November 2017
Volume 1, Issue 1

NJTL CONNECTIONS

St. George Youth Sports League, SC

As & Aces– LA

REGIONAL ACE/STEM TRAINING IN ATLANTA

USTA Southern and the USTA Foundation hosted 48 attendees from 16 states at the 2017 Fall NJTL Regional Training. On day 1, participants received valuable instruction from Steve Duncan and Pat O'Brien on delivering the Academic Creative Engagement (ACE) and Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) curriculum. Chapter leaders practiced several hands on activities that their youth will perform. These activities encourage academic achievement, healthy lifestyles, social and emotional skills. This educational component is improving outcomes for youth at NJTLs throughout the country.

On day 2, Miguel Garcia led a packed session on Organizational Capacity Building and the importance of striving for program balance while charting organizational growth. The afternoon session at the South Fulton Tennis Center was conducted by Karl Davies on "Building the Foundations for Red Ball Community" and "Net Generation."

A NEW USTA SOUTHERN NJTL CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT OPPORTUNITY!

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DID YOU KNOW?

Registration Renewal is Live! And NJTLs are now required to register with Net Generation. Join the 1st webinar on November 29th at 1:00 pm EST for more information. 1-800-704-1867 CODE: 25489#

NATIONAL ESSAY WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Southern had 3 national essay winners who won a trip to New York City and the Arthur Ashe Kids Day at the 2017 US Open. Dawson Pope, Tennis Memphis, Memphis, TN; Ducky Steward, Lowcountry Youth Tennis Foundation, and Jaylon Bokknight, MACH Academy; Augusta, GA saw the New York sights, attended the Yale Club Awards Luncheon, and met USTA dignitaries and celebrities.

"I was really excited to compete after seeing all the players at the U.S. Open during the essay winners weekend." Ducky Steward

Greenville CTA/ NJTL and Chapter Leader, Birlette Jelks, hosted a successful Regional Rally at Cypress Hills Tennis Club in Greenville, MS with a day of tennis instruction, drills, games and prizes for NJTL chapter juniors across the section.

The **Atlanta Youth Tennis & Education Foundation (AYTEF)** is hosting "Serve & Connect," a program using tennis to bring youth and police officers together for physical activity & informal mentoring at Washington Park in Atlanta, GA.

NJTL LEADERSHIP CAMP

The 2017 NJTL Tennis Leadership Camp provided 35 youth from 5 southern states and 10 different NJTL Chapters an opportunity of a lifetime. They spent three nights at the Aloft Atlanta Downtown Hotel while fine-tuning their tennis skills, sportsmanship and leadership on the courts at Georgia Tech. They went on a campus tour, met former NCAA Champion, Whitney McCray, visited the APEX Museum, attended the BB&T Atlanta Open, toured CNN, had dinner at the Varsity, and the Braves All-Star Grill while ending their camp experience in a Team Tennis Shootout at the South Fulton Tennis Center. Talisha Brady, Sportsmanship Winner, stated, "This is the most fun I've had in my entire life!"

NJTL STATE ESSAY WINNERS

Essay winners with Pro Donald Young at the Winston Salem Open (l-r): Ezekiel Salama–KY; Drew Bobey–SC; William Bostick-LA; Abeni Perkins-AL; Jordan Jones-MS; Crystal Walker-GA, and Angel Sanders-TN (not pictured, Jannah Said-NC)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Team BLUE & Chapter Leader, Amani Mitchell of Decatur, GA – NAACP DeKalb County Branch Award Nominee!

LOUISVILLE STAR HITTERS NJTL, KY

NJTLS AT 2017 PRO TOURNAMENTS

GA's MACH Academy NJTL at the Volvo Car Open in Charleston, SC in April

GA's Agape NJTL at the BB&T Atlanta Open

NC's NJTL Kids Day with Ken Carlson B&GC, Winston-Salem Young Folks Tennis, Rockingham County Tennis and Greensboro Tennis Foundation at the Winston-Salem Open in August.

JACKSON COMMUNITY TENNIS PROJECT

The journey to revitalize youth tennis at Tennis Center South (TCS) MS has not been an easy one. It has been an arduous task to get the courts up to playability and get commitments from the city to maintain the courts and the park/ facility in this era of tight fiscal resources. But one of the largest tasks we had was to establish a coaching staff who would follow the mission of training kids to be competitive tennis players and great young adults.

Jim Nelson Jr. and I began youth tennis on Saturdays to teach kids tennis establishing an NJTL program to enhance the teaching during our month-long summer tennis camp and during the off-season. It was a workable plan, but not as effective as it should have been in producing consistent results. Yet, all along our ability to get things done was simply taking a journey back to the future.

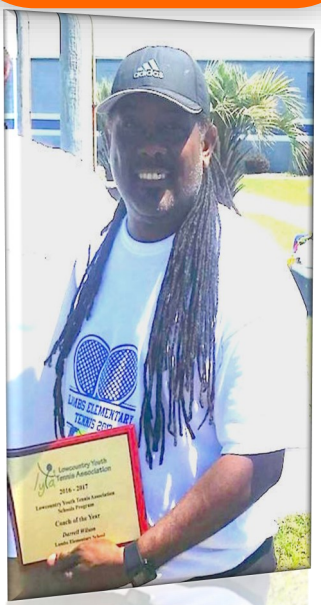
Coach Robert Beacham learned how to play on the courts at TCS. He competed in adult league play and later took on the task of developing kids for Junior Team Tennis. He became a PTR certified instructor. But it had a randomness about it because he did not represent any facility. In conversations with him I understood his desire to come home and do the right thing for kids at TCS. We welcomed him back and the rest will be part of our history. Coach Beacham's great practice drills on the technical aspects of the game allowed us to raise our standards and expectation of all our students. Because he's been so wonderful at what he's done he is now lead teaching pro.

We have now added with the assistance of a grant from the Southern Tennis Foundation the services of a transportation company known as Kids Cabby that picks up our kids after school and transports them directly to TCS. This enables us to have several practices a week.

If the beginning is any indication as to how much the young players enjoy playing, listen to this. Practice was originally scheduled for free play at 4pm and organized practice from 4:30 to 5:30pm. After the first practice, the students asked their parents to allow them to extend the practice until 6pm, because they wanted to play longer.

We are very excited that we have all the ingredients to continue building a solid youth program.

~Neal Robinson



DARRELL WILSON, LYTA
COACH OF THE YEAR-SC

SANDY SPRINGS TENNIS ASSOCIATION– KIDS-LUV-TENNIS, GA

2017 NJTL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Atlanta Youth Tennis & Education Foundation:
Ray'ven Todd– Attending Johnson C. Smith University

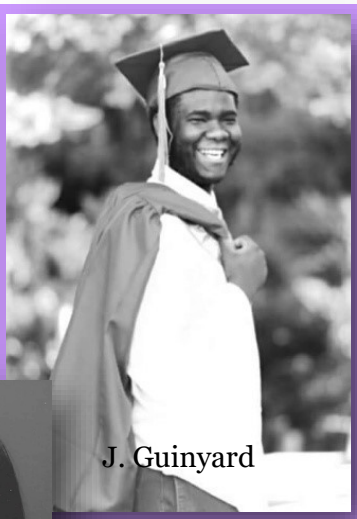
CIGEO (Community Inter-Generational Enrichment Organization)
Tydreeona Dantzler– Attending Claflin University
Jerome Guinyard– Attending Johnson C. Smith University
Purity Wilson– Attending Columbia International University

Greenville CTANJTL
Tierney Holmes– Attending Gulf Coast Community College

MACH Academy:
Rachel Harden– Attending Florida A&M

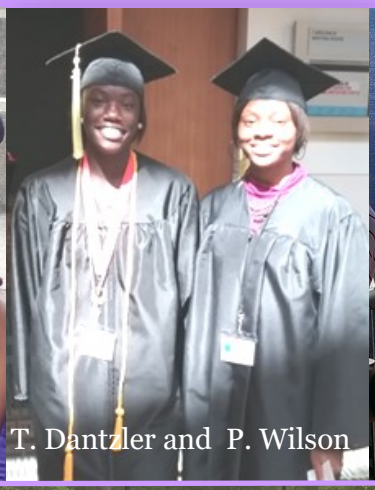
South Atlanta:
Camille Quick– Attending Georgia Tech

St. George Youth Sports League:
Tromaine Cobbs– Attending The Citadel Military College
Tyree Miller– Attending South Carolina State University
Courtney Simmons– Attending Virginia Wesleyan College
Maia Wilson– Attending Francis Marion College

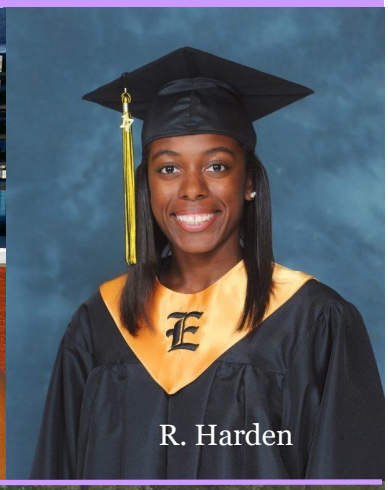

J. Guinyard

C. Quick

R. Todd


T. Dantzler and P. Wilson

T. Holmes


R. Harden

T. Cobbs

T. Miller

C. Simmons

M. Wilson

CONGRATULATIONS MEG FARRELLY, VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, LOWCOUNTRY YOUTH TENNIS ASSOCIATION– SC

FULLY DEVOTED DEVELOPER OF CHILDREN (FDDOC) WINNERS CIRCLE NJTL- LA

GREATER JOHNSTON COUNTY NJTL– NC

FAMILY BIZ BUILDER, TUNICA, MS

GREENVILLE CTA/NJTL, MS

SOUTH ATLANTA NJTL, GA

COACH WINK'S NJTL, GA

JAMES LEWIS TENNIS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION NJTL WITH DAVIS CUP TEAM- AL

USTA FOUNDATION
PROUDLY SUPPORTS NJTL NETWORK