

Aces for Kids 2013

This year's Bank of the West Classic women's tournament will be held at Stanford July 22 - 28. Once again, Bank of the West and Taube Philanthropies are generously sponsoring the Aces for Kids benefit, which raises money for EPATT. Aces, the brainchild of Tad Taube, invites spectators near and far to pledge a dollar amount for every ace served during the tournament.



Maria Sharapova is committed to the 2013 Bank of the West Classic

Please join us in supporting Aces for Kids. With every ace served at the Bank of the West Classic, you can impact a child's life.



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1988-2013: Transforming Lives for 25 years

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I am constantly humbled and amazed by the influence EPATT -- the program and our staff -- has had out in the world. Our phone and email inbox are flooded with inquires from prospective families, and with former students saying hello. In 25 years EPATT has grown from a summer tennis program to a year-round tennis and academic program that is a model for other programs across the country.

This past week we've been producing a video for our annual fundraising dinner. This year's film features interviews with several of our alumni. One alum, when asked to describe being tutored at EPATT, remarked "it was like back in the day when children worked in a coal mine. It was just a ton of hard work. But looking back, I am so grateful for the program." Another former student told us that recently she had run into her former tutor while on vacation and was thrilled to reunite with someone who made a major impact on her life. It was so much fun for the EPATT staff to re-connect with alumni and hear about their lives and the influence that EPATT has had on them. While each former student had their favorite memories from their time at EPATT, we heard over and over again what an important role the EPATT staff had played in their lives. I have always maintained that the EPATT staff, both past and present, is the reason for our success. Hearing it from our alumni confirmed that it's true.



Dave Higaki, EPATT Executive Director

On behalf of EPATT -- our staff, students and families -- I would like to thank you for your tremendous support over these past 25 years. Together we have helped transform the lives of East Palo Alto youth and our local community. I look forward to seeing many of you on May 8th at our Annual Dinner.

Warmly,
Dave

EPATT's Annual Dinner: May 8, 2013

"Transforming Lives for 25 Years"

6 pm Cocktails

7 pm Dinner and program

Menlo Circus Club, Atherton

This year's dinner will be a celebration of our 25th Anniversary. With remarks by tennis legend, Patrick McEnroe, and speeches by EPATT students, it promises to be a magical night. For more information about the Annual Dinner, please email anne.gould@epatt.org or call 650.854.6656.

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EPATT NAACP Panel

EPATTers as Experts

On March 6, Stanford's NAACP chapter invited EPATT students to discuss their personal experience with school. The six students were selected based on essays they had submitted to the NAACP group. The event was billed as a chance for Stanford faculty and students to learn from "voices in the system" -- real students -- regarding what works and doesn't work in the local school system.

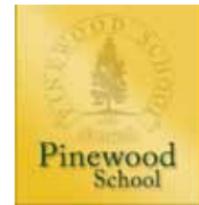
College Tour

This spring EPATT's high school students visited the campuses of Cal State Monterey Bay, Cal State Stanislaus, Sacramento State, and UC Davis. EPATT Academic Director Kesha Weekes' brother led the tour at CSU Stanislaus, where he is a freshman. The seniors will tour UC Berkeley in mid-April.



EPATT High School Group and Staff

Private School Plans



Congratulations go out to our middle school students who have been accepted at local private high schools. Each year, EPATT arranges for private high schools to present to our 8th grade students and their parents. One of EPATT's goals is to help create opportunities for our students. In the past 10 years alone, EPATT has helped over 70 students gain acceptance to local private schools. Pinewood School has been one of our biggest supporters but recently other schools have actively recruited EPATT students.

The Eastside College Prep Class of 2016 will include EPATT students Alyssa Hayes and Ashley Jack. Nolan Jimenez will attend Menlo School and Angie Mejiver will attend Pinewood High School.



Jamie Avendano-Facundo and Joseph Lester

Princeton or Stanford?

"I've heard back from all of my schools and I am deciding between Princeton, Columbia, Harvard, and Stanford. I am leaning towards Columbia and Princeton the most," says former EPATT student, Jamie Avendano-Facundo, now at Eastside College Prep. Former tutor Joseph Lester and current EPATT Operations Manager said he's not at all surprised. "Jamie was a dedicated 8th grade student

when I tutored him. I thought he'd do well in high school. I'm so proud of him!" The two have stayed in touch over the years via Facebook. Congratulations, Jamie!

Most Memorable Moment at EPATT:

"My most memorable moment at EPATT was when my middle school student came up to me and said, 'I took your advice.' She said she had been struggling with a math concept and had reviewed her notes and textbook until she understood what she needed to do. She gave me a big thank-you hug. It was so rewarding to see her take initiative and not wait for me to explain how to solve the problem."
-- 2013 Tutor

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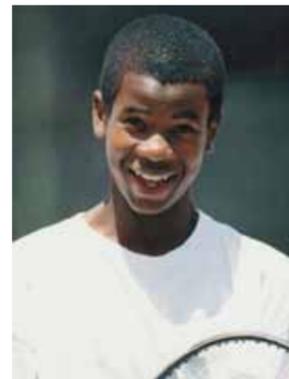
From EPA to Japan

High School junior Adilene Valencia has been accepted to the Experiment in International Living's summer program in Japan. The EILs mission is "to foster peace through understanding, communication, and cooperation" and "to share experiences, languages, and customs with those from different traditions, with the goals of broadening horizons, gaining lifelong friends, and advancing peace." Adilene will live in a homestay and study alongside other US high school students.



Adilene Valencia

Alumni Spotlight: Cornell Wilder



Cornell Wilder, 1988

Cornell Wilder holds the distinction of being one of EPATT's first students and our first college graduate! During his time at EPATT, Cornell became one of our very best tennis players. His work ethic and competitive nature served him well. In the mid 1990's Cornell represented the US and EPATT in the ATP Grassroots Tennis Champions, which played concurrently with Wimbledon in London. While at EPATT Cornell received a full scholarship to Pinewood. In 2001, he graduated from Berkeley with a BA in Sociology.

Years ago, Cornell was a featured speaker at our Annual Dinner and so impressed EPATT founding board member Jack Gifford that Jack offered him a job at his company. Today Cornell is a Program Coordinator for Youth Leadership Programs at Bay Area Community Resources. He works on several education-based programs and credits EPATT with motivating and inspiring him to give back to the local community.



Cornell Wilder, 2013

Pi Day Scholars



Bryant, Titi, Andrew

On March 14, EPATT students Andrew Guerra, Moises Avendano-Facundo, Titilola Bolarinwa, and Bryant Arinaga participated in the Pi Day celebration held at the San Francisco Exploratorium. Pi Day was founded by physicist and "Prince of Pi" Larry Shaw 25 years ago as a celebration of math. Our students did math and ate -- what else? -- pie! EPATT students enthusiastically recalled as many as 300 digits of Pi. Eighth-

grader Moises completed 100 digits with no errors in 9 minutes, 10 seconds. Fellow eighth-grader Titi completed 300 digits in 27 minutes. Their achievements were featured on several local television news stations.