



World Figure Skating
Museum & Hall of Fame

NEWS RELEASE

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3 Russian Olympic gold medalists lead World Figure Skating Hall of Fame class Five additional inductees form largest class since 1993

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado, USA (April 3, 2015) – Russian Olympic champions Artur Dmitriev and pairs partners Natalia Mishkutionok and Oksana Kazakova lead a class of eight new inductees to the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame, nominating chair Lawrence Mondschein announced today. Also elected was Italy's Sonia Bianchetti Garbato, who joins "Legends" June Markham and Doreen Denny of Great Britain, Austria's Eduard Engelmann Jr. and Great Britain's Henry Eugene Vandervell, who both are honored posthumously.

"The Class of 2015 is indeed a special one, not only for it being the largest class to be named in recent memory, but for its diversity," Mondschein said. "With Olympic and World champions, an official whose contributions led to significant rule changes and two skating pioneers, this class has left an impact on the sport of figure skating."

Dmitriev, a three-time Olympic medalist, is the only man to win two Olympic gold medals in pairs with two partners. Dmitriev and Mishkutionok won the 1992 Olympic gold medal competing for the Unified Team and the 1994 Olympic silver medal competing for Russia. Dmitriev and Mishkutionok are two-time World champions (1991, '92) and two-time European champions (1991, '92). After Mishkutionok retired in 1994, Dmitriev paired with Kazakova, whose injured leg caused them to miss much of their first season. Dmitriev and Kazakova returned strong, winning the 1996 European Championships and the 1998 Olympic gold medal while competing for Russia.

Bianchetti Garbato will be inducted for her outstanding contributions in a nonathletic role. She served as a member and chairman of the International Skating Union's Figure Skating Committee from 1967 to 1988 and was an ISU Council member from 1988 to 1992. Bianchetti Garbato was the first female referee at an ISU championship, the first woman elected to the ISU Figure Skating Technical Committee, the first female chair of the tech committee and the first woman to be elected to the ISU Council. Bianchetti Garbato was a judge at every Olympic Winter Games from 1964 to 1988.

The hall's Legends Committee, which considers contributions in 1960 and prior, selected British ice dancers Markham and Denny, Austria's Engelmann Jr. (1864-1944), and Great Britain's Vandervell (1824-1908).

Partners of 1986 hall-of-famer Courtney Jones, Markham (1957-58) and Denny (1959-60) each won two World championships. Engelmann, a three-time European champion (1892-94), invented the outdoor artificial ice rink in Vienna in 1909, which forever changed the sport. Vandervell authored the influential book *A System of Figure-Skating* in 1869 and is credited with establishing proficiency tests, which marked the first step toward the test structures employed today.

WORLD FIGURE SKATING MUSEUM & HALL OF FAME

The World Figure Skating Hall of Fame was established in 1976 to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the sport of figure skating around the world. The hall is housed at the World Figure Skating Museum & Hall of Fame, 20 First Street, Colorado Springs, CO, 80906, USA.