

**Clinton Global Initiative University 2008 Meeting  
Rebuilding a Sustainable New Orleans  
Clinton Global Initiative University**

**Transcript: President Bill Clinton personally presenting A's & Aces  
and recognizing Anna Monhartova's commitment to the project**

**3/15/08**

"Anna Monhartova - Payson Institute at Tulane.

Would you come up?

Her commitment is to introduce New Orleans public school children to quality after-school activities that combine instruction in tennis, academics for citizenship and life skills to improve both their scholastic and physical development as well as their characters. The non-profit organization As and Aces will host summer camps and after-school clinics to give tennis instruction to 1,000 second to sixth graders to spark their interest in playing tennis throughout education.

In high school, A's and Aces will assist promising student-athletes in both educational and athletic development, paving a path to college. This program aims to improve community and race relations by giving a diverse group of young people the opportunity to build relationships through common interests and teamwork.

After Anna graduates from her program, her PhD program at Payson Institute at Tulane, she plans to give her full-time attention to developing A's and Aces. There aren't many people who'd get a PhD and spend their gifts doing this with it, not to make herself wealthier or more famous, but to empower other people to have a more decent life.

And I just want to say there are lots of studies- I've been involved in these kinds of programs all around the world. We used soccer, for example, in

Africa heavily to bring in young people to get them to agree to be tested for HIV and AIDS in a lot of the high-infection rate countries where we work. We do a lot of work with our economic and education empowerment programs in South Africa using sports to do this. So, I know that the studies that show that young people who play sports tend to get better grades, have better social skills and are more likely to lead healthy lifestyles are not myths. They are true, and they are true across the world.

What is commonly accepted in other places is now being, in effect, reintroduced into life here, thanks to this initiative. We also know something that's very important to me as a father and a spouse, that girls who play sports have better self-esteem, better body image, are less likely to become pregnant as teens, more likely to graduate from high school and college, than those who do not. They're more likely to be self-defining in a very positive way in our culture as well as in others across the world.

So, this is potentially an affair, not just of the heart, but of the mind, that may be of again lasting import, not only to the young women and young boys here who get involved in this kind of work, but also to people throughout our country. So, let's give Anna Monhartova a big hand. [Applause] And she's come here to live with us from the Czech Republic, so we should welcome her, too, for that. [Applause]"



