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VOLUME LXXVI

FEBRUARY, 2011



AFSC

Freestyler

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA FIGURE SKATING CLUB

www.atlantafsc.org

2011 Magnolia Open and Atlanta Open To Participate in Solo Dance Series



The 2011 Magnolia Open will be held on March 11 - 13 at The Cooler. Please extend a warm welcome to our officials, vendors, and guests.

Area chairs will be contacting members this month to provide volunteer hours at the competition. We also need members to donate food for coaches' hospitality. Please be generous with your time and talent!

This year we are participating in U.S. Figure Skating's new program, the Solo Dance Competition series, which is open to skaters in all three sections. The program is designed to create a fun, nationwide competitive venue for solo dancers that allows them the opportunity to qualify for a national event. Both the Magnolia and Atlanta Open competitions have been sanctioned for this exciting new series. Details are provided on page 2.



COMPETITION OFFICIALS

CHIEF REFEREE

Beth Graham Denver, CO

ASSISTANT CHIEF REFEREE

Jeannette Doney Roswell, GA

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Dennis Boyer Harvest, AL

CHIEF ANNOUNCER

John Richardson Atlanta, GA

JUDGES

Elisa Boyer Harvest, AL

Elaine Bushey Salem, SC

Marcia Chaffee West Chester, OH

Janis Crowe Greenville, SC

Jeannette Doney Roswell, GA

Sonja Kaminski Raleigh, NC

Warren King Mauldin, SC

Gloria Lewis Lawrenceville, GA

Betty McCord Marietta, GA

Marie Pearce Atlanta, GA

Lee Schaffer Atlanta, GA

Tony Torres Huntsville, AL

Ginger Whatley Atlanta, GA

Aiken Clinches Junior Men Bronze Medal

Alexander Aiken's agenda this month was ambitious: score two personal best performances at the U.S. Championships; cheer the Pittsburgh Steelers to a Super Bowl berth; medal at nationals. By Tuesday, January 23, he successfully checked off all three goals.

On Sunday, after skating his short program to "Children of Sanchez," Alex proclaimed it was "the best day of my life." Decked out afterwards in head-to-toe Steelers yellow and black, he credited the crowd's support for helping propel him to 61.78 points, a personal best.



(Cont'd on Page 2)

Alex Aiken Triumphs at 2011 AT&T U.S. Championships

(Cont'd from Page 1)

After Tuesday's program to "Once Upon a Time in Mexico," he was ecstatic. "I felt good. It was a personal best for me again," he said. "Each time, regionals, sectionals and nationals, I improved. I thought my performance was good, and the crowd was great."

"Great" was an understatement as announcer Ann O'Keefe thanked the sweepers for clearing the mass quantities of stuffed animals and gifts that rained down on the ice following a free skate that earned him 118.16 points. He landed six triple jumps, two double Axels, and three combination jumps, earning positive Grades of Execution on all but one element.

"I've never felt that confident in my training," he said about his performance. "It worked. I really enjoyed the program."

Alex attributes most of his improvement to preparation and dedication. He visualizes his programs down to every step, jump, arm movement, turn, and spin. Training in Charlotte, NC for the past 10 months under former Olympic silver medalist Paul Wylie, he next intends to prepare for the final level of his skating career.

For now, he is basking in the glory of his accomplishments. "I skated out of my mind, and my Steelers are going to the Super Bowl," he said.

Photos of Alex are provided on page 7.



Atlanta FSC Officials Serve at U.S. Championships

Kudos to our officials for donating their time and talent:

Technical Controller
Dana Graham

Judges
Susan Johnson

Terri Maurice

John Millier

Announcer
John Richardson

National Solo Dance Series at Magnolia Open

(Cont'd from Page 1)



How To Participate

1. You must sign up on the USFS online Registration Form to be a part of the 2011 Solo Dance Competition Series. There is a \$10.00 registration fee.
2. You will receive a confirmation e-mail containing your Solo Dance Competition Series number to use when registering for competitions.
3. Between Feb. 1 and March 1, 2011, you must complete the online Competition Selection Form.
4. Register for each of the non-qualifying competitions you selected on the Competition Selection Form. You are responsible for signing up for the events on your own.
5. U.S. Figure Skating will receive the results from each of the series competitions and will notify you of your standings.
6. The top six skaters in each level and section will be invited to advance to the National Solo Dance Championships in Colorado Springs, CO in September 2011.

National Solo Dance Championships

The top six skaters from each section in each level (preliminary, pre-bronze, bronze, pre-silver, silver, pre-gold and gold) will advance to the National Solo Dance Championships. Each level at the National Solo Dance Championships will consist of 18 skaters.

Each level will be split into two qualifying rounds, with the skaters competing two dances within their level. The athletes finishing in the top four in each qualifying round will advance to the championship round, where they will compete the final dance(s).

Where are they now?

elizabeth WRIGHT-JOHNSON

I began skating at age 2 ½ as a form of physical therapy to strengthen my inward-turned feet. My parents decided on skating because my grandfather was a national level speed skater in Canada and later Detroit. I skated in Atlanta for approximately 10 years at Parkaire Olympic Ice. Around 1980, I began taking from Susan (Pearce) Dabney, and that is when my love for skating, competitions and travel began. By 1985, I moved to Denver, CO to work with world renowned skating coach, Don Laws. While always a consistent free skater and strong (school) figure skater, I needed more exposure to national level skaters on a daily basis.

In 1988, the International Skating Union voted to remove school figures, my strongest event, from competition. While the change would not go into effect for another year or two, it was a pivotal point in my life. I had two choices: continue skating against strong free skaters Kristi Yamaguchi, Nancy Kerrigan, Tonya Harding, Jeri Lynch, Jenni Meno and Tonia Kwiatkowski or further my education. A college education was a sure “win,” so I enrolled at the University of South Carolina for 1- ½ years, then transferred and earned a B.A. in journalism from the University of Georgia in 1994.



Kristi Yamaguchi and Elizabeth

The highlights of my skating career include a 3rd place finish at the U.S. Championships (novice), two trips to the U.S. Championships at the junior level (5th and 6th place finishes), a 6th place finish at the World Junior Championships in Brisbane, Australia in 1988 and numerous sectional and regional championship wins from the intermediate through senior levels.

Following college, I traveled around the United States and Canada as a consultant for Delta Delta Delta fraternity. After my year of travel for Tri Delta, I worked with a sports marketing company before discovering Don Laws had moved to Atlanta to coach. After a six year hiatus from skating, I began working with Mr. Laws. I was fortunate enough to have a terrific group of skaters to coach and loved taking them from group classes through many levels of USFS tests. Developing music for skaters, choreographing programs and moves in the field were my joys as a coach.

In May, 2001, I left coaching to branch out into the world of judging. Judging was a fabulous transition from coaching, providing me a way to stay involved in a sport I loved so dearly coupled with time to stay at home with my daughter, Megan. Due to my own skating achievements, I moved quickly through the judging levels and participated in many great competitions and seminars throughout the country.

During my time as coach and judge, I held numerous positions on the board of the Atlanta FSC and U.S. Figure Skating. It was during my year as president of the club that U.S. Figure Skating requested that we host the 2007 Eastern Sectional Championships. The board voted unanimously that the club should host – if I would chair the event. With a truly amazing volunteer committee, we hosted one of the most successful sectional championships in years. All the black club jackets worn around the rinks of Atlanta were fruits from those championships.



Audrey Kate, Megan and Elizabeth

After chairing Easterns, I resigned my position as skating judge and had another daughter, Audrey Kate. Now my life involves (like many skating moms) driving my children from home to school, school to sport, sport to study halls, study halls to late dinners and late dinners to bed time. I am currently taking a two-year Bible course called Bethel Intensive and will graduate in May. I have participated in the Athens to Atlanta 87 mile in-line skate race, completed many 10Ks, 3 half marathons and even a sprint triathlon last August. My next athletic endeavor will include a duathlon in April (the swim aspect of triathlons does not agree with me. I like my water frozen!).

My husband participates in one full Iron Man race per year and will be heading to Utah in May for his next race. Our eldest daughter is in the 4th grade at Heritage Preparatory School, is a competitive swimmer at Dynamo and enjoys ballet classes. If you asked our 3-year-old daughter what she does she would say, “I go to school, I swim, I bike, I run and I do ballet.” She seems to be following all of us in one way or another. My stepson, Gregory, is a freshman at Valdosta State and loves his independence. I look forward to how skating will reenter my life at some point in the future. For now, I love being wife, mother, CEO, CFO and AA our family’s crazy, fun life!



1983 Atlanta Open



Atlanta FSC
April 29, 30, May 1

Spring Spectacular
The Cooler

Special Guest Performers

Ryan BRADLEY

Ryan Bradley is the 2011 U.S. Championships gold medalist, the 2009 and 2010 pewter medalist, the 2009 Skate America bronze medalist and 2008 Skate America silver medalist, the 2007 U.S. Championships silver medalist, a three-time U.S. Collegiate champion (2005-07), a two-time World Championships competitor, and the 1999 U.S. Junior Men champion. At the 2010 World Figure Skating Championships in Turin, Italy, he managed to skate two programs on a broken foot, and he was named the 2010 recipient of the *Champions In Life* award from Grassroots to Champions.

Saturday and Sunday Performances Only.



Alexander AIKEN

Alexander Aiken (Junior Men) claimed bronze at the 2011 U.S. Championships and silver at the 2011 Eastern Sectional Championships. At the 2010 U.S. Championships, he placed 10th, preceded by 7th (2009), 5th (2008), and 7th (2007). Alex also won silver at the 2006 U.S. Junior Championships at the intermediate level.

Jamie KIM

A six-time qualifier at Eastern Sectionals, **Jamie Kim** (Senior Ladies) duplicated last year's 7th place finish. She previously placed 9th (2009), 12th (2008), 11th (2007), 9th (2006, junior) and 5th (2005, novice).





Tim DOLENSKY

The 2010 U.S. Championships Novice Men bronze medalist and 2010 Eastern Sectionals gold medalist, **Tim Dolensky** earned 5th place at the 2011 Eastern Sectionals. In September, 2010, he placed 4th in his first Junior Grand Prix assignment in Sheffield, Great Britain. At 2009 Easterns, he placed 5th at the novice level and also competed at the 2005 and 2006 U.S. Junior Championships in intermediate and juvenile.

Ariel COLLINS

A two-time qualifier at U.S. Figure Skating's National Showcase competition, Ariel placed 4th in 2010 in the qualifying round for Teen Dramatic and 8th in the final round as well as 3rd in Teen Extemporaneous and 6th in Teen Light. At the 2009 National Showcase, she placed 4th in the Teen Light qualifying round and 6th in the final round. She also placed 6th in the Teen Dramatic event.



Nancy Ellis RIGGS

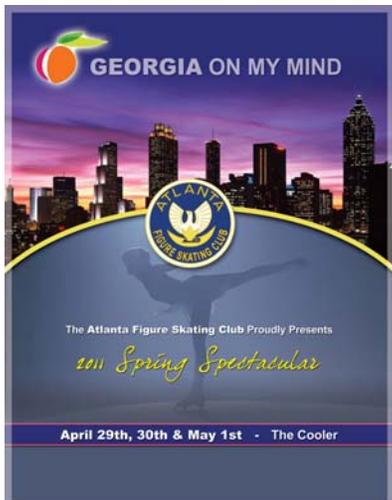
The 2010 National Showcase gold medalist in Adult Extemporaneous and bronze medalist in Adult Light Entertainment, Nancy qualified to compete in the Parade of Champions in Extemporaneous Improvisation. She also won 4th place in Ladies Light Entertainment/Comedy/Interpretive at the 2010 U.S. Adult Championships.

A professional actor and puppeteer for over 20 years, Nancy teaches drama at Let's Pretend, an after school performing arts program, and performs in theater productions at the Alliance, The Center for Puppetry Arts, the Shakespeare Tavern, and the Atlanta Lyric and Theatre Gael as well as Piccadilly Puppets shows.



WIN!

Win one of these fabulous prizes by selling the highest total dollar value tickets to our Spring Spectacular show! Details will be posted on our website.



Individual Events

Adults	\$8.00
Children (12 and under)/ Seniors (60+)	\$5.00

All Event

Adults	\$20.00
Children/Seniors	\$10.00



**One Year Full
Membership
\$170 Value**



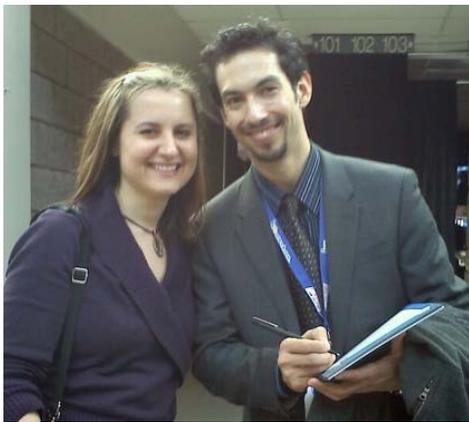
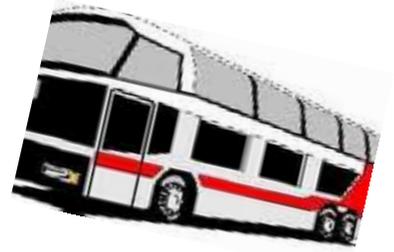
EVERYTHING



**\$150.00 Gift
Certificate**

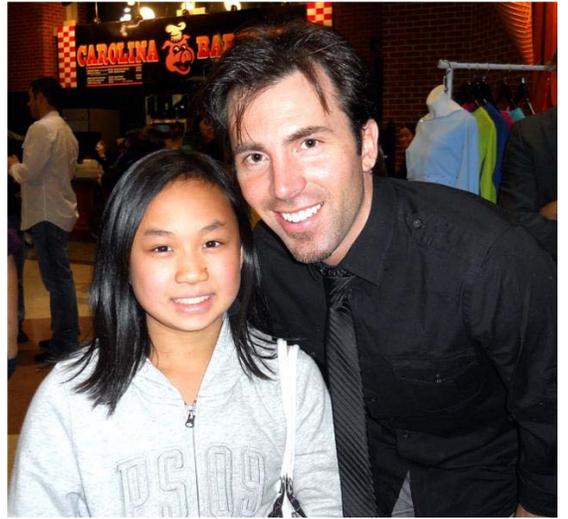


**Ten Freestyle Stickers
\$95 Value**



Thanks to **Gloria Lewis, Tami Mickle,** and **Leon Qiao** for making this adventure so memorable!

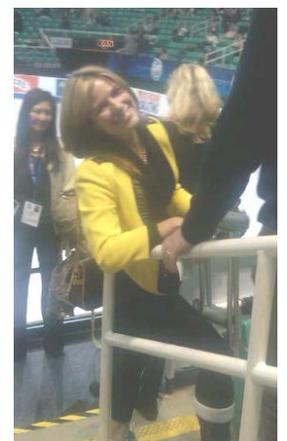
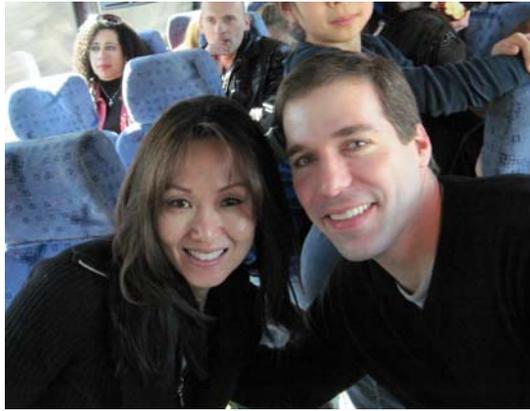






Photos by Denise Carleton,
Amanda Bao, Leon Qiao,
Anna Marie Champion,
Tea Junnila







SPOTLIGHT SKATER

Maya Neel

What made you decide to start skating?

When we lived in Paris, France, you could always find little skating rinks in the squares. Every winter my parents would take me skating. When we moved to Georgia, there weren't rinks everywhere during the winter. Since it had been one of our traditions, my mom found The MIC and took me skating and signed me up for group classes.

What keeps you motivated to continue skating?

I love the rush you get when you go fast and when you are able to perfect the elements. I like giving it my all and being able to be proud of myself no matter what happens because I know that I will always work hard.

What is your weekly training regimen?

I skate four mornings/week. I also have a personal trainer and work out for an hour two nights/week.

What are your favorite and least favorite elements?

My favorite element is a sit spin because I can just spin for as long as I can. My least favorite is the spiral because I am not flexible.

Favorite music/program.

My favorite program is my long. The music is from "Ice Castles" and is made up of classical, waltz, and rock. The different types of music allow me to have more fun skating to the program.

What is the most memorable, thrilling and/or embarrassing event of your skating career?

I skated my first competition in the blue public skates.

Tell us about your school and extracurricular activities.

I attend Alan C. Pope High School. Math and literature are my favorite subjects, and I play the violin. I volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Parents Night Out babysitting, and Pope's Shopping with a Greyhound.

Who is your favorite skater?

My favorite skater is Yu- Na Kim because she is a great spinner and jumper, but also does everything with such grace. Even though the elements are so difficult, she makes them look so easy. I admire that she was able to go out and skate her best under all of the pressure of both being at the Olympics and all of the expectations from her country to win the gold.

If I weren't a skater, I would have been

A tennis player.

Best advice you have ever received?

You cannot be disappointed unless you have given it your all.

Whom do you admire most?

I most admire my dad because he is always there for me when things are either good or bad. My dad was always like a soccer mom to me. He always took care of me and made sure I had everything I could have ever wanted.

Tell us about your family.

I'm an only child and have 2 cats- Tigger and Misty.

What are your future goals?

I hope to skate for as long and as hard as I can. I hope that my drive and love for skating will take me as far as I can go. I hope to keep all A's through high school and go to a good college. Wherever I go, I will always find a rink to keep skating. After college, I hope to maybe either become a journalist or a lawyer.

My three favorite things are

Laughing, spending time with my friends and family, and school.

Favorite word: *Happiness*

Least favorite word: *Hate*

What turns me off: *Laziness*

Favorite quote: "When you've flown as hard as you can, you're halfway there."

~Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole

Favorite book: *Right now it is I Am Number Four*

Favorite movie: "Les Choristes"

Favorite song: "Angels on the Moon" by Thriving Ivory

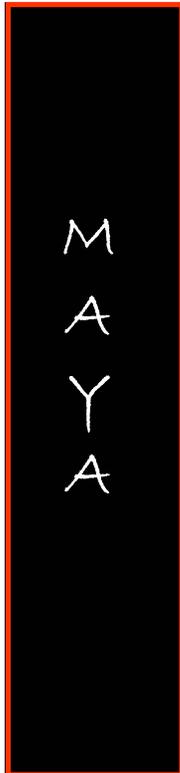
Sound I love: *The edges of my blade gliding on the ice when I land a jump*

Sound I dislike: *Whining*

I would never want to be: *Accountant*

Three words that best describe me: *Caring, energetic, and fun.*

If I were stranded on a desert island, I would have to have: *A stack of good books, my Ipod, and plate of pasta.*



POTPOURRI Tests Passed

		<i>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</i>			
Chip Smith	4	Elizabeth Wright-Johnson	20		
Thomas Kosse	5	Ken Ono			
Sara Collins	6	Robert Kuse			
Reina Abernathy	9	Susan Kuse			
Hayley Nunnally	11	Inez McDaniel	21		
Joe Dolensky		Chrissy Imperiale	26		
Silva Stewart		Mary Ann Downing			
Kaia Culotta	13	Helena Fisher	27		
Mow Yip		Jennifer Conover			
ZhiYing Yip		Laurie Vieth			
Martine Szanto	14	Rodney Conover	28		
Juvy Ko	16	Dylan Oakes	29		
Terry Mallory	17	Kayla Massie	30		

February 25, March 4

Magnolia Open Exhibitions Sign Up

Magnolia Open exhibitions will be held on February 25 and March 4 during Club Ice at The Cooler. Please e-mail Leon Qiao at liangqiao8888@yahoo.com by **February 18** to secure a spot.

Club Ice Cancellations

Please note that the following Club Ice dates will be reserved for the Spring Spectacular practices:

March 18 and 25
April 1, 8, 15, 22

November

Alyssa Levitt Pre-Preliminary Free Skate

December

Olivia Barnes Preliminary Moves

Hannah Carleton Preliminary Moves
Pre-Preliminary Free Skate

Wendi Hiller Dutch Waltz
Canasta Tango
Rhythm Blues
Preliminary Dance Test

Megan Joseph Juvenile Moves

Lillian Ko Novice Moves

Mingda Liu Pre-Preliminary Free Skate

January

Madeleine Brown Pre-Juvenile Free Skate

Charles Liu Pre-Preliminary Moves

Mingda Liu Preliminary Moves

Rahly Osenbaugh Pre-Preliminary Moves
Pre-Preliminary Free Skate

Alexa Phillips Pre-Juvenile Moves

Maria Son Intermediate Moves
Pre-Juvenile Free Skate

Emily Stark Pre-Juvenile Free Skate

Alice Tang Intermediate Moves

Melody Wang Intermediate Moves

Olivia Wang Pre-Juvenile Free Skate

Lily Xie Juvenile Moves

Grace Ying Pre-Juvenile Free Skate

ZhiYing Yip Pre-Preliminary Moves



Club Website Has A New Look!

The club website - AtlantaFSC.org - has been redesigned by **Barry Johnson** and **Tony Maness** for easier navigation and improved aesthetics. In addition to the standard menu items, a new monthly skating trivia contest is now offered. Winners will be selected from a random draw of correct entries. The prize is a freestyle sticker.

Many thanks to Barry and Tony! If you have any questions or suggestions, please direct them to Jane Jud, communications chair.

March 4 and 5

Consignment Sale

A consignment sale will be held at The Cooler on Friday, March 4 (3:00 – 8:00 PM) and Saturday, March 5 (8:00 AM – 1:00 PM).



You may drop off your items during Club Ice on Friday, February 25 and Wednesday, March 2 from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. All unsold items must be picked up on Saturday, March 5 by 1:00 PM.

Contact **Lee Mallory** at lee.a.mallory@gmail.com for more information.

Attention Graduating Seniors!



2011 Club Academic Scholarship Application

The 2011 Atlanta FSC college academic scholarship application is now available online for qualified Atlanta FSC members. The maximum individual grant is \$1,000. A maximum of four grants of varying denominations, but no less than \$500, may be awarded. The application is posted online, and the deadline is **April 11**.

USFS Graduating Seniors Program

The USFS program consists of four level designations awarded based on competition and/or test achievement. Certificates of accomplishment will be mailed to the athlete's school for recognition purposes. Applications must be submitted by **March 1**. Go to <http://surveys.usfigureskating.org/index.php?sid=54482&lang=en>.



Olivia Barnes
Kara Horning
Lana Layton

Charles Liu
Gabrielle Silver
Barbara Newburger

2011 Ice Dance Weekend



The Atlanta FSC will host the 4th annual Ice Dance Weekend on June 3 - 5 at The Cooler. The agenda will include two levels of ice dance clinics on Saturday and Sunday, professional ballroom dance instruction, and a dinner on Saturday night with more ballroom dancing.

This year's chair is **Graham Payne**, a former senior national and international dance competitor and a national and world competition coach. He has been coaching for over 30 years and is the resident ice dance coach at The Cooler.

For more information, contact **Laurie Sanii** at laurie.sanii@gmail.com or 404-987-2123.

Thank You! and



To our dedicated officials celebrating anniversaries:

55 Years
Susan Johnson

30 Years
Nancy Ager & Anne Malacrea



VOLUNTEER Movers & Shakers

Atlanta FSC Membership Chair - Anna Marie “Champion Off Ice”

Many skaters hope to be future “Champions On Ice,” but the Atlanta FSC already has one “Champion Off Ice.” In her short tenure as a volunteer, Anna Marie Champion has rapidly become one of the club’s most valuable assets. Her strong organizational skills, cheerful personality, and willingness to be involved has led to several key appointments within the club: Membership Chair, Board Member, Registration Desk Chair for competitions, and recently, Chair of the Spring Spectacular ice show. In addition, Anna Marie never fails to pitch in for whatever is needed at club activities. For example, at the holiday ice show on December 18, she served as the liaison for ticket distribution when no one else was available. The fact that Anna Marie is a home school mother who manages a very busy family schedule is also testament to her efficiency and hard work. She is truly a “champion off ice!” In recognition of her dedication as Membership Chair and for other service, the Atlanta FSC gratefully acknowledges Anna Marie as our feature volunteer for February.

~ Peggy McCarthy



Anna Marie, Morgan and Katelyn

When did you join the Atlanta FSC, and how did you first become involved as a volunteer?

My family moved from Birmingham, AL to Cumming, GA in November 2007 and joined the club shortly after the move. My daughter started skating in Birmingham, and we were members of the Birmingham Figure Skating Club. I served on the board and really enjoyed interacting with the members and their families. My daughter skates during the day when no families are at the rink so it has taken me a while to get to know families. Last year I was asked to help with the Magnolia, and Kim Leftwich took me under her wing and showed me the ropes. I have been helping ever since. After taking over the membership chair position I have really enjoyed talking with and meeting so many wonderful people and families here in Atlanta.

Describe your past and current positions, as well as any other contributions to the club.

I co-chaired the registration desk for Magnolia Open in 2009 and co-chaired coaches hospitality in 2010. This year, I am chairing the registration desk for the Magnolia, chairing the spring ice show, and serving as the membership chair for the club.

Why do you stay involved as a volunteer with the Atlanta FSC?

I became involved with the Atlanta FSC because it is a huge part of my 10-year-old daughter’s life right now. I really want to support her and learn more about skating. I quickly learned that being involved has helped me to get to know so many people who share the same interest that I do. I have really enjoyed making new friends here in Georgia and look forward to meeting new people at the rink each time we go. I have learned that the club is a big family if you open up and let it.

Tell us a little about your background, education, profession, hobbies, and/or family.

I went to the University of Alabama and received my masters in HR and worked for 10 years in human resources with Lowe’s Home Center. I am married to Wesley Champion, and we have twin girls. After the girls were born we decided I would stay home because they were born so early and needed so much intervention in the early years.

I also co-founded a non-profit organization that is a national organization now. It is called “Reaching for the Stars. A Foundation of HOPE for Children with Cerebral Palsy.” This foundation has been a rock for me. We do education, advocacy, and research for children with CP. I work with doctors and hospitals all over the world.

I enjoy home schooling Katelyn, and her sister, Morgan, goes to Coal Mountain Elementary School in Cumming. My family life during the week is crazy. Katelyn skates during the day, and in the afternoon we go to cheerleading and horseback riding for Morgan. On the weekends we enjoy having family game nights together and cooking out with friends.

Atlanta Figure Skating Club
P.O. Box 185
Roswell, GA 30077



Upcoming Events

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>SPONSOR/LOCATION</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>
TEST SESSION	February 11	Atlanta FSC	
RISE Film Debut	February 17	USFS, Local theaters	
2011 Eastern Adult Sectional Championships	February 25 - 27	Pittsburgh FSC, Pittsburgh, PA	
MAGNOLIA OPEN EXHIBITIONS	February 25, March 4	Atlanta FSC	
Blades in Bama	February 26	Birmingham FSC, Pelham, AL	January 29
MAGNOLIA OPEN	March 11 - 13	Atlanta FSC	February 4
TEST SESSION	March 20	Atlanta FSC	February 27
Central Carolina Skating Classic	April 7 - 10	Central Carolina SC, Chapel Hill, NC	February 21
Florida Open	April 8 - 10	Central Florida FSC, Maitland, FL	February 21
U.S. Adult FS Championships	April 12 - 16	Salt Lake City FSC, Salt Lake City, UT	February 1
Skate Nashville	April 15 - 16	Nashville FSC, Franklin, TN	
Governing Council	April 29 - 30	USFS, Lombard, IL	