

SKATE NEW JERSEY

Competitors' Assistance Scholarship Awards 2004



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September 2004

32 Skaters Receive 2004 Competitors' Assistance Scholarship Awards

June 2004

—Mt. Laurel, N.J. The 2004 Competitors' Assistance Scholarship Awards were presented at the 41st New Jersey Council Championships at the Igloo at Mt. Laurel Rink.

Senior Scholarships were awarded to seven skaters who competed at the Novice, Junior and Senior level in Regional, Sectional, and National qualifying competitions: Christopher Reed, Cathy Reed, Lena Grotticelli, Kelsey Lyle, Michele Panagakos, and Brittany White.

Tyler Harris, who received his Senior Scholarship award for the Novice Men singles category, was awarded a Junior Scholarship for his results in the Intermediate Pairs category. To top the season, Harris also won the coveted Dr. E. Clarence Kern Memorial Trophy, awarded to the skater who earns the most points for tests and competitions during each calendar year.

Junior Scholarship awards were given to skaters who competed in the Juvenile and Intermediate qualifying ranks. Jeremy Steeger topped the rankings,



CASA recipients at the NJ Council Championships in June

having medaled in an ISU event in the Young International Series sponsored by the Program Development Committee of U.S. Figure Skating. Junior National competitors who were awarded scholarships included Tyler Harris, Deanna Vicari, and Joann Lee.

Regional competitors who made final rounds, including Brandon Accardi, Corene Bruhns, Sage Chernin, Jasmine Lopez, Tess Marshall, Jessica Martino, and Andrew Reiss were awarded scholarships, as well as

Cara Levinson, Michele McBride, and Tasnova Rouf. Initial round skaters included Kristina Alvarez, Megan Rose Gallagher, Jenna Hersh, Olivia Jung, Christina Lee, Camille Menendez, Molly Novello, Caroline O'Neill, Melanie Bray, Hena Choudry, Alexandra Pascucci, and Elizabeth Stainton.

Awards ranged from \$75.00 to \$550.00. All CASA recipients achieved important goals, and the panel chose the essays of five skaters at different competitive levels for this report. ☞

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2005 Grace A. Moore Competitors' Assistance Scholarship Awards

September 12, 2004

—Lawrenceville, N.J.

The New Jersey Council of Figure Skating Clubs Board of Governors voted unanimously to rename the Competitors' Assistance Scholarship Awards program in memory of U.S. Figure Skating official, **Grace A. Moore**. A national

judge and member of the Essex Skating Club of N.J., Ms. Moore served the New Jersey skating community as a gold judge in many capacities. She was frequently seen on test sessions and at local competitions. While she served on several U.S. Figure Skating committees and judged senior events at the U.S. Nationals, she was a mentor to many

officials and skaters in New Jersey. Ms. Moore volunteered her time for several years as a panelist on the NJCFSC Scholarship Committee, providing oversight and a first-hand knowledge about the candidates. Ms. Moore was a medical photographer at Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown, New Jersey. She will be greatly missed. ☞

Scholarship Deadline

Apply by April 15, 2005

Get the application online
at www.njcfsc.org

Princeton Skating Club Member Tyler Harris Wins Kern Trophy

—Jack Samkoff, Kern Trophy Chair



—Tyler Harris receives the Kern Trophy from Vice-President Tom Mangum

Five New Jersey Council member clubs sent in their reports on their members with the top three point scores for the calendar year 2003.

The winner of the Kern Trophy for 2003 is Tyler Harris, Member of the Princeton Skating Club, with a total of 96 points.

Commendable point totals were achieved by Chris Reed of the Skating Club of Morris with 80 points, who tied with Adam Aronowitz of the American Academy FSC in Hackensack with 80 points. Reed won the Kern Trophy last year. This is

the first time in the history of the Kern trophy that men achieved the top three point scores, demonstrating how the skating programs in the New Jersey clubs have increased the breadth of their participation. Harris, a pair skater and singles skater, was one of the top scholarship winners this year. In addition, he is one of the founding members of the Lawrence High School Figure Skating Club, and participated in the historic first High School Open of NJ at the Princeton Day School in April. The team won the Banner and Spirit awards at the Open. *so*

What A Season!

by Tyler J. Harris

This past season of competitive figure skating has been full of awesome new experiences for me — Novice Freestyle, Intermediate Pairs, Junior Moves, and Senior Moves tests! I worked hard to compete at North Atlantic as a Novice man, and while I skated fine I knew with hard work and training I can be even better in my singles skating. My coach, Denise Cattani, and I are working hard to get my jumps more consistent and master new ones.

My previous partner and I also worked very hard to prepare ourselves to compete as an Intermediate Pair team. The hard work paid off, because we became the North Atlantic Regional Intermediate Pair Champions, and were off to Junior Nationals in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition, we participated in the closing ceremonies for Skate America which was held in Reading, Pennsylvania, the same weekend as the North Atlantic Championships! My partner and I were featured as pair skaters and we got to skate to music by

Aaron Copland, titled “Simple Gifts.” He is one of my favorite composers, and it was so neat to perform in front of a huge crowd while skating to his music. We weren’t nervous, but it was quite a thrill to see ourselves on the big screen TV monitors while we performed!

Junior Nationals was great, too. My partner and I had never made the final round before, so that was our goal. We were so excited, and decided that whatever happened after that would be just fine. So we relaxed during the final round, had a great time, and placed eighth in the nation! We were so proud of that, and I’ll always remember how good it felt not only to place so well, but to just perform well and be happy with how we skated.

I remember how as soon as we were finished, I went into the stands to find my parents. Everyone was smiling and laughing, and all I could say was, “Can somebody give me a hug?” My dad did, and I think we’ll both never

“It means a lot to be recognized at the high school for the sport that I love, figure skating, and to represent my school.” — Tyler Harris

forget how good that felt. I’ve made lots of friends with skaters all over the country because of Junior Nationals and I look forward to seeing them once a year if we’re lucky. We all remain good friends, and cheer for each other whenever we can.

This season, I have a new partner here where I live, and things are working out very well for us. We can train six days a week, which we do, and we’re making great progress. I’m also training hard in my singles, and still plan to compete in that field. It gets difficult to fit everything in sometimes, since I’m in high school full time, but I do the best I can.

Fortunately, my school, Lawrence High School is very supportive, and they let me have as much extra time at the rink as they can. I was also a founding member of the first figure skating team at Lawrence High School, and we competed as a team at our first competitions at the first New Jersey High School Open. It was awesome, and so

much fun! It means a lot to be recognized at the high school for the sport that I love, figure skating, and to represent my high school. I don’t know where my skating career will take me, but I plan to work as hard as I can and go as far as I can with it. Even when it gets tough, it still isn’t work, because I love it so much. I know that skating will be part of my life in one way or another. *so*



“Simple Gifts” — Tyler Harris and Kelsey Fabian

Why I Skate

by **Jeremy Steeger**, *Glissad Academy at Iceland*

Figure skating has taken on even more importance in my life this year. I was fortunate enough to have a great season thanks in part to the support I had received from the New Jersey Council of Figure Skating Clubs. I had remained Juvenile this year mostly because of a severe tendonitis in my jumping knee and a form of Osgood-Schlatter's disease kept me off the ice for almost five months. I was only able to begin to train again in May, 2003. Coming back from that injury to again place first in Juvenile Boys at the North Atlantic Regional Championships was very encouraging and I am glad I took the time to heal fully. From there I went to the 2004 Junior Nationals in Arizona, placing fourth in my qualifying, and 12th in the final round.

Returning from Arizona, I passed my Intermediate free skating test and began to train a new short program. Competing for the first time in February as an Intermediate, I won both the short and long programs at the Keystone State Games. The best was yet to come!

In November, U.S. Figure Skating called to inform me that I had been selected to participate in the Young International Competitors Program and was as-


signed to the ISU-sanctioned 2004 Copenhagen Trophy in Denmark. I was asked to skate Novice Men short and long programs. Obviously, I was very excited, but a little apprehensive. Between February and March, I trained hard on my double-axel, other jumps, and longer length programs.

Although I was not expected to medal in my first international, I was pleasantly surprised to place second overall and end up on the podium. It was an awesome experience to have the honor of representing my country and seeing the American flag raised as I stood on the podium. It was hard to believe that in four short years, I had gone from learning Basic Skills in group lessons to medaling in my first international competition!

My experiences this year have not only strengthened my passion for the sport but have convinced me that I have the determination necessary to overcome setbacks (like physical injury) to eventually meet my goals. Figure skating has taught me valuable life lessons as well. I have had to become both physically and mentally disciplined to continue as a high honors student in my first year of middle school, participate in other per-

forming arts (ballet and piano), and continue figure skating. My physical strength, agility and flexibility continue to greatly improve ever since I started skating seriously, devoting more than two to three hours per week to off-ice conditioning and 18-20 hours per week on ice. This year with the help of your scholarship, I was able to add once weekly Pilates classes to my training regimen. Skating has also helped me mentally focus on getting the most out of the time I put in.

As for my future with skating, I am continuing to dream big. I hope to get my double axel clean and consistent, and be able to land triple toe and triple salchow by the end of this summer. I also aim to make it to Junior Nationals as an Intermediate man this year. In the long term I want to continue to improve and make the National team with future international assignments.

Even though figure skating at a competitive level is hard work, it remains a lot of fun for me. Although I aspire to do well in competitions and land triple and quadruple jumps, my ultimate goal is to be the best skater I can and have fun while making that journey, 



"It was hard to believe that in four short years, I had gone from learning Basic Skills in group lessons to medaling in my first international competition!"

—Jeremy Steeger



COMPETITORS! APPLY BY **APRIL 15, 2005**

Your parents will recognize the date—it's the same date that the IRS requires adults to file their income taxes! So the New Jersey Council Scholarship Committee agreed that this was a date to remember!

If you competed in the Juvenile—Intermediate levels, you are eligible for a JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP.

If you competed in the Novice—Junior—Senior levels, you are eligible for a SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP.

Your test chair must verify your skating credentials.

Your parent or guardian must sign that your essay was your work if you are under 18.

We require that the Media Release is also signed and that we have a photograph on file. Thank you, and good luck!



Sage Chernin

"I have cut my hair off for the program Locks of Love. They make wigs for people with cancer. I am growing it back so I can cut and donate my hair again. I also plan to volunteer my services to the New Jersey Special Olympics."

— Sage Chernin

Lots of Love

Sage Chernin, Garden State Skating Club

My name is Sage Chernin. I am a sixth grader at Ocean Township Intermediate School in New Jersey. I am also a figure skater. Currently I am skating at the Juvenile level. One of my goals is to do well as I move up through the higher levels. Someday it would be great if I could skate at a national level. It would take a lot of hard work but I would do it.

My purpose for writing this letter is to ask for your support. Figure skating requires a lot of hard work, dedication, and time. I skate approximately one and a half to two hours a day, five to six days per week to improve my skating with my head coach, Steven Rice.

Last summer I went to an International Skating camp in Simsbury, Connecticut. Every day that I was there, I skated

about three or more hours, and took a conditioning class that included weights, ballet class, stroking, and jazz class. This type of training improved my skills in skating. When I was there I worked with top Olympic coaches, Maya Usova and Sergey Astachev.

To date, I have all my double jumps and have many double combination jumps. I am working on my double axel, a jump where you take off forwards, turn two and a half revolutions, and land backward. I am also working on my triple salchow and triple toe loop.

My objective this year is to land my double axel in time for the North Atlantic Regional competition in October 2004. Then I would like to move up to the Intermediate level with either one or more of my triple

jumps

As well as skating, I help our community by participating in the Clean Sweep yearly. I was in the Girl Scouts, and I do the walk for Diabetes every year. I have cut my hair off for the program Locks of Love. They make wigs for people with cancer. I am growing it back so I can cut and donate my hair again. I also plan to volunteer my services to the New Jersey Special Olympics.

I love to bake and am an avid reader. My school education comes before all of that though.

With your support and generosity, not only would I be closer to achieving my goals and dreams, I would also learn how to help others achieve their goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration. ☺

Young Athletes Need Your Support!

If you find the words of our young athletes inspiring, you realize just how difficult it is for many of them to balance home life, studies, and skating. Many of our young athletes practice between 2-5 hours a day including off-ice training, such as Pilates or ballet classes. Parents are also dedicated: driving to early morning practices and spending weekends at competitions. Skating is one of the most expensive sports. In our commitment to our skaters, NJCFSC strives to award scholarships to each qualified candidate who applies. Our main source of funding is derived from the profits of our annual championships, but we need your help to maximize our outreach this year. Please consider making a generous donation to our scholarship program. We are registered as a charitable organization in the State of New Jersey. Your donation may be tax deductible. For more information, please contact:

Ruth Necco, Scholarship Chair

26 Dogwood Road, Morristown, NJ 07960

On the Move

Elizabeth Stainton, Skating Club of Morris

My name is Elizabeth Stainton and I'm an eighth grader at Briarcliff Middle School. I enjoy school and I get straight A's in all my classes. It can be difficult to keep up my studies and skate six days a week. For the 2004-2005 season, I am skating at the novice level where I hope to find success.

By the end of the season, I hope to have a consistent double axel and a triple jump. I also want to finish my pre-silver dance tests and begin working on my silvers.

This past August, I passed my senior Moves in the Field test, a great accomplishment for me. I would like to get my other two golds in dance and freestyle someday.

Iwould like to attend college at an Ivy League school after graduating high school. In college, I would like to skate on a collegiate team and run cross country. After college, I would like to skate in Disney on Ice and travel the world for a few years.

Later on I would like to com-

bine school and skating and become a sports psychologist and skate as an adult. ☞

Outside of skating, I run competitively for my school's cross country team. I am ranked fourth for eighth grade girls in Morris County, and I was part of the championship team of several girls. We placed second out of the teams in the county. ☞

"I passed my senior Moves in the Field test, a great accomplishment for me."

—Elizabeth Stainton



Elizabeth Stainton, Gold Medalist

The Fast Track

Andrew Reiss, Upper Mountain Skating Association

Skating has always been my favorite sport. I like to go fast and push myself to the limits of my control. I have skated on roller blades, hockey skates and even skateboards, but ice-skating is the best. There is so much more control and speed in ice-skating. In addition to being fast, it is especially fun for me. During my program, I feel in control going fast with no one else on the ice.

I watch professionals like Scott Hamilton and Brian Orser skate. I want to develop the strength

and skills to do the moves they are able to perform on the ice. I watch the different teams that come to my rink, Pro-Skate. I like to share my skills during the practice so others can have fun skating, too.

During competition time the skaters are all rushing to master new levels of their program. We add special effects to make my program more exciting. Competition is most exciting because there are skaters from many different places. I like to wel-

come them to my rink here in New Jersey. Competition helps you learn where you have really improved. My friends and I sit together and cheer on our friends.

I hope that I will always be going to school near a rink where I can practice with my coach, Leon. I hope I will be able to do skating as a sport in high school. Maybe I can help start a skating club at my school if they do not have one. ☞

"I have skated on roller blades, hockey skates and even skateboards, but ice-skating is the best." —Andrew Reiss



Distinguished Essays

The Scholarship Committee requires applicants to write a short essay on their goals, feelings, and/or involvement in the sport of figure skating. The committee selected the essays of the five skaters featured in this report because they agreed that these writings distilled the mission of U.S. Figure Skating, participation and achievement, as well as the spirit of competitive figure skating: fair play, hard work, and dedication. Other notable essays were written by Cara Levinson, Olivia Jung, and Tasnova Rouf. While the committee wishes to further acknowledge the worthy accomplishments of all the scholarship recipients, the decision to publish these essays was entirely at the discretion of the panel. ☞

SKATE NEW JERSEY

Loris Chen, President
Thomas Mangum, Vice-President
Ruth Necco, Treasurer
Susan Ward, Secretary

c/o Susan Ward
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Phone: 973-746-9167

**New Jersey and You—
Skate Perfect Together!**



We're on the Web!

www.njcfsc.org

About New Jersey Council Scholarship Opportunities

The New Jersey Council of Figure Skating Clubs was formed in 1963 as an interclub council member of the United States Figure Skating Association. The NJCFSC is a 501C3, tax-exempt organization. For more than forty years, the NJCFSC has hosted its annual skating championships and supported skaters in their attempts to excel through scholarship and awards.

The NJCFSC has grown in its outreach. Last year, 32 skaters were awarded Competitor's Assistance Scholarships, and nine synchronized skating teams were awarded grants including the Princeton University Skating Club. NJCFSC also promotes the Ice Storm, a senior-level synchronized skating team, and a network of high school figure skating clubs.

The NJCFSC Academic Honors Team and the Officials Development and Education Program are two new outreach programs. Our mission reflects the goals of U.S. Figure Skating today—promoting achievement and participation. We strive to recognize excellence in both education and athletics.

The N.J. Council of Figure Skating Clubs

Scholarship Committee

Ruth Necco, Chair / Treasurer

Susan Ward, Secretary / Academic Honors Team Coordinator

Marie Eck, U.S. Figure Skating Test Judge

Wendy Mangum, Athlete and PSA Coach



Council Officers—Left to Right

Ruth Necco, Susan Ward, Tom Mangum, Lori Chen

Each year the committee compiles a report of all the skaters who are members of New Jersey Council home-clubs and who competed in Regional, Sectional, National, and International competitions. This list is disseminated to all the delegates of the Council and posted online. Only skaters who have participated in qualifying events in singles, pairs, and ice dance may apply for the CASA program. The application is available online and is sent by e-mail to all the delegates of the New Jersey Council for distribution. Last year, over 80 skaters were eligible to apply for these awards. Funding for these awards and other scholarship programs is determined by the annual NJCFSC budget and restricted donations. ☞