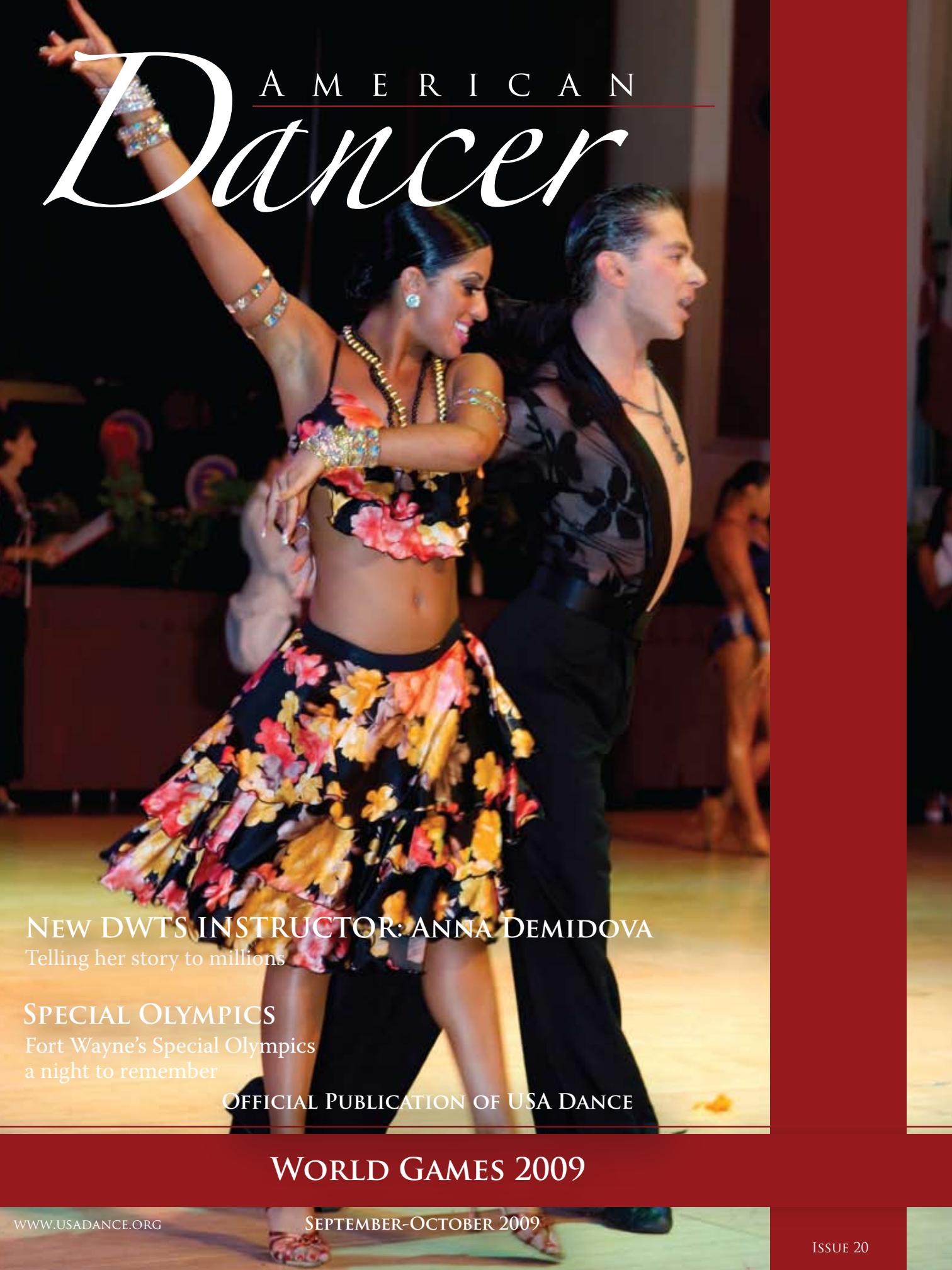


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# ON THE COVER

## 33 COVER STORY: WORLD GAMES

"To dance for a crowd that is so big in number... it fills you up with heart, energy, and will to perform to a level of your dancing you have yet to reach."

-Sergey Onik

## 26 NEW DWTS INSTRUCTOR: ANNA DEMIDOVA

"I'm always trying to be the best at whatever I do. And that is my main goal in life" -Anna Demidova

## 36 SPECIAL OLYMPICS

"the give and take of physical lead and follow. . .often we take this for granted, but dancing, particularly ballroom dancing, changes lives." -Bonita Brockert



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ANNA DEMIDOVA  
PHOTO BY JOSH LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY JOSHLYNN.COM™  
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PHOTO BY DAVID R. BRITTON PHOTOGRAPHY

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THE ENTIRE ROSTER OF COMPETITORS AND PROS, PIKES PEAK CHAPTER #5020

# President's REPORT



In the summer months in Southern Florida, where I live, life is very quiet and peaceful. All the snowbirds have flown home to Canada, Michigan, New Jersey and points north. There is no waiting in line at restaurants, and driving around is much less hair-raising than in the winter months. Plenty of tee times on the golf course, and the pool is at a very pleasant 88 degrees. I am at a loss to understand why Ida and I decided to abandon paradise in June and July, traveling to Alabama, Louisiana, Indiana and the west coast of Florida.

The reality is that we had wonderful visits to the spicy Gumbo Ballroom Championships in Baton Rouge and to the cutting-edge Special Olympics event in Fort Wayne, Indiana. We interspersed a few days with family on the way round, but the climax was the Special Olympics event. If any of you want to see sheer unadulterated joyfulness, make a point of going to Fort Wayne next year.

To see people, who only a few short years ago were shunned and placed in institutional care, competing against each other in ballroom dancing is a moving experience. The founder of Special Olympics, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, passed away just a few days before I began this report. She would have loved the event. Thanks to all who participated – particularly the USA Dance members who gave their time to practice with the Special Olympians – you are making a difference!

USA Dance has again sponsored an IDSF Adjudicators Congress at the Embassy Ball in Irvine, California. Four renowned professional adjudicators volunteered their services as lecturers, and the facilities were very kindly provided by Brian McDonald and his fellow organizers. Admission was free, and the sessions were open to all.

Our focus continues to be on the basics of judging and on achieving a reasonable level of objectivity in judging DanceSport. This is the one barrier, in my view, that continues to keep DanceSport out of the Olympics program. We have to invent a better mousetrap – any ideas?

Your Governing Council is extremely hard at work reviewing the organizational structure of USA Dance, which has changed very little since Bill Bennett and I worked on it in 1984. There are major functional areas that require more attention than can be provided within the existing structure. Changes have been made very successfully in the DanceSport area, and I hope we can carry this throughout the organization. Major bylaw revisions will be required, and you will be asked to approve these – hopefully before the end of 2009.

One major change will be revising the national election process to match that of our international federation, the IDSF. Elections for the entire Governing Council will be held every third year under the new proposal. This will reduce costs and eliminate the need to use American Dancer magazine as the vehicle for the voting process.

Many of our own athletes will already be in training for next year's Nationals in Los Angeles. This is a wonderful opportunity to see magnificent dancing in a first-class venue. Not only is the hotel outstanding, but it will be brand new! As in previous years, programs are being arranged for social dancers, so don't get left behind!

See you in Los Angeles!

*Peter Pover*



LEFT TO RIGHT: MICHAEL FURNISH, STEPHEN HINKLE, VIVIAN HANS, PETER POVER, TRACEY MILLER.

# AMERICAN Dancer

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## RATES & PRICES

*American Dancer* is published bimonthly as a service for members and is included in membership annual dues.

## SUBSCRIPTION

Individual Non-Member \$25  
Canadian Air Delivery \$32  
Overseas Air Delivery \$36  
Library Subscription \$9

## ADVERTISING

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## SUBMISSIONS

*American Dancer* welcomes submissions of letters, articles and photos. All submissions are considered the property of *American Dancer*. Submission does not guarantee publication. Articles and letters may also be edited for length and content without notice to the author. Photos and other materials are not returned. Submissions may be sent to [office@americandancer.org](mailto:office@americandancer.org)

## 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. Send to editorial office: e-mail: [office@americandancer.org](mailto:office@americandancer.org) or mail to: American Dancer magazine • PO Box 462 • Rexburg, ID 83440-0462

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

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, & CIRCULATION

Owner: USA Dance • Number of total copies: 17,000 • Individual paid: 16,000  
paid subscriptions • Methods of distribution: USPS • Requested copies: 400  
Distributed copies for marketing purposes: 600  
Percentage paid and/or requested: 100%

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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.



### 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.



### DAPHNA LOCKER

Daphna is currently a member of the Greater N.Y. Chapter of USA Dance #3004. For the last year and a half, Daphna has been the Chair of the National Organizing Committee and the registrar for the National Collegiate DanceSport Challenge.

## GUEST WRITERS

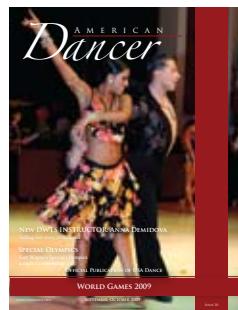
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### RON MONTEZ

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### BONITA BROCKERT



## COVER PHOTOS

PHOTO BY DANCESPORTINFO.NET

Sergey Onik & Melissa Blanco finished eighth at the 2009 World Games in Kaohsiung, Taiwan

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## AMERICAN DANCER AVAILABLE ONLINE EARLY

Last month it was announced that American Dancer would be available online in a new flip-page format that is user friendly. So far, the new format has been a great success. The new version doesn't require downloading and is easier to flip through than the previous PDF format. Plus, American Dancer is also now available online even before the hard copy reaches your home. Look for it today on <http://usadance.org>

## VOTE NOW ONLINE!

USA DANCE 2009 Nationals as Best Amateur Multi-Sports Or Multi-Discipline Sports Event in America!

USA Dance is proud to announce that the USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships in Baltimore has made the final ballot for the annual 2009 SportsTravel Award for the category "Best Amateur Multi-Sport or Multi Discipline Sports Event" in America. Events are selected and voted upon by the readership of Sports Travel magazine, the sport's world's event magazine. "Events such as this one are a prime example of the achievement of excellence in the organization and management of sporting events," said Timothy Schneider, SportsTravel publisher.

DANCESPORT SUPPORTERS, please vote today before the Sept. 14 Deadline! Support USA Dance by voting at

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



The sun, the sands, the skyline of LA and the glitz and glamour of Nationals. Getting excited?

Though Nationals is still a few months away, think ahead, and start planning now. Be sure to book your flights to LA before the rush.

## DANCESPORT COUPLES COMPETING AT IDSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

If you are a USA Dance Nationals dancesport couple competing at any of the IDSF world championships, please send your most current bios, still photos, sample videos and contact information to USA Dance PR Director Angela Prince. This information is needed to promote you as a couple and DanceSport in general. Angela is constantly speaking with the press and media – about stories and for casting calls -- and that information will help her in that effort. Please send information to [publicrelations-dir@usadance.org](mailto:publicrelations-dir@usadance.org).

# Train Smarter, Not Harder

## (Part 2)



AT NATIONALS 2009 PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER

BY: JOE PEORIA

PEORIA DANCE STUDIO, YOUNGWOOD, PA

Last issue Joe Peoria talked about intention, knowledge and preparation, establishing goals, forming plans, developing your own identity, and mental vision. Here are the rest of Joe Peoria's training tips.

### 6 Erase Negative Thoughts

Are negative thoughts and feelings occupying your brain? This saps your energy, dampens your desire, inhibits your growth, and cheats you out of success and happiness. You must discipline your mind before you can train your body, so before you practice, throw out these attributes.

### 7 Recognize Slump Periods

When practice sessions become unwelcome periods of boredom, frustration, or tests of endurance, then it's time to vary your format. Reorganize your program so it becomes exciting and fun.

### 8 Strive for Ultimate Concentration

Concentration can simply mean focusing on the here and now. If you want to increase your concentration, decrease your distractions. Televisions, noises, phones, etc. are all detrimental to a good dance practice. If possible, ask your instructor if you can practice in an unoccupied studio room. Many studio owners set aside a time and day for exactly this purpose—just ask.

### 9 Resistance Exercises

A new angle of exertion causes weak muscles to overcome a sticking point or get through difficult movements. Large muscle mass strength exercises, like weightlifting, shouldn't be neglected for developing muscle tone and shape. Aerobic activity such as walking, jogging, rowing, or cycling are essential for endurance, fitness and independence throughout life.

### 10 Cycle Practice

Resist the temptation to practice fast dances longer. (i.e. VW, Jive, etc.) Alternate fast and slow dances to prevent winding that impairs muscular movement and causes injuries. For better control in static poses and holds, flex your muscles as hard as you can while in this freeze position and hold for a longer time. Practice your patterns in a slow exaggerated motion style.

### 11 Stretch and Flex

A joint that is too tight may lack free range of movement. This may interfere with performance and even cause injury. Therefore, stretch the muscles, ligaments and tendons associated with that joint bend a little further than is accustomed. Stretch slowly and steadily, and then hold. Ballistic stretches (bouncing) are not good and remember to warm up (increase body temp. 1 or 2 degrees) before you stretch.

### 12 Avoid Back Slide

Never take a complete layoff from dancing. Be consistent. Too much time lapse between lessons and practice will cause despondency followed by despair and loss of hope. Commit to your lessons and practice. Set a date and time and say, "This is going to be it." Then, do it. You must pay the price of steady, intensive, sustained effort. If you say, "I've got to do it," it's not going to work. If you say, "I want to do it," it will work. Then, it just keeps getting easier. ■

“When the Kids Dance”

# Ann Durocher-Steven

BY: IVOR LEE

In the middle of the Gumbo DanceSport Championships in June, event chairperson Ann Durocher-Steven breaks away to watch the 16 fifth- and sixth-grade couples take their places on the dance floor.

The music plays. The couples move, twirling their way across the floor like miniature versions of the grown-ups that glide the floor during the National Qualifying Event. As they dance, Ann Durocher-Steven begins to tear up.

“I almost always cry,” she admits.

For Durocher-Steven, the young ones dancing is proof that Baton Rouge, though typically not a haven for ballroom, is a place where children can dance and escape the video games and TV they’re accustomed to. For her, the young ones dancing shows that dancesport can grow into the next generation.

For her, the young ones dancing is part of the passion that drives her as event chairperson in the Gumbo Chapter.

Baton Rouge, La. is home to Louisiana State University and almost every major sport. But not everyone gets a chance to play. However, with dancesport near Olympic



ANN DUROCHER-STEVEN & HER HUSBAND JIM STEVEN



ANN DUROCHER-STEVEN

acceptance, many view dance as a way to keep children active. “Every kid that can walk can dance,” said Durocher-Steven, “Dance gives kids a form of creativity that kids are losing today.”

Durocher-Steven’s, relationship with dance didn’t begin until the “golden handshake” retirement and the list of things she wanted to do. With ballroom near the top everything below was slowly put aside. The ballroom world swallowed her whole.

“I don’t know how to have a hobby because I make a job out of it.”

Durocher-Steven has a knack for letting work and play mingle together. A few years after taking lessons, she became the president of the Gumbo Chapter, and in 2002 became the event chairperson in the Baton Rouge area, a position she’s still serving in today. Barbara Wally, Region 5 vice president, said, “She puts on a really fabulous competition.”

Dorucher-Steven is proud of the Gumbo DanceSport Championships that she and her team of volunteers build together.

As she explained, “The group that puts on the competition needs to be highlighted. We have a tremendous group of people that pull together. We start a month after the competition and start planning for the next one. I’m just a small part of the team.” ■

# 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**

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

or call

**1-800-332-NBDW**

# “Making it Simple”

Pikes Peak Chapter #6022

BY: IVOR LEE



2009 "DANCING WITH COLORADO'S STARS" CHAMPIONS -  
ERIC LUPER & LORI ACKERMAN

Dancing with the Colorado Stars was a huge milestone for the Pikes Peak Chapter # 6022, and not because it was the chapter's first event of this size or because of the 1,000 people that attended. It wasn't even because of the local media coverage on the progress of their dancers at 10:28 p.m. in the evening news through a heated rivalry for the title of the best of Colorado's stars.

What made this event special was because it was one of the first events that brought every dance studio in the area together to serve as pros for the celebrities. The community pulled together to be part of this event to make it something truly the community's own.

Thanks to strong leadership and a renewed emphasis on groups working together with the community and for the community, dance studios that shied away from being involved with USA Dance came on board for what proved to be an event to remember.

The chapter has always promoted ballroom dancing both recreationally and competitively, as well as to promote the healthful physical, mental, and emotional benefits of ballroom dancing.

As an organization that meant more community involvement.

A record number of volunteers came out of the community in addition to the various studios.

PHOTOS BY DAVID R. BRITTON PHOTOGRAPHY

There was no big secret to why people helped out. "Simply because I asked," said James Stowell, chapter president. "You approach people, tell them what you're doing and what you need. You tell them this is for charity, and suddenly you can get help from everyone. We had photographers and videographers come in and do work for free."

Though there were many reasons for community involvement, ultimately the event helped the community help itself. Proceeds from the event went to two different charities, each representing a part of the Colorado Springs community.

Because Colorado Springs is a large military town, "Operation Purple" was an obvious choice. Operation Purple is a nationwide military family association that organizes summer camps for children of deployed soldiers.

The Colorado Springs area is also home to a large homeless community so naturally the chapter raised money for the Springs Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter that helps people as they undergo drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and also serves more than 2500 meals a week.

"We all felt so blessed and humbled at much they really wanted to help support the work we were doing in the community," said Krispin Oxendahl, fundraiser and friend of the Springs Rescue Mission. "Even after the competition, they sent leftover food and concessions with us to hand out to the needy people in the community."

Already there is a buzz of activity, and the promise of bigger and better things to come that lingers long after the Dancing with Colorado's Stars. With planning for a charity ballroom dance on the Queen Mary II underway, Pikes Peak has a lot to look forward to. ■



HEATHER SKOLD & SPENCER HARGER



STEPHANIE ROSS & BRAD ACKERMAN



TIM ELBERTSON & NIKKI MORIN

Announcing the

# NATIONAL CHAPTER CONFERENCE



2009 CONFERENCE ATTENDEES AT AN EVENING DANCE  
HAVING FUN DOING THE FOXTROT MIXER

## DATE

March 11-13, 2010

## LOCATION

Tropicana Hampton Inn  
Las Vegas, Nevada

## SCHOLARSHIPS:

Scholarships will be available to help with travel costs. For information on this option, contact Esther Freeman, Corporate Treasurer - email: Treasurer@usadance.org

## WHAT TO BRING:

A sweater or jacket (it can get chilly inside the classrooms); a nice outfit for the evening dances; dance shoes; notebook, paper and pens; and business cards.

Go to our website at  
[www.usadance.org](http://www.usadance.org)  
for the registration form.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Chapters! Invest in your current and incoming president, vice president, officers and board members, and any member interested in helping the chapter grow by sending them to the National Chapter Conference.

The conference provides opportunities to network, share ideas and learn from other chapter Presidents and members in attendance.

**Note-** To help network chapter leadership, chapters are encouraged to budget funds to reimburse the president for travel and lodging and to fund their attendance at this event.

## PLAN AHEAD:

Time is limited, so prioritize your tasks. Familiarize yourself with your surroundings the day you arrive. Walk around and note the locations of seminar rooms, bathrooms and anything else you plan to visit.

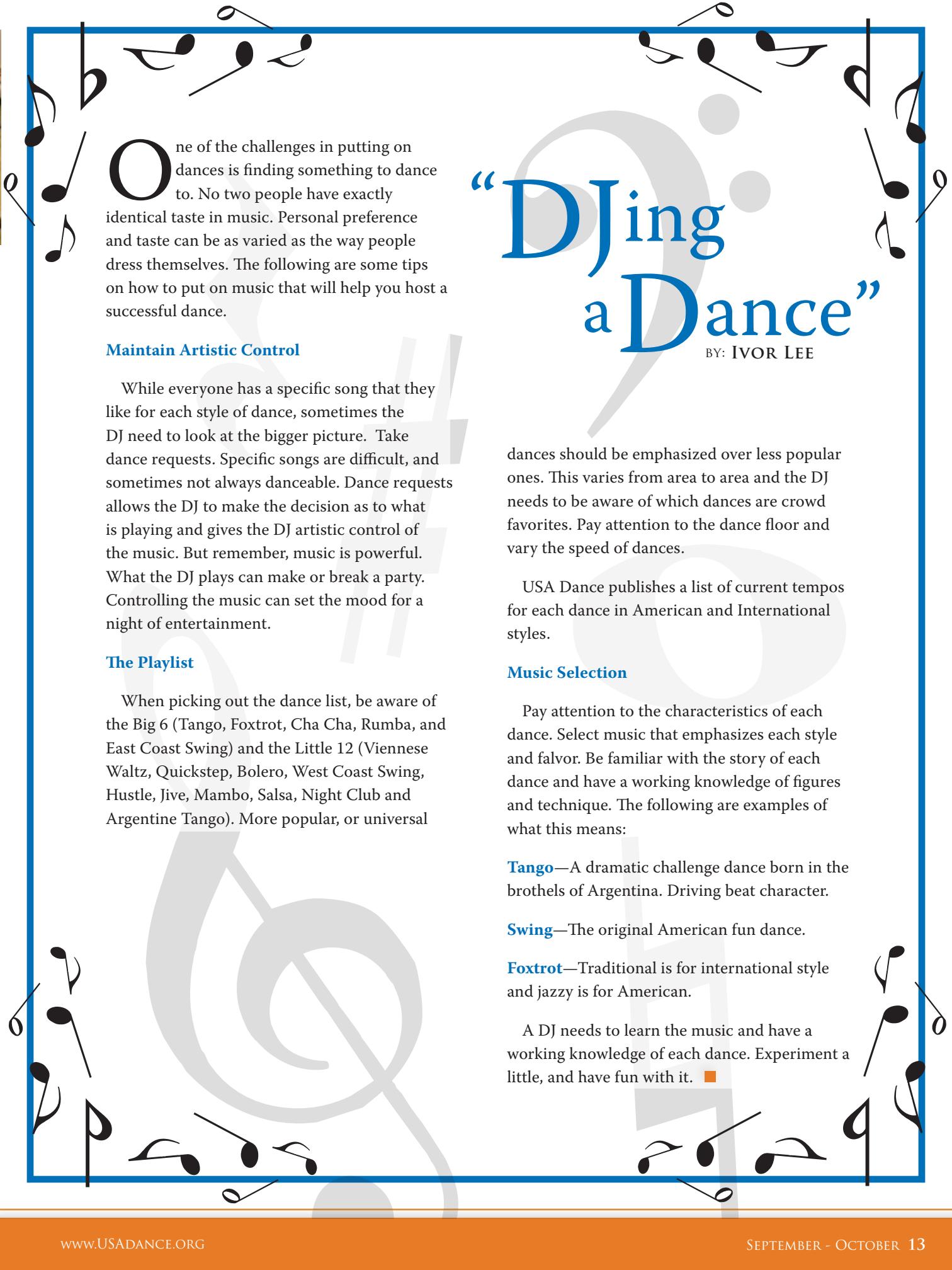
## SEMINAR TIPS

The seminars make the conference, and each offers important information to make your chapter stronger. Taking notes about your experiences will help you track whether you would like to attend another topic with the same presenter. Some questions to consider: Does their teaching style work for me? Was the presentation clear and organized? Were the handouts helpful? Do they understand the challenges I'm facing with my chapter?

Join us as we cover a tremendous amount of information: Groom your next President; Motivate, Recruit and Retain Volunteers; Dancing Classrooms; Build a chapter website; Budgets, Finances and Treasurer reports; Marketing and PR; guidance on having a more effective chapter and more.

Come learn and have fun! I am looking forward to seeing you.

-Jean Krupa, Vice President of Social Dance ■



One of the challenges in putting on dances is finding something to dance to. No two people have exactly identical taste in music. Personal preference and taste can be as varied as the way people dress themselves. The following are some tips on how to put on music that will help you host a successful dance.

### Maintain Artistic Control

While everyone has a specific song that they like for each style of dance, sometimes the DJ need to look at the bigger picture. Take dance requests. Specific songs are difficult, and sometimes not always danceable. Dance requests allows the DJ to make the decision as to what is playing and gives the DJ artistic control of the music. But remember, music is powerful. What the DJ plays can make or break a party. Controlling the music can set the mood for a night of entertainment.

### The Playlist

When picking out the dance list, be aware of the Big 6 (Tango, Foxtrot, Cha Cha, Rumba, and East Coast Swing) and the Little 12 (Viennese Waltz, Quickstep, Bolero, West Coast Swing, Hustle, Jive, Mambo, Salsa, Night Club and Argentine Tango). More popular, or universal

# “DJing a Dance”

BY: IVOR LEE

dances should be emphasized over less popular ones. This varies from area to area and the DJ needs to be aware of which dances are crowd favorites. Pay attention to the dance floor and vary the speed of dances.

USA Dance publishes a list of current tempos for each dance in American and International styles.

### Music Selection

Pay attention to the characteristics of each dance. Select music that emphasizes each style and flavor. Be familiar with the story of each dance and have a working knowledge of figures and technique. The following are examples of what this means:

**Tango**—A dramatic challenge dance born in the brothels of Argentina. Driving beat character.

**Swing**—The original American fun dance.

**Foxtrot**—Traditional is for international style and jazzy is for American.

A DJ needs to learn the music and have a working knowledge of each dance. Experiment a little, and have fun with it. ■

# USA Dance Chapter News

By: Ivor Lee

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

SEND US THE  
LATEST NEWS FROM  
YOUR CHAPTER TO  
BE FEATURED IN  
UPCOMING ISSUES OF  
*AMERICAN DANCER*.

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4. ARTICLES SHOULD  
BE A MAXIMUM OF 175  
WORDS

SEND SUBMISSIONS  
AND ANY  
QUESTIONS TO  
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**AMERICANDANCER.ORG**

## SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

### **SPOKANE CHAPTER #1029** **BALLROOM DANCING - A FATHER** **AND DAUGHTER MISSION**

Spokane Chapter President and Area Coordinator John Raby and his daughter Victoria have recently completed a 16-month dance instructor training course offered by local studio Ballroom Dance Teacher's Academy. Anyone will agree this feat is quite commendable, especially for a 71 year old father, who has proven to us all that it is never too late to start. And, how inspiring it is to see father and daughter on the floor together.

Raby hopes that when people see father and daughter dancing waltzes



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN RABY

JOHN RABY & DAUGHTER VICTORIA RABY

and tangos together, they will realize not only the beauty of dance, but that dancing can be a family sport as well. Raby and Victoria are great ambassadors for ballroom dancing. May their message travel far!

## SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

### **SAN DIEGO CHAPTER #4005** **THE "FRENCH CONNECTION"** **GOES CALIFORNIA**

The San Diego, Calif. chapter #4005 hosted a "French Connection" themed social dance at Synergy Dance Zone July 25. French-attired couples and others more casually dressed arrived for a night of inspired dancing and lessons taught by Mike Markov and Judy Solecki, well-known Argentine Tango instructors from the area.

The San Diego chapter hosts social dances twice a month, in Encinitas. the first week, and in San Diego. the fourth week. Each themed dance offers beginner and intermediate lessons in a variety of popular social dances.

## ORANGE CITY, CALIFORNIA

### ORANGE CITY CHAPTER #4018 TRYING SOMETHING NEW



PHOTO BY BILL ROSE

LES ARNOLD DANCING WITH MICKEY MIYAZAKI

Even though the USA DANCE 2010 Southwest National Qualifying Event is still six months away, preparations have already begun for what organizers say will be a stunning precursor to Nationals in Los Angeles in April.

Though preparation is consuming a lot of volunteer time, The Orange City chapter has done some major reorganization of their chapter and its objectives. Because of the proliferation of new studios in the area holding dances Friday and Saturday nights, the chapter realized that its purpose was to not merely supply a dance for enthusiasts, but to also nurture all of the new people coming to dance, of all dance levels, in their pursuit of dance as a sustainable hobby.

To this end, the Orange City chapter has moved its dances to the Fullerton Dancesport Center, formerly the Historic Imperial Ballroom, a region central to three chapters in the region. They have also begun work on a new series of dance events designed specifically for beginners with more advanced dancers as dance hosts, and providing multiple lessons throughout the night. Because many beginners may not be members of USA Dance yet and may be too intimidated to go to commercial venues or the seemingly "advanced" chapter dances, Orange City is structuring a series of dances to draw in these beginners and encourage them to develop dance as their hobby.

Though this is still in the planning stages, the Orange City chapter is confident that it will be an exciting time for them. ■



PHOTO BY BILL ROSE

JEFF GEHRING DANCING WITH MADELEINE TOKLE

# Volunteering...

## Even One Time

### Makes all the Difference

BY: MARY SCHAUFERT

If you are reading this magazine, hopefully, you have been to at least one of your chapter dances and enjoyed yourself. While you were dancing and having a great time, did you think about how that dance actually came together?

Perhaps, during the course of the evening, someone made an announcement about needing people to help out at the dance, or even came and asked you personally if you would be willing to help. Did you say, "Yes"? Or did you say, "No, I can't," or "Not right now--maybe later."

Many people think, "I don't have time to help! I work, I have a family, I have other obligations. I'm busy!" Every one of us is convinced we are absolutely the busiest person in the world and could not possibly fit in one more task.

Your chapter's goal is to provide—in a ballroom dance environment—a "stress free zone" for you to relax, visit friends, enjoy the music and keep on dancing. All members want that same option. By helping your officers with one task, even if only at one dance one time, it would allow everyone more time to relax and enjoy dancing.

At this point you might be thinking, "But if I volunteer to do something, they'll rope me



LAURA LA GASSA. PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER

into doing all sort of things." NOT TRUE! It is always your choice and most chapters would be delighted to have each member volunteer for ONE job at ONE dance.

Did you know that USA Dance is a 100% volunteer organization, even at the national level? Everyone has a valuable contribution they can make. So, consider taking an extra half hour to ensure your chapter will continue to grow and be successful.

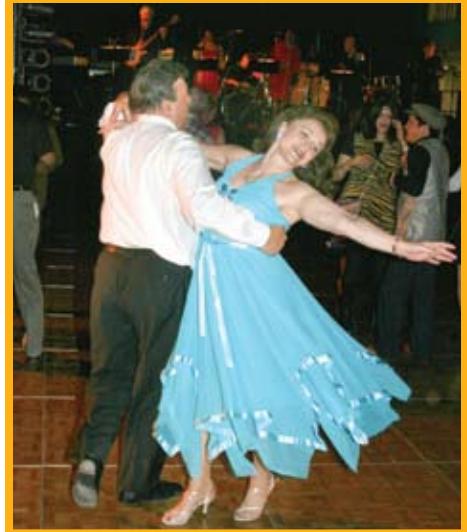
Consider any of these typical Chapter level tasks: drafting a great flyer, helping with set up or clean up, helping with decorations, making photocopies, coordinating a volunteer schedule, taking photos, doing a dance demonstration, updating or editing the website, submitting an article for your newsletter, emailing a reminder about a dance event, folding and stamping the newsletter, helping with a youth outreach program, assisting at the admissions table, bringing a plate of cookies for the refreshment table, helping clean up for 30 minutes.

Get involved - strut your stuff - make a difference! After all, there can be no USA Dance without "U"! ■

# Great Ideas for a Dance:

BY: MARY SCHAUFERT

1. Add in dance-mixers throughout your dance evening. This way, everyone gets to dance, meet new people and test out dancing skills with different partners. It's a win-win! Ask your chapter officers to request the USA Dance booklet of dance mixer ideas.
2. Rotate professional & amateur instructors. Using different instructors lets dancers become familiar with area teacher choices and introduces them to different studios and venues offering lessons. Remember that chapter events should be "neutral ground" for everyone—social dancers, teachers and amateurs—to come and enjoy.
3. Bring a friend/bring the family. Have special events to encourage attendees to bring friends or family members, even if they aren't dancers yet. Offer discounts or give free admission to the newcomers, then make the lesson basic beginner and perhaps add some line dance mixers.
4. Schedule dance demos and/or exhibitions at the dances or around-town. Perhaps ask 2 to 6 regular dance couples with strong technical or performance skills to do 10-minute shows at the various dances. For community outreach, ask if these couples or others can participate in public demonstrations of ballroom dance for community events, fairs, festivals, schools, nursing homes, meetings of other organizations. Shows and demos are a great attention getter
5. Hold dance workshops. Either all day or half day, workshops or clinics offer low-cost beginner and intermediate instruction.
6. Get the kids involved. It is a real thrill to watch 8-12 year olds morph into real dancers. They learn quickly and ballroom dancing becomes a social skill they can use their entire lives. USA Dance has created a new K-12 guidelines packet for outreach through schools. Contact our Central Office at [central-office@usadance.org](mailto:central-office@usadance.org) for more information.
7. Do something totally different at your dances. Hold your dance outdoors, have a picnic, a costume party—anything to create excitement.
8. And don't forget to REWARD YOUR VOLUNTEERS! Perhaps hold a special dance or dinner-dance in honor of the volunteers that help regularly. Honor a Chapter Volunteer of the Year and hold an Award ceremony. Everyone likes to feel appreciated about their giving. ■



CHAPTER MEMBERS AT A DANCE. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CAROLINA HEARTLAND CHAPTER #6092



# “Rumba Motion”

## Tips for Beginning & Experienced Dancers

BY: RON MONTEZ

Ron Montez is one of the most respected personalities in the Dance business. He was the 7-time undefeated United States Professional Latin Champion. He also placed as high as 4th place in the World's Professional Latin Championship and was a finalist in the prestigious British Championship. He is recognized as coach and choreographer in both American and International Styles including Swing and Mambo. Ron is the Co-Host of the previous PBS Championships Ballroom Dance Program, which was hosted by Rita Moreno, Juliet Prowse, Barbara Eden, Sandy Duncan and now on America's Ballroom Challenge Jasmine Guy. Ron is a choreographer for FOX television show “So You Think You Can Dance” along with being an examiner for DIVIDA where he examines both amateur and professional dancers.

A lot of times beginners see a lot of dancing around them on TV and at competitions and get confused by the picture that is being produced by the media.

They see the bigness and the emphasis on tricks and choreography. But that image is not really social dance. Social dance is fundamentally an interaction of two people to music. Social dance is not based on trying to show off, it's based on an interaction between you, your partner and the music. It's the best way that two people can express themselves.

As a couple seeks to express themselves in the intimate language of Rumba, they need to pay attention to frame, posture, and the Cuban motion—especially the Cuban motion.

Like in all social dances, a couple needs to learn the basic rhythm and timing of the dance, the basic patterns, but to really learn Rumba and be part of that dance, the Cuban motion is essential. This is because this motion is what gives Rumba its characteristics and flavor, and is probably one of the hardest aspects of Rumba.

One problem a lot of beginners have is that they don't produce the motion in a fluid-enough manner. They'll throw a hip one way or another, or they'll force the leg straight prematurely. They don't use enough muscle tone or muscle control to prevent a floppy looking motion.

Tone means to not do it with the legs and flop, but to use pressure in the muscles so the dancer can control the rate of



SERGEY GOLUBTSOV & ALINA IOUGAI DOING THE RUMBA, PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER

knee straightening. One exercise to help produce hip rotation that dancers can practice is as follows:

Start with your feet together at the heels, with the toes slightly apart, to alternate the bending of the legs, and then the hip over the straightening leg goes back slightly, and the knees will go forward at a slight angle inwards to help produce the hip rotation.

Along the same lines, a dancer could practice the changing of the knees, very slowly and controlled, slow and fast rhythms. If a couple is good at practicing with partners, the partners can face each other and synchronize the speeds of the knee shift or weight shift. This helps the awareness of one another, and really ties the dancers together as a couple.

Another thing for dancers to pay attention to is their posture and their frame. This really goes for all dances. Hands and arms are forward toward your partner in making the frame. The tummy should be pulled in, upper body inclined forward. The elbows should not go behind the back. If you have good posture in your dance frame, you'll feel better as a partner, your leads and follows will be more successful, and you'll be more fun to dance with.

The beginning stages of social dance are probably some of the most enjoyable parts of your dance career or hobby. At the beginning there are few expectations on yourself so your learning is enjoyable.

Don't be too critical too soon and enjoy yourself! ■

PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER



DANIEL SHAPIRO & CATHERINE KOVALYOOV DOING THE RUMBA



# THE PUBLIC EYE

BY: ANGELA PRINCE

## USA DANCE 2009 National DanceSport Championships Makes the Ballot For 'Best Multi-Sport or Multi-Discipline Event' in America - Sponsored by Sports Travel Magazine!

Thanks to USA Dance members voting online at Sports Travel Magazine, the USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships in Baltimore made the very prestigious ballot for "Best Multi-Sport or Multi-Discipline Event" in America.

The final votes were cast online through Sept. 14 and the winners will be announced Oct. 15 in New Orleans at the annual national Teams 2009 conference. The ballot is online at <http://vote.schneiderpublishing.com/ballot/> and appeared in the August and September issues of SportsTravel magazine.

LAST CHANCE TO VOTE. When you read this article and if it is prior to or on Sept. 14, please cast your vote for USA Dance!

ANDEI KAZLOUSKI & KATHLEEN KAPSHANDY AT NATIONALS 2009



PHOTO BY: CARSON ZULLINGER

And whether USA Dance 2009 Nationals wins or not, we are very proud of our Nationals team that made this all possible. Special recognition goes to our Nationals Organizing Committee & event management and volunteers, our DanceSport athletes, judges, distinguished guests, Governing & Executive Councils, all of our vendors, workshop Instructors and Social Committee, the participating media and City of Baltimore, as well as all the spectators and supporting friends and families.

As PR Director Angela Prince pointed out, "To make the SportsTravel ballot is a huge accomplishment. In the traditional sports world, DanceSport has arrived!"

## AMERICA'S GOT TALENT... AND SO DOES USA DANCE!

If you're been watching NBC's "America's Got Talent" this season, you already know that USA Dance pre-teen couple Erik Linder and Rickie Taylor from Everett, WA have made the Top 40 finalists.

The judge's loved them and America's votes made the difference each session – first, to Las Vegas and then to their live performance in Hollywood on August 25. We're glad Erik's dad Lars contacted us so we could help rally votes. When you're a contestant on the shows, there are contracts and restrictions (such as contestants not posting Facebook sites); nevertheless, USA Dance could lend its support.

America's Got Talent - <http://www.nbc.com/americas-got-talent>

Here's the bio page posted on the NBC site –

"Erik and Rickie began ballroom dancing at the young age of four. They started in a class and were quickly paired up due to their similar size and age. They became fast friends and were soon performing in showcases and competing. They have won several national titles over the last two years. Erik and Rickie dance 10 different dances: the waltz, tango, foxtrot, Viennese waltz, quickstep, cha cha cha, samba, rumba, paso doble and, last but not least, the jive. They love performing for a variety of audiences, especially retirement communities. Rickie said, "I love to imagine these people dancing when they were younger." Being on "America's Got Talent" has given Erik and Rickie

ERIK LINDER & RICKIE TAYLOR AT NATIONALS 2009



PHOTO BY: CARSON ZULLINGER

the chance to share their love of dancing with Americans of all ages."

(See next issue of American Dancer for the behind-the-scenes story.)

## SEASON 9 DANCING WITH THE STARS - UPDATE

Although Season 9 on "Dancing with the Stars" will not include the USA Dance-favored Junior Competition (recalling that, 11 of the 12 junior couples were USA Dance members), the producers will continue the new competition and asked USA Dance to help them identify possible male dancers as candidates.

Our top couples, both junior II and adult, at the 2009 Nationals were submitted on video to the producers, compliments of our Nationals videographer Paradigm. We hope that DWTS will reinstate the pre-teen, youth and junior couples into their programming at a later date. If anything changes or there is a solo request, our members will be the first to know.

Congratulations to Anna Demidova, USA Dance competitor and 2008 Adult International Standard Champion, who won the DWTS Competition last season and is in the current season.

ANNA DEMIDOVA AT NATIONALS 2008



PHOTO BY: CARSON ZULLINGER

DENNIS MATVEEV & VALERIE DUBINSKY AT NATIONALS 2009



PHOTO BY: CARSON ZULLINGER

## Two Boston-Area USA Dance Pre-Teen Couples Participate in New TLC Pilot Series "Dancing Tweens"

TLC (The Learning Channel) launched its new ballroom dancing reality show "Dancing Tweens" this summer/fall and included two USA Dance pre-teen couples from the Boston area -- Dennis Matveev and Valerie Dubinsky (competed at Nationals in the Pre-Teen Silver and Gold divisions in Latin and Standard) and Josh Brusilovsky and Sophie Ludin (competed at nationals in Junior 1 Silver and Gold divisions in Latin).

Resulting in mixed public blog reviews -- both very positive and those always concerned about how young dancers are portrayed -- the three episodes went behind-the-scenes during practice, at home and on the competition floors. Filming of our two couples took place at the Yankee Classic DanceSport Championships in Boston -- and they danced beautifully!

To see the preview video and schedules, please visit the TLC's website -- <http://tlc.discovery.com/videos/dancing-tweens-dancing-tweens-sneak-peek.html> .

## Special Thanks to Our Dance Media Friends -

To DanceBeat for continuing coverage of Nationals and our athletes as they have competed at IDSF World competitions.

To Vivian Beiswenger, who covered the National DanceSport Championships in her Dance Spotlight newsletter – great reviews for our dancers in the Delaware Valley coverage area. You may also want to read her article “Amateur or Professional – Who Decides?” <http://www.dancingatthemca.com/newsletters.asp>

To Christine Zona, who also covered the National DanceSport Championships in her publication Dance Notes - a very insightful interview with Honorary Judge Carrie Ann Inaba and USA Dance President Peter Pover.

## World DanceSport Magazine Online

View a copy of the International DanceSport Federation's publications

World DanceSport Magazine online. Of interest is a review of the World Games. <http://www.pagegangster.com/p/pmTR7/>. USA Dance is the U.S. member of the IDSF. ■



## 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](mailto:office@americandancer.org)

# Dancing With the Stars

## SEASON IX

WRITTEN BY IVOR LEE

PHOTOS FROM ABC UNLESS OTHERWISE MARKED

**USA DANCE PROUDLY SUPPORTS** former amateur members, now professional celebrities on ABC's *Dancing With The Stars*. Many of the celebrity professional dancers from the hit TV show were once successful amateur ballroom competitors and active members of USA Dance before starting their professional careers. Highlighted on these pages are this season's selected *Dancing with the Stars* coaches.

### Mark Ballas

Mark was born in Houston, Texas, to Corky and Shirley Ballas, world class ballroom dancers. Mark grew up in London with fellow DWTS pros Derek and Julianne Hough, who lived and trained with his parents. Mark and Julianne partnered to win Junior Latin American and Junior Olympics dance championships.

Mark came back to win the DWTS title in Season 6 with partner Kristi Yamaguchi.

### Cheryl Burke

Cheryl Burke won back-to-back *Dancing With The Stars* titles, in Season 2 with singer Drew Lachey and then again in Season 3 with former NFL running back Emmitt Smith. She was nominated for two Outstanding Choreography Emmys in 2006 for her work on DWTS.

Cheryl finished in second place with *Sex and the City* Movie heartthrob Gilles Marini in Season 8.

### Dmitry Chaplin

Dmitry Chaplin was a finalist on FOX's *So You Think You Can Dance* in Season 2, and appeared on the show the following season as a choreographer.

Dmitry was born in Russia and moved to the U.S. as a teenager. He studied with former *Dancing with the Stars* professional Louis van Amstel, won the English Open Championship in 2002 and was a finalist in numerous other competitions.



### Maksim Chmerkovkiy

Maksim Chmerkovskiy has been competing on *Dancing with the Stars* since Season 2, when he finished in sixth place with actress Tia Carrere.

Maks' best finish was in Season 5, when he and singer Mel B finished runner-up to pro Julianne Hough and race car driver Helio Castroneves. Maksim owns several dance studios in the New York City area, and is involved in dance-related non-profit work



### Tony Dovolani

Tony Dovolani has competed in *Dancing With The Stars* since Season 2, when he and WWE diva Stacy Keibler finished third, in his highest finish to date.

Tony has won back-to-back U.S. Open Rhythm championships, and was nominated for an Outstanding Choreography Emmy in 2006 for his work on DWTS. He and his wife Lina have three children, including twins born in 2008.



### Chelsie Hightower

Chelsie Hightower was a competitor on FOX's *So You Think You Can Dance* in Season 4 finishing fifth overall and earning the distinction of never finishing in the bottom spot in any week.

Chelsie represented the U.S. in several international competitions, and has appeared in musical theater. She also teaches at dance studios in various places, including her home state of Utah.



## Derek Hough

Derek Hough is the most recent professional champion of *Dancing with the Stars*, after dominating Season 7 with partner Brooke Burke. Derek joined *Dancing with the Stars* in Season 5, when he and actress Jennie Garth finished fifth. performances worldwide; Rising Stars

Academy, a studio that trains hundreds of our top amateur couples; and two social dance studios called Dance With Me.



## Alec Mazo

Alec won the first ever *Dancing with the Stars* championship with actress Kelly Monaco in season 1. Alec is married to fellow DWTS pro Edyta Sliwinska, with whom he also has partnered as amateur and professional competitors. He was born in Russia and moved to the U.S. at

the age of 12. He runs ballroom dance studios in California.



## Anna Trebunskaya

Anna Trebunskaya has competed in seasons 2, 5, and 6 of *Dancing with the Stars*.

Anna was born in Russia and began to dance at the age of six. Her parents ran a dance studio, so it was only natural that she would become a dancer. She won her first title at the age of 7 and continued to win both Amateur and Professional titles ever since.



## Jonathan Roberts

Jonathan Roberts was one of the original *Dancing with the Stars* pros, competing in Season 1 with model Rachel Hunter.

Jonathan is a competitive ballroom dancer, supposedly inspired to dance by the tango scene in the movie *Scent of a Woman*. He has partnered professionally for many years with his wife and occasional fellow *Dancing With The Stars* pro Anna Trebunskaya.



## Lacey Schwimmer

Lacey Schwimmer made her *Dancing with the Stars* debut in Season 7, finishing third with Lance Bass of 'N Sync.

Lacey won the U.S. Open Swing Dance Championship in 2004 and the 2006 U.S. National Youth Latin Championship, and was a judge at the World Swing Championship competition in 2008.



## Edyta Sliwinska

Edyta Sliwinska is the only professional dancer to appear on every season of *Dancing With The Stars*..

Edyta is married to fellow DWTS pro Alec Mazo, who was also her partner in dance competitions for several years. They

have been married since 2007 and have performed together on DWTS results shows.



## Karina Smirnoff

Karina Smirnoff made her first appearance on *Dancing with the Stars* in Season 3, when she and partner Mario Lopez finished second Season to Emmitt Smith and Cheryl Burke.

Born in the Ukraine, Karina is a very successful competitive dancer, a five-time U.S. national champion and winner of national open titles in several regions.



## Kym Johnson

Kym Johnson danced on the Australian version of the show before joining the U.S. version for the first time in Season 3 when she and partner Jerry Springer miraculously finished fifth. She's finished second two times, in Season 4 with partner Joey Fatone, and in Season 7 with NFL player Warren Sapp.

Kym was a competitive dancer for several years, finishing second at the Australian Dancesport Championships in 1998.



## Louis van Amstel

Louis van Amstel has been dancing with *Dancing with the Stars* since season one. Louis has also been very involved in choreographing and dancing in group dances on the show. His amazing choreography has been nominated for an Emmy Award.

Louis has used his incredible talents the theatre, appearances on TV shows, not to mention serving as creative director, choreographer, and dancer in the touring *Dancing With the Stars Show*



## Anna Demidova

This will be Amateur Champion Anna Demidova's first season dancing on *Dancing with the Stars*. Anna began dancing as a 6-year old, and has been competing and winning championships as early as 2002. Check out our exclusive

interview with her in this issue!

# anna demidova

'TELLING HER OWN STORY'

NOW BEFORE MILLIONS ON DANCING WITH THE STARS

BY: IVOR LEE



PHOTO BY JOSH LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY JOSHLYNN.COM™  
HAIR BY PANICO.COM

**A**lthough Anna Demidova has been well known in the dance community for many years as a USA Dance National Standard Champion as well as winning numerous other championships, she is now in the public eye of television because of her winning an instructor position on *Dancing with the Stars*. DWTS Judge Bruno Tonioli during Season 8, described her performance as "magnificent, radiant, and . . . superb, Anna will be someone to watch for in this upcoming season."

**AD:** *How might *Dancing with the Stars* change your life?*

**Anna:** DWTS is a huge TV show watched by millions of people. I think my life will change quite a bit after being on the show. It's a huge opportunity for me.

**AD:** *What made you decide to be on the show?*

**Anna:** It's a great show. I love watching it, and I always wanted to try myself in it. But I never had enough time between daily practice and competitions. In January, my partner and I stopped dancing together and that was the time *Dancing with the Stars* was looking for a new dancer to be on the show. So I thought, "Why not? I'll give it a try!" And here I am a part of Season 9.

**AD:** *What were your feelings the first time you were on the show?*

**Anna:** It's very exciting. I got a chance to meet a lot of celebrities and the best thing is that I was able to show my dancing skills to everyone.

**AD:** *What are you most excited about for this new season?*

**Anna:** I'm excited just to be on the show. I really like my partner this season. I believe he has what it takes to win this competition. He is very competitive, determined and has a great personality.

**AD:** *What is different about working with a star as a partner?*

**Anna:** I have to say it's very similar. Working with the stars is the same as working with my regular students, except every rehearsal is being filmed and millions of people are watching me teach.

**AD:** *How is the star different from a regular competition partner? What are your concerns about dancing with a star?*

**Anna:** It's different. Dancing with the star is fun. We are learning different dances and trying to have a good time on the show. The star is my student. He is listening to everything I tell him. But when I dance with my partner it's a 50-50 partnership. We have to listen to each other all the time. And both of us are very serious about dancing — there is a lot of stress going on before the competitions.

**AD:** *Do you select the music you'll compete to?*

**Anna:** We submit the list of the songs that we like, but not all of them get cleared, so then the producers decide on a song.

**AD:** *How did you come up with the choreography? What are things you have to take into account because you're not working with an experienced dancer?*

**Anna:** The music really helps me to come up with the right choreography. It has to be not hard, but at the same time very interesting. I have to make sure that my celebrity partner is comfortable with all the steps so he can have fun.

**AD:** *What do you love most about dancing?*

**Anna:** I love dancing. I've been dancing for 16 years and I love absolutely everything about it. To me dancing is much more than just a hobby or a sport. It's an art. I love performing, telling my own story to people.

**AD:** *What keeps you dancing?*

**Anna:** My biggest inspiration and the reason why I'm dancing is my sister Katusha Demidova. Katusha and her partner Arunas represent everything I want to see in the ballroom couple. Dancing is my life. I can not imagine myself doing something else. I'm so passionate about it that I just want to dance all day every day.

**AD:** *What is your favorite dance and why?*

**Anna:** I have to say that my favorite dance is Foxtrot. I enjoy dancing and watching it. I find it absolutely amazing how beautiful and smooth this dance is.

**AD:** *What do you like to do other than dance?*

**Anna:** I like watching all kinds of movies. I do modeling if I have free time. And I also draw and paint.

**AD:** *What goals do you have for your future?*

**Anna:** I'm always trying to be the best at whatever I do. And that is my main goal in life. ■

*USA Dance has reviewed the situation of amateur athletes taking part in DWTS and other entertainment shows such as Burn the Floor, and has ruled that such participation does not constitute an act of professionalism*

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*Thank you for your support!*

# Qualifying Events for **USA Dance 2010 National DanceSport Championships**



Alexey Karaulov & Sasha Nissengotts / Photo by: Carson Zullinger

Northwest DanceSport  
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Seattle, WA  
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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)



ROGER BELL AND DASHA VORONYAK



SUNETH JAYAMANNA AND JOYCE CHAN

# Great Gumbo of Ballroom In Louisiana

By: Yang Chen, Greater NY Chapter President

I had the honor and the privilege to be the MC at the Gumbo of Ballroom weekend in Baton Rouge, organized by Louisiana DanceSport and the Louisiana Gumbo Chapter (#5031). And what a wonderful weekend in June it was.

From Friday noon until 10 pm on Saturday, the Gumbo DanceSport Championships hummed along through more than 90 heats of competition, hosting more than 200 dancers from all across the South and various parts of the country.

Couples flew in from states as far away as Washington, New Mexico, Arizona, New York and New Jersey. A healthy contingent of dancers from Houston, Texas attended, showcasing some excellent dance talent from that city. The setting was the ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in a large space that easily ranks as one of the loveliest that I have had the pleasure to step foot in.

One highlight of the weekend for me were the junior competitors who danced. Some 30 kids from Jefferson Parish took to the floor on Friday in the newcomer and bronze events, to the delight and cheers of the entire audience. The Gumbo audience is well known for their enthusiasm, and one of the key features of the event are the awards for the Most Enthusiastic Audience Member, which are presented throughout the weekend.

The Adult Championships in Standard, Smooth and Latin were danced on Saturday night. The winners in each division performed an honor dance during the social dance that followed. Suneth Jayamanna and Joyce Chan from Houston, Texas won the Adult Standard and chose a lively quickstep as their honor dance. Roger Bell and Dasha Voronyak, from San Antonio, Texas, won the Adult Smooth, and performed a wonderful foxtrot as their honor dance. Michael Blanco and Jessica Cubelli from Katy, Texas won the Adult Latin, and wowed the audience with their cha cha honor dance. (For complete results, visit: [www.o2cm.com](http://www.o2cm.com).)

I stayed for the social and got to dance on the terrific floor that the organizers had installed for the weekend. The floor looked wonderful from the podium, every square foot shiny and new, and it felt even better to dance on.

Another highlight of the weekend was the recognition of the Gumbo DanceSport Championships as one of

the Governor's Games in Louisiana. The Governor's Games represent an initiative by the State of Louisiana to encourage physical fitness through participation in a sport. This year, the state added ballroom dancing to its roster of sports, alongside traditional sports like baseball, basketball, track and field, and many others.

Sunday, June 28, was the Louisiana Challenge, rounding out the Gumbo of Ballroom weekend with a pro-am competition that hosted some 50 dancers competing in more than 180 heats. One of the pros, Brad Petrie, brought 13 of his ladies to the event and danced in nearly every heat. I was duly impressed to see him still standing at the end of the day. After all that, maybe he should consider signing up for the New York Marathon; with nearly 10 hours of dancing, he practically ran one at the Louisiana Challenge.

All around, the Gumbo of Ballroom Weekend added up to a marvelous mixture of fun, excitement, dance excellence and joy. Everyone who partook, whether as a competitor, spectator, official, volunteer or vendor, was nourished by this delectable gumbo, filled with southern charm and hospitality. Congratulations to Ann Durocher-Steven, the president of Louisiana DanceSport, for marshalling the team that made it all possible and kept the entire weekend flowing smoothly and effortlessly. Bon travail!

If you have not yet experienced the Gumbo of Ballroom weekend, I heartily recommend it to you. The Gumbo of Ballroom will take place in 2010 from June 25-27. I have already saved the date. You should too! ■



MICHAEL BLANCO AND JESSICA CUBELLI

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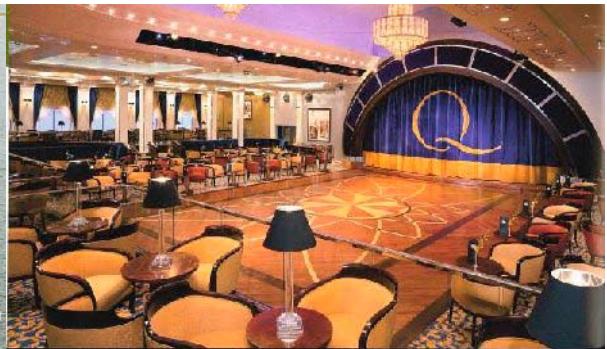
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# World Games

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## in Kaohsiung, Taiwan

“From the Top of the World”

BY: IVOR LEE

**A**t the 2009 World Games in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, representatives for the United States, Sergey Onik and Melissa Blanco, in the Latin DanceSport event showed an American quality of being an underdog and provided unexpected results.

1400 spectators watched as the couple not only placed 8th overall, but beat four other couples that many people did not expect them to beat. Sergey and Melissa beat out Zufar Zaripov and Anna Ludwig-tchemodourova from Austria, Dmytro Rosenko and Natalia Granko from the Ukraine, Carlos Custodio and Elena Plescenco from Portugal, but most surprising and impressive was their victory over Markku Hyvarinen and Disa Kortelainen from Finland who were ranked much higher than Sergey and Melissa.

“To have participated in the World Games and to have represented the United States of America was an honor,” said Sergey. “We were given a warm welcome, and this example of 100% pure helpfulness goes to the citizens of Kaohsiung. On the street we were frequently circled and asked to take pictures and sign autographs. We were literally treated like Olympic athletes. The World Games bear a strong resemblance to the Olympics; not only do they have different sports performed by the best team from every country, or the fact that they both happen every four years in a different nation, but they also have closing and opening ceremonies, similar to the original games.”

The 2009 games in Kaohsiung mark the fourth appearance of DanceSport on the Official Sports Program of The World Games. The World Games is held every four years and features athletes competing in 30+ sports and top-level events.



PHOTOS OF SERGEY ONIK & MELISSA BLANCO IN TAIWAN



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SERGEY ONIK

According to Lydia Scardina, Senior VP of USA Dance, The World Games “... are a rung on the ladder to eventual Olympic sport status. The next step is for DanceSport to be able to participate in the Pan American games. The International DanceSport Federation, USA Dance and our Canadian counterparts are working with countries in Latin America to expand and improve their DanceSport programs.”

Each of these international events is a stepping stone towards making DanceSport an Olympic event. New sports are added to the Olympic program by a vote of the International Olympic Committee. The committee looks at the number and the make up of the athletes participating in the sport around the world and the interest of the general public in viewing the sport during televised Olympic events.

However, the fact remains DanceSport is already popular and Sergey and Melissa’s victories were televised to many countries around the world, are factors that add to the Olympic bid. “To dance for a crowd that is so big in numbers and so passionate with cheers is an indescribable feeling; it fills you up with heart, energy, and will to perform to a level of your dancing you have yet to reach. We had a great performance that night and are very happy with the result,” said Sergey about competing.

Perhaps this feeling is just foreshadowing what else may come in the future. ■



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PASHA PASHKOV & DANIELLA KARAGACH, PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGAR

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# COMPETITION CALENDAR

**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**

**2010 Southwest Regional –NQE**

Long Beach, Calif. Chapter #4018

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

**february 5-6, 2010**

**The Triangle Open**

Raleigh, NC.

[www.dancingwithwolves.org/comps/to/index.php](http://www.dancingwithwolves.org/comps/to/index.php)

**february 20, 2010**

**Phoenix DanceSport Challenge\***

Phoenix, AZ Chapter #4033

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

**february 20-22, 2010**

**Chicago Dance Sport Challenge  
Championship–NQE, Cabaret National  
Championships**

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/>



A GROUP OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONTESTANTS AND THEIR UNIFIED SPORTS PARTNERS FROM ACADEMY OF BALLROOM

ANDREW ANDERSON AND TIFFANI AMBERG  
PHOTO BY PETER POVER



# Fort Wayne Dancesport Welcomes Special Olympics Dancers

BY: BONITA BROCKERT, ADJUDICATOR

The ballroom of the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana rocked with the cheers of friends, families, and spectators as Special Olympics Athletes and their Unified Sports Dance Partners took the floor in the colorful opening ceremonies, a mountain of joy to everyone.

Fifteen Youth Ribbon Team members of the Fort Wayne chapter performed after the introductions and the Flag ceremony. All athletes and officials then recited the Special Olympics Oaths. The Flame of Hope was carried by special Olympian Lori Tryon, escorted by Mr. And Mrs. Harry Poulson, designers of the Fort Wayne Ballroom Dancers Torch.

All will agree, Event Organizer Vivian Hans is the muscle behind the success of this wonderful event. She was awarded "Volunteer of the Year" at the 2009 Nationals in Baltimore for her efforts in 2008, and it is certainly well earned. Last year Vivian organized the USA Dance Fort Wayne Dancesport Championships and included a Special Olympics ballroom event, the first of its kind in this country.

With the support of President and CEO Steve Hinkle of Easter Seals Arc, who was inspired to see people with disabilities participating in ballroom dance, and Special Olympics Indiana President Michael Furnish, who sought a bigger scope of activity for Special Olympics, the dream was realized in 2008.

As of this year, USA Dance has established Dancesport Athlete categories for both the Special Olympic Athlete and the Unified Sports Dance Partner. This partnership of USA Dance, Easter Seals Indiana, and Special Olympics Indiana, builds on a strong foundation for the future growth of ballroom dancing for everyone.

Fort Wayne Dancesport was held on our nation's independence day, July 4th, and the Special Olympics competition was held the following day. Peter Pover, USA Dance president, served as Chairman of Judges. Adjudicators were Chris Ford, Bonita Brockert, Charles Jones, and Linda Jackson. Each of the judges gave seminars throughout the weekend. James Steury was Master of Ceremonies, Sherry Strehlow scrutineered, and Jack Meinking provided the music.



CHRIS FORD TEACHING A CLASS IN CHA CHA TO SPECIAL OLYMPIANS & UNIFIED SPORTS PARTNERS, SUNDAY JULY 5 IN FORT WAYNE

The participation of Academy of Ballroom, American Style Ballroom, Michiana Dance, Riolo Dance, and Renaissance Ballroom, in training Special Olympians and their partners, contributed greatly to the growth of this endeavor. Fifty-three contestants between the ages of 17 to 56 took part in competing. This is twice the number of dancers who entered the first year.

This year the SKILLS event was added, where competitors demonstrate one skill in a particular dance.

In the waltz, the skill was left and right foot changes. The swing requirement was the basic, and so on with the other dances.

Ballroom dancing is unique in its rich offering of sensory and motor articulations combined with social and spiritual benefits. We cannot fully measure the effects on the soul of the multiple facets of this wonderful activity. The cocktail of music, movement, human touch and interaction, the give and take of physical lead and follow, the act of special grooming and anticipation, are all of great benefit to the human soul. Often we take this for granted, but dancing, particularly ballroom dancing, changes lives.

Congratulations to Vivian and all of the volunteers and organizations who are planting this seed for our art to grow in wider spaces.

#### ATHLETES' OATH

"Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

#### COACHES' OATH

"In the name of all coaches, we shall follow written and verbal instructions of Special Olympics Officials at all times, have our athletes at the appropriate events and activities at the proper time, and abide by all the Special Olympics Official Rules and Policies, in the spirit of sportsmanship."

#### OFFICIALS' OATH

"In the name of all judges and officials, I promise that we shall officiate in these Special Olympics Games with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the spirit of sportsmanship." ■

PHOTOS BY BONITA BROCKERT UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Wed, Dec 30th - Sat, Jan 2nd  
**2009 New Year's Eve Extravaganza**  
60 Dance workshops  
All Levels - American & International Style

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For More Information Reservations Contact

**Gay Octavo (757) 467-3601**

**[WWW.USADanceTidewater.org](http://WWW.USADanceTidewater.org)**

**USA Dance of Tidewater**  
Attn: Gay Octavo  
PO Box 62321  
Virginia Beach, VA 23466

# **USA DANCE OF TIDEWATER**

**19th Annual New Year's Eve Weekend Workshops and Dancing**



**Norfolk, VA**

**Main Dance Floor: 7000 Sq Ft Competition Grade Dance Floor**

**PRICING  
EVENTS & WORKSHOPS**

**Wednesday Events (December 30, 2009)**

Workshops – 11:00am – 5:15pm

**Daily Afternoon Tea Dance** \$13.00 (\$5.00 Full Time Students w/school ID)

Dancing 2:15pm – 4:15pm (recorded music)

**Ballroom 2** - General Mixed Dancing (Swing, Hustle, WC Swing, Waltz, Foxtrot, etc)

**Ballroom 4** – Argentine Tango/Milonga (Practice)

**Wednesday Night Dances**

**Admission: \$13.00 (Ticket good for all Ballrooms)**

**Main Ballroom:** Country Western Theme.

Country Western and ballroom mix

Professional, ProAm & Amateur/Amateur exhibitions

Dancing 8:00 - 11:30 pm to the recorded music of DJ Bill Irwin

**Additional Ballrooms:** (recorded music)

**Note: Hosted by Instructors for dancing and practice sessions**

**Ballroom 2** – Traditional Ballroom mix

**Ballroom 4** – Argentine Tango/Milonga

Dancing 8:30pm - 11:30pm (AT ballroom open until 1:00am)

**Thursday Events (December 31, 2009)**

Workshops – 9:30am – 3:45pm

**Daily Afternoon Tea Dance** \$13.00 (\$5.00 Full Time Students w/school ID)

Dancing 2:15pm – 4:15pm (recorded music)

**Ballroom 2** - General Mixed Dancing (Swing, Hustle, WC Swing, Waltz, Foxtrot, etc)

**Ballroom 4** – Argentine Tango/Milonga (Practice)

**Thursday Night - New Year's Eve Gala Dance and Show**

International Ballroom - Dancing 7:30 - 1:30 pm

Admission: \$79.00 (includes dancing in all Ballrooms)

By Reservations Only

No Walk-Ins - Payment Deadline **December 29, 2009**

Full Table reservations (for 10) must be paid **November 21, 2009**, otherwise they will be released

Live music provided by Roberto ("El Romantico") and DJ Bill Irwin

Attire: Semi-Formal/Black Tie Optional

A Photographer will be available

Singles Welcome (Dance Host assigned to singles tables)

Party Favors, Champagne Toast at Midnight, Hotel Style Buffet Breakfast (includes: 3 types juice, 5 types breakfast bread, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs, home fried potatoes, bacon & sausage, black-eyed peas, coffee and tea)

**SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL SHOW**

**By Nathan Simler and Lecie McNees**

**Ballroom 2 - Country Western Swing, Hustle (recorded music)**

**Ballroom 3 - Salsa/Latin/Afro Cuban/NY Style Mix Music (recorded music)**

**Ballroom 4 - Argentine Tango/Milonga (recorded music)**

Dancing 8:30pm - 1:30am (AT ballroom open until 1:00am)

For information/reservations: Gay Octavo (757) 467-3601

Email:[ballroomdancers@cox.net](mailto:ballroomdancers@cox.net) Web site: [www.usadancetidewater.org](http://www.usadancetidewater.org)

Mail Checks to: Gay Octavo/NYE, Tidewater Chapter USA Dance PO Box 62321

Virginia Beach, VA 23466

Discount Self Parking at Dominion Towers Parking Lot (ONLY) \$5.00

**Friday Events (January 1, 2010)**

Workshops – 9:30am – 5:15pm

**Daily Afternoon Tea Dances** \$13.00 (\$5.00 Full Time Students w/ID)

Dancing 2:15pm – 4:15pm (recorded music)

**Ballroom 2** - General Mixed Dancing (Swing, Hustle, WC Swing, Waltz, Foxtrot, etc)

**Ballroom 4** – Argentine Tango/Milonga (Practica)

**Friday Night Dances**

**Admission: \$13.00 (Ticket good for all Ballrooms)**

**Main Ballroom:** Latin Theme Night Rumba, Salsa and traditional ballroom music

Music Provided by DJ Bill Irwin

Professional, ProAm & Amateur/Amateur Exhibitions

Dancing 8:00 - 11:30 pm

**Additional Ballrooms:** (recorded music)

**Note: Hosted by Instructors for dancing and practice sessions**

**Ballroom 2** – Country Western/West Coast Swing/Hustle

**Ballroom 3** – Salsa/Latin/Afro Cuban/NY Style Mix Music

**Ballroom 4** – Argentine Tango/Milonga

Dancing 8:30pm - 11:30pm (AT ballroom open until 1:00am)

**Saturday Events (January 2, 2010)**

Workshops – 9:30am – 3:45pm

**Daily Afternoon Tea Dance** \$13.00 (\$5.00 Full Time Students w/ID)

Dancing 2:15pm – 4:15pm (recorded music)

**Ballroom 2** - General Mixed Dancing (Swing, Hustle, WC Swing, Waltz, Foxtrot, etc)

**Ballroom 4** – Argentine Tango/Milonga (Practice)

**Saturday Night Dinner Dance**

Dinner, Dancing &Shows. **Admission: \$49.00**

**Reservations Required - Payment Deadline December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009.**

Full Table reservations (for 10) must be paid by **November 16, 2009**, otherwise they will be released

Dinner 7:00 - 8:30 pm w/special Dinner show for Dinner Guests.

Menu: Choice 1 - Beef

Choice 2 - Fish

Choice 3 - Vegetarian

Doors open at 6:30 pm for Dinner Guests

Dancing 6:30 - 11:30 pm.

Music Provided by Roberto "El Romantico" and DJ Bill Irwin

Attire: Semi-Formal (Black-Tie Optional)

A Photographer will be available

Professional. Pro/Am & Amateur Exhibitions

**SPECIAL FEATURED PERFORMERS:**

**Nathan Simler and Lecie McNees**

**Walk-ins for Dancing and Exhibitions Only**

**Doors open at 8:30 pm**

**Admission: \$35.00 (\$20.00 Full Time Students with school ID)**

Singles Welcome (Dance Host will be in attendance at the Single Tables)

Open Seating after 8:30 p.m.

**Additional Ballrooms open:** (Recorded Music)

**Ballroom 2** - Ballroom, Country Western, Swing, & Hustle

**Ballroom 3** – Salsa/Latin/NY Style Mix Music (recorded music)

**Ballroom 5**: Argentine Tango/Milonga

Dancing 8:30 – 11:30pm (AT ballroom open until 1:00am)

**PRICES**

Events	Full Price	Early Price	Packages	Full Price	Early Price	
NYE Dance	\$79	\$75	#1 - Events + Workshops (includes: NYE&Dinner Dances/All Evening Dances/3 Daily Open Tea Dances) + 6 Workshops	\$266	\$239	
Dinner Dance	\$49	\$45	#2 - Events + Workshops (includes: NYE&Dinner Dances/All Evening Dances) + 6 Workshops	\$227	\$204	
Daily Open Tea Dances (each day)	\$13	No Discount	#3 - Events - NO Workshops (includes: NYE&Dinner Dances/All Evening Dances/3 Daily Open Tea Dances)	\$193	\$174	
Evening Dances (each night)	\$13	No Discount	#4 Main Events (includes: NYE & Dinner Dances/All Evening Dances)	\$154	\$139	
Saturday Dances (excluding Dinner Dance)	\$13	No Discount	#5 NYE and Dinner Dance Only Package (includes NYE and Dinner Dance and access to ALL Ballrooms Thursday and Saturday nights)	\$128	\$115	
After Dinner Dance Walk-In Admission. Good for entry to Main Ballroom after Dinner and anytime to the other ballrooms during the evening.	\$35	No Discount	#6 Daily Tea and Evening Dances (EXCLUDES entry to the Dinner Dance and NYE Dance)	\$78	\$70	
1 Workshop	\$13	No Discount	#7 Daily OR Evening Dance (EXCLUDES entry to NYE and Dinner Dances)	\$39	\$35	
3 Workshops	\$39	\$37	Workshops (December 30, 2009 - January 2, 2010)			
6 Workshops	\$78	\$73	Wednesday -- 11:00am - 5:15pm			
9 Workshops	\$117	\$108	Thursday -- 9:30am - 3:45pm			
12 Workshops	\$156	\$142	Friday -- 9:30am - 5:15pm			
Saturday -- 9:30am - 3:45pm						
Note: All workshops are 75 minutes in length						
WORKSHOP PRICES (multiple workshop packages may be purchased at ANY time before or during the Event. Tickets can be used for ANY workshop.)						

# Treasure Tier: NATIONAL QUALIFYING EVENT CIRCUIT

**A**t our 30th Anniversary and 2010 Nationals DanceSport Championships, we will once again be thanking our members who attend multiple National Qualifying Events throughout the year.

The Treasure Tier is not a merit-based program, it's truly a "thank you for supporting our events." Since scheduling National Qualifying Events precludes any couple attending all 8 events before the USA Dance 2010 National DanceSport Championships, the award levels for both Emerald and Diamond Tiers have been adjusted to reflect this conflict.

Couples who attend 4 Nationals Qualifying Events (NQEs) have attained the Ruby Level and will receive:

- lapel pins with a red ruby (faux) stone
- one free entry at nationals (the entry is for the couple and both members of the couples must have attended at least 4 NQEs)
- one free program/couple
- the couples' names listed in the National program
- the couples' names listed in the AD following Nationals

Last year 8 couples achieved the Ruby Tier. We are hoping to double this number for Nationals 2010. We are hoping that the following 8 couples, will be able to achieve at least this level of participation again -- Scott & Sarah Coates, Samuel & Renee Dapore-Schwarz, Daryl Schmidt & Michele Boyer, Thomas & Marie Osterland, Andrew Kerski & Ginarose McLeese, Joseph & Shelly Brogan, Richard & Cynthia Pellin, Wayne & Wanda Wilson and Chirag Shah (who achieved the Ruby Tier by dancing with two different partners and did not receive a free entry last year).

Couples who attend 5-6 NQEs, have attained the Emerald Level and will receive:

- lapel pins with a green emerald (faux) stone
- two free entries at nationals (the entry is for the couple and both members of the couples must have attended at least 5 NQEs)
- one free program/couple
- VIP seating for one evening session of their choice at Nationals
- the couples' names listed in the National program
- the couples' names listed in the AD following Nationals

Last year 1 couple, Robert & Lisa Renner, achieved the Emerald Tier. For 2010, we are hoping that at least a few more couples are able to achieve this level.

ROBERT & LISA RENNER



The couples that attend all 7 NQEs will have achieved the Diamond Tier and will receive:

- lapel pins with a white diamond (faux) stone
- three free entries at nationals (the entry is for the couple and both members of the couples must have attended at least 7 NQEs)
- one free program/couple
- VIP seating for the entire weekend
- the couples' names listed in the National program
- the couples' names listed in the AD following Nationals

Last year, no couple achieved this level, but according to Nationals Chair Daphna Locker, "We know that there are at least a few couples out there who are equal to the challenge and who will be aiming for those 3 free entries to Nationals 2010."

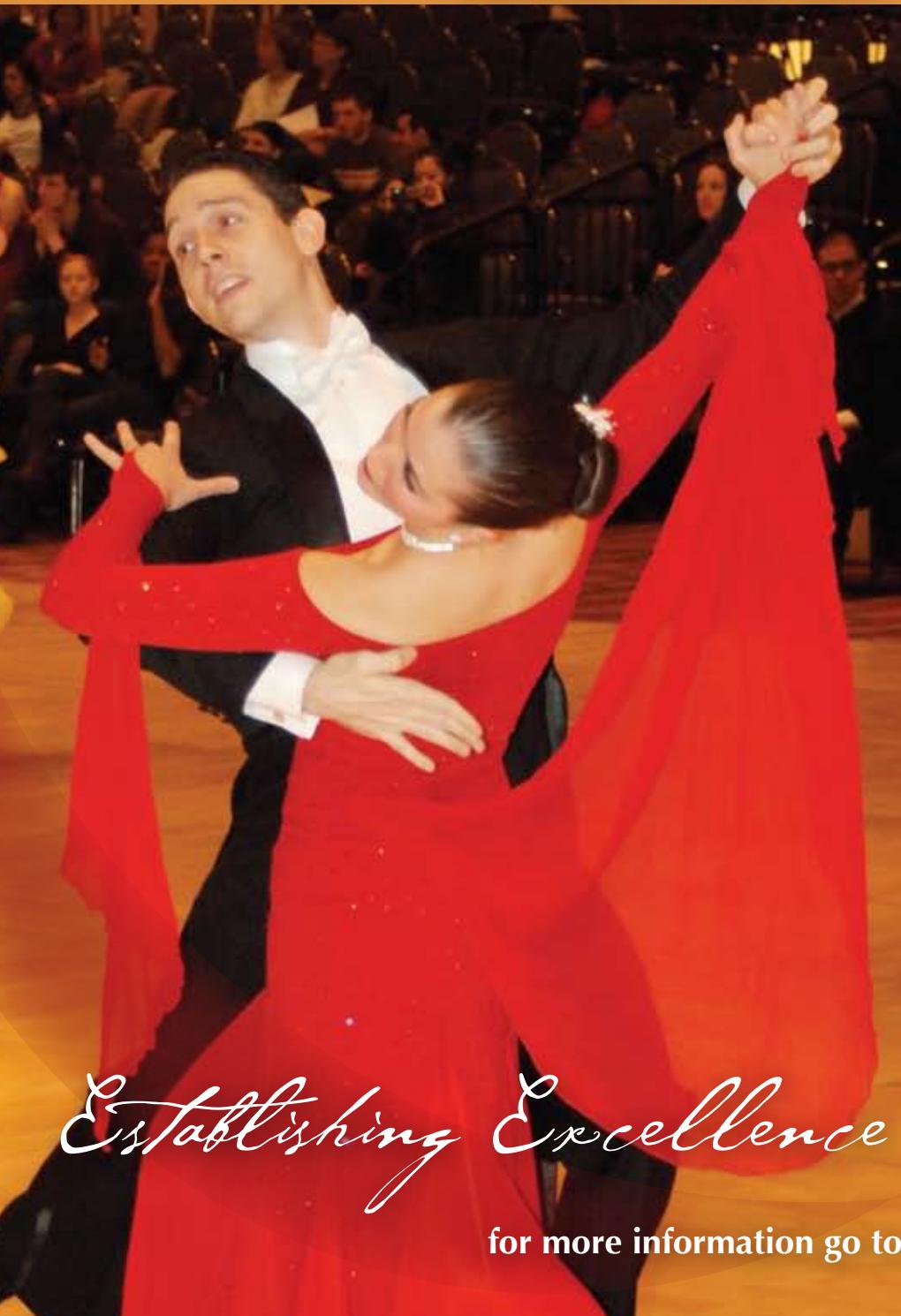
At the 2010 Nationals, Treasure Tier presentations and awards will occur during the Friday and Saturday evening sessions. ■

USA DANCE

# National Collegiate DanceSport Challenge

Columbus Convention Center Columbus, Ohio

November 21-22, 2009



*Establishing Excellence*

for more information go to [www.usadancencc.org](http://www.usadancencc.org)

Organizer: **Andrew Pueschel**

[ycn-vp@UsaDance.org](mailto:ycn-vp@UsaDance.org)

Registrar: **Daphna Locker**

[nationals-chair@UsaDance.org](mailto:nationals-chair@UsaDance.org)

Register at [www.o2cm.com](http://www.o2cm.com)



# Welcome to the Wonderful World of Facebook!

BY: ANDREW PUESCHEL



**A**re you on Facebook yet? If not, I suggest that you get on it. Not only is it a great way to reconnect with friends and family, but you can also use it as a social network for dancing as well. You can create an individual profile with pictures, videos, and as much information as you are comfortable sharing (remember that unless you regulate public access in your settings, ANYONE can access the information you publish.). The great thing about Facebook is that you can leave your own thoughts and dialogue on any of your friend's sites. You can cheer them on or start a discussion or simply react to what they are posting. Below are some ideas for using Facebook to best meet your ballroom dancing needs.

## SOCIAL DANCING

You can search for friends in your area who have ballroom dancing as a hobby or an interest. It's also a great way to find out where the local dances are in your neighborhood or within driving distance. Popular Facebook keywords for ballroom dancing in general are USA Dance Inc., and Ballroom Dancing, You Know You're a Ballroom Dancer When.

## COMPETITIONS

Get the most current competition additions and changes, find schedules and event locations, and discuss trends in competitive dancing—all in one place! From DanceSport results to a comprehensive

list of 2009 and 2010 competitions, you can easily find them by searching for keywords such as USA Dance Competitions, and DanceSport.

## COLLEGIATE NETWORKING

Connect with other collegiate dancers from schools around the country and around the globe. Learn more about dancing in different regions and use your connections to look for insights for when looking for possible jobs and internships. What better reference than from another ballroom dancer? Start your search by going to the following: USA Dance Inc. (Youth and College Network), and Youth College Dance.

## DANCE CELEBRITIES

Get a glimpse into the lives of your favorite dancers by becoming a "fan!" See what they are planning for in future projects. You can also view others that are interested in the same pages you are—what better way to strike up a conversation. Popular sites include Yulia Riccardo DanceSport, Dancing with the Stars, So You Think You Can Dance, and Burn the Floor.

Facebook has, in a way, encapsulated the world of ballroom dancing, its fans, and its prominent figures all in one searchable world. Six degrees of separation has nothing on Facebook – go out there and find your DanceSport friends TODAY! ■

# 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/>**

# Celebrating the Dancing Illini Tradition

BY: IVOR LEE



Like many Youth College Network groups, the Dancing Illini built its core around students who shared a passion for ballroom, and like every collegiate group, students have come and gone in the 30 years since its 1979 founding.

But one of the strengths of the Dancing Illini is that some of these students that have stayed on after graduating and have become involved. Some current members and teachers of the club are undergrads that have stayed on, some are graduate students that have stayed on, and some are post doctoral candidates that have stayed on. These alumni give the group consistency and help carry forward the traditions of the group.

Based at the University of Illini at Urbana-Champaign, the Dancing Illini are a non-profit social dance group that provides a high quality level of dance for both beginners and more advanced dancers.



One distinction among other groups in the area is the variety of styles that they teach.

"Other groups seem to focus on one style, but the Dancing Illini focused on everything," said Tyler Zimmerman, competition chair. "We're kind of multicultural. We do different styles."

Recently, the Dancing Illini have joined the Illini Dancesport team on campus for a mutually beneficial relationship. The team teaches intermediate classes and gives members of the group an opportunity to rise to higher levels and compete in dancesport events as part of the competition team.

Coming October 31, the Dancing Illini will be carrying on a tradition -- the 21st Annual Dancing Illini DanceSport Invitational. Each year, approximately 200 dancers from universities in the mid-west come together and compete for the best at the University of Illinois. Though this event is open to all comers from different colleges, the group encourages their own members to dance. "We want students in the club to dance in the competition, in fact we're hoping the dancesport teams dance all day," said Tanja Hodges, president of the Dancing Illini.

The Dancing Illini's Invitational is a good training competition to learn the experience of competing. But the learning doesn't stop the day of the event. The Invitational also offers a post competition debriefing in which dancers can learn what the judges really thought about their dancing, and learn tips and techniques to take their dancing to the next level. ■

ALL PHOTOS OF MEMBERS OF THE DANCING ILLINI  
ALL PHOTOS BY LEO CHAN



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