

UC Ballroom News

Issue 3

December 2004



USABDA Competition, November 6, 2004

by Alisha Woo

The UC Berkeley Ballroom Dancers dominated the first-ever California State Amateur DanceSport Championships (Cal State) on November 6, 2004. Despite the fact that Cal State was the first full-fledged competition for most of the Berkeley participants, team members placed first, second, or third in nine out of the 13 Adult International events (Latin and Standard).

As the biggest collegiate ballroom team in Northern California, UCBD brought 66 competitors to Cal State, ranging from nationally

ranked dancers to those who learned their first steps in September. However, thanks to the team's comprehensive recruitment and training programs, team members won events at all skill levels.

The competition was also a huge boost to team spirit. Highlights included an impromptu Cha Cha exhibition by Yakov Bart and Emily Wilcox as well as the thrill of watching Berkeley's two top Latin couples face off in the Adult Pre-Championship Latin four-dance final. The team photo (see above) taken mid-day says it all: happy faces, lots of ribbons, and the team banner front and center.

Despite the grueling pace, with some heats mere seconds apart, team mem-

bers found the competition to be an exhilarating experience. "I thought it was really fun and enjoyed it a lot," said James Burmich. "It would have been cool if there was a food break as I was pretty hungry, and also the costume changes were a little insane. Other than that, it was really fun." And that's the final word for most of the competitors: hungry, rushed, and worn out, they still had a whole lot of fun, and that's how a ballroom competition should be.

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UCBD 2004 Retreat

by Sharla Roberts

Although most of the team's time together is spent out on the dance floor, perfecting our waltz steps and rumba routines, we occasionally need a chance to get away from all the hard work we're doing and just socialize as friends. This is what our annual team retreat is for.

This year, on October 9th, we packed our sleeping bags and tents and headed up to Anthony Chabot Park for a night of camping. As any good camping trip should, the night included a barbeque dinner, a couple of entertaining games, and a campfire complete with s'mores and ghost stories. We stayed up as late as we could, getting to know the other members of our team. And after the flames went out, we all went to sleep under the stars.

As with any sport, the success of each person depends on the support of the entire team. Activities such as the retreat help to bring us all together, not just as a group of dancers, but as friends. So, in that sense, this year's retreat was a huge success, a great beginning to a semester full of excellent dancing and long-lasting friendships!



Team Captain Alisha Woo (third from left) and Rookie Coordinator Joshua Von Korff (fourth from left) organize UCBD team members around a campfire.



Dancers rumba at Hot Latin Night.

Hot Latin Night Heats Up the Dance Floor

by Joshua Von Korff

Three hundred freshmen converged on Hearst gymnasium on Wednesday, August 25 for UCBD's annual Hot Latin Dance Night. The event provides incoming freshmen with a chance to meet each other before classes start, learn a few moves, and become acquainted with UCBD's Wednesday social lessons.

This year, free admission and extensive flyer-ing drew a huge crowd of enthusiastic dancers, larger than anyone had anticipated. The students filled up the hallway and spilled out the door into the courtyard, and it was more than half an hour after the lesson started that the ushers were able to get them all signed up and into the gym.

Instructors Derek Greenfield and Miki Suga taught a salsa lesson, and Emily Wilcox and Randy Wu taught rumba. All of the teachers did a great job handling the crowd, sometimes resorting to standing on boxes to make their steps more visible.

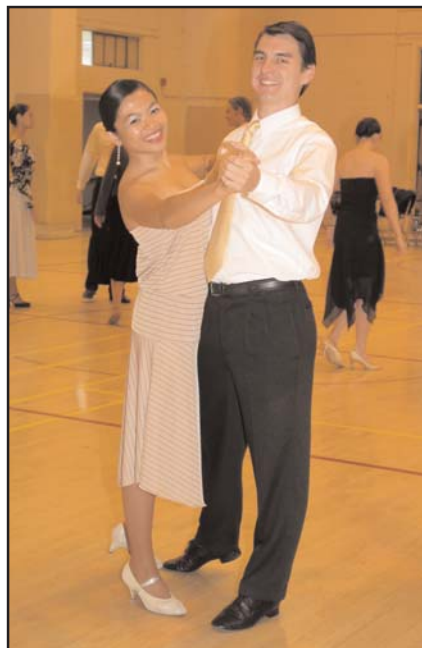
Afterwards, the ballroom dance team showed off some dances to advertise our competitive dance program, culminating in a rumba and jive show by Emily and Randy. Finally, the freshmen got a chance to try out the moves they had learned until it was 10:30 and time for everyone to go home.

San Jose State Competition, November 13, 2004

by Alisha Woo and Joshua
Von Korff

If you've never been to a ballroom dance competition, or you've only watched one on television – you're missing out. Competitors from schools including UC Berkeley, San Jose State, University of San Francisco, UC San Diego, Caltech, Cal Poly, USC, Stanford, San Diego State, and UC Santa Barbara took the floor this November in the annual San Jose State University Ballroom Classic Competition. Whether they were gliding, rising, and falling to a slow waltz, hotfooting it past applauding spectators to an energized jive, or undulating to a syncopated samba, our teammates impressed both the judges and the audience in the recent competition.

And of all the teams, none shouted louder than UC Berkeley. During the team match, the various schools selected four-couple teams to compete in Salsa, Tango, Waltz, East Coast Swing, and Cha Cha. As the biggest team at the competition, Berkeley entered 13 four-couple teams; however, the greatest proof of its



Cheryl Galindo & Kenji Kushida

[SJSU Competition, continued on page 4](#)



Randy Wu & Emily Wilcox

UCBD Spring 2005 Competitions

Come watch us dance!

USABDA Winter Frolic

January 29, 2005

Palo Alto, CA

<http://www.usabda-nor-cal.org/>

14th Annual Harvard Invitational Competition & Hanlon-Ford Winter Ball

March 5-6, 2005

<http://www.harvardballroom.org>

2005 Stanford Cardinal Classic

April 9, 2005

Stanford, CA

<http://sbd.org>

2005 Berkeley Ballroom Classic

April 23, 2004

Berkeley, CA

<http://ucbd.org>

Did you know...

Number of dances our team teaches: 26

Number of new team members recruited this year: 60

Number of competitions we attend annually as a team: 7

Number of fliers we put up in a week: 200

Number of couples entered in the USABDA Competition: 32

Number of hours team members practice a week, on average: 4

Cost of a new Standard ballroom gown: \$1200

Cost of a new pair of ballroom shoes: \$40-150

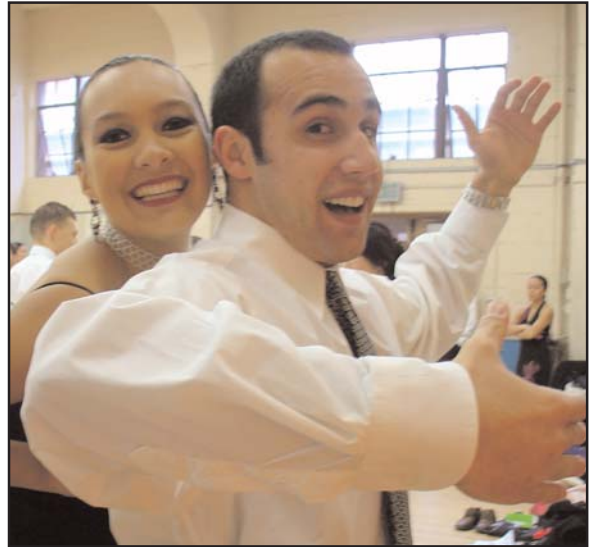
Cost of a one-hour private lesson: \$50-100

Average length of a budget meeting: 4 hours

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Stephanie Pace & Aron Heikali

[SJSU Competition, continued from page 3](#)

size and team spirit came during the cheering before, during, and after the match. While other teams settled for screaming at the top of their lungs, Berkeley re-created the Cal Student Section at home football games, doing call-and-answer cheers that drowned out the competition.

The team's performance was also exceptional. Berkeley dancers swept the International Standard events at the Silver and Open levels, also placing second in two out of four Gold level events. In Latin, Berkeley dancers swept the Newcomer, Gold, Advanced, and Open level events. Besides these impressive placements, team members also dominated finals at all levels and in all events, proving Berkeley's strong presence in Northern California ballroom.

We would like to extend our thanks to our coaches:

Professional Coaches

**Tomas Atkocevicus
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Stephen Cullip
Silke Heleine
Jurga Pupelyte
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Volunteer DanceSport Coaches

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Randy Wu**

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