

Nannette Oatley, 1989-91, General Studies

Years Attended: 1981-91

Area of Study: General Studies

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From the desk of Alumni Director Barbara Claybaugh:



I contacted Nannette after I saw an article in the Courier telling us about her amazing tennis career. Nannette first picked up a tennis racquet in 1993; eleven years after an injury left her with a broken neck. Since then she has accrued twelve championship tennis titles—six singles and six doubles—eight of them international wins, including the 2001 U.S. Open Singles and Doubles Championship title. She has been featured in local, regional and national media. I have attached an article about her special wheelchair tennis exhibition back in February.

For over 28 years, Nannette's life has been a living testimony to the power of resilience. She was a former gymnast, dance choreographer, and amateur actress until a broken neck altered her life in 1982. Following her injury, she married and gave birth to three children within three years. In 1989, when her children were five, three-and-a-half and two, she began a single-parent career that encompassed nine years.

She attended classes at YC from 1989-1991. She writes "I was only able to take one class per semester because of my children. I also did summer school classes. In 1991, I was able to take 2 classes per semester and finish up what I could at YC. I had prior courses out of high school and colleges in CA that I attended. Once my youngest turned six and went to school full time then I continued my education full time at Prescott College's Adult Degree Program, which allowed me a flexible schedule, personalized courses, one-on-one mentors, so I could be fully Mom when my kids got out of school until bedtime. I actually utilized an instructor at YC that I had met, Key Kreckler, to

mentor me in several PC courses. Love that woman.” Nannette completed a B.A. in counseling psychology and then an M.A. in counseling and human services.

Nannette is a resiliency expert, licensed professional counselor, former radio talk-show host, author, speaker, mother, wife, wellness consultant and the 2001 U.S. Open Singles and Doubles Tennis Champion. Each of these roles signifies a commendable achievement for any individual; together, they form an extraordinary list of credentials for one person to attain. But when the woman who fits the bill is a sit-down person in a stand-up world, the magnitude of her accomplishments is astonishing. In 2002, Nannette became the first recipient of the “Director’s Recognition Award” presented by Women in Networking, an affiliate of the National Association of Female Executives, for “inspiring women to be all they can be.” She is a member of the Direct Selling Women’s Alliance, Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association, Christians for Biblical Equality, the United States Tennis Association, and serves on the board for New Horizons Independent Living Center.

Today, Nannette works full time helping others to strengthen their physical resilience with her whole-food-based nutrition and consulting business. As an inspirational speaker, she addresses audiences on how to live a healthier and happier life by building and strengthening personal resiliencies discussed in her book, *Pain, Power & Promise: 19 Ways To a Bolder, Stronger and More Resilient Life!* She also publishes a monthly online e-zine entitled *Turning Tough Times Around*.

Nannette resides in Prescott, AZ with her husband, Lew, a Sheriff’s Deputy, and their three pets. Her 30-year-old son is serving in the U.S. Navy and currently stationed in Guam. Her 26-year-old son is a licensed cosmetologist and U.S. Army Ranger serving in 75th Battalion, stationed in Ft. Lewis, WA. Her 25-year-old daughter works in a theatre-arts venue and lives in southern California along with her 23-year-old son, who is a construction worker by day, musician by night.

For more information or to correspond with Nannette, you can visit her web site at www.nannetteoatley.com