

AUDREY'S SOCIETY WHIRL



By Audrey J. Bernard
Lifestyles & Society Editor

At 20, tennis champion and humanitarian Arthur Ashe became the first Black player ever selected to the US Davis Cup team. He went on to win many notable matches and used his awesome talents and celebrity to raise awareness about issues that impact us all as we try to ensure a civil society for generations to come. Twenty years ago, the tennis great established the acclaimed Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health (AAIUH) after learning that a disproportionate number of poor children and adults die each year of preventable diseases such as AIDS, cancer and diabetes.

Ashe knew that many of these diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension, are the result of inadequate health care delivery, late detection and insufficient health education. Ashe passed away in 1993 and would be so proud of how AAIUH remains committed to his legacy.

Two decades later, the non-profit organization provides health education in non-traditional settings to reach the most vulnerable people through its Health Science Academy that enables gifted low-income high school students to ultimately pursue careers in medicine and science by providing them with advanced courses. AAIUH also offers training in urban medicine and the allied health disciplines in conjunction with SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

Ashe left his esteemed organization in amazing hands with a strong A-Team currently led by Edgar O. Mandeville, MD, chairman, AAIUH and Ruth C. Browne, Sc.D, chief executive officer, AAIUH, who keep hitting aces on his behalf.

"At 20, our two decades of experience in what works guides us in staying both true to our founder's values and responsive to rapidly changing conditions. With our partners, we will carry on Arthur's vision, continuing to assess where we are, what we have, and what we can do to address health inequity in the world that faces us now," stated Drs. Mandeville and Browne in a joint statement.

On Thursday, April 12, 2012, AAIUH celebrated the 18th annual Sportsball gala at Pier Sixty/Chelsea Piers in New York City to honor the legacy of Ashe that was attended by renowned guests representing sports, music, entertain-

18th Annual Gala

Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health host *Sportsball* party for a purpose



(front) Mike Lupia, Dr. Morrell M. Avram, Marty Markowitz, Cheryl Wills (back) Frank Cooper III, Lorna Hawthorne, Lowell Fitzgerald Hawthorne, O.D., LLD (hon), Gail Marquis, Ruth C. Browne, Sc.D



AAIUH Health Science Academy class of 2012 with George Hulse and State Senator Kevin Parker



Sharon Lopez-Rhoden, David Banks, Adriane Lopez, Yvette Miller



Mike Lupica, George Martin, Patrick McEnroe



Macy's Ty Stone-Adams



Cal Ramsey, Hon. David N. Dinkins



Harriette Mandeville, Mike Lupica Dr. Edgar O. Mandeville



Harriette Mandeville, Anucha Browne-Sanders, Ruth C. Browne, Sc.D



Dr. Edgar O. Mandeville, Cheryl Wills, Harriette Mandeville



Isiah, Whitcock Jr., Cynthia Horner-Harris



Gail Marquis, Barbara J. Harris, Joyce Dinkins, Audrey Smaltz



Ruth Hunt, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, Debra Carey, Dr. Ruth C. Browne, Sc.D., Ruth & George Hulse

ment, and medicine. Funds raised at the black tie gala support the Institute's innovative community health education programs and research initiatives.

Themed "a party with a purpose," the signature event that raised funds for the organization kicked off with a celebrity press conference and VIP reception for premier sponsors followed by a cocktail reception, silent auction and games. The evening culminated in a dinner and awards program, dancing and entertainment.

After a rousing meditation from Rev. Dr. Paul Smith, guests dined on greenmarket shrimp salad (lemon rosemary grilled shrimp & field greens, colorful mosaics of beets, fennel, tomatoes, radishes & haricots verts); and grilled steakhouse tournedo of beef topped with caramelized onions & frizzled yams, mustard sauce,

sweet roast garlic smashed potatoes, tarragon creamed spinach and premium libations.

Each year AAIUH honors individuals and organizations that are making significant contributions to urban communities in the areas of health, education, medical research, community service, and philanthropy.

Following cheerful greetings from Drs. Mandeville and Browne, awards were presented to: Dr. Morrell M. Avram, chief, division of nephrology at Long Island College Hospital & professor of medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center (community outreach); Frank Cooper III, senior vice president & chief consumer engagement officer, PepsiCo America Beverages (leadership).

Gordon A. Smith, executive director & chief operating officer, United States Tennis Association

(USTA) presented USTA scholarship awards to Lorna & Lowell Hawthorne, executive team, Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery & Grill; and Mike Lupica, sports columnist, *The New York Daily News*.

2012 marks the 40th anniversary of the Title IX Educational Amendment, a groundbreaking law that requires gender equity for boys and girls in every educational program, including athletics that receives federal funding. AAIUH was proud to present its first Title IX recognition award to Gail Marquis, Olympian and NYC Basketball Hall of Fame inductee.

Another highlight of the stellar program was the perennial favorite celebrity roll call and the Health Science Academy alumni class of 2012 by Dr. John C. Larosa. Patrick McEnroe, general

manager, USTA Player Development & ESPN commentator served as reception host while William C. Rhoden, sports columnist, *The New York Times* and author and New York 1 News anchor & author Cheryl Wills served as dinner hosts.

The 2012 Sportsball came to a winning end with dessert and dancing and the presentation of deluxe gift bags with a complimentary pair of athletic footwear to each guest. Kudos to Wanda Mann, founder & editor-in-chief, *The Black Dress Traveler*, who executive produced the show assisted by producer LeeAnn Hicks. AAIUH extends heartfelt appreciation to its sponsors, vice chairs and honorary chairs as well as Macy's Ty Stone-Adams for assisting in gathering the fabulous silent auction garb.

(Photos by Audrey J. Bernard, Kenthephotographer, Peter Cooper, and Seitu Oronde)