



MAUREEN TRULL LITTLE - 2014

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I was born in Monroe, North Carolina on September 23, 1959. I began tap and ballet lessons at the age of four and have fond memories of the recitals and especially the costumes, which must be the point in my life that I became a clotheshorse! I graduated from Monroe High School in 1977 and without my parents' knowledge (at least until now), I visited many a dance club using a borrowed driver's license during my junior and senior years. While at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, I joined the Delta Zeta Sorority and spent the next four years dancing at various fraternity houses, doing what was called a beach hop. Graduating in 1981, I moved back home and soon met Rick in 1983.

Rick and I met at a church benefit, where he was serving as the auctioneer and I was there because my younger, married sister wanted company for the night since her husband was captivated with a sports event. Rick and I ditched my sister and the two of us went out for pizza and beer and 11 months later, we were married. He was then, and continues to be, the love of my life. Rick is my strongest champion in the dance, with my family and my profession. He has supported my career with the North Carolina Community College System, where I've had the great opportunity to travel from "Manteo to Murphy" supporting economic and workforce development efforts.

Rick and I did not grow up on the beach nor did I have the great fortune to dance in many of the clubs that I've heard people refer to; however, that first night when we made a road trip to Polo's in Winston-Salem, we were both hooked. I was mesmerized at how smooth and connected these couples were. Their footwork was something to behold and I was determined that we, too, would learn. It was there that we heard of Shad and Brenda Alberty. The next week-end while strumming through records at The Wax Museum in Charlotte, I looked up and there stood Shad...and the rest is history.

We began taking lessons from Shad and Brenda in 1989 and spent many nights either at their home or at Groucho's, eager to learn more and practice our new found love of this great dance. "Showtime" was more nerve racking to me than if I were trying out for The Rockettes! It was in 1989, that Rick and I attended our first Hall of Fame event at The Sand Flea in Greenville. I remember it like it was yesterday. Again, I was awestruck at the dancing. We took it all in like sponges...the stories of years gone by, the phenomenal dancing and the newly formed friendships.

We began dancing on the "circuit", making more friends and having the times of our lives. There were many late nights at Groucho's, Loafers, The Juke Box, Ducks, Fat Harold's, Weejuns...all where fond memories were created. And much to Rick's chagrin, I always managed to assist the local economy by finding a mall nearby! Those twenty-plus years flew by and we moved up through the ranks. I've been privileged to work with many great dancers both formally and just in a corner on the dance floor. However, it was Jackie McGee, who taught me the understanding of a strong female dancer...it's not about all the steps that you can or can't do, but it's really about having respect for yourself on the dance floor. When I look around at all the great female dancers in the Shaggers Hall of Fame, I am sincerely grateful to be included.

The friendships formed are essential to what the shag dance truly represents. I cannot imagine my life without each of you, those afternoons dancing and listening to the great music at the Pavilion, and that one last glass of red wine at the Drews, making one more lifetime memory.

I am humbled and honored to be a 2014 member of The Shaggers Hall of Fame.