Did you know? DanceSport Alberta promotes and encourages recreational and DanceSport in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

**Board Profiles**

**CHRISTIAN ARSENAULT**
I have been involved with the DSAB organization for few years now: starting as a volunteer, then a Director-at-large, Vice-President and now my second year as President. I have also been a co-chair of Alberta Winter Classic.

My role as President is to overview as best as I can what is going on in the world of ballroom dancing, particularly in Canada. I overview the responsibilities of each board member and provide support if needed. My role is also to make sure that any new information affecting amateur dancers is known by them. I also try my best to inform especially new amateur dancers about important regulations related to them. Another aspect of my duty is to make sure that DSAB provides the best support to our members during regional competitions. Myself and the vice-president are the liaison between our regional association and CDS (Canada DanceSport) and WDSF (World DanceSport Federation). We bring up issues, make decisions to protect and promote amateur ballroom dancers.

I started ballroom dancing at 12 years old through an invitation from my cousin. I have transitioned from American ballroom dancing to international style. I am now Senior II Pre-Championship and Championship Latin competitor. In my spare time, I love to travel and just this past summer visited Peru.

**MEGAN SAWCHUK**
I am a director-at-large on the board and this is my first year as a member of the DSAB board. Specifically, I am responsible for editing Pivotal Times.

Because of my figure skating background growing up, I was interested in learning the ballroom dances that inspired the ice dances. I first took lessons with the University of Alberta Dance Club and became hooked. With my partner, Sean, I started competing in 2011 although we took a break last year so that I could finish school. In April, I graduated from the University of Alberta with a Ph.D. and moved to Calgary.

**DSAB Board Members**

**President**
Christian Arsenault

**Vice-President**
Shaylen Naidoo

**Secretary**
Debi Bowman

**Treasurer**
Michael Currie

**Directors-at-large**
Van Hoang
Steve Poncsak
Gene Rassin
Megan Sawchuk

**Board Meetings**
November 22, 2014
January 17, 2015
March 1, 2015
May 23, 2015 – Annual General Meeting

Members are welcome to attend. Please contact Debi at debi@dancesportalberta.org for location of the meeting.

**Next Issue**
November 1, 2014

**Editor**
Megan Sawchuk

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Do you know of an elementary or middle school that could benefit from a Ballroom dancing program? DSAB has paired with the Calgary Board of Education to make this possible! If you are a parent or a student at a school, please get in touch with us!

Contact the program coordinator, Michael Currie, at treasurer@dancesportalberta.org.
Couple Profile: Stefan Badea and Madalina Varlam

Each month a different DSAB couple will be interviewed and their answers will be featured in the Pivotal Times.

1. What level and dance style do you compete in? Under 21 and Adult 10 dance at the Championship level.
2. What is your hometown? Originally from Romania, moved to Canada and lived in Calgary until last year when we moved to Edmonton.
3. Who are you coached by? Benoit Drolet, Delphine Romaire, Dominic Lacroix
4. When did you start dancing? Started at the age of 5 and 6. We have been dancing together for 12 years.
5. How did you meet your partner? We met through common friends at a Romanian get together and our parents put us together.
6. How many hours a week do you train? 15 hours
7. What is your occupation outside of dancing? We are students at the University of Alberta and NAIT.
8. Do you participate in any other activities outside of dancing? Stefan - I was into hockey. Madalina - I competed in Irish dancing but had to choose between the Irish and Ballroom dancing as both were getting serious.
9. What is your greatest dancing achievement? At the 2013 Canadian Closed Championships we won the Standard Under 21 Canadian Championships and were runners up in the Standard Adult Canadian Championships.
10. What is your favourite dance and why? Stefan - Waltz because of the smoothness and melody of the songs. Madalina - Tango because its fierce and feisty.
12. What are your dancing goals? To dance at the largest ballroom competition held in Blackpool, England, which we realized this year. This has been a dream of ours since we were little kids.
13. Are there any dancers that you look up to? We are inspired by Arunas and Katusha, Victor Fung and Anastasia as well as Troels and Ina.

Thank you very much Stefan and Madalina. Good luck with your dancing!

Northern Lights Classic is being held the weekend of February 28th. Tickets will go on sale in late October. Watch your inbox for important NLC updates.

Membership Reminder
With the competition season starting it is important that you have your membership. If you do not have your membership, you will not be able to compete. Click here to get your membership.

Volunteer(s) Wanted
DSAB is looking for a volunteer or two to help with dress code check at Rocky Mountain Dancesport Grand Prix October 24 - 26, 2014. Contact president@dancesportalberta.org for more information or to volunteer.

Upcoming Events
Rocky Mountain Dancesport Grand Prix
October 24 – 26, 2014
Calgary Hyatt Regency, Calgary, AB
www.dancesportgrandprix.com
Martin @ 403.978.8422

Ontario Open Championships
November 8, 2014
Thornhill Community Centre, Thornhill, ON
www.ontariodancesport.com
Gord Brittain: presidentoada@rogers.com

26th Annual Snowball Classic
November 13 – 15, 2014
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver, BC
www.snowballclassic.com
Pinky Wong: pinky@dancesportbc.com

For more competitions click here.
Men's Latin White Shirt decorated with Rhinestones  • Size: S-M  • Built-in trunks  • Please contact rassin@shaw.ca regarding price or to try on

Latin Black Dress decorated with Swarovski Crystals  • Size: 8-10  • Built-in bodysuit/bra cups  • Accessories included: large choker necklace heavily decorated with Swarovski Crystals  • Please contact rassin@shaw.ca regarding price or to try on

Latin Copper Dress that shows movement well with beaded fringe  • Size: 8-10  • Matching color underwear included  • Accessories included: matching choker and 2 bracelets, and matching color hoop earrings  • Please contact rassin@shaw.ca regarding price or to try on

Latin Red Dress decorated with Swarovski and other Crystals  • Size: Junior/Youth  • Built-in bodysuit/bra cups  • Please contact rassin@shaw.ca regarding price or to try on