

# NJTL Connections

## 2024 Summer Newsletter

### 2024 NJTL Leadership in NOLA

In the heart of New Orleans, the 2024 National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) Leadership Camp gathered youth leaders ages 12-17 from six Southern states. The event kicked off with a tour of Xavier University. Over the next three days, the participants enjoyed activities such as lunch on the Natchez Steamboat, the Juneteenth Heritage Quiz Bowl, and a tour of Mardi Gras World complete with a tasting of King Cake.

USTA Louisiana Executive Director Bill Phillips welcomed the youth at the historic Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center during the four-day camp and encouraged them to continue their junior tennis pathway. Participants also had the opportunity to witness and play alongside Tulane's Micah Pierce, a former NJTL member of Excite All Stars and a top-ranked recruit from Louisiana. USTA Southern President & CEO Brett Schwartz also greeted the campers and offered insights on NJTL and the importance of USTA volunteerism. Dr. James Ewers, keynote speaker, and Black Tennis Hall of Famer, instilled words of wisdom with the campers as he shared his tennis journey and keys to success for the juniors. The camp's last day featured a PTR Assistant Coach Workshop led by facilitator Tomas Catar for over 20 teens and an introduction to Xavier tennis coach Alan Green. Special congratulations to the Overall Winning Team: The Green Team representing Tulane University, and to our Sportsmanship winners, Lawson Hoof and Genesis Allen!



# 2024 Summer Newsletter



## **Congratulations Yellow Team! Our Fourth Annual Juneteenth Heritage Quiz Bowl Champions**

Alexandria "Lexy" Magee, Vitalii Stradomskyi, Noah Goessling, Whitman Syleste, DaQuan Brummitt-Streeter, Gabriela Sierra Núñez Lohr, and Maci Broussard.



## **Congratulations Green Team: Our Overall Camp Winners!**

Matison Williams, Dayton Agee, Jaala Goodwin, Craig Kemp, Dillan LaFrance, and Kaley Cox



## **Design Thinking with NJTL Committee Member Anna Monhartova**

# 2024 Summer Newsletter

## Participating NJTL Chapters



**Ace to Deuce CTA**



**Northwest Louisiana CTA**



**South Clayton CTA**



**South Atlanta CTA**



**James Lewis E&T Foundation**



**Birmingham Area Tennis Assoc.**



**Friends of Battlefield Park**



**Above the Net**



**Excite All Stars**



**Tennis Memphis**



**Bluegrass Tennis Association**



**Greenville CTA/NJTL**



**Golden Triangle Tennis**



**A's & Aces**



**Columbus Reg. Tennis Assoc.**



**Family Biz Builder**



## 2024 NJTL High School & College Grads!



**Katelynn Welch**  
Above the Net



**Emma Hicks**  
Edmonds Tennis & Education Foundation



**Amauri Harris**  
Friends of Battlefield Foundation, Inc



**Joshua Johnson**  
Friends of Battlefield Foundation, Inc



**Karley Newell**  
Friends of Battlefield Foundation, Inc



**Kendall Brackett**  
Friends of Battlefield Foundation, Inc



**Aaliyah Guthrie**  
Greenville CTA/NJTL



**Leo Jennings**  
Greenville CTA/NJTL



**Makenzie Miller**  
Greenville CTA/NJTL



**Nigel Billings**  
James Lewis Education & Tennis Foundation



**Allie Turnbough**  
Rising Stars Tennis Association



**Maasiai Sales**  
South Atlanta CTA



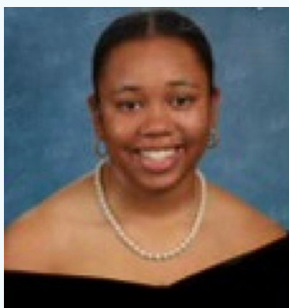
**Naomi Blanks**  
South Atlanta CTA



**Ja' Niaya Elmore**  
St. George Youth Sports League



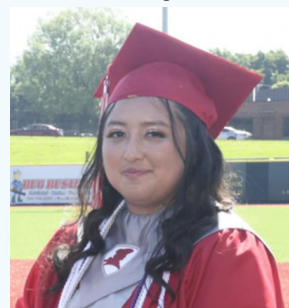
**Peter Smith III**  
St. George Youth Sports League



**Sanoe Lester**  
St. George Youth Sports League



**William Billions**  
Youth Development Association



**Gabriela Flores**  
United Tennis Organization

## Scholarship Winners

# 2024 Southern Tennis Foundation College Scholarship Awarded to 10 High School Graduates

USTA Southern and the Southern Tennis Foundation would like to extend our congratulations to the ten STF Scholars of 2024. Each of these remarkable individuals has showcased exceptional talent on the tennis court while maintaining exemplary academic records. Their dedication to excellence serves as an inspiration to young athletes everywhere, proving that it is possible to balance rigorous training with academic pursuits. As they embark on this new chapter of their lives, we are confident that they will continue to excel and make significant contributions both on and off the court. The values of perseverance, sportsmanship, and integrity that they have cultivated through their involvement in tennis will undoubtedly serve them well in their future endeavors.



Allayna Barnett (Miss.)



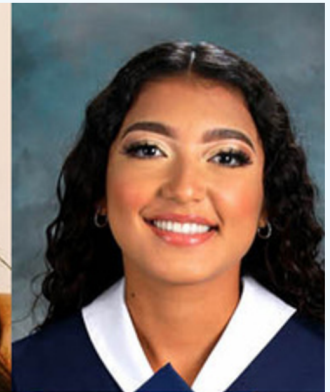
Jonathan Bickford (La.)



Leo Nedkov (S.C.)



Kathleen Rohr (Tenn.)



Valeria Rojas (Miss.)



Zander Russell (S.C.)



Maasiai Sales (Ga.)



Emmory Simmons (Ark.)



Nyla Warner (Ga.)



Lauren Wilder (S.C.)

## Chapter Stories

### AYTEF

AYTEF's 10U Orange Ball TEAM secured their place at the Junior Team Tennis (JTT) State Championships in Macon this July, following an impressive performance at the JTT Qualifier in Buford, GA! Throughout the season, this 10U team showcased outstanding teamwork, resilience, and a champion mindset. As they eagerly anticipate the Championships, we're excited to see what they'll achieve next!



### Above the Net

Congratulations Sampson Haywood on being named Henry County's Tennis Player of the Year!! Sampson is the line one singles player at Regional champs and State participant Union Grove High School. Sampson joined the Varsity team as a freshman three years ago and earned the top spot this year as a Junior. We are super proud of this young man who has coached with Above the Net for the last three years and is frequently seen at Richard Craig encouraging our kids to keep at it and introducing them to games and techniques to perfect their skills! Sampson has brains to go with his brawn, finishing in the top 5% of his class with rigorous Honors and AP classes throughout his academic career.



# Chapter Stories

## HOLLA!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Jr. Chef Academy at HOLLA!, a free summer camp offering youth in our community a unique and engaging opportunity to expand their culinary skills and knowledge. This program kicked off in June and will continue throughout the year, aiming to create a fun and educational environment where participants learn the basic techniques needed to prepare quick and delicious meals.



## James Lewis Education & Tennis Foundation

The James Lewis Education and Tennis Foundation awarded two tennis scholarships to Madison Sullen (top picture-\$500) and Ranidi Nagodawithana (bottom picture-\$700) on Monday, 2/19/24. Felicia Johnson, Scholarship Chairperson, awarded the scholarships. Congratulations to Madison and Ranidi who are both honor students!!



## Chapter Stories

### Margaret Allen Middle School

The Margaret Allen Middle School NJTL in Nashville, Tennessee is annually the most popular after-school program despite the fact that it runs all of its programming out of the school's bus lane. Even so, we still want our kids to dream big, and we all know that tennis can open many doors. This past school year (2023-2024), we trained 6 kids to become ball kids for a real tennis match. The learning process was not easy because we do not have tennis courts at our school, so we did much of our primary training in the hallways, classrooms, and the gym. Once we knew we were ready to take the next step and practice for real tennis players, we managed to try it out on some local tennis courts in the area a few times. After training from November to March, we traveled to Atlanta, Georgia during our Spring Break, and the kids participated as official ball kids for a division 1 college tennis match at Georgia Tech vs Virginia Tech. It was an incredible experience these kids will never forget. We hope to be able to do it again in the 2024-2025 school year.



### NC Tennis Foundation

Ebony Racquet Club NJTL was this year's host to 67 youth participants, ages 3-18, from seven North Carolina NJTLs. The NC Tennis Foundation NJTL Tennis & Enrichment Camp consisted of tennis clinics, match play, parent drills, and more!



## Chapter Stories

### Friends of Battlefield Park Foundation, Inc

Meet our NJTL Apprentice Camila Barragan. Camila is a sophomore in college. She is from Venezuela. Camila has been a great asset to our NJTL. Over the summer Camila has given lessons to our 10&under players, she helped our high school players work on and improve their games, served as a monitor for a Level 5 jr. tennis tournament, and helped organize a family red ball tennis event. Our juniors and parents loved her. Camila's passion for the game was obvious. She was fun, energetic, and knowledgeable of the game.



### Tennis Memphis

Tennis Memphis hosted their annual NJTL Summer Camp at our five tennis centers across the city of Memphis. We served 515 of our city's youth. We were able to award \$51,000 in scholarship funds to those in need and 100% of the children on government assistance attended for free.



**USTA Foundation Program Grant**

# **20 Southern NJTL Chapters Receive \$428,000 in USTA Foundation Funding**

**Recipients are listed in alphabetical order**

A's & Aces (La.)

Above the Net (Ga.)

Atlanta Youth Tennis & Education Foundation (Ga.)

Birmingham Area Tennis Association (Ala.)

Boys & Girls Club of Central Arkansas (Ark.)

Columbus Regional Tennis Association, INC (Ga.)

DD&J Junior Tennis Foundation (S.C)

Excite All Stars (La.)

Family Biz Builder (Miss.)

Golden Triangle Tennis (Miss.)

GTP Foundation (N.C)

Kimberley Park Tennis Association (N.C)

MACH Academy, Inc (Ga.)

Northwest Louisiana Community Tennis Association (La.)

Raleigh Tennis Association (N.C)

Ron James Youth Tennis Program (S.C)

South Atlanta CTA (Ga.)

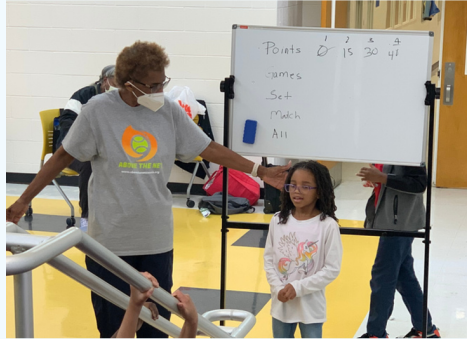
Tennis Memphis Inc (Tenn.)

United Tennis Organization (N.C)

Youth Development Association (Ala.)

## NJTL Spotlight

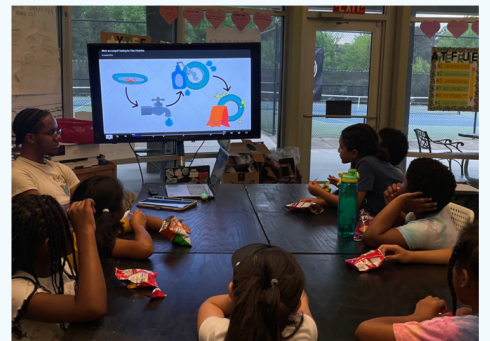
### Above the Net



### Ace 2 Deuce CTA



### Atlanta Youth Tennis & Education Foundation



## NJTL Spotlight

### Chattanooga NJTL



### DD&J Junior Tennis Foundation



### Edmonds Tennis & Education Foundation



## NJTL Spotlight

### Family Biz Builder



### Friends of Battlefield Park NJTL



### Get a Grip Tennis Association, Inc.



## NJTL Spotlight

### Harrison Street Serves



### James Lewis Education and Tennis Foundation



### Northwest Louisiana CTA



## NJTL Spotlight

### NJTL of Baton Rouge



### Ron James Youth Tennis Program



### Small is the New Big



## NJTL Spotlight

### South Atlanta CTA



### St. George Youth Sports League



### Tennis Memphis



# NJTL Spotlight

## United Tennis Organization



## Youth Development Association



# Treasured Memories from the Final Atlanta Open



## News & Announcements

### USTA Foundation Scholarship Winners

#### Eve Kraft Education & College Scholarship - \$20,000

Marie Thomas-Quick - South Atlanta CTA  
Xiomara Clarke - Rising Stars Tennis Association

#### Nora McNeely Hurley Leadership Award - \$20,000 to \$40,000

Naomi Blanks - South Atlanta CTA  
Alexandra Turnbough - Get a Grip Tennis Assoc.  
Kennedy Echere - MACH Academy  
William David Billions - Youth Development Assoc.

#### Frances Tiafoe Scholarship Award - \$40,000

Chase Coleman - South Atlanta CTA

#### Donald Lawson Tisdell College Scholarship - \$15,000

Maasiai Sales - South Atlanta CTA

### Approaching Events & Opportunities

#### Impact Conference - October 27-30, 2024

- [Registration Link](#)

#### HBCU Recruiting Showcase - September 21, 2024

- [www.hbcutennis.com](http://www.hbcutennis.com)

#### Program Grants

- [Application opens December 16, 2024](#)

#### Southern Tennis Foundation Scholarship

- [Application opens in February 2025](#)

#### Blueprint for Success Graduation

- [September 23-24, 2024](#)

#### Lights on Afterschool

- [October 24, 2024](#)

#### NJTL Apprenticeship Grant

- [Application opens in Spring 2025](#)

## USTA SOUTHERN 2024 NJTL Essay Contest winners

QUESTION: Who is your GOAT?



MAASIAI SALES  
GEORGIA  
NATIONAL WINNER

KRISTOFER GLASON  
ARKANSAS  
NATIONAL WINNER



MARLEY BELLE  
ALABAMA



QUINN GIPSON  
LOUISIANA



KAYAN GOLPARVAR  
KENTUCKY



MAGGIE HACKNEY  
TENNESSEE



BARUNI JAKKULA  
MISSISSIPPI



EMELY MUNOZ  
NORTH CAROLINA



MORGAN WOODSON  
GEORGIA/SOUTH CAROLINA