



Adventures
OF THE MIND

Celebrating Promising Teens

OUR PURPOSE

ADVENTURES believes that a significant breakthrough occurs when a talented teen is mentored by an accomplished adult. This can happen in a minute—or over a lifetime—but the results are the same: passions are ignited, horizons expanded and a new world is opened up to our 15-18-year-old students.



Mentors: Lisa Randall '05, Poet Billy Collins '09, Victoria Gray '03, Leslie Chihuly '03

Mentor Chris Mahn '11



Student Sponsor Gerry Ohrstrom dazzles class of '11



Malsie Kirn, Harvard '20 & Kate Pitney, Southern Methodist University '20

ADVENTURES OF THE MIND

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TODAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL CHANGE TOMORROW

Adventures of the Mind brings together some of America's most promising high school students – the great thinkers and achievers of tomorrow – with some of the great thinkers and achievers of today with the mission to inspire the teens to expand their horizons. For several days, these exceptional young people explore their potential with mentors who are both doers and dreamers: accomplished artists, astronauts, athletes, scientists, dinosaur wranglers, entrepreneurs, inventors, journalists, Nobel laureates, novelists, playwrights, poets, poker players, programmers, public servants, Pulitzer Prize winners, scholars, and trailblazers.

OUR MENTORING MODEL

The Summits follow the belief that getting to know great achievers and sharing their interests and experiences can serve as a road map for talented young people just starting out. *Adventures* provides an opportunity to spend several days meeting, greeting, quizzing, challenging, conversing, and dining with these accomplished adults. There is no other student program like *Adventures of the Mind* where a teen can go from having breakfast with a poet laureate to a hands-on workshop with award-winning journalists, to finishing the day by playing chess with a national champion.

The adult achievers that students meet at *Adventures* are a select group of accomplished individuals who are invited by the Student Achievement Advisory Council to mentor at each Summit as:

- *Alumni mentors (speakers who are invited to return)*
- *Honored Speakers who share their life story from our stage*
- *Student Sponsors*

THE IMPACT

We are making a difference in the lives of high-potential students by bringing them together with their intellectual peers from across the nation on a college campus with an all-star faculty of mentors. Ninety-seven percent of student alumni are attending or have completed college. Some of our students have also been recipients of the highest awards given to college seniors, including the Hertz Fellowship and the prestigious Marshall Scholarship.

“*Adventures* changed my daughter Jacquelynn's life.”

—JACQUE D. PATTERSON
Sr. Regional Director,
Rocketship Education DC

“The most valuable thing I learned at *Adventures of the Mind* was that passion and motivation are true keys to success. I had previously believed success was a product of luck or talent, but the speakers showed me that with enough time and effort almost anything is possible.”

—AMZI JEFFS
Washington Scholar, Missoula, MT
Harvey Mudd College '16

MEMORIAM



In just over a year, William Craig Rice contributed much to the growth and development of *Adventures of the Mind* as our chairman of the board and he will be sorely missed. For all the artists, educators, and students whose lives he enriched, Dr. Rice will be remembered for his love of the natural world, and awe at humankind's ability to make art that reminds us of our place in the universe.

The grandson of the founder of Black Mountain College, Bill Rice earned his PhD and MFA at the University of Michigan and taught at Johns Hopkins and Harvard. He served as president of Shimer College, the Great Books College of Illinois, before joining the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), where he served as director of the Division of Education programs. Dr. Rice was also a poet, known to never leave the house without an unfinished poem in his jacket pocket.

Bill Rice died of a heart attack on June 20, 2016 while traveling for an NEH site visit in Philadelphia. He leaves behind his mother, brother, sister, and daughter, Annabelle, a student at the National Cathedral School who attended *Adventures* 2015.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Rice's University of Virginia classmate, Peter F. Bross, will sponsor the **William Craig Rice Poetry Scholarship** to enable a non-English major to pursue their love of poetry.



Michael Li student '03 and
Nobel Physicist Leon Lederman '03

“I was introduced to many versions of success at *Adventures*. What I took from hearing everyone speak to us was a respect for variation (genetic and otherwise). Now true success means something different to me. While it could mean being well-paid and well-liked, I find that my interpretation of success is different than others. So why follow indifferently down their paths, when I can blaze down my own?”

—JULIA FONG '14
Tan Scholar
University of Chicago '20

NOMINATING STUDENTS—OUR PROCESS

Adventures of the Mind is a unique summer camp with the goal to help high-potential youth explore their futures, including career paths that stoke their intellectual and creative passions while expanding their college options. When selecting students for our Summits, we search nationwide for the smartest young minds, digging deep by going beyond the traditional measures of achievement: grades and test scores. We ask teachers to nominate a teen they know to be exceptional, regardless of learning disabilities, socioeconomic factors, or other obstacles that may obscure their real potential.

We also look for the runners-up in national competitions, from the Presidential Scholars Program, to the Intel Science Talent Search, to the National Poetry Slam, who are just as talented as the winners. Acceptance to *Adventures of the Mind* is *de facto* national recognition due to a combination of the in-depth nature of the selection process, the stature of the mentors, and the rigors of the program.

Adventures of the Mind is an achievement & leadership mentoring summit

At their side is our impressive faculty of mentors: tech entrepreneurs and Pulitzer-winning writers, astronauts

and archaeologists, Nobel-winning scientists, and public servants, many of whom are also professors from our nation's leading universities. Mentors share their own triumphs, setbacks, and lessons learned in seminars, workshops, and informal gatherings. The goal is to inspire and help prepare the next generation of thinkers and leaders, and we see that these messages have changed our students' thinking and lives for the better.

Before each Summit, we reach out to educators with a request that they nominate students age 15-18 whom they believe have the intellect and imagination to be worthy of this honor. We are especially interested in welcoming young people who may not fit the traditional standards of academic excellence.

Educators complete nominations on our website (adventuresofthemind.org) and provide a letter of recommendation for each student. For students who qualify for financial aid, we offer full scholarships — covering lodging, meals, events, materials, and books — funded by generous individuals and foundations. We also have transportation grants available.



Chessmaster Jennifer Shahade '07
challenging students to a match

OUR IMPRESSIVE HISTORY

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & ADVOCACY SERVICES, A 501(c)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

launched the *Adventures of the Mind* Achievement Mentoring Summit in 2003. We have since provided scholarships to 1,087 students from almost every state. 226 accomplished adults from around the world have participated, many of them more than once, donating their time to help guide, inspire, and mentor these remarkable youth we consider tomorrow's achievers.

2003: Our first Summit was co-hosted by two pioneers from very different fields, Dale Chihuly and Nathan Myhrvold. Dale Chihuly is renowned as a unique artist who uses the medium of studio glass art for complex, large-scale glass sculptures, while Nathan Myhrvold is the founder of Intellectual Ventures, a private company devoted to the development of an invention marketplace.

2005: Nobel Prize-winning physicist and former director of SLAC, Burton Richter, novelist Amy Tan, and Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page introduced the students to the world of discovery and innovation in the heart of Silicon Valley.

2007: Our host was Morehouse president and alumnus, Walter Massey, who made his mark as an educator, physicist, director of the National Science Foundation, and chairman of the board of Bank of America.

2009: Our hosts were software pioneer and astronaut, Charles Simonyi and renowned physicist, Freeman Dyson. We had 50 additional mentors, including 12 Nobel laureates, two poet laureates, and three more astronauts.

2011: We discovered achievement under the *Big Sky* thanks to the generosity of our hosts, Dennis & Phyllis Washington. This *Adventures* Summit was the largest gathering of Nobel Prize winners in the history of Montana.

2012: NYU Professor Dalton Conley hosted the Summit and the Liberty Science Center's president, Paul Hoffman, provided *Adventures* with a "Night at the Museum." Our faculty included former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove and five Nobel laureates, two of whom performed musical solos.

2014: NASA invited us to explore their famed Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) while meeting their top scientists. In attendance were 192 students from 37 states and a record-setting nine countries. Our mentors included Obamacare.com designer, Jini Kim, producer of *The Big Bang Theory*, Eric Kaplan, and Nobel Laureate Richard Taylor.

2015: Our students visited the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the National Constitution Center to gain more knowledge of our nation's history. They also met with an impressive roster of mentors, including Nobel Laureate Eric Maskin, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, Paul Muldoon, and best-selling author, Amy Tan.



OH, THE PLACES WE'VE BEEN

2003
Chihuly Boathouse
Seattle, WA

2005
Stanford Linear Accelerator
Center (SLAC) & the Googleplex
Silicon Valley, CA

2007
Morehouse College
Martin Luther King Jr. Center
Atlanta, GA

2009
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ

2011
University of Montana
Missoula, MT

2012
New York University
Liberty Science Center
New York, NY

2014
Occidental College
Nasa's JPL
Los Angeles, CA

2015
Rosemont College
National Constitution Center
Rosemont, PA

“*Adventures of the Mind* is very important to me. It brings high-potential teens to a college campus for several life-inspiring days with 50 mentors. The students come away with a broader view of what they want to do with their lives. I've witnessed it. I have gone every year at my own expense and have come away similarly inspired, and I have met incredible people who are now dear lifelong friends.”

— AMY TAN '03
Author & Explorer

“Adventures of the Mind exposed me to creative and innovative ways to live life to a greater potential. Initially I did not know what to expect, but I came with an open mind to all the opportunities the program had to offer. I am glad I did so, for I have bonded with phenomenal mentors, met lifelong friends, and obtained new ideas that will enhance my way of thinking.”

—ADRIANNE BATISTE '09
Tan Scholar
University of San Francisco '13



“Adventures of the Mind is one of those experiences that will stick with you for a lifetime. The friends and memories I made, the insights I gained, and the opportunity to pursue knowledge in such a unique environment, are all things that only this program can provide. I wish every high school student could participate in this Summit, but I feel very lucky to be an official Adventurer.”

—KEVIN GROVER '09
Washington Scholar
St. John's University '13



Adventures OF THE MIND SCHOLARS SPEAK OUT

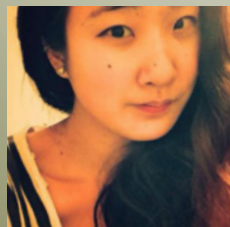
SINCE 2003
1,087 STUDENTS,
FROM EVERY STATE IN
THE NATION AND
NINE COUNTRIES, HAVE
RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS
THANKS TO THE
GENEROSITY OF OUR
SPONSORS.



The Juilliard Pre-College quartet share their musical gifts with us

“I was so inspired and so motivated to really prepare myself for the bigger world that I will be exploring soon...”

—REBECCA SHIN '12
Feld Scholar
Rutgers University '17



“I was thrilled by all of the amazing artists, entrepreneurs, writers, scientists, Noble Prize-winners, cartoonists, and athletes that shared with us their stories about how some persevered, and others stumbled into success. I have never been more motivated to continue doing the things that I do in my community. I have never felt empowered to be a success in the world, until I came to Adventures.”

—TY'RONN SPRIGGS '11
Ferguson Scholar
Alabama State University '15



“After meeting all these extremely successful people I am really encouraged and have actually started to believe that the sky is not the limit.”

—RIANA SHAH '09
Ahmad-Llewellyn Scholar
Swarthmore College '14



ALL-STAR ALUMNI

MICHAEL LI '03

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY '07
SPONSOR: Nathan Myhrvold

SUE CARLS '03

DUKE UNIVERSITY '09
SPONSOR: Kathy L'Amour

JUSTIN KOVAC '05

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY '09
SPONSOR: Charles Simonyi

CRISTAL GARCIA '05

STANFORD UNIVERSITY '09
SPONSOR: Kathy L'Amour

ROGER WANG '07

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY '11
SPONSOR: Google

JACQUELYN PATTERSON '07

SPELMAN COLLEGE '13
SPONSOR: Kathy L'Amour

JOHN WU '09

STANFORD UNIVERSITY '14
SPONSOR: Charles Simonyi

TAWNEY HUGHES '09

CLAREMONT McKENNA COLLEGE '14
SPONSORS: Dennis & Phyllis Washington

MAYANK JAIN '11

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS '16
SPONSOR: TEOCO

JENNY LIU '11

HARVARD UNIVERSITY '15
SPONSOR: Louis Lerman

CHRISTOPHER HILLENBRAND '12

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY '19
SPONSOR: Microsoft Research New England

TARYN ANDERSON '12

DREXEL UNIVERSITY '19
SPONSOR: Shahara Ahmad-Llewellyn

IAN McLEAN '14

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY '19
SPONSOR: Rita Dove

JULIA FONG '14

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO '20
SPONSORS: Amy Tan & Lou DeMattei

ANITA MAKSIMIUK '15

NEST+m UPPER SCHOOL '17
SPONSOR: WorldQuant Foundation

SAKET BIKMAL '15

THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL
FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY '18
SPONSOR: Jain Family Foundation



Poet Laureate Billy Collins '09



Nobel physicist, Dick Taylor '11 at the University of Montana Summit hosted by The Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation

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MASON BLACHER, Non-Profit Advisor

LYNETTE HALL, Director of Student Admissions

JORDAN AVERY, Program Associate

DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE.....

Here are 10 bits of advice from an old guy who has always done what he liked and got well paid for it.

- 1 **FIRST, BE LUCKY.** Watch out for unexpected changes and be ready to jump at them whenever they come by.
- 2 **SECOND, BE COMPETENT.** Find out what you can do well, and work hard to do it better.
- 3 **THIRD, BE ACTIVE.** Do not imagine that you need to learn everything before you can do anything.
- 4 **FOURTH, BE DARING.** Do not let fear of failure stop you from doing something great.
- 5 **FIFTH, BE COSMOPOLITAN.** Travel and learn foreign languages when you are young, and you will have friends all over the world when you are old.

- 6 **SIXTH, BE FLEXIBLE.** Always be ready to quit what you are doing and start a new career.
- 7 **SEVENTH, BE GENEROUS.** Give your enemies more credit than they deserve, and they will become your friends.
- 8 **EIGHTH, BE LUCID.** In almost all professions, speaking and writing clearly is the way to become a leader.
- 9 **NINTH, BE SHARING.** Working with a group to achieve a shared goal is usually more satisfying than working alone.
- 10 **TENTH, BE LOVING.** In the long run, family and friends are more important than work and career.

FREEMAN DYSON, *Adventures Class of '05, Physicist & Writer, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ*





“Thank you seems to be too small of a phrase to recognize your kindnesses big and small that have changed lives.”

— VICTORIA GRAY
Adventures of the Mind Founder

TEAM ADVENTURES consists of individual *Student Sponsors*, the *Student Achievement Advisory Council* (our faculty of mentors), and our *Corps of Volunteers* – the alumni students and staff who return year after year. All the members of *Team Adventures* make our unique *Camp Adventures* possible through their generous support.

Funding, identifying, inviting, and rounding up the 200+ achievers each summer is no easy feat. Accomplishing this takes financial and intellectual contributions

from the team throughout the year. *Adventures* thanks you from the bottom of our hearts and **MINDS** for your continued support. We couldn't do it without **YOU!**

MAJOR BENEFACTORS 2003 – 2016

- Kathy L'Amour
- Charles Simonyi
- Shahara Ahmad-Llewellyn
- Dorothy Lemelson
- Dale & Leslie Chihuly
- Cheryl Saban
- James Bianco
- Naveen & Atul Jain Families
- Louis Lerman
- Dennis & Phyllis Washington
- Sergey Brin
- Nathan Myhrvold
- Peter F. Bross
- Amy Tan & Lou DeMattei
- WorldQuant Foundation
- Gerry F. Ohrstrom
- Annie Duke & Eric Brooks
- Kris & Peter Norvig

“*Adventures of the Mind* allows the young minds of highly talented students to experience individuals who are similar to them in ways that surprise and delight them. They come with limited exposure and leave with a world view gained through one on one contact with other students and our highly-accomplished mentors. Students learn that not having a life plan can work just as well as having one, that failure can be a learning experience. They learn to break through barriers, value service, face obstacles with optimism, and draw on their own resilience to move forward with grace and courage. *Adventurers* leave with lifelong friendships and a sense that their lives have been changed forever.”

– Shahara Ahmad-Llewellyn '03
Commissioner & Philanthropist

STUDENT LETTER TO BENEFACTOR KATHY L'AMOUR

December 27, 2012

Mrs. Kathy L'Amour,

I express my sincere appreciation toward you for offering me a scholarship to *Adventures of the Mind* 2012. You have given me a fantastic gift that will benefit me for a lifetime. After my experiences at this prestigious program, I began to see the world in a new and better perspective. Meeting renowned artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, and writers, including you among the many people, has given me the reward of feeling the essence of different career fields. As I listened to the many mentors speak of their lives and the many obstacles they faced, I began to see how crooked the road in life could become...being passionate about what one does in his or her own future is important...being a part of *Adventures of the Mind* has given me guidance and insight.

I am truly grateful to you, Mrs. Kathy L'Amour.

Sincerely,

MARY ZHUO KE '12
University of Pennsylvania '19

CORPS OF VOLUNTEERS OVER THE YEARS*

ELLEN AGLER	MARCELLE LEAHY
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REBECCA GLASHOW	JEFF PARROTT
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MAYANK JAIN	ROGER WANG
JUSTIN KOVAC	KEITH WILKERSON
KATHY L'AMOUR	JOHN WU
BEAU L'AMOUR	* Partial list

A special thank you to Patricia Kilgore for her guidance and for designing the *Adventures* website!



SHAHARA AHMAD-LLEWELLYN
Commissioner & Philanthropist



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Artist



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Columbia University



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& Poker Player



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Pulitzer Prize for Poetry



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Poker Champion & Author



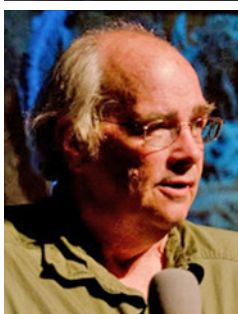
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and Rolling Stone



MURRAY GELL-MANN
Nobel Prize in Physics



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Egyptologist & Archeologist



JACK HORNER
Paleontologist,
MacArthur Genius



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Hertz Fellow



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Harvard University



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Artist



MARK MOFFETT
Naturalist &
Photographer "Dr. Bugs"



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Co-founder of YouToo Technologies
and Chairman, The Coalition for
American Renewal



CHARLES SIMONYI
Tech pioneer, Philanthropist,
Space Traveler



FRANK SULLOWAY
Darwin Scholar, MacArthur Genius,
UC Berkeley



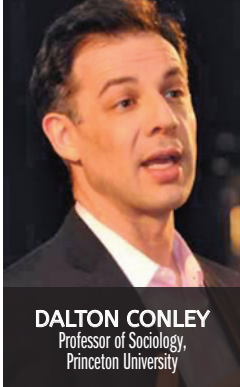
AMY TAN
Author & Explorer



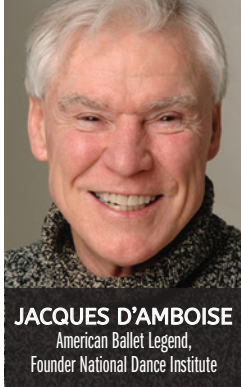
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Artist



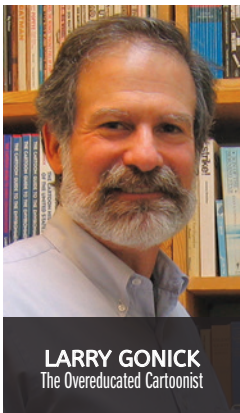
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Princeton University



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American Ballet Legend,
Founder National Dance Institute



SHELDON GLASHOW
Nobel Prize in Physics,
Boston University



LARRY GONICK
The Overeducated Cartoonist



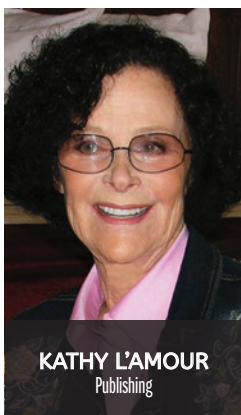
CAROL GREIDER
Nobel Prize in Medicine,
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine



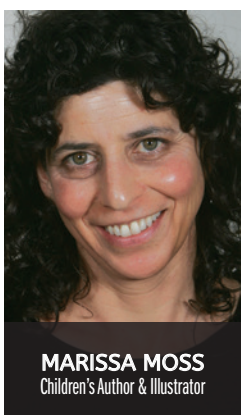
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Heisman Trophy Winner
Entrepreneur



PHYLLIS WASHINGTON
Education & Philanthropy



ROBERT WILSON
Nobel Prize in Physics
Harvard University

“I always try to be my own harshest critic. Testing a new hypothesis is fun, but testing a hypothesis means seeing if you can disprove it. We all have blind spots about the things we care the most about. Creativity and rigor are not sufficient for success in science — one also needs a certain amount of cleverness, good hands, perseverance, and luck. But one does not necessarily have all of them to make a good scientist. Curiosity, wide reading, and self-criticism, on the other hand, I find are essential.”

— Dr. Carol Greider '03
Nobel Prize in Medicine
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

“You've spent a dozen or so years being told your score — being graded and measured in all sorts of ways. Your measurements don't give you the opportunities. They just provide a backdrop to your life. The foreground, the choices and friendships and chance meetings and projects, are what build a life, and they're not something anyone will grade you on.”

— Randall Munroe '09
Author & Cartoonist

“A lot of people will have expectations of what you should make of yourself, and it is really important that you do your best to follow the path leading toward your dream career, for in the end, happiness is a far greater attainment than someone else's idea of a good job.”

— Dr. John Horner '03
Paleontologist
MacArthur Genius

“Don't be afraid to answer a question with the answer, “I don't know.” Be honest; your word is the most valuable commodity you will ever own. Practice listening; people rarely tell you what they most want you to know in their first sentence.”

— Rick Bass '11
Writer & Environmental Activist

“It seems that when we get stuck on a problem, our minds begin to think in new and creative ways, even when we are not aware of what's going on. Getting stuck is often part of the creative process. The same happens with creativity in the arts. So you should not get discouraged when you get stuck on a problem. If you have done your homework and prepared your mind, getting stuck can be a good thing, not a bad thing.”

— Alan Lightman '09
Essayist, Novelist, Physicist

Adventures' success would not be possible without your support—whether you donated money, time, or expertise. Our sincerest thanks to you for investing in our mission.

Google co-founder Sergey Brin and Victoria Gray with Class of '05 students touring the Googleplex.



Adventures
OF THE **MIND**

www.AdventuresOfTheMind.org



BUSINESS OFFICE: 1511 16th St., #101, Santa Monica, CA 90404

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: P.O. Box 423, Cabin John, MD 20818

PHONE: 202-518-2324

EMAIL: adventures@adventuresofthemind.org

