

FUSTA Footwork



January 2009

Happy New Year! I hope that 2009 is off to a good start for each of you. Although things in FUSTA may have seemed very quiet to the extent that there was not enough news to merit a December edition of the FUSTA Footwork, please don't assume that means nothing is happening in the organization.

The Board of Directors never really has a down time or an off-season and is always working on something. Most projects that are 'works in progress' at the times of the year when the newsletter is published are not included in a newsletter. Conversely when there is information or news that the membership needs to know, it is relayed through the regional delegates rather than held for the next edition of the FUSTA newsletter. The BOD is committed to promptly sharing information with the membership.

The FUSTA officers and Regional Delegates are preparing for the annual Mid Winter meeting on January 31/February 1 in Houston, Texas. The BOD is keenly aware that this meeting is not without cost to FUSTA. The mid year opportunity to meet allows the BOD time to deal with issues and take care of FUSTA business face-to-face without interruptions or distractions.

After the Mid Winter meeting, the membership will be asked to vote on two propositions that resulted from the 2008 FUSTA AGM in Denver. At this time, there are two or three versions of each proposition that will be presented at the Mid Winter meeting where the BOD will select the ones that go forward for a vote of the membership.

One proposition will ask whether or not to establish a FUSTA Disciplinary Committee. The other will ask whether or not to adopt a new code of ethics for FUSTA. The propositions are the result of hours of work and many email 'conversations' between members of a committee chaired by Sharon Farrar.

Professional ethics and continuing professional development for judges have been the recent focus of world-wide attention. A Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program for judges is being given a trial run this year and will be evaluated based on feedback from participants before the final version is in place.

Given the focus on professional ethics, it must seem contradictory that all of the propositions having to do with ethics in judging failed at the 2008 SOBHD AGM. No one is opposed to clearer and perhaps higher ethical standards for Highland Dance judges. The trick is getting the wording right so the propositions do not fail on technicalities. Flawed propositions cannot be amended and made right at the SOBHD AGM and are effectively doomed. Even if a good idea fails the first time, generally the seed has been planted which I have learned is a very important step in making changes. Time and patience are then needed for the idea to take root and be accepted.

It was a shame that time did not permit the newly formed Rules Committee to review the propositions for soundness farther ahead of the AGM that it was able to. The formation of the Rule Committee was seen as a positive addition to the process of amending the SOBHD Constitution and Rules. The SOBHD readily admits that in its first year, the committee did not function as planned. Steps will be taken to ensure that the Rules Committee functions as planned before the next AGM.

2009 may be a challenging year for Highland Dance. Fears about the financial future of this country can trickle down very quickly to activities like Highland Dance that become expendable as families cut back.

Even in these days of economic uncertainty, this organization and each of us can carry on FUSTA's mission of fostering and promoting Highland Dance in the United States. It may be on a smaller scale and closer to home, but Highland Dance need not be a casualty of harder times.

FUSTA started as a grassroots organization and was deliberately structured so that the individual member was important, had voice, a vote and a standing invitation to get involved. This is not the time to forget that or to lose faith or interest in FUSTA. FUSTA truly is the sum of its total parts.

Ann Johnson, FUSTA President

Notes from the Judges Chairman



Congratulations are due for **Emma Trentman**, MW region, for successfully passing the recent Judges Test held in Atlantic City. She becomes the newest member of the SOBHD Worldwide Panel of Judges. Emma is originally from the East region and has been living in Michigan as a university student for several years.

* * * *

It is with regret that we bid farewell to one of the stalwarts of the Panel. **Betty Lawrence**, SW region, has retired from active judging, and will become an Honorary Member of the Judges Panel. Betty's contributions to Highland Dancing in North America are many and was an original member of the FUSTA's Hall of Fame. Having done many workshops throughout the U.S. and Canada, she has worked with countless numbers of dancers and teachers. She has often worked with candidates in preparation for the Judges Test and has befriended many people from coast to coast. We will be seeing Betty around at the USIR, and she will undoubtedly continue to do the occasional workshop and to work behind the scenes at the scrutineering table. Our thanks go to Betty for her many years as a valued dancing judge and a true professional.

* * * *

It is possible that there will be a **Judges Test** in a yet to be determined location in Canada later this year. If any members have an interest in taking the exam, please let me know so the idea can be presented to the SOBHD with an approximate number of interested candidates. If between the U.S. and Canada there aren't enough professionals interested, the test will not be granted for North America.

USIR Update

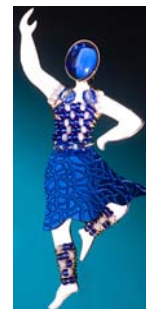


USIR 2010 Traverse City, MI



Things are well underway for a great USIR in Northern, MI next year. Check out our new website (now live!) at usir2010.fusta.us. We need your help though - we are looking for photos of past USIRs which highlight the large, national Scottish event that the USIR is! Please e-mail any photos which can be included on the homepage of the 2010 website to QOSDA@hotmail.com

To help us have a wonderful event, the Midwest region is holding a few fundraisers that you can participate in. **LizTech Pin** - for only \$40 (plus \$5 shipping), you can own one of only 250 specially designed LizTech pins. Please contact Mindy Hamilton at thehighlandco@yahoo.com to place an order. Checks or money orders should be made payable to FUSTA-MW. There are only a few left - so don't delay!



USIR 2009 -
Nashville, TN

USIR 2010 -
Traverse City, MI

USIR 2011 -
Spokane, WA

USIR 2012 -
TBD in East

USIR 2013 -
TBD in West

USIR 2013 -
TBD in Southwest

BATD Conference



On the last weekend of October I was fortunate to attend the 8th Annual BATD Conference and Sadie Simpson Scholarship which was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlantic City. The hotel is famous for memorabilia of Miss America contests with displays of shoes and gowns as worn by Miss America's.

Over 280 professionals and dancers attended the conference. Over 110 dancers participated in the Sadie Simpson Scholarships with 55 dancers in each section. For dancers to be eligible for the scholarship dancers had to gain excellent results in their Grade examinations conducted by BATD. The scholarship has three components with dancers participating in a class, a theory paper and a solo choreography.

Along with Miss Irene McKechnie (Scotland), Mrs Cheryl Kirby (USA) and myself we adjudicated the scholarship. The class was conducted by Miss Nadine McKenzie (Scotland). Nadine's class was outstanding allowing all dancers to give of their very best but yet testing the dancers abilities in an innovative, fun and energy charged environment. The choreographies performed were of an exceptionally high standard, showing great technique, wonderful creativity, excellent music and outstanding costuming.

The Sadie Simpson Scholarship was held on the Friday. Conference commenced on the Saturday with a variety of classes which included 2009 Set Step Lecture, choreography, step dancing, perfecting movements, Irish Jig, Sailors Hornpipe, New Zealand Sailors Hornpipe, Scurtineering, Ceildh dancing, stretching and warm up classes. Saturday evening was the Gala Dinner where the scholarship winners performed their choreographies. We were also privileged to be entertained by Nadine whose singing was outstanding. Honoured at the Gala Dinner was Mr Pete Tolev for his outstanding services towards the organization and running of the eight North American conferences. After formalities the Ceildh began. It was a great night with everyone on the floor until the wee small hours.

Sunday commenced a little later with a wonderful brunch and classes resuming.

Along with the outstanding classes and entertainment there were amazing outside attractions. The great shopping (tax free), the casinos, the gambling and of course the sights of Atlantic City.

This has to have been the best conference that I have ever attended. Credit for this conference must go to Joy Tolev and Diane Krugh for their superb organizational skills. The outstanding tutors and the opportunity for professional development is a must for everyone competing and/or teaching Highland Dancing. I look forward to receiving information on the 9th Annual BATD North American Conference and Sadie Simpson Scholarship which will be held in Toronto at the Delta Chelsea on the weekend of 9 – 11 October 2009.

If you haven't been you must!

Judy Clark
BATD examiner and SOBHD adjudicator
Teacher to Morgan Bamford (4 time Juvenile World Champion)

Editor's Notes

Happy 2009 to you all. Apologizes on the delay in this issue - but we wanted to make sure it was full of valuable information for all of our FUSTA members.

So, as we embark on a new year - here's to a great year. Looking forward to seeing all of you in Nashville for this year's USIR. It should be a great weekend of dance for all to enjoy and I'm looking forward to attending after missing the last couple of years.

Enjoy your winter, and some downtime before the craziness of our summer begins, it always seems to come earlier and earlier each year.

~ Bree Erin Brownlee
FUSTA Newsletter Editor
Midwest

BATD Conference

scholarship winners



Congratulations to all who participated in the 8th Annual BATD Conference and Sadie Simpson Scholarship. Below are the winners from both the Junior & Senior divisions and their teachers.

Junior Scholarship

1st	Matty Enis	Teacher: Kathleen Drummond, Moria Choy, Heather Sutherland
2nd	Lizzie Beattie	Teacher: Joy Tolev
3rd	Meghan Palmer	Teacher: Elizabeth Coyle
4th	Lara MacDougall	Teacher: Leslie MacDougall
5th	Kendra Brophy	Teacher: Eleanor Belton
6th	Samantha Melson	Teacher: Dawn Brennan Sutter

Junior Solo Choreography

1st	Jessica Bolton	Teacher: Marjorie-Anne Macleod Dent, Jessica Dent
2nd	Matty Enis	Teacher: Kathleen Drummond, Moria Choy, Heather Sutherland
3rd	Jennifer MacKinnon	Teacher : Anne Milne

Junior Paper

1st	Samantha Unger	Teacher: Bev Hughes
2nd	Anna Jung	Teacher: Diena Henry
3rd	Zoya Lehrke	Teacher: Diena Henry

Senior Scholarship

1st	Claire Boteler	Teacher: Terri Kember
2nd	Alexandria Scardamaglia	Teacher: Deb Scardamaglia
3rd	Laura Mobley	Teacher: Kathryn White Austin
4th	Haley Layton	Teacher: Joy Tolev
5th	Jean Stein	Teacher: Nancy Strolle
6th	McKenna Vickers	Teacher : Kathryn Campbell-Giebelhaus

Senior Solo Choreography

1st	Irene Muir	Teacher: Marjorie Hart-Rocheleau, Moria Hart
2nd	Claire Boteler	Teacher: Terri Kember
3rd	Shayla Appell	Teacher: Kathryn Campbell-Giebelhaus

Senior Paper

1st	Claire Boteler	Teacher: Terri Kember
2nd	Lindsay Recknagel	Teacher: Judy Hackett
3rd	Kathryn Keating	Teacher: Kathryn White Austin



Regional News



Midwest

The Queen of Scots Dance Academy, under the direction of Bree Erin Brownlee had a very philanthropic fall. In September they walked in the Juvenile Diabetes Walk in support of one of their fellow dancers and raised over \$500 for Diabetes research. In October, they once again walked in the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. The entire studio participated - dads and all - and together raised over \$2,500 for the American Cancer Society. They had a great time at both walks and can't wait to walk again next year in support of both causes. Next up for this group is hosting their first competition in May.



Jenny May-Caronchi recently was awarded first place for Best Enterprise Reporting from the Associated Press Society of Ohio at its annual awards luncheon in Columbus. A reporter for the News-Herald, Jenny won for her series "Teeba's New Beginning," a series of stories about a 6-year-old Iraqi girl, Teeba Furat Fahdil, who has been staying with a Concord Township family to receive treatment for second-degree burns to her face after an explosion in her hometown of Khuailis, Iraq.

Emily Brooks got engaged on September 23rd to Derek Sorensen. He is in his 3rd year of Emergency Medicine Residency, and Emily is working as a Registered Nurse, both in the Emergency Room at the Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago. (yes, very "Grey's Anatomy"!) The couple is planning a June 20th wedding, but are unsure as to where they are going to live.



Southeast

Jillian Howard-Abramowski and her husband, Ryan, are relocating to Washington. Ryan will be stationed at Ft Lewis and they will be living in the Tacoma area.

Margaret Howard recently danced as an extra in a TV pilot, The Line King. It will be shown in the Tampa area in Jan and is hoping to get picked up by a network. Margaret has been teaching and line dancing for a year.

Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival is moving and will now be called ...Meadow Highland Games & Celtic Festival.

Early last May, Virginia Highland dancers were joined by the "OZSCOT" group from Australia, and dancers from "Rhythm of Ireland" to perform two lively numbers in the "13th Virginia International Tattoo," held annually in Norfolk, VA.



The event is the cornerstone of the month long Virginia International Arts Festival and draws an audience from 44 states. This year it was listed as one of the top 100 events in the country by the American Bus Association. Each year U.S. dancers have the opportunity to perform new choreography with a different group of international Highland dancers. Eleanor Unger, of Virginia Beach is the Dance Director and Choreographer for the Tattoo. Dancers interested in performing in future events are welcome to contact her for further information.



Southwest

Mandy McCulloch from Englewood Colorado is engaged to Dave Bakulski and plans to be married on Friday, July 31st.

Congratulations to a new teacher in Colorado, Madeline Rhiel. Way 2 Go Maddie!

Andrew and Marlena Aitken had their second child, Iain Thomas Aitken. Born October 27th (on their wedding anniversary) at 33 weeks weighing 3 lbs. 6 oz. Iain is doing great! Congrats Aitken family!



Northwest

Congrats to Phoebe Scollard and Julia Ritchie from Portland, Oregon, they are new SDTA Associates.

Congrats to Brielle Fuller from Spokane, Washington who is a new BATD Member. She took her exam in September.



Premier dancer, Jennifer "Harrison" married Rob Rost on December 19th. It was a beautiful wedding for a great couple. They will be living apart for a while as Rob works in Arizona for the hospital while Harrison is going to school to be an ultrasound technologist in Iowa. Congrats Rosts!

Our thoughts and prayers are with dancers Caitlin and Hannah Shepherd. They lost their mom after a long fight with ovarian cancer on December 12th. A true dance mum, Tara was always driving kids to shows, volunteering at games, helping out with costumes etc. etc. etc. She was able to enjoy a few hours at the Phoenix games to see Hannah dance one last time. Our thoughts are with you all!

The San Jose School of Highland Dance held their 3rd annual Extravaganza show on November 22nd. Instructors Fred DeMarse and Tierney de la Lama arranged a show that included 26 dancers from the school and a local pipeband in an evening of Highland Dance and Scottish music. Proceeds from the event support school events and the local Highland Dancing association.

MacKinnon Dance Academy celebrated the holidays with a special event on December 7. MacKinnon's is also expanding this year, by adding 2500 square feet to the 4500 sq foot facility already in use. In July, MacKinnon's will present the 32nd annual Production/Recital.

Halloween Weekend last year saw highland dancing take place in the "Old West Town" of Tucson, Arizona, with the careful planning of Patrica Nuzzo, teacher and organizer of this event. The trophies for the event were beautifully carved ironwood Saguaro cactuses created by a local Arizona artist. Both days of dancing concluded with a wonderful workshop presented by judge Christie Freestone and she allowed all of the parents and teachers to sit and watch from the sidelines. The event concluded with an open air barbecue at an actual Wells Fargo Pony Express stop (Lil' Abners) in the Tucson foothills.



Cathy Hynd and Sharon Farrar recently had a play date with granddaughters Ava and Cassidy. The kids introduced their grandmas to the endless possibilities (and mess) of Playdough. Two great ladies of highland dance sharing a playday with playdough. Pretty sure they are making playdough swords and dance figurines. Well, at least Cathy and Sharon are.



CORRECTION:

Maty Ennis 4th Runner-Up in the USIR 12 & Under 14 is from the East region.

note: no news provided from the East

FUSTA Footwork Advertising

Advertising space is still available in each issue. If you would like to submit an ad, please e-mail editor Bree Brownlee at QOSDA@hotmail.com by the 1st of the month prior to issue date (Feb 1st, May 1st, Aug 1st). Ads are \$35.00 per quarter page ad per issue or \$125.00 per year. Checks should be made out to FUSTA. All ads are quarter page in size and need to be of topics related to Highland Dance.

Flowers of the Forest

Highland Dance lost two teachers and strong supporters of Highland Dance at the end of 2008. Evelyn (Lynn) McLaren from Scotland and Sue Irmisch from Hamilton, Ontario. Each will be remembered for her contributions to Highland Dance and the many lives she touched.

