



# NEWSLETTER

May 2022

[www.worldacro.com](http://www.worldacro.com)

Editor, Dagmar Munn



Scott Crouse  
President

We are off to an amazing year and I'm excited to announce the impressive individuals who will be inducted into this year's Hall of Fame. I am also pleased to share with you [our plans for the grand weekend](#) of activities for the WAS 2022 Congress & Hall of Fame Banquet - - which will be held September 9 – 11, at the Tuscany Suites & Casino, in Las Vegas.

To add zing to our special evening, I am pleased to announce that our Master of Ceremonies will once again be international award-winning singer and two-time Las Vegas Variety Entertainer of the Year, [Donny Ray Evins](#).

In this newsletter, we introduce you to the Class of 2022 inductees (you can read their full bios on our website, [just use this link](#)). Bobby Dickson's Comedy Corner shares a wonderfully funny story about Bobby's shenanigans with two of our inductees – Edith and Fredi Chy. We once again highlight books written by our past Legends; this issue features 2015 Legend, Shannon Miller and 2018 Legend, Robert (Bobby) Dickson. Finally, a profile of WAS Board Member, Pedro Reis plus a tribute to our dear friend, Art Shurlock.

Thank you for your continued support of the World Acrobatics Society. I look forward to being with each of you at this year's WAS 2022 Congress. And remember, everything you'll need to register can be found on our website:

[www.worldacro.com](http://www.worldacro.com)

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**REGISTRATION  
IS NOW  
OPEN!**

**SEPT 9-11, 2022**

Join us at this  
3-day event  
celebrating our  
Hall of Fame  
Class of 2022

**WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY  
2022 CONGRESS & HALL OF  
FAME BANQUET**

[worldacro.com](http://worldacro.com)

# Class of 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees

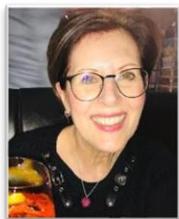
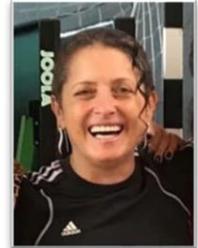


## **Lifetime Achievement Award – Francis Allen**

A legendary figure at the University of Nebraska and in the world of gymnastics. Francis Allen spent nearly 50 consecutive years either competing or coaching the University of Nebraska “Husker” gymnasts.

## **Acrobatic Gymnastics Legend - Antoaneta Kiselichka**

Representing Bulgaria in acrobatic gymnastics, Antoaneta Kiselichka has received 10 Gold Medals plus earned the title of World Champion. She then became an international coach and mentor, producing numerous champion athletes and inspiring future coaches in her sport.



## **Professional Acrobatics Legend – Fredi & Edith Chy**

The Chy Fu Dey duo performed in the best circuses, casinos, variety shows all over Europe and America. Fredi then created several successful Chinese acrobatic acts as well as continues in his career as a booking agent.

## **Artistic Gymnastics Legend – Jim Hartung**

At the NCAA Championships, Jim Hartung won two individual titles in 1980, three in 1981, and two in 1982. At the USAG Open National Championships, he won 14 Gold Medals and represented the USA as a two-time Olympian.

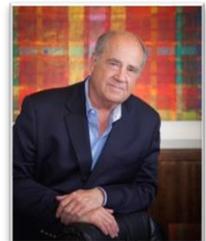


## **Diving Legend – Sam Dorman**

Sam Dorman won the Silver Medal in the 3-meter springboard synchro diving event at the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics. He was a member of the USA National Team from 2013 through 2018, and is a seven-time springboard diving National Champion.

## **Trampoline/Tumbling Legend – Neil Godbey**

From 1972 to 1980, Neil Godbey was responsible for one of the most dominate tumbling programs in the world. He produced 57 individual Senior National and Age Group National Champions as well as the 1976 and 1978 FIT World Tumbling Champion.



## **Extreme Sports Legend – Travis Pastrama**

X Games champion, Supercross & Rallycross champion, Freestyle Motocross star, Travis Pastrama has created some of the world’s most memorable moments in the history of extreme sports.

## **Charlie Pond Service Award – Larry Lindauer**

A longtime World Acrobatics Society (WAS) member and Board Member, Larry Lindauer’s commitment and positive contributions were vital to our organization’s achieving its numerous milestones and goals.



## "Braids and Beer in Great Yarmouth"



The first time the act Chy Fu Dey (Fredie and Edith Chy) and I performed together was in 1978, in the historic Hippodrome Circus, in Great Yarmouth, England.

In their duo act, Edith would juggle, spin rings on her arms, and even support Fredie who would hang underneath her, all while suspended only by her hair. This always produced lots of *oohs* and *aahs* from the audience.

After the last show of the day, we three would sometimes go to a pub across from the circus building to have a lovely pint of (warm...*yeeech!*) English beer ...or maybe even two!

This particular time, we were seated at the bar with Fredie and Edith on one side of me while an English gentleman sat on my other side. The English man kept glancing across me at Edith and finally asked me if they were in the circus show that he had just seen. I said yes, they were. He then asked if Edith was the woman who was hanging by her hair in the show and I, once again, said yes.

Then, of course, he asked how she did it. And I explained that it's a traditional Chinese act and the hair is braided in a very special way so that all the hairs pull evenly on her scalp.

The guy gave me a bewildered look and then loudly exclaimed, "I'm not an idiot. Nobody can just hang from their hair. So, what is the trick?"

Now, this was a challenge I just couldn't resist. I replied, "I can see that you are much too intelligent for us to pull the wool over your eyes, so I will tell you the secret...but you must swear to never reveal this secret to anyone...not your wife, your kids...nobody, ever. Swear it." ...and he did.



Fredie is German-born and Edith is Swiss and at this time neither spoke English very well and they couldn't follow exactly what I was telling the Englishman. So, as I spoke, I'd occasionally nod at them and they'd nod back. Perfect!

I told the Englishman that we three thought it would be a fantastic trick if only we could figure out a way to do it because, of course, nobody can hang just by their hair. And then we hit on the perfect solution.

With a completely serious look on face, I continued, "The very next day we went to a surgeon and had a metal nut implanted in the top of Edith's skull. Before each show, Fredie screws a hook into the metal nut and braids her hair over the hook to conceal it. And so, you are completely correct. Edith doesn't hang by her hair because of course, we all know that would be impossible. Nope, she actually, hangs from the hook screwed into her skull."

The guy's face lit up and he emphatically shouted: "I knew there had to be a trick to it!" He then happily treated us to a round of drinks.

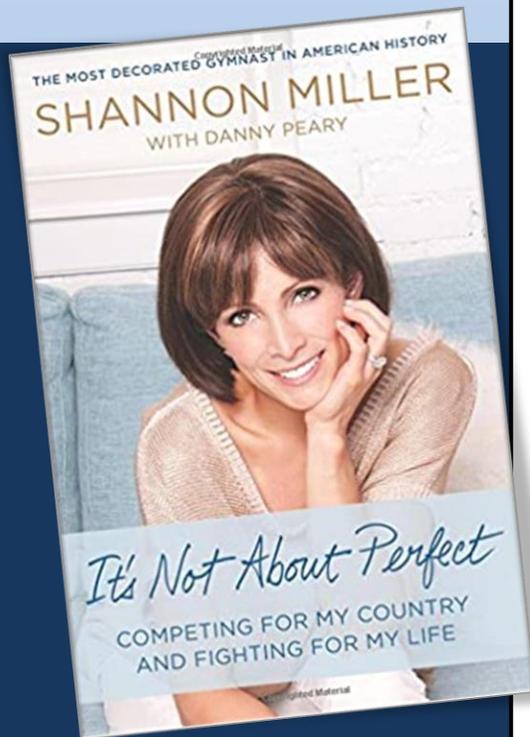
This just goes to prove that you can't educate ignorance!

Later, when I explained to Fredie and Edith what had transpired, Fredie busted out laughing and Edith's mouth just fell open in disbelief.

That was a really fun season with many good friends. ...and a good time was had by (almost) all!

*Bobby Dickson is a WAS 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient and was a diving, tumbling, trampoline, and gymnastics champion. He recently retired from 40+ year career performing comedy acrobatics throughout five continents.*

# Books by WAS Legends



Shannon Miller was inducted into the WAS Hall of Fame in 2015

## It's Not About Perfect: Competing for My Country and Fighting for My Life

by Shannon Miller  
with Danny Peary.

“When she retired at age 19, Shannon Miller did so as one of the most recognizable gymnasts in the country. The winner of seven Olympic medals and the most decorated gymnast, male or female, in U.S. history, Shannon tells a story of surviving and thriving. A shy, rambunctious girl raised in Oklahoma, Shannon fell in love with gymnastics at a young age and fought her way to the top.

In 1992 she won five Olympic medals after breaking her elbow in a training accident just months prior to the Games. Then, in 1996, a doctor advised her to retire immediately or face dire consequences if she chose to compete on her injured wrist. Undeterred, Shannon endured the pain and led her team, the “Magnificent Seven,” to the first Olympic team gold medal for the United States in gymnastics. She followed up as the first American to win gold on the balance beam.

Equally intense, heroic and gratifying is the story of her brutal but successful battle with ovarian cancer, a disease from which fewer than fifty percent survive. Relying on her faith and hard-learned perseverance, Shannon battled through surgery and major chemotherapy to emerge on the other side with a miracle baby girl.

Her story of trial, triumph and life after cancer reminds us all that its life’s bumps and bruises that reveal our character. From early on in her career, Shannon knew that life wasn’t about perfection. In this incredible and inspirational tale, Shannon speaks out so as to be seen and heard by thousands as a beacon of hope.”

[Available on ShannonMiller.com](http://ShannonMiller.com)

## Cut Thru the Crap of Exercise and Fat-Loss Nutrition

By Robert Dickson

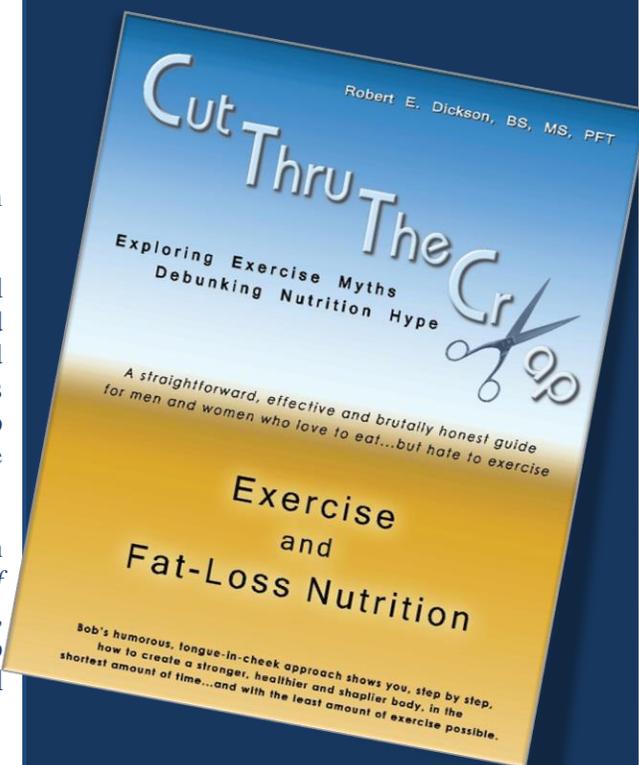
“Hope for the HOPELESSLY Lazy!”

“Efficient, effective, and practical techniques for producing maximum results with a minimum amount of exercise!”

“Even though Robert Dickson is a former multiple All-American, National Champion, Olympic gymnast and professional acrobat, he has always hated exercise. Realizing that is impossible to live a completely happy and fulfilling life without being truly fit and healthy, he has developed this incredible program which will get you into amazing shape...fast...and help you stay there...permanently...no matter what your condition is at the present!

Robert Dickson has combined a lifelong passion and years of study with more than forty years of personal experience to bring you *Cut the Crap of Exercise and Fat-Loss Nutrition*. This book unites the science of exercise, nutrition and health with practical experience and common sense, to help you efficiently and effectively unlock the unlimited potential of the “real you” ...in a minimum amount of time!”

Available for \$15.00/copy, inquiries please email: [Dickson.RE@gmail.com](mailto:Dickson.RE@gmail.com)



Robert Dickson was inducted into the WAS Hall of Fame in 2018

# Board Member Profile – Pedro Reis



## Pedro Reis

**World Acrobatics Society Board Member and 2013 WAS Legend**

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, Pedro Reis began circus training at the age of 12 at a local YMCA, developing his skills on the flying trapeze. He later went on to help found the first circus school in South Africa.

As an artist, in 1982, Pedro established *The Survivors*, a thrilling aerialist act that toured Europe and made its American debut with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1984. In 1987, Pedro became a solo artist, performing with The Big Apple Circus at Busch Gardens and The International Circus Festival of Monaco.

Throughout his career, Reis has been invited to perform before a number of dignitaries including HRH Charles, Prince of Wales, HRH Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Royal Family of Monaco, and former United States President Ronald Regan.

In 1997, Reis and his wife, world-renowned aerialist and 2015 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow Dolly Jacobs, combined their experience, passion, and dreams to create Circus Sarasota, a one-ring European style circus that is the only professional, not-for-profit circus in the

state of Florida. In the years since its founding, Circus Sarasota has become a worldwide attraction for both area and global audiences. Now rebranded alongside Sailor Circus as The Circus Arts Conservatory, Reis and Jacobs have continued to elevate the awareness and appreciation of circus artistry through performance and outreach programs that involve area schools, youth organizations and care facilities community wide.

Reis is the recipient of a variety of leadership awards and positions in the art realm. In 2004, Reis received the Sarasota County Arts Council's prestigious Arts Leadership Award. Recognized for its leadership in both artistic programming and sound management and fiscal practice, Circus Sarasota received the greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce Small Business Award in the Arts Organization of the Year category in 2005. In 2012 and 2015 the Chamber awarded Circus Sarasota and The Circus Arts Conservatory respectively with its Small Business Cultural Organization of the Year Award. In 2009, Reis was inducted into the Circus Ring of Fame on St. Armand's Circle, and along with his wife, has been inducted into the Circus Hall of Fame at the John and Mable Ringling Museum. **In 2013 Reis along with Dolly Jacobs were inducted into the World Acrobatics Society Hall of Fame** and he joined the WAS Board of Directors in 2015.

As a lifelong veteran of the profession, Reis strives to elevate circus artistry to new heights while preserving its integrity and history in both the local and worldwide arenas.

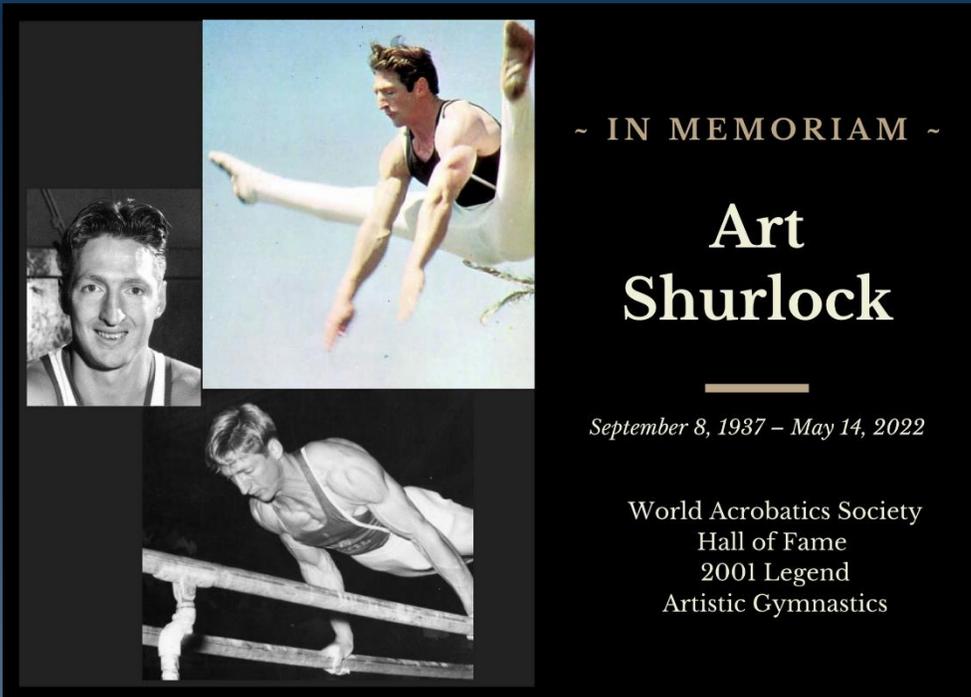
*Thank you, Pedro, for your many contributions to the acrobatic and circus arts community!*



Source: <https://circusarts.org/pedro-reis-founder-ceo/>



# Announcements



~ IN MEMORIAM ~

## Art Shurlock

September 8, 1937 – May 14, 2022

World Acrobatics Society  
Hall of Fame  
2001 Legend  
Artistic Gymnastics

Art Shurlock competed for the United States at the 1958 World Championships and the 1964 Olympics. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he was NCAA Champion on the pommel horse in 1959. He also won AAU titles on pommel horse in 1957 and 1958. In 1963 he won the All-around title of the US Gymnastics Federation (USGF). After his competitive days ended, Shurlock became a renowned gymnastics coach at UCLA, coaching there from 1965 until the early 2000s. While there, Shurlock's teams amassed two NCAA team titles, nine Pac-10 Conference Championships and an overall record of 316-122 – a .721-win percentage.

He was USGF Coach of the Year in 1991, NCAA Coach of the Year in 1984 and 1987, and Pac 8 Coach of the Year in 1967. Shurlock served as President of the National Association of College Gymnastics Coaches (NACGC) in 1992-93. He was coach of the US team at the Universiades in 1983 and 1985, and the Assistant coach at the 1983 Pan American Games. US Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 1985. He was inducted into the World Acrobatics Society Hall of Fame as an Artistic Gymnastics Legend in 2001.

*Art Shurlock ~ He will be missed by all.*

**Join us!**

2022 WAS Congress & Hall of Fame Banquet

September 9-11, 2022

Tuscany Casino & Suites, Las Vegas

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