

**NJSIAA School Tennis Coaches Workshop**  
**Princeton University, January 10, 2025**  
**Presenter Bios**

**Margit Bannon**

Bannon is a RSPA Elite Tennis Professional with over 25 years of coaching experience. She is on the USTA National Cardio Tennis Trainer Team, and in 2024 she demonstrated Cardio Tennis in Arthur Ashe Stadium during the U.S. Open Tennis Championships. Also, a Registered Yoga Teacher, Bannon offers specialty classes combining Cardio Tennis with yoga, helping tennis players with injury prevention, recovery and their mental game. Bannon teaches at her business Play Tennis. Practice Yoga. ® located in Punta Gorda, Florida.

**Mary Vecchiolla**

Vecchiolla has been employed by USTA Middle States since 2012 as Manager of Adult Competition. She is the Tennis on Campus SME for USTA National and is the parent of three high school athletes, one of whom was a Division I tennis player who played high school tennis all four years.

**Kelly Rasero**

Rasero has been with USTA Middle States since 2013 as the Tennis Service Representative for the Delaware District and is now Manager of High School and Adult Recreational Play. Rasero is a former teaching pro and is the parent of two high school varsity athletes, one of whom was a Tennis on Campus player.

**Lori Schwartz**

As the Community Tennis Manager for USTA Middle States for over 19 years, Schwartz has had the privilege of working with many organizations, facilities, schools and coaches throughout NJ while growing tennis. She is a PTR certified tennis instructor and a Cardio Tennis Trainer. Schwartz loves the energy of Cardio Tennis especially when playing the “world’s best tennis game” Triples.

**Butch Staples**

Staples is currently the National Education and Learning Advisor for USTA Coaching. His former positions included National Racquet Sports Director and Education Director for Midtown Athletic Clubs, Director of Special Projects for the Van Der Meer Tennis University, and Tennis and Basketball Coach at McGill University in Montreal. A PTR International Master Pro and a RSPA Elite Professional, he has been a USTA Coach Developer for more than 25 years. Staples was recently honored by RSI magazine as the recipient of the 2024 Tennis Industry Service Award. He also received the USOC Doc Counsilman Science award in 2009, was named PTR Pro of the year in 2010 and received the prestigious International Tennis Hall of Fame Educational Merit Award in 2012.

### **Joao Pinho**

João "Jay" Pinho has been the Director of High Performance and Club Manager since 2024. He is on his second stint at Nassau Tennis Club, with the first one going from 2010-2016. As a highly accomplished Coach, Pinho is a RSPA Master Professional who has been working with High Performance players since 2007. An Award-winning Professional, he is a two-time Pro of the Year, U30 Pro of the Year, and Norman Brammell Service Award Winner with the RSPA Middle States Division. Additionally, Pinho holds an extensive array of certifications, including PTR Master of Tennis in Performance, Certified Mental Toughness Specialist, as well as Certifications in Biomechanics and Strength & Conditioning. He has been the private Coach of nine Junior National Champions plus a WTA Pro player and served the Head Coach for Juniors at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center for over seven years. Pinho has presented at numerous industry Conferences, including the two largest conventions in the country, the RSPA World Conference and the PTR International Symposium. His expertise covers all levels of coaching, and he is considered one of the top junior development Coaches in the country.

### **Damian Hume**

Damian Hume joined the Princeton men's tennis staff as the team's Cornelia Drake and John Van Ryn Jr. '28 assistant coach in October 2015. Now in his 10<sup>th</sup> season at Princeton, Hume has helped guide the Tigers to national success including last season's rise to No. 21 in the ITA national rankings. Hume was equally instrumental with the individual success of the Tigers having led three tigers to the NCAA singles and doubles championships last month where Paul Inchauspe was named All-American.

A South African native, Hume studied at Boise State, where he played at the team's top position in singles and doubles and was ranked as high as 25<sup>th</sup> in singles by the ITA during his senior season. Hume also spent time as part of a ranked doubles pair, reaching 43<sup>rd</sup> on the list at the end of his junior season. Hume came to the U.S. in 2009 to begin his college career at Collin County Community College in Texas, where he won a Junior College national singles title. In South Africa, He earned a ranking as high as 37<sup>th</sup> in the world during his junior career and No. 1 in the country. After graduating with a degree in psychology in 2012, Hume spent two summers as an assistant pro at the Country Club of New Canaan in Connecticut before returning to Boise State as an assistant coach in the fall of 2013. Hume joined the Michigan State staff in January 2014 and helped the doubles pair of Harry Jadun and John Patrick Mullane win three matches at the 2015 NCAA doubles tournament and earn All-America honors with their semifinal run.

### **Ally Christman**

Christman serves as the strength coach for the Princeton Men's and Women's Tennis Program as well as strength coach for Men's and Women's Squash, Women's Volleyball and Rugby. A native of Clarks Summit, PA, Christman graduated from Ithaca College where she played soccer. She received her Master's in Kinesiology at the University of Miami and is now in her first year at Princeton.

**Billy Pate (Workshop Host)**

A highly experienced and successful college tennis coach, Pate is now in his 30<sup>th</sup> year in college coaching and 13<sup>th</sup> year as the head coach of the Princeton Men's program. A native of Hot Springs, AR, Pate played collegiately at Mississippi State before earning an MS at Georgia State in Atlanta. Pate started his coaching career at the junior college level at Georgia Perimeter in Atlanta, GA where he led his men's team to the junior college national title in his last three years at the helm (1998-2000) – earning National Coach of the Year all three of those years. Pate then served as Assistant Coach for the men's team at Notre Dame (2000-2002) where he helped the team to a No. 4 national ranking – earning him ITA National Assistant Coach of the Year. Pate accepted the head coaching position at the University of Alabama (2002-2012) where he led the team to a No. 9 national ranking and earned SEC Coach of the Year in 2009. While at Alabama, Pate started the first Alabama High School Tennis Coaches' Workshop. He took the reins of the Princeton men's program in June of 2012, and besides leading the team to national success, he also served as the host of the NJSIAA Tennis Coaches workshop for seven years. Pate has seen several of his players go on to success on the pro tour, most recently Princeton '22 graduate Ryan Seggerman who played in the doubles draw of the US Open this year.