

Ashley Ohlschlager

Our newest member of the VJSHOF was born with a passion for dance: both of her parents were accomplished competitive ballroom dancers. She grew up immersed in the dance world, spending her summers in her father's studio where she trained extensively across all styles of ballroom dance. From an early age, the studio was her second home and the foundation of a lifelong connection to dance.

Her father, Richard Eickhof, was the owner of Step by Step Dance Studio in Las Vegas. From 1988 until his passing in 2012, Richard was a respected studio owner and educator, and his daughter was a constant presence in his professional world. From age 7 through age 22 she participated in countless teacher training and instruction sessions, gaining exposure to elite-level technique and advanced styling. During this time, she trained and danced with world-renowned coaches, further refining her technical foundation and appreciation for performance excellence.

Her shag journey holds a special place in Virginia Junior Shaggers history. When her mother, Cindy Black, and younger brother caught the dance bug, she was thrilled to be his first competitive partner – dancing with Brennar Goree, who would go on to become a world-famous Carolina Shag champion and a Virginia Junior Shaggers Hall of Famer. Together, Ashley and Brennar competed at the Clarksville Beach Music Festival in 2000, marking an early and memorable chapter in junior shag competition. In 2001 Ashley also competed at the Virginia Beach Beach Music Festival Shag Contest with Justin Tobias.

Beyond competition, she became thoroughly engaged in the Tidewater shag community, regularly attending the Boogie on the Bay Shag Club on Sundays and dancing with Virginia Junior Shaggers Hall of Famer Jac White. She also attended Junior SOS, the National Shag Dance Championships, the Liberty Swing Dance Championships, and the USA Grand National Dance Championships, often in support of Brennar's competitive career and the broader dance community.

In addition to dance she excelled as a gymnast and scholar, and as a cheerleader at the University of Virginia. She graduated from the McIntyre School of Commerce, became a Certified Public Accountant, and currently works at Microsoft.

Today she is married and the proud mother of two daughters. Her life reflects artistic heritage, competitive achievement, academic excellence, and professional success. Her contributions to junior shag, combined with her lifelong dedication to dance, assured her of a place here, tonight as the newest member of the Virginia Junior Shaggers Hall of Fame.

Ladies & Gentlemen, please welcome, from Quinton, VA, Ashley Olschlager!!

Ashley will be dancing with her brother, Lt. Brennar Goree, and Cindy Black (Her Mother)