

## 2017 DANCE CAMP CHICAGO PRO STAFF AND JUDGES



### Matt Auclair

- Matt began dancing at the tender age of 8, and, after much poking and prodding from his family, did he agree to try it, but only because he realized just how much attention his old brothers, Jeff and Tim, were getting from the ladies. Matt's dance career started as a family affair, he learned from his parents, brothers and close family friends....they traded moves and taught each other. Matt, with his perseverance and competitive nature, went on to compete in the country's most prestigious competitions.
- Matt has competed and won with several dance partners. As a junior dancer, Matt won the Junior division, the US Open 4 times, 1 time in Cabaret, and won his first ever adult division in Champions' Strictly Swing the first time he was ever allowed to dance up!
- Matt is also the youngest person ever to be inducted into the DALLAS DANCE Hall of FAME.
- During all of that, he managed to get through college and earn a Bachelor's Master's Degree in Elementary Education, and earn a tenured position teaching fourth grade!!
- In 2011, Matt was nominated and awarded the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award, for being one of the best teachers in his entire school district!!!

### Ryan Dobbins & Lori Rousar



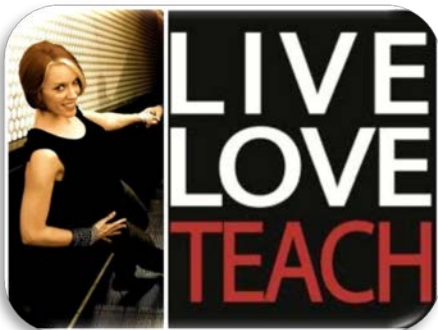
- Having fun as a country line dancer, Ryan quickly took note of the couples on the side of the dance floor and found a new interest. Getting an exposure to multiple forms of partner dances, West Coast Swing and Hustle sparked a joy and drive that would not disappear and currently has him traveling across the country competing in the All Star division. Ryan's solid background in education has helped many dancers connect, feel, understand, apply, and most importantly have an enjoyable time on the dance floor
- Lori resides in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. She began dancing and competing at country events in 1998. After a few years, she changed her focus from country to West Coast Swing and Hustle. Currently, Lori is a successful All Star competitor and her passion for West Coast Swing has her traveling across the country competing, teaching and judging at several events. Through her playful styling, technique, and musicality, Lori encourages others to apply their own unique qualities to this dance. She truly enjoys the social aspect of dancing and is extremely grateful for the wonderful family it has brought to her life and making new ones.

## Randy and Jennifer Jeffries



- Jennifer and Randy Jeffries live just a couple of hours south of Chicago in Brookston, Indiana.
- Jennifer and Randy have been active on the UCWDC circuit since 1995: Jennifer as an MC and Randy as a floor coordinator, scoring assistant and Pro-Am instructor. Jennifer won the Star Award as the UCWDC's favorite MC in 2012 for the fifth time in seven years. The Chicagoland Dance Festival was named favorite North American Event in 2006.
- Randy and Jennifer began competing in 1998 and danced in the Crown Division - an advanced division for folks at least 40 years of age who have fulfilled the mandatory qualification requirements for the first time last year.
- Jennifer works at Purdue University as a fundraiser and Randy is an independent insurance agent. They own the DanceMax Studio in beautiful downtown Chalmers, Indiana where they teach by appointment.

## Taletha Jouzdani



- Taletha is a 5-time Us Open Classic Finalist, a two-time US OPEN Jack & Jill finalist and received 2nd place in the prestigious NASDE Jack & Jill tour in 2009 when she was an Advanced dancer. She is currently competing Jack & Jill's and Strictly s at the Champion level. Many admirers have described her dancing as clean, playful, sensual and classy.
- Taletha has been teaching partner dancing for over 16 years and is known for her ability to create the perfect balance of technical and playful in her instruction. Common themes in her workshops are musicality, creating a balanced dance, and dance as a conversation. Currently, Taletha teaches independently in Austin, Texas, where she is a member of the staff at Austin City Dance Club. She also conducts workshops and private lessons at West Coast Swing events around the world. Her goal as an instructor is to be approachable and teach entertaining, but educational, lessons for her students. She has extensive training in various partner dance styles including Country, Latin Social, Hustle, Ballroom and of course West Coast Swing.
- In 2011, she organized an event called Austin Rocks which helped put Austin on the map in the WC Swing community. She has since partnered up with Champion dancer Mike Topel as co-organizer of Austin Rocks. Taletha's newest and proudest endeavor has been her recent creation of her West coast Swing Teacher Training Intensive. She is extremely passionate about teaching and especially enjoys teaching people not just what to teach but how to teach.

## Mike Konkel & Sheli Schroeder



- Mike and Sheli have been dancing together since they met in 2000 and have enjoyed competing together for the past seventeen years.
- They recently competed at the US Open in the Sophisticated Division and took 4<sup>th</sup> Place!
- In 1998 Sheli co-founded the Milwaukee Rebels Swing Dance Club, where together they teach weekly West Coast Swing lessons.
- Mike and Sheli truly love dancing, competing, and teaching together. However, their greatest fulfillment comes from watching the progress of their students.

## Don Leynes & Julie Hein



- Don and Julie are known for their witty repartee and concise understanding of how to make dancing fun and easy.
- Julie is an active member of the Chicago dance community. She has been teaching and competing in both Swing and Country dancing for over 20 years and has been instrumental in helping dancers reach their goals, whether social or competitive.
- A founding member of Swing 'n' Country, Julie has also helped to produce successful dance conventions such as Swing City Chicago, Mario in Chicago, Chi-Town Swings, and Dance Camp Chicago.
- Wherever they go, Don and Julie look forward to seeing old friends

## Don M



- Don has been teaching and coaching Country Western, American Smooth and Rhythm, and Hustle for over 35 years.
- He is a favorite local instructor with an extensive knowledge of all forms of dance.
- Don has been working in the country community here in Chicago for the past 20+ years and has a loyal following of students.
- He competed on the UCWDC ProAm circuit since its inception in 1995 and has judged many competitions.

## Jason Miklic & Sophy Kdep



- Jason Miklic and Sophy Kdep met on the dance floor in May of 1998, and they have been dancing together ever since.
- They travel all over the country teaching, competing, performing and judging. They are ranked among the top West Coast Swing dancers in the country.
- Jason and Sophy are full-time dance instructors specializing in swing, country, hustle, ballroom and theatre arts. They are passionate promoters of west coast swing.
- As instructors, Jason and Sophy are known for their unique ability to illustrate techniques to give their students a better understanding of movements and to help them achieve their maximum dancing potential.
- Jason and Sophy love to share their passion and knowledge for dancing and invite you to dance at their non-competitive dance events.

## Maren Oslac



- Maren's passion for teaching and her desire to share her love of dance led her to expand her local business, opening her own studio in Tinley Park, IL and starting the Illinois Ballroom Teacher College, one of her most exciting ventures.
- Maren has traveled extensively across the U.S. for over 10 years earning a reputation as a top level dancer, teacher and judge. Maren carries with her a host of wins and titles in Country, Latin, Ballroom, Hustle and Swing, including more wins than she can count in her favorite arenas, Strictly Swing and Jack & Jill competitions.
- Sharing her knowledge and the joy of dance with students is one of the most fulfilling aspects of her dancing career.

## Doug Rousar – Head Judge



- Doug was born and raised in Wisconsin. As a kid, and through college, Doug was a musician and actor.
- He has an extensive background in musical theater having held the position of Director, Choreographer, Conductor and Producer for many productions. Doug's first love in music was the trumpet where he had the pleasure of playing in Jazz bands, pit orchestras and other community ensembles. Doug went on to attend VanderCook College of Music Education for his music degree in hopes of becoming a Choir Teacher.
- Doug's formal training in dance started when he stumbled upon West Coast Swing in 2001. Since then he has won numerous titles across the country, including US Open Champion. He taught many forms of dance full time from 2005 to 2011, including ECS, Hustle, Salsa, Night Club 2, Country 2 and of course West Coast Swing. He continues to travel on average 40 weekends a year. He tries to spread the message in dance that "If it's not fun, it's not worth it."
- In addition to teaching, Doug hosts Michigan Classic.

## Beverly Solazzo



- Beverly is a full time dance instructor on staff at May I Have This Dance.
- She has expanded her 20+ years of dance instruction experience to include not only all forms of Swing, but also Hustle, Ballroom, Latin, Carolina Shag, Country 2 Step and Performance Coaching/Choreography.
- She especially enjoys dancing in ProAms with her students.
- She designed and teaches the Swing/Ballroom Social Dance classes for Lyons Township High School Adult Education.
- Winning many regional and national competitive events, she is very proud of her participation in the 2007 National Masters Swing Dance Tour and placement in the Top 10 Dance Couples at the U.S. Open, as well as being the 2012 SwingDiego Masters Jack n' Jill Champion.
- Bev comes from a community theatre background including dancing, singing, acting, choreographing and directing.

## PJ Turner & Tashina Beckman



- PJ and Tashina were brought together by a mutual passion: joy of movement through West Coast Swing.
  - They began their partnership in May 2013, and debuted their 1st ever Classic Routine in July 2013 at Swingtime in the Rockies. Within their first year of partnership they placed Top 5 at major US NASDE and other WSDC events in the Classic Division, having a phenomenal start with their "Feel Again" routine.
  - Almost immediately following their debut they started teaching workshop weekends throughout the US and at the beginning of 2014 they were asked to be on staff at National and International Events.
- Promoters and students alike love their fun energetic personalities, humorous accents, professionalism, and passion for late night dancing.
- Their partnership is strengthened by the fact that their individual and now mutual life dreams were to be professional dancers, and they are so grateful they get to experience this together.
  - People often question how a long distance partnership from Tennessee to California works? PJ & Tashina answer with "When You Love what you Do, You Find a way to make it work".

## Mike Wagner



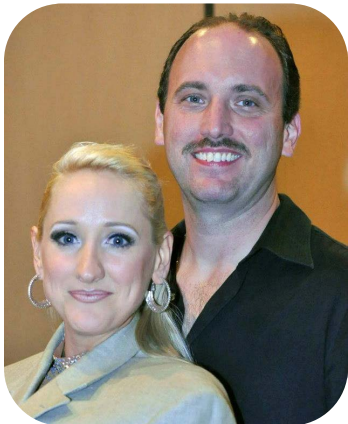
- Mike joins the Dance Camp Chicago family fresh off of a very busy 2017 UCDWC World's where he danced either Pro-Am or Pro-Pro with no less than 9 different ladies in many different divisions!!! His Am's accomplished many top 5 placements with a number of 1st placements in various divisions.

- His large list of accolades include: 1995 UCWDC Division 2 Showcase World Champion; 1997 UCWDC Classic Masters World Champion; 2008 and 2013 UCWDC Division 1 World Champion; 2014 and 2015 UCWDC Classic Masters World Champion. He is also a UCWDC 3-time Top Teacher recipient and a whopping UCWDC

15-time Top 5 Top Teacher recipient.

- In addition to his UCWDC accomplishments he is a 3-time American College Dance Association (ACDA) National Champion.

## Sam & Christine Wetzel



- Sam and Chris Wetzel are from Franklin, PA and have been dancing competitively in country since 1998.
- They are 5-time UCWDC Classic Division I Grand Champions, and are now UCWDC Masters Competitors.
- They are retired from competition but still love teaching, coaching, judging and performing part-time while still working regular full-time jobs.
- Chris was also the dance double for the lead role in the movie "Love N Dancing" starring Amy Smart.

## 2017 DANCE CAMP CHICAGO DJ'S

### April Prince – Head DJ



- April was born into a family of performing musicians where music was always the love of her life. She trained in music since she was a toddler and finds absolute joy teaching and sharing the gift of music with others. Her love of music led her to find wonderful dance and DJ opportunities.

- Experience: In the Chicago area, April DJs and manages West Coast Wednesdays and The Mix Dance. She also DJ's at Swing 'n' Country. April spins at national dance events which have included Swing City Chicago, The Chicago Classic, Chi- Town Swings, Danzapalooza, Florida Swing Vacation,

The Dance Camp, The Tampa Bay Classic, Sweetheart Swing, Miami Dance Magic, Orlando Jack and Jill Jam, Portland's Bridge Town Swing, The Lone Star Invitational, CASH Bash, The Sweet Side of Swing, Summer Hummer, Wanna Boogie, Swing Fling, River City Swing, America's Classic, Seattle Easter Swing, and the Worlds Country Dance Championship.

- Awards: April was named the All Swing DJ of the Year for 2009 and was inducted into the Global Swing DJ Hall of Fame.
- As of 2015; April is now co-owner of Swing City Chicago, a West Coast Swing event in October as well as co-owner of Floorplay New Year's Eve in Florida.
- April has both a bachelors and master's degree in music education.

### Matt Cotherman- DJ



- Matt has been DJing since he started at a country dance club in Lafayette, IN in 1997 for 4 years.
- In 1999 he started working for the Indy Swing Club as their primary club DJ, and did so until he moved to Chicago in 2006. Matt has been working with Swing 'n' Country as a DJ for over 6 years. Through those years he has worked many events throughout the Midwest such as Indy Swing Classic, Dance Camp, Spotlight New Year's Eve, and Swing City Chicago.

- Matt Lives in the small town of Gilberts, IL with his wife, Holly, and 2 daughters (Karleigh 16, Ella 9). He works for a Japanese Design/Build construction firm with an office in Itasca working throughout the Midwest.

### Ken Dillard - DJ



- Ken Dillard has been DJ'ing in the Chicago area for over 10 years. What started as a learning experience at Swing 'n' Country in 2005 has turned into a second love (next to web design).
  - Ken can be found DJ'ing at many local dance events including: Swing 'n' Country, West Coast Wednesdays, and The Mix. He's also expanded into doing larger scale events including; The Chicago Classic, Swing City Chicago, Chicagoland Dance Festival, and Floor Play New Year's Eve (Florida).
  - His skills have earned him two DJ Challenge awards at Swing City Chicago (2007 & 2010).
  - Ken looks forwards to spinning tunes at Dance Camp Chicago and keeping everyone on the floor, dancing, and happy.