

# THE CHALKBUCKET

#### **NEW PARKING ACCESS!**

TAG's next-door neighbor, Brandt Industries (2405 Riverside Dr.), is helping TAG alleviate parking congestion during the busiest nights of the workout week. Brandt is allowing TAG parents to use their parking lot on Mondays and Thursdays after regular business hours! TAG parents are welcome to park at Bandt Industries after 5:30 p.m. and walk to TAG. We hope this will help with congestion and allow for a smoother transition for our athletes to and from their classes! Please be respectful of their business hours and operations!

#### TAG OLYMPICS!

You're invited! All GymED students will participate in our in-house gymnastics meet on Tuesday, May 20 (5:30 p.m.), Thursday, May 22 (5:30 p.m.), and Saturday, May 24 (2 p.m.). At the end of each school year, TAG hosts a friendly, in-house gymnastics competition to celebrate the hard work of our GymED athletes. This exciting event allows students to showcase what they've learned with special routines for each skill. Girls will perform on bars, beam, floor, and vault, while boys will compete on floor, pommel horse, rings, vault, and parallel bars.

There is a \$5 registration fee to reserve a spot for your athlete. During the meet, gymnasts rotate between events while parents watch and cheer from a designated seating area. From the opening march-in to the final awards ceremony, where every gymnast is celebrated, this event offers a true gymnastics meet experience in a fun, supportive environment. Seating and participation spots are limited, so sign up at the front desk as soon as registration begins!

#### **EVALUATIONS AND RIBBON CEREMONY**

Due to TAG Olympics, the Week 7 of this term, May 12-17, will be both the evaluation week for boys and girls and our Ribbon Ceremony week! Please plan to arrive a few minutes early before the end of your child's class to attend the ribbon presentation! Ribbons are awarded for new levels reached as your athlete masters new skills. Earning ribbons becomes more difficult as the skills become more challenging!

#### **SUMMER CAMP**

Summer Camp is nearly full! However, two boys' spots are still open in the third week of camp. See the front desk for more details! There is also a waitlist for last-minute cancellations.

#### **SUMMER SCHEDULE**

The Summer Schedule is now available on TAGGYM.com!



## **COACH HIGHLIGHT**

### **ERIKA D'AGOSTINO**

**TAG TEAM Coach** 

TAG is thrilled to welcome Erika D'Agostino as the newest coach on our competitive team. For Erika, joining TAG isn't just a new opportunity—it's a return home.

Originally from Chickamauga, Georgia, Erika's gymnastics journey began after watching the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. Inspired by the performances she saw, she began choreographing her floor routines in her living room, complete with back handsprings. Recognizing her natural passion and talent, her parents enrolled her in classes at TAG, setting her on an impressive gymnastics career.

Erika trained at the highest levels of the sport, becoming a Level 10 gymnast for five years. She qualified twice for Junior Olympic Nationals, placing 6th in the nation on floor exercise in her first year and 3rd in balance beam in her third year. In her senior year of high school, she competed internationally in Mexico. By her junior year, Erika had committed to the University of Alabama, one of the nation's top collegiate gymnastics programs. As a specialist on the floor and beam, she contributed to Alabama's success at SEC, Regional, and NCAA competitions, and is a proud member of the 2009 SEC Women's Championship team.

Her favorite events have always been Floor and Beam, though her favorite individual skill was the Jaeger on bars—a release move she describes as feeling like flying.

When asked about her most influential coach, Erika shared:

"My most influential coach would have to be Larry. When training to be at the Elite level, I would practice six hours a day, starting at 6:00 AM - 8:00 AM, go to school, and return at 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM. It was never an easy schedule, but I needed to be at the level I wanted to be at. I saw Larry more than I saw my parents. While we often pushed each other's buttons, I viewed him as family."

After an incredible career, Erika retired from competitive gymnastics in 2011 due to a knee injury. Now, she brings her expertise, passion, and love for the sport full circle by returning to TAG, the gym where it all began.

"TAG is home to me," Erika says. "I love being back where my journey started, helping the next generation of gymnasts grow and succeed."

Erika strongly believes in the power of gymnastics to change lives—not just physically but mentally and socially. "Gymnastics enhances physical development while building confidence and social skills," she says. "It lays a foundation not just for athletics but for life."

We are excited for our gymnasts and families to get to know Coach Erika. Her incredible background, dedication, and deep connection to TAG make her an inspiring addition to our team!

