

CTY Annual Report 2004

25Years
Center for Talented Youth 2004

*Helping Talent Soar
since 1979*



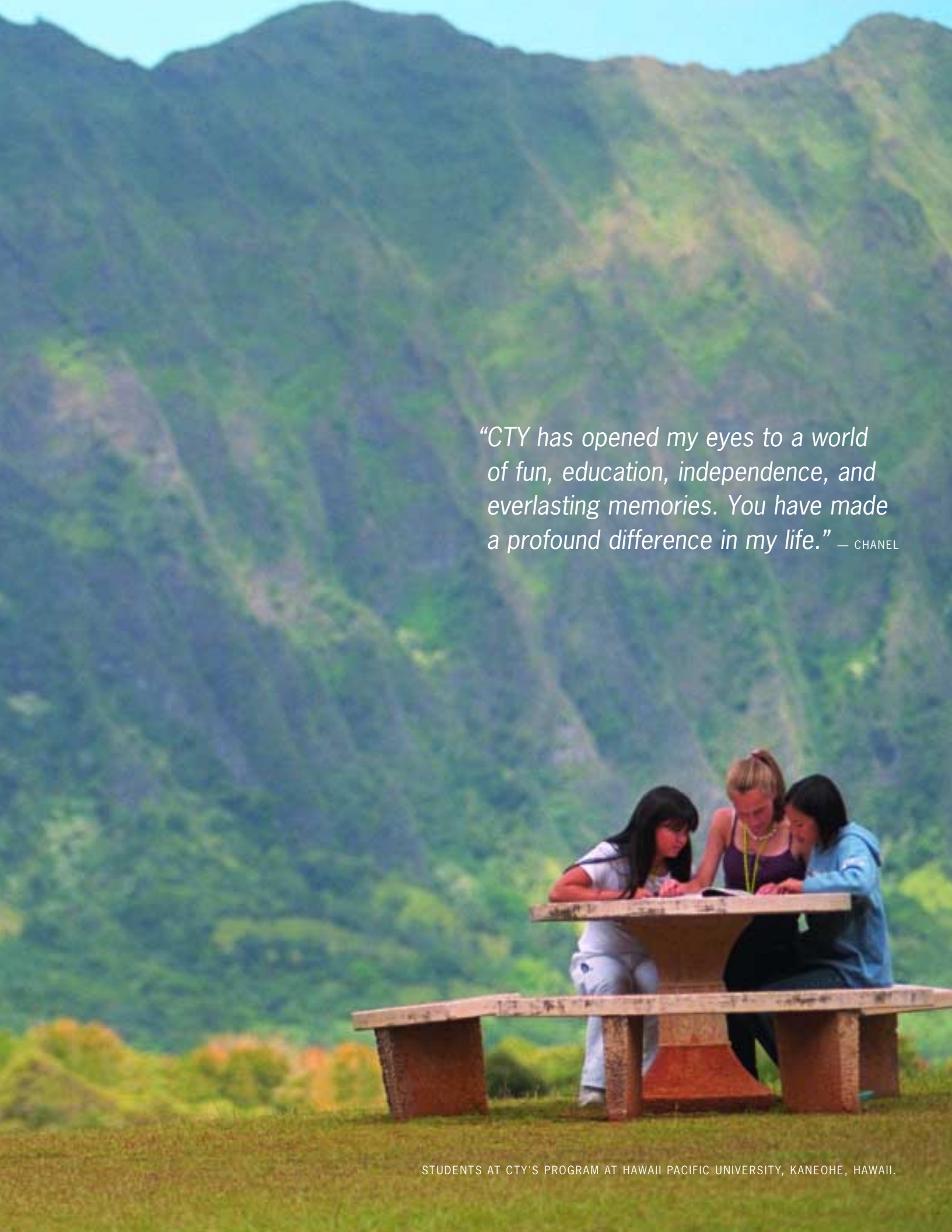
JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

Center for Talented Youth



The CTY Vision

*To be recognized by students, parents,
the education community, and
policy makers as the world leader in
the education of pre-collegiate students
of high academic ability.*

A photograph of three young women sitting at a concrete picnic table in a grassy field. They are looking down at a book or document on the table. The background is a vast, green mountain range under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

“CTY has opened my eyes to a world of fun, education, independence, and everlasting memories. You have made a profound difference in my life.” — CHANEL

STUDENTS AT CTY'S PROGRAM AT HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, KANEHOE, HAWAII.

CTY Facts and Figures

2004 and since 1979



	2004	Since 1979
Talent Search participants:	80,673	1,275,670
Student enrollments in all CTY programs:	24,127	287,687
Summer programs enrollments at CTY's 23 locations:	9,766	116,878
Distance education enrollments:	6,097	35,279
Countries represented among summer programs students:	36	70
Academic Conferences offered:	68	655
Students and parents attending CTY's Academic Conferences:	8,264	135,530
Number of awards ceremonies recognizing academic achievement:	85	1,185
One-course scholarships donated by colleges and universities to top-scoring CTY Talent Search students:	1,192	16,492
Study of Exceptional Talent new members:	350	3,456

Dear Friends of CTY:

When I at Johns Hopkins awakened last October to the splendid news that Dr. Peter Agre of Johns Hopkins Medicine won the 2003 Nobel Prize for Chemistry. The Academy recognized him for his laboratory's 1991 discovery of long-sought "channels" that regulate and facilitate water molecule transport through cell membranes, a process essential to all living organisms. This discovery opened a whole new field of basic research and promises treatments for diseases stemming from water channel malfunction. Dr. Agre rightly joins the ranks of the most eminent scientists of our time, whose discoveries have transformed our world.

Where will future Nobel laureates come from? Of course, it's impossible to predict. But we must continue to ask this question. Our nation and our world must know how we will develop tomorrow's brilliant, intellectually fearless, and persevering minds.

This is where CTY comes in. For 25 years, CTY has shone as a beacon for bright children everywhere. Since CTY's 1979 founding, it has been readily apparent that high-potential youth could be found in every corner of our country – and our world. For these students, CTY has been a lifeline, connecting them to a world of high achievement. At CTY, young minds wrestle with great ideas in the company of terrific teachers and peers. CTY takes these promising youths and develops their rigorous habits of thought, observation, and expression that will serve them well their whole lives. Thanks to CTY, students think higher thoughts and, I am convinced, can dream brighter futures.

So, if it is in fact impossible to determine what present-day middle school student may someday earn a Nobel Prize, we can at least take wisdom from Pasteur's aphorism, that "Fortune favors a prepared mind." CTY readies these bright children for great things ahead. And that expresses best why we at Johns Hopkins for the last quarter century have been so pleased to have CTY as part of the Hopkins family.

Sincerely,



William R. Brody, M.D., Ph.D.

PRESIDENT, THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT,
DR. WILLIAM R. BRODY

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hat must any nation do to develop the academic talent in its most promising young minds?

For the past 25 years, The Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) has addressed this simple but critical question. Starting small in 1979, then buoyed by an enthusiastic reception from many families, CTY quickly grew into a thriving program that reaches across district, state, and national boundaries. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, CTY is proud to report that we now enroll students from all 50 states and 77 foreign countries.

“I never knew there were so many students just like me.” This has been a recurrent theme sounded by CTY students throughout our 25-year history. In this time, CTY has become known as a haven for youthful intellect. Students from far and wide have stretched their talents, learned in a community of the nation’s brightest young minds and – as we have heard so often from students and parents alike – found themselves, and their futures, utterly transformed.

Today, CTY enrolls over 80,000 students annually in our Talent Search, nearly 10,000 in our summer programs, and over 6,000 in our distance education courses. We take seriously our role to help today’s remarkable young people grow into the leaders, thinkers, and doers of tomorrow’s world. And, years from now, as they apply their minds to solve the problems their world faces, our hope is that the intellectual capacity they developed at CTY will serve them well.

Anniversaries are times when we can reflect upon our past, imagine our future, and take time to thank the students, families, faculty and staff, volunteers, donors and friends who have made our success possible.

Together, you believed in the power of a simple idea – to find and educate youthful academic talent – and forged CTY into the premier academic program of its kind for children of exceptional academic promise.

Sincerely,



Lea Ybarra, Ph.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DR. LEA YBARRA

CTY at 25

Serving

Building

Growing



For 25 years, helping talent soar

A generation ago, the United States was failing to educate our own students at levels befitting their advanced abilities. Such was a finding in the 1983 report *A Nation at Risk*, the federal government's unsettling landmark critique of the quality of our K-12 educational system.

A dozen years earlier, in the office of Johns Hopkins professor Julian Stanley, this quiet crisis literally walked through his doors. A handful of Baltimore area middle school students came to his attention, students who could tackle academic subjects far beyond both others their age and what their schools could provide. Dr. Stanley quickly grasped that this wasn't just a local problem, but one besetting potentially large numbers of students across the country. But how smart were they? He tried a little experiment – giving these students the SAT to diagnose their math and verbal reasoning abilities. In so doing, an educational movement was born.

THE POWER OF A SIMPLE IDEA

Upon the 1979 formal founding at Johns Hopkins of The Center for Talented Youth (CTY), gifted students could, for the first time, be identified and helped in a comprehensive program that reached beyond district, state, and even national boundaries.

In CTY's first widespread talent search, 10,000 such students stood up to be counted, and 109 of those students enrolled in our first summer program at

St. Mary's College in Maryland. The power and usefulness of this simple idea – that students demonstrating advanced math and verbal reasoning abilities required a special program to help them hone their talents – fueled CTY's growth through the next two decades.

THE VISION EVOLVES

Today, CTY offers a full spectrum of programs and services needed by talented young people. Many students report that CTY has been a lifeline to challenging academic programs. CTY promotes a culture of high achievement, where, many say, it's cool to be smart. Through CTY, they have set themselves on clear intellectual, career, and life paths. And CTY is working hard to ensure that all students of promise, regardless of their economic circumstances, are able to participate in CTY's programs.

The education of our nation's most able young minds is an enterprise that cannot be left to chance.

Throughout the years, one fact remains clear: the education of our nation's most able young minds is an enterprise that cannot be left to chance. For these students, CTY will be ready to serve – just as we have for our first quarter century.

With Special Thanks.

In the pages that follow, CTY recognizes key people and groups who contributed markedly to CTY's success.

Students



Learning

To our students past and present, for immersing yourselves in the life of the mind, and for developing your talents for the good of future generations, thank you. For 25 years, bright students such as you have been learning about themselves and their abilities through CTY's Talent Search, then transforming those abilities into achievement through summer and online courses designed to help youthful talent soar. CTY's model – once a radical notion – now stands as an essential part of educating bright students. On the way, we've learned as much from you as you've learned at CTY. Today, CTY remains proud of the role we play in achieving your dreams.

Transforming

Achieving

He touched off a revolution...

Consider Jonathan Edwards a source of the CTY river. In 1970, Edwards and a handful of other very bright students arrived at the office doorstep of Johns Hopkins professor Julian Stanley, then an educational statistician. With a bundle of math ability, they had no courses left to take in their schools.

These days, a student like Jonathan could travel one of many roads available for bright kids: summer programs, online courses, other tailored programs. But the 1970s offered very limited choices, so Jonathan, at age 13, coached by Dr. Stanley, joined the class of 1975 at Johns Hopkins. Looking back many years later Edwards says, “It’s the overwhelming fact about my life. It was more than formative: It completely changed the direction of my life.”

Edwards’ next few years are a reminder how seemingly random events coalesce to shape destiny. Let loose at Hopkins (“a wonderland of learning,” he says) he

became the caretaker of one of its toys, a refrigerator-sized DEC PEP 11 computer, at the time all the rage in portability. But as a junior, finding himself in the middle of an “early-life crisis,” he left Hopkins. After biding some time, he migrated to Boston during what he now calls the “Wild West days” of the software industry when, he says, nothing else mattered except getting results.

“It completely changed the direction of my life.”

Landing in the midst of the tech boom, Edwards, like his childhood hero Tom Swift, invented something useful – a computerized money transfer-system banks use to move huge sums through the monetary system quickly and safely. Like a Tom Swift invention, his was extremely useful – and risky. “When the electrons move down

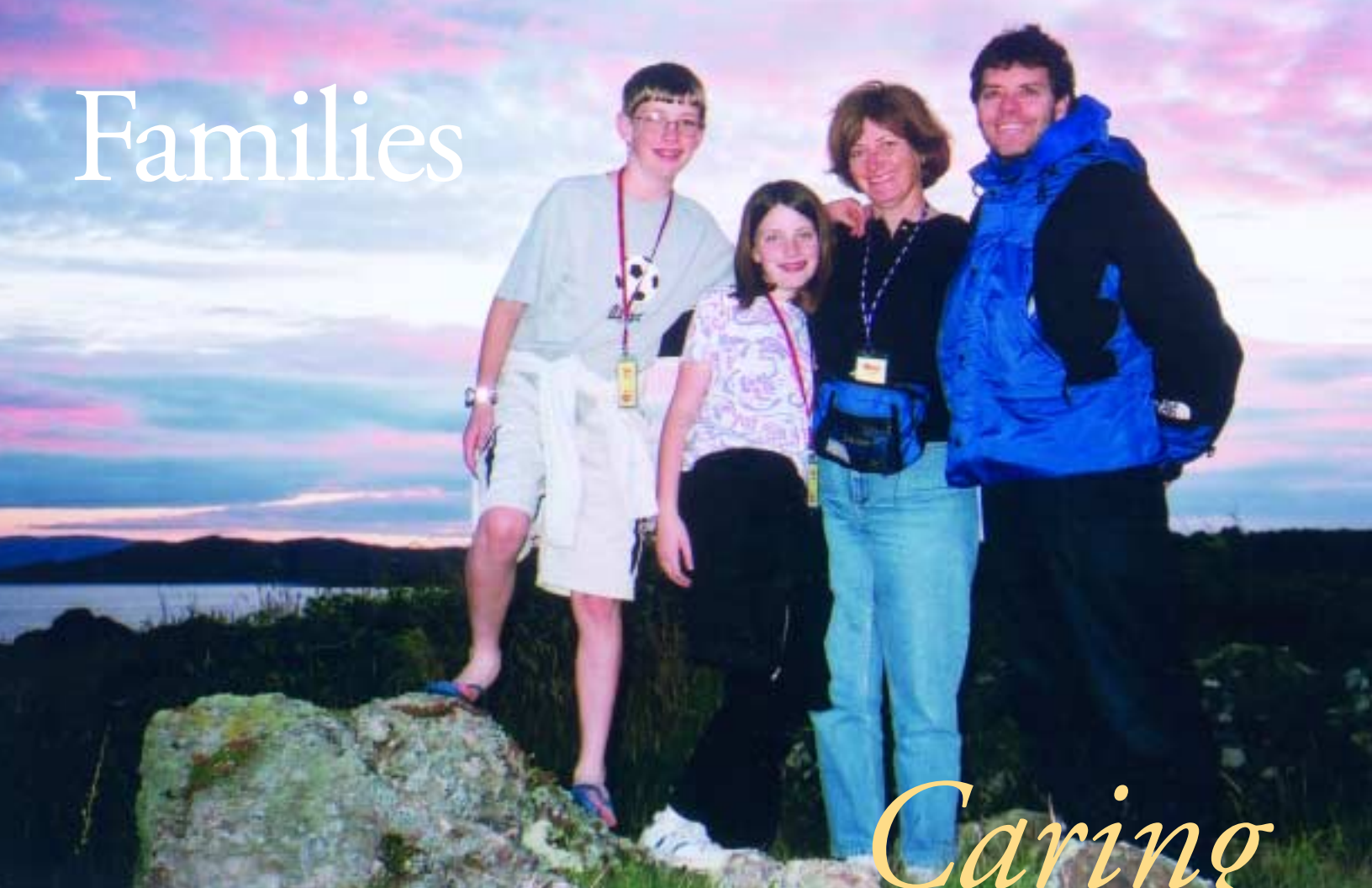
the wires,” says Edwards, “you’re on the hook for millions.” The happy ending? Inventor perfects the great idea, builds it, grows the company, sells it (in 1999) at the height of the market, and moves on to academe as a research fellow at MIT’s research computing lab, where everyone thought he was originally destined to go.

Intelligence, ingenuity, risk-taking – these are all hallmarks of the gifted young people CTY has seen for a quarter century. Given the right preparation, CTY students can follow in the footsteps of an unassuming 13-year-old who, unbeknownst to anyone at the time, accidentally touched off a revolution.



THEN AND NOW: JONATHAN EDWARDS AND STUDENTS FROM CTY'S RECENT SUMMER PROGRAM AT JOHNS HOPKINS.

Families



Caring

Caring parents of gifted children are constantly searching to find the right match between a child's talents and a place that can help these talents bloom. For a quarter century, CTY has been just such a place for hundreds of thousands of promising students. The role of guiding a gifted child may have placed you on a journey you never planned for or expected. But you arrived at CTY because it's the path your child found and traveled. And throughout that journey, you've come to know, as we do, the power of believing in your child's abilities as the first necessary step.

Guiding

Believing

HANDS-ON: THE THOMAS FAMILY IS SHOWN HERE ON THEIR EXPEDITION WITH CTY'S FAMILY ACADEMIC CONFERENCES TO GREAT CUMBRAE ISLE, SCOTLAND.

A shared adventure – parenting a gifted child

CTY research finds that 85.5 percent of CTY families consider themselves significantly involved in their children's educations. Dr. Greg Thomas (left, with family) is one of these parents. He saw his bright young daughter, Erin, profess to dislike science even though she was very good at it, and took action. "We wanted to expose her to science in a hands-on way, with top teaching," he said.

The solution? Dr. Thomas combined a week of family vacation and education and spirited his family away to CTY's Marine Biology week at Great Cumbrae Isle, Scotland.

Fifteen minutes from Glasgow yet a world apart, the small island and its tidal wonders gave the Thomas family exactly what they were looking for – a week of shared learning. "Parents and kids work together one-hundred percent of the time," said Dr. Thomas. CTY's week-long program in Scotland follows a curriculum established for the college students who use the facility the rest of the year.

According to Dr. Thomas, "The parents we spent time with were all dealing with the same issues. We all shared the common challenge in helping our kids find the right path." The talks lasted well into the night, but come daytime, says Dr. Thomas, this was a group of parents who willingly rolled up their pantlegs and mucked around the tidal flats with their kids.

CTY research on family involvement continues to show parental influence as a key factor in the successful development of gifted children. CTY parents as a group say it's more important that their children are learning something than that they get the highest grades or best test scores. This focus is healthy, according to CTY researchers, and reassures those who may think that parents of gifted students push their children too hard. It is the children who often push their parents to provide them with greater opportunities to learn.



RUNNING THE RAPIDS: CTY'S EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAM TO COSTA RICA. CTY RESEARCH DEMONSTRATES THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL GUIDANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR GIFTED CHILDREN.

Schools and Educators



Collaborating

We thank our colleagues in more than 12,000 schools annually who are connecting their bright students to CTY by encouraging them and their families to participate in our Talent Search and programs. Collaborating with you on your students' educations ensures a broadly enriched program of learning for very bright children. By looking beyond your own school's walls and letting your students know about CTY, you are making good on your commitment to help realize the academic promise of every bright child.

On the occasion of CTY's 25th anniversary, and on behalf of the gifted students who depend on you to help them fulfill their bright promise, thank you.

LONGTIME CTY SUPPORTER PHYLLIS ALDRICH (CENTER), COORDINATOR FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS OF THE SARATOGA BOCES IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, WITH COLLEAGUES STEPHANIE LANG AND STUART BYRNE, PRINCIPAL OF MAPLE AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL, SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY.