



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022

www.worldacro.com

Editor, Dagmar Munn

World Acrobatics Society Inducts Nine into Hall of Fame

Las Vegas, NV - The [World Acrobatics Society](http://www.worldacro.com) celebrated its 26th anniversary (1996-2022) at its annual "Hall of Fame" banquet on September 10, 2022, at the Tuscany Casino & Suites in Las Vegas. An audience of nearly 160 people led by Emcee [Donny Ray Evins](#), former gymnast, and now Las Vegas entertainer, honored the Class of 2022 inductees who were selected for their high level of accomplishment and contributions to the acrobatic community.



1st row L-R: Jim Hartung, Fredi Chy, Kathy Lindauer, Edith Chy, Antoaneta Kiselichka

2nd row L-R: Sam Dorman, Travis Pastrana, Neil Godbey, Francis Allen



2022 Hall of Fame Inductees



2011 WAS Legend Gerald S. George, PhD., with Francis Allen, who received the 2022 WAS Lifetime Achievement Award



WAS 2007 Legend, Scott Barclay, with WAS 2022 Artistic Gymnastics Legend, Jim Hartung and Jim Hartung Jr.



Kathy Lindauer, accepting for WAS 2022 Charlie Pond Service Award recipient Larry Lindauer, with WAS Vice President, John Deary



WAS 2017 Legend Rayshine Harris with WAS 2022 Trampoline/Tumbling Legend, Neil Godbey



WAS 2022 Extreme Sports Legend, Travis Pastrama with WAS 2014 Legend, Mike Jacki



WAS 2015 Legend, Debbi Quaid with WAS 2022 Acrobatic Gymnastics Legend, Antoaneta Kiselichka



WAS 2022 Professional Acrobatics Legends, Fredi and Edith Chy

WAS 2000 Legend, Tom Gompf, with WAS 2022 Diving Legend, Sam Dorman



2022 Hall of Fame Inductees, Family & Friends!



Enjoy MORE PHOTOS on the World Acrobatics Society Facebook group page and on our website.

Photos by Lisa Cawthron, Rich Kenney and courtesy of WAS members.



"Memories of Performing at the Friedrichstadt-Palast" (Part 1)

The Friedrichstadt-Palast is a huge theater in Berlin. It has a

seating capacity of 1,895 and its stage of 2,854 square meters (30,720 sq ft) is the largest in the world.

I performed in this former East German theater many times over 30+ years...first in the original Palast theatre, then in a tour of East German theaters with the Palast dancers while a new theatre was being built, and finally in the new Palast theatre itself. Friedrichstadt-Palast is the most professional place I have ever had the pleasure of performing.

Simply the best.



The Friedrichstadt-Palast dancers consist of about 40 ladies and 20 men...all classically trained in ballet, tap, modern, jazz - - you name it - - they are true professionals. They are as famous in Europe as the Radio City Rockette dancers are in America...or maybe the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders is a better example, nowadays!



Altogether, the ladies create one of the world's longest chorus lines (which you can enjoy by clicking on the links at the end of this article).

In this particular show, I worked with a group of 12 Romanian gymnasts. They were a wonderful group of young people who after the first couple of days, 'adopted' my wife Anoushka and me.

For example, some of the fellows slept (*read: passed out*) in our apartment many times. And the girls would often invite us to their place and cooked traditional Romanian food for us.

Whenever the guys discussed their routines, they'd say something like, "I did a Yamashita vault." At which point I'd butt in with, "I taught Yamashita English when he lived with me."



(Comedy Corner Continued)

Or they'd say," I dismounted with a Tsukahara." To which I casually replied, "I competed with Tsukahara, in fact, he gave me his warm-up suit." The same dialog went on for a couple of other famous gymnasts.

Finally, one of the guys got suspicious, so he phoned his coach in Romania and told him, "We have an American fellow here who says that he was a gymnast and even competed against... (repeating the names I mentioned)."

His coach asked what my name was and when he heard it, he exclaimed, "Bobby Dickson? Of course, I've heard about Bobby Dickson!"

As an apology for doubting me, the next time that gymnast went home he brought back for me a 1½ liter bottle of palincă (Transylvanian Moonshine) that his grandfather distilled in his basement.

Smooooooooooooooth!!!



1 Bobby Dickson with Malice...the first dancer on the left in the Revue '82 chorus line photo above...35 years later...in front of a photo of the original Friedrichstadt-Palast.

Part 2 of this story to be continued in the next newsletter!

Have a look at some wonderful and entertaining information on 'The Palast' here, from old to new:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVRKjN3jxcc>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKrIkeSzFPA>
<https://www.palast.berlin/en/>

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.

Member Profile ~ Suzie Owen

Suzie Owen is Vice Chair of the Acro Technical Committee in Ontario, Canada. Since becoming a member of WAS, she has enjoyed attending several of the recent WAS Congress & Hall of Fame Banquets. We caught up with Suzie and asked her to share with us a little more about herself.

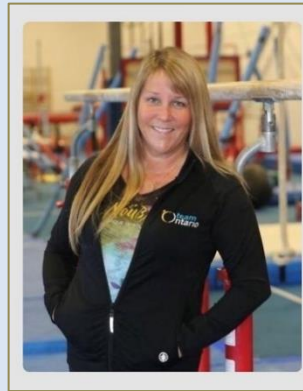
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## *How did you get started in acrobatic sports?*

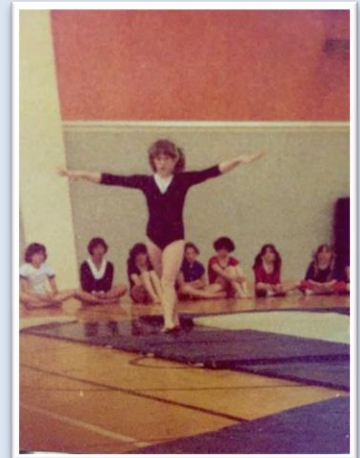
My Aunt was an acrobat and introduced me to acrobatics when I was a little over 3 years old. I absolutely loved it!

## *What was the most positive experience you had while participating in your sport?*

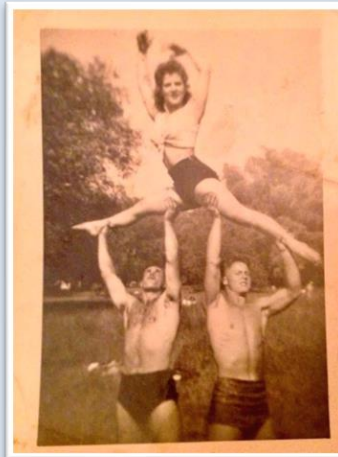
I realized that what I thought was a career ending injury was really the beginning of my coaching career! It was truly the greatest gift, as it has allowed me to stay involved in gymnastics for life.



Suzie Owen – Acro Team Ontario Manager



Suzie at her school's gymnastics performance

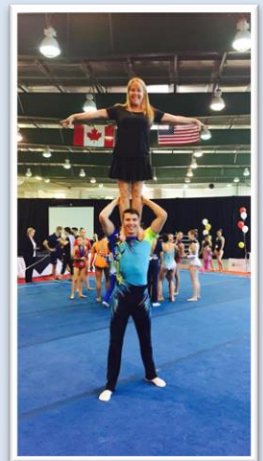


Suzie's Aunt Terry, in Hollywood, Florida - 1948



Team Ontario – 2019 Vegas Acro Cup

"Don Holmes and I started Acrobatic Gymnastics programs in our clubs in the Toronto area in 2008. Don and I then created local and Provincial Competitions and created Canadian National Championships, including the National Acro Cup, now called the Canadian Championships of Acrobatic Gymnastics. In addition, we assisted our incredible judges in creating a coaching certification program in Canada!"



Suzie and Jackson Peters at the 2017 National Cup



Don Holmes, Nellie Kim and Suzie Owen at the 2021 WAS Congress

## *Was there any person you looked up to when you were involved in your sport?*

There was no acrobatic gymnastics training available where I lived, so I did artistic gymnastics too. I was inspired by my idols, Nellie Kim, Nadia Comaneci, and Elfi Schlegel. I continue to look up to them to this day!

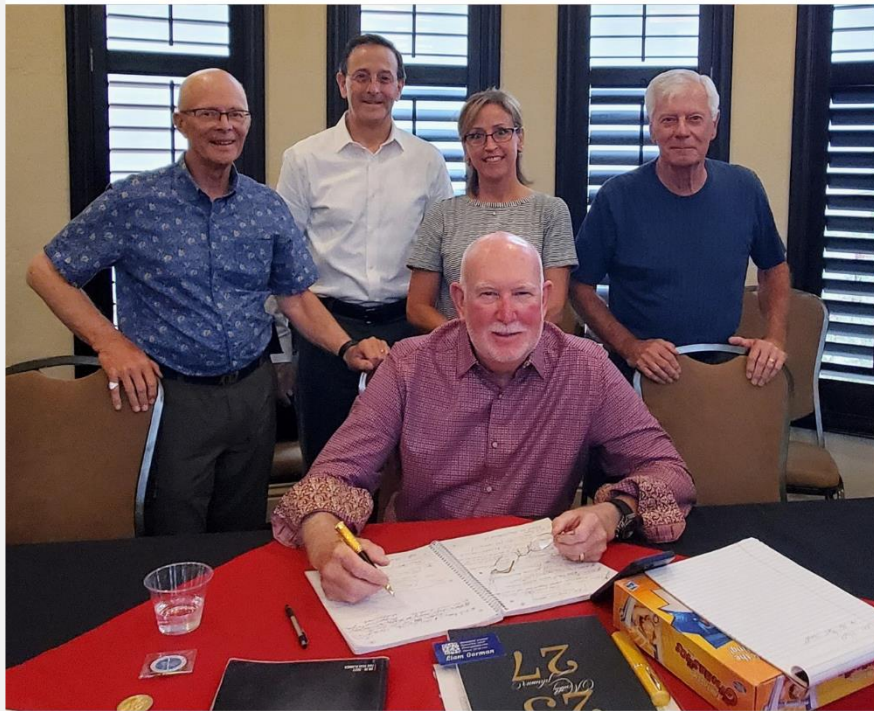
## *In what ways have your experiences in your sport helped you in your life today?*

Gymnastics has been instrumental in shaping my entire life! I learned how to be resilient, focused and patient during difficult times, and that almost anything is possible with the right people on your team!

# Announcements

## Thankyou!

World Acrobatics Society members,  
family & friends...  
You helped us make this year's  
Congress & Hall of Fame Banquet  
a SUCCESS!



**World Acrobatics Society Executive Committee**

*Center:* Scott Crouse, President

*L-R:* Rich Kenney, 2nd Vice President; John Deary, 1st Vice President;  
Stacie Hansen, Secretary; Jay Geist, Treasurer

