

CONTACT: **Christina Garza**
Manager, Media Relations
(713) 844-3641 – Office
(832) 657-4613 – Mobile

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 14, 2008

BELA AND MARTHA KAROLYI TO BE HONORED AS INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVES OF THE YEAR

HOUSTON – The Greater Houston Partnership and the Kiwanis Club of Houston, in cooperation with the City of Houston, the Port of Houston Authority, Harris County and the U.S. Department of Commerce will honor Bela Karolyi, Director of the USA National Gymnastics Team, and Martha Karolyi, Coordinator of the USA National Gymnastics Team as the 2008 International Executives of the Year.

The Karolyis, who are arguably the most successful coaches in the history of gymnastics, have coached and trained world-renowned gymnasts for the past nine Olympics. Their innovative coaching efforts have produced 28 Olympians, nine Olympic champions, 15 world champions, 12 European medalists and six U.S. national champions in 45 years of coaching in both their native Romania and the U.S. The Karolyis began their illustrious career coaching for the National Team of Romania in the early 1960s, but made Houston their home shortly after their move to the U.S. in 1981. Since then, they have opened a gymnastics center, which has become the USA National Team Training Center. They have coached five U.S. Olympic teams from 1984 to 2000 and served as the National Team Coordinators for the 2000, 2004 and 2008 USA Olympic Gymnastics Teams.

Held annually over the past 22 years, the International Executive of the Year recognizes an outstanding business person who has demonstrated the global leadership that continues to make Houston a center of international business. The resourceful efforts of these recipients, combined with Houston's international business infrastructure and world-class transportation and distribution network, keep the region on the cutting edge of the global economy. Focusing on innovations, business strategies and vision, the International Executive of the Year is one of the Partnership's most prestigious international business awards and events.

Past recipients of the International Executive of the Year include: Mathew Knowles (2007); John Hofmeister (2006); Nijad I. Fares (2005); Archie W. Dunham (2004); Michael L. Grimes (2003); Richard E. Wainerdi (2002); Edgar Ortiz (2001); George J. Donnelly (2000); Don J. Wang (1999); Cheryl Thompson-Draper (1998); Gordon M. Bethune (1997); The Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen (1996); Joseph A. Hafner, Jr. (1995); Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, accepted by Don Jordan (1994); Raymond A. LeBlanc (1993); Robert A. Mosbacher (1992); Kenneth L. Lay and George W. Strake, Jr. (1991); Robert Cizik (1990); Constantine Nicandros (1989); Rod Canion (1988); Frank Lorenzo (1987); and Dr. Antonio M. Gotto, Jr. (1986).

Greater Houston Partnership
houston.org

1200 Smith, Suite 700 | Houston, TX 77002

Austin | Brazoria | Chambers | Fort Bend | Galveston | Harris | Liberty | Montgomery | San Jacinto | Waller

WHAT: International Executive of the Year

WHEN: November 19, 2008
Noon to 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: The Houston Club, Texas Room
811 Rusk St.
Houston, TX

Seating is limited. Working media please RSVP to Christina Garza at cgarza@houston.org or 713-844-3641.

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The Greater Houston Partnership is the primary advocate of the Houston-area business community and is dedicated to building regional economic prosperity. It represents 10 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller. With about 2,000 Member organizations, the Partnership represents approximately one-fourth of the region's work force. Visit the Greater Houston Partnership on the World Wide Web at houston.org.