

Catch It!

Grand National Champions

Congratulations to our 2019 Grand National Champions:
Bower Sarra, Men's Solo
Keragan Ogden, Artistic Twirl
Lexi Duda, Women's Solo and 2-Baton
Laney Puhalla, Strut
Amelia DiPaola, 3-Baton



INSIDE *(click on title to jump to page)*

Good Luck, Team USA!

2019 Nationals

Congratulations 2019 Regional Champions

Congratulations 2019 State Champions

iTwirl19

Creative Challenge Grant

Jenny Hannah Performs in WMG Preview

2020 National Championships



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Twitter and Instagram feeds!

GOOD LUCK, TEAM USA!

Good luck to all the athletes who will be competing at the 2019 World Baton Twirling Federation (WBTF) International Cup and the International Baton Twirling Federation (IBTF) Grand Prix competitions, August 5-11, in Limoges, France! A record number of U.S. athletes, representing both USTA and the National Baton Twirling Association (NBTA), will compete together as Team USA, proudly representing the United States of America. Six USTA judges will be part of the elite, international IC-GP judging panel. Con-

gratulations to Abby Moore, Amanda Guidroz, Jason Lee, Sheri Carter, Krystal Mignone and Dale White.



USTA Grand Prix athletes



USTA International Cup athletes



USTA International Cup and Grand Prix judges: Abby Moore, Amanda Guidroz, Jason Lee, Sheri Carter, Krystal Mignone and Dale White.

2019 NATIONALS

#2019Nationals is a wrap!

Dreams definitely took flight, and in many cases came true, during the 61st Anniversary U.S. National Baton Twirling Championships, held July 10-13, 2019 at Wright State University in Fairborn, Ohio. Nearly 900 athletes from 31 states took part in the championships,

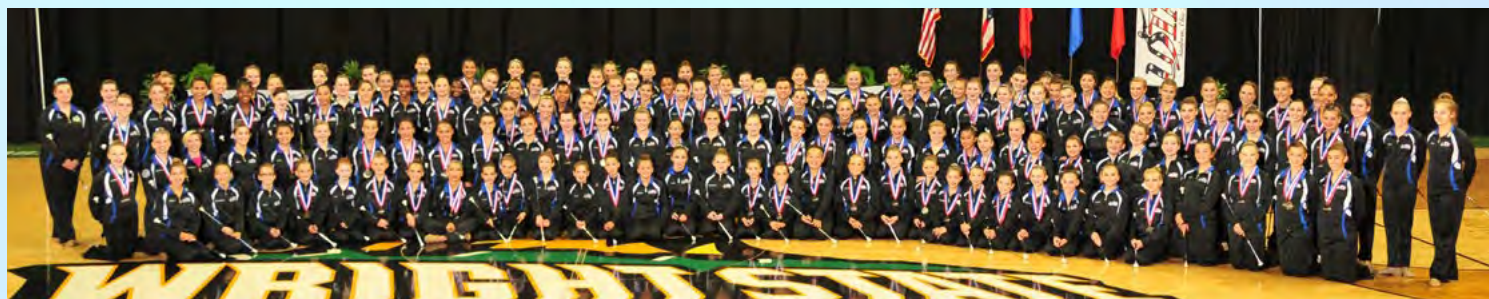
which were a celebration of fun, friendship and great twirling!

The 2019 Championships featured a new four-day format, with National events taking place in the Nutter Center and Festival of the Future events taking place in the adjacent McLin Gym. Competition began on July 10 with a record number of athletes participating in the

prestigious U.S. PreTrials. July 11 and 12 featured the Festival of the Future Foundation events and National and Festival Championship events.

The National Finals Show is always one of the highlights of Nationals week, and this year's show didn't disappoint! There were thrilling performances as

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2019 PreTrials Athletes

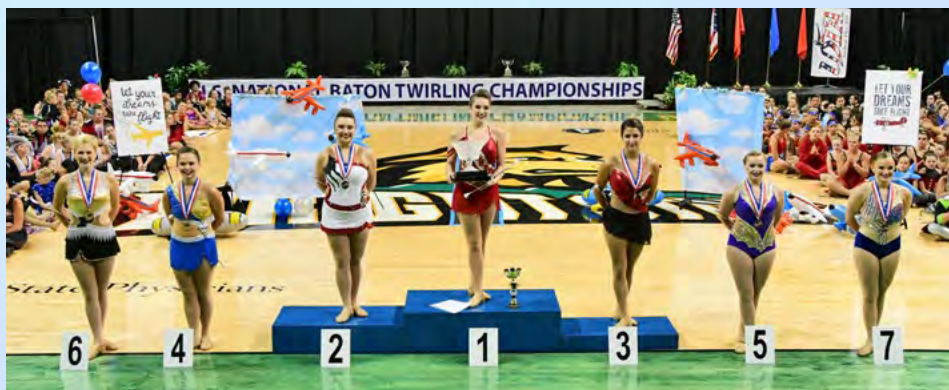
Congratulations to 2019 Collegiate Champion Emily Perkins, Feature Twirler at the University of Oklahoma.



Congratulations to the #2019Nationals All Catch Club!
These athletes all performed no-drop routines in Nationals or Festival!



Congratulations to the Dynamics MD, which won the EsTEAMed Cup for the highest-scoring team (dance twirl team, twirl team, show team or trio).



2019 Collegiate Championship Awards

2019 NATIONALS

the top two junior, senior and adult athletes in 2-Baton, Strut, 3-Baton, Artistic Twirl, Men's Solo and Women's Solo competed for Grand National Champion honors.

After the Finals Show, it was time for the awesome Athletes' Party and Champions' Celebration, where nearly 500 people enjoyed a delicious dinner and lots of photo booth fun, dancing, prizes

and autographs from the new Grand National Champs!

The week wrapped up with National and Festival Group competitions, the exciting Collegiate Championship event and the aviation-themed Team Retreat. Congratulations to University of Oklahoma Feature Twirler Emily Perkins, who captured the Collegiate Championship Miller Cup with a flawless perfor-

mance! Boomer Sooner!

Congratulations to all of the athletes who competed, and the coaches, parents and family members who supported them along the way!

Watch for information this fall on www.ustwirling.com about the 2020 National Championships, Festival of the Future and International Cup Qualifier, July 15-18, 2020 in Stockton, Calif.



Photo booth fun



Congratulations to Lori Perkins of Karen Ogden Studios who was named Choreographer of the Year for the Juv. Lg. Twirl Team "A Mother's Prayer." (L to R: Kathy Butera Fanney, Judges Department Chair; Karen Ogden, Lori Perkins.)



Congratulations to *Illusions Wonderland*, which won the "Esprit de Corps Cup" for highest scoring parade or show corps.



2019 Grand National Champions: Bower Sarra, Men's Solo; Keragan Ogden, Artistic Twirl; Lexi Duda, Solo and 2-Baton; Laney Puhalla, Strut; Amelia DiPaola, 3-Baton.

CONGRATULATIONS 2019 REGIONAL CHAMPIONS!

2019 REGIONAL AND STATE CHAMPIONS

USIA is proud to recognize our 2019 Regional and State Champions! Congratulations on your impressive accomplishments and thank you for being outstanding representatives of our sport and our organization!

2019 REGIONAL CHAMPIONS



NORTHEAST REGION GRAND CHAMPIONS

Bower Sarra, Men's Solo and 2-Baton; Carolyn Trivigno, Artistic Twirl; Richie Terwilliger, 3-Baton; Laney Puhalla, Solo and Strut.



SOUTHEAST REGION CHAMPIONS

Standing (L to R): Julia Arciola, Sr. 2-Baton and 3-Baton; Alexis Stade, Jr. 2-Baton and 3-Baton; Caitlyn Sullivan, Jr. Solo, Strut and Artistic Twirl. Sitting: Amanda Trujillo, Sr. Solo, Strut and Artistic Twirl.



CENTRAL REGION GRAND CHAMPIONS

Keragan Ogden, Solo and Artistic Twirl; James Koehler, Men's Solo; Emily Perkins, Strut, 2-Baton and 3-Baton.



MIDEAST REGION GRAND CHAMPIONS

Mikayla Schuller, 3-Baton; Kazuki Ichimura, Men's Solo; Grace Wennerberg, Solo, Strut, Artistic Twirl; Kimberly Lewis, 2-Baton.



WESTERN REGION GRAND CHAMPIONS

Amelia DiPaola, 2-Baton, 3-Baton and Artistic Twirl; Katiana Welsheimer, Strut; Brandon Ennis, Men's Solo; Rena Sakai, Solo.

CONGRATULATIONS 2019 STATE CHAMPIONS!



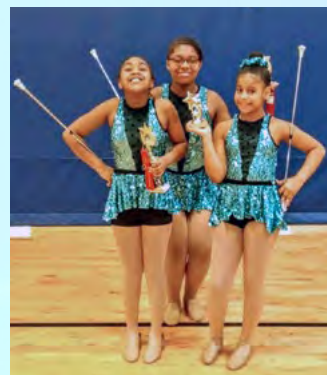
ARIZONA STATE GRAND CHAMPIONS

Madelaine Schmidt, Solo and 2-Baton;
Megan Ekstrom, 3-Baton; Amanda
Cook, Artistic Twirl; Jayden Mendez,
Men's Solo.



COLORADO STATE GRAND CHAMPIONS

Katie Lam, Artistic Twirl; Alexa Lytle,
Solo.



ILLINOIS NOV. JUV. TRIO CHAMPIONS

STAT of Illinois.



CALIFORNIA STATE GRAND CHAMPIONS

Leah Mayer, Strut; Amelia DiPaola,
Women's Solo, 2-Baton and 3-Baton;
Brandon Ennis, Men's Solo; Rena Sakai,
Artistic Twirl.



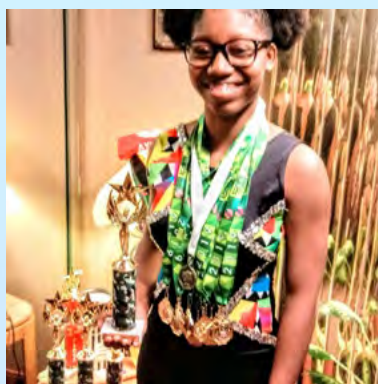
FLORIDA STATE GRAND CHAMPIONS

Julia Arciola, Solo, Strut, 2-Baton,
3-Baton; Curt Burrows, Men's Solo;
Amanda Trujillo, Artistic Twirl.



ILLINOIS JR. SMALL TWIRL TEAM AND JR. SHOW TEAM CHAMPIONS

Twirling Bears.



ILLINOIS STATE 2-BATON AND 3-BATON CHAMPION

Precious Nickerson.



INDIANA STATE GRAND CHAMPION

Aria Summers, Solo, 2-Baton, Strut and
Artistic Twirl.

CONGRATULATIONS 2019 STATE CHAMPIONS!



KANSAS STATE GRAND CHAMPION

Bri Tayfel, Solo, 2-Baton and 3-Baton.



KENTUCKY STATE CHAMPIONS

Lou Willis and Jordyn Melton, Sr. Duet; Kazuki Ichimura, Men's Solo, 2-Baton, 3-Baton and Artistic Twirl; Tara Howard, Solo and Strut.



LOUISIANA STATE GRAND CHAMPIONS

Taylor Fuqua, Strut; Keragan Odgen, Solo, 2-Baton and Artistic Twirl.



MARYLAND STATE GRAND CHAMPIONS

Marshall Sherer, Men's Solo; Emily R.C. Cooper, Women's Solo, Artistic Twirl, Strut, 2-Baton and 3-Baton.



MICHIGAN STATE GRAND CHAMPIONS

Tara Zielinski, Strut; Zoe Dotts-Brown, Solo, 2-Baton and 3-Baton; Hailey Alvarez, Artistic Twirl.



NEW JERSEY STATE CHAMPIONS

Front row, L to R: Bautista/Stankevich, Juv. Duet; Kailey LaPooh: Jr. 2-Baton, Jr. Women's Solo; Delaney Higgins, Juv. Women's Solo, 2-Baton, Artistic Twirl. Back row, L to R: Faith Lyons, Jr. Strut; Dridi/Weathers, Jr. Duet; Ashley Norman, Sr. Artistic Twirl; Norman/Miller, Sr. Duet, Artistic Twirl Pairs; Nicole Ray, Jr. Artistic Twirl; Tiahna Selby, Sr. Women's Solo, 2-Baton and 3-Baton.



OHIO STATE GRAND CHAMPIONS

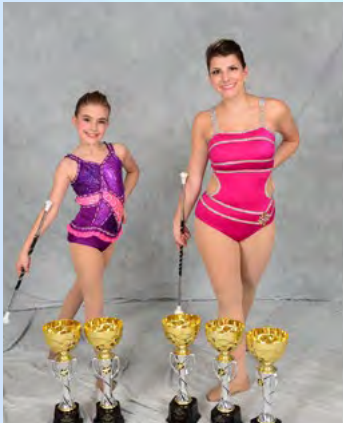
Grace Wennerberg, Artistic Twirl and Strut; Kyler Jump, Men's Solo and 3-Baton; Anita Ney, Solo; Claudia Swauger, 2-Baton.

CONGRATULATIONS 2019 STATE CHAMPIONS!



OREGON STATE CHAMPIONS

Nina Hawley, Jr. Solo, 2-Baton, Strut & Artistic Twirl Champion; Hannah Yamaguchi, Jr. Duet Champion; Makenzie Elliot (top center), Sr. Solo, 2-Baton, Strut & Artistic Twirl Champion; Zoe Yamaguchi, Jr. Duet Champion.



PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRAND CHAMPIONS

Sterling Busza, Artistic Twirl and Strut; Mikaela Juskalian, Women's Solo, 2-Baton and 3-Baton.



TENNESSEE STATE CHAMPIONS

Front row: Bella Seabee, Juv. Solo, Strut, Artistic Twirl and 2-Baton. Back row, L to R: Madison Brode, Jr. Solo, Artistic Twirl and 3-Baton; Julia Keissling, Jr. Strut; Caitlyn Sullivan, Jr. 2-Baton.



TEXAS STATE GRAND CHAMPIONS

Agnesa Dolomite, Artistic Twirl; Maggie Chrudimsky, 2-and 3-Baton; Destiny LeBrun, Strut.



TEXAS STATE SOLO GRAND CHAMPION

Kayli Bull.



WASHINGTON STATE GRAND CHAMPIONS

Selah Johnson, Artistic Twirl; JaZee Griffith, Solo, 2-Baton and 3-Baton; Katiana Welsheimer, Strut; Katiana and Kirsandra Welsheimer, Artistic Twirl Pairs.

USTA PROUDLY ANNOUNCES

iTwirl19

With featured guest instructor **Jason Travers!**



French twirler Jason Travers is a former world champion and multiple-time world medalist in the Senior Men and Team categories. Renowned for his innovative dance and twirling moves, Travers will be coming to **iTwirl19** to teach exciting new flips, rolls and tricks that will help you bring some French flair into your routines! Join us **Oct. 12-13 in Nashville** and learn from this French twirling superstar and other outstanding clinicians from across the U.S.!

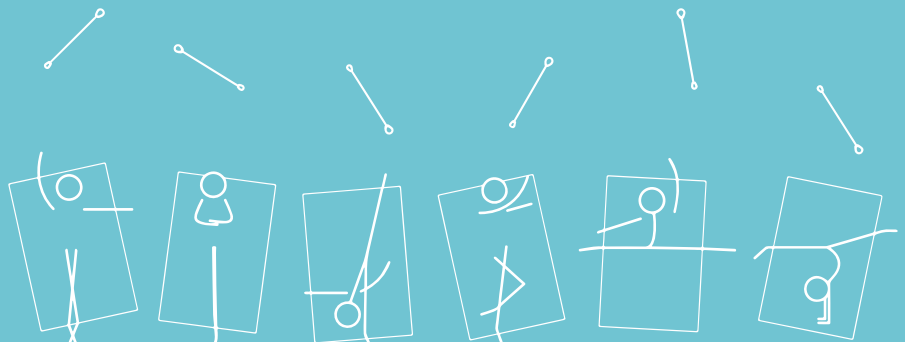
iTwirl19

October 12-13, 2019

White House Heritage High School
7744 TN-76, White House, TN 37188

Just 25 miles north of downtown Nashville

Watch for more information on
www.ustwirling.com



USTA AWARDS CREATIVE CHALLENGE GRANTS

*Twirling Bears
and Bearettes
spread baton
twirling in
Chicago suburbs*



In 1969, Elaine Jones began a twirling career that would eventually touch the lives of hundreds of young people in the southern and western suburbs of Chicago. She began twirling as a student of Charlotte Kerstein, then USTA's Marlys Hinson and finally Ginny Schiewe. Jones started competing in the 1970s and joined the Illinois Baton Council at that time under future USTA Hall of Fame Inductee, Bobby Mae. Soon Jones founded the Twirling Bears and Bearettes and was coaching and loving every opportunity to share her love of twirling with her students. She took them to USTA contests, including regionals and nationals on several occasions. Jones' students have earned state, regional and national titles, and many have twirled and done dance and poms at their high schools. Along the way, Jones faced some significant obstacles.

"The area in which we teach is economically diverse," Jones said. "In addition to that, a number of people in the area have simply not heard of baton twirling."

So Jones applied for and was awarded a Creative Challenge Grant from USTA.

"We were so glad to receive this

grant to bring baton twirling to more individuals in the south suburban area of Chicagoland," Jones said, adding that the need was great. "Based on marketing that we had done over the previous summer and early fall, we had a list of potential students. When we tried to bring them into our regular program, many had two in a family, for example, and were not able to afford our fees, even though they are lower than the fees for many other youth activities in our area."

So Jones used the grant to provide an 11-week program for 16 students. It covered the cost of a baton, costume and entry fee into the 2019 Illinois/Wisconsin State Championships, where the students participated in Basic Strut evaluations and performed a Show Team routine to "The Greatest Showman." The group also performed in a local Independence Day parade.

"The Twirling Bears and Bearettes were proud to have been awarded a USTA Creative Challenge Grant," Jones said. "We are working to enable as many of these students as possible to continue with us, so they can continue to develop their twirling skills and their love for our sport."

Jenny Hannah performs in World Masters Games preview event

Congratulations to U.S. athlete Jenny Hannah, who performed in the World Masters Games preview event on June 16 in Osaka in the Kansai region of Japan. She was one of three elite international athletes invited to participate in the event, which was a precursor to the 2021 World Masters Games.

The World Masters Games are a multi-sport athletic competition held every four years by the International Masters Games Association (IMGA) for athletes over the age of 30 who are masters in their sports. Baton twirling will be an open event in the 2021 World Masters Games, which will be held in May 2019 at several venues in Japan's Kansai region.

The World Masters Game preview event on June 16 was hosted by the Baton Twirling Association of Japan, which asked USTA's Board of Directors to recommend a U.S. athlete to participate. The board selected Hannah, who is an 18-time U.S. Grand National Champion in Strut, Solo and Dance Twirl. She is also a 27-time member of Team USA and a five-time Worlds bronze medalist. USTA President Karen Cammer joined Hannah at the event.

Osaka's Maruzen Intech Arena, where Hannah won the bronze medal in the Sr. Women's Division at the 2004 World Baton Twirling Championships, was the site of the preview event.

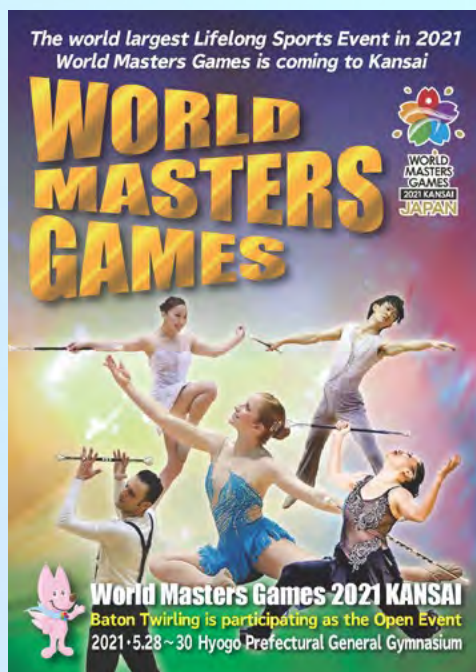
"I am so honored to be twirling again in the arena where the 2004 World Championships were held," Hannah said in a Facebook post. "So many memories. It was like looking back in

time! I saw this arena on television last year for a figure skating event and never dreamed I would be twirling here again."

Watch Hannah warming up at the arena [HERE](#).

The preview event started with a performance by 500 Japanese twirlers, followed by command performances by Hannah, Catherine Moua of France and Daniele Zambito of Italy.

The 2021 World Masters Games baton twirling event will be open to twirlers from around the world who are over 30 years old. The competition will be held May 28-30 2021 at the Hyogo Prefectural General Gymnasium. Get more information about the 2021 World Masters Games [HERE](#).



ADULT ATHLETES

Adult athletes demonstrate lifelong love, commitment to twirling

While most competitive twirlers retire around the time they graduate from college or begin a full-time career, a growing number of athletes continue to compete, and sometimes perform professionally, well into their adult years. Being an adult athlete requires not only a deep passion for the sport, but also an extraordinary level of discipline and dedication. USTA Coach and Master Judge Ginnette Groome has worked with a number of adult athletes.

"Watching athletes progress in our sport long-term and bring the maturity of their life experience into their performances, is one of the rewards of coaching adult athletes," Groome said. "I have watched their goals shift from gaining a title, to experiencing the satisfaction of finally mastering certain skills. Challenged by injuries and increased responsibilities in their lives, they must focus on "quality, not quantity" when it comes to practices. Training becomes a personal

priority as they continue to sacrifice other areas of their lives to reach that sense of completion in their competitive baton life.

"As a coach, I support a longer competitive career, as long as an athlete has the self-discipline and desire needed to train on a regular basis," Groome explained. "Their goal may be to improve upon a particular event or a specific skill.....or simply to maintain a level of physical endurance doing something they love."

In this issue of Catch It!, we introduce you to some remarkable athletes who continued competing and performing well into their adult years. Enjoy brief profiles here and read their full profiles [HERE](#).

If you are an adult athlete who would like to share your story, please contact us at pr@ustwirling.com.

EMILY COOPER, Ridgewood, New Jersey

"Twirling has helped me in so many ways. It has taught me time management, dedication, attention to detail, focus, social skills, to be the best you can be, to continue on when you make a mistake or have a setback, how to work with others (teamwork), how to prioritize my goals, respect for my work, for myself, and others, gratitude for all that I have and have accomplished, and so much more."



Emily Cooper is currently an elementary Special Education teacher who works with students in third through sixth grade. She is pursuing a graduate degree in Special Education and Ap-

plied Behavior Analysis online through Arizona State University. Cooper began twirling at age nine and retired from competition at age 27, after achieving many goals and reaching many milestones later in her competitive career.



What has enabled/allowed you to keep twirling in your adult years?

The thing that allowed me to keep twirling in my adult life was my dedication to the sport and my own self-improvement. When I was in college, I would wake up early to train in my school's gym. When I began working, I planned out my day so that I

could fit twirling practice in with my other responsibilities. I would practice whenever possible, whether it was just flips and rolls in my living room or full run-throughs. I learned to practice smarter, not harder to make the most of my time twirling, I would often do mental run-throughs of my routines too. I practiced outside and found gym space wherever I could- workout gyms, other team's gyms, and indoor turf football fields, anywhere. I made twirling a priority in my life and in my



schedule. I have had several jobs for many years that often kept me working from 8 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m., but I made time for what I loved and had worked so hard for over the years.

ADULT ATHLETES



This may sound daunting but simply put, I made twirling a priority. I scheduled it just as you would schedule a job. I worked on focused skills every time I practiced and made the most of the time I had. No matter what level you

twirl at, or how much you work, twirling as an adult is achievable, and can be so much fun!

JENNY HANNAH, Hixson, Tennessee

"I believe and know that age is just a number. It does not impact your ability to learn and improve. I have never stopped twirling and continue to push to reach my highest level of ability and performance, working towards current and new goals."



As one of the most accomplished baton twirlers in the world, Jenny Hannah is an icon in our sport. A 18-time Grand National Champion and many-time WBTF medalist, Hannah is known for her exquisite technical proficiency as well as her longevity. She began twirling when she was six years old and is still competing – and setting new standards of excellence – today.

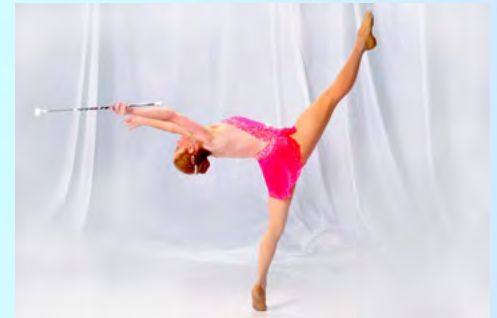


What are the highlights of your competitive twirling career (so far)?

I have been very fortunate to have a lot of very special moments in my twirling career. I can narrow it down to three highlights:



The first is when I won my very first Senior Women's bronze medal at the World Championships in 1996 (Senior Women's bronze medalist: 1996, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2006). The World Championships were in Genoa, Italy and the arena had a very memorable "village" backdrop instead of a curtain. I twirled to the "Blue Danube Waltz" that season. My music choice was inspired by Kristi Yamaguchi skating to the Blue Danube at the 1992 Olympics.



My second highlight was winning my first USTA Grand National Championships in Strut and Dance Twirl in 1996 Oakland, Calif. I still remember what the arena looked like. It is a moment I will always remember.



My third and one of my most treasured memories is being part of the 2005 World Champion team, Syndication. I remember our finals perfor-

ADULT ATHLETES

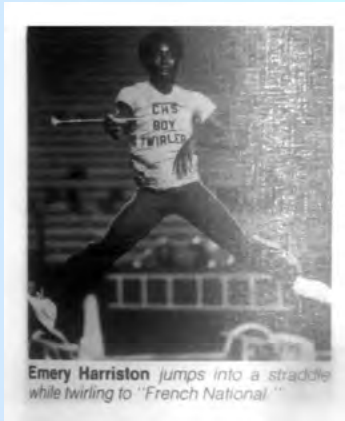
mance moment by moment: the catches, the energy of the screaming crowd in St. Paul, Minn.; the moment $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through that it hit me how well we

were doing; the audience giving us a standing ovation when we came in the arena to sit down; and the moment that we held hands in the hallway with our

eyes shut, listening to scores and found out that we won the gold! I will always remember sharing these moments with my teammates.

EMERY HARRISTON, Alexandria, Virginia

"Whatever your sport, hobby or craft, continue to do it until you have reached all the goals you have set!"



Emery Harriston started twirling when he was about 13 years old and is still competing today. The sport has taken him from a junior high and high school twirler, to a collegiate twirler, to a national and international competitor. It also helped prepare him for a long and successful career on stage. Even though he has a "real job" as an IT specialist in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance at the Environmental Protection Agency, he has performed with three east coast dance companies,

a classical ballet theater and the Washington National Opera!



What are your interests outside of twirling?

My interests outside of twirling include gymnastics in which I competed in college. I was a 1983 Division II All-American on the Floor Exercise and a 1985 Division II All-American on Pommel Horse. I've maintained my gymnastics skills up by going to the gym and working out.



I also like dance and have danced with three different dance companies:

Motion Mania in Gaithersburg, MD; Tony Powell Modern Dance Company in Bethesda, MD and the Erika Thimey Dance & Theater Co. in Washington, D.C. In addition, I have performed with the Classical Ballet Theater Co. in Herndon, VA as an extra in "Cinderella," "Sleeping Beauty" and "The Nutcracker."



Currently I enjoy performing with the Washington National Opera as a supernumerary. In April of 2010, one of my co-workers was aware of my baton twirling skills and told me that I should try out for the opera "Porgy and Bess" since they needed a twirler for the parade scene. I got the part and actually ended up doing 2-baton in the parade scene on stage. Since doing "Porgy and Bess" in 2010, I have performed in 18 operas!

JENNIFER MARCUS, Miami, Florida

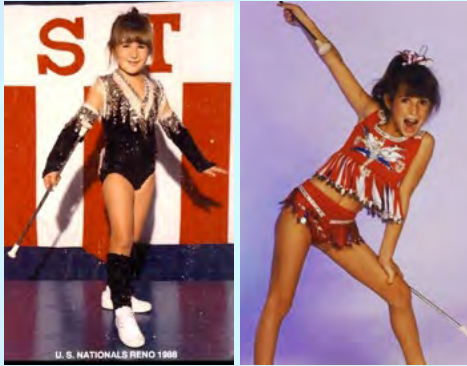
"I was able to compete and perform into my adult years because I found the balance between training, taking care and listening to my body, and working towards my professional goals. I also continued to fall in love with our sport and would set new goals each year that were exciting to work towards and achieve."



Known as "the winning-est athlete in the history of USTA," Jennifer Marcus holds 42 Grand National Champion titles, more than any other athlete to date. She is also a many-time WBTF medalist. She started twirling at age three and competed until she was 31. Shortly after she retired from competition, (while she was on her honeymoon nonetheless!) she was offered a spot in

ADULT ATHLETES

Cirque du Soleil's "Volta." She spent the first two years of her marriage traveling throughout north America, sharing the sport of baton twirling with new audiences. She and her husband Jonathan are now the proud parents of infant daughter Zoe.



What did you love about twirling then? What do you love about it now?

When I first started (from what I remember), I really loved learning new skills and working until I improved and could achieve small goals my coach and

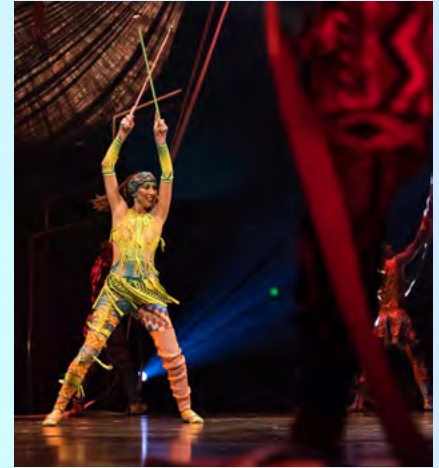
I set. Now, while I still enjoy achieving goals, my passion is performing and promoting the sport to as many people as possible!



What other roles (coach, judge, performer) do you fill as a twirler? What is enjoyable/meaningful about each of those roles?

I love coaching because I really enjoy finding and creating ways for the athletes to improve and succeed. Sometimes, one little tip clicks with the athlete and the look on their face when he or she accomplished something new

is so rewarding!



I also recently just finished performing with "Volta" by Cirque Du Soleil for the past two years and this experience was meaningful because it afforded me the opportunity to travel North America getting paid to do what I love and also to share our sport with thousands of people who may have never seen baton twirling!

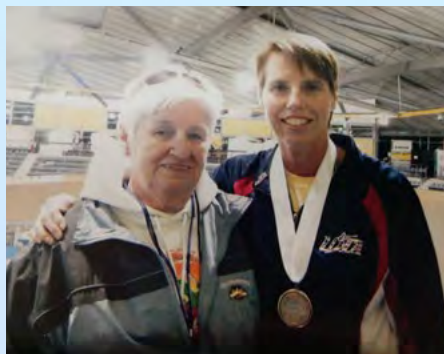
LOU WILLIS, Hopkinsville, Kentucky

"I have always loved to practice. I still would rather practice baton for fitness than do any other type of workout."



Lou Willis started twirling when she was six years old and is still competing today. But her biggest contribution to the sport is not as a competitor, but rather as a coach. During the past 30-plus years, Willis has positively impact-

ed the lives of hundreds of young athletes, many from families with limited resources. As the owner and head coach of Lou's Academy and Training Center (LATC), Willis has given many children opportunities to learn new skills, travel, have fun, and make lifelong friends and lasting memories.



What do you do for a living?

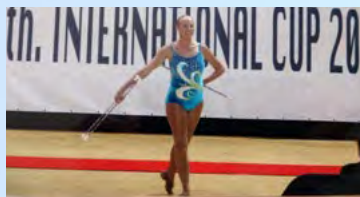
I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and Health K-12. I just completed six hours of master

classes. I am a fulltime substitute teacher for pre-K through sixth grade. I also teach CPR, first aid and life guard training courses for the American Red Cross.



I have enjoyed being the owner and head coach of Lou's Academy and Training Center (LATC) since 1985. I run a companion non-profit organization that helps support LATC athletes, as well as many worthwhile causes and community organizations, including Feed the Homeless, LATC 4 H Clover Clovers, housing expenses for those in need, nursing home and disaster relief packages and much more.

ADULT ATHLETES



I would like to thank all of people - including judges, coaches, athletes and many, many parents - who have donated costumes, equipment or helped LATC in any way. It takes a lot to sup-

port children who don't have other support systems. At Lou's Academy, we are helping one child at a time and I wouldn't change a thing!

RICHIE TERWILLIGER, Fredericksburg, Virginia

"Twirling has enriched many aspects of my life. In many ways, the communities you meet and environments you practice and compete in form a sort of microcosm for the rest of the world around you. Baton has taught me the rewards and hardships of dedication, and what it means to be humble and have humility. I've gained a more global and culturally diverse perspective through travel and have made great friends from all over the world. On a more individual level - as a male and adult in a female and youth majority sport - I have learned how to be comfortable as a minority; embracing differences and challenging the status-quo."



Terwilliger is a Mechanical Engineer for the U.S. Navy's Chemical, Biological, and Radiological (CBR) Defense Division, developing technologies that protect our warfighters against Weapons of Mass Destruction. He's also a pilot and an avid adventurer. He and his sister, Krissy, have begun sharing the sport of baton twirling with a broader audience, performing with fire and lighted batons at unique venues, including community and charity events and electronic dance

music festivals, some of which attract 60,000+ fans!



Making a case for adult athletes

It is my hope that we begin to see more athletes compete well into their adult years. I find it a little sad that the status-quo has been to stop before one reaches their peak as an athlete and performer. There are many good reasons to step away from being an athlete, but age alone is not one them. Take any other professional sport - figure skating, basketball, skiing - athletes are encouraged to compete until they peak, regardless of age.



Energizing and encouraging young athletes lays the foundation for any sport. However, it is equally important that we increase the number of adults that compete, as this is a critical step

towards improving our country's world standings at future World Championships, as is it essential to gaining the recognition necessary from the world's athletic organizations to shepherd the sport into professional, international venues, such as the Olympics.



Labeling baton as solely a "youth" sport is a fallacy that limits our ability to grow as a community. Performing, I have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people of different ages and cultures who are drawn to the art of baton. Sadly, I have seen many teens and adults feel discouraged from competing because of their age or gender. Strip away archaic stereotypes and preconceived ideologies, and what you are left with is an activity that anyone and everyone can enjoy.

Passion and personal goals are part of what has driven me to compete into my adult years. But I have also stuck around because I believe we need pioneers willing to break the status-quo. I hope that by competing as an adult male, I can do a small part in encouraging others - regardless of age or gender - to feel comfortable to enjoy the sport and art that has given me so much.



United States Twirling Association

Individual Membership Application – 2019-2020 Season

(For Organization Memberships, please use the Organization Membership Form)
Apply online at www.ustwirling.com

All memberships include accident insurance and \$10,000 of medical / dental coverage. All memberships expire Sept. 1. Apply or renew by Sept. 1 to ensure you receive all USTA mailings.

Member Name				Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female	
Parent/Guardian Name (If athlete is under 18)				Renewal ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Address			Athlete's Primary Coach		
City	State	Zip	Birth date	USTA ID	
Member Email			Parent/Guardian Email		
Phone	☐ Check ☐ Credit Card	Card No	Expiration	Code	
Type: MC VISA Am. Ex. Discover		Name on Card	Signature		
Billing Address		City	State	Zip	

INSTRUCTIONS: Find the membership type you wish to purchase. Pay that fee. All memberships expire on Sept 1 no matter when you apply. Apply or renew your membership by Sept. 1 each year to ensure you receive all USTA mailings.

ATHLETE

- ☐ Proof of membership with Member ID #
- ☐ Ability to enter USTA competitions without paying Member for a Day Fees
- ☐ \$10,000 in medical and dental insurance coverage
- ☐ USTA News & Views, a monthly eNewsletter; Catch It!, a quarterly eZine; and Catch It! Winners Issue
- ☐ Access to information and resources in the "Members Only" section of the USTA website

☐ \$35.00

FAMILY MEMBER

At least one person in the household must hold a current Athlete or Professional Membership. Each member must fill out a separate form.

- ☐ Proof of membership with Member ID #
- ☐ Ability to enter USTA competitions without paying Member for a Day Fees
- ☐ \$10,000 in medical and dental insurance coverage

☐ \$25.00

PROFESSIONAL

- ☐ Proof of membership with Membership ID #
- ☐ \$2 million in liability insurance
- ☐ Ability to request Certificates of Insurance for Professionals who have passed a Coaches or Judges Certification
- ☐ Inclusion in USTA Professional Listing (optional)
- ☐ USTA News & Views, a monthly eNewsletter; Catch It!, a quarterly eZine; and Catch It! Winners Issue
- ☐ Access to information and resources in the "Members Only" section of the USTA website
- ☐ Voting privileges for Professional members who are 18 or older

☐ \$90.00

ALUMNI

This membership type is for former athletes and their parents/other relatives, retired coaches, judges and anyone interested in supporting the sport of baton twirling.

- ☐ USTA News & Views, a monthly eNewsletter; Catch It!, a quarterly eZine; and Catch It! Winners Issue

☐ \$20.00

Public Professional Listing - As a service to the public and our **Professional Members**, USTA provides a Public Professional Listing on the USTA website to make it easy for people to find baton twirling coaches or classes in their area. In order to protect our members' privacy and personal information, **USTA Professional Members must OPT IN** to this listing and provide the information they want listed on the Public Professional Listing. Your professional membership must be **current** to appear on the listing. If you would like to be included in the Public Professional Listing, please do the following:

- * Go to www.ustwirling.com and login to Members Only using the User ID and Password you created when you set up your Members Only account.
- * Click on Edit My Profile in the left hand menu.
- * Scroll down to "Professional Preferences" at the bottom of the page and check the box for "I want to be part of USTA's Public Professional Listing."

WAIVER/INDEMNITY OF LIABILITY: I agree to assume the risk of any injury that may happen to me (or my child) as a result of participation in a USTA sanctioned event. I further agree to indemnify and hold the United States Twirling Association, its agents or employees harmless from any loss they may sustain as a result of injury to me (or my child) as a result of my participation in USTA events. I have read the "Parents/Legal Guardians Responsibilities" in the current edition of the USTA Information, Procedures and Rules Book. As a condition for USTA's acceptance of my child's (or my) entry in a USTA event, I agree to abide by and perform each of the duties that are set forth in that statement. By participating in a USTA event, you give USTA permission to use photos and video of this athlete taken in conjunction with a USTA event.

Signed	Date
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Send to: USTA Member Services ♦ 4023 Bernice Road ♦ Seaford, NY 11783 ♦ Phone (321) 206-3242



United States Twirling Association
Organization Membership Application – 2019-2020 Season
 (For Individual Memberships, please use the Individual Membership Form)
Apply online at www.ustwirling.com

All memberships include accident insurance and \$10,000 of medical / dental coverage. All memberships expire Sept.1. Apply or renew by Sept. 1 to ensure you receive all USTA mailings.

Director Name			Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female	
Organization Name			Renewal ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Address			Director USTA ID	
City	State	Zip	Organization USTA ID	
Member Email				
Phone	☐ Check ☐ Credit Card	Card No	Expiration	Code
Type: MC VISA Am. Ex. Discover		Name on Card	Signature	
Billing Address		City	State	Zip

INSTRUCTIONS: Please attach an organization roster to this application. See below for the information required for each athlete. Please pay \$10.00 per athlete that you are registering. All memberships expire on Sept. 1 no matter when you apply Apply or renew your membership by Sept. 1 each year to ensure you receive all USTA mailings. The director will receive the Catch It! E-Zines and Winner's Issue mailed to the address above as well as a member letter for the organization, and accident insurance on each athlete listed on the roster.

NUMBER OF ATHLETES	X \$10.00 PER ATHLETE	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

Public Professional Listing - As a service to the public and our **Professional Members**, USTA provides a Public Professional Listing on the USTA website to make it easy for people to find baton twirling coaches or classes in their area. In order to protect or members' privacy and personal information, **USTA Professional Members must OPT IN** to this listing and provide the information they want listed on the Public Professional Listing. Your professional membership must be current to appear on the listing. If you would like to be included in the Public Professional Listing, please do the following:

- * Go to www.ustwirling.com and login to Members Only using the User ID and Password you created when you set up your Members Only account.
- * Click on Edit My Profile in the left hand menu.
- * Scroll down to "Professional Preferences" at the bottom of the page and check the box for "I want to be part of USTA's Public Professional Listing."

Please attach an organization roster to this application.

For each athlete please provide the following:

Athlete's Name

Athlete's Date of Birth including Month/Day/Year

Athlete's Address

Athlete's City, State and Zip Code

Athlete's Parent/Guardian Name

Athlete or Parent/Guardian Email

Athlete or Parent/Guardian Phone

WAIVER/INDEMNITY OF LIABILITY: I agree to assume the risk of any injury that may happen to me (or my child) as a result of participation in a USTA sanctioned event. I further agree to indemnify and hold the United States Twirling Association, its agents or employees harmless from any loss they may sustain as a result of injury to me (or my child) as a result of my participation in USTA events. I have read the "Parents/Legal Guardians Responsibilities" in the current edition of the USTA Information, Procedures and Rules Book. As a condition for USTA's acceptance of my child's (or my) entry in a USTA event, I agree to abide by and perform each of the duties that are set forth in that statement. By participating in a USTA event, you give USTA permission to use photos and video of this athlete taken in conjunction with a USTA event.

Signed	Date
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Send to: USTA Member Services ♦ 4023 Bernice Road ♦ Seaford, NY 11783 ♦ Phone (321) 206-3242

U.S. NATIONAL BATON TWIRLING CHAMPIONSHIPS



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