Spring Gala 2012  
The Spirit of Engagement & Inspiration

TENACITY’S 2012 SPRING GALA lit up the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel on Friday, May 18. An enthusiastic group of over 725 guests enjoyed an evening filled with fun, friends and fine dining—while enjoying on-stage performances and awards that conveyed how Tenacity, in partnership with the Boston Public Schools, is engaging students for the long haul with academics, tennis/fitness, and community involvement.

Guests began their evening with a trip through the “Tenacity Tunnel” en route to the cocktail reception. This specially-crafted, 25-foot double structure featured a multi-media encapsulation of what our Pathway Programs have been accomplishing in the past year, and marked the achievements that Tenacity kids have been making in the classroom and on the courts.

The evening’s program began with the Royal Rumble Tennis Exhibition, in which mascots from Tufts, Boston University, and University of Massachusetts-Boston joined Tenacity kids for an on-stage doubles competition. Two talented WCVB-TV personalities joined the festivities—sports reporter Mike Dowling served as the evening’s emcee, and investigative and political reporter Janet Wu monitored a live student debate that featured lively exchanges on the question of whether (Continued on page 7)

Select Tenacity Students & President Support USTA Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C.

Two specially-selected Tenacity Pathway students, Yves Singletary and Catherine Ashley, and President Ned Eames, traveled to Washington, D.C. in May, to attend the first-ever USTA Advocacy Days. Hosted by the USTA, this three-day series of meetings highlighted the positive effects of tennis as the sport of opportunity for youth – and the USTA’s engagement in schools, municipalities, and more, throughout the country – all in an effort to enlighten U.S. Senators and Congressmen regarding the opportunity for increased support for programs that deliver high quality youth tennis.

Billie Jean King was a featured speaker at the National Press Club, promoting the benefits of health and fitness that tennis offers to players of all ages. She shared the delivery chain of tennis programs offered nationwide, including after school, at public parks, and on military bases, where wheelchair tennis is being taught to veterans in the new Wounded Warriors program.

Barry Ford, USTA Dir. of Public Affairs & Advocacy, Ned Eames, Jon Vegosen, USTA Chairman & Pres., Todd Martin, Former World #4 Professional Tennis Player and USTA Board Member at the Pentagon.

The three-day affair included meetings in Congress, and even at the White House, where many tennis legends helped convey the breadth of the game while advocating for more public/private partnerships. USTA representatives and program partners like Tenacity, on hand from nearly every US Congressional District, gave presentations to their respective elected officials’ staffs, highlighting among other tennis activities the volume of each district’s number of NJTLs (National Junior Tennis and Learning (Continued on page 5)

An engaging spring Gala! See photo collage on pages 8-11.

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

PATHWAY TO POST-SECONDARY SUCCESS PAGE 5 2—7
LIST OF COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES PAGE 4
AMERICORPS UPDATE PAGE 7
TENACITY TENNIS SHOES BY NEW BALANCE PAGE 7
INAUGURAL FOUNDERS AWARD BACK PAGE
“Let’s go girls; let’s go!” is immediately countered by an equally booming, “Let’s go boys; let’s go!” The chants of Mr. Rose’s 5th grade class reverberate throughout the gym and hallways of the Dever-McCormack School, as the students support their teammates in unison while eagerly awaiting their opportunity to serve ‘em up.

The Elementary School Program (EP), in its pilot year, is a success! Tenacity, by extending the Pathway to Post-Secondary Success to earlier grades, is fostering a positive, competitive spirit in young students while providing valuable lessons in self-control and sports etiquette.

Since the beginning of October, our tennis instructors have traveled to the Mario Umana School in East Boston and Dever School in Dorchester twice a week to teach tennis to 4th and 5th grade students.

By employing the QuickStart tennis teaching method, we have made significant strides in keeping students actively engaged in various competitions and tournaments. Tennis is a new game for our students, and QuickStart allows for faster stroke progression and rallying success by using smaller courts and foam balls. After learning forehands, backhands, and volleys, the students progress quickly to playing games such as King of the Court.

The 4th and 5th graders at the Umana and Dever are eager to come to school. We look forward to continuing EP in the next school year. See students’ and teacher’s quotes on this page.

**Elementary School Program**

EP is offered at Mario Umana K-8 Academy and the Dever-McCormack K-8 School to 4th and 5th graders. Both schools also host our Middle School Academy.

“Tenacity has provided a wonderful experience for my classroom. My students truly enjoy working with the staff to learn to play tennis. It builds a sense of community and has helped my students work together as a team. They bring the skills that they learn on the tennis court into the classroom, and it helps them immensely as they take on the academic challenges throughout the school day.”

- Ms. Claire Rheumaume, Umana 4th grade teacher

“It’s teaching us to never give up because today when I was playing tennis I was kind of bad at it, but the instructors motivated me and then I got better.”

- Mena Mohamed

“Tenacity is the best program because of the activities and they teach you a lot about tennis. When I first started Tenacity I was bad, but the coolest coach taught me and now I know how to play! Thanks Tenacity!”

- Daniel Mancio-Alecio

“Tenacity is the best program to learn tennis. It has fun games like King of the Court. I feel that Tenacity teaches you a great deal of tennis, and at the same time you get to experience what talent you have.”

- Melissa Castaneda-Vargas
THE 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR has proven to be another successful one for Tenacity. Exciting developments include:

Two of our five partner BPS middle schools, the Dever-McCormack and the Irving, have been approved by Boston Public Schools for Extended Learning Time in the fall! For Tenacity, this translates to extended programming for our students, allowing for an overall deeper impact on the kids at these sites.

Several sites have increased measurable follow-up regarding student needs (both behavioral and academic), through the use of personalized interventions and tracking student data such as grades, IEP meetings, classroom progress, and more contact with the home. This has resulted in better student support with organized responses to their needs - student academic development plans with related meetings and an increase in parent-teacher involvement.

Most important, there has been a strong boost to our Family Engagement Team, which is the vital home and family outreach component of MSA. Tenacity welcomed Patricia McGuiness, Laurance Kimbrough, and Colleen Masson onto the Family Engagement Team this year, improving parent and family support at all five sites. Efforts are already underway to identify student gains as measured against family involvement, to continue to hone our Family Engagement delivery of support.

Here’s to taking better-informed steps to support our youth in the 2012-13 school year through tennis, literacy, and life skills!
The COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM carries Tenacity’s Middle School Academy graduates through the demanding world of high school and beyond. Students receive the individual attention they need, with a focused end in mind: earning a high school diploma and continuing their education. Key factors in their achievement are the workshops offered through our College Prep program:

High School Readiness Weekend Retreat, held at the Doubletree Hotel in Boston, gives our MSA 8th graders intensive training in practical life skills and disciplines that breed success, from goal-setting and stress management to dating advice and proper etiquette - even a lesson in how to shake hands!

Monthly Study Skills Workshops for freshmen and sophomores - focusing on study skills and life skills.

Two “College 101” Workshops for juniors and seniors - preparing them for the college application process and matriculating into undergraduate course work.

In early spring, our seniors began hearing word of their college acceptances. See the list below.

List of College Acceptances
Tenacity College Prep Class of 2012

Anna Maria College
Bay State College
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
Bridgewater State University
Bunker Hill Comm. College
Clark University
Curry College
Dean College
Emmanuel College
Fairfield University
Fisher College
Framingham State University
Global Citizen Year
Howard University
Johnson&Wales University
Lasell Junior College
Mass. Bay Comm. College
Mass. College of Art
Mass. College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Mass. College of Liberal Arts
Merrimack College
Montserrat College
Morehead State University
Mt. Ida Junior College
Newbury College
Nichols College
North Shore Comm. College
Northeastern University
Quinnipiac University
Rhode Island College
Salve Regina University
Salem State University
Southern NH University
St. Anselm College
Stonehill College
Suffolk University–Boston
Suffolk University–Madrid
Temple University
Universal Technical Institute
University of Akron
University of Hartford
University of Massachusetts–Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell
University of New Hampshire
University of New Haven
University of Rhode Island
University of Vermont
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wheaton College
Wheelock College
Westfield State University

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organizations), number of kids served, and number of free USTA memberships given to 10-and-under youth.

As the largest NJTL program delivery organization in New England and the second biggest nationally, Tenacity was invited to participate in six congressional visits to share the value of our youth programming while also promoting additional youth tennis programming that takes place in New England. Yves Singletary, a Tenacity Alumnus, now a Mass. Promise Fellow at the City of Brockton’s Mayoral office, and Catherine Ashley, a Tenacity Pathway high school student currently attending Beacon Academy, met with staffs of Senators Kerry and Brown and U.S. Representative Capuano to share their personal successes thanks to Tenacity. Along with Ned, they met several tennis legends, including the great Stan Smith.

Jon Vegosen - USTA Chairman and President, Barry Ford - USTA Director of Public Affairs and Advocacy, Todd Martin - Former World #4 Professional Tennis Player and USTA Board Member, and Ned Eames were treated to an afternoon tour of the Pentagon with an introduction to top-brass including a U.S. Admiral.

As Tenacity settles into its second decade of delivering high quality tennis and literacy-based urban youth development programs, we are honored to be engaging with the USTA and top lawmakers in our nation on the national policies that affect the Boston and Worcester youth we serve.
Youth Service in the Summer

This summer TENACITY will serve over 5,500 students in our Summer Tennis and Reading Program (STRP) at 33 City of Boston parks, as well as over 600 students in three Worcester locations.

Our summer staff of 250+ includes AmeriCorps members, Pathway students, and both literacy and tennis volunteers.

Girls Got Game program—for girls only, focusing on self-confidence through communication, fitness and friendship.

Enhanced Team Tennis—providing an improved quality of instruction and more competitive league play across our sites.

More competitive tennis options for higher level players.

Improve upon the fitness and wellness education and activities.

Theme-based reading curriculum to better engage young readers and improve upon the literacy component with longer reading sessions.

Improved junior staff development with more training on Quick Start tennis and theme-based reading.

Participants enjoy a fun-filled summer with limited summer learning loss.

Best of all, the program is free for all who participate!

Big thanks to the Boston Pro Tennis League for their ongoing partnership with Tenacity in support of our kids. BPTL members Matt Porter and Karl Gregor attended our Spring Gala and generously donated a 2-Hour Round Robin to the silent auction.

To catch the BPTL in action this summer, check out bostonprotennis.net.

Public-Private Partnership

The Summer Learning Project, a collaboration between Boston Public Schools, Boston After School and Beyond, and Tenacity aims to close the gap on summer learning loss by offering a summer school and fitness program for rising 4th graders.

For the second summer, Tenacity is leading the Project for 80 students at three BPS middle schools. The curriculum includes math and literacy—so that students are grade-ready in September, and a physical fitness component including tennis instruction—so they learn the importance and fun of healthy habits.

Look for updates on our progress in the fall.

Did you know?
The Boston Lobsters head coach is a Co-Founder of Tenacity and a Board member? Bud Schultz returns for his 5th season—July 9-28.

Board Members Joe McNay, Bill Achtmeyer, Kitty Flather, and Co-Founder Bud Schultz at the Gala.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS, Ted Hoehn and Windridge Tennis & Sports Camps have generously hosted many Tenacity Middle School Academy students in the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont. In July, some lucky MSA students will enjoy two weeks of tennis instruction, swimming, and hiking! Thanks again, Windridge!

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TENACITY’S NEW Senior Director of AmeriCorps and Recruiting, Paula Coyle, arrived last fall to oversee the growth and impact that AmeriCorps has on our programs. She comes with an impressive background as former Director of the National Teaching Fellowship at Citizen Schools, and former Dean of Students at Benjamin Franklin Inst. of Technology.

Paula says, “I chose to join Tenacity because of its dedication to serving in Boston. I found it very inspiring that Ned [Eames, President] resists a national spread of Tenacity and holds his ground to keeping the programs locally focused. He has committed himself to serving youth in Massachusetts, instead of gaining notoriety on a national front.”

Although the realities of funding are always challenging, Paula hopes to build upon a high level of AmeriCorps activity at Tenacity, while enhancing the training our Members receive through several strategic measures. In addition, she helps manage Tenacity’s relationship with the Mass. Service Alliance, which includes detailed programmatic and financial reporting for the AmeriCorps program.

A Gala to Remember!
Tenacity should advocate for the school year to be extended into the summer.

After dinner, a video presentation highlighted a student trip to the New Balance headquarters, where kids from our Middle School Academy created custom-designed Tenacity athletic shoes, which they then modeled for Gala guests. Jon Vegosen, USTA President, generously supported the evening and connected the dots between his presidency’s theme of “tennis as the sport of opportunity” and Tenacity’s work with at-risk youth. A particularly poignant part of the night came when Ned Eames and Bud Schultz presented the first annual Founders Award to Paul and Mary Collins for their years of dedicated service to Tenacity and to three very special Pathway students [see article on back page].

Financially, the event was a big success for Tenacity, which counts on Gala receipts to fund a substantial portion of a growing yearly budget. Net proceeds from the evening exceeded $500,000. Gala guests were generous in their support, which included funding the purchase of custom-designed Tenacity tennis shoes by New Balance, a pair for every student in our MSA program.

Many people were heard to remark that this was Tenacity’s most successful Gala ever—not only because of the attendance and funds raised, but because of the spirit and the natural “coming together” of funders, partners, volunteers, staff, students, and their families. The evening’s enjoyment level soared!
Inaugural Founders Award — Presented to Paul and Mary Collins

THIS SPRING MARKS the inception of the Tenacity Founders Award. Established by the Founding Board Members, it honors extraordinary contributions to Tenacity made by volunteers, donors, professional staff, and program partners, in the name of our Founders.

The first Founders Award recipients are Paul and Mary Collins of Wellesley, who were honored at the Spring Gala on May 18 for their generosity to Tenacity and the significant impact they have had on the lives of three of our Pathway students.

Mary Collins began as a literacy tutor for Tenacity in our early years at the Reggie Lewis Center, working with underserved youth in our after-school program. Her gentle approach to the joys of reading and importance of education was shared with many of our Pathway students.

Paul Collins has served as a Trustee of Tenacity since 2003, calling upon his expertise in finance by serving as Financial Committee Chair and Incoming Governance Chair.

As husband and wife, Paul and Mary started a Tenacity family by adopting, so to speak, three boys from our Middle School Academy, in whom they saw great potential if given access to better education and more opportunity. Acting as parents to these boys, they established a loving home environment, funded prep school educations and tennis instruction, and imparted in them the life skills required to navigate their teenage years, and beyond, as contributing members of society.

The Collins’ undying commitment to these Tenacity kids has seen each one mature into a productive young man, pursuing higher education and playing a great all-court game, off the court, too!

On stage to receive the award along with Paul and Mary were the Founding Board Members, the three students - Carlos Lopez, Bashiru Akinfolarin, and Patrick Lewis - and their parents. Congratulations and thank you to Paul and Mary Collins, the 2012 Founders Award Recipients.