Tim Heckler to Retire in December 2012 and John Embree Named as New CEO/Executive Director

The USPTA has announced plans to move forward following Tim Heckler’s retirement as chief executive officer effective Dec. 31, 2012, after 30 years in the position.

Heckler announced his intent to retire earlier this year and the Board of Directors also offered Heckler a one-year severance package through the end of 2013, which was ratified by a vote of the entire Executive Committee in April.

The Board of Directors and Search Committee recently hired industry veteran John Embree as the new CEO/Executive Director. Embree began transitioning into his role as of Oct. 1 and relocated to the national office in Houston on Nov. 1.

The association conducted a search for the new CEO/Executive Director, and after interviewing several candidates in conjunction with the executive search firm, GSI Executive Search Inc., the USPTA Search Committee offered the position to Embree. The contract was ratified by the USPTA Executive Committee in late August.

“The USPTA is indebted to Tim Heckler for taking USPTA to the next level, and his 30 years of service as CEO is a demonstration of his passion, his commitment to the association, and his endless hard work for helping and improving the well-being of the tennis-teaching professional,” President Daglis said.

When Heckler, who is a USPTA Master Professional, was tapped as USPTA CEO in 1982, the organization had approximately 2,400 members and an annual budget of $700,000. Today, the association is the world’s oldest and largest organization of its kind, serving more than 15,000 members in 66 countries, and operating on an annual budget of $6.5 million. Also, the association’s equity has grown from $60,000 in 1982 to more than $4.2 million today.

Heckler, who began playing tennis at age 3, started his tennis-teaching career in 1970, the same year he joined USPTA. He was elected president of the USPTA Texas Division in 1974 and served as national president of the organization from 1980 to 1982.

With Heckler’s guidance, USPTA became one of the first tennis organizations to embrace technology, first through the computerization of the business itself as early as 1982, and then later through its use of the Internet and email-based communications and education. USPTA introduced its first website in 1995.

The USPTA honored Heckler in 2000 by naming him a grand inductee in the Association’s Hall of Fame. He also received the International Tennis Hall of Fame’s Tennis Educational Merit Award in 2002 and was inducted into the Texas Tennis Hall of Fame in 2011.

Continued on page 3
President’s Message

President
Bill Kurtain

Dear Fellow Tennis Professionals,

I am very excited to write this message because it gives me the opportunity to share with you two topics that I am very passionate about.

First is an “on-the-job training program”/mentorship for our young, career-oriented, teaching professionals. If you already have such a program at your facility or club, I applaud you; if not, I strongly urge you to invest in such a valuable program. Our USPTA study guides, thorough testing process, as well as our vast educational resources are extraordinary, perhaps the best in the business. An extensive and caring mentorship/training program by seasoned tennis professional speaks volumes to the growth of our industry and member retention. Great tennis professionals with 10, 15, or more years of experience have developed excellent teaching content with well thought-out lesson plans and guidelines for appropriate behavior and professionalism. What better way to “give back” to our industry and offering leadership by taking a young tennis professional “under your wing.” The results will be significant in your club’s program growth and in the character building of our members.

The second topic, our USPTA Middle States Conference slated for November 15-16, 2013, will be, if not the best then certainly one of the best we have ever presented. The location has been moved to The Princeton Marriot Hotel Conference Center and Spa in Princeton, New Jersey. (Please Google the hotel for a guided on-line tour). The rooms are luxurious, the amenities are top-notch, and the food will be fantastic. The best part of the 2013 conference will be the speakers and presenters. Though a bit early to drop names, I can assure you, they are some of the best in the U.S., if not the world! We as a board are investing greatly in this conference, and I urge you to invest in your careers by saving the date, November 15-16, 2013. The cost will be the lowest we have ever offered, and the take-away information will pay dividends to your programs/careers. Start looking for more specific details of this exceptional conference.

We would love to see all of you there. And bring that new pro you have chosen to mentor—they will benefit greatly as well!

Best Regards,
Bill Kurtain
President, USPTA Middle States
Continued from front cover

Tennis Hall of Fame in 2005. In 2008 he received the highest honor awarded by the United States Professional Tennis Association, the George Bacso Lifetime Achievement Award.

For more information on Heckler, see his full biography www.heckler.usptapro.com.

“We are pleased to welcome John Embree into the USPTA family. His vast tennis industry expertise, contacts, and company management skills will serve the USPTA well,” said President Tom Daglis.

Embree has served on many national USTA Committees, including the USTA Nominating Committee in 2005-2006 and currently as the Vice Chair of USTA Professional Circuits Committee. In addition, he recently served as Presidential appointee of the Board of Directors of USTA Middle States section, is a past member of TIA Board of Directors and Executive Committee, member of the Board of Directors of American College of Sports Medicine Foundation, and past President of the Chicago Tennis Patrons Foundation. One of his proudest achievements in tennis was the creation of the USTA Adult League Tennis program in 1980, when he served as the first USTA Adult League Tennis Administrator for two years. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Washington & Lee University in Lexington, VA, and was inducted into the W&L Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.
Middle States Division News

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT

Congratulations to the 3.5 West Chester Country Club Lemon Drops. They competed for a national championship October 5-7 in Arizona.

Congratulations to the 2.5 Penn Oaks Slice Girls. They competed for a national championship September 28-30 in California.

Girls Mercer County Tournament

October 1st and 2nd the Girls Mercer County Tournament took place. High schools throughout Mercer County competed in a single elimination tournament for the rights of best in Mercer County. West Windsor Plainsboro South took home the title while rival West Windsor Plainsboro North finished in second. Samantha Asch claimed the overall 1st singles title for the fourth straight year; Margaret MacArthur claimed the 2nd singles title and 3rd singles went to Danika Baskar. The MCT is played every year at the beginning of October and displays the area’s top high school players in New Jersey.

Team Scoring

1. WW-P South (WWPS) 18½; 2. WW-P North (WWPN) 15½; 3. Princeton (Pr) 15; 4. Peddie (Pe) 14½; 5. Princeton Day (PDS) 14; 6 (tie). Hopewell Valley (HV) and Steinert (St) 6; 8. Robbinsville (R) 5; 9 (tie). Allentown (A) and Pennington (Penn) 4; 11. Hightstown (Hi) 3; 12 (tie). Nottingham (N), Lawrence (L), Stuart (SCD), Hun (Hu) and Ewing (E) 2; 17 (tie). Notre Dame (ND), Hamilton (HW), Trenton (T) and Trenton Catholic (TCA) 0.

Delaware Tennis Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

On Sunday, November 11, 2012 at Wilmington Country Club, three USPTA members were recognized at the 2012 Delaware Tennis Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

They are:
• Jim Flesch, USPTA Professional
• Deb Piper, USPTA Professional
• Bob Bratcher, USPTA Recreational Coach

Congratulations!
What is The Hottest Form of Communication Today?

You bet…it’s Facebook. Well what if a company could get you something like Facebook for tennis pros that would help you communicate with pros and their contacts regarding tennis activities? What if your contacts would quadruple at the sound of a “click?” And not only that, what if the program could sign up participants and collect the entry fees also all at the sound of a “click?” Well the USPTA has already done this for you and its free! If you are a member you need to get your account active and begin to use the greatest technology that’s out there for tennis pros—Courtside USA. I call it Facebook for tennis pros. It will assist you in so many ways and help make your business easier, stronger and more efficient.

Randy Jenks, USPTA full-time Courtside USA facilitator has been hired by our association to help us get this technology into our programs. He recently visited Hempfield Rec in Landisville, PA. and trained 23 professionals and then the same day went to Tennis Addiction Sports Club in Lionville, Pa., and trained another 14 professionals.

If you would like to receive more information on Courtside USA, please contact our Executive Director Tim Irwin at 610-730-0442. You won’t be disappointed!

Randy Jenks, USPTA Courtside USA Representative

Courtside USA Training at Tennis Addiction Sports Club

Tim Irwin at Courtside USA Training at Tennis Addiction Sports Club
The United States Professional Tennis Association honored those who stand out and go above and beyond in all aspects of the tennis industry, from tennis coaches to players to volunteers during its annual national awards breakfast at the USPTA World Conference on Tennis. USPTA, the world’s oldest and largest association of tennis-teaching professionals, hosted its annual World Conference Sept. 16-21 at the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa in Monterey, Calif.

**Doris Hart** of Coral Gables, Fla., became part of an elite group as a grand inductee into the USPTA’s Hall of Fame. Hart, who won 35 Grand Slam titles during her career and is only one of three players to have a "boxed set," has been a tennis-teaching professional and a USPTA member since she retired from the tour in 1955.

**Pancho Segura** of Carlsbad, Calif., also became part of an elite group as a grand inductee into the USPTA’s Hall of Fame. Segura, who was a former leading tennis player of the 1940s and 1950s, both as an amateur and a professional, in 1950 and 1952 was the world No. 1 male tennis player. He became a tennis-teaching professional for many years and joined the USPTA in 1946. He was widely credited with helping develop the young Jimmy Connors.

**David Porter** of Laie, Hawaii, received the association’s top annual member award, the Alex Gordon Award for the USPTA Professional of the Year. Porter has been involved in teaching tennis for 35 years and a USPTA member for more than 25 years.

**Geoff Griffin** of San Diego, Calif., is the recipient of the USTA/USPTA Community Service Award. He has been a USPTA member for 27 years and has continued to give to his community through tennis. He has been the director of tennis at Balboa Tennis Club since 1989.

**Ken Sumrow** of Plano, Texas, is the director of tennis at High Point Park Tennis Center and has had a tremendous impact on the growth of tennis participation by focusing on offering a comprehensive program of instructional programs and play programs that provide a pathway for all players to fully enjoy the game. The numbers for the instructional and play programs soared from July 2011 to June 2012. His work with the Plano tennis community and High Point Park Tennis Center is what earned him the USPTA Industry Excellence Award, recognizing business acumen and a charitable attitude. The award is sponsored by the Tennis Industry Association and supported by Tennis Tutor ball machines.

The USPTA Star, recognizing teaching professionals who make an indelible mark on their communities through the sport of tennis, was awarded to **Catherine Thomas**, of Mason, Ohio. Thomas, who is the director of tennis at Lindner Family Tennis Center, has made significant contributions to tennis in both Ohio and Arizona by creating, organizing and teaching after-school tennis programs for private and public schools in both states.

**Kyle Kaneshiro** of Honolulu, Hawaii, received the Lessons for Life Individual Award for his all his efforts in the tennis community as director of tennis at Moanalua High School, including raising $200,000 for the Moanalua High School Tennis Lights Project.

**Dave Neuhart** of Madison, Ga., received the Lessons for Life Individual Award for his charity events at the Reynolds Plantation/PBI, including the Columbus Celebrity Classic, which is held in support of the John B. Amos Cancer Center in Columbus.

**Jackie Roe** of Greenville, Del., received the Tennis Across America Individual Award for her efforts in hosting Tennis in the Streets, a free tennis event for 800 children.

**Angel Lopez** of San Diego, Calif., received the USPTA Diversity Award for all he has done to bring tennis to those in San Diego who might not otherwise have the opportunity to try the sport, including sponsoring programs at several predominately low-income high schools in the San Diego area.

**Dee Henry** of Norwalk, Calif., received the Manager of the Year Award – Small Facility. Henry is the tennis director at Biola University in La Mirada, Calif.

**Trent Schiek** of Tyler, Texas, received the Manager of the Year Award – Large Facility. Schiek is the former general manager of Hollytree Country Club in Tyler, Texas.
Other honorees are:
• Jonas Lundblad, Austin, Texas – Touring Coach of the Year
• Ron Albers, Vincennes, Ind. – College Coach of the Year
• William Wickenheisser, Whippany, N.J. – High School Coach of the Year
• Feisal Hassan, Midlothian, Va. – George Bacso Tester of the Year

The following have been named Player of the Year in their respective divisions:
• James Daly, Tyler, Texas – Men’s Open
• Jonas Lundblad, Austin, Texas – Men’s 35-and-over
• Jeff Cohen, Boca Raton, Fla. – Men’s 45-and-over
• Kimm Ketelsen, Tyler, Texas – Men’s 55-and-over
• Agata Cioroch, Atlanta, Ga. – Women’s Open
• Robin Keener, Melbourne, Fla. – Women’s 35-and-over
• Kathy Vick, Lubbock, Texas – Women’s 45-and-over

USPTA divisions receiving awards are:
• USPTA Texas Division – Large Division of the Year
• USPTA Southwest Division – Small Division of the Year
• USPTA Southern Division – Most Improved Division of the Year
• USPTA Southern Division – Newsletter of the Year

The USPTA National Awards program is conducted annually. Nominations are submitted by the 17 divisions and by individuals. Recipients in each awards category are decided by the USPTA’s awards committee.

Hawaii’s David T. Porter Named USPTA Professional of the Year

David T. Porter, Ed. D., of Laie, Hawaii, who has been involved in teaching tennis for more than 35 years and has been a USPTA member for more than 25 years, received the United States Professional Tennis Association’s Alex Gordon Award for the Professional of the Year.

Porter was recognized during the USPTA’s annual awards breakfast at its World Conference on Tennis. The USPTA, the world’s oldest and largest association of tennis-teaching professionals, hosted its annual World Conference Sept. 16-21 at the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa in Monterey, Calif.

The professional of the year is judged in seven areas, including: contributions to USPTA and USTA; as a teaching professional, player and coach; education, research and publications; organizational affiliations; and contributions to the community.

Porter, who is a USPTA Master Professional, played collegiate tennis for Brigham Young University, a top 20 Division I program. Porter graduated with Ed. D., M.S. and B.S. degrees before beginning his tennis-teaching career.

He has been very committed to the USPTA. He has been a Head Tester since 1988 and has served on the National Board from 1994-2007. This included serving as the national president from 2003-2005. In addition, he has served as the chairman of the education committee and the chairman of the testing and certification committee. He has also been a speaker at numerous USPTA divisional conventions and national conferences.

He is currently the head tennis coach at Brigham Young University – Hawaii. Porter has an impressive record of 1,193 wins and 145 losses over his college coaching career, and he has never lost a conference match in women’s tennis during his entire career. His BYU – Hawaii women’s team is the three-time Pacific West Conference champions (2010, 2011, 2012). He has also taught/worked with several nationally ranked players, including Zheng Jie, ranked No. 15 in the WTA, Yan Zi, ranked in the top 100 in the WTA and Li Na, ranked top 10 in the WTA.

Porter has written several articles for China Tennis Club Magazine and ADDvantage Magazine. Also, as the chairman of the USPTA Player Development Advisory Council, he consulted and edited “The Six General Performance Components of Tennis.”

He is currently on the HEAD Penn Racquet Sports Advisory Committee and Nike China Advisory Committee. His previous accolades include Hawaii Division Pro of the Year (2004, 1995), USPTA College Coach of the Year (2003, 2002), Hawaii Division Tester of the Year (1997, 1994), and Hawaii Division Hall of Fame Inductee (1985).
2012 USPTA Middle States Award Winners

Tim Irwin, Exec. Director; Bill Kurrent, President; Jeremy Speicher, Pro of the Year; Chris Evert
Ron Woods, Hall of Fame; Harold Conway, Norman Bramall Service Award;
Peter Sok, High School Coach of the Year; Ryan Gargullo, Rookie of the Year; Becky Cecere, College Coach of the Year

Pros enjoy dinner before the Awards ceremony at the Philadelphia Freedoms Match at Villanova Pavilion

Bill Kurrent with Ed McQuillin

Ron Woods, Hall of Fame, with Chris Evert

Becky Cecere, College Coach of the Year enjoying dinner with her husband, Joe, before the ceremony
Celes Panichelli and Peter Sok, USPTA MS High School Coach of the Year

Ron Woods, USPTA MS Hall of Fame, with Bill Kurtain, Becky Desmond and Beth Ann Myers

Ryan Gargullo, USPTA MS Rookie of the Year, with his fiancee, Rie Asano
USPTA Middle States Professional Earns Master Pro Distinction

Mark Centrella and Gary Trost, members of the United States Professional Tennis Association, were recognized for achieving Master Professional status in the association, the highest professional rating within the tennis profession.

The two honorees were recognized during the USPTA’s annual awards breakfast on Sept. 19 at the USPTA World Conference on Tennis at the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa in Monterey, Calif. They join an elite group as only about 1 percent of USPTA’s more than 15,000 members worldwide have achieved the Master Professional designation.

Members must hold USPTA’s highest certification rating (Professional 1) for more than 10 years before becoming eligible for the Master Professional designation. Then, each must fulfill a broad spectrum of requirements, including making significant achievements in areas such as tennis teaching and coaching, business, education and volunteer work.

USPTA Member William Phillips Receives Top Education Credit Earner Honors

During its annual awards breakfast, Sept. 19 at the USPTA World Conference on Tennis held at the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa in Monterey, Calif., the United States Professional Tennis Association recognized those members who make education a priority. The Association honored William Phillips from Lafayette, La., as the top credit earner in USPTA’s Career Development Program.

Phillips, a USPTA-certified P-1 and member since 1986, earned the most continuing education credits in the 2011 program with 88 education credits.

Education has always been one of the most important benefits of USPTA membership. Today, USPTA offers more opportunities than ever before for teaching professionals to gain more knowledge about tennis and specialized areas within the sport. Members earning top education honors have shown a commitment to continuing education in the USPTA through attendance at seminars and specialty courses and through distance learning opportunities. Those members honored at the annual awards breakfast have logged the most education hours and credits in the association. Below are some of those who have clearly taken advantage of this benefit.

Top education participants for 2011 include:

- Jeff Rothstein
- Feisal Hassan
- Ken DeHart
- Alan Cutler
- Craig Wells
- Bill Mecca
- Andrew Minnelli
- Andrea Barnes
- Zwelo Khupe
- Kevin Jackson
Mark Centrorella Conducts Tests

YMCA

Mark Centrorella, Head Tester, with Marie Thomas

Mark Centrorella

Testing at the Upper Main Line YMCA

Mark Centrorella and Anthony DeCeco

testers for Middle States

Play Tough
Play Long
Play ProPenn

Pro Penn Marathon is Penn's longest lasting tennis ball
featuring exclusive Encore™ Technology for a 22%
longer lasting core* and high tenacity Long Play® felt
for extended play. Pro Penn Marathon is the #1 choice
of the USPTA Teaching Pros because of its guaranteed
LONGEVITY
DURABILITY
VISIBILITY

* Penn internal core softening data - new Pro Penn Marathon vs. Pro Penn+
USPTA MIDDLE STATES 2012 CONFERENCE RECAP

Bill Kurtain, President USPTA MS

Mark Centrella, USPTA Master Pro

Dan Moster, USPTA National Board Member

Anthony DeCecco

Luke Jensen, Syracuse Head Coach

Mario Beckles, USPTA MS New Jersey President and Joao Pinho, USPTA MS Collegiate Liaison

Kirk Anderson, Director, Coach Education and Development, USTA

Pros enjoying some dinner and socializing at the 2012 Conference

David DiLucia and Anthony DeCecco

Michele Krause
Pros attending an outdoor workshop

Bruce "Maddog" Levine

Will Hoag

Michele Krause with Cardio Tennis

Pros getting a cardio workout

COMING JANUARY 11, 2013

Be the first to test Novak Djokovic's new secret weapon!

Check out these websites this December for more information.
head.com/g
facebook.com/theadtennis

THE POWER OF YOU
Testing Dates
Friday, August 9 in Wilmington DE
Friday, November 15 in Princeton, NJ at the
USPTA Middle States Conference

Welcome New Members for 2012

- Jonathan Bair, Lancaster, PA
- Ronnie Heurich III, Wexford, PA
- Carl Bielski, Trenton, NJ
- Charles Lavin, Bethlehem, PA
- Jason Bielski, Trenton, NJ
- Jeremy McLelland, Pittsburgh, PA
- Matthew Bonds, Honey Brook, PA
- Doug Morrow, Coopersburg, PA
- Jacob Eddins, Pittsburgh, PA
- Samatina Perri, Pittsburgh, PA
- Eric Ferriere, Montague, NJ
- Stephen Queenan, York, PA
- Ryan Fritzinger, Jim Thorpe, PA
- Tyler Simmons, Newark, DE
- Ryan Gargullo, Thorndale, PA
- Frank Sisinni, Lancaster, PA
- Jeffrey Garrett, Pottstown, PA
- Richard Strandskov, Lambertville, NJ
- Ayae Herman, Newtown Square, PA
- Thomas Weir, Berwyn, PA
- Ryan Welcome, Newton, NJ
- Nick Wilson, Moon Township, PA

At The 2013 USPTA Middle States Conference

November 15 & 16
Princeton, New Jersey