

# WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY NEWS

*Summer*

*2013*

*Written by*

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*Circus*

*Diving*

*Gymnastics*

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## The World Acrobatics Society Adds More Legends of the Circle Ring of Fame in Sarasota

**John Ringling** used elephants from his **Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus** to help haul the big wood timbers for building the Ringling Causeway from Sarasota to **St. Armand's Key** in 1917. He personally lead a parade over the finished Causeway. That was 96 years ago. When the Depression struck, Ringling gave Armand's Key to the City of Sarasota. Why was St. Armand's in the shape of a circle? Ringling envisioned a circus ring development with a shopping center and residential homes. Beginning 1987, the **Circle Ring of Fame** began inducting exceptional circus performers placing a circus wheel and a bronze plaque on a concrete base for each inductee around the perimeter of the park in the center of the St. Armand's Circle. By 2013 111 circus performers and troupes have been inducted into the Circle Ring of Fame.

Many gymnasts, trampolinists, and acrobats who attended the **Amateur Athletic Union Florida Gymnastic Clinic** from the year 1951 through 1978 have been on **St. Armand's Circle** on their way to **Lido Beach** for Press Day of the Florida Gymnastic Clinic. I had the pleasure of attending first in 1960 and I served as the NGC women's program director during the last two years of 1977 and 1978. How many of us went shopping or ate dinner on St. Armand's Circle? The old draw bridge over Sarasota Bay that always seemed to be up was replaced with the new John Ringling Bridge about 10 years ago. Above is the bronze induction plaque and circus wheel of trapeze artist **Tony Steele** who is a **2004 World Acrobatics Society Legend**. The **Tito Gaona (2001 WAS Legend) and Family** plaque is also there. Tito's youngest brother **Richie Gaona** is a 2013 WAS Legend. Individual plaques for **Dolly Jacobs** and **Pedro Reis**, 2013 WAS Legends and Circus Sarasota founders are also there. St. Armand Circle today remains one of the popular tourist destinations in Florida and the Circle Ring of Fame reminds us of the greatest circus performers in history.

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Besides **Cirque des Voix**, the **Sailor Circus**, the winter tent circus at **Smith Field**, and a few other annual circus presentations, **Circus Sarasota** brings its annual summer circus to the historic **Asolo Theatre** on the Ringling Museum property just off US 41 and the University Parkway in Sarasota. **Ca' d'Zan**, the "Venetian gothic" 56 room winter home of John and Mabel Ringling; the 100 year old 27,000 square foot **Rose Garden** featuring 1,164 roses of 317 varieties; the 36,000 square foot art museum containing over 10,000 pieces of art; the **Circus Museum** contains the **Howard Miniture Circus**; the **Mertz Theatre**, that was the former **Durfermline Opera House** imported from Scotland in 1990; and the Asolo Theatre, are all on the Ringling property. The **Asolo Theatre** was built in 1798 near Venice, Italy in the audience hall of the Queen of Cyprus, Caterina Cornaro. It was built with four tiers and modeled after famous **La Fenice Opera House** of Venice. Asolo was the home theatre of Italian actor Eleonora Duse. The theatre was dismantled and stored in Italy in 1930. The Ringling Museum curator bought the theatre and reconstructed it in a modern setting on the Ringling property.

This year's summer circus featured six acts: **Steve Smith**, the Master of Ceremonies Clown; Texas **Jack Albright**, a rope trick artist; magician and illusionist, **Rafael Palacios** and assistant **Julia Jacob Barreda**; silent comedian, **Robb Zeiser**; "Duo Romanesc," **Anthony Congdon** and **Ian Laidlaw**; and **Dolly Jacobs**, CEO of Circus Sarasota and Monaco Circus Silver Clown recipient. Tickets are only \$10.00 for children and \$15.00 for adults.



Dolly Jacobs and Pedro Reis  
2013 WAS Legends



Granddaughter Samantha  
with Anthony and Ian



Dolly Jacobs - Dame de Cirque



Anthony Congdon and Ian Laidlaw  
"Duo Romanesc"



Rafael Palacios and Julia Jacob Barreda visit with Rita and  
Samantha after the show at the Asolo



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## WAS GALLERY OF LEGENDS AT THE DIVING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BARCELONA, SPAIN – 2013



(From Left to Right) Todd ('13) and Patti Smith, Carol and Don ('04) Leas, Christina ('13) Seufert Shotis, Fran and Tom ('00) Gompf, and Steve ('10) McFarland

### USA DIVERS PLACEMENT IN THE 2013 FINA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Platform	Silver Medal	David Boudia
Men's 3 meter Synchronized	Fifth	Michael Hixon & Troy Dumais
Women's 3 meter Synchronized	Seventh	Amanda Burke & Samantha Pickens
Women's Platform Synchronized	Seventh	Cheyenne Cousineau & Samantha Bromberg
Men's Platform Synchronized	Tenth	Toby Stanley & David Bonuchi
Women's 10 meter Platform	Tenth	Victoria Lamp
Men's 3 meter	Tenth	Christian Ipsen
Women's 1 meter	Eleventh	Deidre Freeman
Women's 3 meter	Eleventh	Maren Taylor

### USA DIVERS PLACEMENT IN THE 2013 WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES KAZAN, RUSSIA

Women's Team	Silver Medal	
Women's three-meter Synchronized	Bronze Medal	Meghan Houston & Laura Ryan

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**Dick Albershardt, 2003 World Acrobatics Society Trampoline Legend**, was inducted into the **Indiana Gymnastics Hall of Fame** July 13 at the Athenaeum Turners in Indianapolis, Indiana. Dick attended Shortridge High School in Indianapolis and Indiana University in Bloomington. He won IU's only gymnastics National Collegiate Athletic Association Title on Trampoline in 1955. Albershardt went on to develop a professional trampoline act and became the Harlem Globetrotter's halftime show for five seasons. Albershardt's show business career took him to 49 states and 30 foreign countries. Dick made numerous appearances on the television shows of the day including the Ed Sullivan Show five times, the Arlene Francis Show, and the Bob Hope Christmas Special. Albershardt accompanied Bob Hope two times to Vietnam to entertain the United States forces.

**Grete Treiber**, Indiana State University longtime women's gymnastics team coach, 1972 US University Games Coach to Torino, Italy, and Olympic Games and Pan American Games gymnastics team manager and **Betty Heppner**, Arsenal Tech High School graduate, Central Normal College graduate and long time USGF administrator and gymnastics judge completed the induction class of 2013.

2013 was the second year of inductions of the Indiana Gymnastics Hall of Fame. Athenaeum Turners houses the induction plaque that also includes the 2012 class of Olympians **Muriel Grossfeld**, **Sandra Ruddick John**, and **Jaycee Phelps**, Pan American Games gold medalist **Terry Spencer Corcoran**, Athenaeum Turners Coach **Walter Lienert** and **Coaches Teresa and Byron Holden**.



## Artistic Gymnastics News Provided by USA Gymnastics

INDIANAPOLIS, August 29, 2013 – The International Gymnastics Federation has released the competition draw for the 2013 World Gymnastics Championships, September 30 - October 6, in Antwerp, Belgium. This year's World Championships is an individual event championships, which means there is not a team event, and each country may enter three athletes in each event.

Here's the USA's draw for the qualification round, the noted event is where the U.S. athlete will begin competition.

- **Men** – Subdivision 1, starts on parallel bars; Subdivision 3, parallel bars; Subdivision 4, floor exercise
- **Women** – Subdivision 1, vault; Subdivision 3, uneven bars; Subdivision 4, floor exercise.

The competition schedule for the World Championships is: September 30 – men's qualification, 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; October 1 – men's and women's qualification, 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.; October 2 – women's qualification, 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.; October 3 – men's all-around finals, 8 p.m.; October 4 – women's all-around finals, 8 p.m.; October 5 – event finals, men's floor exercise, pommel horse and still rings and women's vault and uneven bars, 2:30 p.m.; and October 6 – event finals, men's vault, parallel bars and horizontal bars, and women's balance beam and floor exercise, 2:30 p.m.

The members of the U.S. Men's Team for the World Championships are: Jake Dalton of Reno, Nev./Team Hilton HHonors (University of Oklahoma); Steven Legendre of Port Jefferson, N.Y./Team Hilton HHonors (Oklahoma); 2013 U.S. all-around champion Sam Mikulak of Newport Coast, Calif./University of Michigan; Alexander Naddour of Queen Creek, Ariz./Team Hilton HHonors (USA Youth Fitness Center); John Orozco of the Bronx, N.Y./Team Hilton HHonors (U.S. Olympic Training Center); and Brandon Wynn, Voorhees, N.J./Team Hilton HHonors (Ohio State University). The remaining alternates are: Eddie Penev of Penfield, N.Y./Team Hilton HHonors (Stanford University); and Paul Ruggeri of Manlius, N.Y./Team Hilton Honors (U.S. Gymnastics Developmental Center II).

The U.S. Women's Team for the World Championships will be determined at the 2013 World Championships World Team Selection Camp, September 12-16, at the USA Gymnastics National Team Training Center at the Karolyi Ranch, an official U.S. Olympic Training Site, in Huntsville, Texas. The women participating in the Selection Camp are: Kennedy Baker, Flower Mound, Texas/Texas Dreams; Simone Biles of Spring, Texas/Bannon's Gymnastix; Madison Desch of Lenexa, Kansas/GAGE; Brenna Dowell, Odessa, Missouri/GAGE; Peyton Ernst, Coppell, Texas/Texas Dreams; McKayla Maroney, Long Beach, California/All-Olympia; Abigail Milliet of Denton, Texas/Denton Gymnastics Academy; Maggie Nichols, Little Canada, Minnesota/Twin City Twisters; Elizabeth Price, Coopersburg, Pennsylvania/Parkettes; Kyla Ross, Aliso Viejo, California/Gym-Max; and MyKayla Skinner, Gilbert, Arizona/Desert Lights.

The women's team will be determined by the Selection Committee. The criteria considered when selecting the team include: results from the P&G Championships; hit consistency and results from past international and national competitions; D-scores for difficulty, and E-scores for execution; consistency; medal potential; composition of individual strengths among the team members; readiness to compete; etcetera. An athlete who meets the outlined criteria may petition to the World Selection Camp but may not petition to the World Championships Team. The coaches for the 2013 World Championships Team will be the personal coaches of the team members following the final team selection.