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Grayson was born in Marion, South Carolina on July 22, 1979 to Stacy and Judy Smith. He was taught the basic at age 12 by his Mom on the deck of a cruise ship. With the constant support of his parents and brother Brandon, Grayson became an avid shagger and began competing in 1993 at age 14. In 8 Years of competition in the National Shag Dance Championships in the Junior and Professional Divisions, he and partner Jessica McAlhany never placed lower than 3rd place. Grayson was also a three-time Grand National Junior Champion, a member of the National Shag Dance Championship Dance Team in 1995, 1996 and 1998 and a member of the 1999 US Open Champion Shag Team "Duck's Dirty Dozen". The first ever recipient of the Dewey Kennedy and Shad Alberty Memorial Scholarships, Grayson considers his greatest benefits from his years of shagging to be his love for the dance, passion for the music and lifelong friends and "family" met at the beach over the years.