



# Rink Link

June 2009

## Patricia St. Peter Elected 30<sup>th</sup> President of U.S. Figure Skating!

(5/2/09) — U.S. Figure Skating delegates elected Patricia St. Peter as the 30th president of U.S. Figure Skating today at the 2009 Governing Council meeting in Buffalo, N.Y.

"It is truly a great honor to be elected as the next president of U.S. Figure Skating, and I truly understand the extraordinary responsibility that I am undertaking," St. Peter said. "I thank you for the trust and confidence that you have placed in me at this time."

St. Peter just completed her second term as Midwestern vice president and first vice president of U.S. Figure Skating. She previously served on the U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors as the administrative/legal group coordinator in 2005-06. She is also a national singles/pairs judge and national referee.

On the local level, St. Peter served as the president of the Twin City Figure Skating Association (1998-2000) and was a member of the Executive Committees for the 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, 2000 ISU World Synchronized Skating Championship and 1998 ISU World Figure Skating Championships.

She resides in Minneapolis, Minn., with her husband, Tom, and daughter, Claire.



## The Champion For Skating Award

*The Champion For Skating Award, created in 1993 to recognize sustained, selfless service to the sport of eligible figure skating in Minnesota, is an inclusive award and has been bestowed on officials, organizers, parents, skating enthusiasts and combinations thereof.*

*The most important qualification is a demonstrated devotion to service. Anybody meeting the following criteria can be nominated. Everybody can nominate.*

- ✦ *Person with eligible status*
- ✦ *Directly or indirectly involved with own club, TCFSFA or any other amateur USFSA sanctioned/affiliated activity for a minimum of five years.*
- ✦ *Minnesota resident*
- ✦ *Mixture of "high visibility" and sustained "low profile" involvement in figure skating activities*

*Volunteer characteristics to include:*

- *Time devoted*
- *Talents contributed*
- *Demonstrated leadership*
- *Spirit of cooperation*

**This is your chance to honor your favorite champion for skating!  
Submit a nomination form today.**

# The Champion for Skating Award Nomination Form



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- Minnesota resident
- Mixture of "high visibility" and sustained "low profile" involvement in figure skating activities
- Volunteer characteristics to include: Time devoted, Talents contributed, Demonstrated leadership, Spirit of cooperation

**This is your chance to honor your favorite champion for skating! Submit a nomination form today.**

**Nominee** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Years Involved in Skating** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nominee's TCFSA Club** \_\_\_\_\_

**Past activities connected with figure skating (be specific about positions held):**

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**Present activities (be specific about positions held):**

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**Why I feel this candidate should receive the TCFSA Trophy:**

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***(Please use another sheet if more room is needed.)***

Return to: Lori Rothmund, 1336 E County Road C, Maplewood MN 55109



## 31st Annual Great Minnesota State Skate Together!

The Twin City Figure Skating Association invites you to participate in the 2010 Minnesota State Figure Skating Championships August 21-23, 2009. The competition is sponsored by the Twin City Figure Skating Association, hosted by the Northern Blades NSC FSC ([www.northernblades.org](http://www.northernblades.org)) and conducted in the same manner as the 2010 U.S. Figure Skating Upper Great Lakes Regional Competition including the use of the IJS for Juvenile, Intermediate, Novice, Junior and Senior events.

This competition is sanctioned by U.S. Figure Skating. Kristin Arneson Cutler will be the Chief Referee and Lexie Kastner will be the Chief Accountant for the event.

Entries must be postmarked by July 3, 2009. The rules and regulations of U.S. Figure Skating as set forth in the 2010 Official Rulebook, with changes and clarifications as posted on the USFS web site, will govern this competition with the following exceptions:

- ✓ Pre Preliminary events are included.
- ✓ Both the Short and Freeskate programs are used to qualify for final rounds (when applicable).
- ✓ Please refer to the USFS web site often for technical notification up dates.

The competition is open to all registered U.S. Figure Skating members in good standing who are residents of the state of Minnesota, OR home club members of a Minnesota U.S. Figure Skating club 1 year prior to closing date of entries (July 3, 2009). Skaters may compete at either their current freestyle test level, or one level higher. Elimination rounds will be conducted if necessary.

The competition will be held at Fogerty Ice Arena, 9250 Lincoln Street NE, Blaine, MN 55434 Phone: (763) 780-3328.

Minnesota State Champions not only secure their place in Minnesota skating history but also are invited to the annual Officials Appreciation Banquet on Sunday September 13, 2009 and are featured along with Minnesota Sectional, National and International competitors in the Celebration of Champions Exhibition in early 2010.

Minnesota State entry forms are available on Twin City FSA website at [www.TCFSA.org](http://www.TCFSA.org)

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|  <p><b>RECENT OFFICIAL/JUDGE APPOINTMENTS</b></p> <p><b>Chair Athlete Development Committee</b><br/>Ben Miller, St. Paul FSC</p> <p><b>Gold Singles &amp; Pairs Test Judge</b><br/>Marion Curry, FSC of Minneapolis</p> <p><b>Bronze Singles &amp; Pairs Test Judge</b><br/>Kim Prange, Burnsville MN Valley FSC</p> <p><b>National S/P/D Data Entry/Video</b><br/>Dann Krueger, Braemar City of Lakes FSC</p> <p><b>Sectional Singles Technical Specialist</b><br/>Ann Eidson, St. Paul FSC</p> <p><b>Regional Dance Technical Specialist</b><br/>Ben Miller, St. Paul FSC<br/>Pamela O'Dougherty, Northern Blades FSC</p> <p><b>Regional Technical Controller</b><br/>Greg Rouw, St. Paul FSC</p> <p><b>NQ Data Entry Operator</b><br/>Wendy Meck-Poland, St. Paul FSC<br/>Anne Murphy, St. Paul FSC<br/>Carol Rossignal, Rochester FSC</p> |  <p><b>April 21 – 25, Grand Rapids, MI</b></p> <p><b>Christopher Williams</b><br/>FSC of Minneapolis<br/>Championship Masters<br/>Intermediate/Novice - 2<sup>nd</sup><br/>Master Men Intermediate - Novice I-IV - 2<sup>nd</sup><br/>Masters Light Entertainment./Comedy Interpretive. III-IV - 3<sup>rd</sup></p> <p><b>Colleen Barber, FSC of Bloomington</b><br/>Gold Ladies III – 10<sup>th</sup></p> <p><b>Jane Barrash, FSC of Bloomington</b><br/>Silver Ladies IV - Final– 2<sup>nd</sup><br/>Silver Ladies IV - Group A– 1<sup>st</sup></p> <p><b>Diane Geving &amp; Glen Geving</b><br/>Starlight Ice Dance Club<br/>Pre Silver Dance– 3<sup>rd</sup></p> <p><b>Lisa Veith, Starlight Ice Dance Club</b><br/>Bronze Ladies III - Final– 3<sup>rd</sup><br/>Bronze Ladies III - Group B – 4<sup>th</sup></p> |  <p><b>TEAM USA SELECTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Synchronized Team B</b><br/>Team Braemar,<br/>Braemar City of Lakes FSC</p> <p><b>Team C</b><br/>Kiri Baga,<br/>FSC of Bloomington<br/>Alex Johnson<br/>Braemar City of Lakes FSC</p> <p><b>Reserve Team</b><br/>Molly Oberstar,<br/>St. Paul FSC</p> <p><b>Development Team</b><br/><i>Senior Dance Team Stephanie Zastrow, St. Paul FSC &amp; Michael Lueck, Burnsville MN Valley FSC have selected to compete at</i><br/><b>BC/YT Section Summerskate</b><br/><i>Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada</i><br/><b>AUGUST 13-16, 2009</b></p> |
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## One day, the rink ... the next, the remake – St. Paul Figure Skating Club member snags major role in 'Ice Castles'

By Chris Hewitt, St. Paul Pioneer Press



Molly Oberstar, 20, plays the lead's rival in the remake of the 1978 tearjerker.

Fort Lauderdale? Over. Cancun? So 2008. No, Molly Oberstar opted to spend her spring break in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she is starring in a remake of the figure-skating romance "Ice Castles."

Oberstar, who competes for the St. Paul Figure Skating Club and studies fashion merchandising at the University of Minnesota, decided to add a third career this year, one in which she had zero experience: acting.

Soon after she returned from placing 15th at this year's figure skating nationals, Oberstar learned a casting agent had spotted her on the ice. The agent wondered if she'd be interested in appearing in "Ice Castles," possibly in the lead role of a skater who has a tragic accident. The catch? Production was scheduled to begin in less than two months.

"It seemed odd it was happening so fast," Oberstar said by phone from the film's set in Nova Scotia.

Producers asked the 20-year-old to send them a tape of her reading the main character's lines. She shot it on her Mac computer. About a week later, they asked her to do another tape, this time reading the role of the lead's nasty skating rival. (The lead, played in the original by Lynn-Holly Johnson, went to figure skater Taylor Firth.)

A few more days went by. "Then I got the part," said the Duluth East High School graduate.

It happened so fast. Oberstar showed up for her first scenes, shot during the U's mid-March spring break, a novice. A complete novice.

"I'm standing there and they said, 'OK, let's do a walk through,'" Oberstar said. "And I was making a connection to skating, where a walk-through is when you do your program without the jumps, so I said, 'Do I say

my lines?' And the director joked with me. He said, 'Sorry, I guess I forgot to tell you. We're paying you to act. So yes, you do need to say your lines.'"

Donald Wrye, who directed the 1978 "Ice Castles," also is doing the remake. Both films are largely set in Minnesota, but the remake — despite scenes that take place at the St. Paul Figure Skating Club — is being shot in Halifax.

Oberstar said it's unclear whether it will air on television or in theaters. But the plan is to have it ready for audiences in December to take advantage of interest in the U.S. championships and Winter Olympics in early 2010.

Oberstar's debut scenes required her to engage in a little verbal Tonya-and-Nancying: "I come across the main character in a bathroom at this swanky party, and I make a lot of mean comments to her.

"Actually," she said, "that's pretty much what my character does in all of my scenes."

The skater/actress/designer's parents, David and Barb Oberstar, wondered if their daughter would have a problem with her character's nastiness. Um, no.

"I'm fine with the mean stuff," Oberstar said. "That's not how I act toward people in real life, so that's not a problem."

Still, the most fun Oberstar has had making "Ice Castles" has involved axels and lutzs and spins. One day, a skating competition scene was moved earlier in the shooting schedule, so she and choreographer David Wilson had to quickly improvise a routine.

"It felt really good that I needed to step up to the plate and that I did it," she said.

Even better? Michelle Kwan, who has a cameo in the film, happened to be on the set that day, watching. The same Michelle Kwan who has won nine U.S. championships and is Oberstar's "ultimate person ever."

"She has changed my life with her skating," said Oberstar, who has several Kwan autographs but had never been able to chat with her. "She was really genuine, and she complimented me on my skating, so it was the best day ever."

Oberstar has a final skating scene to shoot Monday, and then the experience will be done. But she said she's not ready to shift from "Action!" to "Open your textbooks to Page 47."

"I don't want to go back to reality yet," said Oberstar, who will continue her fashion studies and plans to compete at the 2010 figure skating nationals in Spokane, Wash. But acting remains a possibility, too.

"I don't have an agent or anything," Oberstar said. "If I could figure all that out, I guess I would like to see about acting."

Ironically, none of this would have happened if Oberstar had finished higher at this year's nationals. The ultimate goal there, of course, is to win a medal, but the U.S. medalists advance to the world championships. And while the world championships were going on this year in Los Angeles, Oberstar was in Canada, shooting "Ice Castles," an experience she says has turned out to be "the greatest thing ever."



**Courtney Koenig  
Three Rivers FSC**

Courtney Koenig, a 15 year old 9th grade student at Brooklyn Park Junior High, recently passed the US Figure Skating Gold Freestyle test. Courtney is coached by Karen Heng Olson.

She started her skating career at age 4 in the Brooklyn Park skating school and completed the testing levels at the Maple Grove school. Courtney is currently a member of the USFSA through the Three Rivers Figure Skating Club in Brooklyn Park, MN and the International Skating Institute (ISI) through the Parade Figure Skating Club in Minneapolis MN. She also trains with the Sports Quest Skating Academy in Minneapolis MN.

Along with passing the Senior Moves and Freestyle tests, Courtney has completed the Pre Dance and Pre Bronze Dance tests and the ISI Freestyle 9 test. Competing in both USFSA and ISI competitions locally and nationally, has allowed Courtney to make many friends and she feels privileged to share the ice with some exceptional skaters and coaches. She is looking forward to the next chapter in her skating career, teaching skating school students the joys of skating. Courtney is also excited to be entering high school in the fall and preparing for college, where she plans to study forensic anthropology.

Courtney would like to thank her coach, Karen Heng Olson, for her guidance and support over the last four years. Karen has provided not only the tools needed to pass the Senior Free and be a successful skater, but also many other important lessons such as goal setting and perseverance. These tools have helped prepare Courtney to succeed outside of skating and she knows that skating has taught her that she can achieve anything if she just works hard enough at it.



**Cali Digre  
St. Paul FSC**

Cali Digre, a 17 year old Senior at Minnehaha Academy, passed the US Figure Skating Gold Freestyle Test on February 19. She began skating when she was four at Eden Prairie Community Center. Her parents thought it would be a good sport for the winter and that she would do another one during the summer months. Although she dabbled a bit first in swimming and later in gymnastics, pretty soon it was evident to both Cali and her parents that figure skating was the sport that really engaged her.

Cali loves to skate expressively in front of an audience and some of her favorite skating performances have been her various solo numbers at the Richfield Ice Show and as the guest skater at the

Marshall Ice Show in 2004. Right now she is working on improving her jumps and plans to resume competing at the senior level later this year. Cali plans to compete at the collegiate level throughout her years in college, and to establish herself as a coach. But her main focus in skating is, and always has been, to enjoy the basic aspects and elements of the sport and to skate just because she loves to do it.

Cali is an A honor roll student and a National Merit Commended Scholar. Cali loves music and is gifted in this area as well. She started playing the piano at age seven and studies at the MacPhail Center for Music. She also studies music composition at Perpich Center for the Arts Education. Last fall one of her compositions was performed by the local professional musical ensemble, Zeitgeist. Cali is also involved in Music Listening Contest and has received superior ratings in vocal solo at the State level. She is a member of the Minnehaha Madrigal singers and was a lead in this year's Madrigal Dinner production. On Saturday mornings this past year, Cali has also been a St. Paul FSC Learn to Skate volunteer and a substitute teacher.

Following graduation next spring, she would like to attend a liberal arts college on the east coast. Her plans for college include a double major in Linguistics and Physics, a minor in English or Music and eventually she would like to pursue her PhD in one of these areas.

The most important thing skating has taught Cali is perseverance. When an element goes badly, one does it again and doesn't give up until it is done satisfactorily. Elements must be earned, they are not given. It has also taught her patience, acknowledging that a skater will not have a great session every day. Recently through her experience in Learn to Skate, Cali has also learned about the challenges of how to teach. As difficult as it is to learn an element, it is even harder to teach it correctly. But this too can be learned. She is also learning about how to interact as a teacher with a student to give clear and direct instructions. She expects this experience will give her a foundation on which to grow in her own leadership skills for the future.

Cali would first and foremost like to thank her coaches Val Matzke, Kim Cole, Ari Lieb, and Diedre Kellogg as well as her parents for their encouragement, wisdom, support, and patience throughout the years. They have all helped to shape her into the skater that she is today. "Without you guys, I would definitely not be where I am today! I've been blessed to have you all as my mentors through the years!" Cali would also like to thank her first coach, Heather George, for giving her a strong foundation and a deep love for the sport. Finally, Cali would like to thank the St. Paul Figure Skating Club and its skaters for being an anchor for nine years and providing an environment conducive to excellent training.

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR  
2010 U.S. SYNCHRONIZED  
SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Hosted by Twin City Figure  
Skating Association

Mariucci Arena  
University of Minnesota Campus  
March 3-6, 2010

Volunteer Form available at  
[www.tcfsa.org](http://www.tcfsa.org)