

FUSTA Footwork

September 2006

This has been a good year for FUSTA with several projects finally finished. The bylaw revisions were completed, approved by the membership in late spring, and became effective the day after the 2006 USIR. In July revisions made to the Policies and Procedures and Standing Rules were approved by the Board of Directors. All three documents will be published in a booklet and sent to each member before the end of this calendar year.

FUSTA's effort to seek an exemption from the "No Card No Dance" rule was successful beyond the scope of its request. FUSTA sent two letters of appeal to the SOBHD. The second one was read at the May meeting after which the rule was suspended world wide until such a time as it is rewritten. The decision to appeal rather than ignore the policy was the right approach to have taken. Because FUSTA worked from within to achieve its goal, I believe an increased level of trust was earned.

FUSTA unveiled a new banner at the 2006 USIR that will be displayed at all future USIR Championships. It was designed so that the date and host city can be changed yearly guaranteeing longevity for the banner. Bruce Farrar, a multiple time USIR finalist from the West Region, generously donated his time and talents to design and oversee the production of the banner.

Bruce and Bill Weaver worked together to create a new look for FUSTA's website. FUSTA hopes that the redesigned website will become the first place members and non-members turn to for news, information and answers about Highland Dance in the United States.

FUSTA has a new newsletter editor who is giving the newsletter a new look. Bree Brownlee, a former USIR Champion from the Mid West Region, volunteered for the job when the previous editor was no longer able to continue.

This year's USIR in Saratoga Springs, New York set a new standard for the definition of teamwork, careful planning, and attention to detail. It was a wonderful event from start to finish with a positive and congenial atmosphere that lasted until the last good by was said.

Several thoughtful touches were included this year. Among them a toast-writing contest for the finalists that produced a number of touching tributes to parents and teachers. Two were chosen and read at the banquet. The five USIR champions danced a Victory Highland Fling while their teachers and the 25 runners up stood behind them on the stage creating a fitting ending to the USIR.

Many thanks to Anne Donlan, her wonderful committee and the East Region for making the 2006 USIR one that will not soon be forgotten.

What is next for FUSTA and its members? Still to be completed is the scrutineering certification program. The technical manual is done and plans for coordinated instruction sessions are nearly complete. By spring, FUSTA hopes that there will be a larger pool of people qualified to scrutineer at regional selection competitions and at the USIR.

In the coming year, FUSTA wants to become a better resource for competition organizers in the United States. It is not the intent or desire to have each and every dance competition look the same or be controlled by FUSTA. However, it can only strengthen Highland Dance in the U. S. if all competitions follow a few key principles.

By taking the time to reflect we measure our successes and growth. By looking ahead we focus our energies on the direction we want FUSTA to take domestically and internationally.

Ann Johnson, FUSTA President

Editor's Notes

Hello all! I am very excited to be taking over as the FUSTA Footwork editor. (So excited, that I even set-up a photo shoot with my dancers to make the graphics for the top!) If you have any news, announcements, photos, information or anything else you feel the membership would be interested in, please submit it to me at QOSDA@hotmail.com for inclusion in the newsletter.

The newsletter will come out 4 times during the year - September, January, March & June, as close to the 1st of the month as possible. Please submit any news, photos, or articles by the 15th of the month prior in order to be included.

Let me know what you think of the new layout and if you have any suggestions for the next issue.

~ Bree Erin Brownlee

USIR Champions



7 and Under 12

Champion:	Kathleen Black	SE
1st Runner-Up:	Madeline Cooper	W
2nd Runner-Up:	Meghan Palmer	NW
3rd Runner-Up:	Alison Ashworth	W
4th Runner-Up:	Georgiana Schwartz	W
5th Runner-Up:	Sarah Ketron	MW

14 and Under 16

Champion:	Kelsey Crane	NW
1st Runner-Up:	Ania Oddone	SE
2nd Runner-Up:	Kara Yamashita	W
3rd Runner-Up:	Leda Starkweather	MW
4th Runner-Up:	Emily Ramsey	SW
5th Runner-Up:	Jessica Hublick	MW

18 and Over

Champion:	Kate DeGood	MW
1st Runner-Up:	Kari MacNaughton	WE
2nd Runner-Up:	Laura Donlan	E
3rd Runner-Up:	Elizabeth Fishback	NW
4th Runner-Up:	Trisha MacConnell	WE
5th Runner-Up:	Katie Goodell	MW

12 and Under 14

Champion:	Lauren Cooper	W
1st Runner-Up:	Kelly Brush	MW
2nd Runner-Up:	Hillary Lewis	E
3rd Runner-Up:	Tara Mueller	SE
4th Runner-Up:	Shannon Anfindsen	SE
5th Runner-Up:	Simone Gingras	W

16 and Under 18

Champion:	Carla Gardner	SW
1st Runner-Up:	Katie Crombie	MW
2nd Runner-Up:	Lawren Wylie	W
3rd Runner-Up:	Cameron Oddone	SE
4th Runner-Up:	Amanda Gentry	SE
5th Runner-Up:	Pilar McKay	SW



Americans in Scotland



Many of our American dancers traveled overseas (even with the new travel restrictions) to compete at the World Championship. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done. Special shout out to Kate DeGood, Kari MacNaughton and Carla Gardner on placing at the World Finals (each pictured below with Colleen Rintimaki, who handed out the awards.)

Royal Scottish Pipe Band, August 12th

17 years - 1st Runner-Up	Carla Gardner
Adults - 1st Runner-Up	Kate DeGood
Adults - 5th Runner-Up	Kari MacNaughton

Rothsay, August 19th

11 & Under - 1st Runner-Up	Madeline Cooper
13 & Under - 3rd Runner-Up	Hillary Lewis
13 & Under - 4th Runner-Up	Lauren Cooper
Adults - 1st Runner-Up	Kate DeGood
Adults - 4th Runner-Up	Kari MacNaughton

Commonwealth, August 20th

11 & Under - 3rd Runner-Up	Meghan Palmer
11 & Under - 4th Runner-Up	Georgiana Schwartz
12 & Under - 5th Runner-Up	Madeline Cooper
17 & Under - 2nd Runner-Up	Carla Gardner
Adults - 1st Runner-Up	Kate DeGood
Adults - 4th Runner-Up	Katie Goodell

Scottish Championship, August 25th

11 years - 3rd Runner-Up	Madeline Cooper
12 years - 2nd Runner-Up	Caitlin McLean
13 years - 2nd Runner-Up	Lauren Cooper
14 years - 2nd Rupper-Up	Hillary Lewis

Qualified for World Finals

Lauren Cooper
Katie Crombie
Carla Gardner
Kate De Good
Kari MacNaughton
Laura Donlan
Katie Goodell

World Finals, August 26th

Junior - 3rd Runner-Up	Carla Gardner
Adults - 2nd Runner-Up	Kate DeGood
Adults - 5th Runner-Up	Kari MacNaughton

other medal placings

Juvenile - 6th in Reel	Lauren Cooper
Adult - 6th in Seann Triubhas	Laura Donlan





Regional News

East

Highland Dance Boston, The Boston Highlanders as well as the rest of the region are sad to report that Allison and Phil Ferguson have moved from Boston back to Canada. Allison is a competitive dancer in premier and Phil is a dance piper that played for many competitions. They are now post-docs and parents and will be pursuing careers and life in Toronto. Best wishes to them and baby Wendy.

Former eastern region competitor, Abbie MacQuarrie, is off to pursue her undergrad degree in Scotland at Edinburgh University. Abbie, a performer with Highland Dance Boston, is also a proficient Cape Breton Step dancer, fiddler, bodhran drummer, and Irish Step dancer. She'll be plying her craft in Edinburgh before long. We wish you well, Abbie.

Cailine Drummond graduated valedictorian from Upper Dublin High School in PA and will attend the University of Pittsburgh this fall.

Laura Donlan was recently awarded the Kappa Delta Association Scholarship for her study of Physical Therapy at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York. Laura will graduate with a Doctorate (DPT) in 2009.

Erin Dauson qualified and is competing in Amsterdam with her crew team from Pittsburgh, PA for the Junior World Championships. Erin is the daughter of dance piper Douglas Sauson and student of Wendy Fennell.

Emma Trentman is currently studying Arabic in Cairo, Egypt for a year on a fellowship from the Center for Arabic Study Abroad at the University in Cairo.

Midwest

Bree Erin Brownlee's student, Katie Kaminski-Powell was crowned the 2006 St. Andrew's Queen of the Highlands. Katie, pictured here with teachers Bree & Sheila Brownlee, is a freshmen at the University of Michigan, beginning her studies in Medicinal Chemistry.



Former World and 8 time US Champion, Ashley Knox, married Alex Dufaur in July. Bree Brownlee and former dancer Amanda (Knox) Caveney were in the bridal party - along with Jennifer (Miller) Pierson and Lauren (Miller) Rienas' children - Caden & Peyton. Many other FUSTA members were in attendance including Bill & Liz Weaver, Tracey Walton and former member Jill Fuller.



Dancer Victoria Politi is looking forward to attending Cuyahoga Community College this fall to major in communications. Victoria is a Premier dancer and a student of Jenny May Caronchi.

Dancer Jennifer Haag of Cleveland Heights, Ohio and a senior at Beaumont High School recently won several science awards. Jennifer is a Premier dancer and a student of Jenny May Caronchi.

Rebecca Gressock is engaged to Scott Spillan. They will be married June 30, 2007.

Sheena Moes was engaged to Trent Priest April 25, 2006. The wedding day is April 14, 2007.

Katie Goodell is engaged to Jeff McClintic. They are planning on a Fall 2007 wedding.

Susan Jeffrey graduated this past Spring from Veterinary School, University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Emily Brooks graduated from Hope College with a BSN and passed the RN Boards in July. She will be in a 22 week Residency program in the Emergency Department at Illinois Masonic Hospital in Chicago. After her residency she will work at that hospital full time in the ER.

Former member Jennifer Brown-Tallman and husband Andy welcomed Nicholas Henry July 1st. He weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz and was 19.75 in long.

Mary Jo Pung and family welcomed Mia Elizabeth Pung, September 27th, 2005. She is now in good health, and looks great in a kilt! Pictured here with her brother Sam and sister, Madda.





Congratulations to Cynthia Belisle, whose daughter, Jennifer, (a former highland dancer) is getting married March 26th, 2007, on the top of a back-country skiing mountain in Manitoba. Think extreme skiing....she has to snowshoe up the thing.

Congratulations to Kelsey Crane who sat her Associate Test at the Ohio School of Scottish arts and passed with a highly commended.

While in Scotland in August, Ann Johnson had the unexpected opportunity to judge a small Highland dance competition in Port Rush, Northern Ireland. She reports that the country is "postcard beautiful" and the people are exceptionally nice. It is exciting to see Highland Dance gain popularity in Ireland.



Margaret Walker passed her Members Exam Highly Commended.

Torri Taggart Anderson's husband Neil was deployed in April and is in Baghdad until July, 2007. He is in a unit that is tasked with training Iraqi police on conflict management. She is so proud of him and misses him so much! The family is all doing well - just staying busy!

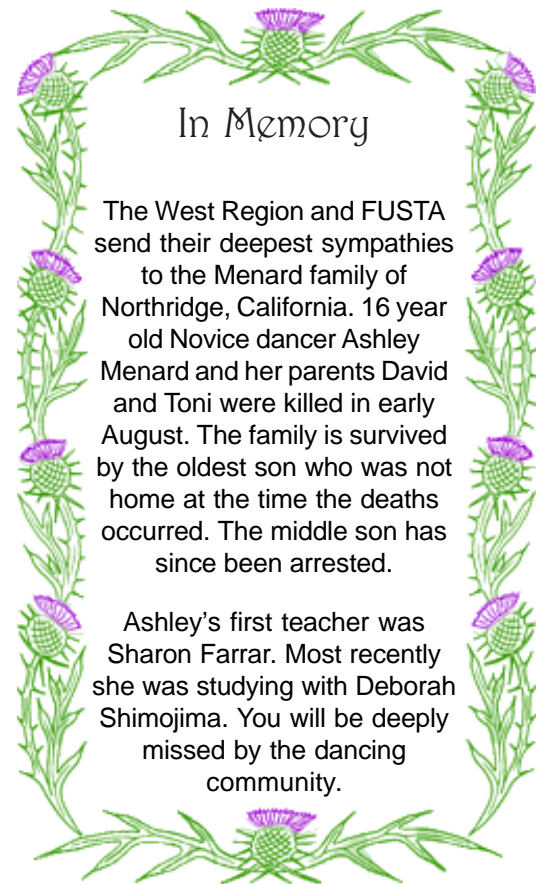


Congratulations to new teachers Irene McNamara (Texas), Jan Holland (Colorado) and Lys Runnerstrom (Colorado) who have recently passed their Member's Highland exam!

Congratulations to Cristy Wisehart-Jones (Colorado) who had a baby girl, Kayleigh Ashllen 7pds 5oz on May 18, 2006. Kayleigh, Cristy, Greg, and sister MacKenzie are all doing great!



Congratulations to Joy MacKinnon and the Joy MacKinnon Academy of Dance, in Oxnard California, on their annual concert "It's Time for 29". Many of her former pupils now teach for her, Susie Eskridge and Audra Kosh are two former Highland Dancers that now teach with Joy.



In Memory

The West Region and FUSTA send their deepest sympathies to the Menard family of Northridge, California. 16 year old Novice dancer Ashley Menard and her parents David and Toni were killed in early August. The family is survived by the oldest son who was not home at the time the deaths occurred. The middle son has since been arrested.

Ashley's first teacher was Sharon Farrar. Most recently she was studying with Deborah Shimojima. You will be deeply missed by the dancing community.

www.FUSTA.us



Have you seen the new FUSTA website? Check out the redesigned site - full of great new content, contact information, USIR info, past newsletters and more!

FUSTA Scholarship



Each year, FUSTA awards a \$500 college scholarship to a high school senior/college bound graduate who has devoted years of their lives in the pursuit of Highland Dancing. This year, our scholarship winner is Hannah Faustmann from the Midwest. Below is her winning essay. Congrats Hannah and best of luck in your future studies!

Highland dance has been a major component of my life for the last 15 years. In 1990, my family relocated from New York to Alma, Michigan. Upon high recommendation they enrolled me into the 'Land of Oz' preschool, under the direction of Christie Freestone. Unbeknownst to them Christie also ran the Mid Michigan Highland Dance Academy in Alma. They didn't know it at the time, but when they enrolled me in preschool that fated day, they were also committing me to the world of highland dance. At three and a half years old, as Bill Weaver piped me into a fascinating new world, I took the stage at my first highland dance competition. I danced too many Pas de Basques...I was three and a half...I couldn't count. My kilt was homemade, my socks fell down, and I turned the wrong way...but the judge smiled at me (Sandra Weyman) so I didn't care. At the conclusion of my performance, Christie told me that I had danced brilliantly...that, coupled with the roar of the crowds applause confirmed in my young mind and instilled in my heart that I had indeed...entered a magical world. Highland dancing was the Scotland of my youth and of my imagination.

My life as a highland dancer has progressed like that of life in general. As a toddler learns to walk and talk, Christie taught me how to turn highland movements into fluid dance. By the time I was nine she had taken me to the premier level. By the time I was 10 I had won my first championship. For as long as I can remember, and I mean this most sincerely, I have spent 3-5 evenings a week participating in dance lessons under Christie's tutelage. She has been my mentor, sometimes my mother, and always my dearest friend. Highland dance has effected my life on so many levels...it is difficult to know where to begin as the story is without end. The ramifications of being a highland dancer are far-reaching.

Highland dance has given me some of my most valued and loyal friends. These friends form my family. The highland dance family embraced my family some 16 years ago and has never let go. In addition, it has afforded me countless life lessons. I have learned time management skills. To remain an honor student as well as fit in not only highland dance, but numerous other extracurricular activities, I had to learn to manage my time. I am convinced that highland dancers work harder in their art form than many others ever work in their entire life. Also, a highland dancer must not only be an accomplished athlete, she must be at all times above reproach, especially if she is successful. She must be a loyal friend, a positive role model, and a studio representative. Highland dance has nurtured in me a sense of diplomacy as well as dedication, discipline and obedience. It has taught me grace under pressure, genuine sportsmanship and integrity.

I am a firm believer that we are shaped as much by our losses as by our successes. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built." This philosophy has been reiterated by Christie time and time again. This philosophy has shaped my 'character' and it is this 'character' that will govern my life.

In addition, I have learned to respect and accept the guidance and instruction of those who teach and/or mentor me, be they Christie, a workshop instructor, or as much as I hate to admit it...my mother! They work hard to help me excel, and therefore it is my duty to show them that I value their commitment and expertise, by practicing and striving for excellence. Hard work and attention to detail permeates all aspects of my life, virtues that I unequivocally attribute to my highland dance career.

Although I could go on and on, about the positive effects highland dance has made upon my life, I am limited to 500 words, so, simply stated, I'll close. *Highland dance has placed before me the challenge to become a woman of character, a woman of integrity and a woman of passionate distinction; because of all that it has imparted ...it is a challenge I am sure to meet.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Eileen Faustmann

