



2015 SPRING NEWSLETTER

BY BRUCE DAVIS

OKLAHOMA WINS THE 2015 NCAA GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIP

The month of April has been an exciting one if you are fan of acrobatics. The month started off with the Men's National Collegiate Gymnastics Championships in Norman, Oklahoma when the best collegiate programs in the nation competed for the NCAA Championship. Isn't it great to be able to go to ncaa.com and stream such an event and see it almost in its entirety. It was nice to see the large squad sizes of the men's teams and to see the high level of performance with the competition being contested on a podium setup. Go to the link below if you did not have the opportunity to watch the competition.

[Oklahoma wins ninth men's gymnastics championship ... - NCAA.com](#)

FLORIDA WINS A THIRD CONSECUTIVE NCAA GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIP

One week later the Women's National Collegiate Gymnastics Championships took place in Fort Worth, Texas. Again, the NCAA Championship was streamed on ncaa.com. The women collegians would not disappoint. The competition was intense, close and with very few misses. The University of Florida won its third consecutive title. Go to the link below if you did not have the opportunity to watch the competition.

[College Women's Gymnastics - Home | NCAA.com](#)

CIRCUS NEWS
THE LAST GREAT CIRCUS FLYER

Last Friday evening, April 17, and it was time to go to Sarasota for the Sarasota Film Festival (SFF). Two circus documentary films were being premiered after more than five years of research and development on each film. The Last Great Circus Flyer and The Flight Fantastic were on the red carpet and many of the great circus stars were there in force to take in the film experience. Tony Steele, 2002 WAS Legend; Terry Cavaretta, 2002 WAS Legend; LaNorma, 2014 WAS Legend; Willie Edelston, 2014 WAS Legend; John Zimmerman & Paula Blackwelder, former flyers recently married; Bello Nock, as well as Victor Gaona and Manuel Vazquez, the patriarchs of the two families, were in attendance.

The Last Great Circus Flyer is a documentary film about the Flying Vazquez. Miguel Vazquez, a 2002 WAS Legend, caught nearly 3000 quads after his first success in practice on August 19, 1981 in Long Beach, California, and his first catch in front of an audience in Tucson, Arizona on July 13, 1982. Miguel's brother Juan, also a 2002 WAS Legend, was Miguel's catcher and Miguel's wife Rosa, his brother Felipe along with Patricia and Milton rounded out the troupe. Visit the links below to learn more.

www.theflyingvazquez-trapeze.com - YouTube

[The Last Great Circus Flyer SFF 2015 Interview - YouTube](#)



THE VAZQUEZ FAMILY AT THE FILM PREMIER IN SARASOTA

JUAN VAZQUEZ, 2002 WAS LEGEND, AND BRUCE DAVIS, WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY PRESIDENT, AT THE FILM PREMIER OF THE LAST GREAT CIRCUS FLYER



CIRCUS NEWS
THE FLIGHT FANTASTIC

The Flight Fantastic is a documentary film about the Flying Gaona family and the history of trapeze. Tito, A 2001 WAS Legend; brother Armanda; sister Chela; and brother Richie under the guidance of their father Victor first fashioned a trampoline act. The family moved on, when again, Victor developed one of the greatest trapeze acts in history. Tito was one of the few flyers who could consistently catch triples. He was also known for his trademark double layout back with two twists. Victor was the first catcher and then Armando took over. The Flight Fantastic is an inspirational film that will be remembered by all who have the opportunity to see it. Visit the links below to learn more.

[The Flight Fantastic - Official Trailer on Vimeo](#)

[Gaonas Trapeze Workshop Tito Gaona - YouTube](#)

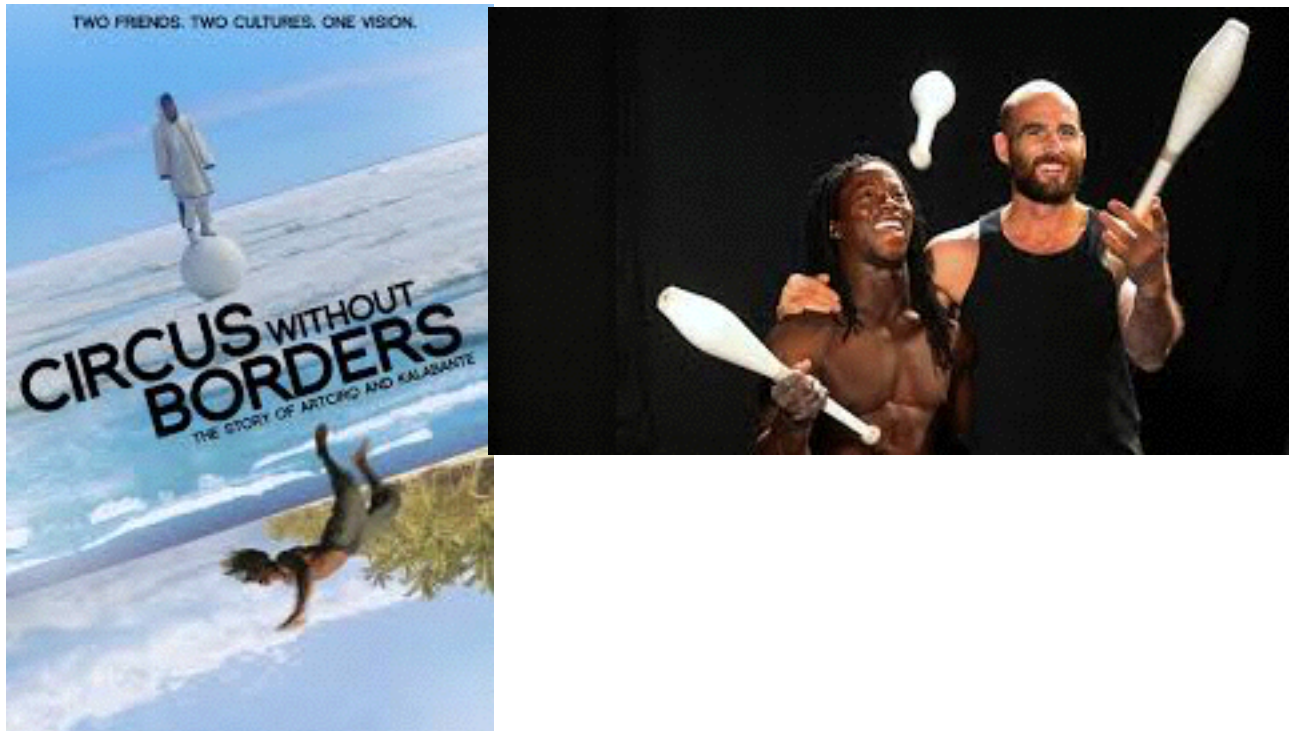


THE GAONA FAMILY WITH FILM PRODUCER TOM MOORE

CIRCUS WITHOUT BORDERS

The Independent Film Festival of Boston will premier the Circus Without Borders on Monday evening April 27. This documentary film produced by Northern Light Productions tells the story of two men who built two local circuses in very different parts of the world: the frigid north of Canada and the searing heat of West Africa. Artcirq Circus of Igoolik in the Arctic was the home of Guillaume Saladin, a performer for Montreal. The Kalabantec Circus of Conakry, Guinea was the home of Yamoussa Bangor. Saladin hoped to stem the high incidence of suicide in his native home and Bangouora hoped to empower the young people of his home. The documentary explores the alliance between these two circuses a world apart. Go to the link below to see the film trailer.

[Circus Without Borders | The Story of Artcirq and Kalabantec](#)

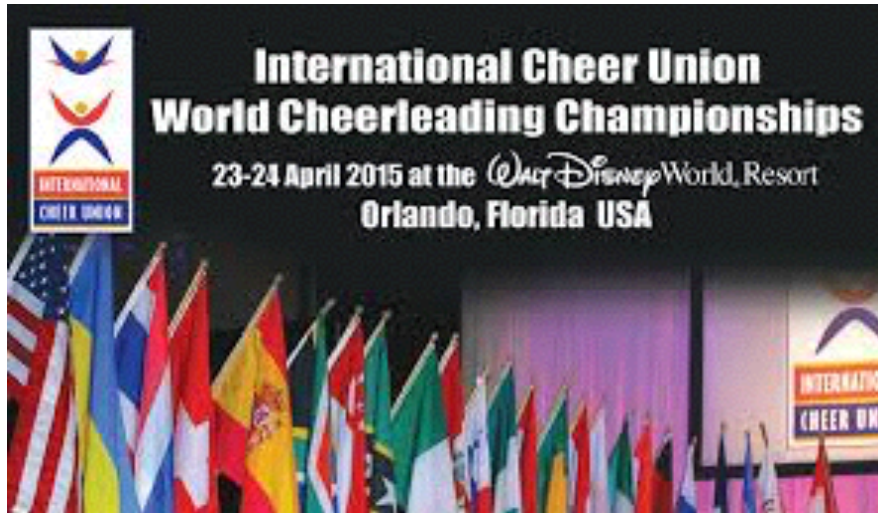


THE 2015 WORLD CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The International Cheer Union (ICU) 2015 World Cheerleading Championships (WCC) were held at the Wide World of Sports in Disney World April 23 and 24. The ICU has 104 member nations and has exceeded all expectations of numbers of acrobats doing cheerleading. Mike Jacki, World Acrobatics Society Board of Director was on hand to watch the event.

Visit the link below to learn more about the WCC.

[USA National Team \[Coed Premier\] - 2015 ICU World Cheerleading Championships](#)



INTERNATIONAL GYMNASTICS HALL OF FAME

The nineteenth annual induction dinner of the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame will be held May 16 at the Petroleum Club in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Abie Grossfeld, World Acrobatics Society Board of Director will be honored with the Frank Bare Award. Plan to attend.

