

Lori Perkins

“Lori Perkins began her twirling career at 3 years old, by jumping up and down in the back of her mother’s station wagon and begging until she was registered at Karen Ogden’s Studio in Louisiana. She was Ms. Karen’s very first individual national champion at the age of 8, and had a successful competitive career that included numerous Louisiana State and South Central Regional Grand Championships, National Championships, and International Championship titles as an individual and on team. Lori was the feature twirler for Sulphur High School, and later at McNeese State University, while earning her degree in Education. She moved to Texas in 1994, after marrying the love of her life, and now teaches Algebra I and is the Special Education Department Chair at Magnolia West High School in Texas where she still resides with that love, Steve, her husband of 27 years. Steve and Lori have two children, Emily and Alex. Alex is a senior, studying Mass Communications, and a member of the drumline with the Pride of McNeese marching band. Emily is a recent graduate of the University of Oklahoma, and will be returning as the Feature Twirler for the Pride of Oklahoma marching band while earning a masters degree. Lori has served in many roles on the Texas Twirling Teachers’ Council and is the current President of TSTC. She has directed numerous competitions throughout the region, and served ten years on the USTA Board of Directors representing the Central Region. As a master judge, she has traveled the world judging elite competitions and attending workshops to increase her understanding of our sport. She coaches several programs throughout Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi, and has been honored to receive several choreography awards, including the 2019 USTA National Choreography Award. She has coached numerous state, regional, national and international champions from several states, but said that the highlight of her twirling career so far was training her daughter, Emily and Keragan Ogden, her mentor’s granddaughter, to win the Gold medal at the U.S. Trials and represented the senior pair division at the WBTF World Championships in Sweden in 2016.”

For those that don’t know me, the above is a broad representation of my life taken from the Texasstatetwirlingcouncil.com website, and it is quite humbling to reread all of that and remember how blessed I am to be involved in this amazing organization over my lifetime. After losing Ms. Karen this year, and getting ready to retire from teaching school, I have realized that I have an obligation to serve and give back to the future generations, so that they may experience all of the joy that our sport has to offer. It would be an honor to represent my sector again on the USTA Board of Directors.