

GYMKANA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXXIV

December 2007

Message from Gymkana's Director and Head Coach - Scott Welsh

Happy Holidays! I hope the holiday season finds all of you healthy and happy. I want to start off by thanking all of you for your attendance at last year's Home Show. Your attendance made for yet another amazing experience for all the troupers and coaches alike.

Looking at this year, as the first half of our 2007-2008 season comes to a close we are looking at another strong season for Gymkana. We currently have 60+ members strong and more than half are first-year members. The Troupe was once again very well received at their Maryland Madness performance and also did a spectacular job for the Washington Wizards half-time performance. And now as of the date of this letter we are one week away from Mock Show – December 7th. With such a young Troupe it is exciting to see how they develop after one long semester of practice. Our experienced members are doing a great job of showing the way to the new members. All of our members are really stepping it up as we approach our show season. If the tricks they perform every day are any indication of the excitement of the year, you are sure to be in for a treat at Home Show.

In the area of fundraising, I'm happy to report that the troupers had great success raising funds with their annual Flip-a-thon. They received pledges from friends, relatives and others for a certain amount of money (1 cent, 2 cents, etc.) for each flip

done by the troupers in a ten-minute period. This year they performed 833 flips!!! The event was a great success, with a large audience in attendance. And of course it was a lot of fun.

We are constantly looking for new ways, such as the Flip-a-thon, to raise money, but please know that your support would be invaluable. As always, any donations you give will be completely tax deductible. You can make checks out to: University of Maryland Foundation-Gymkana. Please send all donations to:

Mr. Scott Welsh

Head Coach/Director

**University of Maryland Gymkana Troupe
Room 1120D, Bldg. 225, Valley Drive
College Park, MD 20742**

Thank you.

For any of you that find yourself able to get out to UMD for an evening, we would love to have you drop in for practice starting Wednesday, January 30th. Practice times are as follows:

Monday 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Tuesday 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Wednesday 7:00pm – 10:00pm

Thursday 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Sunday 5:00pm – 7:00pm

I am pleased to say that Josh, Todd, Tiff and Rachel are all back once again this year to coach with me. We are pleased to add Gymkana alumnus Ms. Angie Zavaglia to our staff. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their continued support and for adjusting their personal schedules as much as possible to attend and

coach during our practice times. My heartfelt thanks to all of them.

I also want to thank the School of Public Health for its continued support and dedication to our cause. The Dean, Dr. Robert Gold, and I have been in communication as to how Gymkana can continue to act as a strong outreach program for our college and University. I wish to thank the entire college, the Dean's office staff and everyone here at Maryland for standing behind our tradition.

As for our Spring Season, our schedule is full and you can catch up with us online by viewing pictures, video clips and checking out our upcoming show schedule on www.gymkana.umd.edu.

Home Show this year is scheduled for April 4th and 5th, 2008 at 7:00pm. All of us here hope many of you can come back to see Gymkana's growth and to share some of your own experiences with our current troupers. Feel free to check our website for more detailed info about tickets and such for Home Show as April draws closer.

On a personal note, life is good at the Welsh household. Kate and I got married on May 20th and are now busy with numerous home renovation projects, as we continue to turn our house into our home. In the past year we have started running together, and in October we completed our first half marathon. I was proud to see that numerous Gymkana alumni had done so as well. This has been an extremely eventful 2007 and with Kate by my side I can't wait to kick off 2008

Message from Gymkana's President - Ben Prescott

Dear Alumnus,

This year's Troupe has started the season off strong as we near the end of our Fall semester. First I would like to thank everyone who supported us through our

annual Flip-a-Thon fundraiser! The generous support of our alumni, families, and friends is always greatly appreciated, and I am sure you, as an alumnus of Gymkana, understand how much that support means to us. The Flip-a-Thon featured brand new routines from our ladders, chairs, and dance acts along with a new mixed-quads balancing group. We also bested last year's total flips of 723 with an impressive showing of 833 flips!

Now with successful vaulting performances at Maryland Madness and the halftime show for the Wizards v. Pacers game already behind us, the season seems to be moving along almost too quickly. But we will be ready. We have a large, motivated team this season with a lot of talent and new ideas.

I am excited to see our Troupe come together as we enter another fun-filled Spring show season! Best Wishes and Happy Holidays!

Help Us Market Our Programs

As coaches and troupers we are always looking for ways to get the Gymkana name, and its programs out there, both to get more publicity and as a way of facilitating our fund-raising activities. As alumni, if you have any ideas for ways to increase or improve these efforts, or if you know of an upcoming opportunity that might be of benefit to Gymkana, please contact Scott Welsh via email (swelsh2@umd.edu) or phone (301-405-2566).

2008 Gymkana Saturday Gymnastics Classes

If you know of any boys or girls ages 8 to 16 who are interested in learning gymnastics, Gymkana's Saturday Classes may be perfect for them. The next 8-week program begins March 8th and goes through May 10th. Contact Scott Welsh at 301-405-

2566 for details and registration information.

Summer Camp

If you have or know of any budding troupers, don't forget that Gymkana Summer Camp is the place for them to be. The camp extends the philosophy of Gymkana by providing an opportunity for boys and girls of all abilities to learn gymnastics, while stressing healthy, drug-free living. Our camp provides an environment for children to learn and participate in gymnastics without the pressure of competition. Dates and prices are as follows:

Week 1 June 16 - 20, 2008

Week 2 - June 23 - 27, 2008

Week 3 - June 30 - July 4, 2008

Week 4 - July 7 - 11, 2008

Week 5 - July 14 - 18, 2008

Week 6 - July 21 - 25, 2008

\$215.00 for any one week

\$390.00 for any two weeks

\$580.00 for any three weeks

\$780.00 for any four weeks

\$970.00 for any five weeks

\$1160.00 for six weeks

Best Act and Troupers of 2006-2007

Congratulations to the guys in **Chairs**, winner of the 2006-2007 Best Act Award. They are **Kevin Asonglefac, Dima Lyapustin, Ben Prescott, and Steve Low.**

The 2006-2007 Best Troupers were **Stephanie Ball and Kevin Asonglefac.**

Alumni News?

If you have any news you would like to share with fellow alumni, please email it to tsupple@erols.com. The next newsletter will come out in Feb. or Mar. 2007.

Website Address Change

Please note, as mentioned above, that Gymkana's website has changed to www.gymkana.umd.edu.

2008 Gymkana Road Show Schedule

February 1st

Woodlin Elementary School
2101 Luzerne Ave Silver Spring, MD 20910
Show Times: 9:15AM & 10:45AM

February 8th

Ridgley Middle School
121 Ridgley Rd Lutherville, MD 21093
Show Times: 10:05AM & 12:15PM

February 15th

Cockeysville Middle School
10401 Greenside Dr Cockeysville, MD 21030
Show Times: 12:45PM & 7PM

February 20th

Men's Basketball Game - Vaulting Act Only
UMD Comcast Center Game Time: 7PM
Approximate Show Time: 8:15PM

February 22nd

Windy Hill Middle School
9560 Boyd's Turn Rd Owings, MD 20736
Show Times: 8:30AM & 12:15PM

February 24th

Women's Basketball Game - DMT Act Only
UMD Comcast Center Game Time: 2PM
Approximate Show Time: 3:15PM

February 29th

Barrie School
13500 Layhill Rd Silver Spring, MD 20906
Show Time: 9:30AM

March 5th

Hagerstown Community College
751 Robinwood Dr Hagerstown, MD 21740
Show Time: 7PM

March 14th

Owings Mills High School
124 Tollgate Rd Owings Mills, Maryland 21117
Show Times: 7:50AM & 9:10AM

April 4th & 5th

Home Show
UMD Comcast Center
Show Time: 7PM