

D A M E R I C A N Dancer



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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USA DANCE

2010 IDSF WORLD DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIP LATIN

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12 DANCING FOR AMERICA

USA Dance's first official dance cruise set sail aboard the Costa Atlantica.

8 ELECTIONS RESULTS

Presenting the national officers of USA Dance and a quick who's who contact list.



USA DANCE CRUISE IN JAMAICA
PHOTO BY ROSS BENNETT/IMAGEPRO PRODUCTIONS

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THE IDSF WORLD DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIP LATIN'S PARADE OF ATHLETES
PHOTO COURTESY OF CARSON ZULLINGER

President's REPORT



Several years ago, USA Dance, together with our co-organizer Sam Sodano, applied for and received a sanction to host the 2010 Adult IDSF World DanceSport Championship Latin. This was quite an honor for USA Dance, as it would be the first time in many years that an IDSF World Championship would be held in the U.S.

This stellar event is now behind us, and what an event it was, which saw couples from 45 nations coming to New York City on November 13, 2010 to compete for the World Latin title. The ballroom was filled to capacity with a standing-room-only audience during both the day and evening sessions. What the audience saw was superlative dancing that went round after exciting round as the international panel of judges narrowed the field. In addition to the World Latin competition, an Open to the World Youth Standard competition was also danced and a wonderful Professional Show, consisting of the American Style of dance was presented in the evening.

And then the moment the audience had been anticipating: The World Latin finalists were announced, and in addition to the group competition each finalist couple would perform two solo dances, demonstrating the skill and artistry which got them into the final. The dancing was truly superb, and when it ended all the finalists received a well deserved standing ovation. Sixth place went to Denmark, fifth place to the United States and our own Valentin Chmerkovskiy and Daria Chesnokova, fourth to Italy, second to Croatia, and third and first went to the two teams from Russia. The winning Russian couple did a beautiful Rumba as their honor dance to cap off a most wonderful evening.

What the audience experienced was an event that ran smoothly and on time. But it takes the work of many volunteers and many hundreds of hours to organize such an event. Starting in December of 2009 a team comprised of the four Corporate Officers of USA Dance, Ken Richards, our vice president of DanceSport and Peter Pover, our immediate past president, began weekly conference calls as planning for the event went into high gear. In early 2010 the working group was expanded to include Daphna Locker as chair of the event, and our Public Relations Director Angela Prince. This group made all the plans and arrangements, including working with the hotel, purchasing flags for all participating countries, purchasing mementos for all competitors

and awards for the finalists, handling all visa requests from competitors and their teams, booking all rooms for competitors, their families and the officials, providing transportation between the airport and hotel for competitors and officials, organizing meals and the concluding reception, arranging all publicity, and performing the myriad of other activities that went into organizing an event of this magnitude.

In the days leading up to the event and on the competition day itself, many volunteers came forward from the Greater New York Chapter to do their part, as drivers, ushers, registration and ticket desk workers and in other capacities too numerous to mention. And a team of youth dancers from the Greater New York area were expertly pulled together by our DanceSport Delegate, Inna Brayer, to carry the flags from all participating countries in the Parade of Athletes during both the day and evening opening ceremonies. I watched them practicing before the event, and it is no small feat to get so many excited, happy youngsters to perform their flag carrying duties so well.

I wish to personally thank all those who were so instrumental in making the World Latin Championship a success, including all our generous financial contributors and sponsors. And a special thank you to all our volunteers: USA Dance could not have organized a World Championship without your hard work and hours of dedicated service. Thank you one and all.

Lydia T. Scardina

National President, USA Dance



A M E R I C A N *Dancer*

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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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Check our Web Site - www.USADANCE.org

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JEAN KRUPA

Jean Krupa currently serves as the Social Vice President for USA Dance. She served as Region VI Vice President in 1999. She is a founding member of the Greater Daytona Chapter in 1990.



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 organized the IDSF World Latin Championship in November. She is also the head of NOC for the 2011 Nationals.



ANGELA PRINCE

Angela Prince is the National Public Relations Director for USA Dance, responsible for all integrated pr programs, organization publicity and communications, national media relations, social media relations and brand development. She is also the editorial advisor for American Dancer magazine and other publications.

GUEST WRITERS

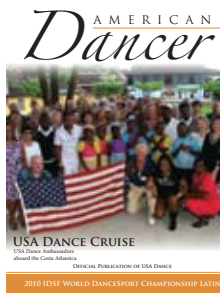
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PHOTO BY
ROSS BENNETT
IMAGEPRO PRODUCTIONS

Dancing for America™
on the *Costa Atlantica*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESULTS OF THE 2010 GOVERNING COUNCIL ELECTION

The Governing Council election concluded on October 30, 2010. Phil Sisk, National Elections Director, and his team of Election Tellers tabulated the ballots in early November. This was an uncontested election and the following Governing Council members have been elected to serve a three-year term, from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013:

Lydia T. Scardina, National President
Bill Rose, National Senior Vice President
Stan Andrews, National Secretary
Esther Freeman, National Treasurer
Jean Krupa, Vice President of Social Dance
Ken Richards, Vice President of DanceSport
Inna Brayer, DanceSport Delegate
Scott Coates, DanceSport Delegate
Roger Greenawalt, DanceSport Delegate



2011 DANCESPORT RULE BOOK

The 13th version of the USA Dance DanceSport Rulebook is now available for free download on the USA Dance website, www.usadance.org, under DanceSport Forms & Resources.

As with past rulebook releases the new sections are presented in bold-italic type. The changes for 2011 were minimal with the main changes being:

- Update/Cleanup of general dress regulations to clarify DSC rulings and interpretations of Official Observers
- New NQE Sanctioning process for Organizers
- Clarification and update of Anti-Doping language

- Inclusion of the new competitive division known as “Freestyle-Showdance”
- Modification to the length of Paso Doble to match IDSF rules.
- Clarification to the Nationals Qualifying Criteria Rule 4.2.5.C

In closing, we remind everyone that these rules will be in effect for the 2011 USA Dance National DanceSport Championships in Baltimore.

National Officers



LYDIA SCARDINA
PRESIDENT



BILL ROSE
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT



STAN ANDREWS
NATIONAL SECRETARY



ESTHER FREEMAN
NATIONAL TREASURER



JEAN KRUPA
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KEN RICHARDS
DANCESPORT VP

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ANGELA PRINCE
DIR. PUBLIC RELATIONS



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DIR. OF CHAPTER LIAISON



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BARBARA WALLY
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PROGRAMS

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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MAGAZINE



DAPHNA LOCKER
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Charles Hardin is currently the Assistant Director of Chapter Liason, and served as a Chapter President

GROOMING

YOUR NEXT PRESIDENT

By: Charles Hardin

One of the most important responsibilities as a Chapter President of USA Dance is grooming a chapter president to take your place. All good things must come to an end to make way for better things. Even George Washington, the founding father of our country, resigned from office for a simple life rather than hold on to the reins of powers longer than he should.

For many, becoming a Chapter President is a long learning curve of trial and error. Yet much of this grief can be avoided if a successor is properly guided and trained in their future roles as Chapter President. This is only possible with a humble chapter president who is enthusiastic and willing to groom a vice president to take their place.

Grooming a future president allows for continuity and stability—the key to a smooth transition between presidents. In the period between presidents, some chapter/board goals may be forgotten or dropped, but if an incoming President is active and up to date with the goals of the chapter, they can carry a lot of momentum and new energy into the chapter. Preparing a

president also lets the board and chapter to become familiar with the incoming president and feel more at ease. Conversely, this familiarization allows the incoming president to become familiar with differing personalities and idiosyncrasies.

A chapter president has many, many different opportunities to train a replacement. One example of this is arranging for the incoming president to be present in negotiations and arrangements with the community. This allows for a smooth transition without any arrangements lost between presidents.

If a president doesn't transition well, it's bad for the organization. A president should never feel like they are the chapter—the golden age—and that without them, there is no chapter of USA Dance. If this is the case, then they're doing their job wrong. Grooming a president is not just a validation; it's a show of support. It's a chance to build up an individual and to pass on the knowledge you've accumulated as chapter president. It's a reminder that the whole is greater than the individual, and that the future is something to be embraced. ■

THE USA DANCE 2010

NATIONAL DANCE



USA Dance Cruisers in Jamaica

DANCING for AMERICA and Jamaica in the Village of OCHO RIOS

Nearly 150 USA Dance ambassadors visited Ocho Rios and were warmly welcomed by the Jamaica Tourism Board and the Town of Ocho Rios for a half day of dance celebration in the Ocho Rios Village. The primer children and other Dance Hall dancers performed their native dances and taught USA Dance cruisers several of the dances and signature Jamaican moves. Then USA Dancers then demonstrated rumba,



Jamaican Primer School Dance Kids

cha cha and west coast swing, with the children joining in to learn a little bit of ballroom and latin. It was a great day for sharing our love of dance as USA Dance was the first dance group to celebrate with the dancers of Jamaica.

While the USA Dance cruise visited the Town of Key West, Florida, its Mayor Craig Cates officially proclaimed Monday, November 29th, 2010 as USA Dance Day, after which everyone visited our country's most "southernmost city". Cruisers were seen dancing

ALL PHOTOS BY ROSS BENNETT/IMAGEPRO PRODUCTIONS AND RAY PALANT



E CRUISE



Ballroom Exhibitions in Jamaica



Dance Workshop on the Cruise Ship

PHOTO BY RAY PALANT

in the restaurants and shops, and in the streets, posing for lots of photo opps in front of the city's famous statues and with street musicians and entertainers.

Stops in the Grand Caymans and in Cozumel, Mexico meant dancing in the towns for some, but for many, it was more about shopping and excursions by bus, boats and taxis to see the beautiful countrysides, islands and shorelines. The ferry rides proved a little challenging boarding as the seas became a little rougher, but the weather was beautiful regardless

and throughout the entire week.

The cruise Dance Host program proved extremely popular for both single ladies (without dance partners) and for the gentleman dance volunteers as well. Although keeping the rotations going consistently and balancing out the different ship dance floors equally with dancers was perhaps the greatest challenge for organizers, most enjoyed the experience. The music selections for the USA Dance events offered the best of ballroom and latin tempos, plus the ship had live bands in several locations



To see more photo galleries from the USA Dance “Dancing for America™” Cruise, please join USA DANCE INC on Facebook. Check out the USA DANCE NATIONAL DANCE CRUISE page and galleries, as well as individual photos posted by our cruisers.

For Marie Crowder, a Matter of Timing



Dance Parties at Night



What’s a Cruise Without a Toga Party?

PHOTO BY RAY PALANT

NIGHT LIFE

THANKS



Fine Dining Italian Style

Our special thanks to *Costa Cruise Lines* and our travel agent Larry Fishkin of Travel Themes & Dreams who helped USA Dance create the first-ever national dance cruise and bring dancers together from 35 states across America; to Larry's staff, including Janet, and to Lew Matusu; to Jean Krupa, our Social VP, who organized the program and details of this trip; to all of our volunteers who donated endless hours; to our many tireless dance hosts; to our incredible dance teachers who donated their time and gave everyone their very best, every day; to Ross Bennett, our official videographer; and to everyone who joined us on this maiden dance voyage, who in spite of any rough sea we may have encountered, went with the flow and helped us create memories and friendships that will last for a lifetime!

On behalf of USA Dance, we are most appreciative,

Angela Prince

USA Dance, Public Relations Director



There Was Even Time for Line Dancing

PHOTO BY RAY PALANT

FLASH MOB DANCE on the *Costa Atlantica*

The dining room every night was a 7-course affair, fine Italian cuisine and service, but one night was particularly memorable as the entire dining room was interrupted by a Bocelli lipsync by a Costa entertainer that triggered an explosion of USA Dancers getting out of their seats, dancing with the waiters and each other; which then triggered Conga lines throughout the dining room; as USA Dance PR Director Angela Prince and Videographer Ross Bennett raced to the 2nd level to keep the crowds on their feet cheering and dancing in an impromptu version of Flash Mob dancing; the finale was a Hip-Hop style group performance led by a Costa Mime-faced dancer. (And it's all on video! Check the usadanceinc YouTube channel soon!)

90 Group Classes! Thanks to the USA Dance Instructors!



Dan Calloway, Silke Calloway, Marie Crowder, Wayne Crowder, Sarah Davis, Mike Nichols

American Dancer published a memoriam about Cuban Pete in 2009. Since that time, a documentary has been in production. Check it out for an amazing part of dance history.

Pedro “Cuban Pete” Aguilar left a lasting legacy to the dance world with his signature style moves that earned him the title, “Maestro of Mambo”. Hailed as “the greatest Mambo dancer ever” by LIFE magazine and Tito Puente, Aguilar, who passed away in January of 2009 in Miami, Florida, is featured in the new documentary, *Mambo Man*, scheduled for release this year.

The movie chronicles this great dance legend’s life through conversations, interviews with celebrities and those who knew him, music, and of course, dance. *Mambo Man* ensures that Aguilar’s life and contributions to the dance world will continue to entertain audiences for generations to come.

“I am fulfilling a promise made to Cuban Pete that I would preserve his legacy and pass down his knowledge, contributions and the authenticity of Latin music and dance. This documentary will preserve Pete’s important contributions to the authenticity

of Latin dance, its clave rhythm, and his 100 plus dance steps and hand embellishments, which are still the standard of today, for generations to come,” explained executive producer Barbara Craddock, Aguilar’s last dance partner and manager.

With the film’s director/producer Luis Rosario Albert, Craddock believes the documentary will educate another generation about mambo, Cuban Pete’s extensive work in the dance field and his diligence overcoming several barriers. “This documentary is for education and posterity. The authentic dance form is the root and key to greatness, and it is the foundation from which one can build upon. The film will also educate the audience that anyone can overcome hardships, trials and tribulations that are presented as life’s obstacles, and reach great heights,” said Craddock, a member of USA Dance in Florida.

Known for his contributions of unique, new dance steps, the film highlights Aguilar’s



CUBAN PETE DANCING
PHOTO BY CARLOS GASTELBONDO



CUBAN PETE & BARBARA CRADDOCK AT WEST POINT
PHOTO BY JOE LORANGA

The Maestro of Mambo

BY: JOYCE LUHRS

performances, presenting them in different venues. Several of his signature moves -- porpoise, prayer, shimmy shimmy, kick-tap-tap, baseball, tango fan, swing step -- and a variety of hand embellishments are all shown. These integral steps and so much are shown in archival and current footage and photographs of the Palladium Ballroom in New York City, El Barrio in Spanish Harlem, as well as scenes from Miami and Puerto Rico.

Mambo Man tells the story of Aguilar's difficult childhood, his accomplishments on the dance floor at the Palladium Ballroom in the early 1950's, and his contributions to the international dance phenomena that became mambo. "He was gifted with an exquisite sense of timing and an extraordinary rhythm. This allowed him to dance inside the music, strictly en clave without counting. When one watched Pete dance, they could see the music, in perfect tempo. His footsteps became part of the orchestra, becoming another musical instrument," explained Craddock.

The 45-minute movie features interviews with several prominent musicians, dancers, and other people in Aguilar's life, including Grammy award-winning soneros Ismael Mirand and Gilberto Santa Rosa and celebrated pianist and band leader José Curbelo, going strong at 94-years-old. They are joined by Mike Ramos, currently half the team of the Palladium Mambo Legends and the sons of the big three

Palladium Orchestra band leaders --Tito Rodriguez, Jr., Mario (Machito) Grillo, and Tito Puente, Jr.



"CUBAN PETE" AGUILAR
BACKGROUND PHOTO BY SAMMYSOCKS

The documentary, which Craddock anticipates will be completed in March, will be shown at several film festivals throughout the United States and internationally. The film will also be released in a DVD format. American Dancer readers will be able to catch it at the Southwest Florida International Film Festival, New Jersey International Salsa Congress, the Puerto Rico Salsa Congress, and several other venues. ■

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHT

BY: SARAHJO CIOTTI

REVIVAL

Sandpoint Idaho - Chapter#1017

When you walk into an event with the Sandpoint, Idaho chapter there is a noticeably unique atmosphere. Within the group of about 50 participants, there is a tangible eagerness to join in the dance, to try new moves regardless of skill level, and to have fun. What has been responsible for this energetic spirit could be attributed to the number of teenagers that are excited to dance alongside, and with the more experienced members.

Ten years ago John Peyton and his wife from Moyie Springs wanted to start up a chapter in their area. Networking with others who shared their passion for dance, they researched what

steps they needed to take and were able to begin the new USA Dance chapter.

Although there has always been a few teens here and there interested in the chapter, over the past year and a half there has been a steadily growing number of the younger generation's participation. Beginning with a few kids looking for more opportunities for socializing, then spreading through word of mouth, friends asking friends to come, the numbers continued to grow.

"It's been a shot in the arm for all of us," says Pam Sheffler, wife of the Chapter President Dwight Sheffler. Seeing that the kids aren't worried about getting embarrassed after making mistakes seems to inspire the adults to have more confidence in their own skills.

Sheffler continues: "The kids aren't afraid, they ask questions and mix with all ages. It has really helped inspire everyone to be more social and apply the expression 'Dance like no one is watching.'"

Located in the northern panhandle of Idaho, the Sandpoint chapter not only services the local communities of Idaho, but often has attendees hailing from Montana and Canada





PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAM SHEFFLER

as well. With approximately 20 members, there are 30 additional people who travel various distances just to join in the dance.

Taking the influx of new energy from the kids as a great opportunity, Dwight Sheffler and the chapter board decided to sponsor a group of the teens for dance lessons.

“The board wanted to encourage and reward these kids who were the core to encourage and keep their attendance,” Sheffler explained.

Although all they needed to do was sign up, it was stipulated that they needed to commit to attending each lesson and at the end of the summer to put on a performance to illustrate what they had learned through their lessons.

Board member Diane Peters, also a professional dance instructor, says she enjoyed teaching them over the summer months, “It is so fun, and they are fearless.” Approximately 10 of the teens were able to dedicate the time and effort to the lessons and the show was a great success for the young chapter, and its young participants.

The board at Sandpoint chapter are all hoping to make the sponsorship of young talent an annual opportunity for the community. ■

Announcing the
**NATIONAL
CHAPTER
CONFERENCE**

DATE

March 10-13, 2011

LOCATION

Crowne Plaza
New Orleans, Louisiana

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 www.usadance.org to register.

HAND IN HAND - TOGETHER WE CAN!

The 2011 National Chapter Conference held at the Crowne Plaza New Orleans March 10-13, 2011, is a great way to acquire the skills needed to run a successful USA Dance chapter.

What do your board members do? Come learn what they should be doing and how to get them enthused about participating in the chapter functions.

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 USA Dance annual 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.

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?



PHOTO BY ROY TENNANT



PHOTO BY JONZ, PDPHOTO.ORG, AND JON SULLIVAN



TOPICS:

- Stan Andrews, National Secretary, will conduct a seminar on “How to Deal with Chapter Conflicts.” Dealing with difficult situations and learning how to make them go away peacefully can be a trial that most every chapter may have at some time. Do you know how to handle it?
- Angela Prince, our Director of Public Relations, will speak on understanding the PR role of USA Dance, maximizing good PR for your chapter, successful social media strategies, and the best practices for your chapter.
- Bill Rose, Senior VP, will show us the guidelines, share the template made for USA Dance chapters and show on building Chapter Websites.
- Bobbi Jo Gamache, Director of Chapter Liaison will instruct on grooming your next president and creating a stronger chapter board.
- Barbara Wally, K12 Director, will show how to motivate and recruit members, and start school dance clubs/programs.
- Esther Freeman, Corporate Treasurer, will teach us how to safeguard the chapter treasury, how to budget, and the importance of sending in your financial and annual reports on time.
- Protecting the USA Dance Logo and Brand.
- Constant Contact will tell us how to create easy, inexpensive newsletters.
- Members of the New Orleans chapter will tell us how they run a successful competition and market to spectators as well as competitors

SCHEDULE:

Plan to arrive on Thursday, March 10, for the Welcome Dance. The Gumbo Chapter has some great plans in store for us providing some N’awleans local flavor.

On Friday we will have seminars all day and ending with an evening dance. Saturday will be a repeat of Friday providing you the opportunity to attend the seminars you may have missed and will be followed by an evening farewell dance once again DJ’d by the Gumbo Chapter.

Sunday after breakfast will be your day to go on one of many tours planned. You may even want to schedule a few extra days to get the feel of the New Orleans charm or travel home and start working on your plans for your chapter.

Full registration includes meals on Friday and Saturday and a one-day registration includes meals for the one day.

Don’t forget—we have travel scholarships available; each chapter represented will receive 50% of the airfare for one chapter representative to attend.

See our website for details on how to register for the conference and arrange hotel accommodations.

—www.usadance.org - Social Dance Events Calendar

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

Jean Krupa

Vice President of Social Dance



the PUBLIC EYE

Angela Prince

USA Dance Announces New Brand Ambassador Program, Pivotal Partnership with Swarovski

USA Dance Inc. proudly announces the signing of Swarovski Elements, the premium brand for the finest crystal elements manufactured by Swarovski, to its new Brand Ambassador Program, a unique and pivotal alliance between two industry leaders, as both partners seek to expand their presence within the fast-growing and emerging dance industry within the United States.

With ballroom dancing and DanceSport soaring in popularity and participation within America and around the world, this pioneering and unique alliance between USA Dance and Swarovski Elements is happening at an important time for both brands.

USA Dance is the National Governing Body for DanceSport in the United States, as designated by the U.S. Olympic Committee and the International

DanceSport Federation (IDSF). USA Dance has become the most recognized brand and representative for both DanceSport and for social and recreational ballroom and latin dancers throughout the country.

USA Dance has 22,000+ members who financially support its national programs, 172 active chapters throughout the USA and an outreach of approximately 200,000 people - ranging from pre-school children to youth and collegiate dancers to adults and seniors.

Since its inception more than 40 years ago, the USA Dance organization and brand, has earned its established leadership position within the industry - one of accepted integrity, resourcefulness, respect, rapidly growing success and awareness within the dance industry, among the major national news/

editorial and tv programming media and within the growing ballroom dance industry and market.

The USA Dance and Swarovski Elements Partnership is customized to the brand and communication needs of both partners to reach their target audiences and to achieve their missions. The program will be immediately implemented with the official debut scheduled for the upcoming USA Dance 2011 National DanceSport Championships in Baltimore, which is scheduled for national television broadcast (date to be announced).

Swarovski Elements and USA Dance have invited 11 Championship-level DanceSport couples to participate in the new Brand Ambassador Program. (Final number to be confirmed.)

Each DanceSport couple will work directly with the best ballroom/latin fashion designers who sign with USA Dance as Participating Sponsors. Each designer will incorporate Swarovski Elements into their designs to create “the ultimate DanceSport fashion”. In turn, each couple will represent USA Dance, Swarovski Elements and their country at home and abroad.

Each new creation will make its official and exclusive debut on the dance floor at the USA Dance 2011 Nationals in Baltimore. Following Nationals, each couple will wear their new DanceSport attire at key



PHOTO COURTESY OF IVOR LEE

events, including the IDSF World Championships, USA Dance NQE's and other events approved by the Brand Sponsorship Team. Couples will also participate in the USA Dance and/or Swarovski Elements promotional programs that would typically involve high-profile photo and video shoots, guest appearances at select Swarovski locations and media interviews.

Swarovski Elements representatives had a booth at the upcoming Manhattan Amateur Classic, a USA Dance National Qualifying Event, in New York City, and also officially announced their new program, inviting athletes, officials, fashion designers, other dance industry VIP's and select NY media to attend.



USA DANCE
DANCING for AMERICA.

MADE WITH
SWAROVSKI
ELEMENTS

Other details and benefits of the new Brand Ambassador Program will be announced throughout 2011.

This new alliance with Swarovski Elements was negotiated by USA Dance National Directors Doug Montanus and Angela Prince and will continue

under the supervision of the Executive Council of USA Dance with Ms. Prince as primary liaison.

The USA Dance and Swarovski Elements Brand Ambassador Program is a pivotal alliance for both organizations. For USA Dance, it brings great opportunity for our athletes and our programs.

BEST KEPT SECRET ALMOST OUT OF THE BAG! USA DANCE 2011 National DanceSport Championships in Baltimore to be **NATIONALLY TELEVISED!**



JOHN GAYLAN & ALEXANDRA GUTKOVICH/MAREK KLEPADLO AND ANGELIKA DECHNIK/TARAS SAVITSKY & LAIR LAWN
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARSON ZULLINGER

That the USA DANCE 2011 National DanceSport Championships will be filmed for national broadcast is no longer our best kept secret! In fact, the contract between USA Dance Inc and a television network is a historic milestone for DanceSport, not only for USA Dance, but for the industry as well.

A chance to show the world the talent America brings to the dance floor, to tell our athlete's journeys, our organization's mission and role in DanceSport. . .we couldn't be more excited!!

But if you recall, this is actually the 2nd time the USA Dance Nationals has been televised, first by CN8, The Comcast Network in Baltimore in 2008. Although the Comcast program aired several times, the Championship DanceSport program primarily aired throughout the East Coast to its cable

subscribers and was only available as a live stream to viewers online throughout the U.S.

Our experience with Comcast was most positive and we had hoped for broadcast of Nationals in 2009, but Comcast sports was undergoing changes and the program wasn't picked up that year.

The next part of the "secret" is that the contract we've signed is for three years AND includes opportunity for four of our National Qualifying Events to also be aired nationally. For Nationals it will be 2011 in Baltimore, 2012 in Baltimore and 2013 in Los Angeles!

The final part of the secret is that USA Dance can't announce the television network . . . not yet. The network will announce soon! ■

We want to hear from your chapter!

SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS

and Swarovski North America are delighted to announce a brand partnership alliance with USA Dance, Inc. Through this sparkling alliance, Swarovski's renowned premium brand for the finest crystal elements will sponsor an elite group of top ranking DanceSport couples at the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships in April 2011.... As part of the agreement, Swarovski will work together with leading costume designers to create costumes and accessories with SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS that will be worn by the elite group at the championship event, a high profile gala that reflects the thriving renaissance in ballroom dancing.



WWW.SWAROVSKI-ELEMENTS.COM

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 considered for an upcoming issue.

When submitting, please keep in mind the following:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Articles should be a maximum of 175 words

High quality, digital photos relating to the event at 600 dpi or higher

Accurate photo caption, or names of persons (left to right).

Name of photographer for photo credit

Send submissions and questions to :

office@americandancer.org

BY: IVOR LEE

Milestones: The Rhode Island Special Olympics Team

A symphony of colors washed over the bus carrying the Rhode Island Special Olympians through Times Square. Outside of the bus, the pack and crush of tourists and New Yorkers alike meandered through the streets of the square. A thousand points of camera flash insignificant in the glow of LCD screens, moving billboards, and movie trailers from the buildings all around—a night in the life at the “Crossroads of the World.” To the 12 Olympians and 12 volunteers inside of the bus, it was a night they would never forget.

“It’s a dream come true,” said one athlete.

The athletes stared out of the bus windows with faces that spoke of equal parts wonder and delight. The team was in New York for an audition for Paula Abdul’s new dance show “Live to Dance” which aired on TV at the time of

publication. The team did extraordinary well, acing the first round of the audition before falling just short in the second round. Yet the trip was as much about the show as it was about the association and relationships between volunteers and athletes that has changed lives.

Since then the RI Special Olympics team has been all over the place, making a TV appearances including Rhode Island’s own Special Olympic Channel. The team even has plans to perform at the Eastern United States DanceSport Championship in January.

The Special Olympics team was also the main performance for Rhode Island’s K&S Christmas party. At the party the athletes took the initiative and asked people to dance with them. To understand the significance of this, one must understand, for a moment, what it’s like to be a parent of a child with special needs.

Many parents of special needs children don’t get to see the life milestones that we take for granted—a first date, a football game, prom, graduation—so for the parents of these Special Olympians watching their children formation dance on TV or ask people to dance, it’s a moment of the profoundest pride.

Even something simple like giving flowers—an experience taken for granted—are miracles for individuals with special needs. Volunteer John Montalvo gave his Special Olympic partner red roses, blowing her away—it was her first time receiving flowers.

“[The team] changed the way I see things, I don’t sweat the small stuff anymore,” said Montalvo. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEE SOARES

World Latin



FINALIST AMERICAN COUPLE
VALENTIN CHERMERKOVSKIY
AND DARIA CHESNOKOVA

ALL PHOTOS BY IVOR LEE

BY: IVOR LEE

The last notes of the Paso Doble echo through the room and a feral, almost predatory smile flashes across Valentin Chmerkovskiy's face before making eye contact with his partner Daria Chesnokova. As one of the final six, they had just danced their last solo of the finishing round of the IDSF World Championships Latin. They approach the crowd and the judges to make their bows. The standing room only crowd explodes into chants of "USA! USA! USA!" A fan tweets a whistle over the calls; another fan clangs a cowbell to the shouting rhythm. Giving them a brief but appreciative nod, he extends his



OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE NORTH.
TENTH PLACE CANADIAN COUPLE
ANTON BELYAYEV AND ANTOANETA POPOVA

hand to his partner and leads her off the floor to wait out the other dancers—showing no emotion until off stage.

The American fans weren't the only ones out in force. At a table at the edge of the floor two Austrian flags stand out from the centerpiece, a subtle yet poignant reminder to the dancers national pride. In the risers ten German flags wave. The white blue and red stripes of a Russian flag over the edge of another table; when the Russians take the floor a cheering match erupts between Russian fans and American fans. On the Croatian's turn a section of the crowd in Croatian soccer jerseys shouts encouragement to their couple before the march of the Paso Doble drowns out the cheers.

Competing on the international level is a thing of national pride—more motivation to win than anything else. Of the final six couples, five countries are represented: USA, Russia, Croatia, Italy and Denmark. To the Russian, Croatian and Dutch dancers, this is a repeat of 2009's finals and a possible chance to rewrite history and change their previous placings. For Russian couple Alexey Silde and Anna Firstova, this is the moment to defend their world title.

As each couple takes the floor, the intensity of each solo increases—passion for the Rhumba, fire for the Paso Doble. As each couple takes the floor they glare fierce eyes and flourish excited hands through the rumble of

bass, the glimmer of lights. As each couple takes the floor the crowd becomes increasingly mesmerized. Their faces are equal parts excitement and anticipation, knowing that the inevitable end is coming and a new world champion must be chosen.

When all of the couples return to the ballroom floor for the final dance of the night, everyone in the room knows that after the next minute and a half, the biggest ballroom competition the United States has seen will come to a close.

Red, white, and blue lights crawl across the floor, gliding in between and over the couples. The music of high speed shutters. Judges line the edge of the floor. Like so many heats before, the dancers are a swish of fabric, a slash of sequins, a punctuation of shoes. Each arm gesture, kick of the leg is a testimony of power and endurance. But they are more than just that too. They dance with each other, between each other, around each other—the final six and the best the world has to offer.

On November 13th 2010 New York City and USA Dance played host to the 2010 IDSF World Championships Latin, one of the world's premier DanceSport events. 77 couples from 45 countries descended on the big apple for the first world competition in years held on the continental United States.

In traditional IDSF fashion, the competition began with the parade of athletes: led by a young child carrying their country's flag, each couple marched out to the dance floor to cheering and applause. As the competition began, dancers had to pass through round after round of heats revealing one truth about all competitions: there is a definite difference in dancer's abilities.

"It was amazing to be on the floor with some of these dancers," said Patricia Joffe of Ecuador. "I couldn't believe that I was dancing on the same floor with some of the DanceSport athletes I had only ever seen Youtube videos of."

For Patricia Joffe and her partner Luis Avalos, the 2010 World Championship was a first on many levels. Joffe and Avalos are one of two couples from Ecuador, the first country from South America to compete at the IDSF World DanceSport Latin championship.

Coming to North America and the World stage was an eye opening experience for the couple; especially to the world of dance in the United States. "All the competitors here have their own teacher. Many of the studios we visited here in America have the same thing: one couple, one teacher. In Ecuador it's like there's one teacher for the whole country," said Joffe.

Such training hardships made the experience all the more sweet for the Ecuadorian couple. "We are very proud that we could represent our country. We can tell this story to our grandchildren," laughed Avalos.

The feeling was mutual for first-time competitor Given Mabena of South Africa, "I'm so blessed to be here. So blessed. So blessed."

Six couples lined up in front of the podium, their faces neutral, hiding the storm of emotion within. The crowd talks excitedly to each other. Some faces are anticipation, some excitement, some impatience, some unwilling to believe that it was over.

A voice over the din of the crowd: "In sixth place, Martino Zanibellato and

Michelle Abiltrup of Denmark." A twirl, a bow, and the couple walks graciously to the end of the podium. Murmurs of disappointment and a chanting of "Martino! Martino! Martino!"

"In fifth place, Valentin Chmerkovskiy and Daria Chesnokova of USA."

The disappointment is evident on the couple's face. What were small murmurs from the Danish fans erupts into louder grumbling from the fans. "USA! USA! USA!" they still chant amid the occasional shout of "BOO!"



12TH PLACE
AMERICAN COUPLE
RUSLAN AYDAEV AND
VALERIA KOZHARINOVA



1ST PLACE RUSSIAN COUPLE
ALEXEY SILDE AND ANNA FIRSTOVA

“In fourth place, Aniello Langella and Khyrstyna Moshenka of Italy.” Modest applause and the couple takes their place next to the American couple.

The emcee calls out the top three couples and reveals that the final three dancers are the same final three from the year before, even down to placing in the same exact order as before: Russia’s Alexey Silde and Anna Firstova placing first, Croatia’s Zoran Plohl and Tatsiana Lahvinovich in second, and Russia’s Andrey Zaytsev and Anna Kuzminskaya in third.

The day’s results represented a ride of emotions and tension for the defending world champions. “Winning the world championship again is even better than the first time. The first time we had nothing to lose, but this time we have to protect the title. It was mentally more challenging,” said Anna Firstova.

“There was only one place to go last year. This time we could have lost everything we earned,” added Alexey Silde.

Silde and Firstova danced to a first place finish last year in Maribor Slovenia but related that dancing in America in a ballroom was a much more enjoyable experience. “It was nice to dance in a ballroom. When the hall isn’t that big, you can really speak to the public,” said Firstova.

But beyond the dancing and the competition, what stood out to the Russian couple was the camaraderie, the unity of dance resulting in the warm reception by the American fans and event organizers. “Our thanks to all the American people—even though we are Russian, we felt their warmth and their welcome. It made for a very memorable experience,” said Silde. ■

For videos of the event check out <http://idsfworldlatin.wordpress.com/>



Member Organization
of the United States
Olympic Committee

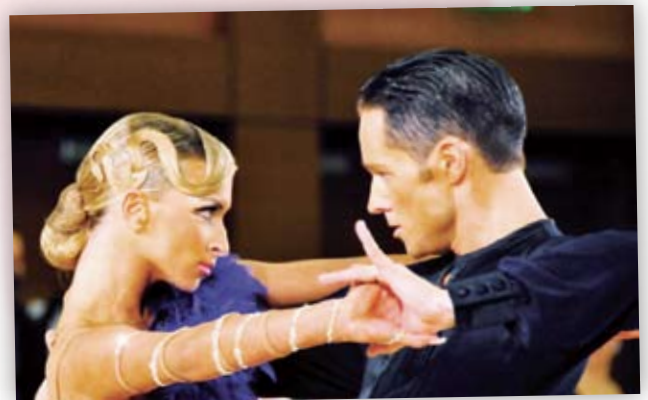
USA DANCE

*The National Governing Body
for DanceSport in the USA*



USA Dance, the official National Governing Body for DanceSport in the United States, is recognized by the USOC, IOC and IDSE. As a 501c3 non-profit organization, USA Dance represents the best interests of DanceSport athletes as well as social dancers throughout the USA. As a democratic, all-volunteer organization, USA Dance is comprised of talented professionals, passionate supporters of dance, and approximately 175 fast-growing chapters. USA Dance is dedicated to promoting the quality and quantity of ballroom dancing for all and the global movement to bring DanceSport into the Olympics.

- ◆ USA Member Organization of the USOC.
- ◆ USA Member Organization of the IDSE.
- ◆ Recognized by the USOC and the International Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for DanceSport in the USA.
- ◆ 25,000 members providing financial support.
- ◆ Reaching 200,000 dancers in the USA.
- ◆ Organizer of the Official National DanceSport Championships in the United States, where the USA's official World Teams are selected.
- ◆ Providing USA World Teams annual support of more than \$65,000.
- ◆ Organizer of the National Collegiate DanceSport Challenge at the Ohio Star Ball.
- ◆ Organizer of the Special Olympics DanceSport Championships.
- ◆ Organizer of the First-Annual USA Dance National Dance Cruise, involving 400+ Social Dancers from 35 states as well as Canada and Mexico.
- ◆ Publisher of American Dancer Magazine.





ISDF Worlds

BY: IVOR LEE AND ERICA COLVIN

Standard

On November 27, 2010 Wetzlar, Germany played host to the ISDF World Dancesport Championship Standard. There, American couples Igor Mikushov and Margaret Midura, and Pasha Pashkov and Daniella Karagach danced to 38th and 60th place finishes in a field of 71 dancers. A great result in a highly competitive field. ■

IGOR MIKUSHOV & MARGARET MIDURA
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARSON ZULLINGER





PASHA PASHKOV & DANIELLA KARAGACH
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARSON ZULLINGER

Ten Dance

By: Erica Colvin

As current United States 10-Dance champions, Pasha Pashkov and Daniella Karagach have recently waltzed and jived across Korea, Austria and Germany as they represent our country among the world's top dancers.

Their successful partnership began January 2009 and is an inspiration to Latin and Standard dancers alike. As 10-Dance competitors, Pasha and Daniella train and compete in the Standard dances of waltz, tango, Viennese waltz, quickstep, and foxtrot as well as the Latin dances of cha cha, samba, rumba, jive and paso doble. Daniella is the youngest U.S. competitor to hold the title of 10-Dance Champion.

"It is always great traveling abroad; we are able to contend with the world's top dancers," Daniella said. "We learn from each trip and return home with the drive to work harder and push ourselves more."

Equally, Pasha shared, "It is always interesting to see other cultures, and learn how we are different. But the most exciting part is the opportunity to compete against the top couples in the world. It pushes us to reach our personal best level of performance." Jet lag, Pasha assured, also becomes less of a challenge over time.

With two years of hard work, Pasha and Daniella have earned the top position on the podium of our US 10-Dance competitors. Daniella credited this to their passion for dance, respect for each other, and their willingness to work hard to achieve their dreams.

"The most important concept of any partnership is communication," Pasha said. And with that communication they continually choose to focus on their growth as dancers instead of competition placements.

Pasha also attributed their success to the fact that the goals of both partners match. Then, "there needs to be a plan on how to achieve those goals. Both need to commit to this plan. The 3 'D's for us are: Devotion. Dedication. Determination."

Pasha and Daniella also feel lucky to work with incredible coaches, who are their inspiration. With a new year beginning, "Pasha and I have many goals," Daniella said. "By attending more international competitions, we intend to become stronger and better dancers."

Pasha also shared his resolutions, "In 2011, I'd like to focus on growth and reaching our personal potential. I'd like to be the best dancer and performer I can possibly be."

Both Pasha and Daniella look forward to "working very hard to turn our dreams into reality." ■

Senior I Latin

At the IDSF Senior I Latin World Championship in Salou, Spain, the Senior I event was THE marquee event, and everyone in attendance was, in fact, there to watch the seniors dance. Spectators arrived in force, sporting huge flags and banners, jerseys bearing their countries' colors and most important of all, their voices as they cheered on their country.

"The crowd was very enthusiastic. They cheered like it was a world event," said Tom Chu.

American couples Isran Tisnabudi and Cami Tisnabudi and Tom Chu and Olga Rogachevskaya Chu danced to respective 22nd and 29th place finishes—a fantastic result in a competition loaded with talent. Outside of 51 of the world's best competitors, event planners successfully juggled



TOM CHU & OLGA ROGACHEVSKAYA/ISRAN TISNABUDI & CAMI FLEHARTY
PHOTO COURTESY OF ISRAN TISNABUDI

the Spanish Open with the Senior I event, and paid attention to details: a quality floor, spotlights for the semi-final and final rounds, all to make the event feel more than just professional, but an event of world caliber.

World caliber dancing extends beyond extreme dancing ability, but also encompasses the best in manners and collectedness. "Some dancers that bumped into us apologized once we were off the floor," said Chu. Dancers in the senior division tend to be a lot calmer than their counterparts in the "younger" divisions.

Being a world level competitor also entails an untold story that breaks the mould of ordinary. American Dancers Tom Chu and Olga Rogachevskaya Chu are an example of this, having danced together for eight years, starting from the bronze level, competitions, Nationals, marriage and arriving now at the world level. Much of the same is true for Isran Tisnabudi and his wife Cami who made their second appearance at a world event. The road is hard to compete at worlds, and not without its share of stress.

"We knew from the previous world's who would be in the final. The difficult part was keeping a clear head and focus, dancing our very best and to their level. We had to block out external distractions, focus on ourselves and be mentally prepared—physically prepared," said Cami Tisnabudi.

"We left everything out there," said Olga Rogachevskaya Chu, "We did our best."

For the American couples, they wouldn't have been able to do much without support from USA Dance. "We're grateful that they see us as important enough to send us out there. We're grateful for the chance to compete and represent our country," said Isran Tisnabudi. ■



ISRAN TISNABUDI & CAMI FLEHARTY
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROB RONDA

HEARTLAND

BY: NANCY DEW & MARVIN BECHTEL

Classic

After two years of financial difficulty with local and regional National Qualifying Event competitions brought on by the economy downturn, we had a very successful competition October 2-3, 2010. 241 competitors and 320 spectators attended the 2-day event.

Dan Calloway acted as chairman of the judges and the adjudicators were Tim Bourget, Tommye Giacchino, Rauno Ilo, Kristiina Ilo, Steve McFerran, Susan McFerran, Kimberly Mitchell, and Bill Sparks. Bob & Margo Martin were master of ceremonies & assistant again. Len Diana was scrutineer. The Indianapolis Marriott East served as an excellent venue with a 12,000 square foot ballroom. Indiana Challenge Portable Dance Floors provided an excellent seamless 40' x 68' hardwood floor. We presented 28 scholarships for over \$2,600 and 29 people attended concurrent workshops by Kristiina Ilo and Bill Sparks.

The Heartland Board of Directors, faced with another difficult year, put together a team to manage the 2010 event. The objective was to reverse the loss of income and set new goals. The Team was headed up by Organizers Larry Gogel & Ron Wright, Registration by Suresh Nair, Events Treasurer/Facilities by Marvin Bechtel, Vendor-Judges-Awards & Program by Nancy Dew, Door Operation by Marvin/Greta Bechtel & Chris

Hayes, Check-in Desk by Ron/Helen Wright, Linda/Joe Lanning; & additional volunteers were Angela Roberts, Rodger/Amy Greenawalt, Margret/Terry Yen, John Graves and the Board of Directors plus many others too numerous to mention. There were agreements, disagreements, some mistakes and many long hours to make the things happen.

By the time the event ended, we exceeded the budgeted income—more competitors and spectators, and an increase in donation, scholarship and vendor income. Expenses remained about the same. The Indianapolis Marriott East deserves a big thank you for their help in making it all possible. The team was surprised to find out that what we hoped to accomplish was exceeded by a huge margin, instead of \$2,000 profit, we ended with \$11,000 or a net of 28%. The results just about covered the losses from the past two events. Our next event is scheduled for the latter part of 2012. ■

The Heartland Chapter and all the people who made the 2010 Heartland Classic possible deserve a big “Well Done.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TIM MCGHEE

News from your DanceSport Anti-Doping Chair

BY: JEAN BARBOUR
USA DANCE ANTI-DOPING CHAIR

As a DanceSport Council member, I am charged with protecting the right of DanceSport Athletes to compete healthy and clean, providing education to meet the standards of the Code and providing deterrence and preservation of the True Sport concept for our DanceSport Athletes, Adjudicators, Officials and Trainers.

All Athletes, Officials, Managers, Trainers and other Participants must agree to and comply with the provisions of the current version of The Code (IDSF Anti-Doping Code). It is the personal responsibility of all participants subject to the provisions of The Code to ensure that he/she does not use or allow the use of any prohibited substance or prohibited method. In order to participate in our National Competition, all athletes and adjudicators are required to sign the Form of Consent, which is part of The Code. It is important to note that the Organizer of the competition must refuse entrance of any athlete or adjudicator

that has not completed and signed the Form of Consent.

At the National Competition level, prior to check in with the registrar, both members of the partnership must complete and sign the Form of Consent, in person, with the anti-doping official on site. In the case of a minor athlete, a parent or designated guardian must also sign the Form of Consent. Once the Form of Consent is completed by both members of the partnership, the registrar may then complete the registration process and issue the competitor number.

More information can be found in section 4.4 of the DanceSport Rulebook, edition 13, found on the USA Dance website.

Explore the following web sites to further your understanding of Anti-Doping Controls at USA Dance Competitions.

[www.USADance.Org/
DanceSport](http://www.USADance.Org/DanceSport)

United States Anti-Doping Agency
www.USADA.org

World Anti-Doping Agency
www.WADA-AMA.org

International DanceSport Federation
www.IDSF.net

Respectfully,

Jean Barbour,

Anti-Doping Chair
USA Dance, Inc. ■

USA DANCE NORTHWEST DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY: LAUREL PRESTON, NWDSC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBER



The Seattle Chapter of USA Dance welcomed over 300 competitors from 19 states and one Canadian province to the Northwest DanceSport Championships held on October 23-24, 2010, a National Qualifying Event. Autumn comes late in Seattle, so this was the perfect week to enjoy the brilliant leaf colors. The airport Hilton hotel venue was elegant and its staff went out of their way to take care of their guests.

Early on, our committee put a priority on having a high quality judging panel and this year was proud to book these judges: Dan Calloway-Chair, Jeanette Ball, Glen Brennan, Stephen Cullip, Wendi Davies, Neil Gilligan, Tom Hicks, Anya Klimova-Preston, Elizabeth Knoll, Michael Mead, Toni Redpath and Maja Serve.

This was our first year with the new rule requiring competitors to dance in the exact event they wish to enter at Nationals, so we noticed more couples dancing in multiple events to preserve their options. Thanks to our donors, \$3725 in scholarships were awarded.

Our region has an active program of training, competition and other

activities for young dancers; so our events for young people are well attended and a pleasure to watch. National champions Nathan Murstein & Polina Dickenson and Erik Linder & Rickie Taylor competed and displayed amazing skill and poise, garnering 1sts in all their events. Now that the "Dancing Classrooms" program (pioneered by Pierre Dulaine) for 5th graders has started in our area, I'm sure we can expect even more growth in our young competitor events.

Vancouver, BC, Canada boasts a huge dance community with many fine coaches and competitors and is only a 3 hour drive from Seattle. We were happy to welcome Vancouver favorites, Zillion Wong and Sarah Liang, who won the Championship Standard event with skill and style.

I think organizers everywhere are noticing the growth in the senior events. The Senior I Championship Standard event was one of the highlights of the competition for me...an excellent field of competitors dancing with poise and intelligence that only years of competitive experience can give.

Co-organizers Michele Boyer and Daryl Schmidt and the rest of the organizing committee offer their sincere thanks to everyone who attended, competed, donated and especially volunteered! And don't forget to mark your calendar now for next year's event on October 22-23, 2011 at the SeaTac Hilton and Convention Center. It promises to be a spectacular event! ■

PLANNING EXCITING CHANGES FOR NEXT YEAR!

As soon as the dust settled from the 2010 competition, our organizing committee reconvened to debrief and plan some exciting changes for next year. Our concept is to present a blockbuster evening on Saturday night with our most popular events which we will market to the max. Our goal is standing room only that night. Championship Latin and the Senior I Championship Standard and Latin events will move to Saturday night. This will have the added benefit of allowing these competitors to participate without having to take an extra day off work or dance on the Sabbath. We're also going to eliminate the usual Sunday morning seminars in favor of ending the event earlier on Sunday. At this time, we anticipate that we'll probably be done by about 5pm that day. Saturday daytime will continue to feature events for young people, as this has proven to be a very popular formula. Look for these and other announcements on our website at www.nwdsc.org in the coming months. And speaking of our website...that will be changing too.

Many of our best ideas have come from suggestions, so if you'd like to pass on any of your own ideas, please send them to lapreston@earthlink.net.

A VERY *Classy* FALL

JANIS MERLUZZO-VICE PRESIDENT-WHITE SANDS

#6012 SARASOTA CHAPTER

Sunday morning 8:30 AM and the Bronze Smooth heats were about to start. Marie Crowder walked into the ballroom and smiled. The ballroom was three quarters full of spectators cheering for the competitors. Day or night, there was a great audience for the competitors to dance to. "When you are a competitor, that's important!" said Marie. Guests and competitors to the Carolina Fall Classic DanceSport Championship arrived to a sense of the spectacular—changing leaves in the architecture of downtown Greensboro, North Carolina, tiered seating of the venue, a huge welcome banner over the staircase leading up to the ballroom, spectators, friends, competitors, vendors and volunteers—on the weekend of October 22-24.

Planned out a year in advance, a staff of over 50 volunteers helped make the event a success. "Whether you needed a sewing kit, someone to help you change costumes, a snack, a glass of water, someone to guard your luggage, the volunteers were everywhere waiting to help," said Flo Jackson, Heartland Chapter member and competitor. This level of efficiency could even be found in the way the competition ran. Comments such as the following came pouring in: "The level of dancing was quite high and I was very impressed with the dancers." "This event is a delight. We so enjoy the hospitality in the South and Southeast. Marie and Wayne Crowder run this competition. We will return year-after-year," and "I wanted to say "thank you" for organizing such a tremendous event. We enjoyed the wonderful hospitality and outstanding competition. The Carolina Fall Classic is a fixture on our dance competition calendar!"

A good mix of college students and adults at the Classic added an electrifying energy to the event. Entries were up 35% from the previous year and

\$5500.00 was awarded in scholarships. As an emcee for the event, Yang Chen had a unique perspective on the event. "There is a whirlwind of activity up at the podium, not unlike the movement that is taking place on the floor. And like good dancing, you should never see the work that goes behind it; you should only see the result, which, if I am doing my job, should appear easy and seamless."

It is that attention to detail that organizers and four-time USA Dance Latin Champions Wayne and Marie Crowder put into creating, designing the spectacular performance that took place over the weekend.

Mark your calendar now! The Carolina Fall Classic Dancesport Championship is not to be missed! October 21-23, 2011 in Greensboro, NC. ■

JONATHAN MEDLIN AND MALIN J. ALLERT
PHOTO COURTESY OF WAYNE CROWDER





COMPETITION CALENDAR

Events listed with the * do not accrue proficiency points

January 29, 2011

Quest For The Best

Seattle, WA

January 29, 2011

Boston Ballroom Cup

Sheraton Hotel, Needham, MA

February 19, 2011

2011 Phoenix DanceSport Challenge - NQE

Phoenix, AZ

February 25-26, 2011

Gem State Classic

Rexburg, ID

February 25-26, 2011

Youth Cabaret and Formation-Showdance National Championships

Rexburg, ID

Competitions noted as "NQE" are National Qualifying Events for the 2011 National DanceSport Championships.

look for future event updates at

[http://usadance.org/dancesport/
competition-calendar/](http://usadance.org/dancesport/competition-calendar/)

February 26-27, 2011

Mid-Atlantic DanceSport Championships - NQE

Washington, DC

March 26, 2011

Steel City Classic DanceSport

Pittsburgh, PA

April 8-10, 2011

2011 National DanceSport Championship

Baltimore, MD

July 8-9, 2011

Desert Classic - IDSF Open Latin & Open Standard

Palm Desert, CA

Sep 1 - 4, 2011

Embassy Ball - IDSF Grand Slam Latin & Standard and Senior Standard Open

Irvine, CA

look for future collegiate event updates on FaceBook

sign onto FaceBook, click on "Groups,"
and type in "USA Dance Competitions"

DANCE LIKE A CHAMPION

EAT LIKE A CHAMPION

BY: SALLY MEINTS

Competition day has arrived. After training hard and practice, will you have the energy and stamina to be the best you can be?

My partner and I take our physical conditioning and nutrition seriously—we have to. Competitive dancers must stay in peak condition if they want the best results possible. This doesn't mean hoping you'll have enough energy to make it through the event.

While practice is important to success on the dance floor, living a lifestyle of feeding your body high quality fuel every day is just as important. The foods you eat daily will prepare you for competition day. Good nutrition allows you to train harder, longer and more frequently. You will be sharper, more focused and even in a better mood.

Good Nutrition

Good nutrition is clean eating. The eating of whole, unprocessed, natural foods is a lifestyle of the right combinations of healthy carbohydrates, proteins and fats, drinking water while eliminating processed foods. It's eating frequently to keep your body fueled and metabolizing all day long to burn fat and calories.

Competition Day

Eat small, easily digestible, familiar foods frequently throughout the day. Snacking is the best idea—making sure it contains protein, fats and most importantly quality carbohydrates. Snacks help you maintain energy, delay fatigue and keep blood sugar boosted. Blood sugar is like fuel in a car. You wouldn't begin a long trip on an empty tank, hoping to reach your destination. You would refuel your car throughout the trip.





Be well hydrated before your event. Daily hydration is as important as good nutrition. In fact, many people walk around in a semi-dehydrated state most of the time. On competition day, you may need more than water. A high quality sports drink containing carbohydrates and electrolytes before and during your competition will keep you powered up and hydrated. Have your last drink 15 minutes before your heat and then drink 4 to 8 ounces regularly or at 15 minute intervals. If you wait until you're thirsty, you are already dehydrated. Dehydration and low energy will quickly and severely diminish your performance. After the competition, a liquid carbohydrate drink containing protein will speed up recovery. During practices, experiment with different foods and drinks and find what works for you.

On competition day you should have three nutritional goals:

- Keep your same healthy nutritional program.
- Avoid foods that make you feel uncomfortable.
- Maintain blood sugar levels by eating healthy carbohydrates frequently.
- Hydrate before, during and after the event.

The Bottom Line

Learn good nutrition and the strategies of “clean eating” and make it your lifestyle. Proper nutrition, stress management and rest must be a priority every day. Properly hydrate and energize your body on competition day and you will be the best you can be! ■

Sally Meints is a certified fitness nutrition specialist, certified personal trainer and a USA Dance DanceSport competitor.



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Qualifying Events for USA Dance 2011 National DanceSport Championships



Patryk Ploszaj & Anna Kaczmarek
Photo by: Carson Zullinger

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February 19, 2011

Mid-Atlantic DanceSport
Championships
Washington, DC
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Baltimore, MD
Apr 8 - 10, 2011

Desert Classic - IDSF Open Latin
& Open Standard Championships
Palm Desert, CA
Jul 8 - 9, 2011

Columbia Star Ball
Portland, OR
May 7 - 8, 2011

Gumbo Dancesport
Championships
Baton Rouge, LA
June 17 - 18, 2011

For More Information visit www.usadance.org

THE BEST OF EDUCATION

BY: IVOR LEE



PHOTOS BY AIMEE FISHER

Collegiate-aged dancers from all corners of the country arrived in Columbus, Ohio on November 20-21, 2010 for the biggest National Collegiate Challenge in years. With more than 850 students in attendance, this year's NCC proved to be a fantastic experience for the collegiate dancers and a huge success. The competition featured new Collegiate Director, Doug Montanus, and new registrar, Joy Watts.



University of Michigan returned as reigning champions and successfully defended their title in a hotly contested team dance. Each school sent their best on the dance floor to compete for the title, but the U of M held strong in the end, winning the Sam Sodano prize money. Next year's competition promises to be even more rewarding for schools as the purse will be split into first, second, and third place awards.

The second formation dance championship brought in new competitors: Utah Valley University and UC San Diego. Claremont colleges returned to dance Latin this year. UVU claimed the standard title, while UCSD claimed the Latin title.





Chris Witt, UVU Ballroom Dance Program Coordinator offered this perspective:

“When the Utah Valley University Department of Dance decided to send their Gold Team to the NCC, we weren’t quite sure what to expect. This was the first time that UVU has ever sent one of our back-up ballroom dance teams to a competition outside of Utah. Normally that is left to our Tour Team, but we thought that this experience would provide them with valuable experience and help them prepare to join the Tour Team.

“UVU has four performing teams which vary in skill level from beginning (Bronze Team), intermediate (Silver Team), advanced (Gold Team), and competitive (Tour Team). Continuing the momentum created by the Tour Team’s recent performance on “Dancing with the Stars”, we thought we would give this challenge to the Gold Team.

“The team danced beautifully and represented UVU amazingly well. I was so proud of each of them. The hours of rehearsal paid off when they got on the dance floor and performed with such precision, energy, and joy.

“Students are able to learn by engaging in real-world experiences outside of the classroom or the studio in events like the NCC. They receive valuable knowledge and experience that will make them more successful in the dance field and better representatives of UVU.

“We hope to attend the event next year to defend our title.” ■



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North Carolina Ballroom Teachers College, Raleigh, NC

Contact: Jillian Hood ph: 276-614-4595 email: info@ncballroomdancecollege.com website: www.ncballroomdancecollege.com The North Carolina Ballroom Teachers College offers a series of four sessions, each lasting 4 months that teaches the lead, follow and teaching method for the American Bronze DVIDA syllabus: 4 Smooth, 8 Rhythm and 5 Nightclub Dances. The course prepares candidates for the DVIDA professional certification exams.

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I am currently looking for a dance partner for competitive practice and competitions! Looking for someone who has been dancing at least five years and likes competitive-style dancing. Lori Talbott pink-dancer@comcast.net 206-304-2112 Seattle, Wa.

Sharon Ramsay, Southern Tier NY Chapter 3011, ID#: 135444 seeks male dance partner (5ft 11in to 6ft 5in) for Latin dances at socials, chapter functions, or competition (if partner is so bold). Willing to dance with beginner, pro, or social dancer. Email smr2159@gmail.com or call 607-656-4859.

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