

2008 Nashville Public Schools Hall of Fame Honoree Bios



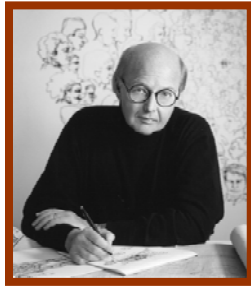
Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., D.Phil –
dean of Weill Cornell Medical College

Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., DPhil, is one of the world's leading researchers and educators in the prevention of coronary heart disease. After graduating from Donelson High School in 1953, Gotto attended Vanderbilt University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1957. He went on to Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, receiving a doctorate in biochemistry in 1961. He then graduated from Vanderbilt Medical School in 1965. Gotto has received many health care accolades, including the Gold Heart Award from the American Heart Association and the 2000 Distinguished Alumnus award from Vanderbilt University and the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He serves as the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss dean of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, where he is also Professor of Medicine and Provost for Medical Affairs of Cornell University. Gotto speaks nationally and internationally on cardiovascular disease and has contributed more than 500 scholarly articles and books to medical literature.



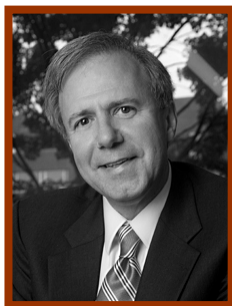
Marynell Meadors –
Head coach and general manager of the
Atlanta Women's
National Basketball Association franchise

Marynell Meadors has blazed a trail for women's basketball on the collegiate and professional levels for the past 30 years. A 1961 graduate of Hillsboro High School, Meadors went on to graduate from Middle Tennessee State University in 1965 with a degree in health, physical education and recreation. She then earned a master's degree in physiology of exercise from MTSU in 1966 before heading to Tennessee Technical University, where she started the school's women's basketball program. While at TTU, Meadors became the first coach in NCAA women's basketball history to win 300 games at the same institution. Meadors left TTU to take a coaching position at Florida State, where she remained for 10 years. In all, she led her teams to four Ohio Valley Championships (OVCs) and 13 national tournaments. After ending her collegiate coaching career in 1996, Meadors served as the inaugural head coach and general manager of the Women's National Basketball Association's Charlotte Sting and then as director of scouting for the Miami Sol. Meadors is a member of both the Tennessee Tech and OVC Halls of Fame.



Earl S. Swensson, FAIA –
chairman of the board of
Earl Swensson Associates, Inc

Earl Swensson is a 1948 graduate of DuPont High School, where he served as student body president. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in building design and a Master of Science degree in architecture from Virginia Tech. Swensson is the founder and chairman of the board of Earl Swensson Associates (ESA), an architecture, interior architecture, master planning and space planning design firm. ESA is ranked in the top 2 percent in the nation, and among the top 10 firms, for medical design. Since it was founded in 1961, the company has designed more than 8,500 projects throughout the United States and abroad. ESA has designed many of the educational facilities in the area, including Antioch High School, J.E. Moss Elementary School, Eakin Elementary School additions, Ensworth Middle School, Battle Ground Academy, Brentwood Academy and facilities for Middle Tennessee State University, Belmont University, Trevecca Nazarene University and Vanderbilt University. Swensson has served the Nashville community through a variety of organizations: the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, the board of directors of Leadership Middle Tennessee, the director of Leadership Nashville Advisory Board and the Metro Arts Commission. Swensson has been named one of the 150 most influential people in commercial real estate and one of Nashville's 100 most powerful people. He has also served as a professor at four universities, written "Hospital and Healthcare Facility Design, Second Edition" and contributed numerous articles to professional journals and magazines.



Bill Purcell –
former Nashville mayor (1999-2007)

Former Mayor Bill Purcell served as the fifth mayor of Nashville/Davidson County from 1999 until 2007. During his term, his top priorities were creating safe neighborhoods, good schools and a high quality of life for all Nashvillians. His efforts to improve education drew him national attention as a model mayor. By holding the "First Day Festival" at the beginning of each school year, Purcell reminded the city of the importance of education. During his administration, funding for schools rose from \$397 million to \$563 million, a 42 percent increase over seven years. Purcell also received numerous honors as mayor, including *Governing* magazine's "Public Official of the Year" and Americans for the Arts' "Public Leadership in the Arts Award." While he was in office, Nashville earned back-to-back designations as "the hottest city in America" for corporate relocation or expansion by *Expansion Management* magazine. Prior to serving as mayor, Purcell was the director of the Child and Family Policy Center at the Vanderbilt Institute of Public Policy Studies and a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives for five terms, during which time he served as House Majority Leader and chairman of the Select Committee on Children and Youth.