

# THE PETER WESTBROOK FOUNDATION



Transforming Children's Lives through  
the Sport of Fencing



*The Peter Westbrook Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that utilizes the sport of fencing as a vehicle to develop life skills in young people from underserved communities.*



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# EXECUTIVE LETTER



*“THE OLYMPICS PROVIDE A PERFECT TEACHING OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE SOME OF OUR MOST CHERISHED VALUES.”*

Every Olympics I'm reminded of how great a privilege it is to lead this great organization. At the PWF we believe that it is not competing at the Olympic Games themselves but rather the stories behind each athlete's journey to qualify -- the triumphs, the breakthroughs and even the bitter disappointments that give the Olympics special meaning and value.

The Olympics provide a perfect teaching opportunity to reinforce some of our most cherished values. For example, every one of our elite athletes vying for a spot on Team USA stays closely involved with our youth programs. Our students, many of them as young as 8, get to share in the experience first-hand with our Olympic hopefuls. They learn valuable lessons about delayed gratification and what it looks like to truly prepare for a major goal. They understand what it feels like to work with determination towards a goal even if success is not guaranteed. They learn in the most profound and personal ways how to be gracious in victory and defeat and how to remain true to themselves, whether they experience spectacular success and accolades or devastating loss and disappointment.

Needless to say, they also learn that they are themselves capable of achieving great things and overcoming great obstacles. The proof is right in front of them as they are able to see, talk to and learn from people who, just a few years ago, were in the same position as they are now.

This was particularly noteworthy in the case of Ibtihaj Muhammad, Nzingha Prescod and Ben Bratton – all three are long time PWF athletes. Ibtihaj made history this year by being the first American woman to compete in a hijab at the Olympics.

Along the way, she became an inspiration not just to the younger students in our program (several of them observant Muslim girls), but to people from a variety of backgrounds all around the world who were drawn to her story.

Nzingha Prescod is equally inspiring. The Rio Games marked her second Olympic team before age 25. Last season, Nzingha became the first African-American woman to win an individual medal at the Senior World Championships.

Ben Bratton, unfortunately, just missed making the 2016 Olympic team. Yet, in spite of his pain and disappointment, he agreed to go to Rio as a non-Olympian training partner for that athlete who beat him out for the spot, simply because it was right thing to do.

This is what the PWF community is all about: growing together and learning how to be our best selves. I thank you for being a part of our journey.



**Peter Westbrook**  
**Founder & CEO**

# PROGRAM GOALS

The primary objectives of the year-round program are to help young people to:

- Equip themselves with the life skills that enable them to take control of their futures
- Strive for academic excellence
- Develop leadership skills
- Build self-confidence
- Gain exposure to people from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds
- Learn about healthy living
- Develop their sense of civic duty and community service
- Foster a sense of community inspired by a common love of fencing

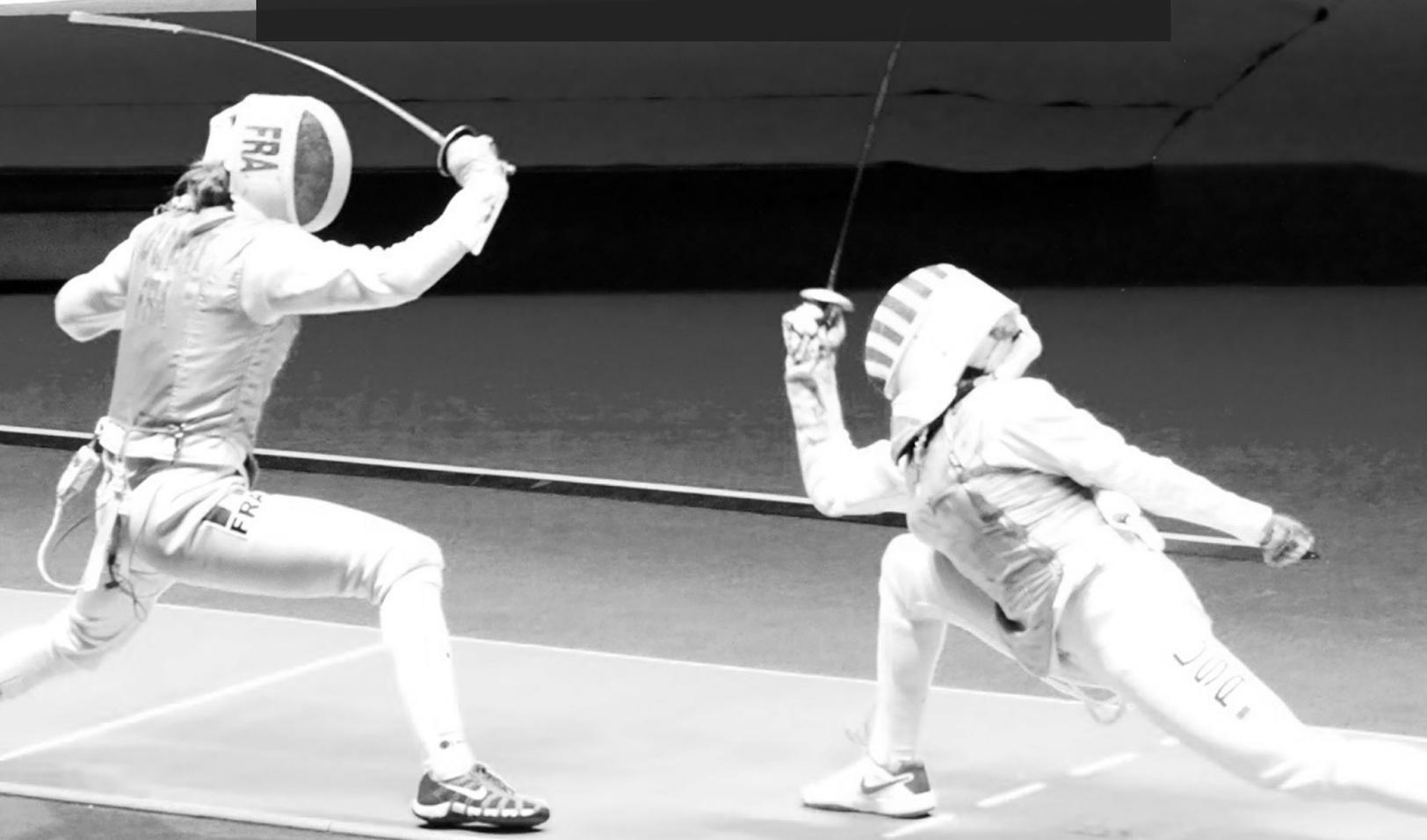
Fencing is an ideal educational tool, because it promotes the development of integrity, honorable personal conduct, patience and respect for others.

Above all, fencing promotes intellectual growth and maturity because it challenges the individual to think both tactically and strategically to solve problems and overcome obstacles.





*Ibtisam Muhammad (above left) and Nzingha Prescod (below right) represented Team USA and the PWF at the 2016 Rio Olympics*



# PWF PROGRAMS

Girls and boys between the ages of 8 and 18 are eligible for the program. Currently, most participants are residents of underserved communities and from single-parent households within the five boroughs of New York City, Long Island, Westchester County and New Jersey. Approximately 85% of our participants are African-American and Latino youth, with the remaining 15% of Asian and Caucasian descent.



## Saturday Fencing Program

The Saturday Fencing Program (SFP) is the cornerstone of all the PWF programs. It includes basic and advanced fencing instruction as well as academic programs. Enrollment is open to anyone between the ages of 8 and 18 on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Classes are held every Saturday from 9:00 am to noon. The PWF provides all necessary equipment, and prior skills are not required or expected. Saturday Fencing provides a thorough grounding in the fundamentals of the sport for beginners, and an opportunity for developing fencers to hone their skills before entering the world of competitive fencing. We place students into age- and skills-appropriate groups where, in addition to building an understanding of proper fencing technique, footwork and swordplay, they are expected to provide peer-to-peer feedback and support. The teaching staff includes current and future PWF Olympians, national champions and national team members. Each session begins with a rigorous group warm-up that includes aerobic and fencing-specific exercises, followed by group and individual training with the students' weapons of choice.

The PWF believes in taking a holistic approach to youth development. In addition to offering a first-class athletic experience, our staff serve as mentors for our students, and offer guidance on areas varying from health to academic and career development. We regularly invite prominent guest speakers to share their knowledge and strategies for success. In the past, we've had professionals from all walks of life participate, including music moguls, elected officials and Hollywood actors and tech entrepreneurs.

The SFP emphasis on excellence creates positive effects that also influence academic performance. While our Academic Enrichment Program (AEP) involves a targeted group of participants, the PWF also collects a copy of the year-end and first-semester report cards for all participants in the SFP. This allows us to identify students who could benefit from AEP as well as those students whose academic standing makes them potential candidates for scholarship and internship programs available to PWF members.

Each year our analysis shows participation in just the Saturday program alone can positively influence students' academic performance. This is especially so with students who are struggling with below-average grades. In fact a majority of students with grades of B- or lower see their grades go up after one season in the PWF. More importantly, once they achieve those gains they maintain them. Fewer than 5% of students in the PWF see their grades decline.

Every year the PWF grows in popularity, with Olympic years witnessing the biggest uptick in interest. This year we've enrolled 234 students in the program while the waitlist has ballooned to 225 students. The planned move to new facilities in 2018 will allow us to accommodate many more students in the Saturday program.

## Competitive Athlete Program

An elite squad of approximately 40 athletes showing remarkable talent and motivation are selected for our Competitive Athlete Program. Athletes train year-round in this program and adopt a professional training regimen of four to six days per week, which is designed to prepare them for domestic and international competitions. All participants in the program receive scholarships to defray the costs of fencing club memberships, coaching, competition fees and equipment.

The athletes are required to attend monthly meetings with the training staff and a summer training camp, maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average, as well as volunteer their time to mentor younger fencers in the Saturday Fencing Program.

Athletes are trained by the Foundation's international roster of coaches -- Olympians and instructors with extensive competitive and athlete development experience. Each coach acts as a mentor by monitoring each student's academic performance to ensure that athletes are balancing their responsibilities to study as hard in school as they train in the fencing gym. Coaches also chaperone athletes during trips to domestic and international competitions, often acting as motivators, cheerleaders, friends and counselors to their students.

Our Competitive Athlete Program has become internationally recognized for producing some of the world's best fencers. In the span of one generation, the PWF's After School Leadership Program has morphed from a concept to a program known for producing several NCAA Champions, National Champions, World Champions, Olympians and Olympic medalists. This year we had two athletes from the program, Nzingha Prescod and Ibtihaj Muhammad, compete at the Olympic games.



## Academic Enrichment Program

The Academic Enrichment Program (AEP) addresses the educational needs of our students by providing a variety of programs and services, including standardized test preparation workshops, literacy skill building, educational counseling and one-on-one tutoring. AEP runs annually from October through June to align with the academic year. Programming takes place three Saturdays a month, allowing students to receive support in "real time," maximizing the impact additional tutoring and test preparation have on their current academic efforts. In 2015-2016, PWF provided more than 100 hours of academic support.

The AEP is a metrics-driven program. Shortly after enrollment, an AEP educator determines the support needs of each new participant through an academic evaluation, reviewing the student's report card from the prior school term and administering a pre-assessment test. The evaluation is based on the current state standards and curriculum, and is organized by grade level. Subsequently, an academic improvement plan is created in conjunction with the student, the parent/guardian and the AEP team. In order to determine a student's progress, parents/guardians must submit all report cards, class exams and teacher reports immediately after they are issued. In turn, AEP educators submit session reports and monthly recaps noting student progression.

The AEP team takes great pride in the depth and quality of our SAT, PSAT and SHSAT preparation courses. Our results illustrate their effectiveness as students overwhelmingly experienced significant improvements in their test scores:

- Of students participating in the PSAT prep, 100% increased their scores by 14 points or more
- For the SAT, 100% of students increased by 20 points or more
- For the SHSAT students, 80% increased by 5 points or more.

2015-2016 classes were led by a Kaplan®-trained instructor. For many PWF families, the cost of comparable test-preparation services would be prohibitive. Without AEP, talented, capable students would be excluded from the academic possibilities tied to strong test scores.

Participation in the AEP continues annually to exceed capacity. For the 2015-2016 school year, total enrollment reached 81 students, with 25% attending regularly. While participation is a strong indicator that parents and students find great value in the program, the academic outcomes also bear out the necessity of these services. Most AEP students enter the program with a B or better average and overwhelmingly use the service to maintain or improve their performance:

- 78% of the students were able to maintain or increase their GPAs
- Of those who entered with a B- or lower average, 50% saw an increase in their GPAs
- 100% of AEP students showed improvement in the subject areas in which they received the most intensive tutoring.

At the end of the season, students complete a post-assessment test. This past year, 81% of those participating in both assessments saw improved scores.

Our unique approach of combining the art of fencing with academic enrichment gives underserved, minority youth the tools and support they need to achieve future success.

A few of the institutions where the PWF has helped students secure scholarships for athletes include:

### Independent Schools

The Dwight School  
Fieldston Academy  
Horace Mann School  
The Lawrenceville School  
Riverdale Country Day School  
St. Benedict's Academy  
St. Hilda's & St. Hugh's School  
York Academy

### Colleges and Universities

Barnard College  
City University of New York  
Columbia University  
Duke University  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
Johns Hopkins University  
Lawrence University  
MIT  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
NYU  
Northwestern University  
Ohio State University  
Penn State University  
Princeton University  
Rutgers University  
Sacred Heart College  
St. John's University  
State University of New York  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
Temple University  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pennsylvania  
Wayne State University  
Yale University

### PWF Scholarships

#### *Academic Scholarship Award*

Given each year to two college-bound students in excellent academic standing.

#### *Positive Youth Award*

Given each year to a youth that epitomizes great citizenship in the PWF program and in our communities.



The PWF's 2016 class of college bound fencers.

# ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

## Kamali Thompson, MBA, MD candidate 2018 now preparing for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

Kamali Thompson was only 12 when she joined her school fencing team. At that point, fencing was only an extracurricular activity to the New Jersey native, but Kamali's emerging gifts were readily apparent. Her school coach soon noticed.

"Once she saw how seriously I was taking practice, my school coach recommended I go to the Peter Westbrook Foundation," said Thompson as she reflected on her early fencing career. "Her daughter was on the national team for epee and she was very familiar with Peter. She thought it would be the right place for me to excel."

Kamali made the trip to Manhattan to visit the Peter Westbrook Foundation for their legendary Saturday morning practices. The trip opened her eyes to the fencing world beyond anything she had previously experienced.

"When I went to high school fencing meets, there wasn't much diversity," said Thompson as she remembered her introduction to the Peter Westbrook Foundation. "The foundation was exactly the opposite. I couldn't believe how many Olympians were in the room and how talented everyone my age was. I had mixed feelings because I was excited to get better, but I was also slightly embarrassed because I could tell how inexperienced I was just from watching a couple of bouts."

It wasn't long before Kamali could catch up with the pace of the other students and even surpass their skills. Even Peter Westbrook, founder of the PWF, took notice of Kamali's growing talent. Westbrook pulled Thompson aside to suggest that she should begin transitioning into the PWF's Competitive Athletic Program, an opportunity that gives the PWF's elite students the chance to train with world class coaches and competitors. Kamali jumped at the opportunity, and began to commute from New Jersey to Manhattan by bus to practice and take private lessons with some of the world's best fencers.

As she continued to progress as an athlete, Kamali was eventually recruited to attend Temple University where she was a two-time student athlete of the year, completing her career as an NCAA All-American. Adding to her list of remarkable achievements, Thompson recently received her MBA and is a medical student at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Kamali cites the skills that she learned as a competitor that helped her reach such milestones.

"Fencing was beneficial during my application process to medical school and business school," she says. "Through fencing, I've had many cultural and leadership experiences other students don't share, which makes me appear well-rounded."

Now Thompson has her eyes set on taking the fencing world by storm by representing the United States at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Kamali ended her campaign for a spot for the 2016 Olympic Games in 6th place – only two spots away from qualification – but rebounded when she claimed her first National Championship title less than two weeks later. She would describe the moment as her "proudest achievement."

Amid all her accomplishments on and off the fencing strip, Kamali still finds time to give back to the Peter Westbrook Foundation. Thankful for the trajectory that has taken her around the world, and given her academic and personal growth, she arrives every Saturday to help and inspire students that are now where she was as a young girl.

Why does she do it? "All of my experiences with fencing have added to my personal growth and I want to encourage other kids to fence and gain the same skills," she says. "I'm proud to be part of an organization that is exposing children to a sport they would not have experienced otherwise."

***Kamali  
Thompson,  
near left,  
with her  
brother and  
elite PWF  
junior fencer,  
Khalil***



# COMMUNITY CORNER



*Akhnaten Spencer-el, Nzingha Prescod and Ibtihaj Muhammad represented the PWF at the 2016 Rio Olympics*



## The PWF makes U.S. Olympic history at 2016 Rio Olympic Games

This past August marked the fifth straight Summer Olympics to have Peter Westbrook Foundation athletes representing the United States. During the Parade of Nations at the XXXI Olympiad, PWF Olympians Ibtihaj Muhammad and Nzingha Prescod had the honor of walking next to U.S. flag bearer and the world's most decorated Olympian, Michael Phelps.

For both Prescod and Muhammad, the Olympic qualifying season was a grueling series of international and national competitions, which tested their physical and mental abilities. Both PWF athletes faced numerous former Olympic and World Champions vying for a spot to represent their respective countries at the Rio Olympics. Muhammad was one of four U.S. athletes that qualified for the women's saber individual and team events. Prescod was one of two U.S. athletes to qualify for the women's foil individual event. Thus, both women achieved an amazing feat for so few Olympic spots.

Brooklyn native Nzingha Prescod started with the Peter Westbrook Foundation when she was 9 years old. Named after a 17th-century queen from Angola who protected her land, Prescod embodies the fierceness and strength of her namesake. Prescod had a phenomenal start to the qualifying season by winning the bronze medal at the 2015 Senior World Championships. Her result marked the first time an African-American woman won an individual medal at the Senior World Championships. Going into the Rio Games, Prescod was ranked 11th and solidly beat Michel Nataly (MEX) 15-9 in her first match. In the round of 16, she faced a tough French opponent, Astrid Guyart, and lost a close match, 14-11.

Next up for this two-time Olympian is an internship at Ernst & Young as a data analyst where she will put her undergraduate degree from Columbia University to to great use.

Ibtihaj Muhammad made her historic Olympic debut in Rio by becoming the first U.S. athlete to compete in a hijab at the Olympics. A native of Maplewood, NJ, Muhammad worked with PWF Olympic coach, Akhnaten Spencer-El to achieve American Olympic history. Muhammad was first introduced to the sport at the age of 13 and continued her fencing career throughout college at Duke University, where she received an academic scholarship.

Although Rio was her first Olympic games, Muhammad was a seasoned veteran on the U.S. National Team, having competed for the previous six years. Entering into the Rio Games, Muhammad was ranked number 12 in the world and ended up losing a tight match in the round of 16. Muhammad's loss in the individual event gave her the mental drive and focus to be a critical player in the Women's Sabre Team event. She became a crucial component of Team USA's bronze medal win against Italy, 45-30. Her bronze medal win has catapulted her into a public figure and she regularly speaks about her experiences as a female Muslim African-American athlete. Not surprisingly, Muhammad was named one of *Time* magazine's Most Influential People of 2016.

The PWF salutes Ibtihaj Muhammad and Nzingha Prescod for their success as outstanding athletes and role models for our future Olympians.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Essane Diedro

After seeing Peter Westbrook on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Essane Diedro came to her first Saturday morning class not knowing what to expect. What she found was a dynamic environment that thrilled her.

"It was definitely an exciting experience to see fencing live and in action my first time. I did not know that fencing would become a passion of mine, I just knew that I liked it but the passion for the sport grew very quickly," recalls Essane.

It wasn't long before Essane, together with her coaches, began to recognize her talent in the sport. She was promoted to the Competitive Athlete Program. This opportunity would open the door for Essane to see the world as one of the top female sabre fencers in the country.

"I was able to travel to many different cities across the country as well as all over the world. I saw places like Poland and Hungary as a Junior fencer where I won 6th place in my first international competition," she says. "I was able to travel to Brazil for the Rio 2016 Olympics because my closest friends were competing. That was a once-in-a-lifetime experience!"

With her fencing successes, Essane was recruited to attend Columbia University. There she represented the school on their Division 1 Fencing team and was named to the All-Ivy team two seasons in a row.

"PWF has taught me how to have tenacity and a positive outlook on things," Essane says. "I am always looking at the positive side of things, no matter how big or small the setbacks are, and I feel that PWF has taught me in many ways to never quit in the journey to reach your goals."

While Essane's fencing career has slowed down as she pursues her ambitious professional goals, she continues to carve out time as an active volunteer for the Peter Westbrook Foundation. She can be found every Saturday assisting with the beginner foil program and is invaluable in her efforts to coordinate other volunteers' schedules.

"I am driven to give back to the PWF by seeing the positive effect the programs have on the kids," says Essane. "My life would not be the same without fencing. My closest friends, who I consider my family, are all a part of the Foundation. PWF has literally made me the person I am today and gave me the yearning to see that same positive change in the children that I teach."



## PARENT SPOTLIGHT

### Jackie Palmer

Jackie Palmer is serving in the much needed, yet unofficial role of parent liaison for the PWF students and their families. For years this PWF parent has helped the Peter Westbrook Foundation tremendously. Throughout the past 25 years, she has been the one enabling the Foundation to successfully fulfill its mission, to improve lives of children through the sport of fencing.

Mother of Kristen and James, Jackie learned about the PWF from her best friend Harriet Boyce and her goddaughter, Alexandra. They were discussing this "wonderful" program that offered an academic program for a \$25 yearly fee. Jackie exclaimed, "An academic program for \$25 a year? Sign me up! I may not be familiar with fencing but I recognize a good deal." As an internal auditor, Jackie and her husband Brenton had to be patient but enrolled their daughter off the waitlist in January of 2011. Their son joined this past September.

There are many responsibilities in the PWF every week and throughout the year, and Jackie helps with all of these: the annual year-end celebration, weekly training sessions with foil, epee and sabre fencers, competitions for which athletes and coaches must prepare. It is not uncommon for other parents to receive an email from her alerting them that there is an upcoming competition somewhere in the country and that the coaches need the athletes to register.

Jackie planned and researched a new warm-up suit design, which the athletes now wear at competitions. She initiated a search for a PWF banner so that the athletes would know where to go in the early morning hours of a competition – their home away from home. During the year-end celebration, the Foundation showcases many of our athletes in both their fencing and non-fencing talents. We also have many outside acts and conclude the celebration with gift bags for the athletes. Jackie is one of several parents who are so helpful in organizing and distributing treats for the athletes, no easy task.

Like many of the PWF parents, Jackie has her hopes and dreams for her children. She is looking forward to the PWF academic program assisting her children on the path to college, maybe right here in New York, followed by a career of their choice "that they love so much that it doesn't feel like work." As a true fencing parent, a berth on an upcoming Olympic team is on her radar screen, perhaps even 2020 in Tokyo.



## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Bob Cottingham

Bob Cottingham will tell you that he has come a long way from his days as a member of the 1988 and 1992 U.S. Olympic Fencing Teams. The former National Champion retired from competitive fencing in 1993, but never truly left the sport.

As Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Peter Westbrook Foundation, he has been an integral part of our organization's success from its founding. His thoughtful discipline and stewardship have helped the PWF overcome various challenges over the years. Bob attained these skills from fencing.

After competing in the 1992 Olympics, Bob attended Rutgers University Law School. Soon after graduation, he became District Director to New Jersey Congressman Donald Payne. It was in the political arena that Bob would seriously hone the diverse set of skills that would later serve him so well as a leader of both the PWF and as President and Founder of Sabre88, a firm that provides strategic staffing to corporations and various government agencies. Sabre88 has been recognized as one of the fastest-growing inner city-owned businesses in New Jersey.

All of his success, both on and off the fencing strip, has never gone to Bob's head. His wife Alison, a psychology professor, ensures that, as do his two children, Bob and Alison. Both are following in their dad's footsteps academically and in the sport of fencing.

The work that Bob does to help young people live their best lives and achieve their dreams always keeps him grounded. Not just active in the PWF, he also finds time to mentor and conduct college tours for high school students. "To see all these young people challenge themselves to be the very best they can be, regardless of the obstacles they face, is a continuous source of admiration and humility," he says. "I'm inspired to do more because of their example."

The PWF is incredibly fortunate to have someone like Bob Cottingham as a leader of our organization. A pillar of the PWF and the community, Bob and his wise leadership have allowed the PWF to thrive. He will continue to be a driving force for the organization's future success.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Konate Primus

Konate Primus started fencing at the PWF when he was 12 years old. However, his rebelliousness and stubbornness made it difficult to stay out of trouble at school. So his parents issued an ultimatum: "Shape up in school or give up fencing." Unfortunately, he says, his stubbornness led to a five-year absence from the PWF. Konate finally returned to fencing at 17 and quickly picked up where he left off, eventually helping the PWF win back-to-back men's sabre team national titles in 2008 and 2009. Still, Konate says, he could have done much more had he understood how precious a commodity time is and how powerfully it can be to spend that time in an environment so devoted to high achievement and personal excellence.

Last season, Konate took on the newly created role of PWF Team Manager. While his overall goal is to continue the PWF legacy of athletic excellence, his passion is to give special attention to those athletes like himself who underutilize their gifts and the opportunities that the PWF provides. Konate is devoted to using his own life experiences to help the new crop of youngsters make the best decisions possible for themselves and their futures.

When asked what about the PWF appeals to him after so many years and why he eventually came back, he says it's the unique combination of extreme achievement and humility. "Most people only know Olympians from the media, but I have six on speed-dial...These are all super-accomplished people, both in fencing and in their professional lives. Never have I or anyone else that comes to the PWF ever been made to feel less than 100% equal. That's pretty remarkable."

Konate also knows a bit about professional achievements outside of fencing. Along with his two national fencing titles, he's an accomplished African dancer and drummer and has performed at major events such as The Brooklyn Academy of Music's Dance Africa Festival. In addition, Konate is the head fencing coach at Riverdale Country Day School.

The PWF family is fortunate to have Konate as a member of its full-time staff.



*In loving memory of Kamara James, PWF epee fencer and 2004 Olympian.*

# THE PWF HISTORY TRACKS U.S. OLYMPIC FENCING HISTORY

The Peter Westbrook Foundation (PWF) is an organization rich with Olympic history that began with the founder, and continues with board members, donors and friends. Peter founded the PWF in February 1991, at the suggestion of a friend to expose inner-city children to the sport of fencing. Peter started the program while training for his fifth Olympic team, having already become the first African-American to win an Olympic medal in the sport of fencing at the Los Angeles 1984 Games.

The early days of the organization looked very similar to the present day except that the PWF is now ten times as large. Westbrook recruited his teammates to donate their time, expertise and equipment to a dozen adolescents with dreams of competing at the Olympics. Early instructors included numerous Olympians and national team members including Olympian Mikail Sankofa and USA Fencing President Don Anthony. Those first sessions of the program were very small and included future PWF Olympians Keeth and Erinn Smart.

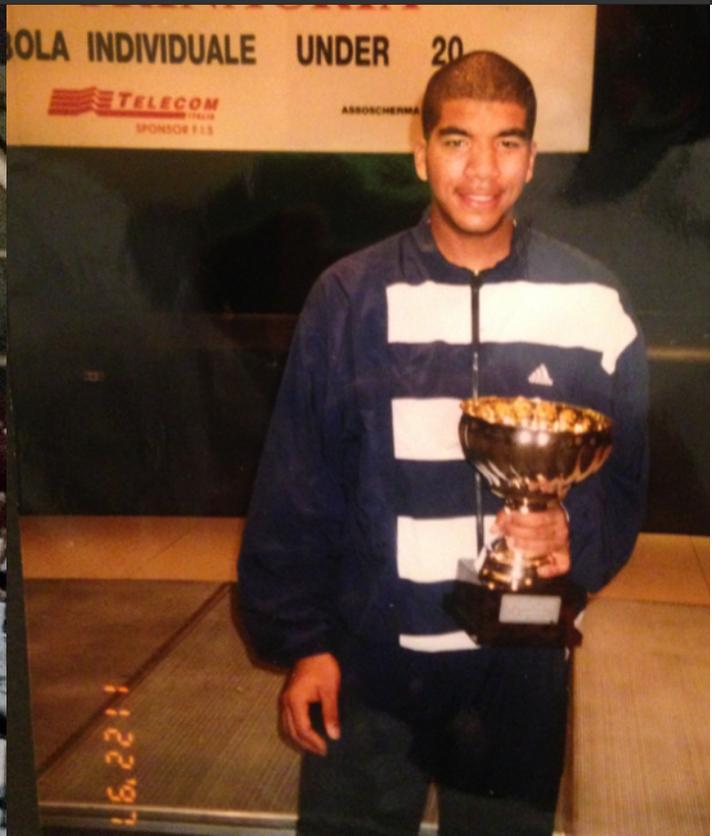
Over the years, Westbrook continued to balance growing the organization with his own schedule of competitions, which had an immeasurable effect on his athletes. In 1996, Westbrook ended his competitive career at the Atlanta Games and was selected for the honor of carrying the U.S. Olympic Flag during the Closing Ceremonies. Westbrook's career immediately inspired Akhnaten Spencer-El and the Smarts to focus on achieving their Olympic berths at the 2000 Sydney Games. Spencer-El and Keeth Smart were the only Americans to compete in the Men's Sabre event, while Erinn Smart was the alternate for the Women's Foil Team event.

The Sydney Games established the tradition of the PWF to send its athletes to represent Team USA at every subsequent Olympics. The 2004 Athens Games created a remarkable milestone for the PWF when it sent the most qualifying athletes (four) from a single fencing club. The late Kamara James was a fierce competitor and the only American to compete in Women's Epee. Keeth Smart and Ivan Lee were part of the dynamic Men's Sabre team that lost a close match to Russia for the bronze medal. Rounding out the PWF lot was Erinn Smart in the Women's Foil individual event. The Smarts continued to compete and both made history by winning Olympic Silver medals at the 2008 Beijing Games.

Nzingha Prescod would carry on the Olympic tradition by qualifying for the 2012 London and 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games. Ibtihaj Muhammad made her historic Olympic debut, as the first American to compete in a hijab, in 2016 competing alongside Prescod in Rio. Muhammad's success culminated with a bronze medal in the U.S. Women's Sabre Team event and she shared this moment with her PWF coach and Olympian Akhnaten Spencer-El.

The PWF's Olympic history also includes Chairman of the Board, Robert Cottingham Jr. who competed with Westbrook in the 1992 Barcelona Games. Additionally, board member Robert Dow competed in the 1972 Munich Games.

We look forward to the future success of our athletes and hope to continue this Olympic tradition at the 2020 Tokyo Games.





# ENDOWMENT FUND

In 2000, the PWF received the Oprah's Angel Network "Use Your Life Award," which included a grant of \$100,000. In 2001, \$60,000 of the award was used to start the Peter Westbrook Foundation Endowment Fund, with the remainder of the award spent on general programs. In 2004, the Foundation received \$1,000,000 from a generous philanthropist who wished to remain anonymous. In 2007, Board Member Bill Schreyer established a \$1.5 million matching grant endowment.

The financial goal for the Endowment is to raise \$15 million by 2018, to provide support for a number of program initiatives, including:

- **The Peter Westbrook Foundation Center** – An athletic training and academic learning center
- **Computer Lab** – An after-school program to improve student computer literacy skills
- **Standardized Test Preparation Courses** – A series of courses for the PSAT, SAT, Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) and the Secondary Schools Admissions Test (SSAT)
- **Career Guidance** – A mentorship program to prepare students for college and career.

At this level of endowment funding, the Foundation would be able to significantly enhance its existing programs and operations, while insulating itself and the programs from the impact of sharp decreases in philanthropic giving due to economic downturns.

The Foundation's Chief Executive Officer handles the Endowment Fund through Merrill Lynch Investment Corporation. Donations are tax-deductible and can be pledged over a period of time.

## Planned Giving

Today, more and more people are coordinating their financial, estate and gift planning. With thoughtful planning, you have the opportunity to make a greater impact with your giving to a quality not-for-profit organization such as the Peter Westbrook Foundation, and often enjoy increased financial and tax benefits as well. For example, through planned giving you may be able to supplement your retirement planning, avoid capital gains taxes, increase your spendable income and reduce or eliminate estate taxes.

In these and other ways, planned giving can become an important element in your overall individual asset planning for yourself and your family.

One of the key reasons that people give is to support their community. While many people give substantially, most wish they could do more.

There are a number of ways you can design your contributions to maximize the advantages both to you and the Peter Westbrook Foundation.

A simple, and often the easiest gift to make is a bequest. It doesn't require relinquishing anything during your lifetime, and it can be stated in a will, a codicil, a living trust or a trust amendment. The Foundation's office can provide you with the appropriate language for a bequest to our organization.

You can contribute a new or existing life insurance policy that is no longer needed. Donors naming the Peter Westbrook Foundation as both policy owner and beneficiary can claim an income tax deduction equal to either a) the cash value or the cost basis of an existing policy, whichever is less, or b) the annual premiums of a new policy.

Although many investors continue to expect volatility in the equity markets, individuals can look to their portfolios for purchases held seven years or longer. Many donors hold securities that have realized significant gains, which are assets well-suited to fund a charitable trust. In return, donors can receive tax-saving benefits and supplemental retirement income while helping to secure the future of our Foundation.

## Starting Your Planned Giving Process

*Why are you making a gift?*

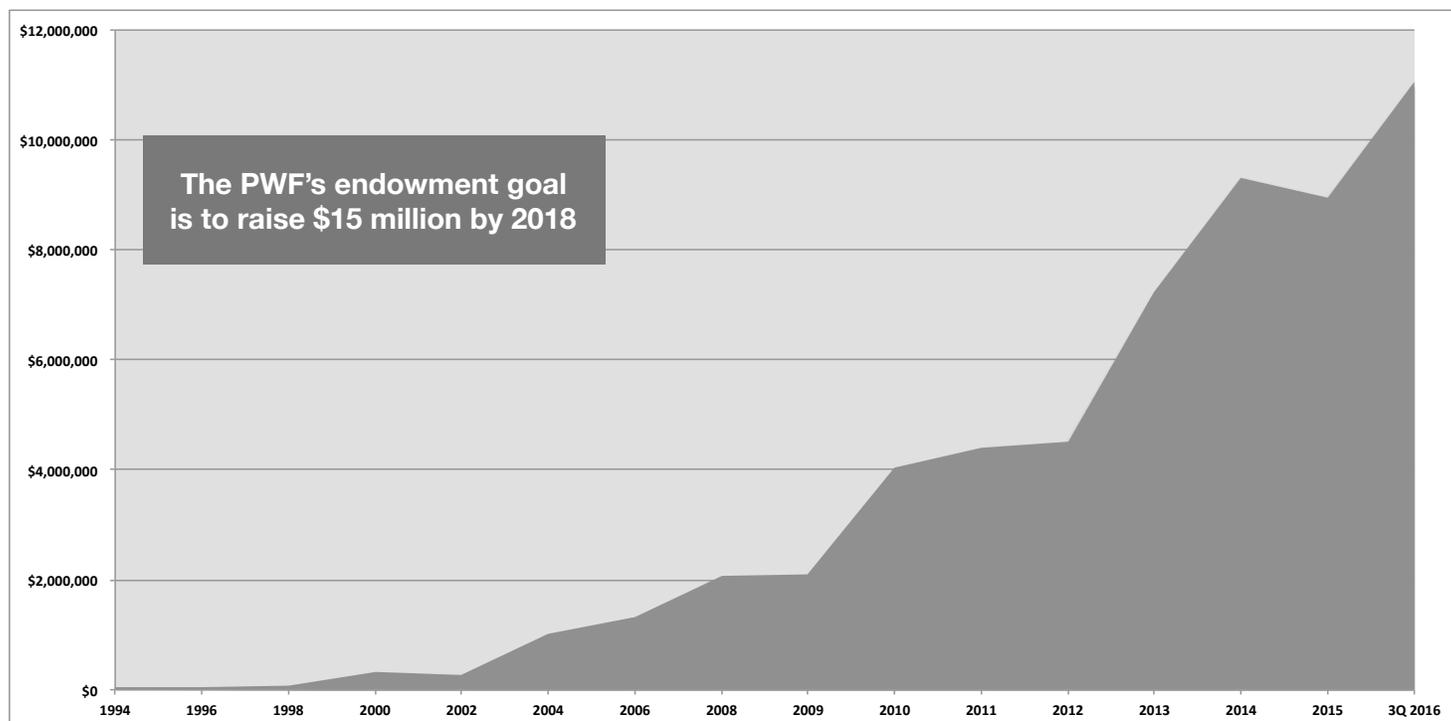
*Which gift method should you use?*

*What benefits do you anticipate by making the gift?*

These questions will help you define your planned giving goals. For more information about the Peter Westbrook Foundation Endowment Fund, please contact Mark Johnson at Merrill Lynch. He can be reached at (212) 415-7897 or by email at [mark\\_e\\_johnson@ml.com](mailto:mark_e_johnson@ml.com).



# Fundraising Accomplishments



## Statement of Activities - Fiscal Year End 2015

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUES:</b>				
Contributions and grants	\$ 336,282	\$1,545,030	\$ -	\$ 1,881,312
Net (depreciation) appreciation fair value of investments	(3,296)	5,787	(184,458)	(181,967)
Program fees and other income	15,200	-	-	15,200
Net assets released from restrictions	320,048	(365,808)	(208,821)	(254,581)
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	<b>668,234</b>	<b>1,185,009</b>	<b>(393,279)</b>	<b>1,459,964</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
Program services	427,709	-	-	427,709
Fundraising expenses	77,537	-	-	77,537
Management and general	99,836	-	-	99,836
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>605,082</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>605,082</b>
Change in Net Assets	63,152	1,185,009	(393,279)	854,882
Net assets at beginning of year	296,650	1,877,594	7,229,174	9,403,418
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 359,802</b>	<b>\$3,062,603</b>	<b>\$ 6,835,895</b>	<b>\$ 10,258,300</b>

79% of all contributions go directly to the programs that your dollars help support.

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PWF Founder & CEO

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The PWF has developed one of the country's best pipelines for creating amazing athletes and citizens!







Daxon Jones

Daxon Jones

JOHN'S  
ABSOLUTE  
Jones

Daxon Jones  
PROF







The Peter Westbrook Foundation is open to anyone aged 8 to 18 years old. Please visit the PWF on any Saturday to experience how we transform the lives of children through the sport of fencing.

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**PWF & Fencers Club**

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