

# STREET SQUASH news

Vol. 7 no.2

Summer 2007

## STREETSQUASH SET TO LAUNCH P.E. FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROGRAM TO SERVE 1,500 STUDENTS!



### Program Targets Harlem Elementary Schools .....

StreetSquash is proud to announce that in the fall of 2008, in partnership with several Harlem public schools, we will begin running day-time gym programs at the newly opened SL Green StreetSquash Center! This new initiative, the P.E. For Public Schools Program, will enable StreetSquash to extend our services to an even greater number of under served children and will help to address a major problem faced by most Harlem public schools: woefully inadequate physical education resources that leave their students with little to no organized physical activity. In addition, the P.E. for Public Schools Program will increase accessibility to squash, a sport which has traditionally been both foreign to and out of reach for most low-income residents of New York City.

The P.E. for Public Schools Program will run Monday through Friday with classes held during the school day. With 30

students in each class, we will have the capacity to serve 150 children each program day. The school year will be split into 2 sessions of one semester each, so that throughout the course of the year, 1,500 Harlem schoolchildren will participate in the program!

Part of what StreetSquash seeks to accomplish through this initiative is to improve the physical health and well-being of the children we serve. Recent statistics show that there are grave concerns about obesity across the United States, and within the Central Harlem community that StreetSquash serves: in Central Harlem, 27% of adult residents are obese, nearly twice the rate in the rest of Manhattan (15% - NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene) and 23% of African American elementary school children and 31% of Latino elementary school children are obese (Keeping Track of New York City's Children 2005,

## Board of Directors:

**Andrea Andrews**

*Founder/Director, Peace 2000*

**Bruce Brickman**

*CEO, Brickman Associates*

**Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III**

*Pastor, Abyssinian Baptist Church*

**Richard Chin**

*Head Squash Professional, Harvard Club, NYC*

**Andrew Fink**

*Managing Director, Trevi Health Ventures*

**Richard S. Fuld, Jr.**

*Chairman & CEO, Lehman Brothers*

**Stephen L. Green**

*Chairman of the Board, SL Green Realty Corp.*

**Dr. Sandye Johnson**

*Principal, Thurgood Marshall Academy*

**Leslie Kimerling**

*President, Isis Partners*

**Jeffrey Laikind—Chairman**

*Founder, Streetsquash*

**George Polsky**

*Asset Manager*

**Douglas E. Schoen**

*Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates*

**Frank Stella**

*Artist*

**William D. Zabel**

*Name Partner, Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP*

**Mort Zuckerman**

*Owner/Editor-in-Chief, U.S. News and World Report*

*Treasurer*

**Jerome Kapelus**

## Staff:

*Executive Director:*

**George Polsky**

*Program Director:*

**Sage Ramadge**

*Director of College Prep:*

**Leah Brown**

*Director of Literacy Program & Volunteers:*

**Lily Rabinoff-Goldman**

*Academic Directors:*

**Laura Lindstrom and Claire Yunker**

*Director of Squash Programs:*

**Pat Cosquer**

*Squash and Community Service Directors:*

**Chris Tom and Lairissa Stephenson**

## Credit:

*Written by:*

**Lily Rabinoff-Goldman, Leah Brown,**

**Sage Ramadge, Chris Tom**

*Design:*

**desantis graphic design**

## StreetSquash:

420 Lexington Avenue / Suite 246

New York, New York 10170

Voice/Fax: **212.949.4030**

Web: **[www.StreetSquash.org](http://www.StreetSquash.org)**

Courtesy of Dayna Kirk.

Member of:



National Urban Squash and  
Education Association

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York). StreetSquash's P.E. Program for Public Schools will help to address this health crisis by ensuring that children in our partner schools have greater access to meaningful and regular physical activity.

## Squash, Fitness, and Nutrition

StreetSquash staff will develop the P.E. for Public Schools Program curriculum, and run the program each day, with the goal to get students active and engaged, rather than on developing elite squash players. Each group of children will have at least 40 minutes on court on each gym day. During that class period, kids will learn squash through drills, games, and direct instruction.



On the fitness side, each session will end with court-based fitness exercises like sprints. These workouts, which are often great fun and bring out kids' innate desire for competition, also serve to improve children's cardiovascular health. They are also a great way for kids to learn what kind of exercise they can do at home.

StreetSquash has long emphasized the role that nutrition plays for athletes in our after-school program. We will be extending this focus to the participants in our gym program as well, making sure that all students who encounter StreetSquash will also be encountering information on smart and healthy eating.

## In the Neighborhood

The StreetSquash Center is ideally situated to offer this program to local schools. The Center is located 1 block from the 116th Street Station of the 2/3 Subway, and is also in easy walking distance to a number of elementary and middle schools. In fact, there are 20 middle and elementary schools within a 10 block radius of the StreetSquash Center. StreetSquash has already received strong interest from school principals at PS 149, Frederick Douglass Academy II, Fredrick Douglass Academy I, Thurgood Marshall Academy and Harlem Success Academy Charter School. These schools have a total enrollment of approximately 3,200 students.

Each of the schools we have met with lacks adequate Physical Education resources: one has no access to a gym; another has one gym teacher for 580 students; while a third contracts with the Harlem YMCA to run their P.E. classes. There are many schools that face similar conditions, and students continue to suffer.

Since 1999, StreetSquash has been working to help our after-school participants access resources in and outside of their community. Now, with the permanence of our place in Harlem secured, we will be able to better serve large swaths of the community with our program. Through the P.E. for Public Schools Program, "StreetSquash" will be a household name for thousands more children in the neighborhood. •

Year	# of Students: After School Program	# of Students: Summer Discovery Program	# of Students: P.E. for Public Schools Program	Total Students Served
2004-2005	80	40		120
2005-2006	80	40		120
2006-2007	100	40		140
2007-2008	120	80		200
2008-2009	150	100	1500	1750



# SL Green StreetSquash Center Less than a Year from opening



Panoramic view of Squash Center

## Interior fit-out set to begin this August, contractor selected

On schedule and on budget, StreetSquash continues to make solid progress towards a spring 2008 opening of its permanent home on 115th street. StreetSquash plans to operate a year-round facility serving thousands of local children and their families, offering educational, athletic and social services. In addition, the program will increase opportunities for student employment, and for the first time, will create jobs for the parents of StreetSquash participants.

### Construction

- Mc Gowan Builders selected as contractors to build-out interior 18,700 square feet of facility; \$3 million contract for interior construction.
- Mc Gowan produces lowest bid, offers greatest experience of all prospective contractors. Firm has done extensive work with other non-profits building educational facilities.
- Projected 8 month construction time line; on target to begin fit-out this August.

### Programs

- After School Program to serve 150 children
- P.E. for Public Schools Program to serve 1,500 students.
- Summer Discovery Program to serve 100 children.

### Fundraising

- StreetSquash remains on target for \$9 million project cost.
- Raised \$8.5 million of project budget.
- Raised \$2.4 million of \$4 million endowment goal.
- Naming opportunities taken: Building (SL Green), Education Center (to be named at opening), Library (JP Morgan), 3 of 4 Classrooms (Pinkerton Foundation and Louis Calder Foundation), 7 of 8 Squash Courts (all named in honor of renowned squash coaches).
- Naming opportunities remaining: Squash Center, 1 Squash Court, 1 Classroom, Administrative Offices. •



The SL Green StreetSquash Center will occupy the cellar, 1st and 2nd floors of the 12 story Kalahai building

# Mentoring Profile: Cody Levy and Taylor Greene .....

Every year StreetSquash gets the opportunity to pair students with their own mentors as part of our Mentoring Program.

One of the many successful pairs is the relationship between Team 2 member Cody Levy and his mentor Taylor Greene. Having joined the team in 8th grade, Cody quickly became one of the most enthusiastic and eager team members. However, Cody quickly realized that he was missing out on more opportunities by not having a mentor.

"I wanted to go bowling with the other kids, but I couldn't because I didn't have a mentor," said Cody.

"I wanted to get to know a mentor and learn some extra things I wouldn't elsewhere."

Enter Taylor Greene. A former squash captain at Wesleyan University, Taylor spent many Saturdays at Columbia University volunteering with StreetSquash on the court. Looking to get involved on a more intimate level, Taylor decided to become a mentor in the fall of 2005.

"I had been volunteering at StreetSquash on and off for a couple of years, and I was interested in getting to know the young people off the court," said Taylor. "In both college and high school, I had great experiences mentoring. I thought that the StreetSquash Mentoring program was a great way to mentor since we already had the common bond of squash."

Once paired together, Taylor and Cody quickly hit it off. Not only did they enjoy spending time on the court together, but they were both alumni of Camp Dudley, one of StreetSquash's partner summer camps. Over the next year, they enjoyed time together at StreetSquash outings such as bowling at the Port Authority lanes and attending a Yankee game and independent outings such as trips to the Museum of Modern Art, the Time Warner

Center, and a special trip to the New Era hat store for Cody's birthday.

However, some of the most enjoyable moments for both Cody and Taylor have simply been those unplanned moments spent together.



Always committed to their mentoring relationship, Cody and Taylor attended a concert at Carnegie Hall together this fall at a mentoring event sponsored by JP Morgan.

"One of the most memorable experiences I've had with Cody came when we set up his first email address," Taylor remarked. "He wanted to be [codylevy@gmail.com](mailto:codylevy@gmail.com). He gave me this baffled look when we found out that the name was already registered. We tried a few other names until one succeeded, and out came that priceless Cody smile."

Now a mentor, Taylor has remained a consistent presence at Saturday practices, except now he comes primarily to help Cody on the court.

"Whenever I have big match or tournament, Taylor comes to practice and helps me train," stated Cody. "When I'm playing, he always text messages me to see how I'm playing."

While there have been a few bumps in the road, both Taylor and Cody agree

that their pairing has been a great success.

"We are a good team together," said Cody. "I got his back and he's got me. He's like that older brother I wanted to look to. If I have a problem, I'll call him

and let him know what's going on. He's one of the few people who cares."

"Mentoring Cody has been a lot more fun and rewarding than I ever expected. Although we've experienced a few rain outs at Yankee Stadium and a few losses on the squash court, we are always able to laugh over pizza. I've also been able to view New York through Cody's eyes. He's constantly taking in his surroundings – things I usually just pass by in my mad dash for the subway. I'm glad Cody has been a part of my life over the past two years."

If anyone is interested in becoming a StreetSquash mentor, please contact Chris Tom at [chris@streetsquash.org](mailto:chris@streetsquash.org) or 212-949-4030. •



## Volunteer Profile: Harry Harwood .....



Harry Harwood has been a committed volunteer at the Harvard Club and the West Side YMCA for the past two years. Here he is pictured with 9th grader Ashley Garcia.

In the fall of 2005, StreetSquash was graced with a new volunteer, Harry Harwood. Harry started out on the squash court with Team 3 at the Harvard Club, and he developed a quick following. The then 8th graders responded immediately to Harry's kindness with them and his hard work on court. Often, on the subway down to the Harvard Club on Tuesday afternoons, a kid would ask: "Will Harry be there today?" and another would respond: "I love Harry." This year, Harry was generous enough to split his time between his buddies at Team 3, and our newest team members, the 7th graders, at the West Side Y.

### **StreetSquash:** How did you get involved with StreetSquash?

**Harry:** The chairman of StreetSquash's Board of Directors, Jeff Laikind, and I were in the brokerage biz together. As StreetSquash grew, a third colleague of ours kept me informed about the organization.

### **StreetSquash:** What are your favorite aspects of the program?

**Harry:** I work more on the squash side than the academic side. Therefore, I really love watching the kids improve on court.

### **StreetSquash:** What do you feel you've gotten out of the program?

**Harry:** I have always wanted an opportunity to teach, and StreetSquash has given me the opportunity. There has even been some evidence in the past couple of years that I can communicate effectively and get through to some of the students!

### **StreetSquash:** What moments stand out in your mind from your experience at StreetSquash?

**Harry:** There have been so many moments that stand out for me. Seeing the improvement made by (9th graders) Peter Mitchell and Henry Spicer; having the students warmly greeting me; being challenged each week on court by Lizandro Rodriguez in 7th grade; watching 9th graders Liz Gatling and Rakey Drammeh work hard at some detested drills. It was also really great to meet Xavier Harrison, who graduated from StreetSquash a few years ago and goes to Wilberforce University in Ohio. He is such a neat kid, and I really enjoyed listening to him talk about his academic competitiveness and course workload.

If you are interested in volunteering with StreetSquash, please contact us at [volunteers@streetsquash.org](mailto:volunteers@streetsquash.org) or (212) 949-4030. •

Academic Tutoring • Literacy Enrichment • Squash Instruction • Community Service • Mentoring



## Get Involved!

Volunteering with StreetSquash is a rewarding experience that allows you to make a difference in the lives of New York City's youth. Even if you can only volunteer once a month, we encourage you to get involved. We would be excited to have you join the StreetSquash family!

**We need:** Academic Tutors, Squash Instructors, Mentors.

**When:** Weekdays or Weekends.

**Where:** Harvard Club of New York, Columbia University, West Side YMCA.

# StreetSquash Success Stories .....

### An-Khe Tomer

"He's just such a great kid," says Academic Director Laura Lindstrom about An-Khe, a 7th grader at Thurgood Marshall Academy. "An-Khe has great attendance, and he puts in a great effort. Whenever we need help with anything, he's happy to help out, and he's super responsible."

Middle School Squash Director Larissa Stephenson agrees. "An-Khe is #4 on Team 5 right now (he started at #6). He tries really hard on court and always maintains a good attitude."

An-Khe's hard work and good attitude have really paid off for him this year. Always a good student, An-Khe began middle school with a B average, which he has improved upon over the past few months since he joined StreetSquash. On getting an 89 overall average on a recent report card, An-Khe even expressed disappointment that he didn't yet meet his goal of a 90!

On the squash side, because of his excellent attendance, An-Khe has gotten a chance to play in a number of matches this year, most notably those against our Urban Squash cousins at SquashSmarts and CitySquash. Although he didn't win all of his matches, An-Khe remained incredibly positive and works hard at every practice to continue improving his game.

An-Khe has also been recognized by his school as a leader. When a group of high school teachers and students at TMA planned a community service trip to New Orleans over spring vacation, An-Khe was one of three 7th graders chosen to attend. An-Khe was so inspired by his trip, and impressed the adults who took him so much that he has been asked to speak about his experience on NPR and at Columbia University.

Recently, StreetSquash matched up An-Khe with a mentor, Ben Winkler. In their time together, Ben has been able to spend time getting to know An-Khe and his family. We're sure that with An-Khe's level of commitment to StreetSquash that the two will be able to build their relationship over the next many years.



Elizabeth and her grandmother, Eunice Leslie, at the StreetSquash end-of-year award ceremony.

### Elizabeth Gatling

Elizabeth just completed 9th grade at Thurgood Marshall Academy. She had a remarkable year this year, both academically and on the squash court. To begin with, Elizabeth entered StreetSquash in 7th grade. Throughout her first year in the program, she struggled in school, averaging around a C-. In spite of her struggles, Elizabeth always worked incredibly hard in school and on the squash court.

Early on, Elizabeth's work began to pay off in squash. In 7th and 8th grades, she went back and forth between playing numbers 1 and 2 on the Team 3 ladder. This year, when Team 3 entered 9th grade and was integrated into the high school ladder, Elizabeth took many of the high school girls by surprise, winning challenge match after challenge match on her way to play #7 on the entire StreetSquash team. Fast, focused, and always ready, Elizabeth is truly a force to be reckoned with on the squash court.



An-Khe Tomer, a first-year StreetSquasher, has been a leader on his team and in his community.





Samantha always plays her hardest, whether doing drills at the Harvard Club, or on court at a national tournament.

In the past year, Elizabeth's grades have begun to catch up with her squash game, and she's started to soar. By the end of 8th grade, Elizabeth had worked hard enough to raise her grades to that elusive 80 mark and be placed on the honor roll. Coming back in the fall of 9th grade, Elizabeth surprised everyone by not only maintaining her place on the honor roll, but in fact improving even further to consistently score above a 90 in her core classes. Elizabeth is now one of the highest achievers on Team 3.

What makes Elizabeth special, however, is not just her commitment, her squash skills, or her high grades. Elizabeth is simply the kind of girl everyone wants to have around. Any time that Elizabeth goes away to a camp, or stays with a family on a tournament or trip, her hosts say that they would love to have her back anytime. Considering how overwhelming it can be to stay in an unfamiliar home with an unfamiliar family, that's extremely high praise. Even more than the responses Elizabeth gets outside of StreetSquash, it is her ease, her excellent attitude, her sense of humor and her kindness that make her a good friend and an admirable leader for her team.

### **Samantha Matos**

Samantha Matos, a 10th grader at Manhattan Village Academy and a 5-year veteran of StreetSquash, has been awarded a full scholarship to the Westover School in Middlebury, Connecticut this fall.

Samantha, who is ranked #43 nationally in the Girls Under 17 division, and who has been #1 all year in the StreetSquash ladder, was hesitant at first to attend an all-girls school. During a visit to Westover this May, however, she turned to Squash Director Pat Cosquer and said: "You can say 'I told you so.' I love it here!"

During her five years with StreetSquash, Samantha has grown from being a good student to an excellent student. When she entered the program as a 6th grader at the Roberto Clemente School, Samantha was a solid "B" student. Now, as a 10th grader, Samantha's report cards show consistent grades in the 90s – the kind of scores that get a girl into Westover!

As a team member, Samantha's performance, dedication, reliability, and commitment are unwavering and unmatched. Samantha is always focused both on the squash and study sides at practice, and she often serves as a junior coach for her teammates. Samantha is known for her straightforward, no-nonsense style, and her "tell it like it is" attitude.

StreetSquash wishes Samantha the best of luck as she begins her new life as a Westover girl. Team 2 and all of StreetSquash will miss her! •

# Alumni Update .....

StreetSquash alumni continue to be a resource for present participants. Whether it's through the Fall College Panel or through College visits, StreetSquash alumni lend a willing hand to our students. Davian Suckoo (SUNY Buffalo sophomore), Sonia Gaona (SUNY Binghamton sophomore) and Daequan Andino (Art Institute freshman) offered candid advice to present 10th and 11th graders about college life, social activities, work/life balance, college coursework, college resources and so much more at the Fall College Panel.

During the April SUNY College tour, Tajon Rice (a 2005 StreetSquash graduate and SUNY Albany sophomore) and her roommate, Tricia showed StreetSquash 11th and 10th graders around campus, through the various quads, classrooms and their suite. When asked by StreetSquash participants regarding her preparedness for college, Tajon stressed that the EOP 5 week pre-college summer program really helped her to transition to college life and to manage and prioritize her time. Says the now savvy college sophomore, "The program provided me with college level writing and math courses, plus a freshman course that used different scenarios and the solutions for solving common issues that arise on college campuses".

Tajon Rice is a psychology major and her potential career choice is to be a clinical psychologist. As her word to the wise, Tajon stated, "I hope [StreetSquash students] really research and visit their top schools so they can make a wise choice. I know financial aid is a huge factor but make sure when you visit these colleges to talk to the students more than the people giving the tour. Engage in a conversation with a group of current students [to gain] different perspectives".

Sonia Gaona (a 2005 StreetSquash graduate and SUNY Binghamton sophomore), showed StreetSquash 11th and 10th graders around her campus; she urged her StreetSquash peers to stay motivated, focused and never give up. As an EOP student, her emphasis to the StreetSquashers was on academic excellence, study skills and getting the most out of the classes.

Sonia is a Human Development and Latin American/ Caribbean Studies major and desires to be either a High school or College counselor. As a member of the EOP program, she takes advantages of the support given and uses the resources made available to her through that office. Sonia didn't feel that she was prepared for college as well and states that adjusting to college life is a daily process. She works two jobs on campus, and attends multicultural programs, "especially when they are free".

Both Tajon and Sonia proved to be very knowledgeable about their campuses and seemed to love the SUNY school system. StreetSquash has awarded \$2,000 of scholarships to Sonia and Tajon to be put towards their college education. •



Sonia (R), with Team 1 member Sheena Suckoo, led the College Prep tour of Binghamton University, where she just finished her sophomore year.



Tajon (R), and her friend Tricia, are sophomores at the State University of New York at Albany. They gave StreetSquash Team 1 and 2 members an inside scoop on life at SUNY Albany.



# Saying Goodbye

## Sage Ramadge

Sage Ramadge is stepping down as Program Director after five years with StreetSquash. Though Sage will no longer be with StreetSquash full-time, he will be staying on in a part-time capacity to help with fundraising, board-building, and planning our gym program while he works on developing a new initiative for youth in New York.

Sage began his time with StreetSquash in 2000 as a squash volunteer. Two years later, Sage joined StreetSquash as Middle School Academic Director. After spending three years working with our current teams 1 and 2, urging their academic achievement, Sage was promoted in the fall of 2005 to be Program Director, a post he has faithfully served for the past two years. Thank you to Sage for all your hard work over the past seven years! StreetSquash will miss you!

## Filling the Shoes

Leah Brown, StreetSquash's current Director of College Prep Programs, will be stepping up to become Program Director next year. Leah has been with StreetSquash since 2003, and has served as High School Academic Director as well as her current position. Leah is also the Parent Board coordinator,

and has been responsible for helping to develop the strong family relationships that make StreetSquash unique. Leah has had great success working at StreetSquash for the past four years, and we're sure that she will be an amazing Program Director.

## Other Changes

Larissa Stephenson, the Middle School Squash Director is leaving after a banner year with the 7th graders and the Elite Team. Larissa, who played #1 on the top-ranked Trinity College women's squash team, will be pursuing a career on the professional squash circuit. We wish her the best of luck and hope to see her playing in the Tournament of Champions at Grand Central next February.

Claire Yunker, the Academic Director for the 8th and 9th grades, will be moving cross-country to Seattle this fall. Though she is terribly sad to be leaving StreetSquash after two years working with Teams 3 and 4, Claire is excited to be relocating closer to her



**The StreetSquash staff, 2006-2007.**

From Left: Sage Ramadge, Laura Lindstrom, Lily Rabinoff-Goldman, Claire Yunker, Leah Brown, Pat Cosquer, Larissa Stephenson, Chris Tom, and George Polsky.

family, who also live in Washington State. Claire plans to continue working with adolescents in her new home.

Lily Rabinoff-Goldman, Director of Literacy Project and Special Programs, will be moving to Boston this fall to pursue a Masters in Fine Arts in creative writing at UMass Boston beginning this fall. She hopes to see all the StreetSquashers at the SquashBusters facility for Urban Team Nationals next spring!

Next year, StreetSquash will be welcoming four new employees to our family. The hiring process at StreetSquash is extremely rigorous, and we always strive to find dedicated, hard-working, and experienced employees who will be good matches for our organization as it continues to grow. •

# Welcoming in

StreetSquash is excited to welcome four new staff members to our family this fall.

**Mary Cipollone** graduated from Dartmouth in June 2002 and then spent a year in Nicaragua working with homeless children. From 2003-2005, she was the Literacy Director at StreetSquash. For the past 2 years, she has been teaching Ecuadorian children in Quito. We are thrilled to have her back now as the Director of College Prep!

**Sareen Pearl**, a graduate of Boston University's Honors Program and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, will be joining StreetSquash as the Academic Director for Team 3 (10th grade) and the new Team 6 (7th grade). Sareen has extensive experience working with children, having volunteered at Peace Games and Tenacity, a youth enrichment program in Boston.

**Max Franklin** is a recent graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee and will be taking over as Academic Director for Teams 1 and 2 (11th and 12th grades). Max is a native New Yorker and has been volunteering with StreetSquash for the past several years, both on the squash court and with academics.

**Satyajit Seshadri** just completed his undergraduate degree at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he played on the highly ranked Varsity Men's Squash team. Satyajit (Sat) will be the Squash Director for Team 5 & 6, where he will bring his energy and enthusiasm to the newest members of StreetSquash. •

## College Prep Update .....



Through the College Prep Program, students are exposed to many types of colleges and universities. Haverford College, in Haverford, PA, is one of the small, selective, liberal-arts colleges that students visited this year.

The school bell rings and a faithful StreetSquash College Prep staff person can be found on the main floor of the school waiting to usher college prep students into the conference room for the day's workshop. In rain, sleet, snow or sunshine, college prep students can be found pouring over

SAT vocabulary activities, exploring their creativity in journal writings, responding to Time Magazine articles, learning college facts, or deciphering SAT clues and strategies. Having visited approximately 20 schools this year alone from Ivy Leagues to liberal arts colleges, public to private, squash colleges to HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), StreetSquash students learn how to determine the type of college that would be the 'best fit' for them. Seated on the front row of the admissions information session of any college that has been visited, StreetSquash students can be found with pads and pens in hand, assertively asking questions about diversity on campus, prestige of various programs and simply, "what makes your school better than the rest?"

"Bursting at the seams", the College Prep Program now serves 4 full classes from 9th -12th grades. Implementing a comprehensive college prep curriculum, StreetSquash educates each child and family about the college process. From transitioning the 9th graders to high school life with study and test taking skills the first semester of their high school to offering intensive, year-long SAT test preparation for the 11th graders, the College Prep Program continues to push our



Teams 1 and 2 loved visiting Temple University in Philadelphia, a large, diverse, public university.



students to be better prepared for diverse college opportunities.

This year the program has offered StreetSquash parents four college prep workshops: "Introduction to the StreetSquash College Prep Program", "The College Admission Process and the Parent's Role In It", "Don't Panic: The Financial Aid Process" and "Pulling it All Together" (facilitated by a guest speaker). Since graduating two classes, the College Prep Program calls on our alumni to give back through hosting

tours on their campuses or speaking at a College Prep panel to our present students (see "Alumni Updates" article). Culminating the year with our annual "Professional Career Panel", College Prep students are able to learn about careers from those in the field and are informed about the steps they need to take in college to get to those careers.

One of the most important aspects of the StreetSquash College Prep Program is the practice SATs. Students are

exposed to their first SAT in 9th grade and by the time they take their actual SAT in 11th grade, they have taken anywhere between 3 and 6 practice SATs. Our average SAT increase to date is 163 points, with many students increasing 200-320 points by their 11th grade year. Consistent SAT test prep has really prepared our students for the SAT and the practice SATs have built their endurance to remain alert during tests. •



Team 2 during a College Prep workshop led by Robyn German.

## Colleges Visited:

### Upstate New York:

University at Albany  
SUNY New Paltz  
Binghamton University  
Cornell University  
Ithaca College  
Long Island: Long Island  
University C.W. Post

SUNY Stonybrook  
Connecticut: Fairfield  
University  
Trinity College  
Quinnipiac University  
University of Hartford  
Southern Connecticut  
State University

### Pennsylvania:

Villanova University  
Temple University  
Lincoln University  
Haverford College  
Franklin & Marshall  
College

### New Jersey:

Princeton University

### Maryland:

Johns Hopkins  
University

# Summer Internships at the National Development Council..

This summer, 2 StreetSquash alumni, Lonnie Gibbs and Jhenny Romero, have summer internships at the National Development Council (NDC). Jhenny is doing rotations between two of NDC's subsidiaries, Grow America Fund and Corporate Equity Fund. Both divisions require review of closed projects for correct legal documentation including follow up on state and federal lien searches and active participation in investment conference calls.

Lonnie is doing a Finance Major Internship, where he has rotations between NDC's Financial Management Division, HEDC New Markets and Grow America Fund. All rotations include financial input and review of NDC revenue and expenses, creation of spreadsheets and assisting with monthly financial reporting. NDC is one of the oldest national non-profit

community and economic development organizations in the U.S. It was founded in 1969 with one purpose: increasing the flow of capital for investment, jobs and community development to under served urban and rural areas across the country. NDC has been an important partner for StreetSquash in funding the SL Green StreetSquash Center through the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program. The NMTC program is a federal tax initiative designed to increase the amount of investment capital in low-income communities. This \$15 billion program provides investors – banks, insurance companies, corporations – with credits against federal income tax in return for new investments in eligible businesses



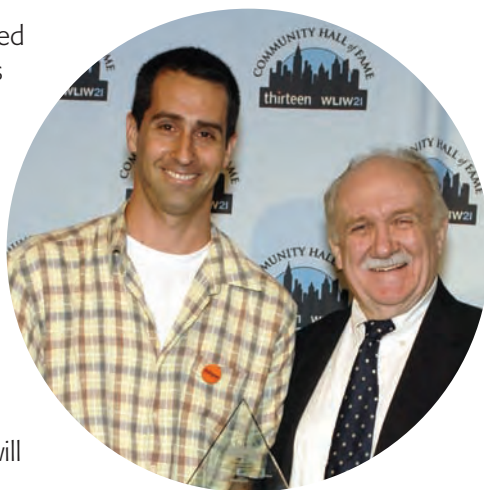
Bob Davenport, Jhenny Romero, Lonnie Gibbs, Annn Vogt and Mike Johnson at the NDC offices in Midtown.

(i.e. StreetSquash). Working with NDC and TransCapital, StreetSquash entered into a transaction that will deliver a \$1.5 million "forgivable" loan.

NDC has also paid for a summer internship at StreetSquash for alumna Sonia Ganoa, where she is working on marketing materials, alumni relations and grant writing. •

## StreetSquash Inducted into Channel Thirteen/WNET Community Hall of Fame

This past June, StreetSquash was inducted into Channel Thirteen/WNET New York's Community Hall of Fame. This award is to recognize exemplary efforts in the fields of the arts and culture, education and social concerns that are related to Thirteen's programming. As an inductee into the Community Hall of Fame, StreetSquash, along with 9 other organizations, participated in a special award ceremony held at the Thirteen and WLIW broadcast studios in Manhattan. Additionally, StreetSquash will be memorialized on a plaque displayed in the lobby at the Manhattan Broadcast Center, and listed in the stations' Annual Report. StreetSquash will also be featured in an on-air spot this winter on Thirteen to honor 2007's Community Hall of Fame inductees. •



Channel 13 Tri-State Community Advisory Board member, Ed Sullivan, presents award to StreetSquash Founder George Polsky

## Wilson Raises Funds for StreetSquash

Wilson Rackets, a long-time partner of StreetSquash, has taken its support of the program to another level. In addition to donating \$10,000 worth of squash equipment each year, Wilson will now contribute a percentage of all its squash rackets sales to StreetSquash, which it estimates to be \$5,000-\$6,000. In addition, Wilson has put a StreetSquash sticker on all of its rackets and has our children and program featured on its latest brochure. We are grateful for the terrific support! •



# Upcoming Summer Programs .....

This July and August, StreetSquashers are abuzz with excitement about their summer plans. One of the best elements of the StreetSquash program is our partnership with dozens of summer camps and travel programs. By working together with these squash, arts, outdoor adventure, and overseas travel camps, StreetSquash is able to help expand our students' worlds of experience. This summer, many StreetSquashers will be returning to the summer camps like Camp Dudley for Boys in Westport, New York, that are now like a summer home to them. Others will be leaving on new adventures that will certainly broaden their horizons.

Keep your eyes out for our Fall 2007 newsletter, in which our kids will be writing about their experiences. These are some of the opportunities planned for the summer:

- *Outward Bound's Pinnacle Program* – a 2-3 week outdoor adventure in Maine or Colorado.
- *Windsor Mountain Camp* – an international sleep-away camp in the mountains of New Hampshire.
- *Windsor Mountain International Travel* – an opportunity for high school students to spend 2-4 weeks doing community service overseas.
- *Longacre Leadership Camp* – a cooperative farm and community camp in Pennsylvania.
- *Buck's Rock Performing and Creative Arts Camp* – a creative arts environment for artists of all stripes in New Milford, Connecticut
- *Med-O-Lark* – a creative arts and athletics camp located on a three-mile lake in Washington, Maine.
- *Camp Dudley* – the oldest all-boys camp in North America, and a perennial partner of StreetSquash, located in Westport, New York.
- *Bryan Patterson's Universal Squash Camp/Chirl's Scholarship* – a week-long squash experience and travel opportunity in Chichester, England.
- Week-long squash experiences at: *Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Trinity, Bowdoin, Williams, Dartmouth, Vassar, the Chatham Club* and the *New York Sports Club at 86th Street*. •



Clockwise from bottom left, Director of Squash Programs Pat Cosquer, David Nash, Sheena Suckoo, Brandy Robinson, Princess Hardwell, and Gabrielle Robinson.



From left, Sugeiry Betances, Jenessa Wilson, Esmeralda Amador, Rosemary Hidalgo, and Squash Director, Chris Tom.





The Girls Under 17/19 B-Draw Champions – From Left, Jennifer Houston, Shanese Patterson, Ladonis Gaillard, Talise Hall, Pat Cosquer, Melissa Sandoval, Bottom Row: Asia Giles.

## StreetSquashers are National Champions Again! .....

The legacy continues as StreetSquash's Girls Under 19 varsity team won it's second consecutive Urban Team National Championship this past March at the SquashBusters facility in Boston. Coming up against stiff competition from the Philadelphia SquashSmarts team, our top 5 girls, 10th grader Samantha Matos, and 11th graders Sheena Suckoo, Gabrielle Robinson, Brandy Robinson, and Princess Hardwell secured a 3-2 victory and a new set of trophies.

In addition to the champion girls' team, four other StreetSquash teams came home with tournament plates. The Boys Under 19 varsity team sailed through the first two rounds, finding its way to the finals on Sunday afternoon. Faced with a team of top-ranked players from SquashBusters, the boys fought through five hard matches and came home proud of their 2nd place plates. The

Boys Under 15 varsity team won a 3rd place plate after winning their matches on Friday night and Sunday morning. The Boys Under 15 and the Girls Under 19 JV teams came back from tough losses in the first round to win their next two matches and be crowned B-Draw Champions.

For all of the 63 StreetSquashers who traveled to Boston, the tournament experience was invaluable. Our newest team-members were excited to spend a whole weekend playing squash and to meet their counterparts from other urban squash programs, while our veterans reconnected with old friends and

pushed themselves on court. For all of our team members, the level of play improved dramatically over the course of the three days of the tournament. If the many sleeping faces on the bus home to New York on Sunday were any indicator, our kids pushed themselves very hard all weekend. •



The 2-time Girls Under 17/19 National Champions – Back Row From Left, Brandy Robinson, Pat Cosquer, Princess Hardwell, Gabrielle Robinson; Front Row From Left: Sheena Suckoo, Samantha Matos



## Board of Directors:

**Andrea Andrews**

*Founder/Director, Peace 2000*

**Bruce Brickman**

*CEO, Brickman Associates*

**Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III**

*Pastor, Abyssinian Baptist Church*

**Richard Chin**

*Head Squash Professional, Harvard Club, NYC*

**Richard S. Fuld, Jr.**

*Chairman & CEO, Lehman Brothers*

**Stephen L. Green**

*Chairman of the Board of SL Green Realty Corp.*

**Dr. Sandye Poitier Johnson**

*Principal, Thurgood Marshall Academy*

**Leslie Kimerling**

*President, Isis Partners*

**Jeffrey Laikind—Chairman**

*Asset Manager*

**Douglas E. Schoen**

*Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates*

**Frank Stella**

*Artist*

**William D. Zabel**

*Name Partner, Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP*

**Mort Zuckerman**

*Owner/Editor-in-Chief, U.S. News and World Report*

*Treasurer*

**Jerome Kapelus**

## Staff:

*Executive Director:*

**George Polsky**

*Program Director:*

**Sage Ramadge**

*Director of Squash Programs:*

**Pat Cosquer**

*Director of College Prep Programs:*

**Leah Brown**

*Director of Literacy Project and Special Programs:*

**Lily Rabinoff-Goldman**

*Academic Directors:*

**Laura Lindstrom and Claire Yunker**

*Squash Directors:*

**Larissa Stephenson and Chris Tom**

## Credits:

*Written by:*

**StreetSquash Children**

*Design:*

**desantis graphic design**

## StreetSquash

420 Lexington Avenue / Suite 246

New York, New York 10170

Voice/Fax: **212.949.4030**

Web: **[www.StreetSquash.org](http://www.StreetSquash.org)**

Courtesy of Dayna Kirk.

# Summer Squash

## A Week at Bowdoin Squash Camp

by Brandy Robinson

I had so much fun this summer at Bowdoin Squash Camp. This was my second year going to Bowdoin, and it just gets better every time!

### A typical day at Bowdoin is like this:

we wake up and went to breakfast. After breakfast we played squash for 3 hours. Then we went to lunch. After lunch, we did an activity; we would either go to the beach, the movies, or kayaking. After the break, we ate dinner and played squash for another 3 hours. We went back to the dorms, showered, mingled, and went to sleep. Bowdoin campus is beautiful, and the food is great.



*From Left: (coach), Ladonis Gaillard, Sheena Suckoo, Brandy Robinson, Princess Hardwell, and Thomas Fortson (coach) on court as camp.*

The volunteers we had to work with on our squash game were really helpful. We played games and we did many exercises. The only bad part was the 7 hour bus ride on the way back! I am going to apply to Bowdoin for college because I loved it so much. I would recommend Bowdoin camp to everyone because it is a great experience. Thomas, the coach, is wonderful, and you will really enjoy yourself!

*The Fortson Squash Camp held by coach Thomas Fortson at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, provides intensive squash training combined with the outdoor activities unique to the camp's location in coastal Maine - kayaking, hiking, swimming and beach. StreetSquash would like to thank the Fortson Squash Camp for its generosity in providing a week-long experience for four of our high school StreetSquashers this summer!*



*Brandy Robinson (right) on court with a coach at Fortson Squash Camp at Bowdoin college.*

# STREET SQUASH news

Vol. 7 no. 1

Winter 06

## GROWTH AND ADVENTURE FOR STREETSQUASHERS DURING SUMMER 2006

### outward Bound with Summer Search

by Keith Keith



*Keith Keith paddling down the rapids on his Outward Bound trip to Oregon this summer.*

#### Dear Summer Search

Hi, my name is Keith Keith. I was born and raised in Harlem, a place that is infested with negative energy. My parents are Anthony and Ilva Keith. I have a brother and a sister that are older than me. I live in a stable apartment and I was raised by some of the best parents there are.

Growing up I had to deal with a lot of negative people that only wanted to see me fail in life because they failed. I did things that I regretted and I wish I can turn the hands of time to fix what I did, but I can not. I always was a kind and respectful kid that knew better but I did not show that side too often. I knew I was an intelligent, smart kid that wanted a lot out of life, but I always set

*continued on page 6*



# Letter from Buck's

by Ayanna Hall

**Dear Newsletter,**

I had a lot of fun at Buck's Rock Camp for Creative and Performing Arts. It was among the best summer experiences of my life thus far. A typical day at Buck's Rock is always exciting. We always had to wake up at 7:30. Elizabeth, Rakey, and I always woke up at 7:25 just to get a warm shower, because if you waited too long the water would become freezing and it was hard to take a comfortable shower. After the shower, we would get dressed and then go to breakfast from about 8:30 to 9.

At 9, the gong would ring telling us that the shops were open. Sewing was our favorite shop, so we would be in sewing most of the time. We would be there until the lunch gong rang at 12 noon. We would eat each lunch and then go back to our cabin or hang out on the porch and talk to our friends. From 1 to 2 was the rest hour so we would do various things like listen to music, dance, or play cards.

At 2, another gong would ring telling us that the shops are reopened. Normally, in the afternoon, we would have a dance class or a dance rehearsal, so we would be there. If not, then we would go to another shop like jewelry or ceramics. At 3, there would be snacks brought to the shops. We would always try to get all the good snacks. We stayed in shops until the dinner gong rang at 6.



*Elizabeth, Rakey and Ayanna in the Ceramics Studio at Buck's Rock Camp*

After dinner there would be numerous things to do at night. You could go to plays, recitals, or stand up comedy. Some shops were still open at night, too. Or (and this is what we would do most often), you could stay in your cabin and do what you pleased. We would normally play music and games and dance. Then at 10, the gong would ring telling us to get ready for bed. At 10:30, it was lights out and you woke up the next day to do the same thing.

One memory that sticks out the most to me was when we performed. Well, technically it's two memories. We performed in a show called Motown. We danced and sang and the crowd loved us. That 15 minutes of fame was great. Then we performed in the big dance show. We were like stars at that camp. That's another reason why I want to go back.

Buck's Rock is a summer experience that you could never forget. It will also change your life because you'll meet so many different and new people. I really want to thank StreetSquash for this opportunity. If I have the chance, I would definitely go back.

Sincerely,  
**Ayanna Hall**

*Buck's Rock Performing and Creative Arts Camp is located in New Milford, Connecticut. Buck's Rock, whose program allows campers the freedom and guidance to cultivate their artistic sides, has generously supported the creative development of StreetSquash's team members for the past two summers.*



*From Left: Ayanna Hall, Rakey Drammeh, and Elizabeth Gatling*

# Growing Up at Camp Dudley

---



*Back Row – Peter Karlen, Chris Rowe, Carlos Soler, Ernesto Jordan, Chris Tom. Center Row – Raymond Moore, Kevin Espino, Uwemedimoh Umoh. Front Row – Julian Hackney.*

## Kevin Espino

This summer I was an aide at Camp Dudley. Camp Dudley is an all-boys camp located upstate. The aide's job at the Camp Dudley is to run the cabin inspection. Basically, cabin inspection is the time of the day in which cabins compete to have the cleanest cabin. Cabins are inspected every day except for Sunday.

If you're an aide, it's also the last year you'll ever play on a team. Although that seems bad, it's actually an advantage because you already know what it's like playing with seniors and aides.

Camp is broken up into four divisions: Cubbies, Plebes, Juniors, and Seniors. Only Cubbies, Plebes and Juniors have aides. All cabins have a J.L. (Junior Leader) or A.L. (Assistant Leader) and a leader.

I was selected for the Plebe cabin, Yale. Many cabins are named after colleges like Columbia, Yale, and Dartmouth. My cabin consisted of 8 campers, a J.L., and leader, and me.

Next year I will be a J.L. and will finally get paid to go to camp. I can't wait till then! ●

## Carlos Soler

When I went to Camp Dudley this year, I was going to be an aide. An aide is a camper but with privileges. So we didn't have to do any community service and we had nights out. They put me up with the juniors, the coolest division in camp. I was excited, but was nervous because I was going to be a mentor to the kids in my cabin. Everybody told me, "spend time with your kids, because you'll regret it later if you don't." So every free time, I would go play basketball with them, or go swimming with them on a hot day.

I liked being an aide because I could play sports and still be on the leadership team. I was very sad the last day because the kids that I bonded with were leaving, but I was happy because I could go home and see my family. Overall I had a fantastic time, and would love to go back next year as a J.L. (Junior Leader) and enjoy the experience. ●



*The StreetSquash Camp Dudley Family at camp on Lake Champlain.*

*Camp Dudley is a boys' camp that has been a summer home for many of StreetSquash's participants for the past four years. This past summer, not only did Kevin and Carlos serve as Aides, but 11th grade StreetSquasher, David Nash, was a J.L., and six middle school StreetSquashers were campers. Many thanks to Camp Dudley for their continued support of StreetSquash and our boys!*



# outward Bound Pinnacle Program

by cody Levy



*Cody Levy zips down the line at the Outward Bound ropes course in Colorado this summer.*

This summer, I spent 3 weeks of my vacation in Colorado with Outward Bound Wilderness. At Outward Bound, I met new friends, and experienced things I had never done before.

On Saturday, July 22, 2006, I went to JFK airport to board a plane for Denver, Colorado to meet my Outward Bound group. When I first got on the plane, I felt scared because that was my first time flying by myself. When I flew up in the sky, I wasn't scared anymore because I watched T.V. and went to sleep. When I woke up, I couldn't believe I was already in Denver. I was really nervous to meet the instructors, and see who they were.

When I met my instructors, Hannah King and David Carter at the airport, they were actually okay. At first, I didn't want to be in Denver at all – I just wanted to be with my mother to make sure she was okay. I called her to let her know that I was okay.

When we got to the first Outward Bound site, I met the people in my group – all of whom became my good friends. We did a lot of fun things together in the wilderness to become closer as a group. My groupmates were so funny, and we just had fun with each other and with the instructors. One of the best things about my group was that my leaders Hannah and Dave gave me the nickname Cody "Bear" Levy because I give people bear hugs to make them happy. Getting that nickname really meant a lot to me.

My three weeks with Outward Bound were extremely challenging, but I did it for my mom and my group. We climbed three mountains all the way to the top – Mount Hope, Mount Albert, and Mount Massive. One of the best parts of the trip was when I got to be a team leader for my group, whether during a group hike to the next camp site, or another mountain in the woods.

One thing I learned about the Outward Bound experience was working with a team and not giving up.

When it was time to go back to New York City, I felt sad because I wanted to stay. I didn't want to leave. I had so much fun being in the wilderness rock climbing, peak climbing mountains, and being alone on my "solo" for a full 24 hours. Outward Bound showed me what the wild is all about, about teamwork, and about coming together as a group. I really appreciate all I learned from the experience. Also, it was the best vacation of my life! ●



*Cody reached the peak of three mountains in the course of his trip.*

*Founded in 1992, the Pinnacle Scholarship Program provides the Outward Bound course opportunity specifically for low-income, high-potential youth ages 14-18 through financial support, pre-course guidance and mentoring, and post-course support, community service, and leadership opportunities.*



*Keith Keith (far right) with his groupmates on their Outward Bound adventure.*

myself up to fail because I was afraid to succeed. I am used to seeing my peers mess up their lives and I thought I should mess mine up too. I did things to fit in. I want to be that popular kid that everybody loves and I succeeded until I found out that I was not happy. Every time I tried to change my life around I got discouraged. But I am working on that and I will pursue my goals in life.

My life started to change when I started to play squash through a program called StreetSquash. It kept me off the streets and busy. I joined the team in junior high school. I was a natural because I picked up the sport quickly. My life started to change even more when Summer Search came into my life. My squash coach recommended me and I am very thankful that he did, but at first I didn't follow up on it. A couple days before the Summer Search interview, I finally wrote my essay. From my experience so far the interview was the hardest part. To have four people staring at me showing no emotion made me nervous. They kept straight faces through the interview and I thought what I was saying was not to their liking. What really made me go to the interview was the fact of I was ready to finally get the help to be the person I really wanted to be.

A couple days later I received the acceptance letter. I was so excited because I thought all I would have to do is show up to a couple events each year, and I would be able to go on a trip. Then I found out that I had to call once a week to check in and I still thought it was going to be an easy program. The phone calls were the second tough task because sometimes while being on the phone, the Summer Search person and I both stop talking and it gets really quiet. After a while I started to like the once a week phone call. It helped me get whatever happened that week out of my head. I became happier because I was not carrying last week's issues to school with me the next week. All my teachers noticed the change in me and they would always ask why I was not acting out any more. Then I told them about Summer Search and they all replied by saying that the program has really helped me. I was a person that didn't speak my mind until it burst out of me, but now I feel comfortable talking things out. I am not afraid to let someone know how I feel. I thank Summer Search for that.



---

This summer I went to Oregon for an Outward Bound course thanks to Summer Search. The course was more challenging than I expected. On some days we hiked from sunrise to sunset, and on other days we would paddle for more than 20 miles a day. While on the course I wanted to quit and go home, because of how my body felt. I didn't show my group how I felt because everybody was having a hard time.

My downfall on the course was when we hiked up a glacier. It started out easy but as we hiked out more on the glacier it began to get challenging. We had to watch out for crevasses and weak spots on the glacier. It was very cold and the wind made it hard to walk. I slipped and fell a lot. I was starting to give up but my group didn't let me and I am happy that they didn't. After crying to myself briefly, my group helped motivate me and I gained back the confidence to finish. When we finally reached the top I felt mighty even though I was half way frozen. I learned that as long as I have motivation and confidence any goal can be accomplished. Everything turned out successful when I had the right state of mind.

I also learned that it is ok to ask for help. Before we climbed the second of three mountains, the "middle sister," I was tired from climbing to the base of the mountain. Everything was going smoothly until we reached an area of gravel. Walking on gravel is no easy task. Every step you take, you slide back down. I needed help but I didn't want to ask for it. Irza, another Summer Search student from Boston saw that I needed help and offered it but I turned it down at first. She told me if I ever needed help with anything just to ask and she would help me out. Then I finally asked for her help. She helped me through the gravel with her words. It felt good to be able to lean on someone for a change. After that day I learned to appreciate her more. I was happy that we were blessed to have Irza in the group with us. I learned that it is ok to ask for help and to lean on someone once in a while rather than to always get leaned on, especially because in the past I have felt that I am a person that is always there for others but when I need a friend there aren't any open hands.

This whole Summer Search experience so far has helped me build my true character. I am where I want to be in life right now and that's being happy and confident with whatever I do. Summer Search helped me find out the true values of life and I want to thank ya'll for that. I know that I am ready for the other challenges that will come my way and nothing will stop me from achieving my goal to own my own businesses. I want to start a franchise, that's my ultimate dream, and now that I've been through this experience I know I can achieve my goals. I want to say thank you summer search for giving me the chance to see who I really am. Thanks a lot.

Sincerely,  
**Keith Keith**



*Through Summer Search, Keith has the opportunity to travel anywhere in the world this coming summer. Keith is planning to go to Minnesota to do a Spanish language intensive for the first part of the summer, and then will travel to Spain to practice what hes learned!*

*The mission of Summer Search is to find resilient low-income high school students and inspire them to become responsible and altruistic leaders by providing year-round mentoring, life-changing summer experiences, college advising, and a lasting support network.*

# Windsor Mountain International Camp in our own Words .....



*Raheem Logan overcame a great challenge this summer at Windsor Mountain – swimming in the lake!*

Raheem Logan, Guytaul Bennett, Tynisha Avila, and Diamond Martin attended Windsor Mountain Camp for a month this summer. Windsor Mountain International was founded in 1961. Since then, Windsor Mountain has hosted young people from more than 60 countries. This past summer was the second year that StreetSquashers have attended Windsor Mountain.

**StreetSquash:** What was a typical day like at Windsor Mountain Camp?

**Raheem:** We woke up (early if we had a kitchen prep or clean dishes day), got breakfast, and had a morning meeting. Afterwards, we had a class that we chose. It could be anything, like sports, art, or music. Next we had lunch, then rest hour, then two more classes, then dinner and a night activity. Finally, we got to go back to sleep!

**Guytaul:** At Windsor Mountain Camp, a typical day was: first, I would clean my living unit then go to my first class. My classes were usually sports. I especially liked basketball and football. That would be a typical day for me.

**StreetSquash:** What was your favorite activity at camp? Why?

**Raheem:** I loved playing Capture the Flag. It was exciting and I had a chance to test my quickness and speed.

**Guytaul:** My favorite activity was Hot Rodicus. Counselors would dress like demons, and we would have to search for them all over camp. Then we would have to find them and carry them to the basketball court.

*Raheem's great experience at camp this summer was recognized by the Windsor Mountain staff, and he has been asked to come back as a member of their Leadership in Training (LIT) program in summer 2007!*

**StreetSquash:** Was Windsor Mountain like what you expected it to be?

**Raheem:** No, I thought I was going to have no friends, and be miserable, but I was cool with everyone and had a great time. I've even been back for a reunion, and gone to visit some of the friends I made at camp since I got home.

**Guytaul:** No, I thought for the first two weeks or so that I wouldn't know anyone, but I met my friend Matt about two hours after we arrived. We were good friends for the rest of the summer.

**StreetSquash:** What was the biggest challenge you faced while at camp? What do you think you learned?

**Raheem:** Swimming was the biggest challenge for me. But I think I learned from it to never give up, and that practice always results in success.

**Guytaul:** My biggest challenge was going to sleep after we heard coyotes howl at night. Also, nearby, neighbors would shoot shotguns at the coyotes so they would leave. That was scary.

**StreetSquash:** What is your best memory from camp?

**Raheem:** Riding the zip-line on the ropes course. I've never done anything like that before. Plus, it felt just like a roller coaster ride!

**Guytaul:** My best memory is when my friends from my tent and I pulled a prank on our LITs (Leaders in Training). While they were sleeping, we drew mustaches on their faces, so that they would have to go to breakfast with marker on their faces!



*Guytaul Bennett (far right) with friends in front of their platform tent, where they slept for a month this summer.*



# A Week in England

by Sheena Suckoo



*Samantha Matos (second from left) and Sheena Suckoo (center) with friends at a carnival in Portsmouth, England.*

During this summer, I was very fortunate to go to two squash camps, one at Bowdoin College, and the other in England. In August, I went to Bryan Patterson's Universal Squash Camp in Chichester, England. During this trip I was accompanied by Samantha Matos. This was an amazing opportunity because I had the chance to go to a completely different country to get help for my squash skills.

I was filled with verve because I was going to Europe, which I'd never been to before, and also I was nervous. I was nervous because I didn't know what to expect from the English people, the camp, and my host family. However, when I arrived at the camp I found that everyone was friendly and polite. The coaches Tim, Tina and Bryan were very kind to me when I arrived. They made me feel as if I was home at Columbia University practicing with my team.

Every morning we had to wake up at 7:00 to make sure we would be on time to the club where we were playing. If we weren't on time, we would have to run suicides, which we didn't do because our host family made sure we weren't late. In the morning I would be extremely exhausted because of the jet lag, but I managed to make it work. Tim, Tina, and Bryan would split us into groups and help us on certain skills such as backhand, boasts, dropshots, lobs, and volleys all morning.

In the afternoon we would have lunch break, and Samantha and I would walk through the town buying things at the shops. Later we would have to be back to the courts and do some intense fitness. I really abhorred the fitness part of the day, but I had no choice so I put forth one hundred percent. After we accomplished all our fitness drills, we had the chance to play squash.

Overall, I had a great time at camp getting to know the other kids, coaches, and England. I made friends with three girls named Kelly, Emily, and Jenny, who opened up to me as soon as I arrived. In England, I didn't meet one rude person, which is a culture shock because it's a different environment from America. We went to Portsmouth to a carnival where I had a blast. Also I went bowling with the group, and that's where I got to know a lot about the others. I am glad I was chosen to go to this camp because I wouldn't regret any day I spent there. ●



*Samantha and Sheena (center row, left) with all the squash players from Bryan Patterson's Universal Squash Camp in Chichester, England.*

*This summer, Sheena Suckoo and Samantha Matos attended Bryan Patterson's Universal Squash Camp in Chichester England, which has been one of StreetSquash's greatest summer partners for the past five years. Through the support of the camp and the StreetSquash community, StreetSquashers have the opportunity to study with world-class coaches and players, and to travel to the U.K.*

# oh, the Places We've Gone!



Tranai Johnson, Raheem Logan, and Guytaul Bennett at the Connecticut Squash Academy.



Paige Babilonia on court at Princeton University Squash camp



Princess, Ladonis, Sheena and Brandy on a trip from Bowdoin Squash Camp

## **Buck's Rock Camp,** *New Milford, Connecticut*

Rakey Drammeh  
Elizabeth Gatling  
Ayanna Hall

## **Camp Dudley,** *Westport, New York*

Christopher Rowe  
Ernesto Jordan  
Julian Hackney  
Uwemidimoh Umoh  
Peter Mitchell  
Raymond Moore  
David Nash  
Kevin Espino  
Carlos Soler

## **Longacre Leadership Program,** *Newport, Pennsylvania*

Kareem Bridges

## **Outward Bound Pinnacle Program**

Cody Levy

## **Windsor Mountain International Camp**

*Windsor, New Hampshire*

Raheem Logan  
Diamond Martin  
Guytaul Bennett  
Tynisha Avila

## **Squash and Beyond Camp**

*at Williams College*  
Elijah Hardwell  
Esmeralda Amador  
Ladonis Gaillard  
Jamel Key

## **Power Squash Academy**

*at Dartmouth College*  
Ernesto Jordan  
Brussels Mercado  
Diosmiry Rodriguez

## **Mitchell Squash Summer Camp**

*at the Chatham Club*  
Tynisha Avila  
Gabrielle Robinson  
Shantell Wynn

## **Hill School Squash Camp**

*in Pottstown, Pennsylvania*  
Shelby Bozeman  
Ayanna Hall  
Henry Spicer

## **Summer Search**

*in Oregon*  
Keith Keith

## **Princeton University Squash Camp**

Paige Babilonia  
Rakey Drammeh

## **Connecticut Squash Academy**

*at Wesleyan University*  
Tranai Johnson  
Raheem Logan  
Guytaul Bennett  
Melissa Sandoval  
Shanese Patterson

## **Fortson Squash Camp**

*at Bowdoin College*  
Sheena Suckoo  
Princess Hardwell  
Brandy Robinson  
Ladonis Gaillard

## **Complete Squash Camp**

*at Harvard University*  
Christopher Rowe  
Uwemidimoh Umoh  
Julian Hackney  
Charisse Strong  
Elizabeth Gatling



Visiting Day at Buck's Rock Camp





# Update on the SL Green StreetSquash Center .....

As of December, 2006, the outer shell of the S L Green StreetSquash Center in Harlem is complete!



StreetSquash is excited to be able to get into the space within the next six months to begin the fit-out of the interior of our permanent facility, building 8 squash courts, 4 classrooms, locker rooms, a library, and an office suite. We are thrilled to be on schedule for a Spring 2008 grand opening.



A view of the entryway into the StreetSquash Center.



The interior of the StreetSquash Squash Courts, looking into the locker rooms, offices, and classrooms.



# MISSION

Founded in September 1999, StreetSquash is an after-school youth enrichment program that combines academic tutoring, squash instruction, college prep, literacy, community service, and one-on-one mentoring. Working with 140 boys and girls, ages 7 – 18 from Harlem, for a six-year period, the program's goals are: to improve academic performance; to develop an ethic of hard work and commitment; to boost self-confidence; to ensure that all StreetSquash children graduate from high school, enter into post-secondary education, and move on to become active, productive and involved citizens. StreetSquash is a 501(c)3 organization.



An Urban Youth  
Enrichment Program

420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 246  
New York, New York 10170  
Phone/Fax: 212.949.4030  
Web: [www.streetsquash.org](http://www.streetsquash.org)

