



2015 World Acrobatics Society Summer Newsletter and Press Release

The 2015 World Acrobatics Society Congress and banquet will take place at the Tuscany Suites and Casino, 255 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 September 8, 9 and 10.

The WAS will be celebrating its 20th Year Anniversary and inducting 23 acrobats into the Gallery of Legends. The acrobats represent seven different acrobatic disciplines. The acrobatic disciplines are: Acrobatic Gymnastics, Artistic Gymnastics, Diving, Extreme Sports, Lifetime Achievement, Professional Acrobatics and Trampoline & Tumbling. The Golden Achievement Award will also be presented. The induction banquet will take place Wednesday evening September 9 in the Florentine Room. The WAS Board of Directors meeting takes place Tuesday afternoon and the general membership meeting is Thursday morning. A Program Session featuring four separate presentations is Wednesday afternoon prior to the evening banquet. Registration forms for the Congress and/or banquet, hotel registration and schedule, and membership can be found on the WAS website worldacro.com.

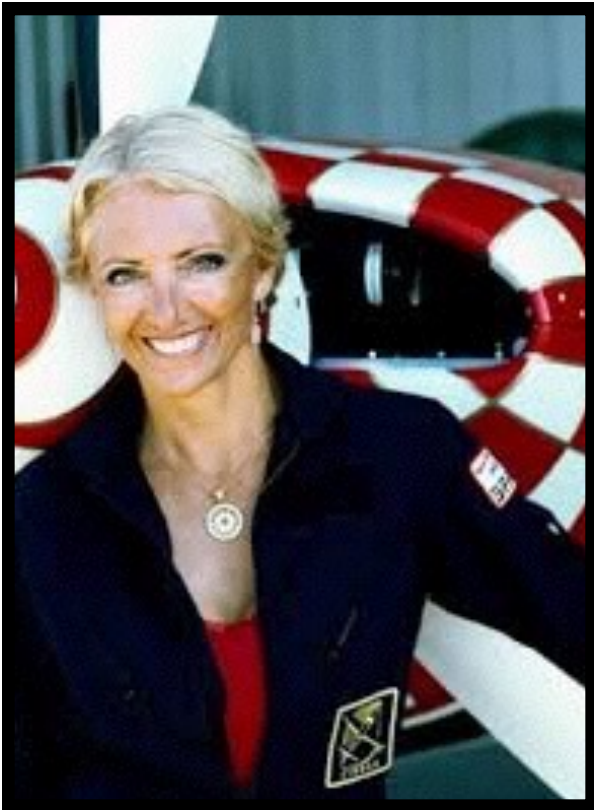
2015 GOLDEN ACHIEVEMENT

CARRIE ENGLERT ZIMMERMAN (Golden Achievement) is the President of the Zimmerman Agency, an advertising, public relations, and interactive firm. The agency is the largest independent hospitality public relations agency in the United States and one of the largest woman-owned companies in the state of Florida. Microsoft named Carrie "One of America's Savviest Business Women." Carrie is revered for her creativity and innovation in the industry. Zimmerman is a native of Tallahassee, Florida, and a former "Tallahassee Tumbling Tot." As an acrobat, Carrie was a member of the 1976 United States Women's Olympic Gymnastics Team to Montreal. She competed collegiately for Clarion State University and was the team captain for the World University Games Team to Sophia, Bulgaria in 1977. In 1976 Carrie was the Elite National Champion on balance beam and floor exercise.



2015 GALLERY OF LEGENDS

ROBERT NULL (Trampoline & Tumbling) is the coach of Jennifer Parrilla, the first United States trampolinist to compete in the 2000 Olympic Games of Sydney, Australia, the first Olympics to conduct the new trampoline competition venue. Jennifer also competed in the 2004 Olympic Games of Athens, Greece. More recently, Null coached Logan Dooley to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and the 2012 London Olympic Games. Logan is the first US male to earn a gold medal at a World Cup in both individual and synchronized trampoline. More recently, Null is coaching Charlotte Drury, the top female trampolinist in the US. Charlotte, an exceptionally high bouncer, is the 2014 US Elite National Champion and the first US World Cup gold medalist. Robert is also coaching Austin White who has five World Championship medals on the double mini-trampoline where he has broken world difficulty records twice. Null has coached at 28 National Championships, 13 World Championships, and the 2000 Olympic Games.



PATTY WAGSTAFF (Extreme Sports) is the first woman to win the United States National Aerobatic Championships. She, in fact, is one of only a few to win it three times. Wagstaff is a six-time member of the US Aerobatic Team winning gold, silver and bronze medals in Olympic-level international aerobatic competition. Patty is a top air-show pilot. She has performed before millions with a smooth aggressive style that has set a standard for performers the world over. Coming from a family involved in aviation, Patty earned her Commercial, Instrument, Seaplane, and Commercial Helicopter Ratings. She is a Flight and Instrument Instructor and qualified to fly many different aircraft including jets. In 1994, her airplane, the Goodrich Extra 260, went on display at the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum. Wagstaff is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, Motion Pictures Pilots Association, and the United Stuntwomen's Association.

SCOTT DONIE (Diving) won the silver medal in the 10-meter platform in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. Courageously, Scott worked his way back from serious mental depression between Olympiads to place 4th in the 3-meter springboard in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. Donie was a member of the US National Team from 1988-1996, a six-time Age Group National Diving Champion, the 1991 and 1992 US National



Champion, and three-time National Collegiate Athletic Association Champion. He received his Bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University in 1990 and amassed eleven Southwest Conference Diving Championships at his alma mater. Donie received coaching from Jim Stillson, Ron O'Brien, and Randy Ableman. In 2000, Donie became the head diving coach at New York University. His divers have earned 18 All-America honors.

LILLIAN LEITZEL (Professional Acrobatics) is considered by circus experts to be the greatest individual female performer of all times. Born January 2, 1891, she fell to her death when the chain swivel handle broke during her one-arm swings. She worked with no net. She died two days later on February 15, 1931. At age 13, she performed on the single trapeze with her mother and aunts in an act called the "Leamy Ladies." Later, as an individual performer, she performed a two-part act. First, she would climb to her steel rings using a unique back pull over and turn on her back technique. After performing her ring act, she would descend only to ascend again on a rope sticking her hand through a loop to a chained swivel handle. She would proceed to execute 100 "phlanges" each performance in a frenzied manner to the William Tell Overture.





WAYNE HILTERBRAND (Extreme Sports) has coached more United States skiers to podium victories than any other US coach. Blending skills as a freestyle skier and a trampolinist, Wayne was a World Cup aerialist from 1979 to 1983. He has completed more than 13 seasons on the US free-style coaching staff. He has also had head coaching responsibilities during his tenure successfully serving in two job roles at the same time. By count, Hilterbrand coached skiers have won 15 Olympic games medals including four gold; 22 World Championship medals, seven gold; and 14 World Cup titles. In addition to strong aerials, “Wayno” is known for having created a good selection process, a smooth functioning staff, and strong elements of the moguls program. He called for the creation of a steeper landing at the Utah Olympic Park to be more similar to the one the US team was to face in Vancouver. Hilterbrand became an expert at computer skill analysis.

GINA GROVES VANAMBURGH, CRICKETT BORGMAN LAPEYRE, & DEBBI DODD QUAID (Acrobatic Gymnastics Trio) won a gold medal in balance, tempo, and all-around in the 1978 National Championships. This was remarkable because they were so young (11-13 years old) and because they had only been a Trio in training for four months. Because of age, the trio would go to Hawaii for the World Age Group Games instead of the World Championships. They won the gold in Hawaii and returning home they were told they were going to the Volkov Cup in Moscow, Russia. They won a bronze medal in the Volkov Cup. The Trio is the first American acrobatic group to be awarded medals in international competition in acrobatic gymnastics. A barrier was broken! The Trio set a record for US acrobats holding four National titles at once. The Trio’s final competition was the 1983 World Cup in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



GINA CRICKETT DEBBI

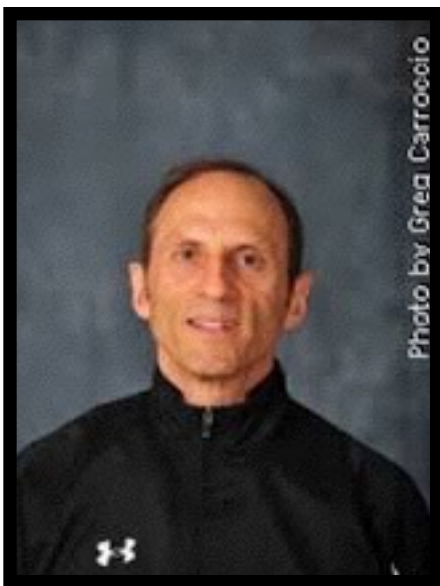
DAVID FRANK GREEN, Sr. (Trampoline & Tumbling) coached and directed Flip City of Newark New Jersey, the best tumbling school in the United States, for nearly two decades. Even though David Green proclaimed: “We’re not trying to produce professional athletes here. Our purpose is to provide a positive environment for the kids to keep them off the streets and out of trouble.” Flip City competed under two tumbling systems: the International Federation of Sport Acrobatics (USSAF) and the International Trampoline Federation (FIT). During the eighties and nineties, some of Green’s accomplishments are: 1982 World Championships - Individual Silver and Team Gold,

1988 World Championships - Individual 11th and Team Bronze, 1990 World Championships - Individual Bronze and Team Silver, 1992 World Championships - Team Gold, 1994 World Championships - Individual Silver and Team Gold, 1996 World Championships - Individual Gold and Team Gold, 1998 World Championships - Individual 14th and Team Silver, and the 1999 World Championships - Individual 4th place.



MARY ELLEN CLARK (Diving) is a two-time Olympic medalist, winning bronze medals at the 1996 Atlanta Games and the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games on the 10 m platform. Clark was a member of the United States National Diving Team for ten years and won seven National Championship titles. She is the oldest women’s diving medalist in the history of the Olympic Games. Mary Ellen has a Bachelor’s degree from Penn State University and a Master’s degree from Ohio State University both in the fields of health and physical education. Clark serves as a Motivational Speaker, an international nutritional consultant, and a mentor for future US Olympic diving champions. She owns an age group diving program in Sudbury, Massachusetts. She is an advocate for women in sports through her affiliation with ESPNW, Women & Sports Summit, and the Women’s Sports Foundation, serving on the board of trustees.





FRED TUROFF (Lifetime Achievement) has had a long and heralded career as a gymnast, gymnastics coach, and contributor to the sport of artistic gymnastics. As a competitor, Fred was a member of the 1970 United States World Championship team to Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, the 1970 US World University Games bronze medal team, the 1969 Maccabiah Games gold medal team, and the 1969 Cup of the Americas gold medal team. Turoff has coached Temple gymnastics for 38 years producing 15 EIGL/ECAC team titles, five NCAA event champions, and produced numerous US national team members. In international coaching, Fred served as an assistant coach for the US teams to the 1979 and 1992 World Championships, the 1991 World University Games at Sheffield, England, the Pan American Games of

Santiago de Cuba, and the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. As a contributor, Fred served on the NCAA Men's Gymnastic Committee, the USAG Hall of Fame Selection Committee, the US Elite Coaches Association, and the USAG Board of Directors. He has judged nationally and internationally, served as delegation leader, authored textbooks, manuals and technical documents for the FIG Code of Points.

JENNIFER BRICKER (Professional Acrobatics) is an Illinois State Power Tumbling Champion. Additionally, she placed 4th in the 1998 Junior Olympics in power tumbling. After high school Jennifer moved to Orlando, Florida to work at Disney World. She worked with Nate Crawford, an accomplished acrobat and her to be life partner, who coached her in aerial arts and refined her tumbling. Britney Spears saw the potential in Jennifer and invited her to perform on her world tour. She entered the entertainment industry and became fully engaged as a professional acrobat, losing fifteen pounds, changing her diet, and improving her fitness under the guidance of Eric Fleishman. Bricker was a featured aerialist at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion, the Palazzo Hotel in Las Vegas, Knott's Scary Farm, and for Heidi Latsky Dance productions for disabled dancers. Jennifer is Dominique Moceanu's sister.



PAUL HAMM (Artistic Gymnastics) is the 2003 World Championships All-around Champion and the 2004 Athens Olympic Games All-around Champion. His two all-around titles were a first for a US gymnast. In addition to his individual accomplishments, Paul led the 2004 US men's Olympic gymnastics team to a silver team medal. This was the first Olympic men's team medal since the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Hamm earned a silver medal on the horizontal bar event in Athens. Paul was also a member of the 2000 US Olympic team to Sydney, Australia and the US World Championship teams of 2001 and 2002. He earned a bronze medal in the 2001 World Championships in Ghent on floor exercise. In all, Paul won three US National Championships. During his

attempt to compete in the 2008 Olympics, Hamm won the 2008 American Cup and the 2008 Pacific Rim Championships only to be derailed by fractured finger and hand on the parallel bars. Hamm is a graduate of Ohio State University with a degree in accounting.

RAYMOND C. RUDE (lifetime Achievement) was

a self-made engineer and entrepreneur. He worked as a tool engineer for an aircraft company when he founded Duraflex International Corporation. Rude developed an aluminum diving board out of a discarded airplane wing panel in 1948. He refined this basic design over the years to the point that the Maxiflex Model B made by Duraflex is the only diving board used in the Olympic Games and all international competition since 1959. His

modifications included tapering the board at both ends and then drilling holes in the take-off area. A side view of the board internally is a series of honeycombing type chambers of various sizes. All of this perfection in engineering has led to increased amplitude and lift off the board enabling divers to propel higher so they can perform more somersaults and twists than ever before. Probably no other individual piece of sports equipment has such an important effect on athletic performance achieving both consistency of dives and ultimate function in a safe manner. Thank you Ray!



JANICE RUDE-WILLSON (Lifetime Achievement) was the CEO of Duraflex International from 2004 to 2012 taking over for her father who retired from the company. A graduate of Occidental College in Biology/Chemistry, Janice left her career in Medical Technology to join her father at Duraflex. Her understanding of chemistry was invaluable in understanding the field of metallurgy. She was able to communicate with the Alcoa scientists who worked closely with her to improve the Duraflex extrusion. Her ability to work with different scientists, engineers, and machinists allowed Duraflex not only to survive after her father's departure, but also to flourish. She moved forward with subtle changes and improvements of the Duraflex equipment that is used exclusively in the competitive diving world. As a "monopoly supplier," most of the improvements were not required; however, Janice was determined to improve the safety and performance of Duraflex products. Her outlook has been very beneficial to the sport of diving.



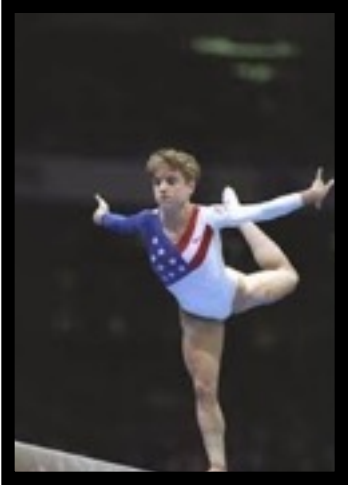
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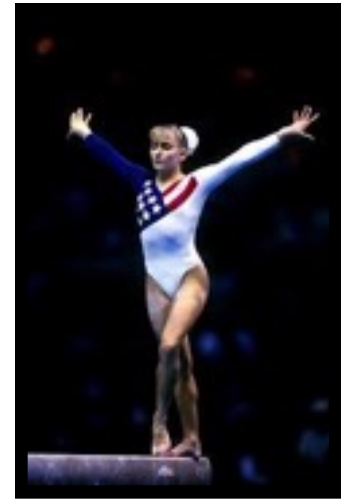
BILL SORENSON (Lifetime Achievement) began making trampolines for diving and recreational trampolines in the basement of his father-in-law's hardware store. In 1954, he and three partners; Ted Seela, Meredith Shriver, and Del Van Horn started the American Trampoline Co., a business that manufactured and sold a full line of trampolines including those used in high schools, YMCAs, and universities for gymnastics competition and for physical education programs. In 1957 they became American Athletic Inc. (AAI) and by 1961 had expanded production into a full line of gymnastics apparatus and protective pads. In 1963, AAI became the official equipment supplier to USA Gymnastics. AAI went on to provide the competition gymnastic equipment for many major national and international competitions including two Olympic Games – Los Angeles in 1984 and Atlanta in 1996, seven World Championships, several Pan American Games, the Commonwealth Games, and numerous others.



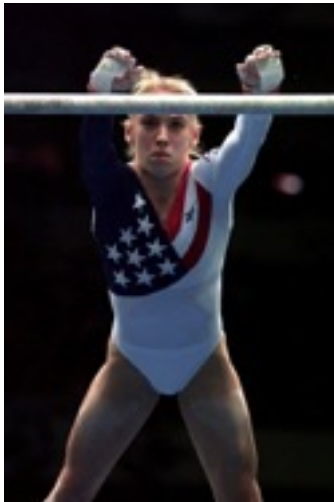
KERRI STRUG



THE 1996 UNITED STATES WOMEN'S OLYMPIC GYMNASTICS TEAM (Artistic Gymnastics) is the first US women's gymnastics team to win an Olympic gold medal. Known as "the Magnificent Seven," the team members are: **Amanda Borden, Amy Chow, Dominique Dawes, Shannon Miller, Dominique Moceanu, Jaycie Phelps, and Kerri Strug.** It would be unfair to mention any of the multitudes of individual accomplishments of any these gymnasts in this small space. It is better to say that they came together as a team and won a gold medal for the nation, for their sport, and for each other. It was a magical time in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1996.



SHANNON MILLER



JAYCIE PHELPS



AMY CHOW



AMANDA BORDEN



DOMINIQUE MOCEANU



DOMINIQUE DAWES

WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY PROGRAM SESSION SCHEDULE

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9
TUSCANY SUITES - SIENA ROOM**

1PM – Ellie Meacham, Debbi Dodd Quaid, Gina Groves VanAmburgh, and Crickett Borgman Lapeyre

“REMEMBERING OUR COMPETITION CAREERS IN ACROBATIC GYMNASTICS”

2PM – Dolly Jacobs with moderator Bruce Davis

“LEITZEL – A TRIBUTE to a Great Circus Star”

3PM – Janice Rude-Willson and Bill Sorenson with Moderator Don Leas

“DIVING, TRAMPOLINE AND GYMNASTICS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS WHO’S PRODUCTS HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE TO PERFORM BETTER ACROBATICS”

4PM – The 2015 Gallery of Legends

“THE LEGENDS OF 2015 AS A PANEL WILL INTRODUCE THEMSELVES TO THE WAS MEMBERSHIP AND TAKE QUESTIONS”



*The 2015 World Acrobatics Society Summer Newsletter
was written by Bruce Davis and Edited by Don Leas.*

