Tenacity Gala *Illuminates* Boston Crowd of 725

**Tenacity’s Illuminate Gala**, held on May 8 at the Westin Boston Waterfront, was a huge success. With 725 in attendance, Tenacity raised $600,000!

Highlights included two speakers, Wayne Ashley, father of Tenacity Pathway student Catherine Ashley, and Aldel Brown, Pathway student since 6th grade who is headed to Harvard Law School (banner photo above).

Wayne *illuminated* guests with his heartfelt and entertaining account of Catherine’s life which

*(Gala photo spread and review continued on page 4)*

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**2014 Graduates *Illuminate* Tenacity’s Focus on Education**

Tenacity’s focus on education continues to be the catalyst for reaching urban students and guiding them toward success.

This year’s Tenacity graduates, from our Middle School Academy, BPS high schools, and colleges around the region exemplify our focus, which is evident by their impressive list of college acceptances (list on pg. 6).

Aldel Brown, (banner photo above), a graduate of St. Mark’s School and Howard University ’12, spoke at our gala on May 8. He glowingly shared that he was wait-listed at several Ivy League law schools. We are proud to announce that just a few days later he received

*(Education continued on page 6)*

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Carolyn and Ken Swan with Sue Berry and Brian Moynihan at May gala.

Ned and Dilshad Khambatta Eames with Pathway student and college graduate, Richard Wilson, at University of Massachusetts at Amherst commencement on May 9.
Tenacity is celebrating its 16th consecutive summer of STRP by expanding to two new sites in Boston. Thanks to our donors, we are maximizing the funds raised throughout the year to serve more youth with our free program that keeps kids engaged, reading, and physically active during the summer recess - July 7 – August 15.

1. Madison Park in Roxbury is a collaboration between Tenacity and the Boston Housing Authority.
2. Harbor Point in Dorchester provides youth from our partner school Dever/McCormack with year-round programming.

More good news—
- Nine and 10 year olds will now enjoy full days in STRP.
- MSA summer travel performance team is launched – providing our most promising student athletes weekly advanced tennis clinics, team matches, and travel to USTA tennis tournaments.

Currently serving 425 students, Tenacity’s Elementary Program has plans underway to serve 840 4th and 5th graders in The Next Chapter.

EP is a tennis/fitness program which instills a love of tennis while creating a recruitment pool for our Middle School Academy and our Pathway programs.

Tennis festivals were held at our five EP schools in May to build awareness of MSA and generate excitement around the incoming class for 2014.

Elementary Program students at a Tenacity tennis festival in May.

Established in 2007, Tenacity has offered STRP to Worcester youth at three sites. This summer, a fourth site, Gaskill Field, has been added thanks to help from Worcester Academy. WA has generously offered its tennis courts which are adjacent to the park. The Hanover Insurance Group and St. Gobain, headquartered in Worcester, are each sponsoring program sites.

On March 28, a fundraiser was held at the Beechwood Hotel in Worcester. Over 180 attended including several local politicians. The Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis was the keynote speaker. Sheriff Lew has given Tenacity the distinction of being his designated youth charity for 2014. Thank you Sheriff!
Every month, a new group of four students from each Middle School Academy site participate in Literacy League. The select groups meet during school lunch period, and with the guidance of a Tenacity staff member, students work their way through a novel, chosen for its subject matter and writing style. They enjoy the chance to discuss the characters, theme, plot, and predict the outcome.

At the end of the month, Literacy League students from every MSA site come together in a book group style meeting and participate in literacy activities!

The most recent read was *Breaking Back*, by James Blake.

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

Manny Parnell, MSA student at the Umana Academy in East Boston, was awarded the Appalachian Trail Survivor Award for his leadership skills and winning character during our Appalachian Trail curriculum throughout the fall and winter. The activities ranged from orienteering with a scavenger hunt in the Umana gym, geography vocabulary introduced by Bud Schultz, and sportsmanship during our weekend hiking trip to the AMC cabins. Throughout, Manny excelled at teamwork, mastered his outdoor skills, and showed leadership qualities during our nature experience.

**UPDATE on BUD SCHULTZ**

Manny was among a group of students, staff, and volunteers who hiked the Appalachian Trail in western Massachusetts in early June with Bud Schultz. Bud, who began his thru-hike of the AT on March 2 in Georgia, is almost in Maine and will reach the summit of Mt. Katahdin in July.

Check out this moving video on Bud, which was a feature of the Illuminate Gala on May 8:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImNm0Wl-WeE

AmeriCorps Celebrates 20th Year

Tenacity Fellows Give Year of Service

Tenacity’s AmeriCorps Members have played a key role serving our MSA students in our five partner schools. Since September, they have given 34,000 hours in service to Tenacity.

While it is notable to total their hours, it is far more impressive to consider the ways they impacted our Pathway students.

AmeriCorps Members are in the classroom teaching alongside BPS teachers, giving one-on-one support in inclusion classes, working at our family events, on field trips, teaching tennis, fitness and more.

This summer they will serve in STRP in Boston.

September 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps. On September 12, Tenacity will celebrate with the Massachusetts Service Alliance and all other AmeriCorps programs nationwide.

A highlight will be a simulcast from The White House documenting the swearing in ceremony of all new Fellows for the 2014-2015 year.
set the tone for an unforgettable evening. She is a graduate of Beacon Academy, Boston, and a rising junior at Fryberg Academy, Maine, where she was named most dedicated by her tennis team this season.

The silent and live auctions included several tennis vacations including a trip to the US Open President’s Box.

David A. Haggerty, USTA Chairman and guest speaker, praised Tenacity for combining academics and tennis for urban youth so effectively and expressed a desire to see this formula copied around the country.

Ned Eames, Tenacity President & Founder, shared Tenacity’s Next Chapter vision of raising the bar of post-secondary success among Pathway students and of doubling the number of students served from 1,000 to 2,000.

Bill Achtmeyer, Tenacity Chairman, auctioned off his Bruins playoff tickets for the winning bidder to give to a select group of students and staff.

The evening concluded with dessert and dancing to live music.
Tenacity Annual Gala *Illuminate* May 8, 2014

Paul and Patty Gannon

Stephanie Gendron, Ralph and Janice James, and Dudley Blodgett

Ned Eames

Cheryl LaMay, Richard Levitan and friends

Joe Laurin and Bill Fine

Mike Goss, Bill Power and Gill Dailey

Kate Bennett

John Berry, Dan McCormack and Karen O’Sullivan

Price Waterhouse guests

Charlie and Sally Cottingham with Bill Achtmeyer

Steve Kay and Jennifer Bennett

Randy Hoover

Amy and Rob Stefanic

Mike and Darsi Dowling

Goodbye

Our longtime gala creative director and current MSA Program Director, Brian Tuttle, is leaving Tenacity after ten years. Brian is headed to Chicago to serve as program director at METROsquash. We wish him the best of luck in his new role.
College Prep and Alumni Programs
Focus on Education Demonstrates Big Results

(Education continued from page 1)

acceptance to Harvard Law School and will begin this fall.

Richard Wilson, another of this year’s gala speakers, now holds a BA in Communications from U. Mass. Amherst and will join Tenacity as an AmeriCorps Member, giving a year of service beginning in August. “Tenacity has impacted my life so much that I can’t even put it into words,” he expressed that evening. “Whenever I needed help with school, whether financially, academically, or emotionally, Tenacity was always there.”

“I think of my pathway as Tenacity being like the older brother,” expressed Richard Wilson. “When I messed up, I knew I could count on them to be right there. There are many to thank, but none of this would be possible without Ned,” he concluded.

Yamirah Lacey entered Tenacity as a 6th grade student and succeeded in the Middle School Academy which she graduated from in 2004. With close guidance through Tenacity’s high school selection process, she attended City on a Hill Charter School in Roxbury. Yamirah graduated in 2008 and began at Mt. Ida College. The guidance offered through Tenacity’s College Prep and Alumni Programs saw her through to this spring - celebrating her graduation from Mt. Ida with a BS in Psychology.

Bonnie Ramos graduated from Tenacity MSA in 2009 and Boston Community Leadership Academy in 2013. Bonnie is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society at Bunker Hill CC.

Congratulations to all of our students on A Pathway to Post-Secondary Success.

Class of 2014 College Acceptances

Bentley College
Boston College
Boston Univ.
Bridgewater State
Fitchburg State
Framingham State
Harvard Law School
Holy Cross
Johnson and Wales
Lasell College
Mt. Ida College
Newbury College
Nichols College
Northeastern
Rosemont College
Roxbury CC
Salem State
St. Michael’s
Stonehill College
Suffolk U
Tufts Univ.
Westfield State
Wheelock College
Worcester State

Umass Amherst
Umass Boston
Umass Dartmouth
Umass Lowell
Univ. of New Haven
Tenacity Marathon Team, a BAA Official Charity Team
21 run Boston Marathon and raise $188,000 in 2014

Tenacity’s BAA Boston Marathon Official Charity Team raised $188,000 in 2014.

Lead by Board member Caroline Lane, a team of 21 ran the Boston Marathon on April 21 alongside 36,000 others.

“It was a day of joyful closure to a year marked by tragedy, recovery, and an outpouring of generosity from the Boston community and the entire nation,” Caroline expressed. “We are indebted to our team for their effort to raise awareness.”

Since 2013, over 2,000 new donors have supported Tenacity through the BAA program, totaling $300,000.

“We are eager for 2015, our third and final year in the BAA program,” she concluded.

www.Tenacity.org/Boston_Marathon

Lauren MacKay, fitness and tennis coordinator at Tenacity’s Middle School Academy, shared her marathon training by getting her students out running.

“The students really took to it. When they saw me during the school day, they would ask, ‘are we going for a run later, coach?’” Lauren said. “The biggest hurdle was teaching them to pace themselves.”

MSA students kept Lauren motivated during the cold winter. They were awed by the increasing distances she ran as April neared.

At Heartbreak Hill, Lauren was surprised by a loud cheering section. Her students were on a field trip with Tenacity staff, a great location to see her run the Boston Marathon.

“Theyir support was just what I needed to get me over the hills and to the Finish Line,” she said.

She proudly wore her BAA medal to school so her students could see up close the reward for her dedicated training.

Tenacity 9th graders were at South Boston Neighborhood House in April learning how to create healthy meal options. Abigail Hueber, Dietitian from Newton Country Day School, taught our students about the importance of understanding their bodies and the need for eating well.
95% HS Graduation Rate and MCAS Results Illuminate Tenacity’s Impact

The Facts

▲ 95% of our College Prep students have graduated from High School.
▲ 80% of our College Prep high school graduates are either in or have graduated from college.
▲ 2013 English Language Arts MCAS results—
   - 16% MORE Tenacity Middle School Academy 8th graders were Proficient or better than their school peers.
   - Our Tenacity Middle School Academy 8th graders had an 8% performance increase when compared to their statewide peers with the same score as the previous year.

We are energized to continue our work and to grow - so that twice the number of Pathway students can earn these results in The Next Chapter.

Congratulations to all of our Tenacity students on A Pathway to Post-Secondary Success!

More exciting news inside this newsletter.

Tenacity Marathon Team in Hopkinton on April 21, 2014.
More on page 7.