Adult Champs
Forever Young in Vegas

Three's a Charm for Artistic Challenge '07

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weSKATE Contest Winners
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I’d like a pen pal around my age and level.

Jessica Csaszar, 11, FS 3/4
San Diego Ice Arena
San Diego

I LOVE to skate! I skate five days a week, and I am working to land my Axel. I am also beginning double Salchows because my coach, Liz, says I will land my Axel any day now. In addition to these jumps, I am also working on layback spins and flying camels. But whenever I try to tilt my head back in my layback I lose my balance and fall over. I don’t know what to do about this. I skate on a synchronized skating team that competed at nationals in April. I would really like to have a pen pal who is the same age and level as me. It would be great if they were on a synchronized skating team, too.

Maggie McGonigle, 13, FS 5/6
Minnetonka Ice Arena
Minnetonka, Minn.

The layback is such a pretty spin—keep working on it! Be sure you are pushing your hips forward and keeping your shoulders level as you arch back.

Letters to the Editor

- You must include:
  - Your first and last name
  - Your ISI member number (the six-digit number on your magazine mailing label)
  - Your age
  - Your skating level
  - The name of your arena
  - Your city and state
- Photos are welcome, but cannot be returned.
- If you have a skating question, be as specific as possible. Technical questions will be answered by qualified ISI staff but should not be considered a substitute for coaching.
- All letters are printed at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for clarity, accuracy, and space.
- E-mail is preferred. Send your letter to editor@skateisi.org or:
  - Ice Skating Institute
  - Attention: Editor, RIS
  - 17120 N. Dallas Parkway, Suite 140
  - Dallas, TX 75248-1187

Pen Pals

- Pen pal requests must be sent by e-mail to editor@skateisi.org.
- You must include the member information listed above.
- The pen pal program is exclusively for current registered ISI members.
- E-mail addresses will NOT be published in Recreational Ice Skating.

NOTE: We do not “match up” pen pals; we only publish your requests and electronically forward letters to specifically requested members. Once you have made the connection with your pen pal, the two of you will communicate directly rather than through ISI.
I would love a few pen pals who are around my age and level. I love skating, and am working on my waltz jump right now, and can use some pointers.

Emily Hull, 8, Alpha Iceoplex Simi Valley, Calif.

I love skating! I have been skating for almost five years. I am in Freestyle 3. My one weakness in skating is that I’m not flexible. I skate three times a week. I want a pen pal who is 10 or 11 years old and female. My nickname is Jewls because of all the jewelry I wear. One of my other hobbies is singing (watch for me on American Idol in about five or six years).

Chava Hirsch, 11, FS 3 Iorio Arena Sharon, Mass.

I can do the Lutz, camel, camel-sit, fast back-scratch spin and dance step. But on my Axel I am having trouble getting height and rotation, and landing it is also a problem. Do you have any advice? I am an excellent skater and I wish to go to Worlds. I would like a pen pal my age and level to talk to and become friends with.

Caitlyn Duff, 12, FS 5 Washington Park Ice Arena Jefferson City, Mo.

I can do the Lutz, camel, camel-sit, fast back-scratch spin and dance step. But on my Axel I am having trouble getting height and rotation, and landing it is also a problem. Do you have any advice? I am an excellent skater and I wish to go to Worlds. I would like a pen pal my age and level to talk to and become friends with.

I have been skating two years. I’m hoping to get a pen pal my age and level, preferably a girl. I love skating more than anyone in the WORLD!

Katelyn McEwan, 12, FS 5 Iceland Irmo Irmo, S.C.

I have been skating for four and a half years. I want to learn how to do a perfect shoot-the-duck. I love to skate; it is so fun. I have two coaches, Miss Nicole and Miss Diana. I love my coaches; they are wonderful. I am on the Oldsmar Shining Stars synchro team. My synchro coaches are Miss Jada and Miss Nicole. I would like a pen pal who can help me with my skating and give me tips. I would also like a pen pal who is around my age and in FS 3.

Jordan Carlson, 10, FS 2/3 Tampa Bay Skating Academy Oldsmar, Fla.

It’s great that you want to get that shoot-the-duck, as you will need it soon for a sit spin in FS 4! Start by practicing going both up and down on two feet before trying it on one foot, and press forward, but with a straight back.

I have been taking lessons for two years now and just passed my Freestyle 1 test. I’m looking for a pen pal around my age and level.

Gina Sweeney, 12, FS 2 Danbury Ice Arena Brookfield, Conn.

I love ice skating. My favorite jump is the ballet leap. I have a dog named Norman. My teacher is Laurie. My mom is on a synchro team.

Ashleigh Mortimer, 9, FS 1 Robert Morris University Island Sports Center Pittsburgh, Pa.

I absolutely love to skate! It is my favorite sport, and I’ve won three medals. I can do jumps and spirals, but not spins. My wonderful coach, Marilu, tells me to pull my arms in tighter and faster, and not go onto my toe pick. I try, but can never spin more than once. Any advice? I am also looking for a female pen pal in Delta or Freestyle 1 who can help me improve. I enjoy skating a lot, and hope to become better. Maybe if I learn to spin, then I can start doing double and triple jumps!

Joanna Liao, 13 Mt. View Ice Arena Camas, Wash.

Spend a little more time working on your two-foot spin. Most skaters want to get to one foot right away, but the two-foot spin teaches you to spin on the ball of the foot and makes every spin after that a lot easier!

I love to figure skate! But I am having trouble landing my loop. I can do a flip, but just not a loop. Anyway, I have been skating since I was 5 and my favorite spin is the sit spin. I would also like a pen pal who is around my age and in FS 3.

Carol Jackson, (972) 735-8800

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Direct inquiries regarding Recreational Ice Skating Magazine display and classified advertising to:

Carol Jackson, (972) 735-8800
like to request Jessica Hang as my pen pal because she's around my level and is also trying to land her loop!

Elizabeth Fallon, 11, FS 4/5
Bourne Skating Club
Bourne, Mass.

Try your loop jump first from an inside three-turn with the free leg up and in front immediately after the turn. This will help keep your free shoulder in front as you jump and do a one-revolution back spin in the air.

I have been skating for eight years. I have been having trouble with my Axel. I land on the wrong foot. I can sometimes land it on the floor, but not on the ice. I have been working on it for about two years. Do you have any tips?

Ruth Lee, 12, FS 5
Bay State Blades Marlboro Marlboro, Mass.

Practicing the waltz jump-loop jump and waltz jump-back spin combinations are going to be the biggest help in getting you over the correct landing side. Even try hopping up and “landing” your back spin after making a few rotations to get the feel of the quick landing.

I have been skating for seven years, and five of those years were synchro. I have a total of 55 medals! I am currently in Freestyle 4, but I’m ready to pass to 5. I have a lot of great coaches! I would like to thank Megan Van-Berkel for my private lesson, Brigid LaMear for my group lessons, Mandy P. for my duet lessons and team, and last but not least, Maddie Buckley for team. I love all my coaches, and they are a big help to me. I have been in many competitions. I would like to have a pen pal.

Kali Ilges, 12, FS 4/5
Wayne Kennedy Recreation Complex
St. Louis, Mo.

I would like a pen pal who is close to my age, is a girl, is a freestyle skater and who loves pets.

Vanessa Wentzel, 7, FS 4
San Diego Ice Arena
San Diego

I love to skate! I am in Freestyle 5 and I am trying really hard to land my double Salchow — do you have any tips that could help me? I am really upset because the coach who has gotten me this far is moving to Arizona at the end of the summer.

Samantha Galinis, 11, FS 5
Wayne Community Center
Wayne, Mich.

Your first double jump — how exciting! But remember that you’re going to have to jump higher and spin faster in the air than ever before. A strong check of the shoulders after the three-turn helps to make that possible. Good luck!

I totally love figure skating! Right now I’m in Gamma and we just took our test, but I didn’t pass. I had trouble on our Mohawks and trying to control my feet. Today my mom came rushing in the doors like she won a new car or something, and she told me that this ISI magazine came in the mail and that I could write about myself in it, so I did.

Destiny Sthammavong, 11,
Gamma
Hoffman Estates Park District
Roselle, Ill.

I’ve been taking ice skating lessons for one and a half years and it’s one of my favorite sports. Besides skating, some of my interests are: soccer, dancing hula and body boarding. I would like to write to someone near my age and level.

Brandy Baker, 10, FS 1
Ice Palace
Kailua, Hawaii

My daughter, Amanda, has been skating for awhile and since January of this year, she has been taking individual skating lessons. How often should she be practicing? Should she be taking some other lesson to help her, such as ballet or gymnastics? Thank you for a wonderful magazine.

Mother of Amanda Aram, 11,
Alpha
William G. Mennen Sports Arena
Blairstown, N.J.

Those questions are best answered by your daughter’s coach, who knows her strengths and weaknesses better than anyone. As a general rule, however, things like ballet and gymnastics are often beneficial for style, grace and strength. And figure skating is all about muscle memory, training the muscles to “automatically perform,” so the more time spent practicing, the faster this will happen as long as the skater is practicing moves correctly between instruction.

I love ice skating and have been taking lessons for one and a half years. I just passed into Freestyle 2, but I have been working on most of the elements for a while. I’m interested in writing to someone else that skates. Besides skating, some of my interests are: piano, dancing hula, reading, beach and youth activities at church. If not, I would like to write to anyone else around my age; any level is fine.

Casey Baker, 13, FS 2
Ice Palace
Kailua, Hawaii

I have been skating for a year now and have made quick progress. I guess since I danced before, that helped. I love ice skating a lot. I also act and sing, and I’m starting dance again. I love to perform. I recently went to my first competition, the Winter Classic, and I had a blast. I just passed Freestyle 3 and I’m working on 4. I’m having trouble landing my flip. I can get around, but I can’t get my landing; I always accidentally put my free leg down. Any tips? I would like a pen pal close to my age and level.

Nicole Lockard, 12, FS 3/4
Alpine Ice Arena
Louisville, Ky.

Be sure you’re not leaning forward on the take-off. You don’t want additional weight on what becomes the free leg. After you tap, try to make it feel like the loop jump feels in the air.
Every skater takes their own journey. From the first lesson to finals, from beginners to champions, it all starts with the skates.

What's your Riedell story?
Everybody who’s ever hit the ice knows that skating is a great way to stay young. If you haven’t been a regular competitor at ISI Adult Championships, make this the year you discover what everybody’s been talking about. Grab your skating partners and friends, and book your trip to Las Vegas for the 2007 Adult Champs, Sept. 21-23 at SoBe Ice Arena at the Fiesta Rancho Hotel and Casino.

“ISI adult skaters loved this venue in 2005, so we’re headed back for more fun and games this year,” says Carrie Clarke, ISI director of skating programs and services. “Fiesta Rancho is a perfect place to enjoy a weekend getaway complete with the best life has to offer: ice skating, socializing with other adult skaters, fine dining, casino games and live entertainment. That’s a combination that’s hard to beat.”

SoBe Ice Arena has an NHL-size rink with seating for 500, four locker rooms with shower facilities, a pro shop and a spacious concession area.

Fiesta Rancho sits on more than 25 acres just minutes from the Las Vegas Strip. Among its amenities are an outdoor pool, an impressively equipped casino and several full-service restaurants, bars and lounges.

The property’s restaurant options include the Blue Agave Steakhouse, the Baja Beach Café, the Festival Buffet (where you’re invited to eat your way around the world, with six live-action cooking stations) and Garduño’s, which has been voted the best Mexican restaurant in Las Vegas for 12 consecutive years by the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

At Club Tequila, Fiesta Rancho’s own two-level entertainment and dance club, guests can groove to some of the best reggae, R&B and Latin artists in Vegas.

For more information, go to rancho.fiestacasino.com.

The entry and test deadline for the 2007 ISI Adult Championships is Aug. 1. Individual and team entry forms are available on the ISI Web site at skateisi.org, under events, or call the ISI office at (972) 735-8800.
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There has been some great skating over the past few months at our Winter Classic and Synchronized Championships events. Even if you didn’t attend one of those national events, I’m sure you have seen some great skating in your area, too. The overwhelming enthusiasm and support that ISI skaters, coaches and parents exhibit during our national competition events is refreshing and contagious.

The Big One is quickly approaching — our wonderful week in Bensenville, Ill., for the upcoming ISI World Team Champs! The location for the Worlds competition facilities is great for out-of-towners, and the rink facilities are top-notch. Be sure to check out our Web site at www.skatesi.org for all the latest event information details.

Special events are planned for every day of Worlds week. Polish your programs now, so you’ll have plenty of time to attend all of those exciting activities. Of course, the “crown jewel” of the week will be the annual ISA Education Foundation Benefit on Ice show on Friday night, featuring the current U.S. national men’s champion, Evan Lysacek. Evan also just won fifth place at the World Championships in Tokyo, Japan.

If you can’t make it to Worlds this year, there’s another ISI local, district or national event coming to your area soon.

Adult skaters should make plans for our annual Adult Championships event before the Aug. 1 entry and testing deadline. Grab your skating friends and make your plans now for yet another fun weekend in fabulous Las Vegas.

Our annual Artistic Challenge event heads east to Bridgeport, Conn., in November. Entries and tests are due by Sept. 1 for that creative event. Why not try one of the new ISI national events like Rhythmic Skating (with a ball, hoop or ribbon prop) or Ensemble (a “small group” event similar to production team for three to seven skaters)? All national event descriptions are listed on the ISI Web site.

Summer might mean a break from school and time for vacations, but many skaters find that their local ice rink is really the “coolest place in town” during the hot summer months, too! Have fun while you make your time on the ice really count during the summer. You can even get a head start on your new skating levels, music, programs and costumes for the next skating season!

Focus on ARTISTIC

Flow and music:
Important ingredients for a great Artistic program

Who can do Artistic events: Artistic events are open to all skaters in Freestyle 1 level and higher. Adults can take advantage of entering an Artistic event when their technical skating ability has fallen below their current freestyle test level.

Tips for a “winning” program: The main emphasis for all Artistic programs is on your creativity and innovative design of a skating program. Strong edges, interesting body positions, flow, music interpretation, rhythm, choreography and artistry should be the main focus of a well-balanced Artistic program. Do the skating maneuvers you enjoy, and do them very well! If you can do something extra special or different from anyone else — and if it also fits the music — it will really raise your scores into the high range for the judges.

The best thing: The best thing about an Artistic program is the fact that you can create any kind of skating program you like without worrying about having to include any required maneuvers you might not be able to do very well. Like Spotlight programs, you can use the same Artistic program for more than one freestyle test level. You don’t need a new program every time your test level changes, so it’s great for Mom and Dad, too, if you can reuse the same music and costume for several competitions throughout the year. Of course, with your coach’s help and advice, you can always change the choreography in your routine between competitions.

Duration: Artistic program duration time for FS 1-5 levels is 1.5 minutes. For FS 6-10 levels, duration time is 2 minutes.

Maneuver limitations: There are no required maneuvers and no maneuver limitations for Artistic programs (any skating maneuver can be done at any level) — but keep in mind that there is also no score for technical merit. Props are not permitted in Artistic events.

Competition event groups: Since there is no score for technical maneuvers, the competition director may group skaters together by combining levels and genders.

Judging criteria: Artistic impression, choreography and pattern, innovative moves, music interpretation and rhythm, edges and flow, posture and carriage, duration, and general overall.
Three’s a Charm for Artistic Challenge

by Lori Fairchild

Where better to hold the third annual ISI Artistic Challenge event than at an arena named Wonderland of Ice? Clear your calendar for Nov. 3-4, get in touch with your creative side and head to Bridgeport, Conn. for the ice skating competition that’s all about the beauty, joy and sheer fun of your favorite sport.

“There’s no other ice skating competition quite like Artistic Challenge, and it’s continuing to grow each year,” says Randy Winship, ISI national skating program and events coordinator. “With no score for technical ability, the pressure is off and the fun factor is on — it’s all about showmanship, strong edges, flow, choreography, innovative moves and musical interpretation.”

This year’s Artistic Challenge participants can enter two new events: rhythmic skating and ensemble team. Rhythmic skating is a solo event in which you choose a ball, hoop or ribbon and perform with the prop throughout your routine. Ensemble team is a small production team event with three to seven skaters.

“There is so much to do and so much to see in and around our city, you’ll probably want to plan on staying an extra day or two when you visit us for the Artistic Challenge,” notes Lisa Fedick, executive director of Wonderland of Ice.

Bridgeport, “The Park City,” is Connecticut’s largest municipality and is located 60 miles northeast of Manhattan. Home of the legendary P.T. Barnum and birthplace of the circus, Bridgeport was the inspiration for the 1952 Academy Award-winning The Greatest Show on Earth.

“My favorite place in the city is the Barnum Museum, which opened in 1893,” Fedick says. “It’s a history of the circus and the man himself, who was ‘colorful,’ to say the least. At the ‘Curiosities and Marvels of Nature’ exhibit you can meet Pa-Ib, a 2,500-year-old Egyptian mummy, or Baby Bridgeport, a 700-pound mounted pachyderm.”

Located just two blocks from the host arena is the Beardsley Zoological Gardens in beautiful lakeside Beardsley Park. Connecticut’s only zoo features lions and tigers and bears (Oh my!) and dozens of free-roaming peacocks, which are always more than willing to show off their colorful plumage.

Don’t forget to bring your appetite! “Mama,” Bridgeport’s Little Italy, is home to some of the finest Italian food anywhere. The city also offers such diverse cuisine as Brazilian, Portuguese, barbecue and prime steak. And, Fedick claims, once you’ve tried Pepe’s woodburning oven-baked, thin-crust pizza, you’ll forget all about Chicago.

A 20-minute drive will take you to New Haven, home of Yale University. And a 70-minute ride on Metro-North out of the Bridgeport station will drop you off at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street in the Big Apple.

Make this the year that you experience Artistic Challenge. The entry and test deadline is Sept. 1. Individual and team entry forms are available on the ISI Web site at skateisi.org, under events, or call the ISI office at (972) 735-8800.
The busier my life seems, the more important it is for me to maintain a healthy balance. I once read that you can become overwhelmed by the innumerable opportunities life offers, or you can look at this abundance of possibilities as a gift. Life is like a smorgasbord. I realize I cannot eat everything at the buffet, but I have certainly tried many of the delights and continue to enjoy the sampling.

As a former competitive skater, I feel fortunate to be pursuing a career in skating, a sport that I love. I am now a skating school coordinator at the Northbrook Sports Center in Illinois. As I am experiencing my first year on the job, I find myself immersed in my work with its many challenges and responsibilities.

My college experience was wonderful, allowing me many opportunities during all four years. I tried my best to maintain my skating while attending the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The structure of academics combined with the freedom of figure skating kept my life balanced during those years. These two areas complemented each other and were constants in my life from when I was young until I graduated from college with a kinesiology degree.

While in college, I took the opportunity my junior year to travel abroad to Brisbane, Australia to continue my studies in human movement sciences. Through the Internet, I became friends with Anne, an Aussie skater who welcomed me to her country and helped me settle in at the University of Queensland. She introduced me to other skaters, coaches and their families, who assisted me during my semester abroad. While being away from home and outside of my comfort zone, skating once again helped me to explore different worlds and take advantage of new and exciting experiences. This trip balanced my usual busy college schedule with a chance for me to get away and learn about another part of the world.

My Aussie friends help illustrate the importance of a support system in keeping balance in one's life. Family and friends are probably the biggest factor in maintaining this balance. As important as it is to be dedicated to your education, profession or sport, it is equally important to take time away to have fun with your friends and family.

Skating, while very rewarding, can demand a tremendous amount of time to master. However, time must also be committed to academic studies, which are essential to succeed in today's world. You cannot rely on the dream of becoming a skating star and risk all other pursuits to realize that dream.
Education is a lifelong journey that provides the needed skills to set goals, cultivate character, build confidence and establish successful habits and values. The education experience opens many opportunities for a successful life, both socially and econom-
ically. Case in point: While at the University of Illinois, I took business classes along with my kinesiology curriculum to give me a better understanding of finance, budgets, event planning and grants, which is proving extremely beneficial in my current job.

Again, balance is key. Support from family and friends and personal commitment are the primary factors to balance growth in all three areas of personal development — academic, social and physical.

One of my goals is to give back to skating. Around the time that I accepted my new position at the Northbrook Sports Center, I was asked to become a trustee on the ISIA Education Foundation board. I am grateful for this opportunity to help and learn from the other board members. As a past schol-arship winner, I now want to help support other college-bound ISI members. After skating as a competitor for many years, it is now interesting and enlightening to be on the other side of the sport as a teacher, coach, judge and event coor-dinator. I have learned how helpful parents can be as volunteers. I am also fortunate that the people with whom I work make my day seem less like a job and more like an opportunity to continue what I enjoy doing — once again, a gift.

I've learned that a positive attitude, a good education and a great support system enhance the experiences of life. Maintaining a balance between all aspects of your life is key to achieving a happy and healthy lifestyle. As I progress in my new job and tackle its challenges, I will continue to sample the smorgasbord. Please join me at the buffet!

Heather Aseltine was a 2002 ISIA Education Foundation scholarship recipient and now serves on the Foundation's board of trustees. She holds a kinesiology degree and is a skating school coordinator at Northbrook Sports Center.

Send your thoughts or essay on the importance of life balance to editor@skateisi.org. Everyone's perspective is welcome: skaters, parents, coaches and ice rink managers.

Become a Scholarship Winner

Annually, the ISIA Education Foundation awards scholarships with a $4,000 minimum value to ISI skaters for study in universities, colleges and technical schools throughout the US. Application for the scholarship is made in your senior year of high school. However, most scholarship recipients began their qualification process during middle school years. Start your four-step process of qualification today so you will be ready to apply your senior year.

1 Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA.

2 Participate in a variety of school and community activities. Keep detailed records, including frequency of participation.

3 Continue to test and compete in the ISI program, especially during the two years prior to application. Keep good records of all skating activity.

Prior to application, you must have completed 120 hours of verified service, of which at least 60 hours must be volunteered for ISI recreational skating activities. This information must be tracked on the "Hours of Service Verification Form" available at www.skateisi.org.

Application deadline is March 1, 2008.

For more information or to apply, visit www.skateisi.org or call 972.735.8800.
## ISI 2007 Synchronized Skating Championships

**Blaine, Minnesota**

### Jr. Youth Formation Compulsories
1. Dazzling Starz, Aerodrome Willowbrook
2. Sierra Storm, Skatetown

### Youth Formation Compulsories
1. St. Louis Fleur de Lis Petite, Brentwood Ice Arena
2. Shooting Starz, Aerodrome Willowbrook
3. Coral Belles, Coral Ridge Ice Arena

### Teen Formation Compulsories
1. Shining Starz, Aerodrome Willowbrook

### Youth Skating Compulsories
1. Sierra Storm, Skatetown
2. Oldsmar Shining Stars, Tampa Bay Skating Academy
3. Team Chiller Edges, Chiller at Easton

### Sr. Youth Skating Compulsories
1. Synchro St. Louis Ice Gems, St. Peters Rec Plex
2. Ice Crystals of Eagan, Eagan Civic Arena
3. Silver Blade Brigade, Wayne C. Kennedy Rec Complex
4. Team Chiller Stars, Chiller at Easton
5. Team Expression Red, Roseville Skating Center
6. Mini-Mates, Minnetonka Ice Arena

### Teen Skating Compulsories
1. Sailorettes, Minnetonka Ice Arena
2. Synchro Panache, Minneapolis/Augsburg Arena
3. Synchro St. Louis Diamond Edges, St. Peters Rec Plex
4. Team Expression Black, Roseville Skating Center

### Adult Skating Compulsories
1. Gold Blade Brigade, Wayne C. Kennedy Rec Complex
2. Sierra Storm, Skatetown
3. Parade Polaretes, Parade Figure Skating Club

### Tot Formation
1. Sierra Storm, Skatetown

### Jr. Youth Formation - Group A
1. Ice Crystals, Crystal Ice House
2. Sierra Storm, Skatetown
3. Go Figure, Line Creek Ice Arena

### Jr. Youth Formation - Group B
1. Pleasant Prairie Ice Stars, Pleasant Prairie IcePlex
2. Emerald Blades, St. Peters Rec Plex
3. Dazzling Starz, Aerodrome Willowbrook

### Youth Formation - Group A
1. Ice Prisms, Kenosha Ice Rink
2. Rink Side Extreme, Rink Side Ice Arena
3. Ice Innovation, Fox Valley Ice Arena

### Youth Formation - Group B
1. Dublin Dazzlers, Dublin Iceland
2. Shooting Starz, Aerodrome Willowbrook
3. Ruby Edges, St. Peters Rec Plex
4. St. Louis Fleur de Lis Petite, Brentwood Ice Arena
5. Fire On Ice, Southwest Ice Arena

### Sr. Youth Formation
1. Shining Starz, Aerodrome Willowbrook
2. St. Louis North Stars, North County Rec Complex

### Adult Formation
1. Kettering Ice Kadettes, Kettering Adult FSC
## Skating Championships

**Jr. Youth Skating**

<table>
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<th>Rank</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Synchro Panache</td>
<td>Minneapolis/Augsburg Arena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mini Blades</td>
<td>Glenview Ice Center</td>
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**Youth Skating - Select**

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**Sr. Youth Skating - Premier**

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Aleta Lerch
Wins the Name Game
by Lori Fairchild

With an overwhelming 55 percent of the popular vote, Aleta Lerch’s Lizzie and Alex prevailed over seven other finalist pairs in the weSKATE character-naming contest conducted on the ISI Web site. Aleta, a 10-year-old fifth grader of Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., created the winning name profiles. The Freestyle 7 ISI skater takes lessons from instructor Desiree Brisonet at Yorba Linda Ice Palace, participates in several ISI competitions each year and competed at Worlds in 2005.

“My favorite event is Interpretive, because I love the challenge of making up a routine to new music,” Aleta says. “I love the happy feeling I get when I skate, and I love the artistry of skating. My favorite move is a layback-Bielmann combination spin.”

In addition to ice skating, Aleta enjoys roller skating, reading, tap dance, track, scrapbooking and riding her scooter. She has also taken violin lessons and karate classes. Her favorite school subjects are math and English, and her goals include earning a master’s degree in literature, becoming an author of figure skating novels and landing her double Axel.

In composing her weSKATE name profiles, Aleta says, “I tried to think of names that other kids would like, and I thought Lizzie and Alex would fit. I based Lizzie on myself and I was thinking of my friend Matthew when I thought up Alex. When I wrote the story, I included some of the same activities that I have done while also skating.”

Aleta’s contest entry appears below, in its entirety. American Express gift cards were awarded to ISI members Laura Hureski and Brittany Viloria, whose names were entered in a drawing for taking the time to vote in the online contest.

Lizzie & Alex
by Aleta Lerch

Lizzie bent down low and stuck her arms out for balance. She was in her Pre-Alpha skating class and everyone was trying dips. Beside her was her best friend, Alex. They waved at each other and smiled.

Suddenly, Alex lost his balance and fell into Lizzie. They both crashed to the ice. “Sorry,” said Alex, helping Lizzie to her feet.

“It’s fine,” giggled Lizzie, rubbing her knee. They both skated away and tried to dip again.

After skating, Alex and Lizzie sat in the warm room, sipping hot chocolate. “What are you doing after school tomorrow?” asked Lizzie. “Skating?”

“Karate class,” Alex replied with a smile. Alex participated in lots of activities. He played soccer, did karate and took figure skating lessons.

“Oh, yeah,” said Lizzie. “I forgot. I wanted you to come over and hear my new recital piece.”

Lizzie played the violin, loved to read and had just discovered a new passion: figure skating!

“Maybe Friday, after the family skating session,” said Alex. Every Friday night, Alex, Lizzie and their families got together to skate, eat pizza and have fun together at the ice rink.

Alex had a sister named Olivia. She was taking Baby Blades and could barely skate. It was OK, though, since she was only 2. Lizzie had a brother. His name
was Tyler. He was 10, and he was a menace on blades. Alex and Lizzie were best friends. They were 8 years old and in the third grade. They had known each other since they were in kindergarten. Although they both participated in many different activities, they had tried figure skating at a birthday party and fell in love with it. Now they were taking group lessons together once a week.

“Alex, you know what? I’m going to take private lessons!” Lizzie squealed with excitement.

“Oh, no,” laughed Alex, “another menace-on-ice in training!”

Lizzie laughed so hard she choked on her hot chocolate. “Now look what you made me do, Alex,” she joked. “Uh-oh, here’s my mom,” said Alex. “Gotta go!”

“Bye,” Lizzie called out as she bent over to untie her skates.

As Lizzie waited for her mom to pick her up, she chuckled to herself. She had many plans for figure skating, and menace-on-ice was just the beginning.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Watch for more adventures of Lizzie and Alex in future issues of Recreational Ice Skating magazine and other ISI communication.
Evan Lysacek to Headline Benefit Show
Hurry! Advance ticket prices end July 13

by Lisa Fedick

Tall, dark, handsome, talented, U.S. national champion, Olympian, Chicagoland hometown hero — we could only be talking about Evan Lysacek. We all have a chance to see him perform live on Friday, July 27 at the ISIA Education Foundation Benefit Show, and meet him afterward.

The show will be held at the Edge Ice Arena in Bensenville, Ill., as part of the 2007 ISI World Recreational Team Championships. It’s an event that is not to be missed!

Seating in the arena will be limited, but general admission tickets are still available until July 13 at a special reduced price of $22. We expect a sell-out, but if tickets are still available, they may be purchased at the door for $25.

This year the Foundation is offering a special group admission rate of $20 for 25 or more. This offer, which also expires on July 13, is perfect for your rink or synchro team. Advance ticket orders should be placed with the ISI office in Dallas; the order form can be found on page 21 of this issue or on the ISI Web site at www.skateisi.org. Prepaid tickets will be available for pick-up at the Worlds registration desk.

One of the highlights of the event is the meet-and-greet session immediately after the show, when Evan will be available for autographs.

And, you are wondering, who else will be starring in the show with Evan? ISI Worlds participants, of course! Skaters will be invited to give a repeat performance of particularly memorable routines from the week of competition, representing the true diversity of the Ice Skating Institute. This means that every skater at every skill level has the same opportunity to be chosen, so go out there and give it your all!

Don’t forget the Education Foundation’s raffle, in which two solo performances in the show will be awarded to the lucky winners. Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the week for $5 each, or five tickets for $20. The drawing will be held on Wednesday, July 25 at the competitors’ Party in the Park.

All the proceeds from both the raffle and the Benefit Show will be used to endow the ISIA Education Foundation Scholarships to be awarded in May 2008. What a great opportunity to make a difference and have some fun at the same time.

See you at the show!

In Search of Past Scholarship Recipients

Were you or was someone you know a past recipient of an ISIA Education Foundation Scholarship? We’re updating our database and forming a scholarship alumni association, and we need current contact information on each recipient, including name changes and e-mail and mailing addresses. Please feel free to forward this message to others who might be able to help. Information should be sent to Kathy Chase at kchase@skateisi.org.

PLEASE SUPPORT

| Name ___________________________________________________________ |
| Street Address _________________________________________________ |
| City, State, Zip _______________________________________________ |
| Amount of Donation $ ___________________________________________ |
| Method of payment (   ) Check (   ) Charge: Visa MasterCard Discover Am Ex |
| Card Number _________________________________________________ |
| Exp. Date _____________________________________________________ |
| Your Signature _______________________________________________ |
| Mail to: ISIA Education Foundation 17120 N. Dallas Parkway, Suite 140 Dallas, TX 75248-1187 |

RECREATIONAL ICE SKATING, SUMMER 2007
Don’t miss this exciting and entertaining skating event to further the education of ISI members.

See You at the Show!
Reserve your Show tickets now! Seating is limited.

Friday, July 27 • 7 p.m. • Edge Ice Arena • Bensenville IL
Advanced orders must be received before July 13.

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Signature ____________________________________________

Fแผนed orders must be received before July 13.

$22 Before July 13
$25 At the door
$20 Group sales (25 or more tickets through the ISI office prior to July 13)

Payment Method (check one)
☐ Check/Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ Discover
☐ American Express

WORLD5 event tickets will be available for pickup at ISI registration.

Make checks payable to Ice Skating Institute.
Mail order form and payment to ISI-Events, 17120 N Dallas Pkwy, Suite 140, Dallas, TX 75248.
Ice Skating Keeps Geophysicist Down to Earth

by Lori Fairchild

The Ice Skating Institute knows better than anyone that skating is for everybody — people of all ages, sizes, skill levels, backgrounds and interests. And it’s no secret that skaters tend to be highly motivated, multifaceted and talented individuals off the ice. Still, it’s amazing sometimes to see just who has managed to make this recreational sport a priority in their busy lives. Did you ever think you might encounter an astronaut at your local ice arena or at an ISI competition? It could happen — and it has, at least twice!

First, there was three-time Space Shuttle astronaut Jan Davis, a former ISI skater and ISIA Education Foundation member from Houston.

And now we have Andrea Donnellan, an ISI member who also happens to work as a geophysicist at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. She has been a finalist in the astronaut selection process three times.

“I use space technology to study earthquakes,” she explains. “I am currently working on a mission to use radar to observe and study earthquakes, volcanoes and ice sheets.”

Ice sheets, apparently, are a part of her world whether she’s at work or play. As a child, Andrea spent her winters ice skating in the park in the Chicago area. She also has a ballet background, which she says has helped her appreciate and enjoy the musical and performance aspects of ice skating.

Andrea’s son, Alexander, asked to take skating lessons five years ago at the age of 5. When he was working with his coach, Andrea would take to the ice for relaxation and exercise.

When the ISI Worlds competition was held in California two years ago, Andrea participated in individual events and in a pairs event with Alexander. “I loved it and have been entering competitions with my son since then,” she says. “We get to spend time together, and we both get exercise. When we were in Hawaii recently and Alexander was walking on some rocks along the shore, he commented that skating helps his balance and coordination. The same can be said for me.”

Andrea and Alexander, who train with Scott Carson at the Pasadena Ice Skating Center, participate in local competitions several times each year and are planning to skate at Worlds in Andrea’s hometown of Chicago this year.

“I like the challenge of learning new things in ice skating, and I’ve progressed way beyond what I ever expected,” she says. “I’ve liked the people I’ve met in ice skating, and it’s been good to learn to perform. I was very nervous for my first competition, and people way up in the stands could see me shaking. I still get nervous, but I have more fun performing now.”

Andrea is also a research professor at the University of Southern California. She has received numerous professional honors, including the prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers and the Lew Allen Award for Excellence in Research. She also was recognized with the Women in Aerospace Award for Outstanding Achievement and the Woman At Work Medal of Excellence.

In addition to her fascination with ice sheets, Andrea is an instrument-rated commercial land and sea pilot and a SCUBA diver who also enjoys photography, running and playing the piano.

Be sure to say hello if you see Andrea and Alexander at Worlds in July!
The Sophistiskates Are Back!

FRANKLIN, Mass. — The Sophistiskates are a diverse group: teacher, nurse, new mother, executive consultant, marketing and public relations specialists, computer analyst, graphic designer and college students. But they have something in common: their love of ice skating.

After going separate ways to various colleges, these skaters have reunited and returned to the sport they love. During a Franklin Blades Skating School reunion last fall, about 14 former members who had remained in contact after high school began reminiscing and doing synchro moves as if they’d never left the ice. They asked if they could get together again, and have resumed with a flex practice schedule of about three times per month to suit their busy lifestyles.

Under the direction of their longtime coach, Dottie Cunningham, the girls skated this season to a medley from Mama Mia. They placed first in the adult synchro skate division at the ISI Lake Placid competition, and then went on to take first against a collegiate team at the Golden Blades event and again at the Lower Cape competition.

“Anyone can see from their smiles what a great time they are having,” says their coach. “This only goes to prove you’re never too old to come back to a sport that gives so much. We would like to recruit more skaters who want to have a low-key, productive, fun-filled experience.”

Spotlight continued on page 24

Get E-Mail from ISI!!

Have you registered your e-mail address with ISI? Go to www.skateisi.org and select “Electronic Communications” under “Publications.” Click on the “Register Here” button under Individual Skater Members. You’ll get the latest news updates, information on upcoming ISI events, rule changes and member services!
Building Character Through Community Service

FORT WASHINGTON, Md. — The 18 members of the Tucker Road Figure Skating Club recently participated in their first ice skating “boot camp,” an eight-week program of intensive skills training led by spin coach Bobbi Shire and jump coach Amir Babaev. Junior coaches Alex Allen and Brittany Adams added fancy footwork to dances by the club choreographer, Tasha Cooper, to help the skaters refine their skills for their annual production show.

With all the help the skaters have received, they give back to the community without hesitation. The club sponsors new skaters in the learn-to-skate program at its home rink, Tucker Road Ice Rink. Club members and their families run the annual fundraising competition, Skate Annapolis, which underwrites the cost of ice time and provides funding for the learn-to-skate program. Several skaters represent the club by volunteering at the rink, and others are employed there.

Their biggest effort during the past season was the “Stuff-A-Truck” food drive sponsored by Fox 5 News, local radio stations and Giant Food Inc. to support families in the Washington, D.C. area. The Fox 5 reporters were so impressed by the skaters’ generosity that they interviewed members for a news broadcast.

“Club members are learning that developing character with team membership is part of competition,” said club mom Yvonne Ojeifoh. “We are happy to be a part of the ISI community and look forward to many more years.

BALTIMORE — Second-grader Alison Ramirez is as gifted on paper as she is on the ice. She has combined her writing talent with her love of ice skating to win poetry awards at the county and state levels through the National Literary Arts Reflections competition. Alison attends the Lutherville Lab for Science and Math, and skates at Northwest Family Sports Center. Here is her winning poem:

My Favorite Place

Lacing up my boots in cool crisp air
Flecks of ice on my lashes and hair
I see my breath float away
This is where I want to stay
Gliding across a pond frozen still
On metal blades, I feel a chill
My heart comes to life as I leap and prance
This is where I love to dance
My mother calls, it’s time to go
I look up and see the snow
I’ll come back tomorrow then
When I can skate and dance again
For this is where I love to be
Upon the ice, alive and free.
2007 ISI World Recreational Team Championships

Party in the Park

Redmond Recreational Complex
Wednesday, July 25

Spend a day at the park with the Ice Skating Institute during the ISI World Recreational Team Championships. The opening ceremony events offer a variety of fun activities for everyone – the judges, the coaches, the championship participants as well as their families.

Your $10 wristband pass will cover these activities:

- Parade of athletes
- Live musical entertainment
- Dj
- Dancing
- Fireworks at dusk
- Open swim
- Climbing wall
- Rollerblading
- Sand volleyball
- Basketball
- Soccer

Food will be available for purchase from park vendors.

Other events to consider and places to visit:

Your competitor’s packet will contain information about other exciting activities you might like to consider while at Worlds, such as:

- Bensenville Miniature Golf and Outdoor Aquatic Park - Monday 7/23
- Chicago White Sox - Tuesday 7/24
- Six Flags Great America / Hurricane Harbor - Thursday 7/26
- ISIA Education Foundation Benefit Show - Friday 7/27
  ...and many more

Opening Ceremony Order Form

Advance orders must be received before July 13.

Number of wristbands _______ x $10 each = _______ Additional wristbands will be available at ISI registration.

Payment Method (check one):
☐ Check/Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ Discover
☐ American Express

Name for wristband pickup at registration

Card # __________________ Exp. Date ________________

Cardholder’s Name __________________ Telephone (Required) __________________

Signature ________________________________

Event wristbands will be available for pickup at ISI registration.

Make checks payable to Ice Skating Institute. Mail order form and payment to ISI-Events, 17120 N Dallas Pkwy #140, Dallas, TX 75248.
Take a Break Without Losing Your Passion During the Off Season

by David Jacobson

Many of you will leave the ice arena for the summer, but that does not necessarily mean you will completely leave skating behind. Even though your body and mind need rest after a rigorous schedule of practices and competitions, your off season need not render your sport “out of sight, out of mind.”

The off season is a great time to remind yourself why you love skating, which is important for several reasons. For one, loving your sport is key to the PCA principle of Honoring the Game. If you love skating or hockey, you will do nothing to dishonor your sport. You will stick to the “ROOTS” of positive play, respecting Rules, Opponents, Officials, Teammates and Self.

That makes skating better for everyone involved, which in turn makes it that much easier for others to love the sport and help it grow and improve. Another reason it is important to love skating is that you will more fully embrace practice and competition, which can only lead to improved performance.

Here are a few ideas for summer activities to keep you in love with skating:

- Visit the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto (www.HHOF.com) or the World Figure Skating Museum and Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, Colo. (www.WorldSkatingMuseum.org).

Knowing your sport’s history provides great inspiration. You may feel yourself fill with reverence as you understand how long your sport has been around, the changes it has endured and some...
of the challenges the leaders, coaches and athletes faced in bringing skating and hockey to their current state. You may discover techniques that help you improve your performance or a role model to emulate on and off the ice. Learning how others overcame some of the same obstacles you face can help you persevere.

- Read books on ice skating or hockey. Your summer break from the ice rink likely means you also are out of school, so avoid the trap of endless TV and video games. Reading generally keeps your mind sharp, and reading specifically about your sport can open up many interesting avenues.

- Write about skating or hockey. Putting your thoughts in writing can clarify them and may help you realize how much you love your sport. This also keeps you in practice for the next school year, and may even fulfill an upcoming school assignment. If you prefer visual expression to verbal expression, you can draw, paint or sculpt in the themes of your sport.

- Watch videos of your favorite sport. You can view clips of great ice skating performances on the Internet or by borrowing DVDs from a library or video store. Draw up a new figure skating routine or hockey plays. Fantasize about your sport and imagine the different moves you might add to your repertoire. In the off season you are free from focusing on execution. You have mental and emotional space to ponder what else may be possible on the ice.

- Map out the upcoming season. Consider what you want to achieve. Identify key competitions and the training necessary as you reach various points in the season. This will not only help your on-ice performance, but also develops your long-term planning ability as an important life skill.

Notice that all these ideas may be done alone or in groups. Sharing them with teammates, coaches and family may deepen your bonds both within the sport and elsewhere in your life.

David Jacobson is PCA’s media/communications manager. If you have ideas about how to develop or show your love for skating or hockey, please send an e-mail to David_Jacobson@PositiveCoach.org, and we will put the best ideas into a future article. To request information about the ISI-PCA partnership, visit www.PositiveCoach.org/inforequest.aspx or contact PCA at (866) 725-0024 or pca@PositiveCoach.org.
The calendar lists various ISI-endorsed competitions and shows/exhibitions scheduled throughout the year. Here are some highlights:

- **July 2007**:
  - 16-17 Chicago: McFetridge Sports Center, 2007 School’s Out Competition
  - 16-17 Roseville, Calif.: Skatetown, ISI District 14 Championships
  - 22-24 Clearwater, Fla.: SunBlades Ice Arena, Annual Red, White & Blue
  - 22-24 Hingham, Mass.: Pilgrim Skating Arena, 17th Annual District 1 Championships
  - 29-30 Austin, Texas: Chaparral Ice-Northcross, Texas Hill Country Independence O pen

- **August 2007**:
  - 7-8 Evansville, Ill.: Robert Crown Center, 30th Annual July Open
  - 7-8 Las Vegas: Las Vegas Ice Center, Annual Red, White & Blue
  - 7-8 Panorama City, Calif.: Valley Ice Center, O pen ISI Competition
  - 12-15 Honolulu: Ice Palace, 2007 ISI Hawaiian O pen Competition
  - 13-15 Eagle River, Alaska: Harry J. McDonald Memorial Center, ISI Summer Competition
  - 13-15 Blaine, Minn.: Schwan Super Rink, 2007 Summer Sizzle Competition
  - 14 Kenosha, Wis.: Kenosha Ice Rink, Keep Cool Classic
  - 14-15 Ontario, Calif.: Center Ice Arena, 2nd Annual O pen Competition

- **September 2007**:
  - 14-16 Arlington, Texas: ICE at The Parks, 4th Annual ISI O pen Competition
  - 21-23 Las Vegas: SoBe Ice Arena, ISI Adult Championships

- **October 2007**:
  - 13 Coral Springs, Fla.: Incredible ICE, 8th Annual Incredible Challenge

- **November 2007**:
  - 27-28 Rockland, Mass.: Winterland Skating School, 21st Annual Halloween Classic

The text also includes the following statement: "Everyone Has a Chance to Win! It's not just the largest teams that have a chance to score big at ISI national events. In addition to the overall team champion, the following new trophies will be given at Winter Classic, Worlds, Adult Champs and Artistic Challenge:

- **The Placement Percentage Trophy** goes to the team of five or more skaters with the highest average placement that does not finish 1st-5th overall.

- **The Team Point Percentage Trophy** goes to the team of five or more skaters with the highest team point average per skater that does not finish 1st-5th overall.

Also, teams will be divided into groups according to size, and the following two trophies will be awarded:

- **The Board of Directors’ Trophy** is for the team earning the most points among small-size teams that does not finish 1st-5th overall.

- **The President’s Trophy** is for the team earning the most points among average-size teams that does not finish 1st-5th overall.

The deadline for the next RIS Calendar is July 15. For regular calendar updates, see www.skateisi.org.
It's back to Las Vegas for the 2007 ISI Adult Recreational Championships!

September 21-23
SoBe Ice Arena
Las Vegas, NV

Entry deadline:
Aug. 1, 2007

And not a moment too soon—while ISI's adult skaters always have the time of their lives regardless of the Adult Champs venue, some have been in withdrawal ever since the 2005 event!

Vegas is the ultimate adult playground, and our adult skaters can't seem to get enough of it. All your favorite things are here in one location—skating, fine dining, partying, playing your favorite casino games and lots of live entertainment.

SoBe Ice Arena has an NHL-size rink with seating for 500, four locker rooms with shower facilities, a pro shop and a spacious concession area. It's located at the Fiesta Rancho Hotel and Casino, which boasts restaurant options such as Blue Agave Steakhouse, the Baja Beach Café, Festival Buffet (where you're invited to eat your way around the world, with six live-action cooking stations) and Garduno's, which has been voted the best Mexican restaurant in Las Vegas for over 10 years.

At Club Tequila, Fiesta Rancho's own two-level nightclub, skaters can groove to their favorite rock tribute bands on Friday nights, oldies and R&B on Saturdays and Latin on Sundays. There's no cover charge, but do call for reservations. If karaoke is your specialty, be sure to make an appearance at the Cabo Lounge. And don't forget to leave some time in your schedule to visit Vegas' famous Strip, only 10 miles from Fiesta Rancho!
Skaters Pass High-Level Tests

Congratulations to the following ISI skaters, who recently passed high-level freestyle and dance tests.

FS 8
Sinead Angus
Nashoba Valley
Christy Baker
SC of Greater Youngstown
Ashley Bernardo
Franklin Park
Laura Crisp
Winterland Skating School
Brandon Cross
Ice Chalet-Knoxville
Amanda Davis
Ashburn Ice House
Samantha Gervais
Nashoba Valley
Cindy Godziszewski
Rolling Meadows
Sports Complex
Rebecca Grasso
Randall School of Skating
Delanie Honda
Parade FSC
Maria Kalina
Parade FSC
Lacie Kramer
White Bear Lake Sports Center
Daniel Kulenkamp
White Bear Lake Sports Center
Patricia Novales
Northbrook Sports Center
Rosie Park
Northbrook Sports Center
Caitlin Pau
Owens Center
Lauren Pauplis
Nashoba Valley
Nicole Popovich
Meadville FSC

FS 9
Christina Proulx
Nashoba Valley
Shalayne Pulia
Niles Iceland Arena
Gabriella Robb
Joliet Park District
Amy Shields
Roseville Skating Center
Stephanie Strause
Roseville Skating Center
Porter Waung
Parade FSC
Alyssa Wilborn
Tampa Bay Skating Academy

DANCE 8
Colleen Hollowood
Saratoga Springs FSC
Christina Lombardi
Saratoga Springs FSC

DANCE 9
Colleen Hollowood
Saratoga Springs FSC
Show Your Artistic Talent on the Ice in a City Full of Artistic Energy!

Join us for the third annual ISI Artistic Challenge—the only national event that gives you the chance to showcase your flair for the dramatic side of skating. This event is quickly becoming a favorite for recreational skaters as it features themed spotlight, couples interpretive, rhythmic skating and ensemble events and so much more!

How appropriate that this year’s event will be held in Bridgeport, CT, a city alive with the arts! Visit P.T. Barnum’s circus museum, the hands-on Discovery Museum and Planetarium or spend an evening with the Greater Bridgeport Symphony.

The city also houses Connecticut’s only zoo! You’ll find shopping and exciting dining options galore at Captain’s Cove where you can also book a harbor cruise, enjoy exciting live entertainment or see the Nantucket lightship, a floating lighthouse dedicated to preserving an important part of America’s maritime heritage.

Entry deadline: Sept. 1, 2007
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