



# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017

Editor: Jim Bertz  
[www.worldacro.com](http://www.worldacro.com)

## A Word From Our President...



Dear Members and friends of the World Acrobatics Society (WAS),  
The Board of Directors of the World Acrobatics Society and I are so excited to announce our 2017 world class, Gallery of Legend Inductees and Honorees who will be honored at our banquet, on September 9, 2017, at the Tuscany Suites & Casino, in Las Vegas Nevada. This evening should prove to be one filled with excitement not only from the podium but there is sure to be some Olympic surprise guests which will simply add to the excitement being felt and experienced by all.

Our MC's for the evening will be the World Class Diver Steve McFarland and Circus phenom performer Dolly Jacobs. They in and of themselves will add to the excitement and laughter as each Honoree and their video are presented to the audience.

We will also have Rome Milan in attendance, who will be displaying his Olympic Memorabilia (he has the largest collection of Olympic Memorabilia in the world) for all to see, touch and have pictures taken with actual Olympic Medals of yesteryear. If you are bringing your children and there are several who have expressed an interest of doing so—how great would it be to have their picture taken with an Olympian and to be wearing an authentic Olympic Medal around their neck?

Guest speakers will be Ms. Panni Spears who has had an amazing background with Ringling Barum Bailey Circus. She will be speaking about her years with the Hungarian State Circus Academy which should prove to be an exciting trip down memory lane. Then we have Mr. Ray Bright, who will be talking about his "Bioflight" which is a program he developed and used for our United States Astronauts to better be able to understand the weightlessness and movements they will experience in zero gravity. Both will be using exciting computer presentations to add to their discussion. And then finally we will have a Q&A session with our Athletes whereby you will have the opportunity to ask away and learn whatever it is that you have always wondered about them and their success and what helped them to become World Champions and or Olympic Athletes.

During the Cocktail hour and after the formal banquet presentation of the athletes, viewing of their videos and hearing from them, you will be serenaded by the lovely and talented Marie Caron who will play some jazz and classical music on her 6-string guitar.

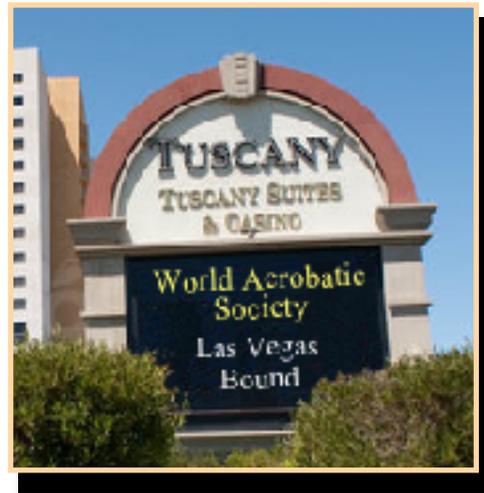
There will also be a surprise video that will surely set the stage for this year's 2017 World Acrobatics Society Gallery of Legends banquet.

Please come and be with us and share in this year's exciting evening of Acrobatic Legends and honorees!

Respectfully,

David

## Come One, Come All, to the 2017 WAS Congress



We invite you to join the World Acrobatic Society (WAS) from September 8th through the 10th, 2017, as we host our annual Congress and Induction of the 2017 Legends into the WAS "Gallery of Legends." The event will take place in Las Vegas, NV at the beautiful Tuscany Suites and Casino with all events happening at this facility.

The events begin on September 8th with an evening hospitality party. This is an open event where members and attendees can meet with old friends or make new friends. It is hosted by WAS in room G305, and we ask all to join us in starting off our annual conference this year with a big bang.

On September 9th the day is filled with events. In the morning from 8 am until 12 noon will be the Board of Directors meeting for all board members to attend. At this time members and attendees may also register for the program and reception later in the day. From 12:30 to 3 pm will be the main WAS program with speakers talking

about different aspects in acrobatics. Then starting at 3 pm there will be a WAS meet and greet with question and answers from those being inducted into the Gallery of Legends. This program portion of the conference will be held in the Siena Room. Finally the reception for the banquet and induction starts at 6 pm with the awards banquet to follow. Suggested dress is men in coat and tie (black tie optional) and women in appropriate evening attire. This year's reception and banquet will be hosted in the Florentine A room. After the event the hospitality room in G305 will be open. Cost for the program and banquet part of Congress this year is \$75.00 for all attendees and members.

September 10th will consist of the Membership Meeting from 9 am -12 noon in the Siena room.

Anyone can attend, but only current WAS members will be allowed to vote on issues brought up at this meeting. After the member meeting the Congress will adjourn.

See page #4 for a complete itinerary of the Congress events.

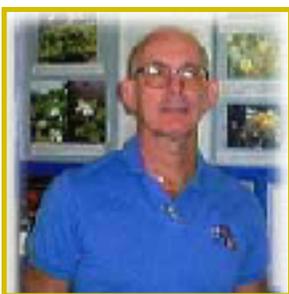
For more information on attending the conference, or reserving a room at the Tuscany Suites go to: <http://www.worldacro.com/2017-was-congress.html>.

For more information on becoming a member or to renew your membership in WAS go to: <http://www.worldacro.com/memberships--donations.html>.

We hope to see you there!

## 2017 World Acrobatic Society's Gallery of Legends

### Acrobatic Gymnastics



#### Dick Criley

Dick was introduced to tumbling and the rudiments of gymnastics as an eight year old, when his sister was taken to tap dance lessons and his mother needed some activities to occupy his time. Although he never stood on an Olympic or World Championship podium, he was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame as a contributor of the sport.



#### Stacey Tutton-Hill

In 1975 Stacey thought she was taking gymnastics with Igor Ashkinazi. When the Olympic Russian gymnastics team came on tour and brought acrobatics, she joined Igor competing in Acro and went on to help pioneer the sport of Acro in the USA.

### Artistic Gymnastics



#### Chellsie Memmel

Chellsie has been in a gym since the day she was born. She was a member of the 2002 - 2008 National team that lead to the success of the USA's great 2012 & 2016 Olympic teams. She has won many Olympic and World Championship medals through her career.

### Artistic Gymnastics (continued)



#### Julianne McNamara

Julianne is a former USA team gymnast born to Australians Jean and Kevin McNamara. She was the winner of the USA women's first individual gold medal in Olympic history. She has been inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame as both an individual and an Olympic Team member.

### Diving



#### Dorothy Poynton-Hill-Teuber (1915-1995)

When Dorothy Poynton won the Silver Medal in the 1928 Olympic women's 3m springboard, she had barely passed her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday (by 24 days) and set the record of being the youngest Olympic medalist in history.



#### Wendy Wyland (1964-2003)

Wendy was a female diver from the United States, with a 16 year diving career ending in 1990, 11 years of which were on the national diving team. In her diving career she would represent the USA for 11 years winning both Olympic and World Championship medals.

## ***Extreme Sports***



### **Ashley Caldwell**

Ashley is a graduate of State University of New York - Empire State College with honors. In Skiing Freestyle Aerials she is a two-time Olympian and past FIS overall season World Cup Champion. She is the first woman to successfully perform a quad twisting triple back in competition.

## ***Professional Acrobatics***



### **Darryl Scheelar**

Darryl, a member of the Canadian National Trampoline and Tumbling Team, represented Canada through 3 World Championships and was the first and only competitor to compete in all four events. A member of the Canadian Stuntman's Association, Darryl has hundreds of credits in major film and TV as well as doubling for many major film stars, one of which is Jean Claude-Van Damme.



### **Barney Cipriani (1927 - 1998)**

Barney was a diver, but a diver with a difference. He didn't just leap off of the springboards, he descended from heights of over 100 feet from platforms to the cliffs of Acapulco. Barney was without doubt, the greatest professional high-diver in history.

## ***Trampoline and Tumbling***



### **Nancy Quattrocki-Foertsch -**

Nancy, a tumbler who trained at Cindy Kwiek Gymnastics from 1975 though 1980, won four Senior National titles, five World Age-Group Titles and was the 1978 World tumbling Champion which she won in New Castle, Australia. Nancy was a dominant force in the women's tumbling world from 1975 through 1980.

## ***Trampoline and Tumbling (continued)***



### **Frank Schmitz (1945 - 1966)**

As a high school freshman, Frank gave up football after a head injury as a result of a motor-scooter crash. He soon found a new passion in trampoline and diving under coach Jeff Hennessey. Frank would go on to win NCAA, National and World championships in trampoline, tumbling and gymnastics.



### **Rashaan Sampson**

### **Rashaan Sampson and Rayshine Harris**

This team of tumblers rocked the world of tumbling in the 1990s. Both part of the dominating "Flip City" tumbling team. Rashaan, National tumbling champion in 1992 was also a member of the 1992, 1994, 1996 World Team Champions for the USA. Rayshine, a 1994 National tumbling champion was also a member of the 1992, 1994, 1996 World Champion teams and was the individual World Tumbling Champion in 1996.



### **Rayshine Harris**

## ***Lifetime Achievement Award***



### **Paul Ziert**

Paul, CEO/President of Paul Ziert & Associates, Inc. has been involved in coaching gymnastics since 1965. Before beginning his collegiate teaching and coaching career, he taught high school mathematics and coached gymnastics in Illinois. In 2006 he was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame for Lifetime Achievement.

## Lifetime Achievement Award (continued)



### Jeff Webb

Jeff founded Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) in 1974 with the goal of transforming cheerleading into the dynamic, athletic, high profile activity it is today. His vision of incorporating athleticism and entertainment with the traditional crowd leadership role created a new style of cheerleading that caused the activity to explode in popularity from the 1980's into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

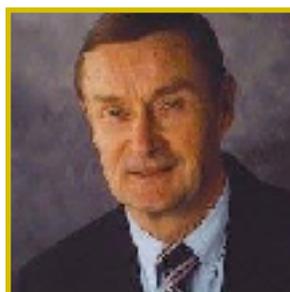
## Golden Achievement Award



### Bruno Klaus

Bruno's involvement in gymnastics spans over six decades as an All-American gymnast, judge, coach, and camp director. Bruno holds a Master's degree in Health and Physical Education, was a professor at East Stroudsburg University for over 30 years, and is now Professor Emeritus.

## Charlie Pond Award



### Hal Holmes

Harold "Hal" Holmes, a legend of the World Acrobatic Society and long standing Lifetime Member of the Society has served as member of the Board of Directors, on Legends Nominating Committees, and as Secretary of the Society.

## WAS Mission

*The mission of the World Acrobatics Society is to advance the education, communication and cooperation among all individuals and organizations interested in fostering the growth, development and safety of the various acrobatic disciplines along with preserving their histories.*

# 2017 World Acrobatics Society's Congress

**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Tuscany Suites and Casino  
255 East Flamingo Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89169  
(702) 947-5925*

### Itinerary

**Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

5:00pm

WAS Hospitality Room (G305)

*Meet new members and catch up with old friends!*

**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

8-12 noon

WAS Board of Directors Meeting (Siena Room)  
Congress Registration/sign-in all morning (outside Siena Room)

12:30-3pm\*

WAS Program Session (Siena Room)

### Guest Speakers

*Rome Milan* - displaying his wonderful Olympic memorabilia

*Panni Spears* - a focus on her years at the Hungarian State Circus Academy

*Ray Bright* - Bioflight 3-Dimensional Spatial Orientation of Human Flight

3-4:30pm

\*Q&A *"Meet & Greet the Athletes (Siena Room)"*

6-7pm

Reception (Florentine A)

7pm

WAS Awards Banquet\* (Florentine A)

*\*Men: Coat & tie (black tie optional)*

*Women: appropriate evening attire*

WAS Hospitality Room - - Will open following Banquet (G305)

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

9-12 noon

WAS Membership Meeting\* (Siena Room)

*\*You must be a current/paid member to participate in voting.*

WAS Congress Adjourns

**Registration: \$75.00/per person** (includes WAS Program & Banquet)

Go to [www.worldacro.com](http://www.worldacro.com) to download the WAS 2017 Congress Registration Form.