



Tennis Coach Leslie Bernard and Family Honored by the United States Tennis Association

Roanoke, Va. – Hollins University tennis coach Leslie Bernard and her husband and two sons have been named Family of the Year by the United States Tennis Association (USTA) - Virginia.

Bernard has coached at Hollins since 1997 and is a past recipient of Coach of the Year honors from the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC). Last season, she guided the Hollins tennis team to a second-place finish in the ODAC. She played a key role in bringing the nationally-recognized Brenda Schultz-McCarthy Tennis and Adventure Camp to Hollins this summer.

An active member of the board of the Roanoke Valley Tennis Association, Bernard also serves as director of the Roanoke Valley Invitational Tennis Tournament (RVITT), which twice has been named Tournament of the Year by the USTA-Virginia. In conjunction with the RVITT, she has established a scholarship fund that each year recognizes four student athletes for their outstanding academics and service as well as their commitment to athletics.

Bernard's husband, John, is an accomplished tennis player who competed as part of a men's 4.0 senior team that reached the USTA Nationals. Together they have volunteered their time to help with National Girls and Women in Sports Day and teach tennis at the local Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Their sons, ten-year-old J.B. and seven-year-old Alexander, are also active in tennis: J.B. is ranked twenty-first in the USTA Mid-Atlantic Boys' 10 Division and has played on winning Boys' 10 and Boys' 12 teams, while Alexander is ranked forty-ninth in the

USTA Mid-Atlantic Boys' 10 Division and participated last summer with Boys' 8 and Boys' 10 teams for Roanoke. J.B. and Alexander have been integral players locally with QuickStart, a USTA-sponsored program that helps younger children learn to play tennis, and are currently participating in Johan Kriek Tennis Academy programs held in the Roanoke Valley.

The Bernard family was recognized for their outstanding contributions at the USTA-Virginia Tennis Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon in Richmond on October 23.

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