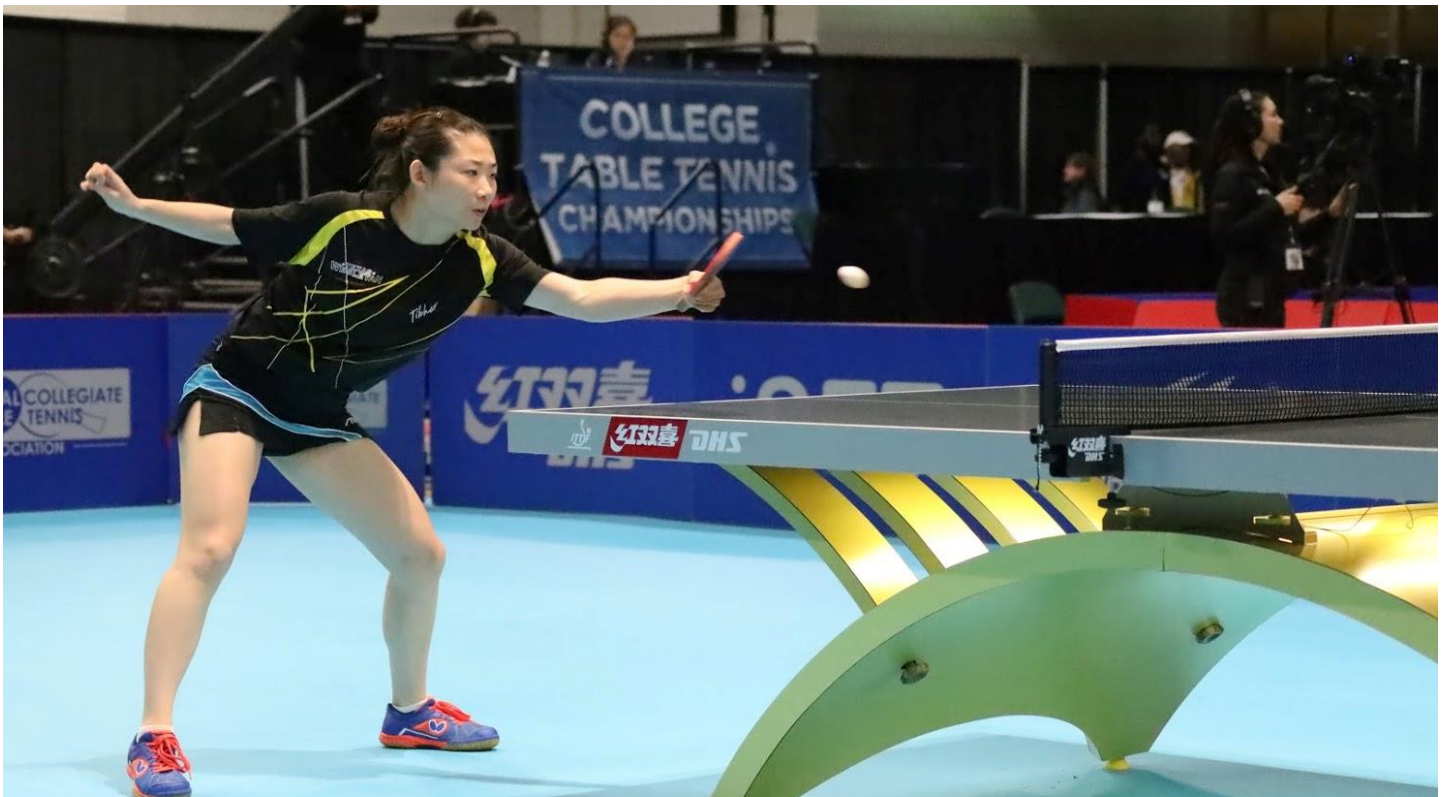


NATIONAL  
COLLEGIATE  
TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION



# National Collegiate Table Tennis Association

2020 Annual Report

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## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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NCTTA is the governing body of collegiate table tennis in the US and Canada. It is a US government-recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established with the mission to develop and promote table tennis as a collegiate sport.

NCTTA is a National Organization Member of USA Table Tennis as well as a certified club. NCTTA was recognized as a National Organization member by the US Olympic committee/USA Table Tennis in 2008.

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### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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President - **Willy Leparulo**

Vice President External Affairs - **Joseph Wells**

Treasurer - **Randy Kendle**

Athlete Representative - **Brandon Lawrence**

League Director Representative - **Jay Lu**

Vice President Internal Affairs - **Tae Kim**

Human Resources Coordinator - **Stephanie Shih**

USA Table Tennis Board Liaison - (unfilled)\* *USATT bylaws state it must be filled; NCTTA nominated Brandon Lawrence in January 2020 (pending grievance will decide)*

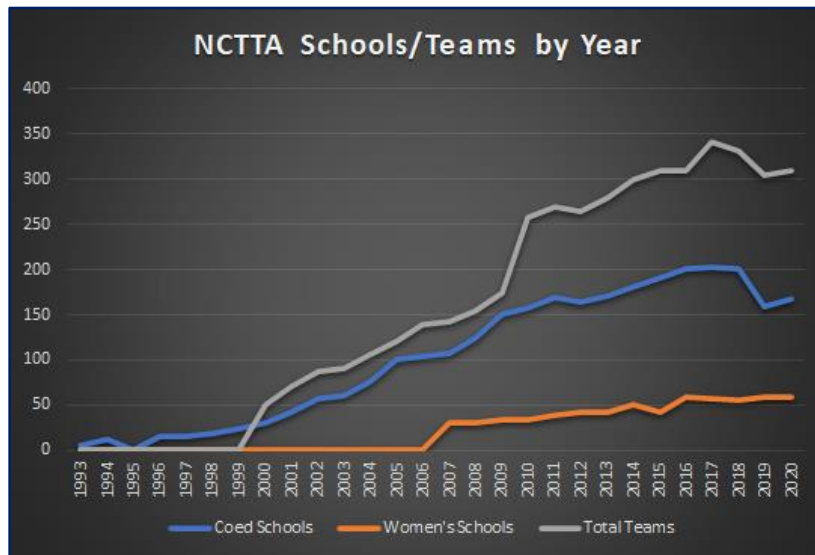
MAJOR SPONSORS

# iSET



## LEAGUE

The NCTTA league is the organization's main activity. The league consists of intercollegiate varsity team competition among Coed/Men's teams and among Women's teams. Varsity teams consist of at least 4 players; up to 8 players may be on a roster at any given time. Junior varsity teams and alumni teams are also invited to compete in scrimmage competition, and separate singles competitions are also held.



In the 2019-2020 season, regular season competition took place both in the fall and the spring, in six regions subdivided into 27 divisions. Almost 2000 competitive athletes participated, forming 169 Varsity Coed and 59 Varsity Women's teams and a total of over 300 teams. NCTTA also organizes singles play in division, regional and championship play. NCTTA saw increase in players register for division singles play, an increase from the year before.

Immediately following the regular season, the strongest teams and singles players were invited to 6 regional championships which also served as qualification events for the National Championships.

### Division (League play)

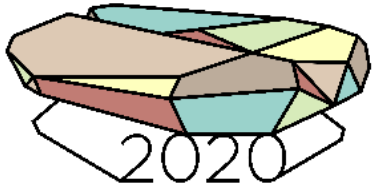
→ **Regional Championships** (6 around the USA/Canada) See [Best of 2020 Regionals Video](#)

→ **National Championships** (Averaging 250 Athletes, 50 schools, a 5-star USATT sanctioned tournament, annual competition)



## CHAMPIONSHIPS

### iSET COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS



The College Table Tennis Championships is NCTTA's premier event and the most professionally run table tennis event on the continent. It is a 5-star USATT sanctioned event. It is held over three days each spring, and the 2020 Championships were supposed to be held in Round Rock, Texas. A month before the competition, NCTTA took the proactive step to protect athletes, staff and volunteers and preserve the integrity of the organization thereby canceling the Championships due to the pandemic.

The 2020 Championships were projected to be one of the most competitive national events in our organization's history.

Predicted athletes to have attended: A plethora of top tier players (over 275, we average 250) from 55 USA and Canadian colleges and universities as well as international students from 26 countries to compete for team, singles, and doubles championship titles. In all, it is always a diverse event featuring North America's finest athletes from the national and world stage.

### 2020 MEN'S SINGLES

*Top 80 players, lowest seed rated 2215*

1. Baiyu "Bob" Chen (Ohlone College)  
US Open Champion
2. Tom Feng (NYU),  
US Olympic Team alternate
3. Sharon Alguetti (Indiana University)  
USA National Team member
4. Gal Alguetti (Indiana University)  
USA National Cadet Team member

### 2020 WOMEN'S SINGLES

*Top 40 players, over 1/2 rated over 2000*

1. Angela Guan (UC Berkeley)  
USA World Team member
2. Yixiao Wang (San Jose State University)  
Chinese AA League player
3. Qiao Jiao (Ohlone College)  
2019 Women's Singles defending  
Champion
4. Jiaqi Lin (Texas Wesleyan University)  
2020 South Regional Women's Champion



Tom Feng (NYU)



Angela Guan (UC Berkeley)

**MEN'S / COED TEAMS (TEAM RATING)**

1. Ohlone College (12648.5)
2. Mississippi College (12568.5)
3. NYU (12515)

**WOMEN'S TEAMS (TEAM RATING)**

1. Texas Wesleyan University (11714.5)
2. University of British Columbia (10138)
3. Ohlone College (10052.5)



Men's/Coed team competition featured Texas Wesleyan, one of two scholarship schools seeded #5 and, for the first time in its history, not seeded #1 or #2, showing the incredible strength of the 2020 field. Ohlone College (pictured below) were #1 seeds in the competition with Mississippi College (Scholarship school), NYU, and UC Berkeley rounding out the top seeds.

Women's team competition would follow the singles competition and feature 16 of the best schools in North America. Texas Wesleyan was top of the table with University of British Columbia (Canada) and Ohlone College rounding out the top teams.



## MEMBERSHIP

NCTTA is a membership organization formed by college table tennis clubs in North America. Individual athletes who wish to participate join NCTTA by forming a club at their college and subsequently registering their college with NCTTA.



Member schools can create Men's/Coed teams, Junior varsity teams and all women's teams.

NCTTA has a unique format that sees many times men playing women as female players are allowed to play on the Men's/Coed teams as seen here (Pic by Chris Chuong, Ohio East Division).

Of note, NCTTA leverages relationships with local USATT clubs and universities to host more than 60 events in the academic calendar (October to March).

Member colleges vary widely in their size, level of activity, and degree of support from their college administration. They include clubs which are organized as:

- Small clubs of few members, self-funded by students, peripherally recognized by their college.
- Medium-sized clubs which receive partial funding by the college.
- Large clubs with both Coed, Women's teams, with most expenses paid by the college.
- Fully funded clubs with established and continuing college support, sometimes offering scholarship programs.



Pictured to the left is College of Wooster and on right is Rochester Institute of Technology. Both of these schools are representative of smaller clubs in NCTTA.

Of particular note, three member schools offer table tennis programs and some with athletic scholarships/assistance: Texas Wesleyan University (Fort Worth, TX), Mississippi College (Clinton, MS) and Fashion Institute of Technology (New York City, NY).



## MEDIA



NCTTA Media team is comprised of all volunteers and mostly alumni from different areas like graphic design, journalism, video production and more. As a team we publish a monthly email newsletter that includes all current topics related to college table tennis and reaches over 3000 people providing exposure to sponsors and affiliates throughout the year.

The College Table Tennis Championships is streamed live in high definition on YouTube, in TV quality complete with four camera angles, live commentary, and replay on the Official NCTTA YouTube Channel.

In addition, NCTTA has created through the work of Marketing Chair, Andy Nguyen, Top 10 videos, Trick shot compilations, player interviews (seen here) and behind the scenes videos. In celebration of [World Table Tennis](#) day on April 6<sup>th</sup> of this past year, Nguyen created this video to celebrate our passion for College Table Tennis. Check out more videos in our dedicated [YouTube channel](#).

NCTTA was able to land in the world of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee due to efforts from former USATT Communications and Media Director, Matt Hetherington.



Hetherington's efforts to draw USA Table Tennis and NCTTA closer resulted in the hiring of NCTTA Media Committee member, Michael Reff as a [USOPC intern](#) for USA Table Tennis. USOPC gave USATT a grant in January 2020 to pay for an intern for 12 months to help create more media content.

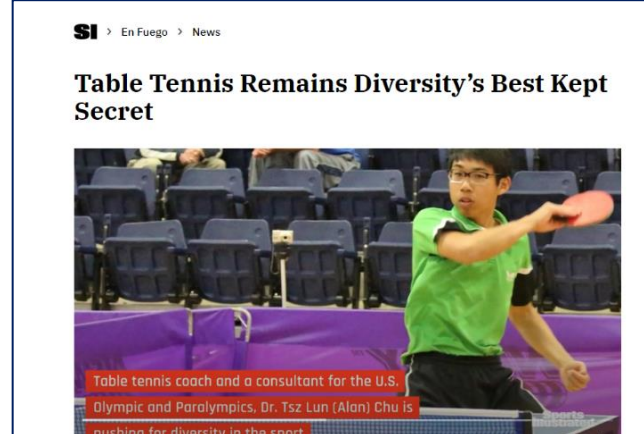
Unfortunately, the position ended abruptly in May due to unknown reasons after just five months. USA Table Tennis chose not to comment for this publication.

NCTTA changed logos this year utilizing NCTTA Alumni Texas A&M Corpus Christi graduate Thi Nguyen. NCTTA logo has been the same for next to 20 years and so with the help of Tae Kim we made a push to work with Alumni with this specific goal at hand. Thi has earned her MFA in Communication Design from Texas State at San Marcos and created this new NCTTA logo!



College Table Tennis showcased in [Sports Illustrated](#) in December 2020. Dr. Alan Chu at University of Wisconsin at Green Bay (Alumni of University of North Texas and University of Missouri and current NCTTA Coaching Committee) was contacted by the magazine's reporter.

Also from NCTTA is Nancy Zhou, Lower New England Division Director. Both contributed to the article. Nancy said it best when she was quoted, *“There are no real requirements for your background or physique. All you need is a passion for table tennis.”* Passion indeed.



Like most organizations, NCTTA had to coordinate its programming in a different way by utilizing social media more often. One such example is the NCTTA Marketing committee campaign called “Tag a friend”. NCTTA Instagram exploded as a result of placing student-athletes with excellent pictures and quotes.

(Kaden Xu in black and white by Dennis Yanga featured on NCTTA Instagram)

NCTTA worked with outside media writers to produce a special History of College Table Tennis features. First, Jonathan McGinty's take on the Anderson College and Augusta College table tennis dynasties in “The Pursuit of Belonging” Walk down memory lane with [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).



In addition, NCTTA President, Willy Leparulo had written his own general research of the history of College Table Tennis. Thanks to Butterfly he was featured in an interview called “[PongNow](#)” and afterwards, his historical reviews were also published in two parts. [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) take you down the road to the trailblazers of College Table Tennis and NCTTA. Thanks to Steve Hopkins and Butterfly for the exposé.

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

NCTTA offers scholarships up to \$500 to future NCTTA athletes (currently in high school) based on GPA, financial need, table tennis ability, and an essay. Scholarships to high school-only athletes are a recent change to the program in the hopes of promoting high school play and continued college play. This program has been in place since 2009. This year's scholarships were awarded to:



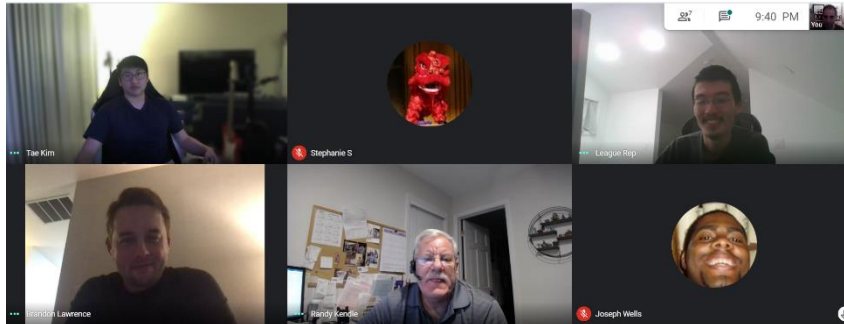
*Jay Ong (left) -  
University of California at San Diego  
(Photo by Grant Bergmann)*



*Teresa Chan (right) -  
University of California, Davis  
(Photo by Danny Yip)*

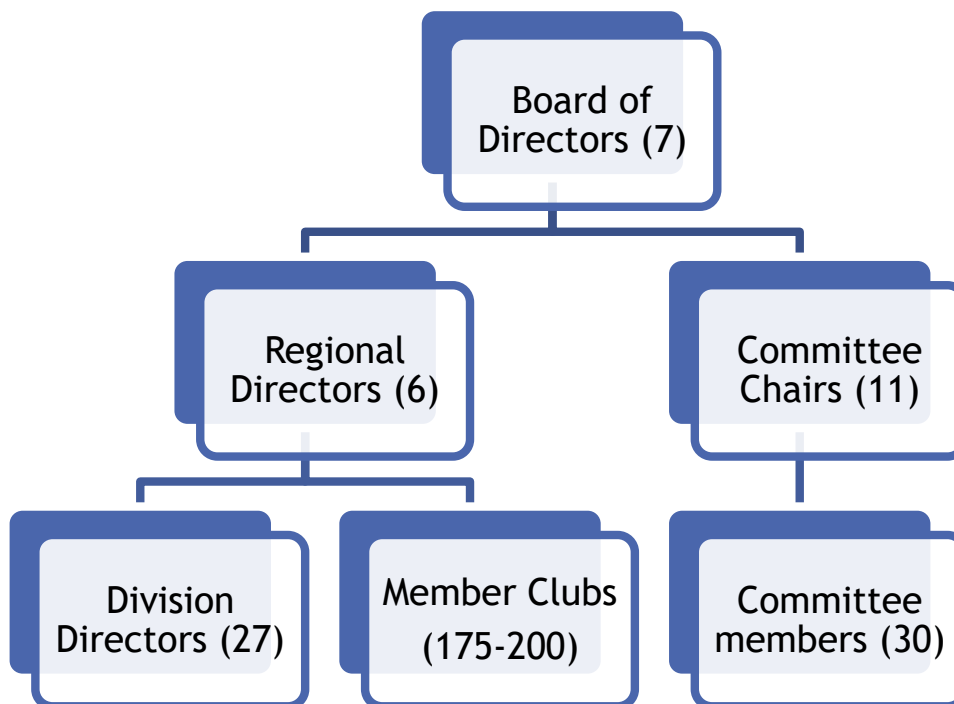
## MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

The NCTTA Executive Board governs and manages the organization. The board (seen left) consists of 7 volunteer directors, each with specific duties doubling as almost a front office staff. Due to the pandemic zoom meetings are now the norm.



The six NCTTA regions are managed by Regional Directors, and the NCTTA divisions are managed by Division Directors. The number of divisions varies each year; there were 27 divisions in 2019-2020.

Committees oversee various specific areas. Current committees include: Alumni, Ethics/Grievance, Championships, Coaches, High School (Grassroots), Enrollment, Marketing, Media, Ratings, Recruiting, Technology, and Women. <http://www.nctta.org/officers/>



It is important to note that this organization is a completely volunteer organization. No one from Board level to division directors to committee members are given a salary of any sort. We are passionate about promoting table tennis, and specifically college table tennis.

## GRASSROOTS AND GROWTH

NCTTA conducts six regional tournaments around the USA and Canada and this year streaming was introduced. Each region now has commentators and our next approach is getting dedicated graphics for each regional stream.

NCTTA looks to expand and improve its programming every year and this past regional showed a consistent women's numbers year to year.

### 2019 REGIONALS

Men's Singles = 119  
Women's Singles = 58  
 Total Singles = 177

Coed Teams = 43  
Women's Teams = 31  
 Total Teams = 74

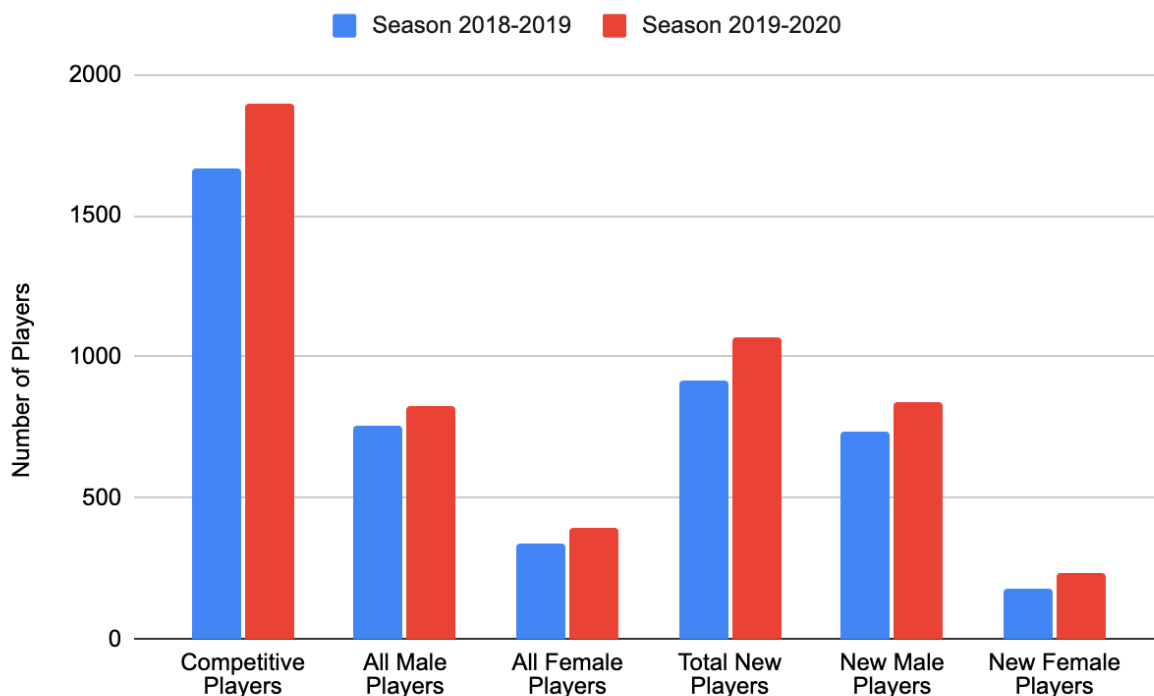
### 2020 REGIONALS

Men's Singles = 146  
Women's Singles = 61  
 Total Singles = 207

Coed Teams = 70  
Women's Teams = 35  
 Total Teams = 105

Moreover, our membership numbers showed a strong increase over last year in all categories:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	Net Growth
Competitive Players	1670	1895	13.47%
All Male Players	753	824	9.43%
Female Players	340	393	15.59%
Total New Players	917	1071	16.79%
New Male Players	738	838	13.55%
New Female Players	179	233	30.17%



At the conclusion of each of our National Championships, NCTTA sells and gives all equipment to college table tennis member schools in need as well as grassroots organizations. One such is the NYTTA (soon to be NSTTO). They bought at discount many tables and barriers (seen below) that are used to promote high school table tennis in the Midwest.



NCTTA's sponsorship with iSET has allowed NCTTA to be able to spread the wealth of equipment to needy clubs, players and grassroots organizations.

## PARTNERSHIPS

NCTTA sought out much support from the table tennis community and was able to partner with [American Youth Table Tennis Organization](#) (AYTTO) and National Youth Table Tennis Association) (NYTTA) to further its goals in growing the pipeline through high school table tennis.



NCTTA with the AYTTO has garnered support to recruit assistant coaches (NCTTA college players) for AYTTO's high school, middle school and league and elementary after school programs in New York City. NCTTA college students are primarily in the NYC Public School Athletic League assistant coaching program. AYTTO is expanding to other cities in the United States, and the NCTTA, through its network, is assisting in finding college players to help. The hope is that players in NCTTA member schools can assist the high school players and league and provide a better stepping stone for future collegiate athletes. NCTTA players benefit as well to serve their community.

NCTTA has also partnered with NYTTA, soon to be called National Schools Table Tennis Organization (NSTTO). Linda Leaf of the USATT Junior committee is the director.



## CONFERENCES-EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NCTTA is committed to attracting the best locations for its National Championship through conferences. Due to the pandemic these conferences were conducted online (e.g. Zoom) but NCTTA was in attendance despite the change. Two conferences were attended with special regard at attracting competitive cities and facilities for our Championship event.



NCTTA attended the [Sports ETA Conference](#) and the [TEAMS Sport Conference](#). NCTTA representatives attending: Brandon Lawrence (Athlete Rep), Joseph Wells (VP External) and Willy Leparulo (President) were in attendance to both conferences that networked NCTTA with 60-80 potential cities all bidding for a chance to host our events.

Wells says "Representing NCTTA at these conferences always gives us a leg up on understanding how to better partner with potential hosts. Any organization that hosts table tennis tournaments understands the importance of a good partnership and this is step 1".

## PROGRAMS

### COACHING COMMITTEE

NCTTA Coaching Committee has had to recreate the wheel a bit during this pandemic and is now looking to create [NCTTA Coaching Certification](#) via Zoom. NCTTA's past coaching trainings have all been face to face and sponsored by iSET. Today and moving forward, NCTTA through its coaching committee of Logan Zimmerman, Dr. Alan Chu and Willy Leparulo are creating a curriculum online to start late summer 2021.

The trainings will be similar to that of the past and we will continue to use ITTF Level 1 handbook as well as our own NCTTA sourced materials. Special thanks to ITTF's Glen Tepper for permission to use the ITTF Level 1 handbook and to our mentor Richard McAfee who taught all of the course instructors and is one of the reasons this certification still exists today.



It should be noted that prior to the pandemic, NCTTA had certified [39 College Coaches](#) across North America. Currently there are more than 80 college coaches in our system.

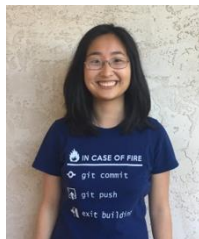
The goal is to impact retention and professionalism in coaching and in NCTTA college table tennis.

*Pictured above is University of Michigan's head coach, Dan Robbins observing a match*

### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

NCTTA created an internship program for qualified college students this past summer 2020. In the height of the pandemic college students had internships cancelled and it opened up an opportunity for NCTTA to provide professional experience. The pilot program was launched by our Tech committee and after seeing the success from it, we plan to expand it to more.

For the Summer of 2020, the Tech committee took on 3 students:



Jenna Kiyasu  
UC Berkeley,  
4<sup>th</sup> year  
CS Major



Cherry Zheng  
UBC, 4<sup>th</sup> year  
CS, Math Major



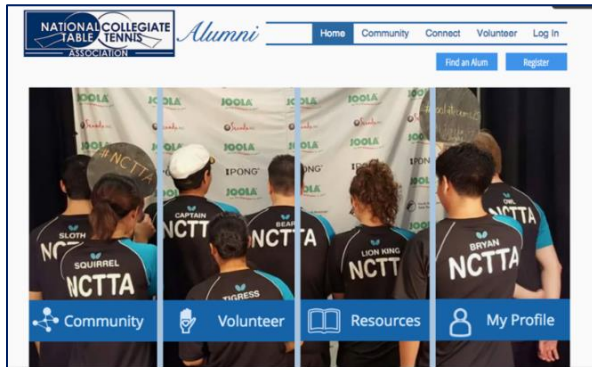
Kaden Xu  
Rutgers,  
2<sup>nd</sup> year  
CS Major

Each contributed toward individual tasks according to their skills and interests. Over the 2-month term, they accomplished some notable milestones and deliveries such as our internal migration of the NCTTA database and "Project: CongratsBot". CongratsBot was Jenna's own original idea which she successfully brought into realization but amidst the extended pandemic continuing to cancel events, still awaits its debut.





## ALUMNI



NCTTA alumni come in all forms: graduated student athletes, administrators, and volunteers. College table tennis has grown in leaps and bounds over the past decade creating the need for this kind of network. NCTTA is growing this area to achieve goals in alumni retention for volunteer recruitment for events, in-kind donation, alumni meet ups and mentorship.

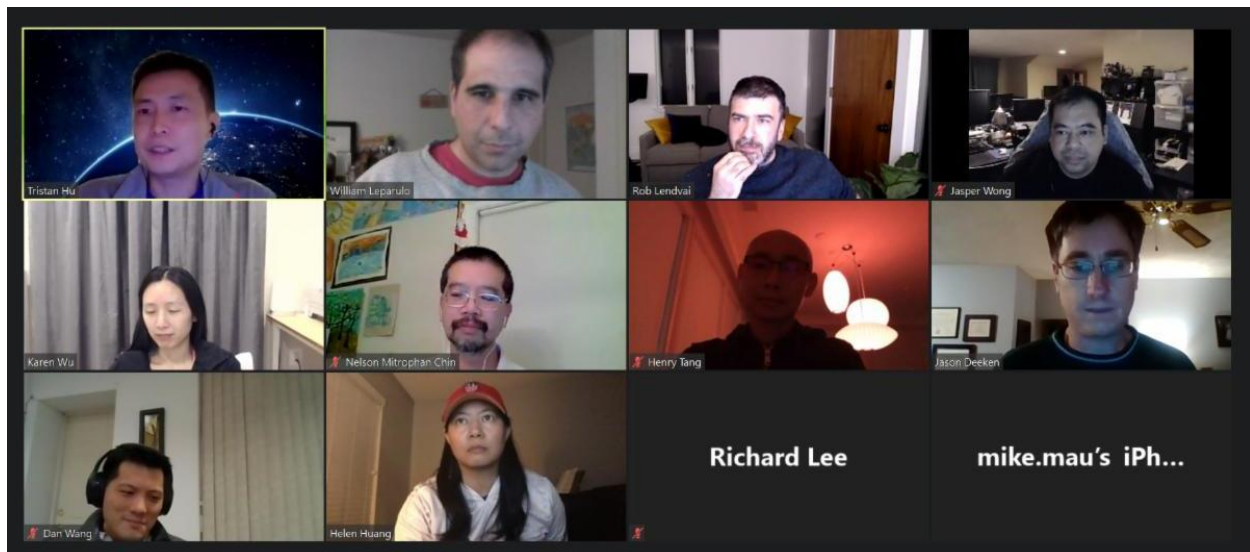
The pandemic has slowed progress for all organizations including NCTTA. Still, we have persevered with our own success.



NCTTA rolled out a new event at regionals in 2020, Alumni Doubles. This event was an effort to get more alumni to come back to NCTTA with “baby steps”. NCTTA West Region saw the most action in this event.

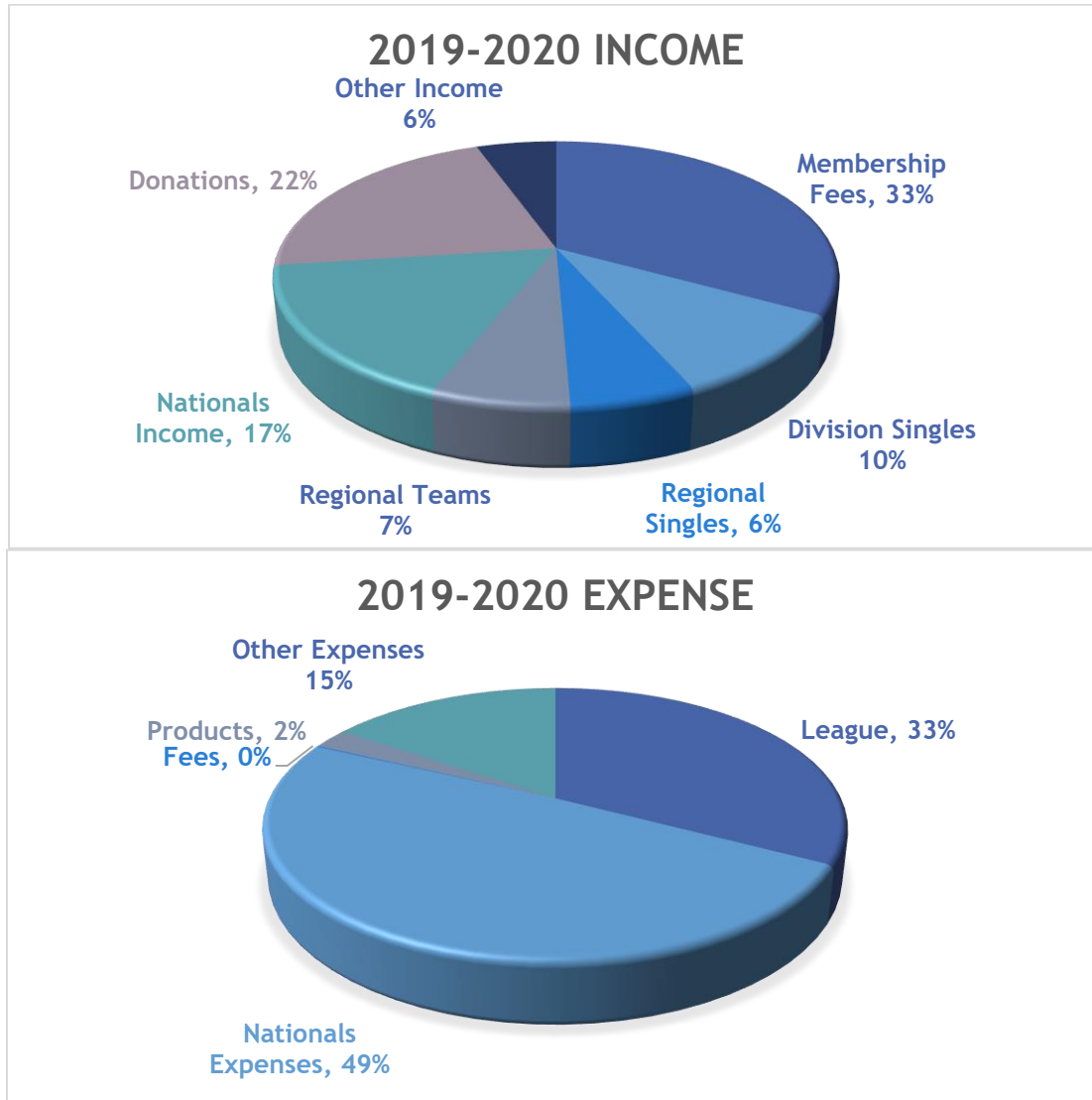
NCTTA wasn’t always called this, in fact it was once called League of Northeastern Intercollegiate Table Tennis(LNITT). NCTTA president Willy Leparulo gathered alumni from the 1990’s when it was called LNITT.

The NCTTA/LNITT reunion was a resounding success. Twenty “Pioneers of the Past” showed up and shared stories and caught up. Many of the alumni vowed to get involved in future NCTTA alumni events! Another zoom meeting is planned in 2021.



## FINANCIAL STATUS

A look at NCTTA's income shows a large percentage of membership fees from member schools with the remainder coming from its other events.



NCTTA's expenses are largely from the National Championships with related expenses coming from the League, which includes division and regional play.

NCTTA also incurs a number of expenses (included above) from **USA Table Tennis**. NCTTA pays for all umpire certification fees, all staff USATT membership and any professional development for our staff (Regional Umpire, National Umpire, referee, etc.)

## NATIONAL TEAM ATHLETES

Representation of former and current US and Canadian Junior/National athletes in College/University table tennis in NCTTA is up year after year.

The rise of junior success into college is not an easy feat. Much thanks go to those that paved the way like Tom Feng (NYU) and Lily Zhang (UC Berkeley). This is a testament to our sport and how it has changed from the previous narrative of juniors quitting the sport to pursue College/University education.

A myriad of collegiate athletes that once competed for USA Table Tennis teams as juniors or even on the national team should be noted.

On the women's side there are student athletes like Prachi Jha and Angela Guan of UC Berkeley, and Lucy Ma of University of Pennsylvania, among others.

On the men's side, Adar Alguetti (NYU), Sharon and Gal Alguetti (Indiana University), Ian Seidenfeld (University of Minnesota), Victor Liu (UC Riverside), Eric Pattison (University of Washington), Krishna Avvari (UC Irvine) and more are continuing their table tennis success while enrolled in college or university and playing in the NCTTA.



Several Canadian Universities participate in NCTTA and have their share of national team athletes: Julian Gaboriaud, Vida Siue (Universite du Montreal), Justine Yeung (University of Toronto), Cherry Zheng (University of British Columbia), Jane Yan (University of British Columbia), and Ivy Liao (University of British Columbia).



It should be noted that Team Canada also attended the Summer Universiade with several of these athletes that participate in NCTTA competition in their respective divisions in Canada. (Photo courtesy of Vida Siue)

Speaking of the **World University Games**, in 2019, the US College Team was sent to the Summer Universiade in Naples, Italy. Jasna Rather serves as the USATT/NCTTA Liaison and helped to coordinate the logistics and organization for the athletes that attended. It was a self-funded team. The USA Men's and Women's team consisted of top NCTTA athletes that met the FISU eligibility rules.

Team USA men included Kunal Chodri (UC Davis), Anthony Chu (UC San Diego) and Charles Deng (Brown University)

Team USA women included Angela Guan (UC Berkeley), Isabel Chu (UCLA), Joy Li (UT Austin) and Lucy Ma (University of Pennsylvania)



Expect to see several college table tennis players compete for spots at the Tokyo Olympics later this year.

NCTTA is very excited for all of these athletes for putting in the extra work to represent themselves, their college/university and their country.

## WHAT IS NCTTA

NCTTA prides itself on bringing **Diversity, Inclusion, Passion, Volunteerism, Community** and ultimately the sense of **Family** to College Table Tennis.

### DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION:



Student athletes in NCTTA represent a microcosm of our current society. Whatever gender, race, creed, ethnicity, whether one is able bodied or disabled altogether make up College Table Tennis. To the right is Santa Monica College's Ari Arratia who represented the USA Para Table Tennis team.

It has been said that College Table Tennis is equivalent to the United Nations representing so many different countries. Pictured to the right is Florida State University representing 7 countries among the team!

Below is Ohlone College (one of two community colleges in NCTTA) showing how gender never matters in College Table Tennis! 3 out of the 5 members of the team are women.



### PASSION:

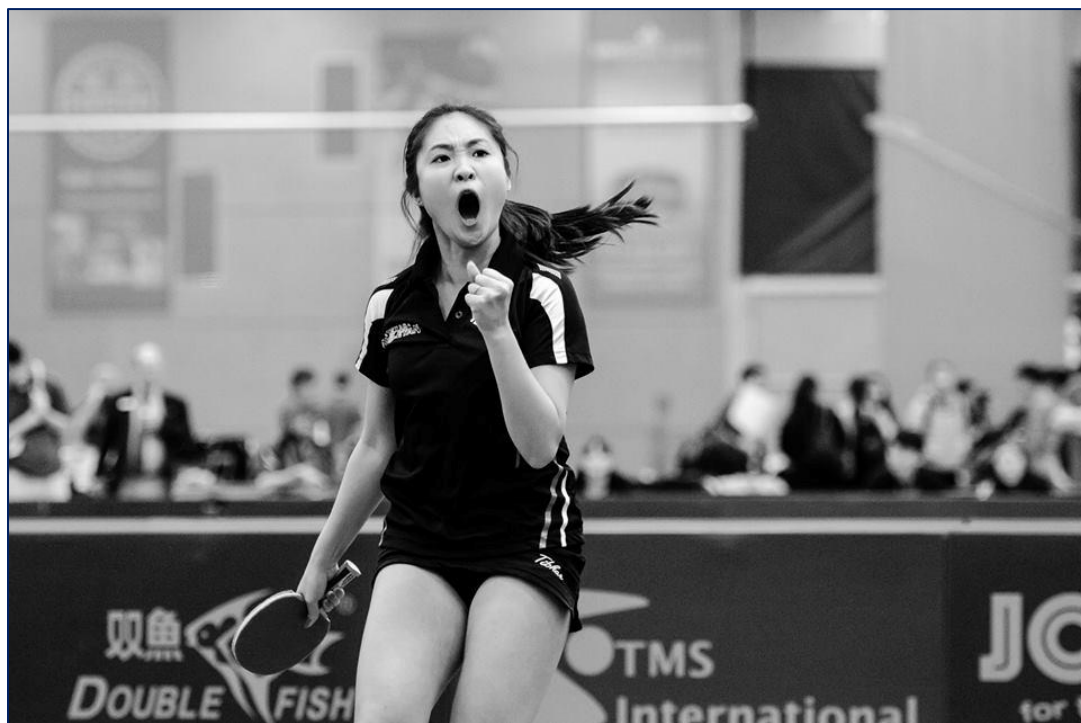
NCTTA's mantra has always been "loud and proud" even a hashtag for social media was created to match the mantra #loudnproud. College Table Tennis comes with much passion and the sport comes alive with this passion. Unfortunately, most table tennis tournaments are devoid of these cheers, cho's and celebrations. College table tennis is chock full.

*NYU (right) winning the Coed-Team Championship against all-time favorite and scholarship school Texas Wesleyan University*



*Vivian Zhou (University of Toronto) expressing her excitement at advancing!*

UMASS at Amherst (below) on their fairy tale run; winning the Northeast Regionals for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in their history!



Texas Wesleyan's Caroline Kajihara (above) letting loose after a well-deserved point

## VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY:

Student athletes attending a new school seek out those communities that will help them define their experiences within University life. Many played table tennis through USATT as juniors and quit but picked it up again in college. Many others only know their love for “ping pong” and discover the Olympic sport of table tennis.

Together they discover their own bonds that create this kind of community that will last for the rest of their lives.

“Family pictures” taken at the end of NCTTA tournaments in every division, regional and championships! Pictured below is the NCTTA Northeast Regional at the Westchester Table Tennis Club.

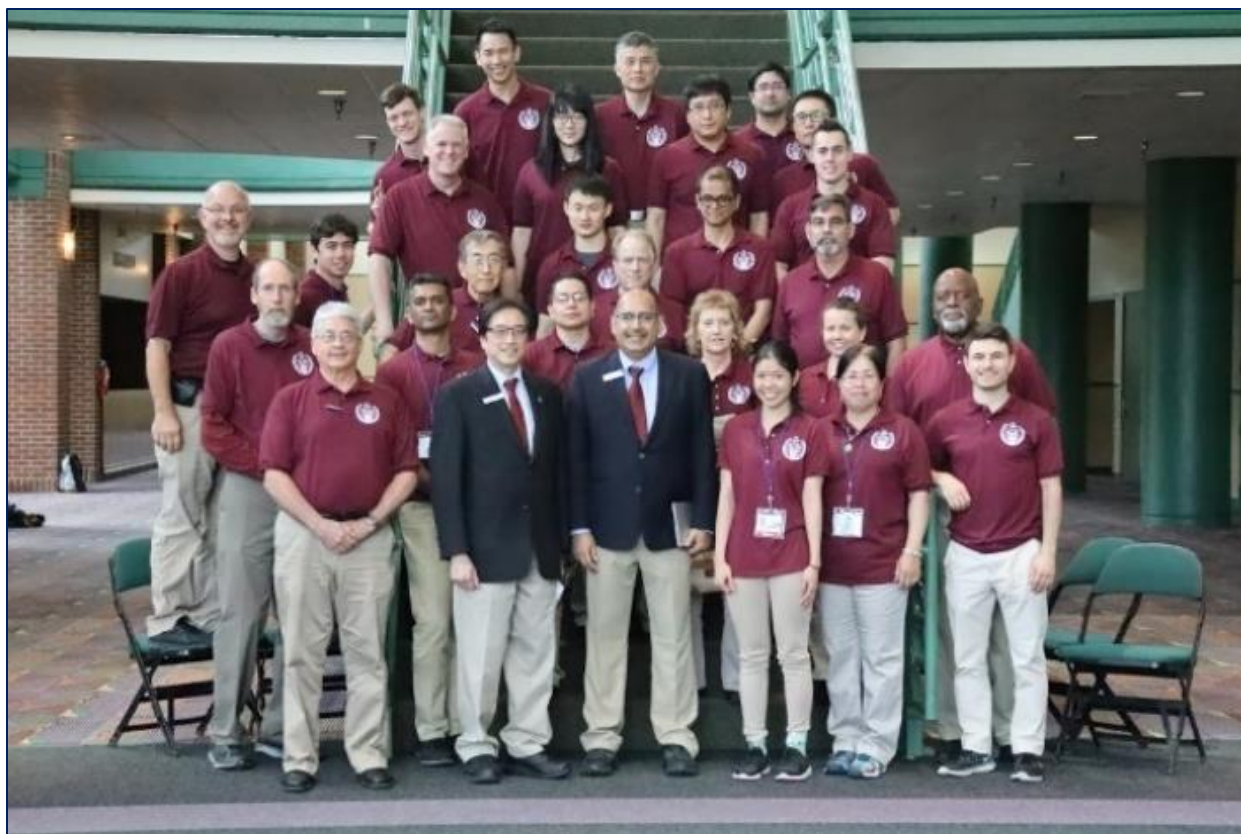


NCTTA’s strong volunteerism starts from this community of club table tennis. After graduation, many join our organization as directors, board members, and Championship staff to continue their love for their community as treasured alumni. Pictured to the right is volunteer division director and NCTTA Alum, Cedric Mosdell, from the Greater Toronto Division.





NCTTA staffs, umpires and scorekeepers are also at every table of the National Championships. Those officials are all former players, fans of college table tennis and even current players.



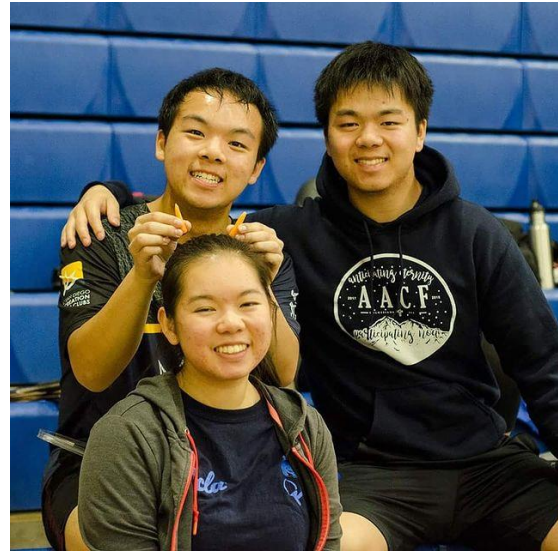
## FAMILY:

The best recipe for Family is a dash of Diversity and Inclusion, sprinkle in some volunteerism and community, add lots of passion and you have a family. College table tennis is just that for so many. Brothers, sisters, married couples, and even NCTTA babies, you name it we have it. Check out this [NCTTA special “family” video](#) for World Table Tennis day too.

Families that “play” together, “stay” together:



Daughter and Mom:  
Angela Guan and Cathleen Chen



The Chu family:  
2 brothers, 1 sister



Married couple attending the same school:  
Wenting Zha and Jinxin Wang



Volunteers extraordinaire:  
Jarol & Leah Duerkson

### NCTTA BABIES:

Part of the NCTTA Family is the new generation of kids and these “kids” are truly new NCTTA generation! Welcome NCTTA infants from valued ALUMNI and Staff! Enjoy!



Mary Chen’s daughter “Mika”. Mary Chen was a division director in Canada and Championship Umpire for many years.



Jack McCarthy’s daughter, “Lauren”. Jack McCarthy was Southern California Division Director and Tech committee member. Jack retired from NCTTA for cute reasons!



Logan Zimmerman’s daughter, “Violet”. Logan is currently an instructor for the NCTTA Coaching Certification courses, Championship flooring manager and commentator.



Joseph Well’s son, “Jathan”. Joe is NCTTA’s VP External and Championship Production coordinator. He has been involved with NCTTA since 2004.



Keith Lam and Yujing Cen's son, "Lucas". Keith and Yujing are talented photographers that help us at Nationals. Keith is also the Great Lakes Regional Director.



Chris Wang's daughter, "Jolie". Chris Wang was involved with NCTTA for over a decade as a division director then board member (Vice President) before retiring and now serves on the NCTTA Advisory Council.



This is Willy and Shelly Leparulo's daughter, "Mia". Willy eats, lives and breathes NCTTA and hopefully his daughter will too!

The future NCTTA generation is promising and of course incredibly cute!