visalia, Calif., played collegiately at the College of Sequoias and University of California - Santa Cruz. After being relocated in 1976 by the United States Air Force to the Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, he first volunteered as president of the Offutt Air Force Base Command Tennis Club in Omaha, Neb., in the late 1970s, along with serving as player/coach the base’s tennis team. Weber retired

in 1990 as a Major and has spent the last 25 years working for TRW



and Northrop Grumman. He was a board member of the Omaha Tennis Association since 1987 to 2014, serving as its president on two occasions. He is also a past president of USTA Nebraska, and is currently district chair of its Awards Committee and Hall of Fame Committee. He serves as a Big 10 Conference official in Lincoln, along with other conferences in Omaha and conducts officiating classes throughout the USTA Missouri Valley. He was inducted into the USTA Nebraska Hall of Fame in 2001. "I've always enjoyed umpiring the players and seeing them develop," Weber said. "But I think the biggest memory is the friendships you develop because tennis is a big family." At the section level, Weber is also a past president, serving from 2003 to 2004. He is chair of the Officials Committee and League Grievance Appeals Committee as well as a member of the Awards Committee and director on the board of the Missouri Valley Tennis Foundation. He earned the USTA Missouri Valley Distinguished Service Award in 2005. Weber currently serves as the national Chairman of the Pro Tennis Council and member of Advisory Group on Committees, as well as member of the Officials Committee and former advisor to the Officials' Inclusion Council. His previous national committee experience includes chairman of the Evaluation Committee, serving as a section delegate on the Executive Committee, as well as being a member of the League Committee, Advanced Media Committee, Information Technology Committee and TennisLink Governance Task Force. He has also played USTA League Tennis at the 5.0 level, and previously attained No. 1 rankings in USTA Missouri Valley 45 Men's Doubles, and USTA Nebraska 35 Singles, 35 Doubles and 40 Singles. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Weber says: "It's a great honor considering the people who are in the Hall of Fame now. It's a true honor to be included in that group. It's a great experience and I appreciate the recognition from the USTA Missouri Valley."

2016



Bob Bates (Prairie Village, Kansas)

There's a saying that distance makes the heart grow fonder. For Bob Bates and tennis, it's very much a true statement. Bates' father started him playing tennis by visiting courts near their home in Minneapolis. "Tennis was perfect because we had public park courts just down the street from me," he said. After a successful junior career in Minnesota that led to being the No. 1 player on the University of Minnesota's freshman tennis team, Bates was playing less and less after graduation, while constantly missing the game. Between graduating college, serving two tours of duty for the US Army and starting

a family, it was difficult for Bates to find time for a sport he'd loved since he was a child. When Bates moved to Kansas City in the 1970s however, he moved near Homestead Country Club which set off a resurgence of involvement. Not only was Bates playing more often, he went on to serve as a volunteer for USTA Heart of America for over 40 years. During that time, he served three terms as president between 1984 and 1986 and again between 1999 and 2000, and treasurer between 1980 and 1984. He also served as vice president of USTA Missouri Valley from 1987 to 1988, and served one term on the USTA national Membership Committee during that time. Through his involvement at Homestead Country Club, former USTA Missouri Valley President and USTA President Marvin Richmond encouraged Bates to become an official in the mid 1970's. He began officiating local pro tournaments around the Kansas City area. He also was an official for the USTA Clay Court Championships, NAIA Championships as well as NCAA and World Team Tennis Matches. He also started the Kansas City Association of Tennis Officials in the late 1970s, an organization that remains active today. "I never thought about those opportunities when I started at all," Bates said. "I was just enjoying it." Bates officiated at the US Open six straight years and was on the court for two finals weekends. "It was interesting to be on the court," he said. "You could not only see the different techniques, but you also heard the comments from the players." On the court as a player, Bates was regularly ranked as the No. 1 player in his age division and won at least 20 and district and section doubles championships.

Bates was also a USTA League Tennis player earning eight trips to USTA League National Championships between 1992 and 2005, and captaining five of the teams. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Bates said: "I was stunned frankly...A lot of my friends — at least two of my doubles partners — Dave Riley and Wilbur Jones are also in the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame."

Mark Johnson (Henryetta, Oklahoma)



Mark Johnson was a successful coach at the University of Oklahoma for 20 years, and continues to make it a priority to give back to the game. A native of Henryetta, Oklahoma, Johnson lived just a half a block from the community's tennis courts and after his father introduced him to the game, Johnson found himself spending a lot of time at those nearby courts. "Tennis was addictive as a kid," he said. "In Henryetta, that's where our friends were. We hung out at the courts all day long." As a junior player,

Johnson was the USTA Missouri Valley junior singles champion in 1972 (12s division), 1974 (14s Division) 1976 (16s Division), 1979 and 1980 (Men's Open). He was also the USTA Missouri Valley junior doubles champion 1971 (12s), 1972 (14s), 1974 (16s) and 1976 (18s). From there he went on to have a successful career as a player at Oklahoma State. He was the Big 8 Conference Singles and Doubles champion in 1981 and 1982, and was named an NCAA All-American in 1981. Johnson isn't shy to credit those coaches along the way who guided him to success. "It was a combination of a lot of people coming together to help me in a lot of ways," he said. "In tennis, you need a lot of help along the way and I was fortunate to get that." After graduation, Johnson spent a season as the assistant coach for the men's team at Oklahoma State before becoming a teaching professional at Quail Creek Country Club in Oklahoma City and Oak Tree Country Club in Edmond, Oklahoma between 1984 and 1988. He then served as the head women's tennis coach at Oklahoma University from 1988-2008 compiling a 306-176 career record. He coached 23 conference champions and had 4 NCAA singles qualifiers and 5 NCAA doubles qualifiers. Johnson hasn't forgotten his roots, either. For three years, Johnson led an effort in Henryetta to repair and rebuild the community's broken tennis courts. In 2016, Henryetta dedicated the courts, which required over \$250,000 in fundraising. "It's been a really rewarding experience, knowing the place where we grew up and played, we were able to go back and rebuild it and now for decades to come there will be kids who will be able to come and use that facility." He continues to give back to the game by serving as secretary of the Tennis E&R Foundation, an organization that promotes the game in Oklahoma. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Johnson said, "It's very special. The Missouri Valley, growing up as a kid, was so important to me to play in it and be a part of it. It was really the core of our tennis life back then."

Wilbur Jones (Shawnee, Kansas)



Even though Wilbur Jones may have picked up a tennis racquet for the first time at age 35, he was still provided with plenty of time to have a successful playing and teaching career. Jones was already athletic, having played basketball at Independence Community College after a successful high school career at Paola High School. He was also a competitive roller skater and had the ability to ride a unicycle. So when Jones became interested in tennis and purchased his first racquet, it didn't take him long to become a skilled player. He quickly joined the Kansas City Racquet Club where he would frequently play with more experienced players, but he also found

himself next to the club's head teaching pro, John Bregin, which allowed Jones to listen in on lessons and pick up pointers to improve his game. At Kansas City Racquet Club, Jones became friends with a number of players who became doubles partners through the years. "I think tennis probably opened the door to a lot of friendships," Jones said. "For all the years, I've played tennis, I could go on and on about all the friendships." Jones regularly competed in district, section and national tournaments. He's also captained a number of USTA League Tennis teams including at the senior and super senior levels. His teams won three Senior National Championships, the first being in 1993. He has also been ranked No. 1 in his age group in doubles in the USTA

Missouri Valley in 1992, 1994 and 1996 and mixed doubles in USTA Heart of America with partner Terry Miller in 1991. "I've always been competitive," Jones said. "So when I would go play tennis, I would forget all my troubles. That's why tennis was such a good thing for me." Jones has received the USTA Heart of America's Shawna Guilfoil Froeschl Adult Sportsmanship Award in 1993 and was named the USTA Heart of America Adult Player of the Year in 2001. He was a member of the USTA Missouri Valley Super Senior Intersectional Team in 1993. Jones also found ways to give back to the game as well. He served on the USTA Heart of America Board of Directors for several years. He also built a tennis court at Merriam Elementary School, where he served as principal from 1988 until he retired in 1998. Jones would lead after-school tennis clinics, teaching the students the fundamentals of the game. Following retirement, he coached at Shawnee Mission North High School for six seasons and served as the head tennis pro at Lake Quivira Tennis Club between 1994 and 2001. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Jones said: "It's probably one of the biggest honors that could come my way. I was really surprised."

2017

Buff Farrow (Wichita, Kansas)

Buff Farrow's parents had him on the tennis court as a young child, largely because it was easier to keep him nearby than to hire a babysitter. Luckily, a young member of the Wichita State tennis team named Mervyn Webster, noticed Farrow hanging out at the courts and took him under his wing. That move in part would lead Farrow, a Wichita native, to an accomplished career, which included success in high school, college and at the professional level. "Tennis gave me an avenue where I thought I could be successful," Farrow said. "There was a sense I could shine a bit more." At Wichita Southeast High School, Farrow finished his two-year high school career with an undefeated 48-0 record and two 6A state singles championships in 1983 and 1984. His senior year, he decided to continue to capitalize on an already successful junior career and played in several national and international events. He became the no. 2 ranked singles junior player in the U.S., and no. 11 junior in the world in singles in 1985. That same year he won junior national hard court and clay court titles and was named the USTA Missouri Valley Player of the Year. Understandably, Farrow was a highly touted recruit with offers from all over the country, but ultimately chose to play at UCLA where he was a four-time letter winner, and named to the All Pac-10 Conference team in 1988 and 1989, as well as an All-American both years. Farrow reached the NCAA singles semifinals in 1988 as well as the NCAA doubles finals and reached the no. 1 ranking in singles nationally in 1989. "When it came down to it, I had schools written down on a chalkboard that I was considering," he said. "Sheldon Coleman and I sat down and made a list of things and it turned out UCLA was the right fit. It felt like a second home." Following his career at UCLA, Farrow turned professional at perhaps one of the peak times for American tennis. The likes of John McEnroe and Jim Courier were at the back end of their career, however, new stars such as Andre Agassi were emerging. Immediately out of college, Farrow joined the United States Davis Cup team as a practice partner from 1988 to 1991. He won his first pro tournament, the Canadian Satellite Event, in 1989, and would go on to win a total of 12 professional titles during his career. Battling injuries at times, Farrow would reach a career high professional ranking of 224 in the world in 1994 and would have some of his most memorable wins in the years leading up to his career-best. He returned home to Wichita and from 1991-94 was a member of World TeamTennis' Wichita Advantage. As a member of the team, Farrow would defeat Jimmy Connors, Mats Wilander and Bjorn Borg. The team also won the league championship in 1993. Farrow continued to serve the USTA after playing by volunteering on national committees for over 16 years. He served as a council chair of Professional Tennis, chair and vice chair of the Pro Circuits, and was a member of



the Community Tennis Association, Public Parks and Special Populations committees. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Farrow said: "It's very humbling. I just remember being in the station wagon with my mom and if anything should be in the hall of fame it should be my mom's lawn chair... I just remember when I got this call, I remember thinking back to the station wagon and all those hours. I was just hoping to get into a tournament and do okay."



Francis P. Lemery (Overland Park, Kansas)

All Francis P. Lemery needed to do to know he was interested in tennis was to look out the windows of his childhood home and see tennis being played at Wyandotte High School across the street. Lemery could have been attracted to the baseball field or soccer field, but it was the tennis courts across the street from his home that lured him. He would spend hours on those courts as a junior player, paving the way for success throughout his career. "I'm really the one who got started in tennis and convinced my parents to get me a racquet," Lemery said. "I really started

on my own." Lemery frequently played in junior tournaments at Kansas City, Kansas' Klamm Park, as well as the Plaza Tennis Center. He won the Greater Kansas City Junior Boys 18 & Under Singles Championship. He also lettered four years on the Wyandotte High School tennis team, qualifying for the Kansas State Championships in his senior year. Following high school, Lemery attended the University of Michigan where he studied actuarial mathematics and lettered on the Michigan freshman tennis team. Lemery returned home to the Kansas City area and immediately began playing as an adult. He regularly competed in USTA Heart of America and USTA Missouri Valley tournaments, winning in singles, doubles and mixed doubles divisions. Lemery frequently played mixed doubles with his wife, Charlene. He was ranked no. 1 several times in USTA Heart of America and USTA Missouri Valley senior adult age divisions in singles, doubles and mixed doubles. "I was a serve and volleyer," Lemery said. "That was my favorite game. I always loved to volley. I had a very, very good backhand that was consistent and reliable." He's also been a longtime participant in the USTA League program, competing at 5.0 and 4.5 levels. In 1993, Lemery was part of the National Champion 4.5 senior team from USTA Heart of America. He won two other national championships with 4.5 senior teams, and was chosen to represent the USTA Missouri Valley several times as a member of teams in intersectional events. He received the USTA Heart of America Adult Player of the Year Award and USTA Heart of America Adult Sportsmanship Award. Lemery's business background got him in the administrative side of tennis as well. Through his decade of service to the game, he served as a board member from 2004 to 2008, Treasurer from 2001 to 2002, Secretary in 1994 and Vice President of Adults for USTA Heart of America from 1995 to 1997. He was also chairperson of the USTA Heart of America's Adult Tennis Council. He also served as chairperson of the USTA Missouri Valley Adult Tennis Council from 1996 to 1996 and served as Heart of America's representative on the USTA Missouri Valley Nominating Committee from 1998 to 2000. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Lemery said: "It is extremely special. I feel so honored to be chosen to be a member of the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame. I didn't have expectations that I would get in the Hall of Fame. I'm so honored and pleased and appreciate everyone who has been a part of it."

Richard M. Perry (Enid, Oklahoma)

Richard M. Perry was 16 years-old when he first picked up a tennis racquet. However, his later arrival into tennis didn't prevent him from having a successful high school career and winning championships into his 70s. A native of Oklahoma City, Perry was a sophomore at Northwest Classen High School and found that basketball wasn't for him anymore. "A lot of my friends were on the tennis team in high school so that got me out there," Perry said. Once he got his start as a sophomore in high school, Perry became a two-time Oklahoma high school state champion in doubles in 1963-1964, earning him Honorable Mention on the Oklahoma 1960s All-Decade Tennis Team. Following his high school career, Perry attended Oklahoma City University on a tennis scholarship



and graduated with a degree in mathematics. Off the tennis court, Perry became a District Court Judge in 1990, retiring in 2006. He was named Oklahoma Judge of the Year in 2001. Perry also served as an officer in the Air Force and was a T-38 instructor pilot for five years. He spent 20 years in the Air Force Reserves, retiring in 1997 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Perry, as an adult, continued to find success on the tennis court. He won numerous titles in both singles and doubles, and has been ranked no. 1 in USTA Oklahoma rankings several times, winning eleven USTA Missouri Valley section-level championships. He was named the Oklahoma Adult Player of the Year in 1993 and was awarded the inaugural Oklahoma Jim Thorpe Tennis Award in 2004. Perry represented the USTA Missouri Valley in intersectional play in the Men's 45s in 1996, and won USTA Silver Ball at the USTA National 70s Indoors Championship in 2016. In 2017, he won the National Senior Olympics 70s division and was chosen to represent the U.S. in the Gordon Trophy Cup, an annual competition between Canada and the U.S. "It's such a fun sport you can play for a lifetime," he said. "That's a common phrase but you can do it and I've made friends all over the country." Perry has been dedicated off the court as well. He served as treasurer of USTA Oklahoma for 12 years, and president of USTA Oklahoma from 1997-2000. He was secretary of the USTA Missouri Valley from 2001 to 2002 before becoming treasurer from 2003 to 2004. He then served as first vice-president from 2005-2006 before serving one term as president from 2007-2008. At the national level, Perry served eight years on the USTA National Adult and Senior Competition Committee and was its vice-chair for two years. He also served as the USTA Missouri Valley delegate to the USTA Board of Directors. Perry remains the chair of the Oklahoma Tennis Hall of Fame Committee and created and maintains its website. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Tennis Hall of Fame in 2007. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Perry said: "It's very humbling. I've been at the meetings to see the great players who have been honored and so it's a great honor."

2018

Ken D. Brown (Independence, Kansas)

Ken Brown never set out to be a tennis player, or even a tennis coach. He took two tennis classes in college at Fort Hays State in 1965. "I simply fell in love with the game," Brown said. When he landed a job teaching at Independence Community College in Independence, Kansas in 1966, word quickly spread he had the potential to coach and he was asked for form a college tennis team. Independence had a rich history of being a strong tennis community, however, after World War II, the town's facilities deteriorated and interest waned. Brown, however, changed that over the course of his 50 year career. In 1968, Brown started the first recreational tennis program in Independence, and successfully lobbied for the courts to be refurbished. By the 1980s, his college team was finding success. He led his team to Nationals in 1983, 1986 and 1988. In 1992, when his oldest son was a high school senior, he decided to become the boys' tennis coach at Independence High School. He'd go on to become one of the most successful high school coaches in Kansas. He was named the Kansas Boys' Coach of the Year in 1998, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2008 and 2010. His teams won state championships in 2006, 2007 and 2008. He added coaching the Independence High School girls' team to his duties in 2008, winning coach of the year in 2009, 2012, 2013 and 2014. He won team state championships in 2009 and 2014. His community involvement is second to none. He's directed the city's summer recreation program with USTA youth programming since 1983, and has organized team tennis for juniors long before the USTA introduced Junior Team Tennis. He has served on the USTA Missouri Valley Awards Committee for more than a decade. His Hall of Fame induction is not his first honor. He's been honored by the USTA Missouri Valley for his Outstanding Contribution to Youth Programs, Community Service, and Contributions to Junior Team Tennis. He's served as Secretary of USTA Kansas since 2000. Brown represented Independence at the US Open in 2009 when it was named one of the Top Three Tennis Towns in America, edging out 50 other cities across the country. "It was one of the biggest thrills I've had - to walk onto the center court



and see 'Independence, Kansas' on the video board at Arthur Ashe Stadium." On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Brown said: "It's very, very humbling. A few of the other (USTA Kansas area coaches) I know such as JC Louderback and George Milton, I've had great respect for years and years. I'm honestly not sure I'm in the same class as them."



Fred Johnson (Kansas City, Missouri)*

Fred Johnson made an indelible difference when it came to diversity and inclusion in tennis. Johnson was a constant innovator and organizer and spent his career working to introduce tennis to underserved populations. A standout basketball player at Emporia State University, Johnson first got involved in tennis in 1990 as a manager and instructor for five sites of the Ashe-Bolliteri tennis program. When the Davis Cup match between the US and Germany was played in Kansas City in 1991, Johnson held a community tennis camp for the Boys and Girls Club. "Fred was an athlete and he played

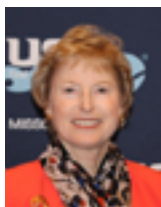
football and basketball, but when he found tennis he realized that not everyone could be a good football player or basketball player. But he realized tennis allowed you to play as an individual or on a team," said Brenda Johnson, Fred's widow. In 1996, Johnson joined the USTA Missouri Valley staff, eventually becoming the Manager for Diversity and inclusion. Fred served in that role until 2015 when he passed away after a strong battle with cancer. It didn't take long before he created the "Tennis in the Hood," program along with a strong group of volunteers, which introduced tennis to 40,000 children in 11 cities across the section over the years. He also created 'Slammin' and Jammin' basketball and tennis camps with the assistance of Lynette Woodard, the first female Harlem Globetrotter. "Most people don't get to see their purpose in life," said Brenda Johnson. "But Fred did. He realized his purpose and he was lucky in that respect." He worked closely with various communities. He hosted a Native American Tennis Open Forum in Oklahoma City in 1997. He worked to get Margaret Knight appointed as the first Native American female member of the USTA National Diversity Committee. A year later, in 2002, he assisted in getting Jerry Bale appointed to the same committee as the first Native American male member. Another passion of Johnson's was working closely with wheelchair tennis players, hosting a number of clinics during his career, including organizing Northland Racquet Club's first wheelchair tournament. Johnson was also an active volunteer. He was the first male board member for WIN for KC, the Stephanie Waterman Foundation, and also at the Native American Tennis Association Championship for 14 years. Johnson organized the annual "All Stars" event for adaptive tennis players in 2009. The event that welcomes adaptive tennis groups from throughout the section for a weekend of tennis and other fun activities continues today in Johnson's memory. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Brenda Johnson said: "I think that he would be so honored that three years after his passing, people still remember the things he tried to do, and the things he tried to pursue and the accomplishments he made. He'd be really pleased."

Mark Platt (Clayton, Missouri)

Ask a tennis player in St. Louis how he or she got their start in the game, and there's a good chance they'll say, "Mark Platt." Platt first started teaching tennis through the free University City tennis program, the same program where Platt learned the game under USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame member Earl Buchholz Sr. Platt has spent over 30 years teaching beginners the basics of tennis at the most grassroots level through his company, "Beginner's World Tennis" which he founded in 1984. "I always played tennis and loved tennis. It just worked out I was able to make a career out of it," Platt said. "I found my niche, which was the beginners." The program has grown to include 1,000 players weekly across five sites. Platt currently has a staff of 10 people. Platt uses the game of tennis to work with charitable causes, too. He annually raises money for the Siteman Cancer Center in St. Louis through his "Rally Tennis for Cancer" fundraiser. Whether it's a middle school or college, Platt has spent a considerable amount of time in schools during his career. Through his Mobile Tennis Academy, he introduces tennis in physical education programs to thousands of



students.” He works with St. Louis University during its freshmen orientation to introduce tennis to hundreds of students each year. Platt has been recognized on the national level for his contributions to tennis. In 2017, Platt was awarded the Janet Louer USTA Junior Team Tennis Organizer of the Year. Platt was selected by Tennis Industry Magazine as a Community Tennis Local Hero in 2016. He also received the Eve Kraft Community Service Award from the USTA in 2004. “I see the positive it creates, the jobs, the way the kids move on and become successful,” Platt said. “It’s motivating.” Dozens of his students have gone on to have successful high school and college tennis careers. In fact there have even been marriages between his students, with their children eventually being signed up for Platt’s program. “It’s rewarding,” Platt said. “How I measure my success is how my kids do.” On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Platt said: “I felt like I’d be honored later. I don’t feel like I’m done. There are some new programs that I’m trying now. That’s what I like with what I do. Win or lose, I’m always trying new things.”



Pat Purcell (St. Louis, Missouri)

As a junior, Patricia Purcell was one of the best players in the USTA Missouri Valley. Several decades later, she remains one of the best players in the country at her age level. In addition to being a player, she’s also been a successful organizer within the USTA St. Louis community. Purcell began her career playing junior tournaments at Dwight Davis Tennis Center.

Between 1966 and 1972, she was frequently ranked the no. 1 player in St. Louis and the Missouri Valley. She went on to play collegiately at

Washington University in St. Louis beginning in 1973, however spent the first two years of her career on the men’s team as the women’s team was yet to be established. Following graduation, she continued to play through the 1980s, remaining a top ranked player in the USTA Missouri Valley. Purcell, who was a longtime owner of Westchester Tennis Club, has been a USPTA Elite Professional since 1988, and served as Assistant Women’s Coach at Washington University from 1994-1999. Those obligations led her to stop playing competitively in 1990. When she returned in 2010, she picked up where she left off. “I felt people had forgotten that I could play,” Purcell said. “I wanted to remind everyone I work with, especially my students, that I can still play tennis.” Since 2010, she’s won six USTA Gold Balls, and seven silver and bronze balls. She was a member of the Maureen Connolly Cup team, consisting of the best 55 & over players in the US, in 2013, and the Alice Marble Cup Team, consisting of the best 60 & over players in the US in 2017, and competed on the National Women’s 60s Cup Team in August of 2018. She finished 2017 as the No. 4 ranked player in both singles and doubles in 2017, and remains in the top five in both singles and doubles in 2018. She’s also captained dozens of USTA League teams consisting of players she taught dating back to 1998. She also runs one of the largest World Team Tennis league programs in the country and in 2001, Purcell was named the World Team Tennis Coordinator of the Year. In 2011, she was named the USPTA Missouri Valley Player of the Year for the 55s division and USPTA Missouri Pro of the Year, as well as USTA St. Louis District Player of the Year. “I’m very, very grateful to the St. Louis tennis community,” Purcell said. “If they don’t allow me to have the courts for World Team Tennis, or to teach on, I can’t do what I do.” In 2016, she was named both the USTA St. Louis and USTA Missouri Valley Player of the Year and was also inducted into the USTA Tennis St. Louis Hall of Fame. In 2018, she was inducted into the Washington University Sports Hall of Fame. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Purcell said: “My students wrote letters for me and I didn’t see the letters until Dee Wharton showed them to me. It really took my breath away to read what people wrote about me. It’s really the best ever.”

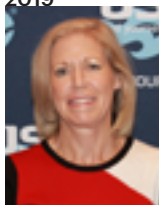


Kim Reser (Springfield, Missouri)

Kim Reser has impacted the game of tennis. From a player, organizer, official, volunteer, Reser has demonstrated a dedication to the game throughout her career. Reser learned to play the game through the public parks system and Marshall Junior Tennis League in her hometown of Marshall, Missouri. After playing on the

high school team, she went on to play at William Jewell College from 1986 to 1990 where she was the No. 1 player on the team. Following graduation, she also earned her PTR certification in Hilton Head, South Carolina in 1990, a certification she still currently holds. In 1993, Reser served as the interim William Jewell College head women's coach for one season. She joined the USTA Missouri Valley as director of Adult Programs and Championships between 1995 and 1997, before beginning her career with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board as the Community Tennis Director, overseeing what was then a fledgling Cooper Tennis Complex. She held various positions with the Park Board before landing in her current role as Assistant Director in 2011. "Being able to utilize the game of tennis to help communities grow good citizens, that's really what drives me," Reser said. "It gives me the opportunity to see smiles on kids' faces." In 2002, Reser served as the Administrator for Business and Court operations for the United States' Fed Cup match against Israel held in Springfield. It was the first major tennis event in the US following the attacks in September 11, 2001. Reser was the venue and game day manager as the US was victorious in the match. Beyond her day-to-day job keeping her involved in tennis, Reser has also served for 20 years as a volunteer for the USTA and the National Recreation and Parks Association. "I think with how good tennis was to me, I always wanted to give back," Reser said. "Also, coming from a small town, I felt it was important to give back." At the national level, she served on the USTA Leagues, USTA Parks and USTA Awards committees, respectively. She was also a USTA liaison to over 10 USTA League National Championships, and served as a tournament director for a number of national level tournaments. She was an officer on the USTA Missouri Valley Board of Directors from 2005 to 2016. She also served as a board liaison, committee chair and vice chair. She also served as treasurer. Reser has also officiated, beginning in the early 2000s. She was a line judge for Springfield Lasers' matches and professional exhibitions, as well as a chair umpire for USTA Pro Circuit matches and other high-level events. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Reser said: "When you think about the opportunities I've been afforded, it's because of other people. I just got the opportunity to jump in and help provide tennis programs to kids and adults in communities. That's rewarding in and of itself."

2019



Kilmeny Waterman Connor (Overland Park, Kansas)

Kilmeny Waterman Connor has excelled in the tennis world since her early years as a player, and still today as a teacher, coach, and organizer of tennis. Connor first fell in love with the game of tennis as she followed the footsteps of her mother, Jennifer Waterman, who coached and played tennis. Connor describes her mother as an amazing motivator, and one of the reasons why she dedicated her own life to tennis. As a junior player, Kilmeny maintained a USTA national ranking along with becoming the 1980 Missouri State High School Girls Singles Champion and holding the

No. 1 USTA Missouri Valley ranking in Girls 18s singles and doubles. Her success continued as a scholarship varsity player for No. 5 ranked Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas where she graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Physical Education in 1988. Connor went on to compete for three years on the Women's Professional Tennis Circuit, attaining a WTA world ranking in both singles and doubles tennis. In 1993, Connor was chosen to be an alternate team member for the World Team Tennis Kansas City Explorers. Later in life, Connor would win three gold, seven silver and three bronze balls competing in Mother-Daughter national tournaments with her mother. Connor earned her master's degree in Sports Administration while assistant coaching at the University of Kansas. As her career as a player winded down, Connor built a reputable coaching career, taking positions at City College of San Francisco, starting the women's tennis program at the University of Wyoming, and most notably returning to the University of Kansas as the Head Coach. In 2002, she was honored as the Big 12 Women's Tennis Coach of the Year and the Central Region Women's Tennis Coach of the Year. Along with her career as a player and coach, Kilmeny also impacted tennis in her various roles coordinating, teaching, and directing junior tennis at local clubs and academies along with being intricately involved with many committees and charitable foundations for local tennis, collegiate tennis, and most notably her family's foundation known as the Stephanie Waterman Tennis

Foundation created in honor of her late sister. Her involvement, memberships, and charitable service earned her the Salute to Women in Tennis Award in 1998 to accompany her honor of being inducted into the USTA Heart of America Hall of Fame. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Connor said, "I am amazed and honored to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. I was pretty floored when I found out. Knowing the history of the Hall of Fame and having family members like my mom playing tennis in the Kansas City area for so long, along with growing up with so many amazing people and tennis players — to be in that company, I am so honored."



Craig Sandvig (University City, Missouri)

Craig Sandvig's impact on local junior tennis is second to none, as exemplified by his notable career and the way all his players and colleagues speak so kindly of him. Growing up in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Sandvig was a top-ranked USTA Northern (known then as USTA Northwestern) junior player. In the mid-1960's, he represented his section in the Junior Davis Cup Competition and was a five-time state champion in high school. Sandvig excelled in his collegiate career as well, playing tennis for the University of Iowa and earning the university's top Scholar-Athlete

Award across all sports. Sandvig went on to continue his career professionally, playing two summers on the European Pro Circuit. However, his accomplishments as a coach far exceed his already impressive accomplishments as a player. In 1971, Sandvig moved to St. Louis in order to pursue his graduate degree at Washington University, where he would also become Head Coach of the men's tennis team. Six years later, Sandvig was invited to pioneer a now nationally-recognized junior tennis program at Sunset Tennis Center, where he has remained for over 40 years. As a top coach and USPTA Elite Pro for 30+ years, Sandvig has coached many high school state champions, nationally ranked junior players, future Division I college tennis players, and district, section, and national championship-earning USTA adult teams. His coaching efforts were further rewarded as he was named the USPTA Missouri Valley Missouri Pro of the Year in 2001, USTA Tennis National Recognition Program All-American Team in 2003, and USTA Missouri Valley Outstanding Contributor to the USTA League Tennis Program in 2005. These honors were well deserved as Sandvig's contributions to USTA Missouri Valley and USTA St. Louis are significant. Sandvig's contributions include coaching and directing section-level tournaments and serving on USTA Missouri Valley committees, along with a dedication to the growth of junior tennis at the district level. Sandvig has created multiple junior tournament series, served as district vice president of junior tennis, and received five USTA St. Louis awards for his junior tennis contributions, culminating in 2013 with the Distinguished Service Award. Sandvig's strength as a coach and good-hearted nature all point to why so many players remain loyal to him. Along with colleague Doug Smith, Craig is very proud of the Sunset alumni who continue to honor tennis by playing it, teaching it, and providing their children and grandchildren with the opportunity to learn the game. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Sandvig said, "I feel very fortunate to be a part of a group that includes Don Klotz and Steve Wilkinson, my college mentors, Jane Pratt and Marilyn Mueller, who have done so much for tennis in St. Louis, Doug Smith and Judy Dippold, who inspired me and pushed me to be better, and too many others to mention."



Pamela Sloan (Stockton, California)

Pam Sloan's legacy is that of a life deeply interconnected with volunteerism, a passion for tennis, dedication to grassroots tennis and introducing young people to tennis. Sloan's passion for tennis was sparked when she began playing as a teenager, and then further set ablaze as an adult working in the Parks and Recreation system when a friend encouraged her to attend a tennis workshop in Dallas. Little did Sloan know, this tennis workshop would move her to dedicate her career to growing the game of tennis. Since that workshop, Sloan successfully fought to restore tennis within the Kansas City

Parks and Recreation Department, with the results of her work drawing in thousands of players, several NJTL programs, and many junior and adult tournaments. A standout accomplishment during this period

was her successful formation of an NJTL program that would see 1200 children, many of which would go on to play tennis in high school, college, and even professionally. Sloan has served at every level within USTA Missouri Valley, from tournament volunteer, to Board Member, to two-term President (1999-2002), and serving on numerous committees. In this time, Sloan also joined the Board of Directors for both the National Public Parks Tennis Association and the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), as well as becoming a NRPA Certified Park and Recreation Professional. During her time with USTA Missouri Valley, Sloan earned nine service-based awards at the local, section and national level, some of which include the "Outstanding Service Award" from USTA for her NJTL work, the "Distinguished Service Award" from USTA Missouri Valley, and the "Exceptional Service Award" from Kansas City Parks and Recreation. When Sloan's profession carried her to California to become the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Stockton in 2004, her service to tennis carried on. Her commitment to tennis stayed true as she quickly became involved in several task forces, committees and as a USTA Northern California Board Member. While staying active with USTA Northern California, Sloan also invested her time in the Sacramento Capitals World Team Tennis program as the Community Outreach Coordinator. Along with staying intricately involved with her local USTA section, Sloan has also served extensively for USTA nationally—in the past 25+ years, she has served on 27 national committees, task forces and projects, including serving on the USTA Board of Directors from 2009-10. Sloan has been able to use her career as a consultant and her role with the Parks and Recreation systems to promote the game of tennis and carry on the mission of making tennis accessible in public parks everywhere. Her work in this field was crowned in 2016 when she was awarded the National Public Parks Tennis Association Jean and Hollis Smith Lifetime Achievement Award and now with her induction into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame in 2019. On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Sloan said, "Initially, I was a little speechless, excited, thrilled. But my first thought later was "Who got me to this point?" I had to think about the people that, without their assistance, their mentoring and their help, I wouldn't have been here in this position...Ultimately, they are the ones that helped me make a difference in tennis. I feel very honored and privileged to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, and I truly take that to heart."



2020

Dan Apted (St. Louis, Missouri)

Dan Apted's name has been a staple in the St. Louis tennis community for many years. The tennis heritage runs deep in his family as his father, Steve Apted, instilled a love for tennis and sport in all four of his children. The family bond is very strong between those who share Dan's last name, but he has also made it a point to invite many others into his circle. Employees, friends, business partners, and many others all proudly consider themselves a part of his wide-reaching tennis family.

Though Apted never took a formal tennis lesson in his life, he was fortunate to watch and learn from St. Louis tennis greats such as family friends Larry Miller and Mary Ann Eisel as well as professionals including Ken Rosewall and Jimmy Connors. Their examples carried Apted through his tennis journey, playing as a ranked doubles junior until a severe back injury at 16 years old sidelined him from all sports for nearly a decade. Despite no longer being able to play tennis, Apted spent his summer breaks working in tennis operations and teaching tennis at the family's local club, Creve Coeur Racquet Club, and teaching hockey at Castle Oak (now known as the Chesterfield Racquet Club). When Dan was still in his youth, Steve Apted and his business partner built the Creve Coeur Racquet Club. Today, Dan carries on the marvelous family tennis legacy through the club. Dan and his family continue to pour blood, sweat, and tears into the club to create one of the best tennis and private club environments in the region. This hard work was recognized in 2013 when Creve Coeur Racquet Club received the Member Organization of the Year award from USTA St. Louis. In 2003, Apted joined the Dwight Davis Tennis Center Board of Directors and took over facility management one year

later. Since then, he has selflessly served the facility at all levels, whether by providing staffing or personally hosing off the patio. Under his leadership, Dwight Davis Tennis Center has grown exponentially financially and been recognized for multiple awards. Apted doesn't do all of this on his own, though. His family has been his support all along his journey. His daughter, Dani Apted Schlottman, gleaned a love of tennis from her dad and has since come alongside him as a business partner. "She likes to compete, she likes to get stuff done," Apted said. "It's just great to be around her and see the opportunities she's taken with the Aces, etc. It's great to have a fourth-generation family member involved in the business." The two, along with Dan's wife Deb, and Dani's husband Eric, joined forces to bring the St. Louis Aces World TeamTennis franchise to the city in 2005, which played at Dwight Davis Tennis Center for seven years. "It was probably one of the neatest and luckiest things I've ever been able to be involved with," Apted said. "Going into a business opportunity with your daughter, her husband, and your wife and seeing each of them taking a leg of the business that I'm not very good at is special." Apted continues to donate court time, food, events, and more for dozens of local charities, provide scholarships for juniors through his club, and selflessly share the love of tennis with many in St. Louis. "I believe that you've gotta pay it forward, you've gotta help people," Apted said. "To see kids who don't have the opportunity to try something...if I can help, I've gotta jump in and help. It's very fulfilling. If I couldn't pay it forward, I wouldn't be whole." His humble leadership, dedication to his facilities, and commitment to paying it forward earned him the Distinguished Service Award from USTA St. Louis and now will culminate with his induction into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame. "It's humbling. It's really an honor to be in the same group as so many people who I've watched get inducted and be involved in tennis. I thought it was an honor just to even be considered. I couldn't even be having this conversation without my mom and dad, and Larry and Mary Miller, who really, 50+ years ago, took all the risk and the vision and worked day in and day out."



Jane Zukaitis Hines (Omaha, Nebraska)

Jane Zukaitis Hines has been instrumental to the growth of the Omaha tennis community and a strong champion for diversity outreach and adaptive tennis. She has grown the game of tennis in many roles, with her tennis resume including playing, teaching, coaching, administrating, fundraising, and marketing tennis. As a player, Hines excelled at high levels. As a junior player, she was ranked #1 in Nebraska singles and doubles. During her career at Omaha Burke High School, she won the Nebraska State and Omaha Metro doubles championships. Hines

went on to play college tennis at the University of Hawaii. There she would earn the Most Inspirational Athlete, Academic All-American, and the prestigious Jack Bonham Athlete of the Year awards. During her time as a college athlete, Hines realized her desire to make a career out of her sport. Upon graduation, she quickly soared into a marvelous tennis career. "Tennis provided me with so many opportunities. I just wanted to share those opportunities with others," said Hines. "Tennis provided me with friendships, fitness, fun, a college education, and my career. I thought 'Gosh, I have this fabulous recipe for life. Why not share this with others?'" A highly accomplished junior high performance coach, Hines brought in several state, sectional, and national coaching awards. Hines's tennis influence didn't stop there. As a USPTA Tennis Professional, she worked as a tennis instructor, programming director, and marketing director at various clubs, schools and community centers in the Omaha area. In these roles, she would build up numerous adult and junior instructional and competitive programs. Outside of her roles of teaching and directing tennis, Hines has used her marketing and website skills to promote the game in big ways. For many years, she has served as the volunteer webmaster for the Omaha Tennis Association, USTA Nebraska, Omaha Tennis Buddies, and USTA National Adaptive Tennis. She created e-newsletters for several tennis organizations, published various adaptive tennis spotlights on the USTA National website, and has written a multitude of tennis publications, guides, articles, curriculums,

and more. The list of how Hines has involved herself in local tennis is never-ending; her passion for bringing diversity and inclusion into the tennis community is unmatched. This passion is clear especially in her work with the Omaha Tennis Buddies, a program co-founded by Hines which partners adaptive athletes with local tennis enthusiasts to provide year-round tennis programming for adaptive athletes. Her other local tennis involvements include grant writing, after-school tennis programming, multicultural outreach, non-elimination tennis competitions and more. "Every individual is important! I wanted to make certain that any individual who wanted to learn to play tennis had a way to do so," Hines said. "I did not want this sport that we love to be locked into a box and kept away for only the elite players. I wanted to make certain that if there were a player out there of any age or ability, that we would have a place in which they could come to play in a safe and successful environment." Hines has served in several roles within the Omaha Tennis Association and USTA Nebraska, including chair of several committees and as President. At both the section and national level, Hines was involved in many committees, workshops, meetings, and events, most notably serving as the Chair of the USTA Adaptive Tennis National Committee and as a coordinator of the USTA Missouri Valley Fred Johnson ALL Stars adaptive event. Her selfless work has been reflected through the multitude of awards that she has received from the Omaha Tennis Association, USTA Nebraska, and USTA Missouri Valley. Other notable recognitions include the USPTA National Star Award, Tennis Industry Adaptive Tennis Champion of the Year, President's Awards and induction into the USTA Nebraska Hall of Fame. When asked her thoughts on being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Hines had humble words to share: "I have to tell you, I was rather shocked and I was even surprised to find myself choking back some tears. When I got off the phone, I had to explain to my little granddaughters that I was shedding tears of joy, and that sometimes people get tears of joy when they are very, very happy. So, I am very, very happy to be inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame!"



Kevin Nebergall (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

Kevin Nebergall, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has spent the greater part of his life growing the game of tennis and providing tennis opportunities for marginalized communities in the state of Iowa and beyond. His start in tennis was different than most as he didn't pick it up until graduate school when his roommate invited him out to the courts with him. From then on, he was hooked. "I ended up falling in love with the game and I wanted to pass that love on to other people who may not normally be in it," Nebergall said. He began to play with friends and local groups in his community and eventually went on to take tennis lessons and become a tennis instructor. He would later become a PTR Certified Tennis Professional and a successful tennis coaching career blossomed from there. As he built up his professional tennis career, he also became closely involved with the Cedar Rapids Tennis Association, eventually becoming President of the association (1984-1988). His involvement with Cedar Rapids would soon bridge into an involvement with USTA Iowa, starting by helping out with local tournaments and coaching opportunities. This would be the first of many ways Nebergall would give back to USTA Iowa, culminating with his roles as USTA Iowa Vice President (1988-1990) and three-time USTA Iowa President (1990-94; 2013-16). His service extended past the Iowa borders as he would also serve the section at many levels, including USTA Missouri Valley Vice President (2001-02), First Vice President (2003-04), and President (2005-06). He has also served nationally as Delegate 2006-07, and on four different committees and as a US Open Arthur Ashe Kids Day Volunteer Coach. "It gave me a broader scope of what's happening in tennis," Nebergall noted. "When I first got started, I thought the Cedar Rapids Tennis Association was the top of the heap and then I got into USTA Iowa, and then as I occupied office at the USTA Missouri Valley I thought 'wait a minute, there are 16 other sections all over the United States' and then working with National was really something. It was an eye-opening experience." Nebergall's work is highlighted by an emphasis to include those from diverse backgrounds

into the tennis community. He founded a National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) chapter in Cedar Rapids and served in multiple diversity-oriented programs to better serve multicultural youth in addition to sharing tennis in unique venues all over the section. This diversity initiative took him far and wide across the section, sharing tennis in places such as the Red Earth Native American Festival, Tennis in the Hood events, and Fort Madison Prison. Since his retirement from teaching English at Kirkwood College, Nebergall has only continued to give back more to the tennis community. He continues to volunteer as USTA Iowa Hall of Fame Committee Chair, a coach at local tennis outreach projects, and stays active as an avid leagues participant. Nebergall's years of service have not gone unnoticed. He has had the opportunity to bring home several awards including the Iowa PTR Pro of the Year (2002), Outstanding Contributor to USTA Iowa Tennis (1994), and the USTA Iowa Distinguished Service Award (2004). On being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, Nebergall had a few reflections to share: "I'm very grateful for that honor. A lot of times I was doing things such as sitting in meetings when other people were playing and taking lessons. I'm very honored that I'm being rewarded for sitting in these meetings. That's the big thing."



2021

R. Scott Hanover (Kansas City, Missouri)

Scott Hanover's love of tennis is contagious to those around him. His closest friends and colleagues over the years agree that his dedication to the great sport of tennis makes him more than deserving of induction into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame for 2021 Hanover has been the "heart and soul" of tennis in the USTA Missouri Valley and USTA Heart of America for many years, but his tireless work in tennis began in Iowa. His start in tennis began as a junior player in Des Moines with

the USTA National Junior Tennis and Learning Program. He was just 12-years old, but Hanover knew immediately that tennis was special and that he needed to give back to the game that had given him so much. "I think the reason I stayed so connected with tennis early on was I just felt such a passion for it, and even at a young age, even in college I decided that I should probably give back to this game in some way," he said. So began nearly three-decades of involvement with the USTA, probably best-known for his 23 year tenure as Director of Tennis for the Plaza Tennis Center. It's hard to identify in which ways Hanover has made the most impact, because he has touched almost every aspect of the game with his work - and his play. "He's just touched tennis in every way, as a player, as a coach, as a teacher, as an organizer of tournaments, as an official. And then of course as a volunteer leader, so he's touched it in many, many ways," said Susan True, who has served with Hanover on the USTA Missouri Valley Board of Directors and Awards Committee. Hanover helped found the USTA Heart of America Hall of Fame in 1999, and has served on the Hall of Fame committee ever since. He has served on the USTA Missouri Valley Executive Committee in some capacity since 2002: Vice President (2002-2006), Secretary (2007-2008), First Vice President (2009-2010), President (2011-2014), Delegate, Immediate Past President (2015-2016). He has also served on National committees - he has served as the Chair of the USTA Community Development Committee for two terms from 2005-2006 and 2007-2008, he was also the Chair on the USTA Tennis in the Parks committee in 2009 and is currently Vice Chair of the USTA National Competition Pathway. His prowess as a tournament director is also unmatched. In 2018, Hanover was a tournament director of 44 tournaments - a tremendous feat - and a record. The dedication to put on quality play opportunities within USTA Heart of America and USTA Missouri Valley is something that is admired by many. As a player, Hanover has been a No. 1 player in USTA Missouri Valley at NTRP 4.0. But more than that - you can also count on Hanover-captained teams to be well run and dedicated to sportsmanship and playing well. He has captained numerous teams that have gone on to play in the World TeamTennis Nationals, winning four titles, as well as four teams that have gone to USTA Adult League National Championships - including a Men's 55 & Over team this year - and one team that went to Tri-Level Nationals in 2018.

But what makes Hanover most special is kindness. Shelley George has served on the section board of directors and committees with Hanover and also worked alongside him in Iowa. She said everything he does in giving back to tennis is inspiring because of the way he carries himself each day. To this day, Hanover continues to give back to the game that has given him so much. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the Stephanie Waterman Foundation and the Director of Tournaments and Outreach for the Overland Park Racquet Club, as well as being the head tennis coach at Pembroke Hill High School. For a man who has dedicated his life to the game of tennis and helping others get as much out of it as he has, there is no higher honor than being inducted into the Hall of Fame. "It is truly humbling and such an honor to be inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame. I really appreciate the history of tennis, not just at the professional level, but the community tennis, and everything that we've done as a section."



Alvin Penelton (St. Louis, Missouri)*

The late Alvin 'Al' Penelton is considered by many to be one of the greatest service line umpires of all time. Penelton loved many things: his family, tennis and helping the community. Although a talented participant of many sports as a child, including cross country and gymnastics, and later basketball at Vashon High School in St. Louis, where he graduated in 1958, Penelton didn't take up tennis until 1974. He picked up tennis because he wished to remain active as he got older. He picked up the game quickly, winning scores of local tournaments, and

during his career with Anheuser-Busch won the national company olympics three times. He even got to play on occasion with Arthur Ashe. While he was an excellent tennis player, he was just plain special as an official. Behind the scenes in the tennis world was where his light shined brightest. He began his career as an official at the urging of a friend, and in 1978 was an official at his first tournament, just four short years after he first picked up a tennis racquet. That same year he would be an official in his first professional tournament - the WCT Classic at the Checkerdome in St. Louis. It was clear almost immediately his attitude towards life would take him far in the profession. Penelton was one of the handful of African American umpires on an international scale within the sport. His cool, calm and collected demeanor was what made him great. His life philosophy and key phrase: "It's all good." Former Chief Umpire of the US Open Woodie Walker knew Al since the 1970s and made sure to use him as an official at any chance she could. "Al epitomizes what a professional tennis official should be like. He was a consummate professional. He was the best, and I would call him the greatest of all time, the GOAT of service line umpires," Walker said. He was able to work the US Open in 1982 due to this attention to detail, then proceeded to work 37 consecutive US Opens. Penelton worked the world's most prestigious tournaments - Wimbledon from 1997-2001, six Australian Opens and tournaments in Indian Wells and Rome, Italy. Penelton also worked numerous Fed Cup and Davis Cup events, as well as the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Ga. and the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. It was as a line umpire that Penelton particularly excelled. If a player thought to question a line call, then looked to see Penelton on the line, they often changed their mind. He was so admired by his peers that he won the 1996 John T. McGovern Award, the USTA's highest umpire award. Because of the respect he garnered, he also appeared on the cover of a USTA umpire manual and on a Wimbledon postcard. Of his many awards as an official, perhaps one of the biggest honors was being named to the Black Tennis Hall of Fame in 2021. Community and family were also really important to Penelton. Perhaps even more important than his work on the service line was his work in the community. He was instrumental to improvements of the tennis courts at Lincoln Park in East St. Louis. Penelton often played the game on those very courts in the beginning. The courts had become unplayable and a grant, as well as community leaders, worked to get the courts resurfaced and lights added. The courts are the only playable ones in the city. He even set up a foundation in East St. Louis to get local kids involved in tennis. With such a passion for tennis and life, it

makes Penelton's induction into the Hall of Fame an easy decision. As his wife says, this is something he's always wanted and the honor is not lost on his family. "It means that a wish has been fulfilled. It may not have been around for him to see it, but it was something that he wanted and it was something that he wished for. And we're fulfilling that wish for him. So thank you very much." Penelton passed away May 23, 2020.



Tara Snyder (Wichita, Kansas)

USTA Missouri Valley 2021 Hall of Fame Inductee Tara Snyder is one of the best players to come out of the section. She was introduced to tennis by her father, Darrel, at the age of five on city courts in Wichita. As a junior, Snyder was coached by her father and Brent Fields. Snyder quickly rose up the ranks as a junior, becoming USTA Missouri Valley's No. 1 player and climbing as high as No. 3 nationally. She won the U.S. Open Junior Singles title in 1995, and began playing ITF events in 1994.

She was a member of the US Junior National team in 1994 & 1995, then a member of the USTA Pro Team from 1996-1999. Snyder's dedication and drive to continue improving helped her take the next step in her junior career as she would put in anywhere from three to five hours of practice each day honing her skills. It was this tenacity and drive that really drove Tara throughout her career, from junior tennis up through her professional career. She refused to give up or stop practicing until she felt something was perfect. Snyder spent over a decade on the WTA Tour with her brother Darren by her side as her coach. Later in her career, Tara's husband, and former ATP pro Brent Haygarth, also joined her coaching team. Her first career professional tournament title came at ITF/Delray Beach in 1997. In that same year, Snyder reached the second round at the US Open. In 1998, Snyder had her best year as a pro. She won her first WTA event singles title at Quebec City, where she defeated Chanda Rubin. The victory helped propel her ranking to a career-best No. 33. She also picked up a win over world No. 11 Irina Spirlea at Amelia Island before bowing out in the quarterfinals. Snyder had another stellar year in 1999, this time reaching the semis in Quebec City - where Rubin avenged her loss to Snyder the year prior. At the Quebec City event, she defeated then world No. 10 Amanda Coetznier. In 1999, Snyder also reached the third round of the US Open. In the second round, she and opponent Emmanuelle Gagliardi went to a first-set tie break that would soon become the longest tie-break in WTA tour history, lasting 40 points. Snyder dropped the tie-break, but rallied to defeat Gagliardi 6-7 6-1, 6-1. The Pan American games also came calling for Snyder in 1999. Snyder had a great tournament, coming away with the silver medal. Other career highlights include victories against Maria Sharapova, Martina Hingis and Marion Bartoli. In 1995, Snyder spent her rookie year in WorldTeam Tennis with the Wichita Advantage. After a three-year hiatus, Snyder joined the St. Louis Aces for two seasons. After that, she joined the Kansas City Explorers in 2000, followed by a stint with the Springfield Lasers in 2002. In 2009, she joined the Kansas City Explorers where Haygarth served as the team's coach. She also played for the Texas Wild in 2013. Injuries eventually took their toll on Snyder, forcing her to retire early from the game in 2006. But with her passion for the game, it wasn't long before she found new ways to give back to the game that gave her so much. Snyder took immense pride in being able to give back after her playing career was over. She spent seven years on the USTA Nominating Committee from 2009-2012 and again from 2016-2018, where she was highly respected by her peers and the board. She also went back to school at the University of Missouri to get her Master's in Positive Coaching. She used that experience to go around to local schools and talk to coaches and players and inspire them to continue working toward their goals. Her impact is still alive and well in Wichita to this day. "There's a lot of kids in Wichita that even to this day I'll go and someone's either playing pickleball or tennis, they're like, 'I wanted to be like your sister, I never could, but I tried.' So there were a lot of people that looked up

to Tara,” her brother Darren said. As great as her playing career was, Snyder’s impact on tennis goes far beyond just her playing accolades. Snyder is thrilled and honored that her lifetime of hard work and dedication is being recognized with such a distinguished honor. “It is an honor for me to be recognized by my peers for this honor at such a young age. I’ve worked incredibly hard throughout my career, both on and off the court.”

2022

Mary Greef Harris (Kansas City, Missouri)*



The late Mary Greef Harris was one of the original trailblazers and pioneers of women’s tennis. In a time when many women weren’t playing tennis, she traveled the world playing tennis at the highest level and leaving a lasting impression on the game for generations to come. She was born in 1911 and grew up in Kansas City, Mo. at a time when tennis was mostly a summer sport due to the lack of indoor courts.

However, she didn’t let that stop her from playing and improving. She was a tenacious competitor and it was that competitiveness that drove her to continue to put in the work to improve after she first picked up a racquet. Not even the snow and ice of the midwest winters could stop her, as she would even chop ice off the tennis courts in the winter just so she could practice. She got her start working with a coach named Carl Meyer in Kansas City. She did most of her playing at the Rockhill Tennis Club. In her first year of playing tennis, Mary never even played against an opponent. She spent that first year practicing and hitting against a

After high school in 1930, Mary went on to attend the University of Southern California where she continued her sparkling playing career. It wasn’t long before the Wightman Cup came calling and she had to leave USC to set sail for England in May of that year. She played on the team with other pioneers like Helen Willis Moody, Helen Jacobs, Sarah Palfrey and Edith Cross. As serious as she was about tennis, she was also very serious about her studies so she talked the university into letting her take her exams early before leaving for Europe. After the Wightman Cup, she returned to USC to continue her studies and playing career. There she won the 1931 singles and doubles championships in the National Intercollegiate Women Championships - now the NCAA Championships. Other career highlights include being a three-time quarterfinalist at the US National (now US Open) in 1929, 1930 and 1932. However, one of her proudest accomplishments was making it to Wimbledon in 1930 and playing singles and Mixed doubles on the hallowed grass courts of the All England Lawn Tennis Club. Decades later, her granddaughter would come full circle when she followed in Mary’s footsteps by making it to Wimbledon qualifying in 2000. As impressive as her career was, Mary chose to stop playing competitively at the age of 26. She moved to Kenilworth, Illinois where she turned her focus to raising her family. Her impact, however, lives on to this day. She continued to be a loving mother and role model to her daughter and grandchildren. Though her playing career was over, she wouldn’t miss any of her grandchildren’s matches and was always willing to share her wisdom. But that wisdom sometimes took a little prodding to get out of her. For as great of a competitor as she was, she was equally humble. She was never one to openly talk or gloat about her achievements. Even her family members had to pull information out of her throughout the years. Her preference was to let her daughter and grandchildren shine in the path that she helped carved. It’s only fitting that such a pioneer for women’s sports is being inducted into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame on the

Jean Larrick (Springfield, Missouri)



Jean Larrick grew up in Decatur, Ill. and has been playing tennis for nearly 70 years. Her tennis journey started as a young girl when she was at a friend’s house and noticed what she believed to be some snowshoes on a shelf. After a few questions, she discovered they were actually tennis racquets and her beautiful tennis story took off from there. She started with some free programs and has been in love with tennis ever since. She played college

tennis at Missouri State University for three years. Her 1977 team at MSU won the MIAA Conference Championship and AIAW Regional Championship and competed in the AIAW Women's Championships, finishing in the top 20. Over the course of her extensive playing career, Larrick has won more than 200 titles in singles, doubles and mixed competitions. Among her career highlights are representing USTA Western on the Junior Wightman Cup team, finishing in fourth place at the USTA National 35 Women's Doubles Clay Court Championships and winning multiple National Public Parks Tennis Championships. In addition to playing, Larrick has been an International Certified Teaching Professional with Professional Tennis Registry for more than 30 years. She has also served on multiple USTA Missouri Valley and USTA National committees. It is her teaching and her passion for helping others improve that sets her apart from your average tennis professional. She says this all goes back to her seventh grade teacher, Doris Sphar. She took Larrick under her wing and really got her onto the path to become an adaptive physical education teacher. This is where she developed her love for teaching and it spread into tennis. One of her true passions in tennis is working with adaptive tennis players, adults and youth beginners, alike. She finds so much joy in helping those athletes experience tennis and become the best player they can be. She demands just as much out of her adaptive athletes as she does out of all of her players. She gets the most out of each of her players because she knows how to connect with them as people as well as players. When it comes to tennis fundamentals and technical skills, Larrick knows everything inside and out. You won't find many coaches who are more knowledgeable than her. She is capable of teaching players of all ages and any level of ability. Whether a player is brand new to the game or an elite-level player, Larrick can get through to them and help them refine any skill they may need. While her fundamental knowledge of the game is unmatched, she also thrives on the mental side of the game. Larrick has a unique ability to develop a player's mental game that sets her apart from other coaches. She understands the mental toughness it takes to be successful as a player and a coach and she instills that in everybody she coaches. That's just another thing that sets her apart from other coaches. She is one of the most caring and compassionate people you'll meet on a tennis court. She takes the time to connect with her players on a personal level and makes each person she meets feel like a close, personal friend. Her impact on her players and fellow coaches extends far beyond the tennis court. One of the greatest endorsements as a coach is having your players refer friends and family to you. Larrick has families that she's coached up to four generations of players. That perfectly encapsulates her impact on people. Everyone wants the best for their families, and Larrick is the best. There are few coaches, or just people, more deserving of a Hall of Fame induction than her. And while she obviously doesn't do what she does for the accolades, she couldn't contain her excitement when she got the call to notify her of her selection. "Well, it's the highest honor for me," she said. "I was elated."



Larry Newton (Omaha, Nebraska)

Larry Newton is a true legend in the junior tennis world. He is currently using his vast knowledge and expertise to serve the USTA National Local Play and Competition Committee as its Vice Chair and as Chair of Junior Play for USTA Missouri Valley. He also received national recognition in 2021 for his contributions to junior tennis when he was named Racquet Sports Industry's National Youth Tennis Provider of the Year. Newton has spent the past 36 years volunteering his time to help grow the game of tennis through various avenues: as a tournament director, official or serving on district, section, and national boards. He started playing tennis as a 14-year-old and took a job as a clay court attendant at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa when he was 15. That eventually evolved into a teaching position and a successful playing career, including two years on Oklahoma State University's varsity tennis team. One of his greatest contributions to USTA Nebraska began with his creation of "Farm Team Competitions," which fed high-level junior players into the Nebraska Competition Training Center, while also providing second-tier players non-elimination competitions each week. Working with non-elimination

formats led Newton to create the NET events for new players in Nebraska that expanded section wide. The NET format was later adopted by the USTA nationwide and transformed into what is currently called Junior Circuits. Newton spent about eight years as a teaching professional early in his career and he found fulfillment in helping juniors and adults improve their games. But it wasn't until after he left his job as an instructor that he felt he really started to make a difference in the tennis community. Newton was doing it out of sheer love for the game when he was volunteering his time rather than doing it for a living. His biggest passion and motivation have been seeing juniors develop a love for the game from the time they first pick up a racquet to the time they age out of junior programming. He says after his tennis playing days, his career can be split up into three distinct phases: his time spent as a teaching professional, then moving into volunteering running mid-level and high performance junior events and finally volunteering more with new players and running tournaments to create a positive first experience for them. Newton now runs tournaments for newer players most frequently and enjoys being able to impact the youngest generation of tennis players to help them grow with the game. He continues to have a massive impact on the Nebraska community through his tireless efforts running programs for kids and he wouldn't have it any other way. His sole focus is to do what is best for the players and that shines through in everything he does. He is as selfless as can be and truly epitomizes what a volunteer should be. At the end of the day, it is Newton's passion and love for the game that have pushed him to such great heights in tennis. His induction into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame is the culmination of his efforts and he is thrilled to be an inspiration to all volunteers out there. "I feel like this selection is one in which I'm representing all the volunteers out there," Newton said. "And I'm just honored and humbled that I'm being put on a list with the people I'm being put on. It's an honor."

2023

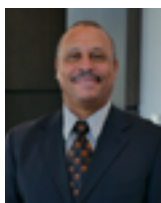


Shelley George (Bradenton, Florida)

Shelley George grew up in Iowa City, Iowa and got a slightly later start in tennis than some of her peers. Her mom had signed up for tennis lessons at the local parks & recreation department and needed Shelley to help her warm up before a lesson. Dr. Don Klotz noticed Shelley hitting with her mom and asked if Shelley would be interested in lessons. After a little more conversation following her mom's lesson, Shelley decided to give lessons a try. She took her first lesson the next day and never looked back. George was a multi-sport athlete through

high school, but really gravitated towards tennis. Her skill was apparent from early in her career and she continued to play more competitively and worked hard to improve her game. Her hard work paid off as she continued her playing career after high school. She played for St. Ambrose University from 1979-1981 before transferring to the University of Iowa and graduating in 1983. Her collegiate playing accolades include being named Freshman of the Year, Player of the Year and an All-Conference selection at St. Ambrose. She was named team captain of her team at St. Ambrose. George transferred to the University of Iowa after her sophomore year, graduating in 1983. She was also previously inducted into the USTA Iowa Hall of Fame and the City High School Hall of Fame for her outstanding career. After her illustrious playing career, George shifted her attention to growing the game and volunteering. She started working as the Director of Tennis for the City of Iowa City, starting an award winning National Junior Tennis League chapter named the NJTL of Iowa City, Iowa with Donna Farley. Their NJTL won National Chapter of the Year in 1989, just one year after its founding. She moved on to Co-Director of the University of Iowa Recreational Services Tennis program. A few years later, she settled at the North Dodge Athletic Club as the Director of Tennis. She earned P1 Professional Certification from the USPTR and maintained that throughout her coaching career. During this time she served as the Head Girls Tennis Coach at City High School. She was named Iowa Coach of the Year on three occasions and coached multiple state championship teams and individuals. Her coaching and teaching success lead to her taking a job as the Associate Head Women's Tennis Coach at

Syracuse University from 2007-2019. Her time at Syracuse can only be described as a rousing success. Along with Head Coach Luke Jensen, Shelley helped oversee some of the most productive seasons in program history. She helped guide the team to three NCAA Tournament appearances and had 13 All-Conference selections during her time coaching. The Orange reached as high as #10 in the ITA ranking during that time, as well. Her impact at Syracuse went well beyond the court, too. She was one of six Division 1 Coaches to receive the 2012 Eastern Sectional Campus and Community Outreach Award. She and Jensen also established a USTA tennis program for the Onondaga Nation Reserve in 2007 which is still ongoing today, giving the kids access to racquets, courts and tennis instruction. She also ran USTA assemblies in the Syracuse City School District with Jensen to promote tennis in the city. Arguably her most impactful work came through her various volunteer roles, though. She served at just about every possible level of the USTA from 1997-2018. She started on the USTA Iowa Board of Directors, where she served two terms as president from 1998-2000 and 2000-2002. From there she went on to serve on the USTA Missouri Valley Executive Committee, culminating in a term as USTA Missouri Valley president from 2009-2010. She also served as the USTA Missouri Delegate in 2011-2014 after her term as president. She also spent time volunteering on USTA National committees, most notably the Collegiate Committee and the Tennis On Campus Committee. She was appointed the chair of the Tennis On Campus Committee in 2006 and helped turn Tennis On Campus into one of the hottest USTA programs in the county. Prior to her induction into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame, George earned numerous district and section awards, including the prestigious USTA Missouri Valley President's Award in 2011. Her accolades are too numerous to count and her impact on the game of tennis has been felt by everyone she has encountered throughout her career. At long last, please help us welcome Shelley George to the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame.

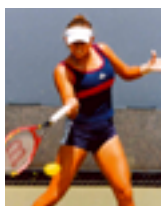


Alex Lee (Wichita, Kansas)

Alex Lee grew up in Bradley, Arkansas on a farm and never really thought much about tennis as a kid. His only connection to tennis as a child was hearing his brother Jimmy talk about Jimmy Connors all the time. Looking back, Lee doesn't think they even had a tennis court at his high school. So, when he went off to college at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, tennis wasn't even on his radar. Finally his now-best friend, Robert Harris, asked Lee and a group of his friends to go play tennis one day. They all agreed to go and Lee had a great time playing. Then

Lee and Harris went to play again the next day. And they continued playing together every day. He was so hooked that he would even go play with Harris during the winters in Arkansas. All that practice eventually led to them practicing on occasion with the UAPB varsity tennis team. During his sophomore year a spot opened up on the team and Lee jumped at the chance to play. His playing career took off from there and led to numerous successes and tournament wins throughout his life. Lee is now a life member of the American Tennis Association (ATA). He won National ATA Doubles Championships in 2011 and 2016 with his playing partner Greg Fleming. In 2016 he won the ATA National 60 Singles title. He also got his USTA Missouri Valley ranking as high as 5th in the 35 & Over division in the 1990s. Outside of his playing career, Lee has made an incredible impact as both a coach and a volunteer. He currently serves as USTA Missouri Valley president after spending nearly 20 years in various roles on the Executive Committee. He got his start in volunteering thanks to the late Fred Johnson. After a lengthy phone call with Johnson, Lee was convinced to get on board with the USTA Kansas Board of Directors. He continued to get more and more involved with his volunteerism, working his way up to the USTA Missouri Valley Board of Directors eventually leading to his current position. He has also volunteered his time on USTA National committees, including the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) Committee, Diversity & Inclusion Committee and the Community Tennis Association (CTA) Committee. He currently serves on the Collegiate Committee and tries to pass on his vast knowledge to other coaches.

On the coaching front, he earned his PTR Professional certification in 2001 and his USPTA Elite Professional certification in 2019. Lee currently serves as the head men and women's tennis coach at Friends University in Wichita where he has coached since 2015, after retiring from the Boeing Company, where he worked for 30 years in information technology. Arguably his proudest achievements, though, come from his volunteer and charitable work. He founded two nonprofit tennis organizations in 2009: the McAdams Community Tennis Foundation in Wichita and the Lee Sports Foundation in Pine Bluff, Ark. He is currently the executive director at McAdams NJTL. He runs the Lee Sports Foundation with his family, occasionally traveling to Arkansas to help run workshops in the summer months. Both organizations work to introduce tennis to disadvantaged youth in their areas. Lee is married to Bobbie Lee and they have one son, Alex J Lee. Bobbie plays league tennis and Alex J. plays occasionally. They have all made promoting the growth of tennis a big part of their lives.



Jenny Dent (Grapevine, Texas)

Jennifer (Hopkins) Dent had an illustrious junior, high school and professional tennis career as one of the greatest competitors to come out of the USTA Missouri Valley. Dent began playing tennis at the age of 6 under the guidance of Ann Edmonds and Jeff Henderson at Hallbrook Country Club in Leawood, Kan. Mike Wolf later coached Dent for a six-year stretch in Lawrence, Kan. Dent won the USTA Girls' 18s National Clay Court Championship in 1998 a year after claiming the USTA Girls' 18s National Indoor Doubles title with her partner, Julia Scaringe. She

finished runner-up in singles at the 1997 USTA Girls' 18s National Indoor Championship and was a quarterfinalist at the US Open Junior Championships the following year. In all, Dent captured nine USTA National Bronze Balls in singles during her sterling junior career. Dent snagged the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) Class 1A-3A singles title in both 1995 and '96 as a student-athlete at The Barstow School. She didn't lose a set during her march to the championship as a freshman in 1995. Dent went professional in 1999 and claimed six ITF singles championships as well as five ITF doubles titles during her seven-year career on the WTA Tour. Dent reached a career-high ranking of No. 52 in the WTA in 2001 and competed against the likes of Venus and Serena Williams, Monica Seles and Jennifer Capriati. Dent reached the quarterfinals of the WTA Rogers AT&T Cup, a Tier 1 event. She made the finals of the WTA Hobart International event. In doubles, Dent and partner Mashona Washington recorded a WTA career-high ranking of No. 49 in 2004. The duo made the finals of the WTA AIG Japan Open. Dent teamed with Jelena Kostanic to win the 2002 WTA Internationaux de Strasbourg doubles title. Additionally, Dent had a standout career as a World TeamTennis competitor. She was named the 2000 WTT Rookie of the Year while playing for the Kansas City Explorers. Dent was a key member of an undefeated season for the WTT's New York Sports Times in 2005. She teamed with Martina Hingis to win the WTT Championships and was chosen for the WTT MVP Doubles Award. Dent graduated magna cum laude from the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles in 2008 with an associate's degree in fashion design. She married former professional tennis player Taylor Dent in 2006, and they have four children: Declan, Liam, Reagan and Blake. Dent opened the Dent Tennis Academy in 2011 alongside Taylor and Phil Dent in southern California. The trio then constructed The Birch Racquet & Lawn Club that opened in 2020 in Keller, Texas. The private tennis facility features amenities including 10 lighted outdoor courts, five indoor courts, locker rooms, exercise equipment and a café. Jenny Dent is Birch's CEO and teaches group clinics as well as private lessons



Susan True (Kansas City, Missouri)*

Susan True held a litany of titles during her remarkable 21-year career as a volunteer within the USTA. Her USTA Missouri Valley roles included two stints as both vice president (1999-2002; 2013-14) and secretary (2009-2012; 2015-16), and she was on the executive committee each of those years as well. True was on the executive committee and served as treasurer in 2005-06. True chaired the USTA Missouri Valley's bylaws task force, community development committee and awards committee. She was also a member of the awards committee and was on the USTA

Missouri Valley Foundation Board from 2000-06. She was the USTA Missouri Valley's liaison to the USTA Awards Committee. True was on the USTA Schools Committee and USTA Evaluations Committee, where she served as vice chair. She was also a member of the USTA Youth Community Tennis Programs Committee. True was part of the Collegiate-Interscholastic Team Tennis Project Team. She was selected for the USTA Missouri Valley President's Award in 2016 and the USTA Missouri Valley Distinguished Service Award in 2012. True was heavily involved locally within the USTA Heart of America scene as well. She chaired the USTA Heart of America Awards Committee twice in addition to being a member of that committee from 2009-2012. She was the district's volunteer coordinator and was inducted into the USTA Heart of America Hall of Fame in 2020. She was a frequent volunteer at USTA tournament desks from 2006-2020 and worked at a pair of Pro Circuit tournaments. True ran the USTA Missouri Valley booth at Kansas City Explorers' matches and the KC Marathon for several years. True was always willing to lend a hand. When WTT squads traveled to Kansas City to face the Explorers, True picked them up from the airport and hosted them. She assisted Fred Johnson in taking groups of people to clinics at neighborhood courts. And she arranged the transportation of children from an urban church to the tennis courts for clinics. As a Title IX pioneer, True helped found the Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC)—a part of the Kansas City Sports Commission. True and two others established WIN for KC in 1994 to empower girls and women through the promotion of their participation in sports. True held the WIN for KC roles of secretary, president-elect and president. She was on the executive committee and advisory board, and she has served as ex-officio since 2006. True received the WOW Award from WIN for KC in 2004. From 1994-2011 True was involved with the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation, and she was named as the nonprofit's 2007 Female Volunteer of the Year. She was on the board of directors, executive committee and Hall of Champions Committee. True was a key asset when the Kansas City Sports Commission brought the 1998 NCAA Women's Basketball Final Four and 1999 World Team Gymnastics Trials to KC. Beyond tennis True was passionately involved in the sport of volleyball, and in 2010 she was chosen for the Frier Award—the highest award given to a volunteer by USA Volleyball. She was on the steering committee and co-chaired the host committee for Missouri state high school volleyball. True previously has been inducted into the National High School Hall of Fame (2003) and the Kansas State High School Activities Association Hall of Fame (2017).



Sam Fotopoulos (Prairie Village, Kansas)

Lifelong tennis player Sam Fotopoulos has been a standout competitor at each stage of his career that spans 55-plus years. Fotopoulos was a top-ranked USTA Missouri Valley and USTA national junior, and he captured a high school state singles championship in undefeated fashion. His collegiate career included a Big Eight Conference title at the University of Oklahoma in 1982, where Fotopoulos served as the Sooners' No. 1 singles player three straight years. While in college Fotopoulos represented Greece on the country's national team, traveling

the globe as a Davis Cup member and participating in the Balkan Games. Fotopoulos' well-rounded game led to him claiming national championships on grass, clay and hard-court surfaces. He has been a champion in every age division of USTA Heart of America and has accumulated 12 USTA balls during his

tournament career. Fotopoulos and his daughter, Mimi, teamed up to become the No. 1-ranked USTA father/daughter duo in the nation in 2018.

Fotopoulos—a lifelong Prairie Village resident—was introduced to tennis at five by his father, John Fotopoulos, a former top USTA national player in his own right. Fotopoulos was later coached by legends Paul Cohen and Pancho Segura. Fotopoulos won several USTA Missouri Valley junior tournaments and was ranked as high as No. 13 nationally. He qualified for nationals every year of his junior career. He won the 1974 Sugar Bowl doubles championship and was a finalist in singles at the Fiesta Bowl two years later. Fotopoulos was a member of the USTA National City Team and attended the US Junior Davis Cup Camp. At Shawnee Mission East High School, Fotopoulos claimed the 1978 Kansas 6A state singles title and was a three-time high school All-American. He attended the University of Texas his freshman year—where he went 23-3 to post one of the best single-season win percentages in school history—before transferring to Oklahoma. The move paid immediate dividends, as Fotopoulos led the Sooners to a Big Eight Conference title in his first season. That same year Fotopoulos was the NCAA Mid-American singles champion and a Nike All-American. Fotopoulos met his wife, Angie, while both were attending the University of Oklahoma. He taught tennis to both his children, Chris and Mimi, who each went on to play collegiately for the Sooners. Fotopoulos was selected to play for Greece from 1981-84—traveling to Egypt and Denmark to compete in the Davis Cup—and won the Greek Men's National Hard-Court Championship as well as winning the All-Greek Championship. His on-court success has only continued since then. He is a five-time national champion and was a national finalist on 10 other occasions. He has earned one USTA Gold Ball, eight Silver Balls and three Bronze Balls. Fotopoulos was the 1979 USTA National 21 & Under doubles champ and got to No. 2 in the Men's 35 Doubles national rankings from 1995-97. He collected multiple doubles championships in Kansas City to go along with several USTA Missouri Valley and national doubles crowns. Fotopoulos was part of a USTA Missouri Valley team that finished second in the 1995 USTA National Men's Open Team Championship. In 1999, he won the National Public Parks Doubles title. He was a practice partner for the Kansas City Explorers, a pro tennis franchise, in 1995-96. He participated in several Pro-Am events alongside Kenny Rogers, Dean Martin Jr., Burt Bacharach and Oleg Cassini. Fotopoulos was named the USTA Heart of America Player of the Year in 1997, while the Fotopoulos crew was chosen as the district's Family of the Year in 2005. Fotopoulos was previously inducted into the USTA Heart of America Hall of Fame in 2021. He is a longtime Kansas City-area volunteer at numerous events benefiting nonprofits and promoting the sport of tennis to kids and adults.



Nathan Price (Lafayette, California)

Former ATP Tour player and University of Arkansas alum Nathan Price enters the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame after previously being inducted into the Oklahoma Tennis Hall of Fame in 2016. Price worked in the tennis industry at Wilson Sporting Goods for six years. He helped create 100-plus new performance tennis racquets and collaborated with Roger Federer and Serena Williams to design and develop their Autograph-line racquets.

Price—who was born in Tulsa and now lives in Lafayette, California with his family—grew up in a tennis household. His father, Cliff Price, is a fellow USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Famer (1999) and put a racquet in his son's hands at 18 months. Price's lifelong enjoyment of tennis began soon after, as he played in his first tournament at 7 and developed into one of the top junior competitors in the nation. He was nationally ranked in singles in USTA Boys' 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s. In Boys' 18s in 1998, Price was the No. 1-ranked USTA

Missouri Valley player and earned a No. 43 national ranking. He captured the 2000 Oklahoma 5A state championship at the No. 1 singles position for Union High School, and he was later inducted into the school's athletics hall of fame. While at Union, Price won the

Houston Coca-Cola Open men's singles tournament. He played No. 1 singles and doubles for the University of Arkansas, leading the Razorbacks to the 2004 Sweet 16 for the first time since 1986. He received bids in all three draws—singles, doubles and team—at the 2004 NCAA Championships. He became just the fifth player in school history to win more than 30 matches in a single season. Price was an All-Southeastern Conference selection, collected the ITA's John Van Nostrand Memorial Award for outstanding senior player and was Arkansas' choice for the H. Boyd McWhorter Award as the top academic men's athlete from all sports at the university. Price later earned an MBA from Oklahoma State University as well. He played on the ATP Tour part-time while in college and full-time for two years from 2004 to 2006. He picked up wins over several ATP top-100 competitors, including the No. 2-ranked player at the time. He played in five countries and, in 2006, earned a USA national ranking of No. 66 to go along with an ATP ranking of No. 887 in singles and No. 764 in doubles. Price began his career within the tennis industry at Prince Sports. He then joined Wilson in 2013 as the global product manager for performance racquets and was responsible for the company's \$70 million performance tennis racquet portfolio. He helped launch America's best-selling new racquet in 2016 and '17. Price co-starred in TV and online commercials for the Wilson Pro Staff racquets alongside Federer. He also enjoyed hitting on court with stars such as Federer, Juan Martin del Potro, Grigor Dimitrov, Milos Raonic, Kei Nishikori, Madison Keys and Simona Halep. Price teamed up with his dad to capture three USTA Gold Balls and two USTA Silver Balls at national father/son tournaments from 2000 to 2012, with the duo ranked No. 1 nationally in 2012. Price served on the USTA National Pro Circuit Committee in 2013-14. He played alongside former professionals John Isner, Steve Johnson and David Martin in the May 2025 LaFortune Legends exhibition event in his hometown of Tulsa, which benefited a local nonprofit.



David Steinmeyer (Jefferson City, Missouri)

Longtime tennis coach David Steinmeyer taught tennis for 52 years from 1956 to 2017, including a 31-year stint as a high school coach. Steinmeyer spent 23 of those years at Jefferson City High School, where his teams and players racked up state championships and produced nearly 450 dual-match victories. He became a staple in the Jefferson City tennis community and earned the nickname "Mr. Tennis" in central Missouri. Though Steinmeyer didn't play tennis in high school or college and didn't know much about the sport at the time, he was asked to coach the Webster Groves High School team soon after he graduated from college. Steinmeyer jumped at the opportunity to coach at his alma mater located in St. Louis. He joined a tennis clinic taught by Butch Buchholz—a fellow USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Famer, class of 1994—to learn more about the game. Steinmeyer coached at Webster Groves from 1956-66 and guided some of his players to the Missouri state tournament. He then spent the next decade coaching tennis and basketball—among several other duties in the athletics department—at Westminster College, his alma mater located in Fulton, Mo. In 1976 Steinmeyer took the reins as tennis head coach at Jefferson City High School, a post he remained in until 1998. His teams combined for a record of 447-107-2, a winning percentage of 80.6. The Jefferson City girls' tennis program captured state championships in 1987 and 1993 and finished as runners-up in 1990 and '92. In total, the girls' program made seven Final Fours during Steinmeyer's tenure. One of Steinmeyer's top players, Kristen Jordan, won three state singles titles (1992, '94, '95). Two of Steinmeyer's doubles teams also snagged state championships in back-to-back fashion: Debbie Massengale and his daughter, Laura Steinmeyer, in 1987 and Massengale/Julie Pemberton in '88. The Jays' boys' tennis program reached the Missouri state semifinals on five occasions, including a second-place finish in 1991. Matt Scott and Jake Easter teamed up to win a state doubles championship. Though Steinmeyer never had the luxury of a full-time assistant coach, he credited Steve Shockley for years of volunteering and his wife, Martha Steinmeyer, for all her support. Steinmeyer built up the numbers in his tennis program in part by working summers for the Jefferson City Park

Board and the Jefferson City Area YMCA. After his retirement as a PE teacher, Steinmeyer taught tennis for two decades at the YMCA. The tennis courts there were named in Steinmeyer's honor in 2018. Steinmeyer's son, John Steinmeyer, now serves as tennis director and teaching professional at that YMCA. Steinmeyer was previously inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 2021.

