

PRIDE OF TEXAS AWARD

The Pride of Texas Award is presented to the person(s) who has worked for the past several years supporting the GAT community by serving as demonstrators and teachers

2009 PRIDE OF TEXAS AWARD LORI LAZNOSKY

Lori has been a member of Sokol Ft. Worth all her life. She has worked with the USAG National office on the development and promotion of the Group Gymnastics program for the past 15 years. She has traveled all over the country including in her home State of Texas promoting the idea that Gymnastics is for All. Lori has served as a demonstrator for GAT in performance gymnastics several times over the past fifteen years. She has also been a speaker for GAT promoting USA Gymnastics participation in World Gymnaestradas. Most recently Lori was instrumental in organizing the International Sport and Cultural Festival held in Ft. Worth. Lori worked closely with Rome Milan and the Sokol Organizations to include the USAG National Team Gym Competition, the National Gymfest and the first ever International Gymnastics for All Challenge. She has volunteered many tireless hours to promote Group Gymnastics in not only in Texas but throughout the United States and the World.

SERVICE TO YOUTH AWARD

The Service to Youth Award is presented to the person(s) who does not serve as a gymnastics coach or program director. Their service is for a significant period of years, touching the lives of many children.

2009 SERVICE TO YOUTH AWARD

CAROLYN REIHL

Carolyn has served the youth of the Mid-Cities for over 30 years. Carolyn started her daughter in gymnastics at the Fort Worth Sokol. Her dance background gave her an opportunity to work the dance elements of floor and beam. She quickly moved to choreographing floor routines. When her daughter Terry moved to the legendary Gyros gymnastics program, Carolyn worked with the team on dance for floor and beam. A few years later Carolyn earned her women's judging certification and judged high school gymnastics. Carolyn was a great team parent supporter when her children Terry and David competed for Gyros and for Haltom High School. Her daughter Terry later taught gymnastics at the Richland Hills Recreation program for a few years, when it was time to move on Carolyn took over the program and has been there ever since. Carolyn teaches gymnastics and dance, hosts dance and gymnastics camps and travels to three local daycares to teach gymnastics. Her real joy comes from working with special needs children. In 2003 Governor Rick Perry awarded Carolyn Reihl with the Yellow Rose of Texas for 25 years of service to Texas Youth.

*The following two recipients worked many hours e-mailing Texas coaches of many sports disciplines, meeting with legislators and organizing a comprehensive plan to combat Senate Bill 68. This bill if passed as first written would have forced all sports facilities who have children for greater than ten hours per week to carry a daycare license. This would have been detrimental to many youth sports activity facilities in Texas. All of the children, coaches, parents and owners owe a debt of gratitude to the people who stepped up to champion our cause. Senate Bill 68 was passed with modifications to exclude single sport activities from daycare licensing. Thank You, Thank You for your tireless efforts and many volunteer hours on this ongoing project.

DIANE CALLISON

I consider myself very fortunate that I have the opportunity to work with the clubs, coaches and athletes across Texas. I am doubly honored to serve Texas as the State Chairperson. My

corporate background is Early Childhood Development. I guess that is why I love kids so much!

I hate talking about myself, so the great part of my life is interacting with and talking about all you wonderful people.

When I am not judging I love running meets. Speaking about judging, I just returned from the National Judging Course and am so happy that I do not have to go again until the year 2013. I am sure that all the other National and Brevet Judges will relate to my sentiment.

CHARLES DUDLEY

Charles owns Kung Jung Mu Sul of Texas Martial Arts Studio in San Antonio. He has a background in marketing and advertising. He is deeply involved with Martial Arts and children, working tirelessly to improve their self esteem and outlook on life in general.

Charles worked closely with the gymnastics community on the recent changes to Senate Bill 68.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to a person(s) who has given outstanding recent service to the gymnastics development and gymnastics programs in Texas.

2009 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

LESLIE PATTERSON

Graduated from High School in Thousand Oaks, California, 1972. Attended college at Valparaiso University, Indiana and graduated from University of California, San Diego in 1976. Major- Biology/Biochemistry, Minor- Psychology. Worked as a Neurology Technologist and eventually ended up teaching German!

Competed in High School and collegiate gymnastics, was a recreational coach throughout

high school and college.

Gymnastics judge since 1982, currently hold a National Rating. I am also the State Judging Director for Texas.

I enjoy traveling, card making, and consider myself a knitting ninja! I also enjoy wine, cooking and entertaining friends. and fishing in Alaska!

Married 32 years to Bryan. Have two grown children, Andy and Erin.

GAT would like to thank Leslie for her many years of service helping to organize the events for the GAT convention.

2009 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

GREG SCHRAM

Greg Schram has been coaching since 1991 - the last several at Eagle's Wings Athletics (EWA). His degree from UNT is in Early Childhood, Elementary Ed., & Health. He taught 3rd grade for four years. In 1999 he spoke at GAT and has spoken each year since at state, regional, and/or national conventions. He helped author/speak on the ITP-Rec. Elected to the GAT board in 2000 he helped with the directory and website as Technical Director. He won the national video & lesson plan contest in 2002 and creates training videos used all over the world. He is the GAT Liaison to the USAG-Texas Men's Program and is now the Men's Program Coordinator for GAT. The ITP-Boys 1 was developed by Greg in 2002. He became the Michael Sims Scholarship Committee secretary in 2004. The ITP-Boys 2 was developed by Greg in 2006. He became the Region 3 Rep for the Men's Intercollegiate Gymnastics Support (MIGS) Program in 2008 and a Region 3 Education Committee member. At EWA Greg is now the Head Coach / Boys Program Director. His boys have won several state &/or regional event, all-around, and team awards. He was voted the Level 4 & 5 North State Coach of the Year for 2009, and was nominated for Level 6-10. Greg was the Facilitator for the Region 3 Developmental Camp (Level 6s, 7s, & 9s) in 2009. Greg loves building. He built his house and many of the gym's items. (He is also a duct tape "freak"). On a personal level Greg is a strong Christian with faith and timeless values. His personal mission statement is, "In all that you do, do your absolute best with your God-given abilities to do things right, thereby giving the glory back to God."

*GAT would also like to recognize Greg for his great contributions to making the Visa Championships in Dallas such a success.

LIFE MEMBER AWARD

The Life Member Award is presented to the person(s) who have given a long period of outstanding service and accomplishment to the sport of gymnastics in Texas.

2009 LIFE MEMBER AWARD

PRESENTED TO:

TODD VESELY

Todd came to us from New York where he was a high school gymnast in New York City. He attended Odessa College where he competed on a National Championship team, and later as a member of the Springfield College gymnastics team, placed second at NCAA Nationals.

He taught Anatomy and Physiology at Permian High School for 23 years. As the gymnastics coach there, Todd led his Permian Gymnastics team to five State Championships and placed second at the State Meet five times. His teams have captured sixteen Regional Championships including eight consecutive titles (1993-2000). He has coached twenty-four individual State Champions, 175 State Finalists, and 9 NCAA All-Americans.

At the national level, Todd has coached teams that won four National Championships and set two National Scoring Records. His Permian teams have ranked in the Top Ten Nationally for twenty years in a row. He has coached twenty-two members and three alternates for Texas Teams attending the National Championships.

Todd isn't lacking in awards either. He was twice awarded the High School National Coach of the Year. He was selected four times as the Texas Coach of the Year and received Regional

Coach of the year sixteen times. Todd was named the Permian High School Master Teacher of the Year in 2004 and was honored and awarded the “Triple C Award” in 2005, the highest award for High School coaches in the State of Texas.

Todd is currently the Athletic Coordinator for Ector County ISD. He has served as President of the National and State High School Gymnastics Coaches Associations. He served as an Officer in the Texas Association High School Association for twenty years.

ROME MILAN

Rome was born into a Sokol family. His parents, Jerry and Henrietta Milan were a Sokol family. His Mom was a hopeful for the 1960 Olympic Team to be held in, you guessed it, Rome. She placed tenth in the trials, only eight were selected. His Dad was one of her coaches at Sokol. So, at an early age, Rome spent so much time in the gym that he was truly a “gym rat”.

Rome competed in gymnastics in Sokol, at Trinity High School and at The University of Texas - Austin where he graduated with a BS in Education. He coached gymnastics teams at Sokol Fort Worth, and at Boswell and Weatherford High Schools. In his eighteen years of high school coaching, his teams boast of State and National Champions.

He has attended eight Summer Olympic Games, named three children after Olympic cities; Paris, Sydney, Athens, has visited more than 35 countries, has collected hundreds of items from Olympic cities, has met thousands of athletes, has collected ten's of thousands of pins, and has hundreds of indescribable memories, but he had not yet made it to Rome. That dream was realized in 2006 when he was selected to be part of the torch relay at the Winter Games, held in Italy. Where was his scheduled torch run segment? In Rome! An Olympic Dream come true.

Rome worked as Office Staff for the USGF (Currently USAG) in 82-83. From 1979 - 2003 he held various Coordinator Positions for International and National Competitions in the US, including two World Championships and two Olympic games. He has been an International Gymnastics Judge since 1985 and served on the GAT Board for 11 yrs, twice as President. As a Sokol Schools Instructor and Director of District and National Sokol Camps in the 80s and 90s Rome assisted in the training of many of today's Sokol leaders. He is still active gymnastically and served as the American Sokol's 2009 International Sport & Cultural Festival Chairman. This spectacular event attracted over 1600 participants from 31 States and 15 Countries bringing them together to share gymnastics in our great State of Texas.

Since 2000, Rome has pursued a career as an artist and painting teacher at the Milan Gallery in Fort Worth. But he never quite got away from the gymnastics bug. He will be coaching at Birdville ISD High School this season.