Summer 2008
Volume 1, Issue 1

# Yale Ballroom Dance Team

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## In the News

Members of the Ballroom Dance Team achieved success at a number of competitions this year. We attended competitions hosted by UConn, Brown, Tufts, Penn, Harvard, and Yale. Our dancers had multiple top 10 finishes and finals appearances, and our own competition drew over **300** competitors from 25 schools and studios. Notable results can be found on page 3 of this newsletter, and a recap of our competition is on page 5.

This year also saw a surge in interest in the team. We welcomed 40 new members to the team this year and look forward to seeing them develop over the next few years.

On April 19-20, 25 team members traveled to Boston for our final and largest competition of the year, the MIT Open. "Chips and SALSA," a new event to introduce admitted students to the team, took place during Bulldog Days on April 21. We worked hard during the spring semester to prepare our annual show, which took place on April 27. Three group numbers and numerous solos by members of the team were featured on the program.

As the new semester draws near, we bid farewell to new alums '06-'07 Manager Duncan Cheung, '06-'07 Captain and '05-'06 Social Chair Megan Danna, '06-'07 Newbie Captain Yuan Ren, '06-'07 Competition Coordinator Bethany Shady, '07-'08 Competition Coordinator and '06-'07 Vice Captain Caroleen Verly, and graduating senior Yu Xia. We wish them the best wherever their paths may lead them, and we can't wait to hear about their future successes!

Finally, we would like to announce the Executive Committee for 2008-2009. Caroleen Verly and Captain Bill Schmidt will be back as Competition Coordinators, and Yuen-Jong Liu will continue as Webmaster and Competition Coordinator. Juliet Buesing and Jessica Letchford will step up as Co-Captains with Cecelia Chen as Vice Captain. Social chair Kiet Lam and partner Jie Zhang join as Newbie Captains, and Max Fang and partner Rachel Lee will be Team Manager and Show Coordinator respectively. Joining them will be Publicity Chair Amy Liao, Social Chair Stephanie Goldfarb, and Historian Aurora Lachenauer.

It has been a great year for YBDT, and we are already looking forward to next year. Stay tuned for

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## The Team would like to thank…

Our wonderful coaches Wendi Davies, Jennifer McCalla, Karen Pfrommer, Alex Scott, Mariusz Zakrzewski, Gabi Takacs, and Oksana Zolotarevskaya

Yale University Club Sports for their continued support and funding

The Payne-Whitney Gymnasium and Yale Medical School for the gracious use of facilities

The New Haven public school system and Wilbur Cross High School for providing a venue for our competition

Berkeley, Pierson, and Trumbull Colleges for their continued support of the team

And finally, our alumni donors and our sponsor PNTS for their contributions.

# Letter from the Captain

Dear Ballroom Dancers,

Welcome to the first forum to connect current members of the Yale Ballroom Dance Team, former ballroom dancers, and all other aficionados of YBDT! Especially for those of you who are unable to tango or cha-cha with us right now, we hope this newsletter helps you feel a little closer to the dance floor.

This year has provided an outstanding opportunity for the YBDT to grow. We benefited from recruiting a large and lively group of first-year dancers. Under the tutelage of Justin Wright, our newbie captain, they have all learned their ballroom basics and have become a force to be reckoned with at competitions. Most importantly, their class has reminded us all how much fun dancing can be.

With the help of this fresh blood, the YBDT has had the ability to undertake many new initiatives and expand old ones. This newsletter is only one such example. In addition, we have sent dancers to teach ballroom at local elementary schools and have even sent some dancers to teach at other colleges.

We have also taken many steps to encourage the team to take advantage of all the resources the YBDT has to offer. We recruited several more coaches to instruct regularly in a variety of dance styles. We have been fortunate to continue our relationship with Wendi Davies and Alex Scott, as well as build new ones with Jennifer McCalla and Mariusz Zakrzewski. Our other coaching staff from this semester included Gabi Takacs, Oksana Zolotarevskaya, and Karen Pfrommer, our new club coach. In order for our dancers to benefit from this coaching, we strove to increase the financial accessibility and frequency of private coaching. In addition to these professional coaches, the many gifted returning dancers on the team have also generously shared their knowledge and helped to make everyone on the team better dancers.

The success of our competition this year provided us with the resources necessary to expand. We were fortunate to secure a beautiful competition space at Wilbur Cross High School. The space obviously served us well, because we received rave reviews from competitors and judges not only on the efficiency of the competition but also on its atmosphere. Having finally discovered a fitting arena with two dance floors to hold our competition this year, we hope to continue to grow our competition even further in the years to come.

The Yale Competition provided an early opportunity for the dancers on our team to win over the judges, and the ribbons have not stopped coming. This newsletter includes additional information about the many accolades won by our dancers this year.

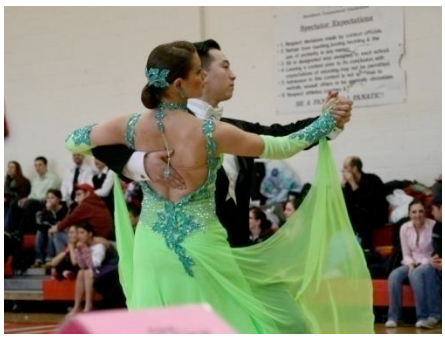
Of course, there have been opportunities for dancers to showcase their performance besides competitions. In our annual spring show, held at the end of the school year, many dancers took the floor for individual and formation routines. Our show's theme incorporated the technology of YouTube with the traditions of ballroom dance. The audience loved it, and if you are interested, you can watch many of the numbers online!

All of these events have helped us bond as a team. We have enjoyed spending time together during social activities and have all developed friendships that extend beyond the ballroom.

A new Executive Committee will assume the responsibility for all these activities when the next year begins. They are an enthusiastic and professional group, so expect to hear about all their accomplishments soon.

As always, we hope to hear from you and invite you to come dance with us!

Happy Dancing,
Bill Schmidt, JE '09
Captain of the Yale Ballroom Dance Team



# Notes from ExComm

The team would like to thank this year's Executive Committee for their hard work and dedication to the team. In addition to running a highly successful competition at new venues, they secured new Latin coaching for the upcoming year.

The 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 ExComms met to discuss goals for next year. Our plans include:

- More social dancing opportunities to bring together new and returning members, and club and team members
- Developing and taping standardized routines for competitions
- More frequent coaching

*2007-2008 (Standing) & 2008-2009 (Seated) Executive Committees*

- A big sib/little sib program for more advanced dancers to mentor newcomers
- Vice captains system to improve support for new silver level dancers

# Notable Results

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Int - International | T - Tango | V - Viennese Waltz | S - Samba | Sw - Swing |
| Am - American | F - Foxtrot | C - Cha Cha | J - Jive | M - Mambo |
| W - Waltz | Q - Quickstep | R - Rumba | P - Paso Doble | B - Bolero |

**UConn Ballroom Dance Competition**

- *Jacob Levine & Cassandra Kildow*
  6th Newcomer Int Tango
- *Sze Ho Wong & Kristen* Ng
  6th Newcomer Am Swing
- *Colin Adamo & Amandla Ooko-Ombaka*
  2nd Bronze Int Jive
  3rd Bronze Int Rumba
  4th Bronze Int Cha
- *Kiet Lam & Jie Zhang*
  2nd Bronze Am Cha, Am Swing
  3rd Bronze Int Cha, Am Rumba
  4th Bronze Int Rumba
  7th Bronze Int Jive
  Semi Bronze Int Quickstep, Silver Am Mambo
- *Scott Snyder & Jessica Jeffers*
  3rd Bronze Int Jive

**UPenn Clover Star Classic**

- *Kirk Portas & Qi Zheng*
  1st Bronze Int Waltz
  2nd Bronze Int Quickstep
  3rd Bronze Int T/F

**Tufts Ballroom Dance Competition**

- *Ho Ming Chiu & Betty Li*
  7th Bronze Int Waltz
- *Kiet Lam & Jie Zhang*
  1st Bronze Int Rumba, Int Cha, Am Rumba, Am Cha, Am Swing
  3rd Bronze Int Jive
  7th Bronze Am Foxtrot
  8th Bronze Am Waltz

**Boston University Terrier Dancesport Competition**

- *Jeffrey Hartsough & Juliet Buesing*
  Semi Newcomer Int Tango

**Yale Ballroom Dance Competition**

- *Max Fang & Rachel Lee*
  6th Newcomer Am Foxtrot
  Semi Newcomer Int Tango, Int Waltz, Am Waltz
- *Jacob Levine & Cassandra Kildow*
  5th Newcomer Am Cha
- *Sze Ho Wong & Lin Fang*
  4th Newcomer Am Swing
- *Kirk Portas & Cecelia Chen*
  4th Bronze Int Tango
- *Justin Wright & Mosi Li*
  3rd Bronze Int Cha
  6th Bronze Int Rumba
- *Justin Wright & Laura Sue*
  2nd Bronze Int Waltz
- *Kiet Lam & Jie Zhang*
  4th Silver Am Sw/M, Int C/R
  7th Bronze Int Waltz
- *Steven Gu & Qi Zheng*
  7th Silver Int C/R
- *Yuen-Jong Liu & Tracey Friss*
  1st Silver Am W/T, Am F/V
- *Yuen-Jong Liu & Coeurlida Louis-Ashby*
  *7th Gold Int C/S/R/J*
- *Eric Centola & Caroleen Verly*
  2nd Gold Am W/T/F/V
  5th Gold Int W/T/F/Q

Please see more *Results* on page 4

# The Yale Ballroom Dance Competition

The 16th Annual Yale Ballroom Dance Competition took place on February 2, 2008 at Wilbur Cross High School. Please see the recap on page 4.

The Sixteenth Annual Yale Ballroom Dance Competition took place on Saturday, February 2, 2008. Some of the best collegiate and amateur dancers in the country convened at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, CT to compete in all 19 dances across five divisions from Newcomer to Open. The competition drew over 200 couples from 25 schools and studios.

Despite the huge commitment of staffing the competition, our team still managed to take home over a dozen ribbons. The event was entirely staffed and run by Yale students, and our hard work and dedication drew the praise of many. "It was the most well-run competition I have ever seen!" said one competitor. In particular, Competition Coordinators Caroleen Verly, Yuen-Jong Liu, and Bill Schmidt worked tirelessly to make the competition as smooth and flawless as possible. Competitors commented that "everything was well-organized" and "there was no confusion, delays, or rush anywhere."

### *Results* from page 3

**Harvard Invitational**

- *Kiet Lam & Jie Zhang*
  3rd Silver Am Swing
  4th Silver Am C/R
  Semi Silver Int C/R, Int S/J
- *Yuen-Jong Liu & Eileen Depakakibo*
  5th Gold Int Paso Doble
- *Yuen Jong-Liu & Theresa Vallese*
  Semi Gold Int W/Q, Int Viennese Waltz

**MIT Open**

- *Kiet Lam & Jie Zhang*
  5th Gold Am Mambo, Silver Am C/R,
  6th Silver Am Bolero
  7th Silver Int C/R, Int Samba, Am Mambo
  8th Gold Am Bolero

**Manhattan Amateur Classic**

- *Kirk Portas & Qi Zheng*
  6th Adult Bronze Standard, Adult Bronze Latin
- *David Wright & Liva Andrejeva*
  2nd Senior 1 Champ Standard

**La Classique du Québec**

- *David Wright & Liva Andrejeva*
  4th ISDF Open Senior 1 Champ Standard

**USA Dance National Dancesport Championships**

- *David Wright & Liva Andrejeva*
  2nd Senior 1 Champ Standard

Thanks to the success and overwhelmingly positive feedback from this year's competition, we will be expanding next year's competition to two days. Our seventeenth competition will take place on December 6 and 7, 2008, again at Wilbur Cross High School. All three of our Coordinators will be back next year, and we are confident that this next event will be the best yet!

*Yale team members in the Open Standard Final of the Sixteenth Annual Yale Competition*

*From left: Yuan Ren, Yana Asenova, Reeves Anderson, Brooke Anderson, Liva Andrejeva, and David Wright*

# Ballroom in the Community

Every Monday afternoon, Bill Schmidt and Juliet Buesing have been visiting the students of St. Martin's Academy in New Haven. As part of Ballroom Outreach, the service arm of YBDT, Juliet and Bill teach ballroom dancing classes to middle school students. For more information about Ballroom Outreach, contact jong@yaleballroom.org.

# YouDance: Spring Show 2008

The YBDT annual show that took place April 27 featured eleven fantastic numbers. First-years, alumni, veterans, and guest performers alike wowed the audience. The theme was YouDance, a spin-off of the YouTube website in which so many of us lose ourselves when we should be studying. Each of the eleven numbers had a corresponding YouTube clip inspiration, which was projected onto the wall before each number. The YouTube-format program perfectly brought together these ideas.

Jong and Caroleen kicked off the evening with a waltz on Aladdin, and the newbie class spiced things up with a salsa number. Newcomers Max and Rachel danced a beautiful waltz, "It Is You I Have Loved." They were followed by LK and Bethany in a hot cha-cha on Chayenne's "Boom-Boom" and the Yale Belly Dance Society's DDR-inspired guest number.

Ifigenia and Yu performed for halftime, a sultry cha-cha on James Blunt's "You Are Beautiful." Alumni Davis and Ting-Ting came back to share an incredible Café Noir cha-cha with us, and Laura and Ho-Ming danced a waltz inspired by *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. After a guest performance by the Yale Irish Dancers, seven silver couples danced a Viennese Waltz on the *Harry Potter* theme. The grand finale was a jive on Elvis' "Jailhouse Rock" by alum Howard Wang and his partner from NYC.

Videos are available at http://yaleballroom.org. Enjoy!

# Congratulations, Class of 2008!!!

Duncan Cheung (FES '08) and Sayaka Ogata (YSN) will be splitting their time between New Haven and NYC. Duncan will be working for a sustainability management consulting firm, helping big companies go green and green companies grow big. In his time off, he will be playing Wii with Sayaka's parents. He also plans to drive Chinatown buses and work under the table in dim sum restaurants if NYC rent goes up any further. Sayaka started to embrace her Japanezitity recently by learning how to put on make up. She will continue to practice as a nurse practitioner in New Haven and will be precepting and teaching at Yale School of Nursing in the fall. Dunyaka plan to continue ballroom dancing indefinitely and adopt a cream-colored cat in the near future.

*Dance is life at its most sensational moment*

Bethany Shady (JE '08) will be working in San Francisco next year at Analysis Group, an economic consulting firm. She will be living near Stanford in Palo Alto with her boyfriend, who is attending law school there. She hopes to get involved with the Stanford ballroom dance team if they have weekend or late night practices. In a few years, she plans to move to the D.C. area. She will really miss her friends from YBDT! Dancing has been an incredibly rewarding part of her time at Yale.

"I will be moving to the DC area to work at the National Cancer Institute. During my two years at Yale, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know and dancing with the lovely dancers on the YBDT. I hope everyone keeps dancing, and I will try to keep dancing too!
-- Laura Sue,
EPH '08

# Spotlight on: David & Liva

David Wright and Liva Andrejeva had a very illustrious year. They did well at many high profile competitions (see *Results* on pg. 2), including a second at the USA Dance National Championships. We can't wait to see David and Liva repeat (or improve upon) this year's Nationals finish next year, which would qualify them for Worlds! They attended Blackpool in May and plan to compete in several other major international events. David and Liva have been a real inspiration to the team with their beautiful dancing, wonderful personalities, and willingness to help. Congratulations, David and Liva, and best wishes for even greater future successes!

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# Letter from the Publicity Chair

Dear Dancers,

I am excited to present you the first installment of the new Yale Ballroom Dance Team newsletter! It has been an incredible year of dance with YBDT, and we really appreciate this opportunity to show you a little bit of what we have been working on.

First of all, we would like to give our thanks for the support we have received from our family, friends, coaches, and the community. We are working hard to make next season even more successful than the last. This includes many exciting new plans for revamping our annual competition, community outreach, events for newcomers and veterans alike, better resources for competitions, and this semiannual newsletter to keep everyone updated on our progress.

Currently, we are already in the process of planning Icebreaker, our annual fall recruitment event during "Camp Yale," and preparation is also well under way for our annual competition, slated to take place at

Wilbur Cross High School on December 6-7, 2009.

As you may know, team dues do not begin to cover all of our expenses. Your tax-deductible donation helps cover our top-notch coaching, private lesson subsidies, competition fees, transportation, and dance space. New for this year, we are unveiling sponsorship levels, each of which will come with a token of our appreciation, including acknowledgement in our newsletter and competition program, website ads, program ads, or events sponsored in your name.

We are hoping to secure a future that will allow the team to prosper for many years to come. Thank you for your support. I am excited to see what next year will bring, and I hope you are as well!

Warmest wishes,
Amy Liao, DC '11
Publicity Chair of the Yale Ballroom Dance Team

## Dear Alumni,

We would love to hear from you! If you would like to be sent the semiannual newsletter and informed of alumni events, please email Webmaster Yuen-Jong Liu at jong@yaleballroom.org with your contact information to be added to the mailing list. If you would like to be included in the "Alumni Corner" of the next newsletter, please send our Publicity Chair Amy Liao (amy.liao@yale.edu) a short blurb about what has been happening in your life recently, including weddings, births, new homes, new jobs, and, of course, any dancing! We would also like to see any pictures you have of your time with the team or any recent pictures of you dancing, and we would love to hear about any of your fond memories of your time on the team. This will be a great way to reconnect with old friends, so please take a moment to help us out!

## I would like to help support the Yale Ballroom Dance Team!

Enclosed is a donation of:

[ ] $25 - Friend
[ ] $50 - Bronze
[ ] $100 - Silver
[ ] $200 - Gold
[ ] $500 - Championship
[ ] Other: $ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Email: _____

[ ] I would like to receive next year's newsletters in print at the address above
[ ] I am an alumni, and I have also enclosed a short statement to be included in next issue's "Alumni Corner"

Please make all checks payable to "University Ballroom Dance." Tax-deductible donations should be payable to "Yale University - Ballroom Dance Team." Please mail donations to Publicity Chair Amy Liao at *P.O. Box 202056, New Haven, CT 06520*. Contact Amy Liao at amy.liao@yale.edu or 717-439-1243 if you have any questions, or if you would like to donate shoes, costumes, or practice skirts. Thank you!

# Alumni Corner

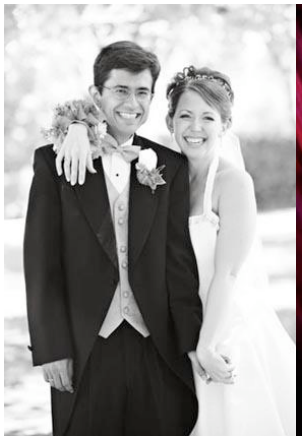
"Ben [Ben Lin, ES '03] and I met on the ballroom dance team at Yale in 2000 and have been dancing together since 2005. We compete International Standard at the Champ level. Currently, we're both in grad school in Northern CA."

-- Jennifer Wong, MC '04

Sarah Nyante (TD '01) is a PhD student studying epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Anne Remsen (JE '00) got married last year to a Brazilian Googler and social dancer (Heraldo Botelho) and changed her name to Anna Botelho. She was teaching ballroom dance full time in the San Francisco Bay Area, competing pro/am with her students in all four divisions, and competing pro Latin. She is now working at a solar installation company (trying to keep the world a little cooler), but is still dancing for fun (and competing) with her pro partner in American Rhythm.

Denise Ho (BR '00) is currently in her fifth year of a PhD program in Chinese history at Harvard. Last year she was in China on a Fulbright at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. Not too much dancing there, but she did try ballroom with the retired neighbors of a Chinese colleague, and swing dancing at the Shanghai Jazz Festival and at sunset on the Bund. Now in Boston lecturing in the MIT history department, she fakes her way through Lindy Hop every now and then...but mostly is looking forward to Cambridge in summer and finally getting to work on her dissertation.



Anne Remsen (Botelho)

Jennifer Wong and Ben Lin

Adrienne Proverb and Matt Hale

"Jade Sung (BK '97) and I have been together for about 11.5 years now, since we met on the YBDT! She was the captain, and I was a newbie. We started flirting at the Yale Invitational Tournament in December 1996, soon starting dancing together, and the rest is history. We've been married for six years, and we just had our first son, Kai, in January. Jade is an Emergency Medicine physician in a local hospital ED, and I left a career in software development to go to medical school too. I'm now in my second year, and will take some time off this year to care for our son."

-- Cody Forbach, SM '98

"After graduating in '00 I moved out to California, where I danced with the Stanford team and took lessons from various pros, including from time to time, none other than Wendi Davies. In my spare time I also worked as a paralegal at two Silicon Valley law firms. Right now I'm at law school in D.C., very much missing my ballroom days. But at least I have bragging rights that Jonathan Roberts and Anna Trebunskaya (DWTS) taught out of the studio I took lessons from in California. I also get to brag that I have seen Anne Botelho (formerly Remsen) compete with her students in pro-am competitions – what a polished professional!

Interestingly, I SEEM to have a knack for bumping into YBDT alums in random places. Just this past month at the Cherry Blossom festival I ran into Anthony Mucchetti. A few years earlier, Leslie Meenderink and Dan Gochberg spotted me at Old Faithful at Yellowstone National Park. And I was thrilled to witness David Wright & Liva Andrejeva's graceful performance at Nationals a few years ago. I can't wait to see who I bump into next!

In other news, one of the highlights of my recent ballroom experiences is that my Dad and stepmom began ballroom dancing soon after I graduated from college – and I am proud to say that, having danced with my Dad at several parties, he's exceptionally proficient! Who knew? And finally, my most important news is that Matt Hale (SM '00) and I are engaged. We haven't set a date yet, but we're very excited.

I have to say that I'm so delighted to see this newsletter is happening – great job, YBDT! Everyone receiving this letter should also join our Facebook group for YBDT alums."

-- Adrienne Proverb (ES '00)

"In my life lately... I am still teaching Math in "inner city" Brooklyn (my 4th year on the job), but only part-time this year in order to spend more time... dancing! I was thinking about getting a professional partner, actually, but that didn't work out. I was also teaching dance for a while, but that conflicted too much with my practice schedule. Howard and I are still dancing together, and recently got 2nd in Nationals in Pre-champ latin (Davis and his partner, Loriella Palatnik, got 3rd). It was a tough field of almost 30 couples from across the country, so that was really good for us. We've also been doing champ, somewhat less successfully! (although we did make it to the finals at Harvard) So basically, I'm still as obsessed as ever. My hair is currently red and my skin is finally losing its lovely fake-tan orange tone... And, for those of the alums who might have known my older brother Noah (MC '01 -- but not a ballroom dancer), he's about to make me an aunt!
In more dance-related news, I got to see Aggy (=Aigerim Djamanakova) and Jojo (=Joanna Wu) as well as Roger "5 dolla" Ho (briefly) at Nationals, and ran in to Toby Mulhofer, who was on the team when ***I*** was a freshman back in the day. We also got to see David and Liva dance. They made it to the quarter finals in Champ Standard and got 2nd place in Senior I. Go David and Liva! But y'all probably know all of that."

-- Lily Kolman, TC'04

Anne Remsen (Botelho)

"Nothing is new. I am still here in Japan. No. I am not interested in Japanese girls. But because of specific work-related reasons, I will probably be here for another few more years. Come to Tokyo to visit me when you get the chance to."

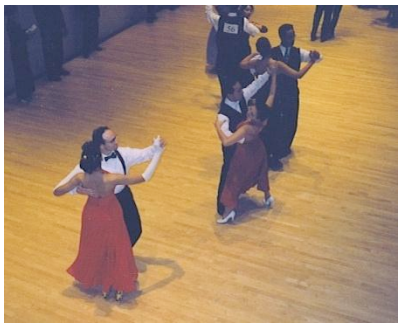
--Kevin Lam, SM '06

"Last year I assisted the coach for the Case Western Reserve ballroom dance team in teaching and preparing students for the Ohio Star Ball and the Pittsburg DanceSport Championships. After such a rewarding experience, I decided to become a ballroom dance instructor! Now I am teaching at a brand new luxurious studio in Cleveland, OH, called Let's Dance Cleveland (www.letsdancecleveland.com)! I teach group and private lessons in all the ballroom dances. It's so much fun!"

--Darschelle Lawler, SY '99

"I was a member of YBDT from 1997-1998, and graduated Yale in 2000. I've been married for three years and my husband and I live in New York City. I work as an attorney for a big law firm. I have not danced ballroom in a long time, but I have fond memories of my time in the YBDT. My favorite memories include going to Cape Cod for a weekend ballroom dance camp, and going to all of the competitions. I keep in touch with Denise Ho, a good friend of mine who was the one who convinced me to try ballroom."

-- Yani (JE 00), JE '00


Dan and Darschelle

"As for me, I live in New York and work at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center as a strategic analyst. I go to a dance school called Kaiser Dance Club in Brooklyn. It's home to Eugene and Maria and the pedigree of youth champions they've produced. Recently, my partner, Loriella Palatnik, and I placed 3rd at Nationals, which was an awesome result for us, so my dancing is going well for now. It's a great feeling because after coming to New York almost 2 years ago, I had a lot of confusion over my dancing and how to manage it, and went through a long competitive season of falling behind and disappointing results in my previous partnership. It was basically a year ago that I decided that I really wanted to be good at dancing and that I'd make sacrifices and do what is not easy (such as a 1hr 20 min commute each way every day) and define myself as a dancer - I only had so many years to be young and possibly good at dancing, so I decided I was not going to dilly-dally anymore, and that it was time for the real thing."

--David Yang, MC '04

Wei, Cherry, Darschelle, & Yalie. MIT Open '98

"I took up ballroom dancing again in Spring 2002 when I joined the Tufts ballroom dance team. I competed as a bronze latin dancer, then I moved out to UCal-Berkeley for grad school. I was quite active on Berkeley's team for 3 years. I co-taught the team's bronze dancesport class in 2004-2005. I eventually stopped ballroom dancing to focus more on grad school. These days I'm into salsa dancing (socially)."

--David Rosenberg, BR '00

"I wouldn't have followed a path in ballroom if the YBDT hadn't been so much fun. There are lots of snotty ballroom dancers out there, and I appreciate that such personalities as Ben ("Paso"), Tomas, Jessica, and Eric keep the dancing fun and irreverent. Double decker cha cha? Only topped by the time Jimmy and I switched costumes for our recall on an American V. Waltz semi final at the MIT comp. I donned his tux and he put on my green gown for the last round that we would dance as undergrads. We didn't make the final, but we did start a wave."

--Anne Remsen, JE '00

## Fond Memories…

"I remember the fun road trips to MIT and Harvard competitions, the glittering ball gowns, stopping at Burger King on the way back to Yale in the dark. I remember watching Strictly Ballroom and Dance With Me with fellow Yale Ballroom dance team members in the Saybrook TV room. I remember our coach Alex Scott working hard with us to prepare us for various competitions throughout the year in Payne Whitney Gym. I remember our cabaret shows Ballroom Cafe...a la mode and Ballroom International. I have so many fond memories, I'm sure they'd take up the entire newsletter!"

--Darschelle Lawler, SY '99

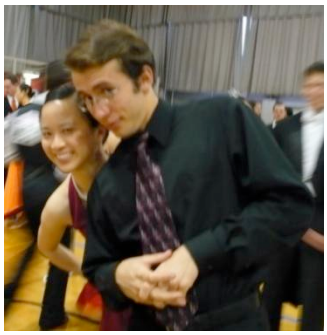
Darschelle at Nationals '98

"Some favorite YBDT memories for those who might remember...

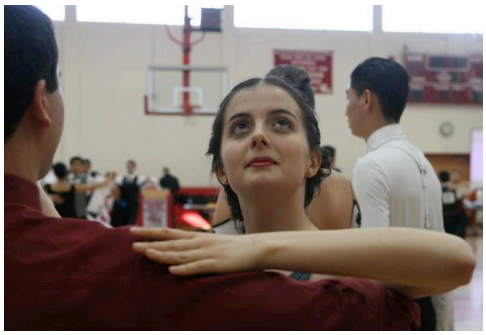
- Traveling across the east coast with Benjamin Lin, Matt Garrett, and Davis to various competitions my freshman year and watching them order approximately 4 pounds of steak, collectively, the night before a competition. Davis's steak was wrapped in bacon. I had a salad.
- A photoshoot at Tristate challenge with Aggy, Joanna, and Melissa. We looked FABULOUS. And then we went and tried on latin dresses we had no intention of buying. Joanna looked super hot in this purple one, but she didn't buy it :<
- Harvard beginners in 2003. Aggy was gorgeous already. Jojo and Brandy looked great in swing. Howard was HORRIBLE. Davis and I were so proud. :>
- Tabu with Dr. Dan and Leslie. Also Leslie dancing Latin with me and making me a gold Latin dress in my man-less days. Three cheers for ladies who lead!"

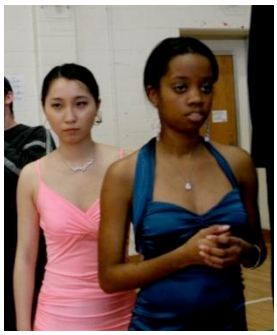
--Lily Kolman, TC '04

## Then and Now, YBDT in Photos


Laura Sue & Justin Wright

Lily Chen, Betty Li, Amy Zhu


Jacob Levine & Cassandra Kildow


Lin Fang & Nnenna Odeluga

Laura Sue & Ho-Ming Chiu

Catherine Leech

Dan and Darschelle

Yelin Qiu & Amy Liao

Sayaka Ogata

Adrienne Proverb & Adam Cunha at a competition in San Francisco

Kiet Lam & Jie Zhang

Qi Zheng & Kirk Portas

Rachel Lee & Max Fang

Mosi Li & Justin Wright

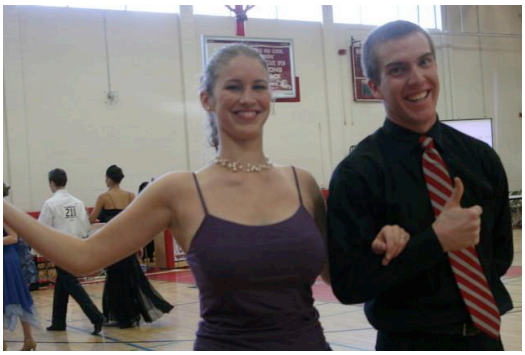
Spring Show 2008

Yuen-Jong Liu & Caroleen Verly

Cecelia Chen & Bill Schmidt

Sam Gensburg & Kelly Kim

Eric Portales & Betty Li


Jessica Letchford & Jeff Hartsough