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Interview with Carrie Ann Inaba

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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ON THE COVER

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"We just said to ourselves, 'If we make it, we make it.' So, this means a lot to me." -Jorge Arness Guzman

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"Every time I looked at the floor and saw what was going on, I felt so satisfied with what I was going into."
-Connie Townsend

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"There's something so profound about the way ballroom dancers approach their art as a sport. They treat it as both because it is." -Carrie Ann Inaba



CHARLES RAINEY AND PETER POVER

PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER

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LAURA LA GASSA & BAO LIN QUEK, VOLUNTEERS AT NATIONALS

PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER

President's REPORT



This report arrives with you a little later than usual, because we delayed publication in order to bring you detailed coverage of the magnificent USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships in Baltimore.

Spring is an appropriate time for new ideas and new developments, and springtime at the Inner Harbor Renaissance Marriott was no exception. There were so many “firsts” that it was difficult to keep a good count, and there is no doubt that this year’s event was the biggest and best ever. The team of volunteers, and organizer Daphna Locker, did an incredible job of handling record entries and record audiences. Thank you Daphna, thank you team, and thank you also to our wonderful standing-room-only audiences!

Turning to the competitors, new champions were crowned in almost every category. But there were other “firsts.” We were delighted to welcome IDSF General Secretary, Marco Sietas, as one of the judging panel – the first time a senior IDSF official has done this. Marco was also one of the judges for our “first” Regional Team Match, which provided a riotous finish to the weekend. The competitors – free from the pressure of further competitions – let their hair down, and had the audience roaring their applause as the match progressed. Normal levels of decorum soon vanished completely, and the judges were subjected to gleeful harassment, and a thoroughly good time was had by all. Marco confided to me afterwards that he was a little disappointed not to get to dance in the team match! Perhaps a thought for next year!

Once again we provided activities for our social dancers, including a boat trip, social dance sessions, workshops and receptions on Friday and Saturday evenings. At the first of these, we were joined by the delightful Ms. Carrie Ann Inaba, who helped me present awards to three USA Dance members over the age of 90 who were able to attend. We also presented Honorary Life Memberships to Former Treasurer, Lee Andrew, former President, Mary Wethington and former National Secretary, Connie Townsend, all of whom have given many years of devoted volunteer services to USA Dance.

Carrie Ann also acted as an honorary judge for several competitions. It had been agreed that she would not act as a “traditional” judge, but that she would look at couples dancing in the semi-final and final rounds – looking for “star quality.” Her choices received an attractive piece of crystal in the shape of a star. I believe the experiment was a great success, and we look forward to an ongoing relationship with this gracious and charming lady, who volunteered her time during an extremely busy schedule.

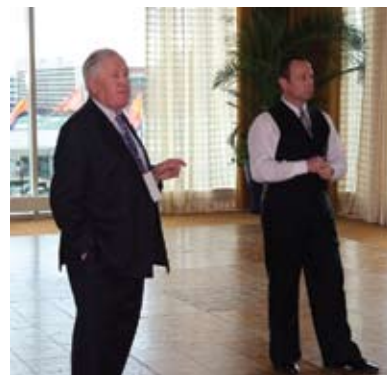
It had been the intention that Ms. Inaba would join Victoria Regan in a seminar about “star quality” on Sunday morning. Unfortunately she had to take a flight before dawn, and I am most grateful to Paul Killick for joining Victoria, and providing an interesting and engaging seminar.

All in all a great weekend,
and congratulations to all.

Peter Pover



PETER POVER WITH WAYNE CROWDER



ABOVE AND BELOW PHOTOS BY CARSON ZULLINGER



PETER POVER BEING INTERVIEWED BY ABC-TV. ALSO IN THE PHOTO: ANGELA PRINCE, CARRIE ANN INABA AND JEN CONFORTI

American *Dancer*

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Please include your name, city and state. Names will appear in full unless specified otherwise.

CHAPTER NEWS

Please include chapter name and number, contact information and any photos with caption information that you might have.

PHOTOS

Must be high resolution, print quality digital photos. 300 dpi.
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JEAN KRUPA

Jean Krupa currently serves as the Social Vice President for USA Dance. In 1999 she served as the Regional Vice President for the Daytona Ballroom Dancers Club, which she helped organize in 1990.



WAYNE & MARIE CROWDER

Wayne and Marie are four-time USA Dance Amateur Champions in Latin and three-time USA representatives to the IDSF World Latin Championships in Belgium, Spain and Italy. They are Championship Adjudicators, proud members of the ISTD and coaches of the NCU DanceSport team.

GUEST WRITERS

JANE REXROAD

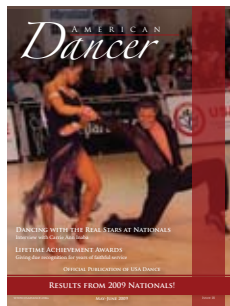
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COVER PHOTO

BY CARSON ZULLINGER
(WWW.CARSONZULLINGER.COM)

Valentin Chmerkovskiy
& Daria Chesnokova
winners of the Adult Latin
USA Dance 2009 National
DanceSport Championships.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

USA DANCE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Please vote online today for USA DANCE 2009 National DanceSport Championship as the Best Amateur Single Sports Event in the U.S.—a prestigious annual recognition sponsored by Sports Travel Magazine and the SportsTravel Awards 2009. The SportsTravel Awards will be presented at the TEAMS 2009 Conference & Expo, October 13–17, in New Orleans.

It's time that USA Dance Nationals and DanceSport are at the top of the list of recognized sport events!

All you need to do is paste the below link into your browser, go to the ballot page and type in the full name of our event, "USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships." Votes must be submitted by June 30 at the latest. So, tell all your friends to vote, don't delay.

<http://vote.schneiderpublishing.com/ballot/>

USA DANCE NATIONALS VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

We have more than 100 videos downloaded on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/usadanceinc, from Nationals. Some videos were recorded by dancers and friends/family; others by our professional videographer Paradigm of the championship finals. If you want your video to go on our channel, download it to YouTube and label it USA Dance 2009 Nationals + your names/division.

We have many playlists on our site as well. Just click to see the various video folders. The latest videos on the home page are the 2 FOX TV *Morning Show* segments from Nationals. You can view the write-up of these on our YouTube page for all the details.

Nationals results are posted at www.o2cm.com. The results page has already had over 24,000 hits, be sure to check out who is on top!



CALL FOR LOCAL MEDIA PUBLICITY

USA Dance is interested in your local media publicity opportunities. If you have worked with your media to support an event or program, we would love to hear about it. Whether it's local papers, magazines, or TV coverage send the clipping or link to the online publicity to publicrelations-dir@usadance.org.

NEW FACEBOOK GROUP SITE

We have a new group site on *Facebook.com*: USA DANCE INC. Go to Facebook and check it out! It is specifically for members and friends to enjoy social connections.

USA Dance also makes announcements through this site, launched only a few weeks ago. We encourage all members and friends to join. Send an invitation to all your dance friends to help us reach our goal of 25,000 members by year-end. We also link to our YouTube channel through Facebook. Site manager is Angela Prince.

Qualifying Events for USA Dance 2010 National DanceSport Championships



Andei Kazlouski & Kathleen Kapshandy / Photo by: Carson Zullinger



NJ DanceSport Classic
"Summer Sizzler"
Hackensack, NJ
June 13-14, 2009

Gumbo DanceSport
Championships
Baton Rouge, LA
June 26-27, 2009

Derby City DanceSport
Championships
Louisville, KY
August 14-15, 2009

Northwest DanceSport
Championships
Seattle, WA
October 24-25, 2009

High Point Classic DanceSport
Championships
High Point, NC
October 24-25, 2009

Manhattan Amateur Classic
Manhattan, NY
January 15-17, 2010

Southwest DanceSport
Championships
Anaheim, CA
Early February, 2010

Chicago DanceSport
Championships
Chicago, IL
February 20-21, 2010

USA Dance Mid-Atlantic
DanceSport Championships
Bethesda, MD
February 27-28, 2010

For More Information visit www.usadance.org

Chapter Highlight

MASSabda Chapter #3002 Celebrates Annual Inaugural Gala in Grand Style



FOXTROT LESSON WITH BILLY MORGANTI

SUBMITTED BY: **JANE REXROAD**
VICE PRESIDENT

January marked the Annual Inaugural Gala for MASSabda USA Dance members and our dance community. This year we celebrated the event with a buffet and dance at the elegant Danversport Yacht Club. Guests enjoyed a sumptuous lunch while dancing to music provided by DJ Dave Innis on a beautiful parquet floor, under chandeliers with the ocean as the backdrop.

The lunch buffet was followed by a complimentary foxtrot lesson presented by Bill Morganti, a long time industry Pro, MASSabda supporter, and co-founder of the first MASSabda DanceSport Series. The Series is a 10-week program that introduces new dancers to our community with lessons and interface at many

area studios. The Series concludes with a special MASSabda event for participants at the Eastern DanceSport Championships.

Over 180 dancers danced away a cold, New England afternoon, complete with mixers and dance hosts. Our guests were introduced to the 2009 Board of Directors: James DiCecca, President; Jane Rexroad, Vice President; Beverly Sinkiewicz, Treasurer; Mary Wallace, Secretary; and Directors at Large: Emma Lee, Christine Zonce, Manny Leone, Donna Crown, Sheryl Brooks, and Ilya Vidrin.

Also in attendance were professionals Peter Zaccone, John Nigro, Russell Jackson, and Tricia Sampson, and Roberto Reyes who graciously helped to judge the Jack n' Jill contest. 50 leaders and followers danced through three rounds of foxtrot, attempting to capture the first place cash award. Prizes were awarded to the top six couples.

Our chapter enjoyed the continued support from past board members, who also joined us, including Terri and Fred Contrada, our founding fathers. It was an honor to have them with us for the festivities; as well as chapter presidents from the Hartford, Conn. and So. Maine Chapters. Guests attended from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

We awarded over a dozen door prizes for free lessons, passes to studio dances, and gift certificates for dance shoes & accessories—



JACK & JILL WINNERS & JUDGES

generously donated by Dance Republic/Allston, Hamby Ballroom/Waltham, K&S Dance, SuperShag/Waltham and Take the Lead Dancewear. We offer a special thank you to Mr. Peter Zaccone for his generous cash donation. MASSabda has worked diligently to unite all factions of our dance community and we all support each other.

A successful 50/50 Raffle was held and proceeds were used to support a MASSabda initiative at the USA Dance 2009 DanceSport Championships in April. Our chapter also hosted a Meet and Greet rally for our participating competitors.

Dancers attending our events can always look forward to an exciting and robust program. The 2009 Inaugural Gala was no exception. During the general dance segment, our guests also enjoyed a decadent complimentary dessert buffet while they were treated to a special performance by Ruth Evans and Charles Worseley. Their historically correct presentation of a samba delighted and educated all.

Jim DiCecca delivered his president's message. DiCecca announced the start of the 2nd MASSabda DanceSport Series. The second Series commenced in March, running for 10 weeks and will conclude with a special MASSabda Event for participants at The Yankee Classic in June. Anyone interested in more information can contact our president, Jim DiCecca, www.massabda.org.

We look forward to the 2010 Inaugural Gala that will take place, again, at the Danversport Yacht Club, on Jan. 31. Two of our board members, Jim Dicecca and Jane Rexroad, will be celebrating a decade serving MASSabda.

We facilitate access to memberships on our Web site, in person at our dances and events, and via membership campaigns and initiatives. One of our chapter goals is be the first USA Dance chapter with 1,000 members. ■

RUTH EVENS & CHARLES WORSELEY



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEWEL PAUR

USA Dance Chapter News

By: Erica Colvin

WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU, AND SO DO
OUR READERS!

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SARASOTA/MANATEE, FLORIDA

WHITE SANDS CHAPTER #6012 "THEY ARE THE FUTURE" FLORIDA YOUTH INSPIRE A COMMUNITY

Children discover, parents comment, and Florida dances. Something is happening in the White Sands Chapter, and the community is coming together for the excitement.

The USA Dance White Sands Chapter #6012 in Sarasota/Manatee, Fla. initiated the pivotal elementary school program Dancing For Education, and has been working toward its fast-growing success since 2006. Together with the World Dance Arts Foundation (WDAF), another non-profit group in the area, the White Sands Chapter is making ballroom dance available now to more than 80 children throughout the area.

"The kids' self-esteem is escalating. Their grades are going up," said Annie Sundeen, chapter president.

The WDAF provided ballroom teachers Yvette Revelli and Deb Lombard, who have made a real difference. "The children have a greater willingness to participate, respect for



CHAPTER MEMBER WITH STUDENT

PHOTO COURTESY OF KIMBERLY CEBALLOS

others, and a deeper understanding of the commitment required for dance," Lombard said.

With all the excitement generated in the classrooms, it was only a matter of time before the energy spilled into the community. Lombard reported that students can't wait to teach their parents and family the new steps and lessons.

Kimberly Ceballos, former chapter president, actually initiated and supervises the program, which focuses specifically on cultural heritage and movement education. As she emphasized, their dancing has proved to be a valuable experience and well worth the expense.

The White Sands chapter hosts four fundraisers a year to generate funding for their growing program. The money

they raise sponsors three to four schools. The chapter hopes that one day these children will sponsor future generations in the arts.

"They are the future," Sundeen said.

SANDPOINT, IDAHO

SANDPOINT CHAPTER #1017 ...BUT SUMMER IS ANOTHER STORY

For those chapters without a large membership, Pam Sheffler from the Sandpoint, Idaho Chapter #1017 gives a few pointers on keeping the dancing going, even in a rural area.

With just 25 chapter members and a population of about 6,000, Sandpoint is located in the panhandle of Idaho, near the Montana, Canada, and Washington borders.

But small chapters often have big benefits. Board member Pam Sheffler calls it a "close knit community." With Pam's husband, Dwight, as chapter president and Pam on the board, they work together to make newcomers feel welcome. "Even with a handful of people, we work together to make the dances fun."

Pam shared one unique characteristic of their area, "Up here, everything depends on the weather." In the winter time the mountain passes are covered with snow, so many members aren't able to travel to the dances regularly.

But the summer is another story. With so many other activities to compete with, the Sandpoint Chapter finds it difficult to keep people coming to dances inside. Yet they have a compelling strategy that seems to be working. "It's just a matter of outreach, as far as publicity goes," Sheffler said. The chapter holds an outdoor dance every summer to merge the beauty of the outdoors and the joys of dancing.

"We create flyers and use the newspapers and radio stations around the area. We place posters all over Sandpoint, Coeur d'Alene, Montana, and even Canada and Washington. We also use e-mail to reach out to people."

Pam suggests to other chapters in similar situations to always meet the people that come to the dances. As an organizer or a chapter member, making friends is a big part of dancing. "Get acquainted with people that come, visit with everyone, and get contact information. If newcomers make connections, they come back next time. The energy is there. Just keep plugging along," Pam said. ■

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM SHEFFLER



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: JEANNIE MONTE-PELLIZARRI, CHRISTIAN THOMPSON, DIANE PETERS, VINCE RYGELIS, AMBER SPRING, DWIGHT SHEFFLER, PAM SHEFFLER, LORI DARNELL, RICHARD LOWREY, TARI PARDINI, JIM CZIRR, AND TERRI CASEY

Giving the Greatest Gift: Time

BY JEAN KRUPA

USA Dance is an organization of over 21,000 members nationwide. When you look at all the work accomplished through USA Dance, such as recruiting members, maintaining member services, chapter dances, magazine articles, competitions, workshops — just to name a few — it's mind-boggling to try and understand how everything actually gets done.

That's where the volunteers come in. *Dictionary.com* describes a volunteer as “a person who offers himself/herself for a service or undertaking; a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.”

USA Dance is blessed to have an amazing number of volunteers without whom the organization could not function. There is no way the organization could offer all the member benefits without the extensive volunteer network. They not only work without pay, but they do it enthusiastically — with excitement and dedication.

Have you ever thought about what would happen (or not happen) if no one volunteered? Studies have shown that those who volunteer for any organization have higher satisfaction levels both professionally and personally than non-volunteers. So, if you want more out of your USA Dance membership — volunteer!

You can start at your chapter level by serving or chairing a committee, and then move on to serve on the chapter board. From there you can serve as a state coordinator or regional vice president; all you have to do is tell someone you want to volunteer.

PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER



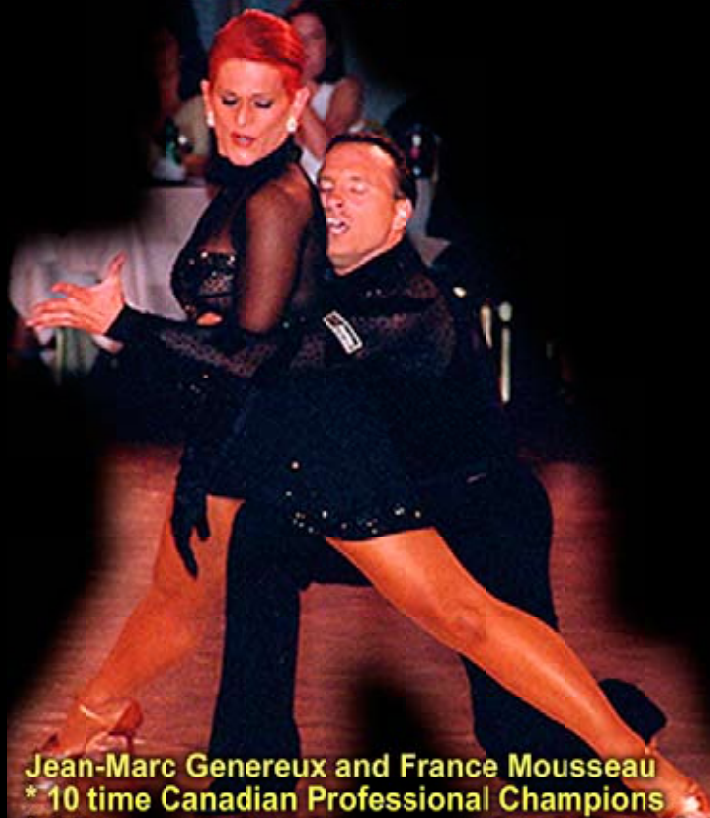
ESTHER FREEMAN, CORPORATE TREASURER, AT NATIONALS REGISTRATION DESK

Rene Dubois — pathologist, author, and Pulitzer Prize winner — theorized that helping each other ensures the survival of our race, and it proves our humanity. Psychologist Albert Ellis recommended another approach known as “selfish altruism.” He said we should help in areas that we like, an activity we find enjoyable. It's important for volunteers to like their activity and thus avoid burnout or resentment.

Selflessness doesn't just benefit recipients of service, but it profits those on the giving side of the equation, too. Plus, there are so many ways to give, whether you are being charitable with your money, time or enthusiasm. Volunteerism can also help one establish him or herself in the community. The community in turn is a vital support system.

To the hundreds of USA Dance volunteers — we are grateful that you love USA Dance enough to give of your time. Thank you. ■

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Reaching for the Stars and Catching Them

BY: ERICA COLVIN

With 200 chapters considered for this award, it takes a lot to rise above. But the Southwest Florida Chapter, led by President Carol Davis, piloted their chapter right to the top.

Noted for their outreach program, chapter members bring dancing to their community by performing at retirement homes, schools, and events. In doing so, members share the joy of dancing.

“It’s all about letting people know we are out there,” said Don Davenport, chapter vice president. “Our President Carol Davis is constantly active with other non-profit organizations. She takes members of our group, performs and then invites others to attend our functions and to become members.”

The chapter also attributes its thriving and energetic atmosphere to its wonderful working relationship with the studios in the area: Camille’s Art of Dance in Cape Coral, Rhythm in Motion Dance Academy in Cape Coral, 1st Danz in Ft. Myers (including X-Trickly Rumberos Dance Company, who performs frequently), and Aki’s Studio in Fort Myers, which are the four sponsoring studios where they alternate Sunday afternoon dances each month.

The chapter also believes in and supports future dancers. In 2008 they held two scholarship dances. Proceeds were awarded to their first recipient, Tyler Orcutt—a recent high school graduate from a three-generation family of dance instructors. After Orcutt performed at the event, the chapter presented him with the scholarship to aid him in his future education.

For the chapter’s annual charity event fundraiser, they donated to the wounded war veteran’s seeing-eye-dog program, “Paws for Patriots.” “Each year we pick a different charity. Last year we picked Paws For Patriots.



CAROL DAVIS & JEAN KRUPA, SOCIAL VP

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL DAVIS

Even with so many exciting projects and activities, the chapter looks forward to several new ventures: sponsoring a dance program with the local schools and increasing membership. But publicity isn’t a problem—this chapter knows how to get people’s attention.

During National Ballroom Dance Week, they were promoted on a local TV Show, Wild Bill on the Road. The chapter also received publicity on Morning Blend TV, a Fox 4 network show promoting USA Dance and the Paws for Patriots fundraiser. Davis appeared on the show with her dance instructor, Greg Kurth.

Davis personally sends e-mails each week about the dance activities in the area. “I have a board that is so great: Don Davenport—vice president, Jean Urbancic—treasurer, Barb Wilson—secretary, Kay Janssen—hospitality, Connie Eugenio—publicity, Pam Enke—spotlight, Betty Lose—membership, and Charlotte DeNolti—editor and Web site administrator. “Our chapter is successful because of our hard workers,” Davis said.

Carol Davis accepted the award in Baltimore at the 2009 USA Dance National Championships, which was presented by President Peter Pover and Honorary Judge Carrie Ann Inaba. Exhilarated, Carol later commented, “Carrie Ann is my favorite judge and star. I look up to her as a great role model for ballroom dancing.”

Davis also gives a special thanks to Richard Obney, Region 6 VP, for his help and guidance to receive the award; and Jean Krupa, Social Dance VP, for her assistance in the program. ■

USA Dance 2008 National Volunteer of the Year

Vivian Hans

Commitment and Devotion

BY: ERICA COLVIN

At the USA Dance Nationals, Vivian Hans received the USA Dance National Volunteer of the Year 2008 Award, having received the most votes from chapters around the country, not only for her long-standing dedication to her chapter, but her achievement organizing the first-ever Special Olympics ballroom competition in the United States. The Special Olympics competition was part of the annual Fort Wayne (IN) DanceSport Championships, for which she was organizer.

Her co-workers applaud her efforts that successfully united several local charities to bring ballroom dancing to individuals with intellectual disabilities. She worked tirelessly to organize the opening ceremonies and to create a model event for chapters around the country to follow. "We couldn't have done it without Vivian. Her enthusiasm brought everyone together," said Kathy Palyo, member of Fort Wayne DanceSport Board.

Due to her incredible efforts, the State of Indiana received the Special Olympics' 2008 Innovative Sports Award for introducing ballroom dance to its organization. And today, more than 14 states have already contacted Vivian for information on how to get involved.

As David Hans, Vivian's husband said, "Vivian inspires by example and by her commitment. She provides more than just the physical dance experience, she works day and night. Vivian sees the end result as she works. She knows where she wants to go with something. That is one of her strongest assets."

And today, Vivian continues to work for the Special Olympic cause. She wrote the rules governing this new pilot program for Special Olympics Ballroom Dancing, combining the rules of Special Olympics and USA

Dance DanceSport. She finished a new home study manual to further educate the athletes about nutrition and exercise. And, she has written the official coach's manual to be used in the ballroom dance training program for Special Olympics in Indiana.

Vivian has already started organizing and planning the USA Dance 2009 Fort Wayne DanceSport Championship, which will again host the Special Olympics Indiana Ballroom Dance competition, July 4 and 5. Last year, 26 couples participated. "Right now there are 75 people with disabilities training for the competition," Vivian shared.

As former president of the Fort Wayne DanceSport Chapter #2046, Vivian currently works as the newsletter editor and, along with her husband, serves as her chapter's coordinator for Indiana.

To view a highlight of the first-ever Special Olympics ballroom event, visit the USA Dance YouTube channel. Also check out the Fort Wayne Chapter Web site: www.fwdancesport.org for more information. ■



VIVIAN HANS & JEAN KRUPA, SOCIAL VP

PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER

Angela Prince

receives President's Award

BY: ERICA COLVIN

"For outstanding service and commitment to her duties as Director of Public Relations of USA Dance Inc."

Angela Prince has received the highest national award offered by USA Dance for her volunteer service as National Director of Public Relations. Peter Pover, USA Dance President, officially presented the award at the USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships, assisted by Carrie Ann Inaba, "Dancing with the Stars" judge and honorary judge at the 2009 Nationals. As Pover commented, "Angela has done a great deal of work way beyond the normal call of duty. She has dramatically improved our exposure in the media. I picked her confidently."

Prince comes from a strong background in marketing and public relations. "For USA Dance, I have dedicated myself to making a difference using the skills and experience that I have. I have been involved in this industry for over 25 years," she said. Prince grew up in South Carolina and graduated from Clemson University with a master's degree in English. In the early years of her career, she received a fellowship through the Wall Street Journal, trained in newspaper journalism and taught English on a high school and university level.

Her public relations career started with an ad agency and she now owns a pr/ad agency. Her clientele to date of more than 100

patrons is a mix of professional athletes and celebrities, non-profit organizations, Fortune 500 companies and privately held companies. Her company primarily specializes in sports marketing and real estate development.

Prince has won a number of National industry awards and is a member of the PR Society of America. But it was her experience with sports marketing that led her naturally to dance and dancesport. "I understand the athlete's world very well. The challenge of ballroom was the next era for me," Prince said.

Prince explained that as a leader in the ballroom dance industry, USA Dance has an important responsibility. Collectively, the USA Dance organization works to 1) establish and sustain our leadership role, 2) gain public understanding about who we are and what we do, 3) connect our organization within itself—unifying the members of USA Dance,

ANGELA PRINCE WITH CARRIE ANN INABA AND PETER POVER



4) increase the membership, 5) motivate others to do more and accomplish their potential.

Prince has been the innovative leader bringing us into a new age of communication.

Today, USA Dance is creating momentum through the numerous social media networks: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and others. “Recently I created our new social group page on Facebook for members and friends as well as a group page on LinkedIn, accepting USA Dance members for business opportunity development,” Prince said.

“We are earning our leadership position in our industry and with the national media. Over time, we have become a major resource to the national and local media, including newspaper giants such as The NY Times, LA Times, Baltimore Sun and The Washington Post; television media such as The Oprah Show, The Maury Show, Inside Edition, ABC-TV in LA and NYC as well as other major networks; even online media leaders such as ABC.com and People.com. Media contact us directly every week. It’s not unusual to be working on four or five stories at a time,” Prince confirmed. “Whenever ‘Dancing with the Stars’ is on, we get calls the next day concerning our views on various topics — ranging from fitness, to preventing dance injuries to dancesport rules — just depends



ANGELA PRINCE IN THE CONGA LINE WITH PASHA PASHKOV, PETER POVER (ON RIGHT) AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS

upon what happened the night before on the show. And, we work with scores of local papers and freelance writers as well.”

But USA Dance’s public relations role continues to evolve, Prince explained. “We consider every member and every alumnus an official ambassador for ballroom dancing. Everyone has a role in telling others about the great benefits and opportunities in ballroom dancing ... and encouraging their involvement. We’d like to see our chapters more actively involved in promoting their chapters and members. After all, this is where everything begins,” Prince said. ■

PHOTOS BY CARSON ZULLINGER

New Year's Eve 2009!



We will again be holding a New Year's Eve event in 2009. Details are forthcoming, but we're planning on a dinner dance, multiple dances in the evening, 35 workshops, exhibitions, professional performers/workshop instructors, and our featured event: the New Year's Eve dance and breakfast.

The events will be held at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel in downtown Norfolk, Virginia and we've been fortunate in reserving the same dance floor for the past four years.

Check the next issue of American Dancer for full details. We look forward to continuing to provide the dancing community with a premier social dance event.

New Year's Eve Committee
Tidewater Chapter
USA Dance

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Carrie Ann Inaba

Launches New Dance Network

BY: JUSTIN LOVE



PHOTO BY FELIX MACK

In the beginning of May, Carrie Ann Inaba launched a new website called The Dance Insider. The Dancing with the Stars judge explained in her own words what this dancing website will be like.

“With all the popularity of the dance shows, people are curious and don’t know where to go to get good information. What I wanted to do is give access to the dance celebrities, whether they be from So You Think You Can Dance, Dancing With The Stars, or from here at USA Dance. There are so many dancers out there. Therefore, we created a social community where they can get in for free and talk about dance.”

The website will serve a variety of purposes in addition to being a social network tailored to dancers. According to Carrie Ann, “It will link to dance stores, studios, conventions, competitions, the artists themselves, and people can have their own pages as well. Dance fans are just as avid as

sports fans. I want to give them a place where they can go that will be a portal. And they’ll be able to access it from their phones.”

“We want dancers from various backgrounds communicating and helping all forms of dance involved. It would be fantastic ‘cause we all have so much to learn from each other. For people within the dance world I want The Dance Insider to be a business tool, and you do business by making human connections.”

When asked why she started this new site, Carrie Ann simply said, “I’ve been trying to figure out a way to give back to dance. This provides dancers with a way to express themselves. People need a platform to speak.”

Try out The Dance Insider at www.thedanceinsider.com ■





THE PUBLIC Eye

Peter Pover on the Dr. Kay Picart Radio Show

USA Dance President Peter Pover spoke once again with Dr. Kay Picart on her radio shows reaching over 50 million listeners on April 5 & April 12. To hear what Pover said about the National DanceSport Championships, USA Dance and the future of ballroom dancing, check out Picart's audio archives at www.drpicart.com/a/int/archives. Also catch clips of the interview on YouTube at www.youtube.com/DrPicartshow.

In one clip, Pover shared his thoughts on the impact "Dancing With the Stars" has had on DanceSport:

"My other sport is golf. Until quite recently, I could expect to see amused and condescending smiles when people asked me what I did, and I said 'Well, I'm a judge of ballroom dancing.' And that isn't true anymore. 'Dancing With the Stars' changed public attitudes. First tee at 8 o'clock on a Saturday morning, I'm often asked, 'Who do you think will win this year?' And of course the question is related to 'Dancing With the Stars,' not the Super Bowl or the World Series."

USA Dance Nationals a TV News Sensation

The USA Dance Nationals, April 3-5, popped up all over the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., news. Carrie Ann Inaba, Nationals honorary judge, spoke to ABC 2: "Ballroom dancing is alive and well and thriving. Here we see at the USA Dance Nationals—it's ridiculous, there's so much talent. People think that they're seeing talent on 'Dancing With the Stars,' but there's so much more."

For Inaba's ABC interview, go to www.abc2news.com and search for "Inaba and ballroom."

Inaba described the USA Dance Nationals as "wonderful and exciting" on her professional blog, April 8. "I was at the USA Dance Nationals this weekend giving out the Carrie Ann Inaba 'Star Quality' Award—for those who have that special something extra when they dance. Sometimes, it was a grace that seemed to be unmatched by any other -- or that they had incredible charisma and charm, and sometimes, they just took my breath away."

To hear more about USA Dance from Inaba, check out her Entertainment Weekly blog at <http://popwatch.ew.com/popwatch/2009/04/carrie-ann-inab.html>.

DC Fox Morning Show Holly Morris calls Nationals “something special”

“This is our biggest National Championships ever,” Pover said. “We have over 1,100 people here dancing.” Morris commented that with USA Dance “It doesn’t matter how old you are. . . This is your chance to come out and see something special.”

Morris also interviewed USA Dance Chairman of Judges Dan Calloway, who taught her a quick lesson on foxtrot, and afterwards interviewed Winston and Lilly Chow, who demonstrated International foxtrot. The Morning Show also featured “Dancing With the Stars” Junior Champions Craig and Samantha Campos, who demonstrated their competition cha cha. All USA Dance members that morning donated their time and sacrificed their sleep to be dancing for the cameras by 6 a.m.

Dancing in the background were Jaryd Farcon and Cara Abaya-Campos along with their parents, Eddie and Armie Farcon, who also competed at Nationals.

Visit www.myfoxdc.com; and search “Holly Morris Dance Championships.”

USA Nationals Baltimore Sun's Front Page Entertainment

The Baltimore Sun, one of our country’s leading newspapers, also honed in on the USA Dance Nationals. For the two-page story, “Ballroom dancers waltzing into



CARA ABAYA-CAMPOS AND JARYD FARCON WITH HOLLY MORRIS



PETER POVER BEING INTERVIEWED BY HOLLY MORRIS



SAMANTHA AND CRAIG CAMPOS BEING INTERVIEWED BY HOLLY MORRIS

Baltimore,” writer Mary Carole McCauley interviewed Carrie Ann Inaba and President Peter Pover. Inaba encouraged ballroom lovers wanting to see “the genuine deal” to attend the championships, rather than just watching ballroom dancing on TV.

“TV has a tendency to dumb down and simplify,” Inaba said. “What you see on our show is a watered-down version of ballroom dancing. The first goal of any television show is to entertain.”

Nevertheless, TV shows such as “Dancing With the Stars” and “So You Think You Can Dance” have sparked a rise in ballroom dancing’s popularity, on which Pover commented:

“In the past,” Pover said, “men who might have been condescending to dance sports are being drawn to it by the presence of athletes they respect who testify what hard work ballroom dancing is. It used to be that, by far, our largest audience was middle-aged women. That’s no longer true. The demographics for these television shows speak for themselves.”

To see the rest of McCauley’s article, go to www.baltimoresun.com/entertainment/bal-li-dance02apr02,0,250763.story. ■



FROM LEFT: KATARINA HERMANOVA, KAMIL FALKOWSKI, ILANA KOTLIAR, CARRIE ANN INABA, ALONZO MAGSINO, NICOLE FLEYSHMAN

PHOTOS BY CARSON ZULLINGER

We want to hear from your chapter!

Has your chapter been in the news lately? Have you been featured in the paper, on TV, or online?

Send us the latest happenings of your chapter to be featured in an upcoming issue of The Public Eye.

When submitting, please keep in mind the following:

- 1 High quality, digital photos relating to the event at 600 dpi or higher
- 2 Photo caption, or names of persons
- 3 Photo credit
- 4 Articles should be a maximum of 175 words

Send submissions and questions to office@americandancer.org





COMPETITION CALENDAR

may 16, 2009

Quest for the Best*

Seattle, Wash. Chapter #1004

<http://www.dancequestforthebest.org/>

may 16, 2009

Atlantic DanceSport Championships*

Towson, Maryland

www.AtlanticBallroom.com

june 13-14, 2009

N.J. DanceSport Classic

"Summer Sizzler"-NQE

www.njdancesportclassic.com

june 26-27, 2009

Gumbo DanceSport Championships-NQE

Louisiana Gumbo Chapter #5031

For information contact Ann Durocher-Steven

phone 985-853-0030, e-mail: fliprann@aol.com

july 4-5, 2009

Fort Wayne DanceSport Championships

Fort Wayne, Ind. USA Dance Chapter #2046

Event run concurrent with the Special Olympics

Indiana Championships for Ballroom Dancing

<http://fwdancesport.org>

july 9-12, 2009

IDSF Latin and Standard Championships -

Desert Classic DanceSport Championships

Palm Desert, California

<http://www.DesertClassicDanceSportFestival.com>

july 25, 2009

Southern Star Mid Summer Classic*

Southern Star Fla. Chapter #6038

<http://southernstarusabda.org>

august 14-15, 2009

Derby City DanceSport Championships-NQE

Greater Louisville Chapter #2021. Louisville, Ky.

www.lousabda.org

september 4-5, 2009

IDSF Grand Slam Standard and Latin at the Embassy Ball

Irvine, California

www.embassyball.com

september 26, 2009

Quest for the Best*

Seattle, Wash. Chapter #1004

<http://www.dancequestforthebest.org/>

october 3-4, 2009

The Heartland Classic, The Indiana State DanceSport Championships

Heartland USA Dance Chapter #2022 – Ind.

www.indyusadance.org

october 24-25, 2009

Northwest DanceSport Championships-NQE

Seattle, Wash. USA Dance Chapter #1004

<http://www.nwdsc.org>

october 24-25, 2009

High Point Classic DanceSport Championships-NQE

High Point, North Carolina

www.highpointclassic.com

Events listed with the * do not accrue proficiency points

look for future event updates at

<http://usadance.org/dancesport/competition-calendar/>

Finalists – USA Dance 2009 Nationals

According to Valentin Chmerkovskiy, “Nationals had a very high quality of dance this year. Everybody was a great competitor.” This is all the more reason why every finalist deserves resounding applause and recognition. Congratulations to every participant at Nationals this year.

Junior I Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

- 1) Patryk Ploszaj & Anna Kaczmariski - NY
- 2) Jonathan Zaika & Karina Shumko - NY
- 3) Vlad Shknevsky & Nicole Agaronnik - NY
- 4) Christian Yeung & Ariel Balaguta - NY
- 5) William Stansbury & Jenny Sokolsky - CA
- 6) Larry Tokar & Juliana Hoff - NY

Junior I Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

- 1) William Stansbury & Jenny Sokolsky - CA
- 2) Patryk Ploszaj & Anna Kaczmariski - NY
- 3) Vlad Shknevsky & Nicole Agaronnik - NY
- 4) Jonathan Zaika & Karina Shumko - NY
- 5) Ryan Raffloer & Kristina Tkachenko - NY

Junior II Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

- 1) Vladislav Kvartin & Maria Ilin - NJ
- 2) Brandon K. Armstrong & Lindsay Arnold - UT
- 3) Austin Joson & Gabriella Sabler - NJ
- 4) Daniel Shapiro & Catherine Kovalyova - NY
- 5) Landon Anderson & Vashti Reed - UT
- 6) Kevin Morales & Elina Khotinskaya - NY
- 7) Bogdan Tabaka & Rachel Benin - NJ

Junior II Championship Standard (WTVFQ)*

- 1) Daniel Shapiro & Catherine Kovalyova - NY
- 2) Kevin Morales & Elina Khotinskaya - NY
- 3) Konrad Kulec & Ania Kuszaj - NY
- 4) Piotr Ploszaj & Sylwia Jemielity - NY
- 5) Jason Sydorchenko & Beatrice Polyakova - NY

- 6) Misha Vorobiev & Sonya Tsekanovsky - WA
- 7) Dominick Kaczor & Adrienne Jarocki - NY

Junior II Championship Ten Dance (WTVFQSCRPJ)

- 1) Daniel Shapiro & Catherine Kovalyova - NY
- 2) Austin Joson & Gabriella Sabler - NJ
- 3) Kevin Morales & Elina Khotinskaya - NY
- 4) Piotr Ploszaj & Sylwia Jemielity - NY
- 5) Landon Anderson & Vashti Reed - UT
- 6) Misha Vorobiev & Sonya Tsekanovsky - WA
- 7) Dominick Kaczor & Adrienne Jarocki - NY
- 8) Jason Sydorchenko & Beatrice Polyakova - NY

Youth Championship Latin (SCRPJ)*

- 1) Jason Chao Dai & Patrycja Golak - NY
- 2) Nikita Malakhov & Sarah Gleyzer - NJ
- 3) Austin Joson & Gabriella Sabler - NJ
- 4) Edward Golbert & Olivia Wesolowski - NY
- 5) Joseph Odikadze & Sandy Rabinovich - MA
- 6) Mircea Cernev & Jennifer Fales - VA

Youth Championship Standard (WTVFQ)*

- 1) Marek Klepadlo & Angelika Dechnik - NY
- 2) Sergey Golubtsov & Alina Iougai - NJ
- 3) Daniel Shapiro & Catherine Kovalyova - NY
- 4) Taras Savitsky & Liya Podokshik - NJ
- 5) Dmitriy Vorobiev & Kseniya Sovenko - WA
- 6) Andrey Kirilyuk & Patricia Jasioneck - NY

Youth Championship Ten Dance (WTVFQSCRPJ)*

- 1) Sergey Golubtsov & Alina Iougai - NJ
- 2) Daniel Shapiro & Catherine Kovalyova - NY
- 3) Austin Joson & Gabriella Sabler - NJ
- 4) Edward Golbert & Olivia Wesolowski - NY
- 5) Taras Savitsky & Liya Podokshik - NJ
- 6) Mircea Cernev & Jennifer Fales - VA

*USA DANCE REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE SENT TO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS. WORLD EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WHICH COULD CHANGE DATES AND PARTICIPATION. ELIGIBILITY, MEMBERSHIP STATUS, ANTI-DOPING RESULTS, COMPLIANCE WITH USA DANCE RULES AND AGE COMPLIANCE ARE SUBJECT TO A FINAL REVIEW BEFORE OFFICIAL INVITATIONS ARE ISSUED.

Results taken from www.oc2m.com

onal DanceSport Championships

Adult Championship Latin (SCRPJ)*

- 1) Valentin Chmerkovskiy & Daria Chesnokova - NJ
- 2) Oleksandr Altukhov & Oksana Dmytrenko - MA
- 3) Andrei Kazlouski & Kathleen Kapshandy - NJ
- 4) Boris Rudenko & Amet Ekaterina Fedosova - NJ
- 5) Sergey Onik & Melissa Blanco - NJ
- 6) Pasha Pashkov & Daniella Karagach – NY

Adult Championship Standard (WTVFQ)*

- 1) Ronen Zinshtein & Mariam Izmaylova - NJ
- 2) Janis Kukainis & Samantha Mang - NJ
- 3) Vladislav Shahov & Milena Jasioneck - NY
- 4) Andrzej Bator & Angelika Orent - NY
- 5) Pasha Pashkov & Daniella Karagach - NY
- 6) Vasyl Makarov & Grace Fu – NY

Adult Championship Ten Dance (WTVFQSCRPJ)*

- 1) Pasha Pashkov & Daniella Karagach - NY
- 2) Vladislav Shahov & Milena Jasioneck - NY
- 3) Alexandre Tchernossitov & Regina Maziarz - NJ
- 4) Simeon H. Stoynev & Kora A. Stoynova - WA
- 5) Tal Livshits & Vlada Semenova - NJ
- 6) Max Rublyuk & Olga Zhuk - CA

Adult Championship Rhythm (CRSBM)

- 1) Andrew Kerski & Ginarose McLeese-Ferraro - CT
- 2) Daniel D. Dilley & Yuehwern Yih - IN
- 3) Vladimir Derisier & Lindsay Michelle Norton - MA
- 4) Michael Creedon & Jessica Spink - MA
- 5) Damian Pataluna & Heather E. Nagel – KY

Adult Championship Smooth (WTFV)

- 1) Nels E. Petersen & Theresa L. Kimler - MN
- 2) Ryan Kenner & Amanda Pytlik - RI
- 3) Ivan Spasov & Paige Inman - CA
- 4) Balazs Kocsi & Csilla Kocsi - KY
- 5) Guillermo Ceballos & Melissa Leake - CA
- 6) Jonathan Medlin & Malin Allert – NC

Adult Championship Nine Dance (WTFVCRSBM)

- 1) Michael Creedon & Jessica Spink - MA
- 2) Dalibor Vavra & Daniela Vavra - TN
- 3) Jeremy D. Anderson & Yuko Taniguchi - MN
- 4) Jeff Knickerbocker & Bridget Knickerbocker – MN

Adult Championship Theatre Arts

- 1) Jack Kellner & Miyoung Kim - NY
- 2) Gary D. Burgess & Connie Bouchard – NY

Senior I Championship Latin (SCRPJ)*

- 1) Irsan Tisnabudi & Cami Fleharty - TX
- 2) Jorge Arness Guzman & Arlene Yu - NJ
- 3) Gary B. Wynne & Laurie Frederik Meer - VA
- 4) Balazs Kocsi & Csilla Kocsi - KY
- 5) David Escoffery & Joelle Escoffery - NJ
- 6) L. Andrew Prouty & Ilona S. Prouty – NY

Senior I Championship Standard (WTVFQ)*

- 1) Xingmin Lu & Katerina Lu - NY
- 2) David Wright & Liva Wright - CT
- 3) Angus Sinclair & Dara Campbell - CA
- 4) Balazs Kocsi & Csilla Kocsi - KY
- 5) Andreas P. Meijer & Jody B. Frease - CA
- 6) Lonny K. W. Tsang & Susie Tsang - IL
- 7) Thomas O. Keller & Evelyn R. Lafferty – CA

Senior I Championship Ten Dance (WTVFQSCRPJ)

Balazs Kocsi & Csilla Kocsi – KY

Senior I Championship Nine Dance (WTFVCRSBM)

Albert B. Carballosa & Patricia A. Rhodes-Babaj - FL

Senior I Championship Rhythm (CRSBM)

- 1) Albert B. Carballosa & Patricia A. Rhodes-Bajaj - FL
- 2) Joe G. Medina & Sue E. Putzier - AZ
- 3) Edward Rogers & Trisha Rogers - CA
- 4) Christopher M Meyer & Janice E. Brooker - OH
- 5) Daryl Schmidt & Michele L. Boyer - WA
- 6) Jeff Knickerbocker & Bridget Knickerbocker - MN

Senior I Championship Smooth (WTFV)

- 1) Jim Brown & Julie Lewis - CO
- 2) Kurt Lemmer & Mary Lemmer - CT
- 3) Mike Lynch & Rose-Ann Lynch - VA
- 4) Daryl Schmidt & Michele L. Boyer - WA
- 5) Christopher M Meyer & Janice E. Brooker - OH
- 6) Albert B. Carballosa & Patricia A. Rhodes-Bajaj - FL

Senior II Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

- 1) Richard Y. Chiang & Iris T. Chiang - CA
- 2) Paul Giuliano & Louise Giuliano - NY
- 3) Edward Huang & Corrina Huang - TX
- 4) Robert A. Blank & Martha Estevez - CT
- 5) Michael De Maio & Darlene F. De Maio - NJ
- 6) Glenn R. Wuennenberg & Bonnie J. Wuennenberg - NJ

Senior II Championship Standard (WTFVQ)*

- 1) Lonny K. W. Tsang & Susie Tsang - IL
- 2) Thomas O. Keller & Evelyn R. Lafferty - CA
- 3) Hans Stork & Ans Stork - CA
- 4) John R. Kotler & Carol J. Sutter - NY
- 5) Winston Chow & Lilly T.F. Chow - CA
- 6) Patrick J. Martone & Denise Martone - MA

Senior II Championship Ten Dance (WTFVQSCRPJ)

Michael De Maio & Darlene F. De Maio - NJ

Senior II Championship Rhythm (CRSBM)

- 1) Edward Rogers & Trisha Rogers - CA
- 2) Jeff Knickerbocker & Bridget Knickerbocker - MN
- 3) Albert B. Carballosa & Patricia A. Rhodes-Bajaj - FL
- 4) Daryl Schmidt & Michele L. Boyer - WA
- 5) James E. Herbert & Sharon Jones - OH
- 6) Randy Henderson & Jean E. Henderson - FL
- 7) Bill L. Underwood & Patti A. Underwood - PA

Senior II Championship Smooth (WTFV)

- 1) Mike Lynch & Rose-Ann Lynch - VA
- 2) Daryl Schmidt & Michele L. Boyer - WA

- 3) Albert B. Carballosa & Patricia A. Rhodes-Bajaj - FL
- 4) Gordon D. Davis & Linda K. Davis - MN
- 5) Warren Tuttle & Patricia Tuttle - GA
- 6) Anthony Miyazaki & Susan Green - FL
- 7) Shaun Atkinson & Martha Hughes - FL

Senior II Championship Nine Dance (WTFVCRSBM)

Albert B. Carballosa & Patricia A. Rhodes-Bajaj - FL

Senior III Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

- 1) Paul Giuliano & Louise Giuliano - NY
- 2) Edward Huang & Corrina Huang - TX
- 3) Randy Henderson & Jean E. Henderson - FL
- 4) Gary G. Reber & Haru K. Wladyka - VA

Senior III Championship Standard (WTFVQ)

- 1) Winston Chow & Lilly T.F. Chow - CA
- 2) Michael De Maio & Darlene F. De Maio - NJ
- 3) Adel Ahmed Ghoneimy & Karen Chow - CA
- 4) Joseph C. Bates & Mary Louise Bates - IN
- 5) Roger D. Thaxton & Carie Ruth Garrity - MI
- 6) Paul Giuliano & Louise Giuliano - NY

Senior III Championship Ten Dance (WTFVQSCRPJ)

Paul Giuliano & Louise Giuliano - NY

Senior III Championship Rhythm (CRSBM)

- 1) Randy Henderson & Jean E. Henderson - FL
- 2) Dexter Wang & Julia H. Wang - MA
- 3) Bill L. Underwood & Patti A. Underwood - PA
- 4) Thomas Osterland & Marie E. Osterland - MA

Senior III Championship Smooth (WTFV)

- 1) Gordon D. Davis & Linda K. Davis - MN
- 2) Scott Coates & Sarah H. Coates - FL
- 3) Dexter Wang & Julia H. Wang - MA
- 4) Bill L. Underwood & Patti A. Underwood - PA
- 5) Kam C. Tse & Julia S. Tse - GA
- 6) Peter S. Quintero & Marilyn R. Stechert - CO
- 7) Thomas Osterland & Marie E. Osterland - MA

Senior III Championship Nine Dance (WTFVCRSBM)

Dexter Wang & Julia H. Wang - MA

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Dancing Around the Globe

BY: JUSTIN LOVE

Youth Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

World Event: Sep. 12, 2009 Shanghai, China

1st Jason Chao Dai & Patrycja Golak



2nd Nikita Malakhov & Sara Gleyzer



"Everybody danced really well. We would have been happy with anyone winning."

-Patrycja Golak

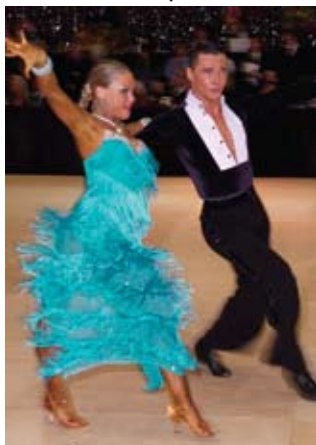
Adult Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

World Event: Nov. 7, 2009 Maribor, Slovenia

1st Valentin Chmerkovskiy & Daria Chesnokova



2nd Oleksandr Altukhov & Oksana Dmytrenko



Senior I Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

World Event: Oct. 17, 2009 Liege, Belgium

1st Irsan Tisnabudi & Cami Fleharty



2nd Jorge Arness Guzman & Arlene Yu



For many dancers there is one critical moment that defines their success and justifies all the hard work. Qualifying to compete at a World Event is one such moment.

“Ever since we started dancing together we’ve been preparing for Nationals,” says Alina Lougai of East Brunswick, N.J. She and her partner, Sergey Golubtsov, “were training so hard. We practiced every day for hours and hours.”

All the training certainly paid off for Alina and Sergey, as they are one of three couples that qualified for two World Events. The other couples are Daniel Shapiro and Catherine Kovalyova, and Kevin Morales and Elina Khotinskaya.

The emphasis on training was a common thread among the winners. Valentin Chmerkovskiy said, “We compete all year round without breaks. Practice never stops. We won this competition two weeks ago on the practice floor in the studio.”

Valentin and his partner, Daria Chesnokova, won first in the Adult Championship Latin finals. But, what truly made the night special was something more than a blue ribbon. “The

highlight for me was the opportunity to dance the finals in front of my parents, my family, and all the kids that Daria and I train,” said Valentin. “To me, that was the most special thing about competing.”

Earning a spot at Worlds came as a pleasant surprise for some couples. Mariam Izmaylova from Fairfield, N.J. was all smiles as she said,

Junior II Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

World Event: Sep. 19, 2009 Jyväskylä, Finland
and Mar. 27, 2010 Moscow, Russia

1st Daniel Shapiro &
Catherine Kovalyova



2nd Kevin Morales &
Elina Khotinskaya



Youth Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

World Event: Dec. 19, 2009 Riga, Latvia

1st Marek Klepadlo
& Angelika Dechnik



2nd Sergey Golubtsov
& Alina Iougai



Adult Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

World Event: Nov. 28, 2009 Aarhus, Denmark

1st Ronen Zinshtein
& Mariam Izmaylova



2nd Janis Kukainis &
Samantha Mang



"I'm completely overwhelmed. I had no idea this would happen. We just did our best and hoped for the best."

Mariam's partner for Adult Championship Standard is Ronen Zinshtein. Going to Worlds caught him off guard as well. "It's a big honor because this was our first time in this division. We didn't really have any expectations. We

thought we'd probably have to pay our dues a little bit and try again next year. We're just very thankful and honored."

Every world qualifier performed exceptionally well. We eagerly await the results of all upcoming World events.

Good luck, dancers. ■

Senior I Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

World Event: Sep. 18, 2009 Kingston, Canada

1st Xingmin Lu &
Katerina Lu



2nd David Wright &
Liva Wright



Senior II Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

World Event: May 2, 2009
Platja d'Aro (Barcelona), Spain

1st Lonny K. W. Tsang
& Susie Tsang



2nd Thomas O. Keller
& Evelyn R. Lafferty



Youth Championship Ten Dance (WTVFQSCRPJ)

World Event: Oct. 25, 2009 Moscow, Russia

1st Sergey Golubtsov
& Alina Iougai



Adult Championship Ten Dance (WTVFQSCRPJ)

World Event: Oct. 10, 2009
Platja d' Aro (Barcelona), Spain

1st Pasha Pashkov &
Daniella Karagach



Region I (North West) Wins Team Match at Nationals

SUBMITTED BY: **MICHELE BOYER**

USA Dance held the first ever Regional Team Match at Nationals in Baltimore. Each team consisted of 10 couples and represented one of the six USA Dance regions. The opening ceremony reminded one of the Olympics, as all the competitors paraded around the dance floor.

After receiving color-coded regional team match t-shirts from Northwest Designs, the teams competed in International Standard, International Latin, American Smooth and American Rhythm. The top couples in each style and age group were invited to participate. Some couples competed for regions other than their own to round out the teams, and we sincerely thank all of these couples.

This was a fun event because the rules were “anything goes.” Many of dancers wore costumes or donned our t-shirts in creative ways. Teams were even allowed to bribe the judges with massages, shoe shines, drink requests from the bar, or a flirtatious kiss on the cheek. The audience went crazy with applause.

At the end of the match, Region I came out smiling and won with the following couples:

Youth Latin from UT: Landon Anderson & Vashti Reed

Youth Standard from WA: Dmitry Vorobiev & Kseniya Sovenko

Adult Latin from WA: Terry Ianakiev & Mariya Staritchenok

Adult Standard from WA: Simeon Stoykov & Kora Stoykova

Adult Rhythm from MA: Vladimyr Derisier & Lindsay Michell

Adult Smooth from CA: Guillermo Ceballos & Melissa Leake

Senior I Latin from CA: Todd Marsden & Susie Hart

Senior I Standard from WA: Alex Kalinin & Gail Sherman

Senior I Rhythm from MN: Jeff & Bridget Knickerbocker

Senior I Smooth from WA & ID: Daryl Schmidt & Michele Boyer

PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER



REGIONAL TEAM MATCH COMPETITORS AND AUDIENCE MEMBERS
DANCING THE CONGA LINE AT NATIONALS

The grand prizes included a trophy, a generous \$500 scholarship (courtesy of Showtime Dance Shoes), and a free entry to next year's Nationals for each couple from the winning team. The grand finale of the event was the wild conga dance line with competitors pulling in more dancers from the audiences.

Remember that to participate in the Regional Team Match next year, you must either:

1. Dance and live in the region you wish to compete for, and come in first at the Championship level of your age group
2. Dance in a region other than your own, achieve first place at the Championship level in an NQE, and be chosen to represent the region in which you live
3. Be a Pre-Champ/Novice couple that meets criteria other than coming in first at the Championship level, and
4. Have some connection to your Region, however tenuous, and be willing to lend your talents to that region

Again, congratulations to Region I! ■

Lifetime Achievement Awards

BY: JUSTIN LOVE

PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER



CONNIE TOWNSEND, LELAND ANDREW,
& MARY WETHINGTON

**It's wonderful to see all the changes. It's
another world now from where we started.**

—Connie Townsend

One of the greatest awards offered by USA Dance is also one of its newest—the Lifetime Achievement Award. USA Dance President, Peter Pover described how to acquire such recognition: “To get that you’d have to have served in executive positions for a considerable length of time or served over 20 years on our governing council.”

Three recipients were worthy of such an honor this year—former Treasurer Leland Andrew, former President Mary Wethington, and former Secretary Connie Townsend.

Despite being retired from the organization, these honorary life members still share the visions and goals of USA Dance. “We’re hoping to get ballroom dancing into the Olympics,” says Andrew. “and it will be part of them in the not too distant future.”

Something that’s helping USA Dance in that direction is the media coverage for ballroom dancing. “Shows like ‘Dancing with the Stars’ have created a big boost in the attendance at the dances and studios and the people’s overall desire to watch ballroom dancing,” said Andrew, “It’s become a lot more popular.”

Many other changes occurred during their years of service. Wethington stated, “I was one of the first 1,000 USA Dance members. Back then, if we had a competition and it had 30 dancers, we thought that was good. You can see how it’s grown. The number of chapters has grown. There are 200 now. But, when I was president, there were only four or five chapters. It didn’t happen overnight. It took several years.”

Connie Townsend organized the first Nationals. According to her, “It was just one day from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. At that time, there weren’t really any places to dance. Some locations had ballrooms, but they were carpeted. So, at that first competition, I had to ask the owners to rip up the carpet for us to dance.”

Another change Townsend sees today is the quality of dancing. “The standard of dancing has increased 200 percent. That really hits me, especially when I see these kids. Little boys who danced in my time [weren’t as accepted]. They wouldn’t dare go on the dance floor or they’d be laughed at in school. But now, they’re proud to be out there. They see it as a sport. Now they’re an athlete. So, they can start much younger and be comfortable with it.”

All three honorees were delighted to have received the Lifetime Achievement Award. They expressed gratitude to everyone who has supported them over the years. ■



EVERETT MARVEL, JEAN COMPTON, AND CHARLES RAINEY

Honorary Achievement Award

BY: JUSTIN LOVE

**“We hereby honor our most
senior members of USA Dance.”**

– President Peter Pover

Ballroom dancing is a skill and a passion that lasts a lifetime. Three witnesses to this fact are Jean Compton, Charles Rainey and Everett Marvel. Each USA Dance member is over 90 years old and has danced for 40 years, or more. To recognize them for their exemplary and lifelong involvement in ballroom dancing, they each received the new Honorary Achievement Award presented at the USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships.

During a VIP party overlooking the Baltimore Harbor, USA Dance President Peter Pover explained to members that he wanted to honor all of the most-senior members of USA Dance who are over 90 years of age — twenty-one in all, but only three of whom could come to Nationals.

Their award certificate reads: “In their lives they are exemplary models to all Americans of the many personal and health lifestyle benefits of ballroom dance.”

Jean Compton (New Cumberland, PA) was surprised to receive the award. “You really don’t expect things

like that when you get to be 90,” she reflected. Compton, who has been dancing for 76 years, recommends dancing to everyone. “You should always keep it up. It’s good for your health.”

Charles Rainey (Tamarac, FL) agreed with Compton and added, “I’m in very good health, both body and mind. I’m sure that dancing has played a very important part in giving me a long life. With the love of dance I feel enjoyment and excitement every time I’m on the floor with a delightful partner. A good dance partner just makes your night.”

In order to be a good dancer, Rainey said, “You should take lessons so you know you’re doing it right. If you practice wrong, you’re not going to get anywhere.” For Rainey it was his first time attending Nationals. “I went to quite a few smaller competitions when I was a bit younger, but not lately. I feel at this age I don’t have anything to prove,” he laughed. Yet, Rainey still dances 14-20 times a month.

Everett Marvel (Easton, MD) also keeps very busy with dance. In fact, he and his partner, Jane Pogue, left Nationals early saying that they’re, “headed back to the Talbot Club tonight, and our chapter is having a dance tomorrow night as well.” Pogue then said, “We feel like a bunch of teenagers dancing all weekend long.”

As Public Relations Director Angela Prince stated, “To all of our most-senior members, please know that USA Dance is grateful and inspired by your love and dedication to ballroom dancing. We follow in your footsteps for a life ahead of good health and fitness, both mentally and physically.” ■

USA Dance Launches Star Quality Award Program

Honorary Judge Carrie Ann Inaba Selects Nine Star-Potential Couples for Exceptional Performance

BY: JUSTIN LOVE

The inception of the new, annual Star Quality Award category was among the many unique landmark events at the 2009 National DanceSport Championships. This prestigious award was established to “provide supplemental critique outside of the traditional judging process,” says USA Dance President Peter Pover. It focuses on “important aspects of performance and personality that may escape normal judging standards.”

USA Dance continually explores new ways to meet the needs of its members and the ballroom enthusiast. Sometimes, that means pioneering and trying new concepts; other times, it means examining and improving the services offered. Therefore, USA Dance introduced the Star Quality Awards program to recognize the exceptional “star potential” qualities exhibited in 10 Final Rounds of the Championship-level divisions. This new award category will be an annual tradition at Nationals for years to come.

The Star Quality Awards were adjudicated by Honorary Judge Carrie Ann Inaba of “Dancing with the Stars.” She explained that, “star quality” criteria is difficult to define and even more difficult to achieve because it’s that “something special” that the dance couple demonstrates and exudes in partnership. It’s what makes them “a star” whether they achieved the highest technical marks or not.

By her own admission, Carrie Ann doesn’t consider herself a traditional ballroom judge. She admits, “I



THERESA L. KIMLER, NELS E. PETERSEN & CARRIE ANN INABA

come from a different world of commercial dance.” But, with her experience as a judge on DWTS, Carrie Ann’s keen eye for seeing that star potential compares more to selecting a Best in Show Award or the dancer’s version of a People’s Choice Award. “Exactly,” agreed Carrie Ann.

Pasha Pashkov and Daniella Karagach from Staten Island, N.Y. were given the Star Quality Award for their performance in the Adult Championship Latin Division. Pasha explained, “I feel very special. It was very nice that [they] recognized what we’re working toward. We’re trying to improve our performance and trying to enjoy ourselves and make the audience happy. We know that what we’re doing is heading in the right direction.”

When asked how she begins choosing a winner, Carrie Ann explained, “First, I let my eyes just scan the floor, and watch wherever my eyes are immediately drawn. Then, I challenge what I’m seeing. Is it just because of their costumes? Or, is it because of how it all comes together?”

Gabriella Sabler from Old Bridge, N.J. said, “I think part of dancing, winning and competing is not only the technical aspect and the hard work, it’s also making it look like it’s not hard work. It’s good to come out, have fun, have energy and get the audience involved. That way they’re having a good time too.” Gabriella and her partner Austin Joson were the youngest couple to win the Star Quality Award. They were also the only couple to receive more than one.

Several things set these stars apart from the crowd of dancers on the floor. According to Carrie Ann, “They invite you in. They generate a curiosity about them. They’re completely in the moment, and they’re really connecting — not only with each other as a partnership, but with the audience. You can feel a relationship between them and the audience, and that is important.”

Although the caliber of dancing was high for every category, “and each couple has something unique,” said Carrie Ann, “no matter where you try to look, your eyes keep going back to watch them. Some people I’m drawn to because they have technical expertise that’s beyond ridiculous, and you can appreciate that. But, even as they go by, my eyes go back to that one that has that star quality.”

Every couple was ecstatic to have been chosen from among their peers. David and Liva Wright of New Haven, Conn. received this honor for the Senior I Championship Standard Division. David said, “one of our goals was to impress Carrie Ann because we knew she was an honorary judge. [Winning] that award is very special for us — we just wish she could have been a regular judge. We are her champions.” ■

Star Quality Award recipients

Junior II Championship Standard
Kevin Morales & Elina Khotinskaya

Youth Championship 10 Dance &
Junior II Championship 10 Dance
Austin Joson & Gabriella Sabler

Youth Championship Latin
Jason Chao Dai & Patrycja Golak

Adult Championship Latin
Pasha Pashkov & Daniella Karagach

Adult Championship Standard
Janis Kukainis & Samantha Mang

Adult Championship Smooth
Nels E. Petersen & Theresa L. Kimler

Senior I Championship Latin
Jorge Arness Guzman & Arlene Yu

Senior I Championship Standard
David Wright & Liva Wright



CARRIE ANN INABA, GABRIELLA SABLER & AUSTIN JOSON



ELINA KHOTINSKAYA, KEVIN MORALES & CARRIE ANN INABA

PHOTOS BY CARSON ZULLINGER

Carrie Ann Inaba

DANCING WITH THE REAL STARS AT NATIONALS

BY: JUSTIN LOVE

Many things set this year's USA Dance National DanceSport Championships apart from previous years. A large number of amateur dancesport partnerships had broken up, and new ones had formed. The first-ever regional team match with hilarious antics rocked the dance floor on Sunday night. And, perhaps the most unique aspect of this year's competition was our honorary judge, Carrie Ann Inaba of "Dancing with the Stars."

Carrie Ann was asked to judge the overall artistic areas of performance, showmanship and individual talent. In other words, she was the judge for the very first Star Quality Awards, which were awarded for 10 championship level finals. In a recent article from *The Baltimore Sun*, Carrie Ann said, "Peter [Pover] and I are trying to [...] give some recognition to young, gifted performers who [...] have an indefinable something." As Carrie Ann explained, "The new Star Quality Award recognizes those dancers who possess that special something when they're out there on the floor. They're simply captivating to watch."

AD: What differences do you see between ballroom dancers paired together instead of with a celebrity?

Carrie Ann: I would definitely say that as I'm watching these couples, the synchronicity is so much



DANCESPORT VP KEN RICHARDS AND CARRIE ANN AT NATIONALS

higher. On DWTS you see how it really hurts some couples if they're not suited for each other. Some males are fantastic, and the female counterpart isn't up to par, or vice versa where the female's fabulous, but she and the gentleman are not together.

The most important thing I've noticed, and the biggest difference, is the chemistry. Not just the physical chemistry, but there's a connection that makes them special and united as one. It's so different. I love it, and it's beautiful to watch. Sometimes you can't explain it. It just happens or it doesn't.

AD: What motivated you to come to Baltimore to support USA Dance Nationals?

Carrie Ann: When Ken and Roseanna Richards asked me after the show, my jaw dropped, and I said, "Really?" I was honored that they asked me, and I'm looking forward to opportunities to be involved in

the actual sport of ballroom dance. I've always been fascinated with the ballroom dance community. I wanted to be immersed in ballroom dancing because I come from a different world of commercial dance.

There's a whole new audience to ballroom dancing, now. I have people come up to me all the time and say, "I started dancing because of DWTS." Then I say, "Wait 'til you really get involved because the whole community is so much bigger than DWTS." That's the tiniest little piece of the iceberg, and as I'm here today, I can really see that.

AD: Do you see yourself working with USA Dance more in the future?

Carrie Ann: Yes. I think this is the beginning of a very long-term relationship. I'm very excited about it.

AD: What do you think about ballroom dancing in the Olympics?

Carrie Ann: Athletes tend to do very well on our show because of diligence and training. They don't take it personally. You can give them constructive feedback, and they go back and work on it like real athletes. [This] led me to believe that there's a connection there, and it is a sport.

When you look at all the injuries that we've had on this year's show, you can tell that ballroom is physical, athletic, challenging on the body, and that it takes a certain level of skill and discipline to achieve greatness.

The reason I think it's perfect for the Olympic games is it's so beautiful to watch. When a sport has so much refinement and technique that it's obvious to the eye, I think that's a perfect sport to put on the Olympics.

It's like watching art. Ballroom dancing is moving art with that athletic competition feel. People don't understand that ballroom dancers come into it not just to perform. They want to win. They have that spirit — that competitive spirit. I think America would love to see that in the Olympics. ■

CARRIE ANN ON THE RED CARPET AT NATIONALS



PETER POVER AND CARRIE ANN AT THE HONORARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



PHOTOS BY CARSON ZULLINGER

More Than Just Competing

Dance workshops and seminars popular at Nationals

BY: JUSTIN LOVE

PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER



WAYNE CROWDER GIVING INSTRUCTION AT A SEMINAR

No competition would be complete without educational workshops and seminars, and the USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships certainly didn't disappoint. Eight workshops and six meeting sessions were led by well-known professional instructors and judges throughout the three-day competition.

Topics ranged from Pilates to West Coast Swing and from Timing to "Acting Like a Winner." Many of the workshops often focused on learning what the judges want to see on the dance floor.

Highlights from A Few Workshops . . .

Nationals Judge Wayne Crowder, reminded couples that, "It's not about the complexity of the movement or the choreography; it's always about the quality with which you move. It's about how well you're dancing to the music. Dancers forget that when it comes down to it, they're just dancing."

Wayne was among the many instructors who offered workshops. In his tips on floor craft, he said, "Competitors have a tendency to dance a routine instead of just dancing. They get so caught up in that routine that they run into other couples."

Some said his workshop was comparable to a defensive driving course for competitive dancers. As he explained, "You definitely want to get where you're going, but you have to be aware of what's around you too."

To avoid collisions, Wayne offered a fail-safe tip to simply "have the weight centered over the standing leg. That way you can stop if need be; otherwise you'll just keep going."

Another popular tip was to break one's routine up into, "4-8 bar phrases of movement that can be interchangeable. This allows you to stop or redirect movement when you get too close to another couple."

USA Dance Vice President Ken Richards also conducted a seminar for Nationals winners who are heading to World events. He covered how to dress and act properly in a dance environment. He said, "A winner acts like a winner from the moment they step off the plane at Worlds until the moment the step back on it again." ■

PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER



KEN RICHARDS TEACHING AT A SEMINAR

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Red, White & Blue

Chicago Dance Chapter Holds 2009 Competition



STEVEN AND WAI MUN LIEN SPILGER

PHOTO BY JIM FINN

SUBMITTED BY: PAMELA LYONS

It may have been white outside, but inside the Sheraton Chicago Northwest Hotel in Arlington Heights, it was red, white and blue all over. That's because this year's Chicago DanceSport Challenge, held Feb. 21, featured an Americana theme. As the snow fell intermittently throughout the day, the competitors danced up their own storm.

Barbara Finn, the competition chair, and her team of 32 volunteers put a lot of time and effort into making the day a success. The competition featured International Standard and Latin, American Rhythm and Smooth, and Theater Arts, Cabaret, and Formation Teams. Each category catered to many age groups, from pre-teen through Senior IV.

Spectators and dancers alike had the opportunity to enjoy general dancing. In particular, the Jack and Jill swing event was a big hit. Kelly Batchelor, the local DanceSport chair, said, "[It] was wildly successful! I would say nearly two thirds of the ballroom got up and danced in that event. Competitors were dragging out spectators, and the young were dancing with the young at heart."

Almost 200 competitors participated in the Chicago DanceSport Challenge, most from the Midwest, but friends from the "Land of Dixie" joined the fun, too. And some of them went home with a little green thanks to scholarship donations made by the Chicago Chapter, the Greater Louisville Chapter, Northern Illinois Chapter, Richard Obney, Kris and Ela Kasperowicz, Linda Jackson, and Barbara Finn.

Jack Meinking served as music man while Larry May kept things lively throughout the day with his banter. Mark Tabor served as scrutineer, and the judging panel included visitors Charles Jones, Linda Jackson, and Bonita Brockert. The local judges were Gregory Day, Kris Kasperowicz, Gaetan Rouette and Susan Cole as an alternate.

The competitors had ample opportunity to shop as there were several vendors on hand to entice everyone. They included Beverly Adams Designs, Blue Wave Jewelry, Dance Styles Chicago, Sew-Lutions, and Toe-to-Toe. Also offering their services were videographer Richard Obney and photographer Zeke Torres. In addition, chapter volunteers hosted a resale rack featuring costumes, shoes and jewelry.

As the clock approached midnight, friends said "goodnight" and "hope to see you next year." Speaking of next year, now is a good time to mark your calendar for the 2010 National Qualifying Event. Our competition will run Feb. 19-21 and will again be hosted by the Sheraton Chicago Northwest Hotel. Make sure you visit www.usadancechicago.org to find out what's happening throughout the year. ■



PHOTO BY LISA SIMPSON-KYLE

Fun-Filled Phoenix

Phoenix 4033 Ballroom Competition

BY: ANDREA KNIGHT

“The atmosphere was exciting, exuberant and fun-filled,” said Cheryl Leggett, the Phoenix Chapter 4033’s vice-president. Over 200 spectators turned out to watch the 100 entries in exciting ballroom dance competition on Saturday, Feb. 21.

Leggett shared that this event was extra-special for two reasons. First, the chapter awarded an impressive \$1200 in scholarships this year, including, for the first time ever, scholarships for their senior competitors in the American Smooth division for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Second, Leggett said, “It was an honor to have our USA Dance Regional Vice President Bill Rose and his wife, Diane, in attendance as spectators this year.”

The El Zaribah Shrine in Phoenix provided the backdrop for this event, which owed its success to the selfless contributions of several chapter members. Paul Jack emceed, Brent Mills provided the music, and Jenell Maranto acted as chairman of judges.

“We would most like to thank Felix Ray for his forethought and hard work in planning this competition each year—as well as all of our volunteers, who bring the competition to life and make it a big success each year,” Leggett said.

The winners for this included Zoar and Cheryl Leggett for Pre-Championship Intl. Standard, Lester Manalastas and Delia Smeaton for Novice Intl. Latin, Anthony and Marina Sanchez-Torres for Pre-Championship American Smooth, Mateusz Naslonski and Nicole Piech for Youth Open Salsa, Odassis Cheeks and Lacie Forde for Adult/Senior Open Salsa, and Joe Medina and Sue Putzier for Championship American Rhythm.

More photos can be found on the chapter’s Web site, at www.phoenixusadance.org. Click on “Dancesport Challenge Competition” for competition results. ■



PHOTO BY LISA SIMPSON-KYLE



PHOTO BY GEORGE CHEN

WINSTON AND LILY CHOW

Dancing from

2009 USA Dance Southwest National Qualifying Event DanceSport Championships

The 17th Annual USA Dance Southwest National Qualifying Event DanceSport Championships were hosted by the NorCal Chapter at the San Jose Civic Auditorium in San Jose, California on Feb. 7, 2009. NorCal was the first chapter to ever hold a regional event (1992), and we are happy to continue that tradition of fine regional events.

What an event! We had over 100 couples competing and over 400 in attendance. We had competitors from several different states, and some of the finest dancers in the United States. Comprised of several events with semifinals, it was truly an event not to be missed. See results at our Web site, usadance-norcal.org.

The day started at 10 a.m., with competitions running without a break until 3:30 p.m. The evening session started at 6 p.m. and ended just before 11. We ran on-time throughout both sessions, thanks to the excellent schedule prepared by our registrar, Laura La Gassa, the leadership of our chairman of judges, Ava Kaye, our hard-working volunteers (well-organized by Dawn Neuhart), and NorCal board members.

I want to specially thank all our volunteers: Naina, Anne, Vladimire Monokandilos, Orit Krummer, Elona Drabkin, Marina Maneker, Sue Putzier, Bithi Chatterjee, Joe Medina, Minks Madaan, Scott Sahlman,

LaNay Eastman, Flora Lu, Chris Ellwood & Jennifer Davis. Volunteers from SJSU were Daniel Tran, Elizabeth Jewett, Lorebelle Orlowski, Sharilyn Quidato, Cassie Quidato, Euclid Sun, Alice Wong, Reggie Wiley, Noel Padilla, Raymond Anchetta, Evelyn Shieh, Ming-Sum Lai, Laura Quidato and Anjona Anthony.

USA Dance NorCal prides itself on providing first-class and affordable competitions. We offer the least expensive and—we think—the best regional competition in the nation. This is possible only because of our great volunteers. On behalf of all the competitors, thank you so much!

Our hard-working board members devoted many hours to planning and running this event. Alex Chan was our music director. Tina Moretti-Rose, our treasurer, ran the box office. Ken Greer selected and organized our beautiful awards. Special thanks to Turtle Brennan, who designed the floor layout and supervised the ballroom preparation. Karen Andersen did her usual great job as emcee. Dawn Neuhart organized our many volunteers.

We had a very distinguished panel of adjudicators: Ava Kaye, chairman and scrutineer; Rex Lewis; Gosia Zygaldo; Sue Swain; Tom Hicks; Stephen Cullip; Erin Pick; Glenn Weiss; and Steve Vasco.

In November the 5th annual California DanceSport Championships will also be held at Just Dance in Oakland. Next year the Southwest National Qualifying Event will be presented by the Orange County Chapter in February. Details are on our Web site: usabda-norcal.org. ■

James Kleinrath DDS,
President, USA Dance Nor-Cal

Coast to Coast

BY: ANDREA KNIGHT

2009 USA Dance Southeast National Qualifying Event DanceSport Championships

The annual USA Dance Southeast National Qualifying Event DanceSport Championships was a success in spite of snowfall and cold temperatures.

The event was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bethesda, Md., on Feb. 7. Although Joe Huesmann, Mid-Eastern Chapter #6001 Vice President and key planner for the event, is proud of the successful event, Huesmann confirmed that many events have at least one scare.

“We had a small scare on Sunday afternoon as an incoming snowstorm was predicted, but it held off long enough to get almost all of our officials and participants off,” Huesmann said.

Despite the weather, Huesmann and Zuckerstein reported that the event was a success.

“We put a lot of preparation into the event, so I’d say that the competition went extremely well,” Huesmann said.

According to Huesmann, the Mid-Eastern Chapter board initiated this year’s competition, and its board members and volunteers proved instrumental to its management.

“We had a planning committee of about 10 people. We also had many volunteers throughout the weekend

helping with ticketing, working as deck captains, and all sorts of other tasks,” said Huesmann.

The event came together as planned, with many generous donations funding scholarships for dancers—and, of course, many competitors taking the opportunity to strut their stuff on the Hyatt Regency dance floor. Karen Zuckerstein of the Mid-Eastern Chapter board shared her excitement about the broad participation in the event:

“We had a lot of participation from couples all along the eastern seaboard, as well as support from the major universities in the area, especially University of Maryland, Georgetown, and George Washington University,” Zuckerstein said, “The students really infused the event with a lot of energy.”

The event covered a variety of dance types, according to Zuckerstein:

“We had quarter finals at various levels in all four styles—and even rounds in standard. And of course the highlight of the evening was seeing a number of top couples compete in both Latin and Standard.”

“We received many compliments from competitors and officials about how well the competition was run,” Huesmann said. “In fact, many of them have agreed to help us out again—we are running the competition again the same weekend next year, as the USA Dance 2010 Mid-Atlantic Championships.”

Readers can find the results of the competition at O2CM.com. ■



PASHA PASHKOV & DANIELLE KARAGACH

PHOTO BY ANDREW N. CARPENTER

COLLEGIATE COMPETITION CALENDAR



may 9, 2009

Caltech & UCSB Dance of the Roses
Pasadena, Calif.
<http://ballroom.caltech.edu/comp/>

october 3, 2009

Cayuga DanceSport Challenge
Ithaca, N.Y.

october 17, 2009

UC Berkeley Ballroom Beginners'
Berkeley, Calif.
<http://ucbd.org/beginners/>

october 25, 2009

Harvard Beginners' Competition
Cambridge, Mass.
<http://www.harvardballroom.org/>

october 31, 2009

Iowa State University Cyclone Ballroom Classic
Ames, Iowa
<http://www.isuballroom.org/cbc.php>

november 6-8, 2009

DC DanceSport Inferno
College Park, Md.
<http://www.BallroomAtMaryland.com/dcdi>

november 7, 2009

Purdue Classic
West Lafayette, Ind.
<http://classic.purdueballroom.org>

november 8, 2009

Brown Ballroom Dance Competition
Dedham, Mass.
http://www.brown.edu/Students/Ballroom_Dance/comp/

november 14, 2009

Yale Ballroom Dance Competition
New Haven, Conn.
<http://www.yaleballroom.org/comp/>

november 14, 2009

Neil Clover Ballroom Challenge
Princeton, N.J.
<http://www.princeton.edu/~pbdc/ncbc.html>

november 21, 2009

San Jose State University Ballroom Classic
San Jose, Calif.
<http://studentorgs.sjsu.edu/sjsubdc/competition.htm>

november 21-22, 2009

National Collegiate DanceSport Challenge
Columbus, Ohio
<http://cdcusabda.accessdance.com/>

december 5, 2009

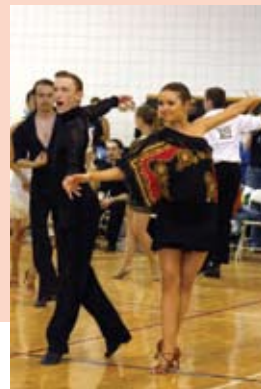
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Triangle Open DanceSport Championships:

A Testament to the Vitality of DanceSport in the Carolinas



DENNIS PORCH AND MARY LOU HERNDON

With over 217 competitors representing 10 universities, high schools, and nine states, the 11th annual Triangle Open DanceSport Championships held Feb. 20-21 brought many dancers together for a successful competition.

This year's competition was held at the Carmichael Gym on the North Carolina State University campus in Raleigh, N.C. Wayne and Marie Crowder, Dancing with Wolves DanceSport Team of NCSU, and the Carolina Heartland Chapter of USA Dance, sponsored this DanceSport event. The event was sanctioned by USA Dance.

This year's competition started Friday night with the Mixed Proficiency and Open events. The Mixed Proficiency events, where either only the man or lady, depending on the category, is being judged, had an increase in entries over last year. This allowed those dancers without regular

partners to enter the competition. The Open salsa, West Coast swing, bolero, and paso doble followed. The night's activities concluded with the fun Team Competition.

Saturday morning started out with the Bronze American Waltz in which 44 couples competed for the 1st Place award. With competitors coming from Massachusetts to Florida, several events had over 40 couples that had to be narrowed down to the final round. Dan Calloway was the chairman of an excellent panel of judges: Suzie Buck, Wendi Davies, Steve Hadley, Jennifer McCalla, Stanley McCalla, Kim Smith, and Dick Raymond.

Phil Nolan provided an excellent selection of music which kept the competitors and audience "pumped" for a long day of large heats. Our scrutineer was Ava Kaye who did an outstanding job of keeping the comp running smoothly. Every good, large comp has successful deck captains to get everyone in line and ready to go. Hank and Patty Richbourg were invaluable in this position.

Thanks to our generous donors, this year's competition awarded \$2,200 in scholarships. The Triangle Open DanceSport Championship is a testament to the vitality of dancesport in the Carolinas. ■

Wayne & Marie Crowder
Organizers, Triangle Open DanceSport
Championships



AKSEL DAVIS AND LIANNE GONSALVES

PHOTOS BY CHRIS SANCHEZ

AD MARKETPLACE

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Lady's LaDuca dance shoes barely worn. Size 7 American or 36 European, closed toe, made in Italy. May view at laducashoes.com see "Teresa" style in tan under custom shoes, expensive! These shoes are like new, very comfortable with a spandex band for flexibility and comfort at each side and at buckle. Sacrifice for \$80. For actual photo/more info: Darleneoutdancing@gmail.com [1]

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Ladies International Latin "Crystal" sandal, multi-strap with mesh toe area, nude color 2/12" heels. Good condition (tried to wear but hurt feet!), \$45. Call Elizabeth at 501-269-3739. [1]

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Athletic male dancer competes in international standard in senior category at championship and pre-champ level. I am looking for a compatible female dance partner to take lessons, practice and compete in USA and Canada. Please call 954-935-2664 in USA and 416-665-9959 in Canada. Email arkade@att.net[2]

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Searching for lightly used or never worn ladies ballroom dance shoes. One pair either closed or open toe for size 6.5M & no higher than 1.5 heel. This shoe needs to be very comfortable, not hard. Extra cushion a plus. The other shoe in an open toe in size 7M up to 2.5" heel. Color in black or neutrals to wear at dance practices. May email photos & info to Darleneoutdancing@gmail.com [1]

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USA Dance extends it's greatest thanks to every volunteer for the many hours of service offered at the USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships. We could never have made it a success without your tireless dedication and contributions. Thank you!