

Volume CXX MAY, 2017



Freestyler

The Official Publication of the Atlanta Figure Skating Club

ATLANTAFSC.ORG

Coming Soon - * Awards Banquet * Atlanta Open * Ice Dance Weekend * Grassroots 2 Champions!



The 2017 Atlanta Open will be held on June will be held on June 8 - 11 at The Cooler. Please welcome our distinguished panel of officials, especially Chief Referee **Rick Perez**, Chief Accountant **Kimberley Moore**, Dance Referee **John Millier**, and Chief

Announcer, **John Richardson**.

Exhibitions will be offered during Club Ice on **May 26** only on a first-come, first-served basis. Please email Karen Crossen at jkcrossen@gmail.com by **May 13** to secure a spot.

As always, we will need many volunteers to ensure the success of the competition so please be generous with your time and talent. Links to Signup Genius will be available soon. This will be your last opportunity to fulfill your service hours requirement.

Local Organizing Committee

Registrar	Christi Fisher
Accommodations	Christi Fisher
Coaches' Hospitality	PJ Whalen
Competition Ice Monitors	Kim Rutter
Donations	Peggy McCarthy
Officials' Hospitality	Sharon Hyre, Kathy Shehee, Janet Payne
Officials' Liaison	Lori Malthaner
Practice Ice	TBD
Program	Dana Forehand
Registration	Lori McGarigle
Runners	Dawn Kisella
Vendors	Christi Fisher
Volunteer Coordinator	Monica Long



Awards Banquet
May 19
Registration Deadline - May 12



Ice Dance Weekend
June 2 - 4
Registration Deadline May 20

Grassroots 2 Champions Training Clinic
June 24
Registration Deadline May 13



Board of Directors Election Results

Congratulations to the newly elected members of the Board of Directors:

Tami Mickle Kathy Shehee Jennifer Latham

John Millier Heather Stables

They will join current board members Francesca Sichenze-Bryant, Judith Flair, Lori McGarigle, and PJ Whalen.

Thank you to all candidates and to the Nomination Committee members Jane Jud (chair), Tea Junnila, Tami Mickle, John Millier, John Richardson, and Kathy Shehee,



**Spring Showcase
April 29
The Cooler**

Congratulations to our talented cast of Atlanta FSC members! You were outstanding!

Many thanks to our volunteers, The Cooler, and especially to ...

Co-Chairs: Christi Fisher, Lori McGarigle, Graham Payne

Announcer: John Richardson

Coaches: Alex Tregre, Barbara Landon, and Cindie Snow

Photographer: Denise Freeman



Graduates: Breeleie, Julia, Amanda, and Emily



Bridge Group (alphabetical order): Laken Andrzejewski, Ansley Bokath, Alexis Ciang, Ashley Glass, Isabella Giordano, Mia Giordano, Lilly Gorczyca, Gia Gulati, Ansley Granade, Sofia Izaguirre, Gwen LaBert, Neha Mahesh, Yasmine Manafi, Abigail Mutch, Lila-Belle Mutch, Katie Nix



Iris, Serena Duet



Elisa, Jeslyn, Ava, Melanie



Madeline, Maya, Anna, Kaitly



Julia, Katy, Emma Grace



Breelie and Soucci Duet



Tiffany, Emily, Tori





Audrey, Cristanne, Lily, Hasita



Heather, Judith, Elaine, Sharon, Nancy



Katy, Amanda, Tiffany, Madeline



Katie, Amelia



Spring Showcase Soloists



Amanda



Elisa



Jeslyn



Tiffany



Madeline



Cristanne



Emma Grace



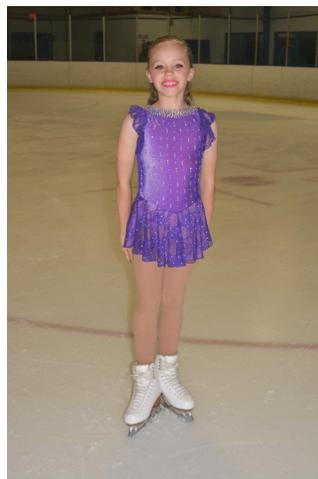
Julia



Athena



Ava



Audrey



Amelia



Natalie



Kaity



Anna



Maya



Emily



Katie



Katy



Melanie



Lily



Tori



Hasita



SPOTLIGHT SKATER

Laurie Sanii

When did you begin skating, and what motivates you to continue?

I took my first ISIA group classes as a kid in about 1982 at the Williams Center Forum in downtown Tulsa, OK. I quit in about my junior year of high school for financial reasons. I got back into skating in about 2009 when I was working in the Bay Area and stumbled into the Bay Area Ice Dance weekend that was happening in San Jose. Watching people of all ages dancing looked like so much fun that I wanted to get back into skating. I started taking ice dance lessons with Jonathon O'Dougherty that year. When I moved back to Atlanta, I continued lessons with Graham Payne. I continue skating because I love challenging myself and I love the skating friends I have.

Competitive and testing accomplishments:

In middle / high school, I passed my second figure and was working on my third when figures were removed from competitions. I had also passed my Juvenile free skate test. I'm currently working on my Silver dance tests – I passed the American Waltz last fall, and I'm currently working on the Tango and Rocker Foxtrot with Graham.

Tell us about your education and career.

I have a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Georgia Tech. I worked for three years as a research scientist for Clorox in Pleasanton, CA, and then for another three years in midtown Atlanta for a Finnish chemical company. I also worked in patent law as a technical advisor for about a year and a half. I left the sciences for a variety of reasons, but most importantly because I felt like my heart was never really in it and it wasn't a match for my personality. I had been a Learn to Skate assistant at The Cooler a few years ago and I loved working with kids. So after leaving my job, I started working as a Learn to Skate instructor at Center Ice in Sandy Springs. I was also able to teach classes at Iceforum in Duluth. When the Skating School Director had to move for her husband's job, I applied for her job. I love what I do because it's a much better fit for my outgoing personality, and I love to watch people of all ages challenge themselves and enjoy skating. I've also used social media and email communication with parents to drive up our enrollment significantly over the past few semesters.

Tell us about your travels.

I have lived in Charleston, WV, Lexington, KY, Tulsa/Broken Arrow, OK, metro Atlanta, and Pleasanton/Dublin, CA. I have traveled to 29 states and Washington D.C. Internationally, I have been in Canada, Sweden, England, and Italy.

What three items are on your bucket list?

Travel to Iran to visit my dad's homeland, if the political climate there ever gets less volatile; learn to juggle; learn to play the clarinet.

Your three favorite things:

My cell phone – because it keeps me organized and in touch with the world; the 100+ year-old Oriental wall silks I inherited from my grandmother; my Miata (2005 and still kickin')

What is the most memorable event of your skating career?

Since the Bay Area Ice Dance Weekend was instrumental in getting me back into skating, I wanted to be able to have a similar event here at The Cooler once I moved back to Atlanta. When John Richardson stepped down from running the Atlanta Ice Dance Weekend, I asked if I could take it over. I've been running the weekend since 2011 and it's been exciting to see how our numbers have risen from in the low 20's to over 50 skaters last year from the US and Canada. We use a combination of both traditional ISU as well as more modern music to attract skaters of all ages.

Tell us about your family.

My husband Rob and I have two King parrots at home, Darwin and Sydney. Darwin is the brains of the operation; Sydney is the trophy wife.

Favorite word: Yes

Least favorite word: No

Favorite food: Gormeh Sabzi (Persian stew of herbs, dried fenugreek leaves, kidney beans, Persian limes, and lamb or beef, often served with rice)

Least Favorite Food: Liver

Favorite quote: "Well-behaved women seldom make history" - Professor Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Harvard University

Favorite TV Show: "Mad Men"

Favorite Book : 1984

Favorite Movie: "The Outsiders" or "Rumblefish"

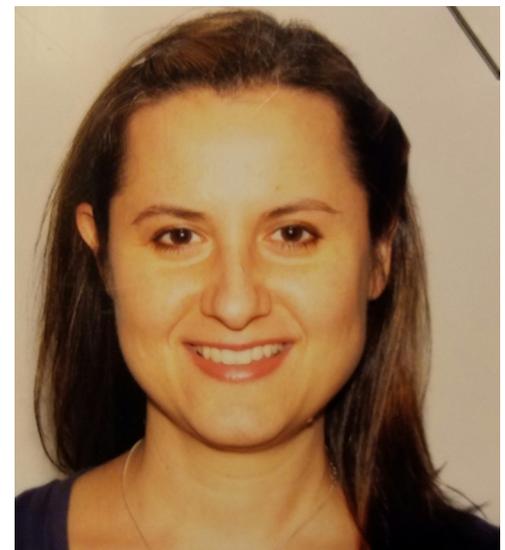
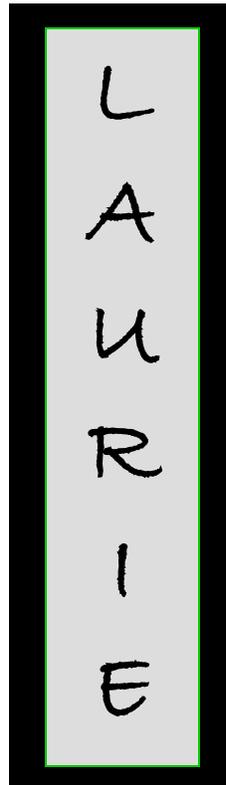
What three words best describe you?
Outgoing, creative, organized

Extracurricular activities, hobbies?

In skating, I am one of the moderators of Ice Dancers Online (IDOL), an online community communicating events around the world of interest to ice dancers. As I mentioned above, I also organize the Atlanta Ice Dance Weekend each year. Outside skating, I play the flute for the Seed and Feed Marching Abominable, performing at multiple gigs like the Dragoncon parade, the Little Five Points Halloween parade, and the Inman park parade. I have also taken improv classes at both Dad's Garage Theatre Company and Highwire Comedy, and I volunteer at both.

Who would you choose to play you in the movie of your life?

Meryl Streep. Because duh, Meryl Streep.



Skate Nashville
Nashville FSC, Nashville, TN April 21 - 23



INTERMEDIATE

Final Round	
Jeslyn Choi	2nd/12
Free Skate, Grp. A	
Jeslyn Choi	2nd/9
Short Program, Grp. A	
Kaitlyn McGarigle	4th/9
Jeslyn Choi	5th/9

JUVENILE

Free Skate	
Kaitlyn McGarigle	2nd/12
Olivia Kim	6th/12
Madison Long	8th/12
Avery Wilkinson	11th/12
Free Skate, Test Track	
Audrey Kate Johnson	3rd/3
Short Program	
Melanie Schael	4th/9
Madison Long	6th/9
Jumps	
Bailey Snead	2nd/2

JUVENILE/OPEN JUVENILE

Spins	
Emma Grace James	1st/2

PRE-JUVENILE

Free Skate	
Bailey Snead	3rd/7
Emma Grace James	6th/7
Compulsory Moves	
Katie Palmer	4th/5
Jumps	
Emma Grace James	1st/3
Anna McPeak	2nd/3

PRELIMINARY

Free Skate, Grp. A	
Audrey Latham	3rd/6
Anna McPeak	4th/6
Katie Palmer	6th/6

PRE-PRELIMINARY

Free Skate, Grp. A	
Ava Windley	5th/6
Free Skate, Test Track, Grp. A	
Chloe Malenfant	3rd/5
Compulsory Moves	
Ava Windley	5th/7
Jumps, Grp. B	
Ava Windley	4th/5
Spins	
Ava Windley	3rd/5

NO TEST - Anna Windley

Free Skate, Grp. A	5th/8
Compulsory Moves, Grp.	2nd/5
Jumps	2nd/6
Spins	2nd/2

HIGH BEGINNER

Free Skate, Grp. A	
Brynn Cartagena	2nd/6
Compulsory Moves	
Brynn Cartagena	1st/6
Chloe Malefant	2nd/6
Jumps	
Brynn Cartagena	1st/2
Spins	
Brynn Cartagena	1st/1

BASIC SKILLS

BASIC 4 - Gia Gulati	
Program with Music	1st/5
Elements	2nd/2

SOLO PATTERN DANCE

International - Soucci Taylor	
Final	1st/2
First	1st/2
Second	2nd/2
Gold - Breele Taylor	
Final	1st/1
First	1st/1
Second	1st/1
Pre-Bronze	
Final	
Audrey Kate Johnson	2nd/5
Katie Palmer	5th/5
First Dance	
Audrey Kate Johnson	2nd/5
Katie Palmer	4th/5
Second Dance	
Audrey Kate Johnson	2nd/5
Katie Palmer	5th/5

COMBINED DANCE

Senior - Soucci Taylor	
Final	2nd/3
Original Dance	2nd/3
Free Dance	2nd/3
Junior - Breele Taylor	
Final	1st/1
Original Dance	1st/1
Free Dance	1st/1



Coach Brittney Bottoms, Kaity, Jeslyn, Olivia, Madison



Avery, Madison, Olivia



Anna, Audrey



Gia



Kaity, Jeslyn, Olivia, Madison, Avery



Jeslyn



Bottom: Bailey, Avery, Emma Grace. Top: Kaity, Katie



Coach Brittany, Kaity



Katie, Kaity, Jeslyn

INTERMEDIATE LADIES

Final Round	
Elvira Junnila	7th/12
Free Skate, Grp. A	
Elvira Junnila	3rd/12
Short Program, Grp. A	
Elvira Junnila	8th/12
Short Program, Grp. B	
Katia Kochengina	4th/12
Triniti Fong	6th/12

JUVENILE

Final Round	
Katia Kochengina	9th/12
Free Skate, Grp. A	
Katia Kochengina	7th/16
Triniti Fong	11th/16
Chloe Rutter	13th/16
Free Skate, Grp. B	
Madeline Freeman	10th/15
Short Program	
Madeline Freeman	3rd/10
Chloe Rutter	5th/10

PRE-JUVENILE

Free Skate, Grp. B	
Elizabeth Douglas	2nd/7
Melanie Schael	3rd/7

PRELIMINARY

Free Skate, Grp. A	
Audrey Latham	5th/8
Free Skate, Grp. B	
Cristanne Goodwin	6th/7
Sarah Cairo	7th/7

ADULT PRE-BRONZE

Cathy Sabella	
Free Skate	
	3rd/3
Compulsory Moves	
	2nd/2

SOLO PATTERN DANCE

Pre-Silver	
Stephanie Brimeyer	
Final	6th/6
First Dance	6th/6
Second Dance	6th/6
Bronze - Madeline Freeman	
Final	1st/8
First Dance	1st/8
Second Dance	2nd/8
Pre-Bronze	
Audrey Kate Johnson	
Final	1st/1
First Dance	1st/1
Second Dance	1st/1

SOLO COMBINED DANCE

Senior - Soucci Taylor	
Final	2nd/5
Original Dance	3rd/5
Free Dance	2nd/5
Junior - Breelie Taylor	
Final	1st/1
Original Dance	1st/1
Free Dance	1st/1
Novice	
Tiffany Hatzikoutelis	
Final	2nd/2
First Dance	2nd/2
Free Dance	2nd/2
Intermediate	
Final	
Madeline Freeman	1st/10
Stephanie Brimeyer	10th/10
First Dance	
Madeline Freeman	3rd/10
Stephanie Brimeyer	9th/10
Free Dance	
Madeline Freeman	1st/10
Stephanie Brimeyer	10th/10



Elvira, John, Katia, Madeline



Stephanie, Tiffany, Madeline



Madeline, Elvira



Melanie, Chloe, Madeline, Elizabeth, Elvira



Judge Sharon Hyre, Elvira, Announcer John Richardson



Brynn, Ava, Anna



Melanie, Elizabeth



Cristanne



Audrey



Chloe



Katia



Anya, Melanie, Elizabeth, Chloe



Breelie, Soucci



Madeline, Judge Sara Stephens, Elvira



US Adult Championships

Triangle FSC,
Wake Forest, NC
April 18 - 22

SILVER LADIES III

Free Skate

Nancy Ellis Riggs 9th/18

Light Entertainment III

Nancy Ellis Riggs 7th/12

PRE-SILVER

Solo Dance - Heather Stables 3rd/7

Final 3rd/7

First Dance 4th/7

Second Dance 4th/7

Dramatic Entertainment I

Heather Stables 3rd/13



Nancy



John Richardson: 'Skating is what keeps me alive'

By Kama Korvela Stigall

First came a bad fall. Then a damaged aorta, followed by a tough rehabilitation. And finally, a mandatory break from skating. But regardless of the hurdles, nothing could keep John Richardson from getting back on the ice, and back to the sport he so dearly loves.

Richardson, an Atlanta-based adult skater and U.S. Figure Skating announcer, has dealt with physical setbacks in recent years.

In December 2011, Richardson was working on an installation project late at night with two friends when he fell.

"As a skater, my reaction was to roll up and cover my head to prevent a serious injury," he explained. "I landed on my left side, specifically on my hip and shoulder. I lay there for about five minutes, but amazingly, I was able to get up, climb back on the scaffold and finish the installation."

Richardson, who skated several days a week and participated in a variety of fitness activities, was able to walk away relatively unscathed.

"The doctor was amazed," Richardson said. "He asked what I did (for exercise) and I told him, 'I'm a figure skater.' He said I had excellent skeletal strength, and that skating had given me a skeleton close to 20 years younger in strength than my age at the time (64)."

However, 15 months later, in March 2013, the aftereffects of the fall emerged. Richardson was on his way to Pilates class when he thought he suffered a heart attack. It turned out to be a malfunctioning valve. He was diagnosed with a dissected ascending aorta, which in most cases is fatal.

"The attending physician told me I should have been dead," Richardson said. "With this type of condition, there is a 3 to 5 percent survival rate."

He remained in the hospital for 17 days, due to fluid accumulating inside

his chest cavity — a byproduct of his aorta surgery. His rehabilitation process was long, and it would be several months before Richardson could return to skating. For someone who was used to skating several days a week, it was frustrating.

His local skating community felt the loss as well. Richardson is an active member of the Atlanta Figure Skating Club. He is not only an ice dancer, but serves as a board member and officer for the club. He received a great deal of well-wishes and support from other skaters in the area.

"I learned a lot about my value in the skating community during this time," Richardson said. "You don't know what impact you're making until you get this kind of response."

His ice dance partner, Kathy Shehee, has seen firsthand how Richardson's passion for skating has pushed him to keep going.

"When we skate and I get frustrated, John always says to me, 'If this was easy, everyone could do it,'" Shehee said. "Clearly, he sees that the value in our accomplishments consists of the process, of the journey with all the difficulties and the joy. I think John approaches life in the same way. Each day is an adventure, as he says, to be savored and enjoyed and used to hone our talents."

Today, Richardson is perfecting his craft, skating five days a week for 90 minutes each day.

"Generally speaking, my skating skills are above the level they were before the surgery," he said.

Shehee has seen a change in his everyday outlook as well.

"John has always embraced life," she said. "However, since his surgery and looking at mortality straight in the eye, the appreciation of life and living it to the fullest has intensified."

Richardson's past health issues proved to be "a reaffirmation of the value in living."

"I have a better understanding of the value of skating, and the value of this community more," he explained.

And he is very clear on what the sport means to him — in short, it has given him life.

"Skating, in a literal and figurative sense, is what keeps me alive."

To learn more about the Get Up campaign, visit: <http://www.wegetup.com/>.

**St. Patrick's Day Special
Event
Big/Little Skate**

**Friday, March 17
Thanks to Special Event
Chair Lori Douglas**



**Thanks to The Cooler
for donating skate
rental!**



Tests Passed

April

Katia Kochengina	Junior Moves
Chloe Rutter	Junior Moves
Jeslyn Choi	Intermediate Free Skate
Risako Nonaka	Intermediate Moves
	Preliminary Free Skate
Olivia Kim	Juvenile Free Skate
Katie Palmer	Juvenile Moves
Isabel Bobrik	Pre-Juvenile Free Skate
Sarah Cairo	Preliminary Free Skate
Terry Kim	Preliminary Free Skate
Ava Landon	Pre-Preliminary Free Skate
Ruhee Patkar	Dutch Waltz
	Rhythm Blues
	Canasta Tango
	Preliminary Dance Test



2017
U.S. INTERCOLLEGIATE
FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS
AT MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Intercollegiate Championships Oxford, OH April 1 - 2

Helena Fisher	
International Dance	10th/13
Gold Dance	14th/16



AnnieMarie Ahlin	Yasemine Manafi
Laken Andrzejewski	Maliheh Manafi
Amanda Andrzejewski	Gina Palermo
Alexis Chiang	Todd Pettigrew
Emily Chiang	Alexis Wolgast
Sofia Izaguirre	Lisa Wolgast
Giovanni Izaguirre	



Helena and Christi at Miami University April spring show



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Harper Barbaree	3	Lisa Middlekauff	20
Chen Hu	8	Alexa Phillips	21
Emily Moosbrugger		Aspen Ono	
Todd Pettigrew		Brandon Kozlowski	
Catherine Wilson	10	Kris Puri	
Charles Sliker	11	PJ Whalen	22
Lori Douglas	12	Sidney Parker	
Stephanie Brimeyer	13	Valeria Kochengina	
Ruhee Patkar	15	Chuck Miller	23
Brittney Bottoms	17	Kim McCafferty	27
Rebeca Ibelings		Sherry Hewitt	
Ashley Glass	18	Mindy Sellers	28
Elvira Junnila	20	Laken Andrzejewski	30
Lei Bao			



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Elizabeth Wilson	1	Dana Graham	17
Eva Schaum		Soucci Taylor	18
Gregory Glass	4	Tim Dolensky	
Aren Nielsen	5	Jenny Montobbio	19
Lilly Wood		Catherine Hackney	20
Anne Malacrea	6	Janet Payne	22
Cynthia Kornetzke	7	Lisa Wolgast	
Giovanni Izaguirre		Natalie Semsey	
Margaret Butlin		Ashley Weller	23
Candace Goodwin	8	Tiffany Hatzikoutelis	
Mary Bode	9	Emily Troncalli	25
Regina Brimeyer		Mia Calabrese	
Daniel Cairo	10	Sharon Hyre	
Claire Cameron	11	Meredith Scafidi	26
Nancy Hoblack	13	Elizabeth Giordano	27
Trish Tran	15	Cheryl Faust	29
Allen Fong	16	Rachel Hanson	
Anna Windley		Sydney Kosse	
Lori McGarigle		Gia Gulati	30
Stephanie Lampert		Kelly Belin	
Barbara Landon	17		

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



Upcoming Events

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>SPONSOR/LOCATION</u>
Awards Banquet	May 19	Atlanta FSC
Central Carolina Skating Classic	May 19 - 21	Hillsborough, NC
USFS STARS Off Ice Testing	May 20	Prime Performance, Roswell, GA
Test Session	May 21	Atlanta FSC
Ice Dance Weekend	June 2 - 4	Atlanta FSC
Atlanta Open	June 8 - 11	Atlanta FSC
National TOI	June 21 - 25	Greater Evansville FSC, Evansville, IN
Grassroots to Champions	June 24	Atlanta FSC
Orange Blossom	July 5 - 9	Oldsmar, FL
Skate Detroit	July 18 - 22	Bloomfield Hills, MI
Magic City Classic	July 28 - 30	Birmingham FSC