

Dances With Owls 2014

Eligibility

Amateur - Amateur Events are open to all amateur dancers. There are no age group distinctions (youth, collegiate, and adult amateur dancers all compete in the same events).

Mixed Proficiency Events will be available at the **Newcomer level only**. A more advanced amateur or professional can partner with a newcomer dancer in specific events, and only the newcomer dancer will be judged.

Formation Teams must consist of amateur members only. Please email Nicole Moes (ncm2@rice.edu) if you would like to enter your team in the competition.

Master's Workshop / Welcome Dance

There will be a welcome dance social on Friday, November 14 at 7:00. Admission is \$10 for adults (\$5 with a student ID), and includes a master class taught by Paul Richardson.

Fees and Registration

Competition: November 15

Competitor Type ¹	Online Registration Fee	At Door Registration Fee
Student	\$30	\$40
Non-student Adult	\$40	\$50

The competition fee covers participation in all competition events. Online registration will close at 11:59PM Saturday, November 8, 2014.

Master Class / Welcome Dance: November 14

Attendee Type	Fee
Student	\$5
Non-student	\$10

For both the competition and the social/master class, **students must present valid student ID at the door** to receive the student rate. This applies as well to competitors registering online: each is expected to bring their student ID at the day of the event.

Only cash will be accepted at the dance social and competition. No credit cards or personal checks will be accepted. However, withdrawals can be made at the Chase ATM in front of the event venue.

Number Deposit: Leaders must deposit a valid ID in order to pick up their number, and it may be retrieved upon return of the number.

¹ Members of the Rice Ballroom Team are exempt from the online registration fee, but must pay \$10 to register at the door.

Location

All events will take place in the Grand Hall of the Rice Memorial Center (also known as the Ley Student Center). For directions to the venue, refer to <http://studentcenter.rice.edu/>

Schedule

This schedule is tentative and subject to change. All times are approximate. Events may run earlier or later than the tentative schedule. Events will not be delayed if the competition runs ahead of schedule. Competitors should be ready to dance 30 minutes before their event, and must be registered before they compete. A more detailed schedule of heats will be posted the day of the event.

FRIDAY, November 14

7:00 – 10:30 PM	Master Workshop / Welcome Dance
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SATURDAY, November 15

8:15 AM – 8:45 AM	Check in and on-site registration
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8:15 AM – 9:00 AM	Warm Up
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9:00 AM – 1:30 PM	Session One
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Country Western Events
American Smooth Events
International Standard Events
Awards from Session One

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Break (lunch) and General Dancing
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2:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Session Two
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American Rhythm Events
International Latin Events
Social Dance Events

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Formation Teams Performances Team match
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Awards from Session Two

Competition Events

Participants in each event will dance simultaneously to music selected by the DJ. If there is only one couple registered for an event, it may be run simultaneously with another event. Unless there is only one pair of competitors in an event that cannot be run simultaneously with another event, there will be no events requiring solo exhibitions.

There are six dance categories: Country Western, American Smooth, International Standard, American Rhythm, International Latin, and Social Dances. The specific dances in each category and proficiency level are included below, followed by a key for the dance abbreviations.

Style	Level	Dances	Category Type
Country Western	Beginner	CHA W 2S ECS PK	single dance
	Intermediate/Advanced	CHA W 2S ECS PK	single dance
American Smooth	Newcomer	W T FT	single dance
	Newcomer Mixed Proficiency	W T FT	single dance
	Bronze	W T FT VW	single dance
	Silver	W T FT VW	single dance
	Gold	W T FT VW	multidance
	Open	W T FT VW	multidance
International Standard	Newcomer	W T	single dance
	Newcomer Mixed Proficiency	W T	single dance
	Bronze	W T VW FT QS	single dance
	Silver	W T VW FT QS	single dance
	Gold	W T VW FT QS	multidance
	Open	W T VW FT QS	multidance
American Rhythm	Newcomer	CHA R ECS	single dance
	Newcomer Mixed Proficiency	CHA R ECS	single dance
	Bronze	CHA R ECS B M	single dance
	Silver	CHA R ECS B M	single dance
	Gold	CHA R ECS B M	multidance
	Open	CHA R ECS B M	multidance
International Latin	Newcomer	CHA R J	single dance
	Newcomer Mixed Proficiency	CHA R J	single dance
	Bronze	CHA R J SA P J	single dance
	Silver	CHA R J SA P J	single dance
	Gold	CHA R J SA P J	multidance
	Open	CHA R J SA P J	multidance
Social Dances	Beginner	ME BA AT S H WCS	single dance
	Intermediate/Advanced	ME BA AT S H WCS	single dance

Abbreviation	Dance	Abbreviation	Dance
2S	Two Step	ME	Merengue
AT	Argentine Tango	P	Paso Doble
B	Bolero	QS	Quickstep
BA	Bachata	R	Rumba
CHA	Cha-cha	S	Salsa
ECS	East Coast Swing	SA	Samba
FT	Foxtrot	T	Tango
H	Hustle	VW	Viennese Waltz
J	Jive	W	Waltz
M	Mambo	WCS	West Coast Swing

Proficiency Levels

Competitors may dance in two consecutive proficiency levels for the same event. Acceptable combinations of levels are:

- Newcomer and Bronze
- Newcomer Mixed Proficiency and Bronze (for the less advanced dancer)
- Bronze and Silver
- Silver and Gold
- Gold and Open

Newcomer: To be eligible to compete in a Newcomer division, both partners must have started dancing ballroom no earlier than **January 1, 2014**. Additionally, if one or both partners placed in the top 6 of Newcomer division in a different competition, it automatically disqualifies them from entering the Newcomer division again; they must enter Bronze division or higher.

Mixed Proficiency: Mixed-proficiency events will be judged separately. The less experienced dancer will be judged, and he or she may **not** enter both the Newcomer Mixed Proficiency events and regular Newcomer events. This does **not** apply to the more experienced partner who may dance in two consecutive proficiency levels independent of the Mixed Proficiency entries. For example, a competitor may dance in Gold, Open, and as a more experienced dancer in Newcomer Mixed Proficiency within the International Latin style.

NOTE: To create a fun and competitive environment, we ask that if you have consistently placed in the top three couples of an event, please dance in the next higher level for that event. To facilitate this, any couple who has previously placed in the top 3 couples in a Bronze event at DWO may not compete in that dance in the same level this year. This applies only if the event was not a straight final, i.e. if there were multiple rounds of the event. For example, if a dancer competed in Bronze Standard at DWO in 2013 and placed first in Waltz, fifth in Tango, third in Viennese Waltz, fourth in Foxtrot, and fifth in Quickstep, he or she may not register for Bronze Standard Waltz or Viennese Waltz this year. The dancer would still be eligible to register and compete in Bronze Tango, Foxtrot and Quickstep.

Competitors who have accumulated proficiency points on the USABDA, Collegiate, or NDCA circuits are requested to abide by those categories. By registering for the competition all competitors certify that they are eligible to compete in their chosen events.

Formation Team Rules and Regulations

Registration Regulations

Teams must pre-register, please contact Nicole Moes (ncm2@rice.edu) to do so. Teams must be amateur-only in order to compete. Dancers on the team must all be registered for the competition in general, even if they are not competing in any other single-dance or multi-dance event. Each team must have a minimum of four couples on the floor in order to compete.

Performance Regulations

Teams may perform a maximum of two routines. Music and routine may not exceed 5 minutes in length. The length of music and routine must be specified at registration, as well as the style(s) of dance to be incorporated into the routine.

Currently, all formations will be judged together. There is no division between Smooth/Standard and Rhythm/Latin.

Props are not permitted; costumes are highly recommended.

Music Regulations

The team captain or coach must provide the DJ with music for the routine by 10AM on Nov. 15 and make sure that it works with our speaker system. Music may be provided in the form of a flash-drive, iPhone, iPod, or laptop. Team captains/coaches are responsible for ensuring that the DJ has the music at the time of the performance and for having someone present during the performance to tell the DJ when to press play.

General Rules

Costumes

No costumes are permitted at the Newcomer level. Costumes are permitted for other levels (see Dress Code section for more information).

Lifts

No lifts will be allowed at any level. Competitors must keep one foot on the ground at all times.

Dips and Drops

Dips are permitted only at the Open level. Drops are not allowed at any level.

Props

Props are not permitted. Exceptions: Formation teams, country western (hats only, Bronze level and above)

Awards

Ribbons will be distributed as listed below:

Dance Category	Ribbons Distributed
All Single Dances	Top 6 couples per dance
Newcomer Mixed Proficiency	Top 6 Newcomers per dance
Gold and Championship Multidances	Top 6 couples overall

Syllabus Steps

All single dance categories and the Gold multidance category will be closed syllabus events. There will be an invigilator to enforce this rule. Any steps from a nationally recognized syllabus (ISTD, NDCA, DVIDA) will be accepted. In a given level, competitors may dance syllabus steps from lower levels; however, they may not dance steps from a higher level syllabus. For example Silver steps are not allowed in the Bronze level. Only closed Bronze steps are allowed at both the Newcomer and Bronze levels. **Dancing higher level steps than the category allows may result in disqualification from the event/competition.**

Dress Code

Costumes are not permitted at the Newcomer level, and they are not required for any level. Jeans are not considered proper attire (except for Country Western events), but will not be a reason for disqualification.

Suggested Attire for Competitors without Costumes

International Standard Events:

Leads: Dark slacks and white button up collared shirt, optional tie and vest.

Follows: Leotards with wrap skirts, cocktail dresses, long full skirts, jewelry is optional

International Latin Events:

Leads: Dark slacks, black or white collared shirt, black T shirt with no logos or black turtleneck

Follows: Similar to Standard dress code. Shorter skirts or dresses are acceptable.

Team Match

The team match will consist of Cha Cha, Slow Waltz, Tango, and Swing. On the day of the event, each college will sign up four couples, one per dance. There are no proficiency levels within the team match, so colleges will select their best couple for each dance. The couples will compete against one another, get ranked, and the college with the aggregate highest score will be crowned the champion.

Miscellaneous

Liability

All competitors compete at their own risk. Rice University and the Rice Ballroom Team cannot accept liability for any injuries sustained by persons attending this competition. Rice University

and the Rice Ballroom Team are also not responsible for any theft of articles left in the competition venue

Campus Map and Parking

Paid parking is available in the Central Campus Garage and West Lot 1 (see campus map: <http://www.rice.edu/maps/>). Do not park on the Inner Loop road.

Accommodations

We are now able to offer some overnight accommodations. Collegiate competitors seeking accommodations should contact Nicole Moes as soon as possible, as space is available on a first come first serve basis.

Contact

For competition questions, comments, and concerns, please contact the competition coordinator:
Nicole Moes (ncm2@rice.edu)