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Fil-Am former tennis prodigy ascends to college presidency



Lisa Pamintuan

NEW YORK, NY -- Lisa Pamintuan is a former tennis prodigy and became one of the youngest college presidents in the country.

Ms. Pamintuan competed in World Championships at the age of ten, one year after picking up a tennis racquet for the first time. She became one of the first players to train with the legendary coach, Nick Bollettieri, alongside Andre Agassi and Jim

Upon graduating from law school, instead of taking the typical route and working at an established firm, Ms. Pamintuan decided to move to New York City in search of a more interesting career. After working in New York for two months, Ms. Pamintuan was asked to move to Los Angeles to work on new projects. The next day she was at the airport ready to relocate.

connect with Lisa to share with our readers some of her viewpoints.

FP: Name at least 3 qualities or attributes of a competitive tennis player that translates to success in your career/business?

LP: Hard work, drive, perseverance, and knowledge of what you are doing are all extremely important qualities in both tennis and in business. Being able to learn from your mistakes and not give up is another common denominator. Working with a team (whether it is coaches, teammates or colleagues) and inspire others is another quality that translates to success in whatever you do in life.

FP: Who is your mentor and why. Who inspires you?

LP: I have had several mentors in my life because I have worked in multiple areas. This is a vital part of success. By working with the best I have had the opportunity to also learn from the best. When I was ten years old I lived and trained with Nick Bollettieri (before he built his Tennis academy) and learned drive and discipline. Like so many tennis professionals after, the personality and drive that Nick instilled in me has lived

Courier. Training at an elite level, Ms. Pamintuan maintained optimal physical and mental conditioning drawing on multiple modalities including alternative medicine and holistic health practices she learned from other tennis players and coaches from Asia.

Ms. Pamintuan competed on the international tennis circuit playing at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, was the youngest champion of the Irish Open in Dublin, Ireland and was the recipient of numerous awards such as the NCAA "Most Inspirational/ Most Outstanding Player award, two years in a row.

Injuries cut her tennis career short, and Ms. Pamintuan focused on excellence in her educational pursuits. She graduated from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and continued on to achieve a Juris Doctor Degree from Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, MI, where she was born.

While in Los Angeles, Ms. Pamintuan gained experience as an entrepreneur by establishing new business opportunities and navigating through business and entertainment deals

In 2002, she joined the New York College of Health Professions as Vice President of Business Development. Her successes in achieving various goals motivated the board to elect her President in 2003. Among her numerous accomplishments while at the College, Ms. Pamintuan has cultivated strong relationships in the Peoples' Republic of China, developed the College's intellectual property portfolio and led the College to achieve institutional accreditation.

Currently Lisa Pamintuan is focused on implementing the College's commitment to health and quality of life through preventative health initiatives, the development of proprietary consumer products and new educational offerings.

Filipino Press had a chance to

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with me all of my life and is applicable to any area. The specifics of holding a racket, spins and exercise may not seem in themselves to be relevant to many things in my life, but the drive, perseverance, and determination to succeed is a thread that has stayed with me all my life.

In retail, I learned from the bottom up. I learned to manage, work hard and get results. In this environment I learned more about being a team player since tennis trained me more for individual success. I had a strong mentor in retail and later I also went into the entertainment industry, where I was fortunate to work with some of the top people in the industry.

The education field is a lot different. I used my ability in opening up new retail stores to open up a new center for New York College of Health Professions in China. The Board of Trustees saw the drive and effort in closing a deal in China I learned enough so that the Board decided to offer me the position of president when Dr. Check returned to his other obligations.

I cannot choose a single mentor to highlight. Mentoring is a lifelong experience; and you learn what you can from everyone you meet. You try to absorb the best in every person you meet and become the sum, hopefully of the best of everyone you get to know.

It never stops, at every meeting and every relationship, you try to take the best of what each person has to offer and translate it to your own activities.

FP: Were you born in PI, if not, from where are your parents in the Philippines?

I was born in the US. My father is from Pampanga.

FP: What age did you start playing tennis? Why chose tennis as your sport.

LP: I started playing tennis at 9. It was quite by accident, like so many of my career moves. I lived in Indiana and I was on winter break from school. We decided to have a family vacation in Florida. While in Florida, a friend had some tennis racquets and handed me one. We snuck on the courts to "play." Nick walked by one of the tennis courts and asked me how long I had been practicing tennis. I remember that I did not know what he meant and I said I am just horsing around. He was just starting his academy and he offered me a scholarship.

He trained me and in less than a year I was competing at the world championship level. I was the youngest winner of the Irish Open and had the privilege of playing at Wimbledon and the US Open before being injured. Despite my disappointment in not moving further in tennis, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Because of tennis, I was offered full scholarships to attend college earn an undergraduate degree as well as a law

degree.

I enjoyed the intensity of tennis, as well as being able to set goals and trying to succeed and surpass that goal. For me, tennis was a gift, as there were several other sports that Olympic level coaches offered to train me in.

FP: What made you decide to pursue a career in education?

LP: Just like tennis, education was not by design, but by coincidence. An inventor that developed patented products that I was running retail operations for was also Chairman of New York College. When the College needed help in opening a facility in China, without hesitation I jumped on a plane to China and did what I had learned in retailing. It was later that I was mentored in education and became president of the College.

FP: What are the similarities and differences between tennis and business? What can be learned from each other?

LP: The biggest similarity is hard work, drive and ambition. It is a common denominator in everything. As the saying goes success is 99 percent perspiration and one percent inspiration. In sports this is literal; in real life and business it is figurative. That is really the only difference. You do need both, but I agree with the ratio.

Editor's Note: So there you are readers, I hope that you will be inspired by this week's Fil-Am top achiever feature. Enjoy reading further.