

Peninsula Bridge Connections

dream · believe · achieve

Volume 8, Issue 2

Summer 2011



Jamie Wang

2011 Board Member

Jamie Wang is one of our newest Board members. She and her



husband Joe just celebrated their 30-year anniversary! They have 3 children: Justin a sophomore at Menlo School, and twins Kerry (daughter) and Alex (son) who graduated from college in 2010 and are both currently working as engineers here in Silicon Valley. Jamie's non-profit focus is on education and under-served youth. She was one of the first members of Silicon Valley Social Venture Fund (SV2) when it began in 1998. In addition to Bridge's board, Jamie is also on the Board of Downtown College Prep and Kids in Common. We are very excited to have Jamie on our team!

Save the Date!

New Beginnings

2011 Bridge Breakfast

Date: Thursday, October 20th

Time: 7:30 - 8:30 am

Location: Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club

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New Beginnings

by Grainger Marburg,
Executive Director

When I joined Peninsula Bridge in 2005, I had little more than a slim idea of what I was getting myself into and how much the organization would change me. I wanted to change the lives of middle school students from under-resourced schools and communities. I wasn't interested in how much I would change. It wasn't about me. Now, a little over six years later, I am a changed man. What I was hoping I could do for



our students has happened to me. It's been a good journey. The organization supports over 70% more students than we did in 2005. We have grown to seven program sites from four, and have plans to increase to ten sites in the next two years. We have a strong brand – something that truly reflects who we are and what we do. Most importantly, though, is the legacy we are creating for our students and their families. Over 5,000 students have enrolled in Bridge since our first summer program in 1990, and each year we learn more about the adventures and successes of our alumni and the difference we have made in their lives. It's an amazing testament to the work of Peninsula Bridge.

It is now time for me to say goodbye. I am ready to accept new and different challenges so that I can embody Bridge's tagline (i.e., dream, believe, achieve) and continue growing professionally and personally. I have the rare luxury of leaving when things are thriving and the organization is poised for even more success in the upcoming years. It is a good time to make my exit, and thank the many stakeholders and friends for making my experience so rich and rewarding. I am deeply grateful for the support of my board and staff; they have been true partners, colleagues, and friends. I also owe a lot of thanks to our public and independent school partners, especially to the school heads who have made our partnership so productive. My successor, Deirdre Marlowe, is now on board. Please welcome her to the Bridge family when you have a chance. You will learn more about her in the upcoming months as she acclimates to her position and reaches out to the Bridge community.

The past six years have been an extraordinary experience, and I am both excited and sad about leaving an organization that has been so generous to me over the years. It is hard to find the right words, so I will resort to quoting one of history's most gifted playwrights, Shakespeare, instead:

Good night, good night!

Parting is such sweet sorrow,

That I shall say good night till it be morrow.

Thank you, Peninsula Bridge!

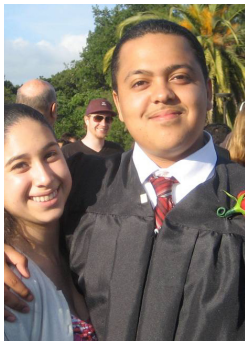


The mission of Peninsula Bridge is to promote academic and personal success for middle school students from under-resourced communities.

Congratulations to the Class of 2011 Graduates!

This year's high school class of 2011 included nearly 80 Peninsula Bridge alumni who completed our program during the summer of 2006.

We wish all of these graduates the best of luck as they move on to new challenges! Here are a few alumni updates:



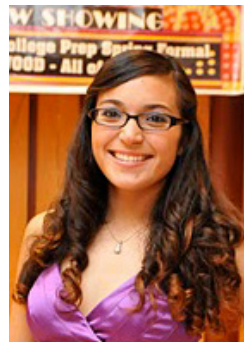
Danny Mendoza



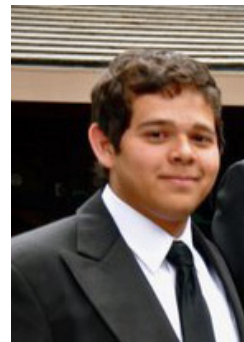
Diana Carbajal



Mafileo Tupou



Kassandra Avelar



Arturo Ferrari



Korrine Nickings (left)

Danny Mendoza will attend Santa Clara University. Diana Carbajal, currently working as a Bridge TA, will be attending U.C. Davis. Mafileo Tupou is heading to DePauw University in Indiana. Cassandra Avelar will be attending Cal State East Bay and studying Criminal Justice Administration and Biology. Arturo Ferrari is heading to Stanford and plans to study music and sociology. Korrine Nickings, who performed during our 2010 Bridge Breakfast, plans to attend Cal State East Bay to study child psychology.

Bridging the Gap

By Beau Nichols, St. Matthew's TA

Going into Bridge, I thought I wanted to be involved in the program to help young students along the path of their educational careers. I started by teaching new strategies in mathematics for the soon-to-be-fifth-graders nervous about adding and subtracting fractions. It wasn't long before I realized that Bridge is about so much more than what happens in the classroom. Every kid here looks up to every one of his or her TAs. Whether we're playing a silly game at 8:00 am, disussing the philosophical weight of a novel, illustrating our own short-story creations, or running around capturing flags under the hot afternoon sun- they look at us with open eyes and open hearts. I expected this to some degree--that's what I thought was so special about the TA position. However, I don't think I could say that I expected to be looking up to these kids in the same way they look up to us. They participate in every activity with a genuine excitement that inspires me to stretch to new levels of enthusiasm.



For Wednesday's afternoon Enrichment activity, the TAs set up what we thought was a cool way to cool off: Sponge Tag. This was perhaps the best embodiment of what I've learned in this first week of Bridge. In watching them run around soaked and smiling, it became undeniably clear that these kids are really sponges themselves- ready to soak up all the knowledge, creativity, and passion that we can submerge them in.

Creative Corporations

Supporting the Bridge Mission

The Peninsula Bridge Program continues to benefit from creative corporations who assist us in our mission to provide academic and personal success for motivated middle school students from under-resourced communities. Here are some examples:

Whole Foods – for 2 months patrons who brought their own bags to Whole Foods could choose to donate their 5 cents credit to charity. We received over \$500 through this program.

Genentech, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati, DPR Construction, NPR – California Report, and Google hosted our students for Career Day. Our students got an inside view of each company and learned about jobs which may spark interest in a future career.

Conceptus – once again the Conceptus Giving Board helped us collect supplies for our summer program. We received over \$1,000 worth of supplies.

DPR Construction – DPR employees were back again this year teaching bridge building to our students. What a fun way to see the connection between math and engineering!



Thank you to the following foundations and corporations for supporting Peninsula Bridge:

Foundations: Atkinson Foundation · DPR Foundation · Koret Foundation · Leslie Family Foundation · Morgan Family Foundation · David & Lucille Packard Foundation · Sand Hill Foundation · Silicon Valley Community Foundation · Sobrato Foundation · SV2 · TOSA Foundation · Westly Foundation · YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula
Corporations: Borel Private Bank and Trust · Cisco · Comerica Bank · Conceptus · eBay Foundation · Genentech · Intel · Lockheed Martin Foundation · Microsoft · Morrison and Foerster · Robert Half International · Sparkfactor Design · SanDisk · Shutterfly