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# ON THE COVER

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"It is a tremendous privilege to serve such a worthy cause." -Howell Oakley

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"Learn how you can once again make your dancing exciting, rewarding, challenging, enriching, and meaningful." -Joe Peoria

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"The Network is made up of collegiate club leaders, officers, and enthusiasts." -Andrew Pueschal



INGA SIRKAITE TEACHING A CHA CHA WORKSHOP AT THE WOUNDED WARRIORS APPRECIATION BALL

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAURICIO CAMPINO

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CJ & VERONICA BARNES FROM NCSU

PHOTO BY NICK STEHLE

# President's REPORT



Summertime always used to be the period when one took time off, enjoyed vacations, and developed a glowing sun tan. Not anymore! If summer is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day, it has become the busiest time of the year for yours truly.

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, Ida and I had the enormous pleasure of attending the Wounded Warriors Appreciation Ball in Camp LeJeune, N.C. Not only was this a most enjoyable event, with live music from three different groups—including a full swing band—it raised a considerable amount of money for a very worthy cause. Thank you Azalea Coast Chapter for your initiative and dedication. I'm sure the chapter has been rewarded by the news that the event inspired the Orlando Chapter to follow suit, with impressive results. Congratulations to all of you.

The following weekend had Ken Richards and me in Dallas for the National Dance Council of America. We have given notice to our professional colleagues that we must move firmly and swiftly to an agreement for a Rule Book, which is accepted by both parties for amateur competitions.

Ken and I have also been engaged in making arrangements for the 2010 World Latin DanceSport Championships at the Meadowlands in New Jersey. Mark the date—Nov. 13, 2010—one week before the Ohio Star Ball. Shortly after the Dallas meeting, Ken set off for Macau for the Annual Meeting of our international federation, the International DanceSport Federation. All did not go well for the USA. Because there is now a requirement for at least one person in each couple to hold the passport of the country being represented, several of our couples who qualified in Baltimore are barred by the IDSF from representing this country—even if both are permanent residents. We will continue to press for a relaxation of this ruling.

As the summer proceeds, Ida and I are on tour. I am writing from Baton Rouge, where we are attending the always excellent Gumbo DanceSport Championships. From here we travel to Fort Wayne, Ind. for the second annual Special Olympics event. This initiative, like the Wounded Warrior's event, is the product of one USA Dance member's inspiration, and this has also been replicated by other chapters. We all understand how healthful ballroom dancing is as a pastime. We have a duty to pass this on to others. At the Camp LeJeune event, the teenage daughter of a disabled veteran clutched my arm tearfully and thanked me for helping her dream of many years come true. We can make a difference.

Your Governing Council is getting ready for its annual meeting in October in Chicago. There have not been many changes in the basic structure of USA Dance since 1985, and we are poised for change and progress.

*Peter Pover*



Member Organization  
of the United States  
Olympic Committee



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*

## NATIONAL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT **Peter Pover**, 772.489.9190 e-mail: [president@usadance.org](mailto:president@usadance.org)  
SENIOR VP **Lydia Scardina**, 415.469.9815 e-mail: [senior-vp@usadance.org](mailto:senior-vp@usadance.org)  
SECRETARY **Stan Andrews**, 217.454.8879 e-mail: [secretary@usadance.org](mailto:secretary@usadance.org)  
TREASURER **Esther Freeman**, 541.899.1933 e-mail: [treasurer@usadance.org](mailto:treasurer@usadance.org)  
DANCESPORT VP **Ken Richards**, 302.290.2583 e-mail: [dancesport-vp@usadance.org](mailto:dancesport-vp@usadance.org)  
SOCIAL VP **Jean Krupa**, 386.761.1625 e-mail: [social-vp@usadance.org](mailto:social-vp@usadance.org)  
YCN VP **Andrew Pueschel**, 412.656.3667 e-mail: [ycn-vp@usadance.org](mailto:ycn-vp@usadance.org)

## EDITORIAL STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **Shawn Fisher**  
MANAGING EDITOR **Justin Love**  
COPY EDITORS **Erica Colvin**  
WRITERS **Ivor Lee • Justin Love**  
ART DIRECTOR **Becky Brunson**  
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR **Justin Love**  
DESIGNERS **Becky Brunson • Bonnie Olsen**  
OFFICE PHONE (704) 624-8462

## CONTRIBUTORS

WRITERS • **Jean Krupa • Jack Lebo • Andrew Pueschal**  
EDITORIAL ADVISOR **Angela Prince**, USA Dance Director of Public Relations

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AD REPRESENTATIVE **Doug Montanus** 502.836.7946  
e-mail: [fundraising-dir@usadance.org](mailto:fundraising-dir@usadance.org)

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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. 600 dpi.  
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## MEMBERSHIP

If you need information concerning membership or missed issues, contact:  
Mary at USA Dance Central Office  
800.447.9047 • Fax: 239.573.0946  
E-mail: [central-office@usadance.org](mailto:central-office@usadance.org)

Check our Web site - [www.USAdance.org](http://www.USAdance.org)

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS



### 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.



### JACK LEBO

Jack has followed and written about the Big Bands of America for years. His Big Band Report appears in many issues of *American Dancer*. Jack is retired and lives in Levittown, Pa. with his wife.



### ANDREW PUESCHAL

Andrew Pueschal teaches as a professional instructor at Carnegie Mellon University and serves as the Assistant VP for Region 2, YCN Representative for Region 2, and Coordinator of USA Dance Pittsburgh DanceSport Championships.

## GUEST WRITERS

HOWELL OAKLEY

JOSEPH ALTINGER, PHD

JOE PEORIA

LAUREL PRESTON

ROBIN L. SMITH

WENDI DAVIES



## COVER PHOTOS

COURTESY OF MAURICIO CAMPINO

Azalea Coast N.C. Chapter of USA Dance holds Wounded Warriors Appreciation Ball™, May 22 and 23. The successful event raised \$9,000 in support of our nation's military wounded and their rehabilitation needs.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FACEBOOK GROUPS BLOOMING

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The USA Dance Inc. Facebook group is thriving, thanks to all of you, but we still have a long way to go before we reach our goal of 25,000 members by the end of the year. Remember to send invitations to all of your friends so they can stay up-to-date with news, events, videos and more.

USA Dance also has a Facebook group specifically designed for competitions. The USA Dance Competitions group will keep you informed with all the latest information on upcoming competitions. See it for yourself and tell your friends about it, too.

## TREASURE TIER: NATIONAL QUALIFYING EVENT CIRCUIT

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This year at our 30-anniversary Nationals DanceSport Championships we will once again be thanking our members who attend multiple NQEs. This is not a merit based program, it's truly a "thank you for supporting our events" to those couples who go to our NQEs. Since scheduling of National Qualifying Events preclude any couple attending all 8 events before the 2010 USA Dance National DanceSport Championships, the award levels for both Emerald and Diamond Tiers have been adjusted for this year only. See Nationals Website for more information.



## AMERICAN DANCER ONLINE MAGAZINE NOW AVAILABLE IN FUN FORMAT

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*American Dancer* is proud to announce that the online version of the magazine can be viewed in the new flip-page format. The flipper is much easier to read, zoom, and sort through than the previous PDF format. Plus, there's no need to download the magazine before you can read it. Just click and read. Try it out for yourself at <http://usadance.org>.

## NATIONAL CHAPTER CONFERENCE

---

March 11-14, 2010 at the Hampton Inn Tropicana, Las Vegas. Watch for details coming soon!

All the excitement of planning the 2010 National Chapter Conference is in full swing! Think of our mission statement; 'to increase the quality and quantity of ballroom dancing' - certainly a goal we all enthusiastically endorse.

This year I chose the motto "Hand in Hand, Together We Can" to place focus on the great things we can achieve by working as a team to further our mission.



USA DANCE 2010

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# Wounded Warriors<sup>TM</sup> Appreciation Ball

BY: HOWELL OAKLEY

VP, AZALEA COAST USA DANCE AND CHAIRMAN,  
WOUNDED WARRIORS APPRECIATION BALL COMMITTEE

This May marked the inaugural edition of the USA Dance Wounded Warriors Appreciation Ball<sup>TM</sup>, an event conceived and sponsored by the Azalea Coast, NC Chapter of USA Dance to honor our nation's military wounded and to raise funds in support of their rehabilitation needs.

We are blessed to live in a country that guarantees freedom and provides for a secure society. We are also blessed to have our health and to enjoy it in a wonderful expression of freedom—dance. It is altogether fitting that we celebrate our blessings, show our appreciation, and generate support for those who risked their freedom, their security, and sacrificed a portion of their health for our benefit.

The ball was held May 22 and 23 on USMC Base Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC at the historic Marston Pavilion, a wonderful 1940's era venue with two 6,000 sq. ft. dance floors and one situated in a wonderful, lush river view setting.

This first ball was more than an evening of formal dance—it was a weekend of dance workshops. Each floor hosted two simultaneous workshops during each of eight periods scheduled over Friday night and Saturday (20 in all). Workshop attendees experienced expert instruction from Tomas Mielnicki & JT Thomas (former World and US American-style smooth champions) and Robertas Maleckis & Inga Sirkaite (former European and US Latin champions).

The Saturday night ball was an evening of black-tie elegance, including a champagne reception and formal dining to a smooth jazz combo, followed by dancing to a live 16-piece big band. During the evening, Tomas & JT and Eduardo Torres & Cristina Acevedo (American Rhythm Rising Star Champions) provided a spectacular professional dance exhibition.

Net event proceeds went to Hope For The Warriors<sup>TM</sup>, a foundation dedicated to providing support to military wounded and their families and recognized for ensuring that 92 percent of each dollar it receives goes directly to their needs. As part of the agreement to utilize the base facilities, a percentage

TOMAS MIELNICKI & JT THOMAS PERFORMING A PEABODY





GUEST ENJOYING DINNER PRIOR TO DANCING AND THE PROFESSIONAL SHOW

of the formal ball sales was committed as a minimum donation that would go to Hope For The Warriors™. The chapter is pleased to announce that it almost doubled that amount.

Developing and executing this idea was a real challenge, due to economic and seasonal timing. The idea was conceived in February 2008 by Howell Oakley, the Ball Committee Chairman, and adopted by the Chapter Board in March. It took months of negotiation to gain base approval, which came only in late October. In early 2009, it became apparent it was not the ideal time for a chapter to begin a fundraising effort—especially when introducing a new concept to our area. However, we decided to persevere, for we believed the recession-like conditions made the need even greater.

Though we did receive some significant donations from private companies and individuals, funding was limited by the harsh economic conditions. Ultimately what occurred was a testament to the faith and the good-heartedness of the dance community wanting to ensure this first time event was a success. We received early registrations and donations from the dance community all across Eastern NC and eight other states. We also received support from USA Dance chapters across the country and USA Dance National, including the official and personal support of national President Peter Pover.

As a result, we successfully delivered a quality program that broke new ground for the visibility and culture of ballroom dance in Eastern NC and for the involvement of USA Dance in the support of our national heroes—one that represented well the dance community's citizenship in our great nation and developed a deeper awareness for an important cause. We also increased interest in the military community for

ballroom dancing as a therapeutic option for traumatic brain injury and as a means for returning troops to reunite with their significant others and to reacclimatize to civilian life. In the process, we inspired a dozen other chapters to pursue their own WWAB event.

We owe much thanks to many individuals. Our special thanks goes to Peter Pover for his leadership and support. Thanks also to other chapters that sent their contributions (Triangle NC, Greenville NC, Richmond VA, Ft. Wayne Ind., Royal Palm Fla., and Greater Daytona Fla.). [Note: Yes, our own chapter also contributed!] Thanks to our wonderful professional entertainers and dancers and the generosity of many small contributors and attendees from near and far.

Tremendous thanks also to the rest of our WWAB Committee: Allan Pellnat (who developed and mastered our Web pages), Barbara Oakley (our keeper of finances), and Dixie Murphy (who contributed much as a “remote” chapter member to our organization of registration data), and most especially to Colleen Parker (our chapter president who lent a phenomenal

*“It is a tremendous privilege  
to serve such a worthy cause”*

*-Howell Oakley*

amount of effort and guidance and who obtained the professional talent with the help of her dance coach, Robertas Maleckis). All members gave graciously and tirelessly of their time, talent, energy, and money.

Due to the hard work and support of many, the WWAB was perceived as a great success. Attendees expressed much approval and enthusiasm for the quality of the event. The dance professionals and musicians expressed enjoyment for their participation. All shared the desire to be involved in another WWAB.

It is always a joy to celebrate and enjoy ballroom dance. It is a tremendous privilege to serve such a worthy cause while doing so. Therefore the most important thanks and appreciation goes again to our nation's wounded warriors: Thank you so much for your service and sacrifice for our freedoms! ■

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAURICIO CAMPINO

# Dancing and the Brain

BY: JOSEPH ALTINGER, PHD

**Want to stimulate your brain? Dance!**

**Want to strengthen your memory? Dance!**

**Want to keep your mind sharp? Dance!**

**Want to prevent or slow down age-related loss of mental flexibility? You guessed it, Dance!**

Recent studies at brain research institutes show that intellectual and physical activities actually develop new brain tissue. These new findings go against the time-honored belief that brain cells die as we age and cannot be replaced. Photo comparisons are available showing brain cells with

a certain number of synapses before stimulation, juxtaposed with the new ones that grew after stimulation.

More precisely, mind stimulation causes brain cells (neurons), to grow new, threadlike connections (synapses). Some of these send messages (axons), and some of them receive messages (dendrites).

According to Arnold Scheibel of the Brain Research Institute at UCLA, “The important thing [for new synaptic growth] is to be actively involved in areas that are unfamiliar to you.” Things such as mental or verbal puzzles, musical instruments, writing in a journal, or creating a story would all be beneficial to brain stimulation. The ideal situation is to combine new muscle control problems with something that stretches and twists the mind and stimulates the brain.

Recent findings show that the best activity combining physical and mental effort at the same time is—dancing. Leader, strike up the band. ■



# National Ballroom DANCE WEEK

## "GIVE IT A WHIRL"

National Ballroom Dance Week will be here before you know it.

It's not too soon to think about how your Chapter will participate in this special, week long celebration of ballroom dancing.

On this occasion, we not only celebrate dance, but we promote dancing in general and USA Dance in particular. It is a great opportunity to increase your membership and dance participation in your community.

Chapters who have never done anything special to recognize this week should try at least one thing, such as free passes to future dances or free admission for anyone who brings a first-time guest.

Many chapters go all out to celebrate with a dance every night, often with each offering a different theme. Chapters can hold exhibitions in malls, community centers, and parks; arrange to have feature articles written in local papers about ballroom dancing opportunities; offer free lessons; and do demonstrations in nursing homes, schools, festivals and other public venues.

Alternative venues could be hotel lobbies, ferry boats, libraries, government facilities, recreation halls, churches, dance studios, college facilities, high school facilities, parking lots, fairs, corporate facilities, streets, community buildings, hospitals — every place the public is.

The time to start is NOW. Make your calls, make your plans, talk to others to share ideas and experience. Bring imagination, dedication, hard work and love for dancing in your city.

Let's Go Dancing!

*Jean Krupa*  
Social Dance VP



For more ideas  
and information visit

**[www.usadance.org](http://www.usadance.org)**

Click on the Social Dance tab and then  
National Ballroom Dance Week link

or call

**1-800-332-NBDW**

# USA Dance Chapter News

By: Erica Colvin

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

SEND US THE  
LATEST NEWS FROM  
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BE FEATURED IN  
UPCOMING ISSUES OF  
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## NORTH CAROLINA, MOORE & LEE COUNTIES

### CAROLINA PINES CHAPTER #6091 SHOWCASE DINNER/DANCE



CUMBIA PERFORMED JOHN AND YOLANDA WHITE



SWING PERFORMED BY TREVOR & LYNN BOURNE

The Carolina Pines Chapter started in 2008 with 37 members. Dances were poorly attended, 13 members attended, sometimes bringing a couple friends. Ladies had to take turns around the dance floor with the two single gentlemen. Luckily, the couples were willing to share their three men.

But in April of 2009 it was a different story. The floor was crowded with 42 chapter members and 37 guests. The room was beautifully decorated, four tables overflowed with refreshments. It was the chapter's first showcase. What is the secret to the sudden excitement?

Success is attributed to our dedicated leadership of the chapter. By offering free dance lessons with a new membership or renewal, our roster has risen to 72 members. Lessons are offered weekly for beginners and advanced dancers prior to Saturday night dances.

But our exciting success has only begun. By the end of 2009 we hope to top 100 members. Considering our small town population rests at 2,800, we aren't doing too bad.

Submitted by John D. & Yolanda White  
& Judy MacDonald

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN & YOLANDA WHITE



MASTERS OF CEREMONY BOB & BEVERLY WETHERBIE

## COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

### GREATER COLUMBIA CHAPTER #6032 ETIQUETTE REFRESHER

The pages of the Greater Columbia Chapter newsletter are filled with more than just events and updates. Their newsletter is filled with information just for dancers. Here is a snippet from their publication to refresh etiquette guidelines for any dancer.

#### Group Class Etiquette

It has been proven that you will learn to dance 30 percent faster by dancing with a variety of partners. Sometimes, in our group classes we have you rotate. Be sure to say hello and introduce yourself to your new partners.

#### Social Dance Etiquette

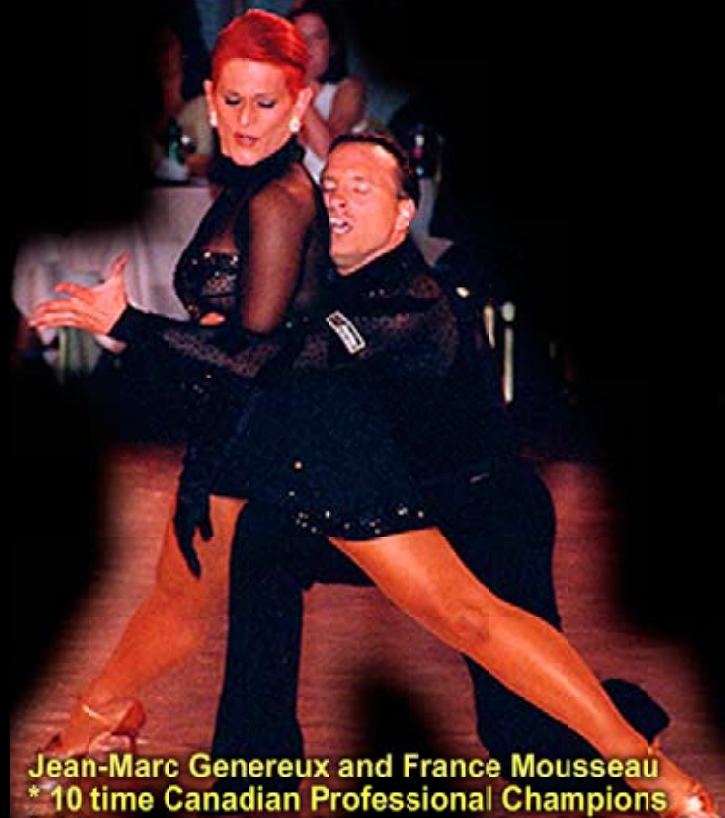
When you ask someone to dance, be sure to make eye contact with your prospective partner, offer your hand, and ask clearly, "Would you like to dance?" If your partner says "Yes," smile, and escort him or her onto the dance floor and into dance position. This will make your partner feel supported and at ease.

During the dance, be aware of your partner. Smile and make eyes contact, but don't stare. It is fun to dance with a partner who is gracious and appreciative. At the end of the dance, always say "Thank you" to your partner and begin to escort them off the floor.

Unless someone asks you directly to make a correction of their dancing, you should never volunteer criticisms or your dance partner's technique. Know that your dance partner is doing the best he or she can. If your partner is dancing off time, you should view the situation as a challenge to dance to the same internal rhythms as your partner. Your partner is not dancing off time intentionally. Do your best to respect each other's rhythms.

Keep in mind to use common sense, respect, and manners for an enjoyable dance experience for both you and your partner. We hope this will help you enjoy any dancing situation with grace and finesse. Now go out there and experience the pure fun of social dancing. ■

# **Classically Ballroom** Presents **Dance Camp at Sea V**



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# Taking Your Chapter Online

BY: JEAN KRUPA

If your chapter needs a website but you don't think you can afford it or don't know any technologically savvy people, there is still hope.

Webs.com and officelive.com/free-website are two free sites that can help you create your very own Web site. Both are fairly easy to use and update.

If you create your page through these sites, your domain name will include that of the parent site (for example, usadancechapter.live.com) unless you buy your own domain, such as usadancechapter.com. Specific domains can be bought for \$8 to \$15 per year, but they aren't necessary if you don't mind including the company name in your web address. Tip: If the ".com" is taken, remember to check for ".org" or ".net."

"I have worked with both these sites, and believe me, even though I am not a computer person I have found them very easy to add content to and update regularly. Each one offers something a little different, depending on what kind of content you want to include," Krupa said.

## Webs.com

Webs provides all the tools you need to quickly

create a professional-looking Web site. You can add a blog, forum, calendar, photo gallery, video gallery, and more.

They also offer more than 300 templates, which allows you to choose from many categories and styles.

If you are comfortable with Microsoft Word, then this shouldn't be a problem.

## officelive.com/free-website

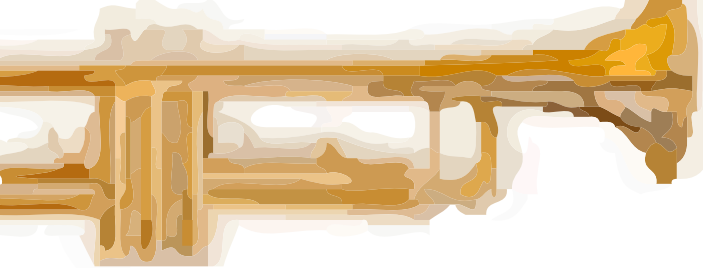
This site offers free Web site hosting, free templates and easy-to-use tools, free e-mail accounts, and free support — e-mail, phone, and online.

Advancing technology can be intimidating at times; luckily, many simple sites are available. Some contain step-by-step instructions to help you create a professional Web site. Take your chapter to the

next level: Create an information base for community and chapter members. ■

Jean Krupa,  
Social Dance VP  
(And Chapter#6026  
website creator  
— go to [www.greaterdaytonachapter.org](http://www.greaterdaytonachapter.org)).





# EDDIE BRUCE

## VERSATILE EDDIE DOES IT ALL

BY JACK LEBO

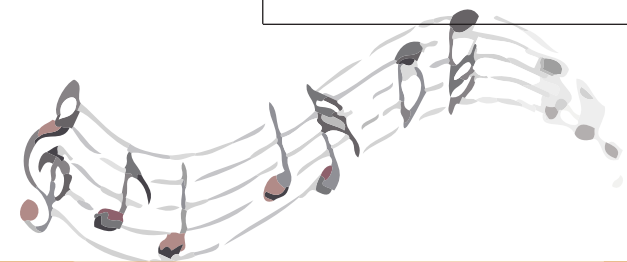
Eddie Bruce is the consummate entertainer. He's a band leader, a vocalist, and a versatile entertainer. For more than 25 years, he has been performing his unique repertoire of music that ranges from Top 40, Rhythm & Blues, Disco, and House music to Swing and Sinatra. His interest in music began when he was a child, and he has never wavered from this passion. He has blended his natural entrepreneurial skills with his love of music, and created one of the most successful orchestras in the region, and one of the best reputations as a much sought-after performer.

Whether he's entertaining a group of 50 or 500, there's no better leader for social and corporate events. A regular at Caesar's in Atlantic City, the Bruce Band has also performed at Bally's Park Place, the Etes Arena of Trump Taj Mahal, as well as such major events as the Grand Gala Opening of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

Adding to his great satisfaction in producing outstanding events and celebrations, Eddie has a dual-career as a cabaret artist. He has performed cabaret in the past ten years at Bally's in Atlantic City, Odette's in New Hope, Penn., and in New York City, at 88's, The Supper Club and Danny's.

Another cabaret show he is proud to present is "Newley Discovered." This is his tribute to the legendary composer/singer Anthony Newley—re-inventing this show, originally titled "A winner on all counts," by Backstage in 2000. He has also recorded two CDs "We'll Never Say Goodbye" and the newly released "Bruce on Bennett."

Born in Philadelphia, Bruce began his professional career at a very young age, performing on television talent shows, in local



## BIG BAND REPORT

theatres, and events throughout the city. He remembers fondly his many appearances on the “Al Alberts Showcase,” appearing on the first show broadcast WKBS-TV, Channel 48, and then continuing as a regular when it moved to Channel 6. As a member of Al Albert’s Showstoppers, a regularly appearing group of local teens, Bruce made frequent appearances on the show and sang many duets with host Al Alberts, leader and original member of the famed Four Aces.

He also sang on the Ted Mack Original Amateur Hour at the Ed Sullivan Studio in New York City.

After attending Temple University’s Radio, Television, and Film Program, he formed his own band, “Compass,” performing up and down the East Coast from New York to Florida and west to Ohio and Michigan. With “Compass,” he made his first recording, “Spring of My Life.” Following this, he came back to Philly and began what he thought was a short stint singing with a friend’s wedding band. Thirty-two years later, he’s still doing it, but now as the Eddie Bruce Orchestra. Throughout this time period, he had a major impact on the art of making music at weddings and events that is felt by the industry today.

Now, in 2009, he is performing “Bruce on Bennett,” in Philadelphia and New York, his tribute show to the legendary Tony Bennett. This new recording was recently released and has received immediate raves from music critics. Mark Fox, the president of the International Tony Bennett Appreciation Society said, “Everything ... vocals, accompaniment, song choices—just right! Loved ‘Old Devil Moon,’ with a nod to Tony’s lung bursting ... loooooove,’ which I think he held even longer!”

CONTACT: Sharla Feldscher-PR, 325 Cherry St., Phila., PA 19106,  
Email: [Sharla@sf-pr.com](mailto:Sharla@sf-pr.com). (215) 627-0801,  
Web site: [www.sharlafeldscher.com](http://www.sharlafeldscher.com) ■



**Eddie Bruce**

### **Contact Jack Lebo**

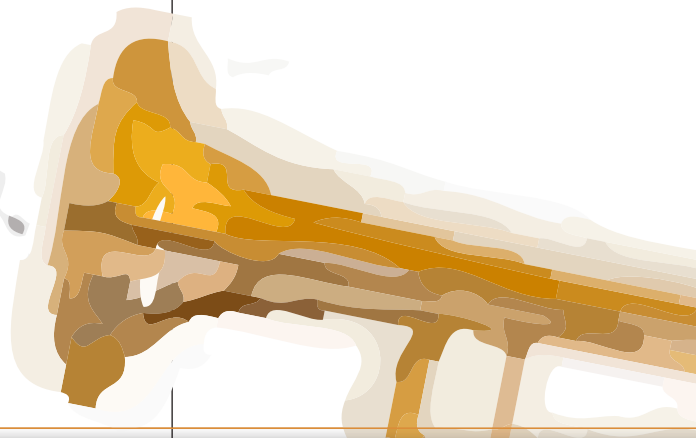
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(215) 943-8870  
[jlebo@earthlink.net](mailto:jlebo@earthlink.net).

### **Let’s Hear from You...**

There are dozens of bandleaders, vocalists and musicians who have never appeared on these pages in AMERICAN DANCER. We’d like to tell our readers about you and your musical activities.

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# Train Smarter, Not Harder

(Part 1)



PREPARING AT NATIONALS 2009

BY: **JOE PEORIA**

PEORIA DANCE STUDIO, YOUNGWOOD, PA

Do you envision your dancing improving, standing still, or declining? Are you worried and discouraged because your dance goals haven't been met? Then learn how you can once again make your dancing exciting, rewarding, challenging, enriching, and meaningful. Here are a few pointers that will help you assess your present dance situation and help establish direction.

## **1. Intention, Knowledge and Preparation**

It's vital to start a systematic plan with a strong belief in your physical and mental capacities. Couple that with

positive thoughts and a desire to succeed. Your goal must be supplemented with knowledge and effort.

## **2. Establish Your Goal**

Ask yourself if you really want this goal while making sure you're not doing it to please others. You should also set time limits, but don't set goals too far in the future by confusing what is possible now. Instead, design your goal to adapt to future ones. Achieved successfully, short time goals are encouraging—plus, they'll fortify your long-term goals. Remember, if you're unspecific about your goals, you should write them down in detail for referral and adjustments. They should be challenging, yet still attainable.

## **3. Form a Plan**

Include short and long-term objectives, individualized performance goals (not outcome goals), and target dates with sufficient practice time and recovery time. Have a flexible plan to withstand illness, family issues, bombardment and other unforeseen negatives from outer environment. Also include support people, suitable practice area, and corrective exercises and drills that will improve your flexibility, agility, balance, strength, endurance, etc. Have periodic evaluations of your level of conditioning and performance by your instructor and keep accurate record for review and adjustments.

## **4. Develop Your Own Identity**

Don't compare your body or dancing skills with someone else's. No two people are alike. Set your own standards and train to improve your own structured weaknesses and health problems.

## **5. Mental Vision**

Try recalling a scene from some past competition or dance that you attended. Call to mind every detail—the color and texture, sounds of people talking, music, lights, performances by your favorite dancers, the atmosphere, etc. Close your eyes and reenact yourself in that time and place. Envision yourself confidently and capably bearing all physical, genetic, and environmental limitations. What you think or visualize yourself as is what you will tend to become. What we can draw from this assumption is that if we raise our self-concept, we also raise the level of our achievement.

Be sure to read the second half of Joe Peoria's training tips in the next issue of *American Dancer*. ■



# THE PUBLIC EYE

## DanceSport Member Anna Demidova Wins A Spot On “Dancing with the Stars”

Anna Demidova is a name you’ve probably heard long before she won the Pro Dancer Competition on “Dancing with the Stars.” Anna, who began dancing as a 6-year-old, has been competing in and winning big championships as early as 2002. Among her achievements is that of USA Dance National Standard Champion. Although Anna has been well known in the dance community for many years, it wasn’t until recently on “Dancing with the Stars” that she was seen by the public eye.

On the show Anna received raving reviews from the judges. Bruno Tonioli described her dancing as “magnificent, radiant, and ... superb.” Carrie Ann Inaba said, “Any celebrity would be lucky to have you.” Len Goodman agreed and complimented Anna’s ability to bring out the best in her partners. The viewer’s votes then came in and officially named Anna as one of next year’s pro dancers on “Dancing with the Stars.”

Anna told *American Dancer* she is very excited to be on the next season of DWTS. “I can’t wait to start and

to bring something new to the show.” Although she may take a break from competing, she is confident she will be back on the dance floor as soon as possible. “I know the show will open doors to a lot of new things and a lot of new opportunities. I love dancing and I love teaching. It’s going to be a great experience doing the things I love the most and sharing them with everyone.” Be sure to tune in to the show next year to support one of our own.



ANNA DEMIDOVA AT NATIONALS 2008

PHOTO BY: CARSON ZULLINGER

## USA Dance Members in Brides Magazine Competition

Joerg Schlatterer and Sarah Murray are two members of the Greater New York Chapter of USA Dance (#3004), and getting married December 28. To prepare for the big event, they decided to enter the “Dancing with Brides” contest on May 16 in New York City, sponsored by Brides magazine—and made it to the finals! As one of four local couples to make the final in New York City they are on their way to compete for the \$10,000 prize. The finale will take place this fall, but the date and place has yet to be announced. The event will also be televised, so watch for the show this fall. Visit [www.dancingwiththebrides.com](http://www.dancingwiththebrides.com) for more details.

PHOTO BY: EDDIE FARCON

## Ambassadors of Dance: Jaryd and Cara Making a Difference One Show at a Time

Jaryd Farcon and Cara Abaya-Campos have traveled both in the U.S. and internationally bringing dance into the hearts and minds of audience members.

In February, Jaryd & Cara performed at NYC’s famous Madison Square Garden for the Knicks vs. the Lakers game. “I love performing at Madison Square Garden because the crowd gets so excited when we dance, sometimes it’s difficult to even hear the music,” said Jaryd.

Jaryd and Cara also work to get ballroom dancing into public schools. In April, they worked with Young Audiences Arts for Learning, the nation’s leading source of arts-in-education services, helping introduce ballroom dancing into the local public schools in Portland, Ore.

Along with Craig and Samantha Campos, Jaryd and Cara performed at their annual fundraiser dinner. The two couples also performed at three local elementary schools for approximately 1,000 children and appeared on the local morning show. For more info, visit [www.youngaudiences.org](http://www.youngaudiences.org). ■



JARYD AND CARA DANCING A CHA-CHA. IT WAS AT THIS GAME THAT KOBE BRYANT SCORED AN AMAZING 61 POINTS AGAINST THE KNICKS.

## 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

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# COMPETITION CALENDAR

**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](http://www.lousabda.org)

**september 4-5, 2009**

**IDSF Grand Slam Standard and Latin at the  
Embassy Ball**

Irvine, Calif.

[www.embassyball.com](http://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](http://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, N.C.

[www.highpointclassic.com](http://www.highpointclassic.com)

**january 15-17, 2010**

**Manhattan Amateur Classic-NQE**

Manhattan, N.Y. Chapter #1004

<http://nyusadance.org/>

**january 23, 2010**

**Royal Palm DanceSport Extravaganza\***

Coconut Creek, FL. Chapter #6016

[www.usadance-RoyalPalm.org](http://www.usadance-RoyalPalm.org)

**february 5-6, 2010**

**Southwest DanceSport Championships-NQE**

Anaheim, Calif.

**february 20-22, 2010**

**Chicago Dance Sport Challenge  
Championship-NQE**

Chicago, Ill. Chapter #2001

[www.usadancechicago.org](http://www.usadancechicago.org)

**february 27-28, 2010**

**USA Dance Mid-Atlantic DanceSport  
Championships-NQE**

Bethesda, Md. Chapter #6001

[www.usadancedc.org](http://www.usadancedc.org)

Events listed with the \* do not accrue proficiency points

**look for future event updates at**

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

# Largest Summer Quest For the Best Competition Ever!

By Laurel Preston



PETER KRASTEV & SABRINA HARGIS

DMITRY ISCHENKO & ALEKSANDRA KOSTENKO



GAMBLE SEE & DESIRE SEE

**T**he Washington Dance Club in downtown Seattle was the site of the very successful Quest for the Best Chapter Competition.

A total of 12 dance schools throughout Washington; Oregon; and British Columbia, Canada supported the competition in May as well as competitors from Idaho, California and New Jersey. A total of 147 competitors danced in 59 events with 233 entries for the largest summer Quest for the Best in its 15-year history.

**Growing pre-teen division** One area of the Quest that is growing is the pre-teen division. Last year there were three to five couples entering up to 16 events. This year boasted seven pre-teen couples in 24 events. The event is looking forward to having 12, 15 or more pre-teen couples at the September 26 Quest after summer vacations are over and additional pre-teen couples will be ready to compete.

This surge in pre-teen couples is, in part, due to the number of couples in the Seattle area and a television dance show that contacted the Quest

organizers to film pre-teen syllabus couples at the Quest. This television show is now watching the September 26 Quest to determine if they will film syllabus pre-teen couples at the Northwest DanceSport Championships (NWDSC), a National Qualifying Event on October 24 and 25, 2009.

**Local and low cost** Some of the most popular features of our competition series are its low cost and local nature. For \$15 it's cost-effective for local dancers since they don't have travel and lodging expenses. A lot of out-of-state competitors come, too, because it's still less expensive than other competitions. In this economic climate, chapter competitions make sense. Our Quest competitions are affordable opportunities for competitors' friends and family to see them compete.

With a wealth of experience gained over the many years this series has been offered; the chapter puts on a high quality competitive experience. Indeed, the mini-comps and Quest competitions were the training ground for the USA Dance Nationals held in 1993 and regionals now held.



PETER KRASTEV & SABRINA HARGIS



JOANTHAN CRAWFORD & KATYA SEDOVA

The event organizers are constantly improving everything from the emcee, judges, scrutineering, music, marshalling, on-line presence, program, registration and overall organization. All of these are of professional quality because the chapter wants to put on better competitions.

As a bonus, the dance floor at the Washington Dance Club is marvelous: well sprung, smooth and without the ridges of the typical portable floors you find at bigger comps held at hotels.

**Scholarships** Series winners will be determined by point accumulation over the course of the three-event series. Quest for the Best awarded \$2,200 in scholarships in 2008 and would like to award more in 2009. The scholarship is funded from admission tickets. The more spectators and competitors, the more dollars for the scholarships.

**Thank You** Quest for the Best would like to thank everyone who attended, competed and especially volunteered in some way for their participation. To see the results of Quest

competitions, go to [www.o2cm.com](http://www.o2cm.com). To find out more about these competitions or to register, go to [www.qftb.org](http://www.qftb.org).

**Join Us** Join us in Seattle for our National Qualifying Event October 24-25. If you like the Quest competitions, you'll love the chapters NQE event, the NorthWest DanceSport Championships, offering a full range of events for all ages, skill levels and styles at the beautiful Sea-Tac Airport Hilton Hotel October 24-25, 2009. This event is a qualifier for the USA Dance National Championships, and most of the judges will be judging at the National event as well. Our organizing committee is working hard to present another enjoyable, high quality, value-conscious event. Online entry, entrant listings, instant judging results, post-event competitor marks, and a host of other features will be offered through O2CM. Visit the Web site at [www.nwdsc.org](http://www.nwdsc.org) for more information. The chapter is looking forward to welcoming you to Seattle and having a great time together. ■

PHOTOS BY BARNEY CHIU

AUSTIN JOSON &amp; GABRIELLA SABLER



# Atlantic DanceSport Championships - A Winner!

BY: ROBIN L. SMITH

STAN FAYNERMAN &amp; IRINA SHERGINA



PHOTOS BY ANDREW CARPENTER

More than 60 dancesport couples from throughout the mid-Atlantic region descended upon Towson, Md., May 16, for the 4th Atlantic DanceSport Championships. Held at the Atlantic Ballroom and organized by professionals Igor and Polina Pilipenchuk, this friendly, well-run competition boasted a warm and elegant décor, permanent hardwood flooring and ample spectator seating. All levels and styles were offered, but standard and Latin were the most popular flavors of the day.

Standard opened the event, with competitors from pre-bronze through championship levels showcasing their abilities for judges Ron Bennett, Glenis Dee Creger, Andrei Gavriline, Rita Gekhman, Elena Kryuchkova, Catherine Noblitt, Ieva Pauksena and Lydia Petrigova. The amateur championships were the most highly contested with some events running in split heats. Standard Champions included: Kamil Falkowski/Katarina Hermanova (J1), Jason Sydorchenko/Beata Polyakova (J2), Taras Savitsky/Liya Podokshik (Youth) and Stan Faynerman/Irina Shergina (Adult).

As the afternoon progressed, dancers abandoned their ballgowns and tailsuits for the spicy Latin divisions. They also abandoned their dignified formality, impressing the judges with their enthusiasm off the floor as well as with their dancing. As the level of dancing increased, so did their vocal support for fellow dancers.

In the midst of this lively enthusiasm, a single entry emerged for the American Smooth Championship, Mike and Rose-Ann Lynch. Though uncontested, they treated the audience to a graceful, well-rehearsed performance and proved themselves worthy champions in this style.

The day culminated with a return to Latin and the Latin Championships. Rising to the challenge, competitors produced dynamic, quality dancing amidst boisterous audience support. The ultimate winners in these divisions were: Alexandru Raducanu/Ana-Maria Cernev (J1), Jason Sydorchenko/Beata Polyakova (J2), Austin Joson/Gabriella Sabler (Youth) and Stan Faynerman/Irina Shergina (Adult). Based on their overall performance, Faynerman and Shergina also won the International 10-Dance Championship.

Igor and Polina would like to extend a warm thank you to all who attended the Atlantic DanceSport Championships and they look forward to seeing everyone again in 2010.

For complete results, visit [www.atlanticdancesport.com](http://www.atlanticdancesport.com). ■

# Qualifying Events for USA Dance 2010 National DanceSport Championships



Janis Kukainis & Samantha Mang / Photo by: Carson Zullinger

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  
February 5-6, 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](http://www.usadance.org)

# FLORIDA DANCE SPREE

May 8-10, 2009

BY: JEAN KRUPA

FLORIDA COORDINATOR & NATIONAL SOCIAL DANCE VP

We were big on enthusiasm though small in numbers for our 13th Annual Florida Dance Spree. I want to thank those helping at the registration table: Lorely Ridge, Carol Cooney, (Vero Chapter) Nancy Welch, Nancy Hunter (Treasure Coast), John Davis (Central Florida), and Janice Ronnigen (St. Augustine). We sold the new USA Dance membership pins and car window decals, which were very well received.

Incorporated with a meeting of the Florida chapters' presidents the Florida Dance Spree is open to all USA Dance members to participate in the workshops and fun events in this all-inclusive weekend.

Starting off Friday night was the Parade of Chapters; we had 16 out of the 21 Florida chapters represented this year. The parade led into the Team Match, which was won by The "Spirit of Citrus Dancers" edging out the "FeatherSteppers" (Vero and Daytona chapters combined) by one point, followed by the "Heartbreakers" (Heart of Florida), "Central Florida" and "Southern Treasure" (Treasure Coast and Southern Star).

Later in the evening we had the ever popular 30/30/30 drawing, where three people shared the pot of \$450. We also recognized Charles Rainey from Royal Palm Chapter who was honored this year at Nationals as being an active Over 90s dancer and were pleased to have him with us once again. I don't think he has missed any of the Dance Sprees.

Our instructors, Butch Phillips and Pat Laakso were introduced for the 10 workshops offered on

Saturday in bolero, cha-cha, West Coast, Argentine Tango, hustle, samba and waltz. Mike and Peg Johnston (Southern Star) were the DJs for the weekend, keeping up with all the requests and dancing us contentedly to sleep each night.

The president's meetings were held during breakfast and lunch allowing everyone to attend the workshops. Awards were handed out at the presidents meeting Saturday morning for The Most Improved Newsletter. The award went to the Ocala Regional Chapter—Selma Canis, Editor. Honorable mention for Web site Design went to Spirit of Citrus and Greater Daytona chapters. The Top Award for Best Web site went to the White Sands Chapter ([www.dancewhitesand.com](http://www.dancewhitesand.com)).

GROUP PHOTO OF THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE FLORIDA DANCE SPREE



Selected as 2008 Volunteer of the Year was Darlene Siciliano from the Central Florida Chapter. She has served tirelessly for the past 10 years in many areas and for other nearby chapters as well. Other nominees for Volunteer of the Year were: Robert & Irene Guimond, Ocala Regional; Del Wooten, Treasure Coast; Lurlene Gough, Southern Star; Donald Davenport, SouthWest Fla.; Jean Satterfield, Michael- St Augustine; and Janis Merluzzo, White Sands Chapter. Congratulations to all of you.

The Florida 2008 Chapter of the Year Award went to the SouthWest Florida. Chapter #6049 (which was nominated and received the National Chapter of the Year as well).

Saturday night activities included the Jack and Jill contest, the winners were: Michael Verdone, Columbia S.C.; and Annie Sundeen, Sarasota Fla.

We tried a new dance mixer (my invention) called The Dance Spree Hold 'Em. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and wanted to do it again next year. They were even working it to do it at their chapter dances. The Poker Mixer trophy winner was John Roath-Algera from Titusville.

The next Dance Spree will be February 12-14, 2010 at the Radisson Resort, Kissimmee Fla. We hope you'll join us in the festivities. Food, lodging, workshops and evening dances on 8,000 sq. ft. of the best dance floor all for one low price, what more could you ask for? Check [www.FloridaDanceSpree.org](http://www.FloridaDanceSpree.org) for updates and pictures of this year's Dance Spree. ■

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEAN KRUPA



JEAN KRUPA WITH DARLENE SICILIANO, VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2008



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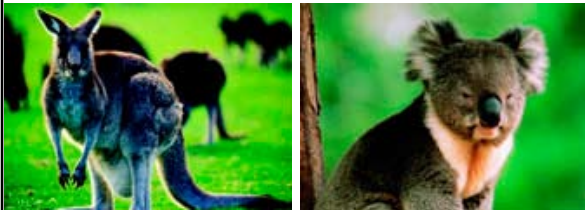
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Our **low group rates** are from about \$1500 per person for an inside cabin and from about \$2400 per person for a balcony cabin while our allotment lasts. Mini-suites available for about \$2900 per person. Outside cabins and suites may also be available. **Lower rates may be available for past Princess customers or during regional sales.**

Call about our Princess **cruise sale dates** with \$100 per person deposits and coupon booklets valued at \$325 in savings for onboard products and services.

*Join our travel club as we cruise and dance around the world on the best ships with the best itineraries. Each year, we will be targeting new destinations until we hit all the hot spots in the world. Make new dance friends from around the world. See articles on our past cruises in the **Dance Spotlight** available free at [www.DancingAtTheYMCA.com](http://www.DancingAtTheYMCA.com).*

## PRE-BLACKPOOL DANCE CRUISE on CUNARD'S QUEEN MARY 2

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(Blackpool Dance Festival, May 28-June 4, 2010)

**ABOUT THE QUEEN MARY 2:** We will cruise across the Atlantic from New York, New York to Southampton, England on the luxurious Queen Mary 2 (QM2) arriving on the first day of the most prestigious dance competition in the world. **Upon arriving in England**, you can visit **London** or your favorite European city, and/or spend 1-8 days at the Dance Festival in Blackpool. Prices for the Festival are not included and pre and post cruise options are priced separately, as is air from any city of your choice, insurance, and ship to airport/hotel transfers. We will help you find a cabinmate, if you wish. Special amenities, private group classes, and extra dance opportunities will be available to our group only.



Here's what the *Cruise Line International Association* said about the QM2: "Proudly continuing the tradition of **luxury cruising** that began in 1840, Queen Mary 2 debuted in 2004 as the new flagship of The Most Famous Ocean Liners in the World. As the **tallest, longest, largest, and most expensive cruise ship ever built**, QM2 provides her guests with unprecedented amenities and accommodations at every turn. Maintaining the tradition of her Cunard and White Star Line predecessors." **She boasts the largest dance floor at sea!** Male **dance hosts** plus high-level professional dance teachers are a standard on Cunard. Recent Cunard Awards include **Berlitz 2009**: "Best Overall Food" and "Best Overall Service," **Porthole Magazine**: "Best World Cruise Itineraries" for the sixth year in a row," **Spa Magazine** named the Queen Mary 2: "Best Cruise Line Spa," **Aficionado** lists Cunard's Queen Mary 2 transatlantic crossings on their "bucket list" of thing to experience before you die, and **Travel Weekly** lists the Queen Mary 2 as the "Best Luxury Cruise Ship."

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# NJ DanceSport Classic

## “Summer Sizzler”

### National Qualifying Event

by: Wendi Davies

*June 13 & 14, 2009*

*Richard J Codey Arena, West Orange N.J.*

The N.J. DanceSport Classic “Summer Sizzler” was held just nine weeks after the National Championships but the dancers were out in full force. With over 450 competitors it was once again one of the larger qualifying events and with an entire day devoted to Junior events it is certainly one of the biggest kids competitions in the country.

The competition was held at the Codey Arena, which has the notoriety of being the N.J. Devils’ practice space. This is the third year at the venue and it provides plenty of space for the competitors to spread out. Not only is there a 40’x80’ floor for the competition but also a 40’x40’ practice floor was available. Although there were some problems last year with condensation, the rink has undergone a \$1.2 million renovation to providing a dry and comfortable atmosphere for the competition. Located just 12 miles from NYC, West Orange is a beautiful suburban location that is easy to travel to by plane, train, automobile or bus.

The judging panel consisted of many famous names and past champions. With 23 judges in total, too many to list here but it was nice to have former USABDA amateur competitors as part of the panel. Eugene Katsevmann, Maria Manusova, Diana McDonald, Stanley & Jennifer McCalla, Steve Dougherty, Spencer Nyemchek, as well as organizers Mario Battista and Wendi Davies all began their careers as U.S. amateur competitors and all have a strong commitment to supporting USA Dance and its events.

This competition also offers 12 perpetual trophies awarded each year. Competitors winning many of the championship events are awarded a trophy that they

get to keep for one year and is then engraved with their names to go down in history. There is an award for both Adult 10 Dance and Youth 10 Dance, one of the few 10 Dance awards offered at competitions during the year. There is also a trophy for a fun dance event called the “Syllabus 6 Dance” which is a syllabus level event, which has three Latin dances and three standard dances. Thank you to all the sponsors who give so generously to make these trophies possible.

Adult and Senior syllabus events began the competition on Saturday, followed by Adult and Senior Open events on Saturday evening. Most events were well contested with either quarter-finals or semi-finals. Sunday was devoted entirely to children and it is always fun to see so many young dancers particularly at the syllabus levels. The highlight of the day was the “Junior Team Match Challenge.” Five teams participated this year—lots of fun with balloons and pom-poms and candy being thrown to the audience. Joseph’s School of Dance was the victorious team and they got to take home a five-foot perpetual trophy as well as a cash prize.

Mario and Wendi would like to thank everyone who attended as well as all of the USA Dance members who volunteered their time to help run the competition. A competition of this size would not be possible without their help. We hope you enjoyed the weekend and hope to see you at one of our future competitions. For results and more information about the competition see the Web site: [www.njdancesportclassic.com](http://www.njdancesportclassic.com). ■



SASHA TCHERNOSSITOV AND REGINA MAZIARZ  
PHOTO BY IGOR OFENBAKH

# Dancing with the Wolves

PHOTO BY NIETA DEYOUNG



ANDREW CANTON & KIMBERLY SPENCE



PHOTO BY ASHLEY LORENZ

KEITH KAPRAL & JENNIFER EDWARDS

BY: JUSTIN LOVE

Among the unique aspects of the Triangle USA Dance Chapter is its high volume of college-age members. This is largely due to the phenomenal dance program at North Carolina State University.

According to the president of the Dancing with the Wolves club, Lianne Gonsalves, “We generate about 60-70 new chapter members a year.” With such an impressive and consistent number of new members, one can’t help but ask how this college program does it all. Well, such a feat doesn’t come easily and has taken time to develop.

Three years ago the Dancing with the Wolves club consisted of about 30 students. Gonsalves’s dancing partner, Aksel Davis, became the president of the club and knew that changes needed to be made in order for it to grow. He said, “My goal for the club was to make it more competitive. I wanted it to be one of the biggest powerhouses in the East.” It certainly is that today, and Davis’s leadership was part of the solution.

“We changed the focus to more of a team aspect,” he said. This simple change is one of the big reasons why this program has grown exponentially over the past three years.

Concerning the emphasis on team rather than individual couples, Gonsalves explained, “It can be difficult because this is a sport for pairs, but if you focus too much on the individual, you lose the camaraderie and lose sight of the whole, which is the team. That’s why we do things outside of practice besides dancing. You’re coming to see friends—not just to dance.”

With all the competitions that dancers get involved in today, it’s easy to forget that dancing is a social activity that creates new friendships and helps maintain old ones. No matter how you dance or for what reasons, dancing should always be fun.

The Dancing with the Wolves club recognizes this fact and embraces all dancers who join them regardless of the reason. “The great thing about ballroom is that it is what you make of it. If you want to come just to learn moves and strut your stuff, that’s fine,” said Gonsalves. “If you want to compete, we’ll help with that too.”

This NCSU program provides a wide variety of activities for its dancers. “There’s something to do for everyday of the week whether it be professional instruction, private instruction, group lessons, competition-related, or social,” stated Gonsalves.

Most of the club members love to compete, and since some of the competitions the club goes to require a USA Dance membership, the Triangle USA Dance Chapter gains about 60 to 70 of these college competitors a year.

Even the newest members of the club have chances to compete if they wish. "Last December was the first time that we did a beginner competition," explained Gonsalves. "Hopefully it will be a yearly thing because it's intimidating and daunting for the newcomers to go to the big competitions. This is more casual, but gives them a chance to see if they like competing."

The other aspect of the NCSU program that makes it a success is advertising. When Aksel Davis became the president, he recognized that this was essential for attracting new members. He said, "At the beginning of each semester, there are events where the different programs can set up booths, so we always made sure to be there. We would put up fliers and do anything we could for the public to see us."

One of the best exposures for the team was something called chalking. "NC State is covered with brick, and they let students use chalk to advertise on campus," said Davis. Gonsalves agreed that, "chalking was huge. We'd write all over the buildings. We would even make it a social event by having chalking parties. People would see how much fun we were having and would want to join."

The club also boasts a well developed Web site that has attracted new members. The site ([www.dancingwithwolves.org](http://www.dancingwithwolves.org)) is constantly updated to advertise different events, social gatherings, competitions, lessons, etc. Davis said, "the Web site has been a big draw and keeps everyone updated."

The dance program at NCSU is truly outstanding and teaches other schools two principles on how to make a successful and thriving dance community. First, have activities for every type of dancer whether they are old or new, competitive or social. Then, advertise your program as much as possible. Great job, NCSU. ■

GROUP PHOTO, COURTESY OF AKSEL DAVIS



# COLLEGIATE COMPETITION CALENDAR



october 3, 2009

**Cayuga DanceSport Challenge**

**Ithaca, N.Y.**

<http://comp.cornelldancesport.org/>

october 4, 2009

**UConn Ballroom Dance Competition**

**Storrs, Conn.**

<http://uconnballroom.com/competition/>

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 25, 2009

**Stony Brook Ballroom Dance Competition**

**Stony Brook, N.Y.**

[http://www.sinc.stonybrook.edu/clubs/ballroom/SBU\\_Comp.html](http://www.sinc.stonybrook.edu/clubs/ballroom/SBU_Comp.html)

october 31, 2009

**Iowa State University Cyclone Ballroom Classic**

**Ames, Iowa**

<http://www.isuballroom.org/cbc.php>

october 31, 2009

**Dancing Illini DanceSport Invitational**

**Urbana, Ill.**

<https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/ro/www/DancingIllini/>

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/](http://www.brown.edu/Students/Ballroom_Dance/comp/)

november 14, 2009

**Yale Ballroom Dance Competition**

**New Haven, Conn.**

<http://www.yaleballroom.org/comp/>

november 14-15, 2009

**Neil Clover Ballroom Challenge**

**Princeton, N.J.**

<http://www.princeton.edu/~pbdc/ncbc.html>

november 20-21, 2009

**Gamecock Invitational**

**Columbia, S.C.**

<http://invitational.gamecockdancesport.com/index.php>

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/>

**Look for future event updates at**

**<http://www.usadance.org/youth-and-college-dance/ycn-events/>**

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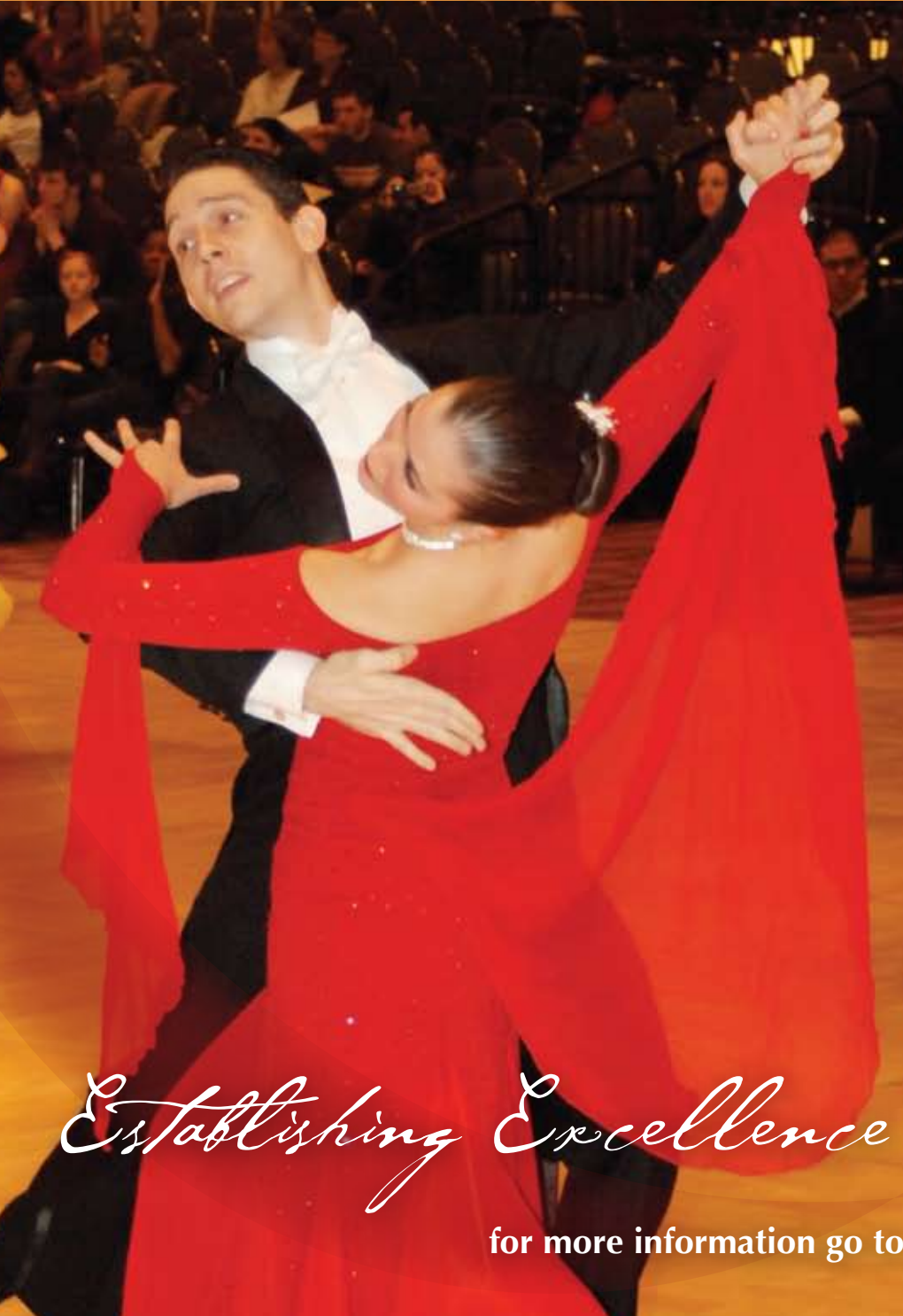
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# It's Your Network

BY: ANDREW PUESCHAL



USA Dance Youth and Collegiate Network would like to welcome you to “The Network,” highlighting what is happening in the collegiate dance community—especially for the leadership of your club or organization.

The Network is made up of collegiate club leaders, officers, and enthusiasts. By consistently communicating with each other, we can make sure that we are promoting the benefits of ballroom dancing while making sure that you have resources available to you for club growth and development.

## Swing into Summer

Many groups have smaller summer classes on campus from June to August. Even if you are back home for the summer—find your local college dance group and meet new people. You would be surprised about how many new ideas you can take back with you to help develop your own college club.

## USA Dance YouTube Channel

The USA Dance YouTube channel has great clips of dancesport and various media clips that highlight ballroom dancing throughout the country. Please add our channel to your links so more people can access us and enjoy the benefits of ballroom dancing. Share your team or club with others when you post your own videos. Check out the USA Dance YouTube site at [www.youtube.com/user/usadanceinc](http://www.youtube.com/user/usadanceinc).

## 2009 Competition Calendar

We have a listing and discussion forum for all USA Dance, YCN and Friends of USA Dance competitions. Many of these competitions are sanctioned by USA Dance, but not all. Please check the competition Web site for more in-depth information.

To access the calendar, go to the FaceBook competition page by signing onto FaceBook, clicking on “Groups,” and typing in “USA Dance Competitions.”

You can also join YCN on Facebook - search for YCN USA DANCE.

## Updating Our Web site

We are going to put some serious effort into updating the Web site so if you are not listed anywhere as a club or organization, please send your club's information to [ycn-vp@usadance.org](mailto:ycn-vp@usadance.org) so we can post it.

## Network Access

Please ask your teams to join The Network as they become new USA Dance members and as they take on new leadership roles within your organization. Check out our site at [www.usadance.org/youth-and-college-dance/](http://www.usadance.org/youth-and-college-dance/).

Together we can make a difference! ■

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