What a joy! The online version of the FINA Aquatics World Magazine is now available FREE OF CHARGE following the decision of the FINA Executive! The FINA Member Federations are distributing it to their basic list of e-mail addresses, to all those whose common passion is the aquatic sport.

If you apply through your national federation you will be able to read our Magazine on your PC, tablet (iPad) or smartphone free of charge and become one of its 1,5 million readers worldwide!

The best stories on swimming, diving, water polo, synchro and open water swimming are just a few clicks away!

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The International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) museum opened its doors to the public in December of 1968 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. That same year, the Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) - the governing body for Olympic aquatic sports – designated the ISHOF museum as the "Official Repository for Aquatic History". In 2018, Sports Publications Inc., publisher of Swimming World Magazine and its multi-media platforms, merged with ISHOF to expand the museum’s reach and impact. Today, ISHOF is the global focal point for recording and sharing the history of aquatics, promoting swimming as an essential life-skill, and developing educational programs and events related to water sports.

The ISHOF 2019 Yearbook is dedicated to the College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) and its founding leaders for having the idea to approach the City of Fort Lauderdale back in the early 60’s to establish the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

Follow in this yearbook the fascinating timeline, facility upgrades, changes, challenges, competitions, honors and recognitions that have occurred over the decades leading to today’s International Swimming Hall of Fame.

The timeline begins in 1928 with the City of Fort Lauderdale’s construction of the Casino pool (1928-1966) that once operated only 100 yards from today’s International Swimming Hall of Fame. The pool cost $150,000 to build and was filled twice a week with saltwater directly from the Atlantic Ocean.

Soon thereafter, the CSCAA had its first Coaches Forum in Fort Lauderdale. In 1937, the Forum expanded to include the Women’s National Aquatic Forum and attracted 44 colleges and universities, 28 prep schools, 28 clubs and over 600 swimmers for holiday training. Fort Lauderdale soon became a hotbed for swimmers.

CSCAA’s idea of creating a Swimming Hall of Fame became so strong, that in 1962 Mayor Burry of Fort Lauderdale, the entire city commission, 30 civic leaders, and even Florida’s Governor Farris all threw their support behind the idea. The Mayor went so far as to create a “Mayor’s Swimming Hall of Fame Citizen’s Committee”. Support was so overwhelming that the Amateur Athletic Union voted unanimously to select Fort Lauderdale as the first home for a Swimming Hall of Fame over bids from Louisville and Houston at its annual convention on November 27, 1962 in Detroit.

The adjoining aquatic facility was completed in August of 1965 at a cost of $986,000. Three years later in 1968, the Swimming Hall of Fame Museum was dedicated at a cost of $295,000.

Today, we find ourselves in the exact same partnership with equal optimism as the City of Fort Lauderdale and the International Swimming Hall of Fame are looking to replace our half century old museum building next to the renovated aquatic center.

2020 will certainly bring more excitement to the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

As we all wait to see how our next chapter unfolds, enjoy reading more historic details about the storied past of swimming in Fort Lauderdale in this exciting yearbook!
Be a Part of History . . .
Be a Part of the Hall of Fame

How would you like to add your name to this list?
Johnny Weissmuller, Aaron Peirsol, Dezso Gyarmati, Dawn Fraser,
Donna deVarona, Mark Spitz, Klaus Dibiasi, Sylvie Frechette, Rebecca Adlington,
Greg Louganis, Janet Evans, Jason Lezak, Rowdy Gaines and YOU!

- You don’t have to be elected to the Hall of Fame to be in it! -
Calling all swimmers, divers, water polo players and synchronized swimmers
Donate your swimming or aquatic memorabilia to the
International Swimming Hall of Fame today!

Join our recent donors of memorabilia:
• Marcella MacDonald (USA) - Memorabilia
• Gurney Godfrey - Silver cups
• Miller Anderson (USA) - 1952 Helsinki warm-up

ISHOF is looking for
historically significant
items:
• Swim suits
• Scrapbooks
• Trophies
• Apparel
• Medals
• Meet programs and books
• Aquatic related research & thesis
• Olympic Memorabilia

Here’s how you can help ISHOF preserve the history of swimming for future generations,
including your children & grandchildren:
• Become a member of ISHOF
• Donate your memorabilia to ISHOF
• Become a Donor or Sponsor of ISHOF

For information about the tax benefits of joining or donating to ISHOF,
contact Brent Rutemiller or Ivonne Schmid at (954)462-6536
Swimming is unique among all other sports in that it is not just an enjoyable recreational activity, but it is an essential life skill that can save your life or help you save the life of others. The World Health Organization has estimated that as many as 500,000 people drown each year. In many parts of the United States drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental death among school age children. In fact, drowning causes so many deaths that it is frequently classified as an epidemic. To save lives and stop the epidemic, join ISHOF in its mission to promote Every Child A Swimmer.

When a parent buys a child a baseball glove, football or basketball, they may be thinking “Hall of Fame” someday. But, when a parent buys their child a swim suit and signs them up for swim lessons their primary concern is water safety. They also know that swimming is a sport that can provide health benefits and be enjoyed for their child’s lifetime. That’s what makes the sport of swimming and the mission of the International Swimming Hall of Fame unique among all other sports Halls of Fame.

About the International Swimming Hall of Fame

Our goal is to promote the benefits and importance of swimming as a key to fitness, good health, quality of life, and the water safety of children. We will accomplish this through operations at the International Swimming Hall of Fame - a dynamic shrine dedicated to the history, memory, and recognition of the famous swimmers, divers, water polo players and synchronized swimmers. These athletes and others involved in life saving activities and education, throughout the world, serve to inspire, educate, and be role models for all those who participate in the Hall of Fame’s experience and programs.
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1990 Organizational Restructuring - President became Chairman of the Board and Executive Director became President/CEO
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The International Swimming Hall of Fame got its financial start from memberships by loyal fans and community conscious citizens backing “their” International Swimming Hall of Fame. To all of you who have contributed over the years - THANK YOU! To everyone else, we cannot continue to exist without YOUR support and ask that you please consider joining our growing membership rolls. For more information about membership and how to support ISHOF visit www.ishof.org or call us at (954)462-6536.

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Thank You
For Your Support
History and Timeline of Swimming in Fort Lauderdale

Casino Pool - Hall of Fame Pool - Swimming Hall of Fame

1928

Fort Lauderdale’s swimming heritage dates to the Civitan raft off Las Olas Beach and the monumental Casino pool that followed in 1928. Located directly on the beach at what is now known as D.C. Alexander Park, just South of Las Olas Blvd., the beautiful Spanish style facility was engineered by Clifford Root and was filled twice a week with salt water directly from the Atlantic Ocean. The Casino Pool (1928-1966) cost $150,000 and measured 50.38 meters by 18.38 meters (55 yds x 20 yds).

1935-1936

In 1935, the College Swimming Coaches Association of America discovered Fort Lauderdale and organized the first annual Coaches forum in the city. Within a few short years, Fort Lauderdale gained national attention by producing two young swimming stars that won Olympic fame, Elbert Root and Katherine Rawls. Rawls was the greatest female swimmer of her time. The Associated Press named Rawls national female athlete of the year, in 1936. She was Fort Lauderdale’s first celebrity of sport and international athletic ambassador.

In 1937, the Women’s National Aquatic Forum joined the Coaches Forum. Over 30 years later, the Forum was attracting 44 colleges and universities, 28 prep schools, 28 clubs and over 600 swimmers for Christmas training.

1962

Fort Lauderdale is awarded the Swimming Hall of Fame

The idea for a Swimming Hall of Fame began with the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) of the United States, by a committee headed by the then president of FINA, R. Max Ritter. The College Coaches Swim Forum first kindled Fort Lauderdale’s interest in the Hall of Fame. Fort Lauderdale’s Mayor Burry, the entire city commission and even Florida’s Governor Farris Bryant expressed support for the establishment the Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale. To pursue the idea, Fort Lauderdale’s City Commission created the “Mayor’s Swimmers’ Hall of Fame Citizens’ Committee,” early in 1962. Members of this committee included the entire commission and 30 civic leaders.
On November 9, 1962, the City Commission unanimously approved: **A RESOLUTION INDICATING THAT THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE IS INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING THE FACILITY KNOWN AS “THE SWIMMING HALL OF FAME” IN THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE AND IS IN A POSITION TO PRESENT ITS PLANS THEREFORE.** At the same time meeting, the commission approved an allocation of $250,000, the expected proceeds from the sale of the Casino Pool land, for the initial cost of a plan to build the shrine and an Olympic size pool. The plan called for the Hall of Fame to be situated on a man-made peninsula that would extend 400 feet into the intracoastal and be built by the Florida Inland Navigation District. It was noted by the commission that although the city has pledged the money, the project was contingent upon winning the bid for the shrine. “If another city takes the bid, the whole project will be cancelled.”

November 27, 1962, a five-man team – four from Fort Lauderdale and Ted Groves from the Fort Lauderdale Development Commission - presented the plan, along with letters of support from various organizations to the general assembly of the 75th Amateur Athletic Union convention in Detroit. The AAU unanimously selected Fort Lauderdale’s bid over the bids of Houston and Louisville. “We are grateful to them for bringing this new project to Fort Lauderdale,” said Mayor Burry.

Among the letters of support presented to the AAU’s committee was one from Mayor Burry, which read in part, “The municipal government of Fort Lauderdale extends a warm and cordial invitation to you and the members of the selection committee to take advantage of our hospitality and to favor us with this national shrine, for which we are more than willing to contribute our financial assistance and continuing zeal and affection.”

In another, Robert Culliver, President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, wrote: “This community needs the cultural asset of a museum that marks one of the traditions of our city. Our organization has set aside a considerable sum of money for such a purpose. We heartily welcome the Swimming Hall of Fame and will continue our support in years to come.

Upon winning the bid, the Mayor’s Swimmers’ Hall of Fame Citizen’s Committee became the “Hall of Fame Administration Committee, “chaired by Mayor Burry.

**1963**

**The Swimming Hall of Fame Pool**

Work began almost immediately on the made-made peninsula where the Swimming Hall of Fame was to be built. Upon completion, the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida dedicated the peninsula to the City of Fort Lauderdale on May 13, 1963, “for public municipal purposes only,” subject to the following provisions:
In the event the said CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE shall (1) use said land for other than a site for the Swimming Hall of Fame or (2) for a period of three consecutive years shall fail and neglect to maintain and use the same for said purposes, the dedication hereby made shall, at the option of said Trustees, be subject to termination upon sixty days’ notice in writing by the Trustees to said City.

1964

Swimming Hall of Fame, Inc.

On November 23, 1964, the “Swimming Hall of Fame, Inc.” was incorporated as a non-profit educational corporation chartered under Florida law with a board of 19 directors. Eminent swimming coach, Dr. James E. Counsilman was the organization’s first president and William “Buck” Dawson was selected and approved by the Hall of Fame Administration Committee to be the first Executive Director. Correspondence shows that the Hall of Fame Administration Committee and the Swimming Hall of Fame, Inc. worked together amicably to resolve issues involving the pool designs, financing and the mutual understanding of jurisdiction and usage of the facilities before executing a formal agreement. On January 18, 1965, the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Swimming Hall of Fame, Inc. executed a lease/operating agreement that remains in effect today, as amended in March 1991. It was then renewed in 2018 for another 30 years.

1965

The 50-meter pool, 25-yard diving well warm up pool and all the appointments thereof, including the landfill seawall and landscaping for the peninsula were completed in August 1965, at a cost of $986,000. Additional land at the end of the peninsula and $195,000 were placed in escrow by the City for construction of the Hall of fame building, contingent upon the Swimming Hall of Fame Corp. demonstrating its reliability in collecting the memorabilia, funding the exhibits to go into the building, and demonstrating the financial wherewithal to operate the shrine once built.

On December 27, 1965, thousands of spectators and swimmers from all 50 states and eleven foreign countries participated in and witnessed the dedication of the Swimming Hall of Fame complex and an international swimming meet organized by the Swimming Hall of Fame. The events were nationally televised by on the CBS Sports Spectacular.

On January 4th, the City Commission unanimously adopted: A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT, SWIMMING HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE, SWIMMING HALL OF FAME, INC., COLLEGE SWIM COACHES ASSOCIATION, AND FORT LAUDERDALE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW OLYMPIC POOL IN THE SWIMMING HALL OF FAME COMPLEX.

The Hall of Fame Shrine Building

Before construction on the Hall of Fame shrine building began, both the City Commissioners and the Hall of Fame, Inc. agreed that the Hall of Fame should raise the sum of $195,000, to match the projected outside building cost. This was estimated to cover the cost of furnishing the interior of the building with world-class exhibits. By contract, it was the responsibility of the city to erect the building and the SHOF to build exhibits and operate the museum, but when it was learned that the $195,000 pledged by the city would not cover the cost of the shrine building, the Hall of Fame, Inc. contributed to the city-owned building from its own fund raising efforts. “The remarkable thing about these gifts,” said Robert Culliver, of the Hall of Fame
History and Timeline of Swimming in Ft. Lauderdale continued

Administration Committee, “is that more than $100,000 has gone directly into the city-owned building—not into the exhibits, but right into the bricks and mortar of the building itself.”

1968 FINA Recognition

Official “international” status and recognition of the Swimming Hall of Fame came at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, when the 105-nation FINA Congress met and endorsed it as an “International Swimming Hall of Fame” – the first world recognized Hall of Fame in any sport. That this institution is in the USA is particularly appropriate because the Hall of Fame idea originated in the United States with Baseball in the 1930’s, and because the United States greatest achievements in a widely international sport are in swimming.

The organization’s Article’s of Incorporation were amended to reflect that the name was changed to “International Swimming Hall of Fame” on June 16, 1969. ISHOF also copyrighted its name and trademark.

1965-1985 The Buck Dawson Era

In 1965 Broward County had the Casino Pool and three 25-yard competitive pools. Not only did the Hall of Fame Pool become the finest swimming stadium on the East coast and one of the finest in the world, but it satisfied the demands of the local competitive swimming community.

Under the operating agreement of 1965 and mutual understandings of that agreement, the City Parks and Recreation Department staffed and maintained the pools and ran programs for the local community. The role of the Hall of Fame was to promote tourism through the operation of the museum and to use its contacts with the aquatics community to bring conventions, conferences and aquatic events to the city. From the time of the opening of the Hall of Fame Complex through the mid 80’s, Buck Dawson, the Swimming Hall of Fame Inc., the American Swimming Coaches Association, and the College Swimming Coaches Association (which operated through the ISHOF) were solely responsible for bidding on and or bringing swimming events for the city, including the annual International Swim Meet, International Dive Meet (now the FINA Diving Grand Prix), the World High Diving Championships, the Aquafollies, National Championships in swimming, diving, synchronized swimming, and water polo, the Galt Ocean Mile Swim, (now Fort Lauderdale Rough Water Swim), the YMCA National Championships and the US Masters National Championships. In addition, Dawson was a tireless promoter who brought many national and international conventions to the city.

After the initial fund-raising drive that helped build the shrine building, the Hall of Fame struggled financially until Dawson came up with the idea of “Swim A Thon.” The SAT stabilized ISHOF’s finances and by the time Dawson retired in 1985, ISHOF had accumulated a $1.4 million reserve fund.

The economic impact that the Hall of Fame brought to Fort Lauderdale, estimated to be $20 million dollars per year by 1985, encouraged other cities to build world class aquatic venues to compete with Fort Lauderdale for events. In many cases, the new facilities conformed to modern safety and competition standards, while the Hall of Fame did not.
1986-1991

Improvements

In 1986, both the City of Fort Lauderdale and the International Swimming Hall of Fame recognized the need for improvements and the two entities collaborated on a fundraising plan that targeted both public and private sources. The city initiated a $1.18 million-dollar Government Obligation Bond and a $600,000 allocation from Broward County. With support of local politicians, Olympians and local business leaders, the Hall of Fame initiated a lobbying effort in Tallahassee that resulted in two grants of $2 million dollars each and $500K from corporate and private sources. Funded projects including building a second 50-meter pool, bringing the stadium pool and diving well to national and international standards, building a teaching pool, renovating the bath and locker rooms, resurfacing the deck, renovating the bleachers, replacing filtration and pumping systems and expanding the Hall of Fame museum.

The contract with the design consultant, Arquitectonica International, was a three-party agreement, naming the City of Fort Lauderdale, International Swimming Hall of Fame, Inc. and the design firm.

The first meet to be held at the new facility was the USA Swimming National Championships was held in August of 1991. Two World Records were set in the newly renovated pool.

On August 13, 1991, Mike Barrowman set the world record in the 200-meter Breaststroke in a time of 2:10.60 and on the same day, Martin Zubero of Spain, broke the world record in the 200-meter backstroke in a time of 1:57.30.

What’s Next?

1991-2018

Aquatic Complex

With the newly renovated pools and museum buildings, the years marched on with memorable events year after year at the Hall of Fame in the sports of swimming, diving, water polo and synchronized swimming. Then in 2002, Michael Phelps and Natalie Coughlin set last world records in Fort Lauderdale. Phelps in an epic 400m individual medley and Coughlin became the first woman in the world under the one minute mark in the 100-meter backstroke. However, by 2011, it had been almost thirty years since the 1991 renovation and the pools and Hall of Fame were showing their age. Sadly, the bleachers were closed and resulted in the cancellation of many major events, including the FINA Grand Prix and beloved YMCA Short Course Nationals. Establishing a plan, securing funds and obtaining approval for new renovations is no easy task and it would be another decade before crossing the finish line.
The Aquatic Complex’s New Plan for the Future!

The push took a lot of effort, from a lot of people, but, on July, 18, 2018, the City of Fort Lauderdale voted to approve the $27 million budget to renovate its aging aquatic complex.

The swimming community in Fort Lauderdale showed tremendous excitement over the passing of the budget. Many of the voters in the City of Fort Lauderdale expressed the need for the pool to return to its original state, and that it was about time the pool was to be renovated again. Likewise, swimming enthusiasts across the world were excited as the aging pool will finally be receiving a much-needed makeover. Fort Lauderdale, famous for swimming, will once again become a major destination for aquatic sports.

The renovations will include:

- FINA compliant standard pool with two movable bulkheads.
- Remove existing diving pool and provide new fully FINA compliant diving pool and tower with a full complement of platform levels and springboards.
- Remove existing spa for divers and provide new spa.
- Repair existing 50m training pool with new surfacing and gutter system.
- Relocate and expand the instructional pool to the southwest corner of the peninsula.
- Provide new filtration system, pumps, and chlorination system for all pools.
- Resurface and raise pool deck to allow for increased pool depths for competition-level use.
- Remove existing grandstand building and bleachers on north side of facility and provide new grandstand with spectator restrooms, concessions, ticket office, and bleachers for +/1500 spectator capacity.
- Provide site improvements that include parking and drainage improvements, new stadium lighting, landscaping, sidewalks, and new main entry plaza.

27-Meter Dive Tower

The City of Fort Lauderdale has decided to proceed with plans to design and include an iconic High Diving Tower to be included in its latest renovation of the Hall of Fame Aquatic Center.

When constructed, the dive tower will be the only one of its kind in the world and the first 27M dive tower and springboard combination, an ideal training center for divers in the United States and throughout the world.

High Diving is poised to become an Olympic event as early as 2024. It is currently an approved FINA Diving event for the World Championships. The world’s other high diving tower is in China.

Renderings Courtesy of Cartaya and Associates, PA
ISHOF New Lease with Fort Lauderdale, New President/CEO

ISHOF opened its world-renowned museum and shrine to aquatic sports in Fort Lauderdale back in 1965. ISHOF’s 50-year lease with the City of Fort Lauderdale expired in 2015 and without a long-term contract, the question of whether ISHOF would remain in Fort Lauderdale was finally answered in November 2017 when the ISHOF Board of Directors hired Brent Rutemiller as its President/CEO. As a result of the City’s renovation project for the aquatic complex, the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF), signed a 30-year lease to remain in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Bruce Wigo would remain on as ISHOF’s historian, filling the role formerly held by Bob Duenkel.

“This today starts a new era for the City of Fort Lauderdale, the International Swimming Hall of Fame, and the aquatic community worldwide. We are very excited about the future of ISHOF and want to thank Lee Feldman, Mayor Dean Trantalis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Heather Moraitis, Robert McKinzie and Ben Sorensen for their trust and support for ISHOF and their vision for this iconic aquatic complex,” said Rutemiller.

“We look forward to building this relationship into a model of how a city can work with a non-profit entity that has mutual goals for the community. This is only the start. Our next step is to look at other infrastructural improvements relating to the museum and our incredible one-of-a-kind memorabilia.”

In addition to the $27 million renovation of the aquatic complex, and ISHOF’s new 30-year lease, with ISHOF’s new leadership in President/CEO, Brent Rutemiller, came the merger of ISHOF and Swimming World Magazine.

A Voice for the Sport: International Swimming Hall of Fame Poised for Greatness

Commentary by Brent Rutemiller, President/CEO, ISHOF and Publisher of Swimming World Magazine.

For those who have not been following events surrounding the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF), please let me bring you up to date. It was announced in 2017, on Nov. 3, that Swimming World would merge operations with the International Swimming Hall of Fame. Much progress has been made to consolidate these two important institutions. A major event took place in August 2018 when Sports Publications, International—Parent Corporation of Swimming World—transferred its stock to the International Swimming Hall of Fame. The transaction brings more financial stability to ISHOF and allows the transition of Swimming World Magazine subscribers to become ISHOF members, and Swimming World advertisers to become ISHOF sponsors.

The inclusion of Swimming World properties into ISHOF’s portfolio creates new opportunities and new products that will elevate ISHOF. Significant upgrades to the museum are already completed, including the conversion of parts of the Henning Library into a television studio for new multi-media programming and products. Offices have been upgraded, and new Swimming World staff relocated to Fort Lauderdale.

The stock transfer was predicated on two other major events that directly affected ISHOF. The most significant event was the announcement that the City of Fort Lauderdale will invest $27 million to renovate and upgrade the aquatic center, and the reconstruction began early in 2019 and should be completed in early to mid 2021.

As a result of the upgrades, there has been much interest in major events returning to Fort Lauderdale on a national and international basis. The infusion of new dollars for the facility has created excitement for the city and ISHOF that will surely extend to upgrades in the museum and its displays.
The month following the city’s $27 million approval to renovate the aquatic center, ISHOF and the Fort Lauderdale City Commissioners came to terms on a 30-year lease, ensuring that ISHOF remains permanently attached to the aquatic center. Within that agreement, the city has agreed to work with ISHOF to revert the name of the aquatic center back to the International Swimming Hall of Fame Aquatic Center with the intent of finding dollars from a presenting sponsor.

So, now that three strategic actions have taken place surrounding the International Swimming Hall of Fame, ISHOF is poised to fulfill its true mission. However, renovation, a long-term lease and the merger with Swimming World only establishes a strong foundation. It is up to everyone in the swimming community to build on this momentum to make things even better!

ISHOF’s leadership and board are now turning their attention to establishing a new vision on how it will display, archive and preserve the rich history of aquatic sports. And with any new idea, dollars will have to be obtained for any vision to reach its fruition. Look for ISHOF to set a new and exciting course, and in the meantime, please consider becoming a member of ISHOF and donating to help us preserve the history of aquatic sports.

**Athletes that have represented the City of Fort Lauderdale as members of the USA Olympic Team:**

### Swimmers - Fort Lauderdale Swim Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Medal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joel Thomas</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>4x100 Freestyle Relay</td>
<td>Gold Medalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paige Zemina</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>4x100 Freestyle Relay</td>
<td>Bronze Medalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Nelson*</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Head Women’s Team Coach</td>
<td>Coach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Edgar</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>4x100 Freestyle Relay</td>
<td>Gold Medalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Edgar</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>100m Butterfly</td>
<td>5th Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Stobbs</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>4x100 Freestyle Relay</td>
<td>Gold Medalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Nelson</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>200m Butterfly</td>
<td>4th Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Rawls (Casino Pool)</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>4x100 Freestyle Relay</td>
<td>Gold Medalist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Jack Nelson is the only head Olympic swimming coach to have also been an Olympic athlete.*

### Divers - Fort Lauderdale Dive Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Medal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dave Burgering</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Coach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jevon Tarantino</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>3m Synchro</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim O’Brien</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Coach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Davison</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3m Springboard; 3m Synchro</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Donie</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>3m Springboard</td>
<td>Silver Medalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ellen Clark</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>10m Platform</td>
<td>Bronze Medalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ellen Clark</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>10m Platform</td>
<td>Bronze Medalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Ferguson</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>3m Springboard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen LaFace</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>3m Springboard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Keim</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>3m Springboard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ron O’Brien</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Coach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ron O’Brien</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Coach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elbert Roon</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>10m Platform</td>
<td>Silver Medalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Rawls (Casino Pool)</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>3m Springboard</td>
<td>Silver Medalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Rawls (Casino Pool)</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>3m Springboard</td>
<td>Silver Medalist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
World Records

Since its opening, ten world records have been set at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex. Two were broken in one day on August 13, 1991, during the Phillips 66/US National Swimming Championships. Two more were broken within 48 hours in August 2002.

For other world records, see the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Swimmer</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catie Ball</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>100m Breaststroke</td>
<td>1:15.60</td>
<td>12/28/66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Kruse</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>400m Freestyle</td>
<td>4:36.80</td>
<td>06/30/67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Coan</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>100m Freestyle</td>
<td>51.11</td>
<td>08/03/75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary T. Meagher</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>200M Butterfly</td>
<td>2:08.41</td>
<td>08/16/79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary T. Meagher</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>200M Butterfly</td>
<td>2:07.01</td>
<td>08/16/79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Linehan</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1500m Freestyle</td>
<td>16:04.49</td>
<td>08/19/79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Zubero</td>
<td>ESP</td>
<td>200m Backstroke</td>
<td>1:57.30</td>
<td>08/13/91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Barrowman</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>200m Breaststroke</td>
<td>2:10.60</td>
<td>08/13/91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Coughlin</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>100m Backstroke</td>
<td>0:59.58</td>
<td>08/13/02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Phelps</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>400m Individual Medley</td>
<td>4:11.09</td>
<td>08/15/02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex is home to U.S. National Team Champions, the Fort Lauderdale Dive Team (FLDT), and Swim Fort Lauderdale (SFTL). Swim Fort Lauderdale is an award-winning USA Swimming and U.S. Masters Swimming team. In 2012, SFTL earned USA Swimming Level 3 club honors and was recognized by USA Swimming as a Silver Medal National Club of Excellence.

Dave Burgering, 2008 USA Olympic Coach, member of the 1980 USA Olympic team, and Past President of USA Diving directs the diving team. With over 70 years of combined experience, highly acclaimed coaches Jennifer and Dave Gibson are the head age group coaches for Swim Fort Lauderdale. Marty Hendrick, who led Fort Lauderdale swimmers to the 2010 U.S. Masters National team championship title is the head coach of the adult Masters team.

The aquatic complex is an active facility and hosts an average of 50 events each year over an impressive 100 days. The pool’s legacy includes the Annual College Swim Forum; U.S. National Swimming Championships; YMCA National Swimming & Diving Championships; U.S. Masters National Swimming Championships; NCAA National Water Polo Championships; the FINA/U.S. International Diving Invitational and national and international synchronized swimming competitions.

As a training site for many national and international teams, the complex is unique in that it is also a public facility, operated by the City’s Parks and Recreation Department. Citizens and visitors of Fort Lauderdale have an opportunity to swim in the same pool that Olympic and World Champions train and ten world records have been set.
Construction Start April 2019
Opening June 2021

On July 10, 2018 the Fort Lauderdale City Commission authorized staff to negotiate a design-build contract for the renovation of the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center with Hensel Phelps Construction Company.

Hensel Phelps was awarded a design-build contract on August 21, 2018 based upon the design criteria package in the City’s Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 12072-483 which provides specifications, requirements and 30% schematic designs.

**Major elements of the design include:**
- Remove existing 50M main competition pool and provide a new expanded fully FINA compliant standard pool with two 82’ x 6’ bulkheads. Size: 53M x 25M, 10 lanes; Depth: 2M – 3M – 2M
- Remove existing diving pool and provide new fully FINA compliant diving pool and tower including five platform levels (1M, 3M, 5M, 7.5M, 10M), and 1M and 3M springboards; Size: 25M x 25M; Depth: 6M
- Remove existing spa for divers and provide new spa. Size: 14FT x 10FT
- Repair existing 50M Training Pool with new surfacing and gutters. Size: 50M x 25Y; Depth 4FT – 12.6FT
- Relocate and expand the instructional pool to the southwest corner of the peninsula.
- Provide new filtration system, pumps, and chlorination system for all pools.
- Resurface and raise pool deck to allow for increased pool depths for competition-level use.
- Remove existing grandstand building and bleachers on north side of facility and provide new grandstand with spectator restrooms, concessions, ticket office, and metal bleachers for +/- 1,500 spectator capacity.
- Provide site improvements that include parking and drainage improvements, new stadium lighting, landscaping, sidewalks, and new main entry plaza.
- The renovation of the locker rooms will be addressed as a separate project.
- Addition of a high diving tower.
Katherine Rawls Miss Fort Lauderdale

Katherine Rawl’s swimming prowess (1930-1939) not only put the tiny beach town of Fort Lauderdale on the map as a tourist destination, but it launched Fort Lauderdale’s swimming legacy with the beginning of the College Swim Forum in 1935 and later the Swimming Hall of Fame in 1964. Many say that the best reason for the Swimming Hall of Fame’s being in Fort Lauderdale WAS Katherine Rawls.

At five feet two and a muscular 107 pounds, she was described as “a tiny slip of a girl with the fighting spirit, and trim lines of a tarpon.” But it was the kind personality and charm of this Fort Lauderdale High School alumna that sold South Florida and Fort Lauderdale to millions in newsreels, magazines, and newspapers across the world.

Katherine was the oldest and the best of a fabulous Fort Lauderdale sister combination known as the Rawls “Water Babies”. All the children of Bill and Sadie Rawls were swimmers and divers from Katherine, who made two Olympic teams, to “Baby Peggy” who performed before her first crowd at 18 months. The others were Dorothy and Evelyn, who made national relay teams and Sonny, an excellent diver, who somehow survived a family of “nothing but girls”.

Clearly the best in the family, Katherine Rawls reigned supreme over American swimming and diving during the 1930s. In 1935, Fort Lauderdale’s great Casino Pool was dedicated to Rawls, “the world’s greatest woman swimmer.” In 1937, she was elected by the Associated Press as “The Number One Athlete of the Year” among female competitors taking top honors over champions including Patty Berg, Babe Didrikson, Alice Marble, and Eleanor Holm. She was the first woman to win four national championships in a single meet (she did it twice) and was the first woman to win four events at an Olympic Trials (1936). Her first grand slam came in 1933, the year she moved to Fort Lauderdale. That year she won the versatile and improbable combination of springboard diving, the 200-meter breaststroke, the half mile freestyle and 300-meter individual medley.

By 1935, the New York Times choose her as the woman to beat in seven of the nine national events for women, the outcome depending almost entirely on what events she decided to enter. Rawls won more national championships (33) than any other woman and was the only athlete who continued to win both swimming and diving championships at the same time throughout her career. She stayed undefeated in the individual medley (3 stroke) for eight years, holding the world record in this all-around swimmer event from the time she took the title from Eleanor Holm in 1932.

Katherine Rawls inspired generations of children and is amongst the greatest athletes Florida has ever produced. During her career, Katherine won 14 national outdoor swimming titles, 11 indoor national titles and five national diving titles, in addition to making the 1932 Olympic diving team and the 1936 Olympic swimming and diving teams, where she won two silver medals in diving.

At her retirement in 1939, Katherine joined the war effort by becoming one of the world’s top women flyers and one of the original 25 women pilots selected for the U.S. Squadron of Women’s Army Ferry Service, who shuttled World War II planes to combat zones for the Air Transport Command.

In 1965, Rawls officially opened the new Hall of Fame swimming pool by pouring in a bottle of water from the Old Casino pool which was razed shortly afterward. After the ceremony at the pool, Miss Rawls was officially part of the first class of 21 honorees inducted into the Swimming Hall of Fame, along with Johnny Weissmuller, Duke Kahanamoku and Don Schollander.

Through her athletic accomplishments and goodwill Katherine Rawls became as much associated with South Florida as coconuts, orange juice, Seminoles, palm trees, pelicans and alligators. In honor of her many accomplishments, Fort Lauderdale Mayor Virginia Young declared January 28, 1973, Katherine Rawls Day in the City of Fort Lauderdale.
The
Raymond C. Rude Foundation

Supporting Aquatic Excellence
and the
International Swimming Hall of Fame
- Since 2006 -
The Hall of Fame is a place where time stands still. It is a place where we keep the stories alive so generations of swimmers, divers and aquatic enthusiasts will never forget them. And there are so many of them - here is just one example.

Ethelda “Champ” Bleibtrey who won three gold medals at the 1920 Olympics, deserves to be remembered as the legend that she was in her time. She would have won four gold medals, had there been a backstroke event for women in those games. After the Olympics, Champ was looking for a way to make money, and if possible, continuing to do what she loved most: swimming. There were not many options for a female swimmer in the early 1920’s, so she decided to try her hand at Vaudeville. In order to do so, she needed her own swim tank, So, she hocked her Olympic medals, bought a glass tank and got herself a 14-week contract to perform on the Vaudeville circuit.

Unfortunately, it only lasted one day.

Champ came to the theater in the morning before her first act to check things out, only to find that her tank had sprung a leak and ruined the carpeting at the theater.

So, Champ went back to her home in New York, broke and $1,000 in debt.

It just so happened that at the same time the Champ arrived back in New York City, The New York Daily News was trying to start a children’s swim program at the Reservoir in Central Park. The mayor wasn’t so sure.

In order to promote the program, the Daily News reached out to Bleibtrey, after hearing of her misfortune, and offered her this deal: “We’ll pay off your $1,000 debt if you get yourself arrested, by swimming in Central Park.”

And so, as planned Champ went swimming, the police arrested her, and The New York Daily News wrote up the story of Ethelda Bleeibtrey arrested, simply for swimming. The public was so irate that their Olympic heroine was being treated this way, that the Mayor released her with a gallant bow to public opinion. In the end, the scheme got the mayor’s support for a children’s swimming program in New York’s Central Park.

This story and so many more are displayed at the International Swimming Hall of Fame. Over 600 swimmers have been inducted as “Honorees”, their stories, photographs and personal items are presented for all to see.
Welcome to Fit Lauderdale, the land of sun, surf and well-being. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau’s sports development team is awaiting your arrival. Visit sunny.org/sports.

@VisitLauderdale | sunny.org
Anything For A Buck

That’s the attitude it took for Buck Dawson to build the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

by Mark Muckenfuss

First published in 1986 by Swimming World Magazine

Buck Dawson has just returned, but he’s a bit confused. Back from one of his interminable digressions, he stops himself, puts his fingers to his forehead and closes his one good eye.

“Let’s see, where was I?” He’s not just talking to himself, this is a serious question. The original path of the discussion, left behind three or four turns ago, has been lost to him. Usually he can find his way back, but often he needs a helping hand. “Hell,” he says, with a bemused smile, “I never know if I’m coming or going.”

There is a reasonable degree of certainty that Dawson is going this time. His retirement as executive director of the International Swimming Hall of Fame became official on the first day of this year. He has been with the Hall of Fame since its inception in 1964, before the sludge from Fort Lauderdale’s inland waterway was dredged up and used to construct the site for the building and adjacent pool complex. In a sense, the collection is his collection, a jumble of contrasting displays: life-sized mannequins dressed in Olympic clothing, 12 foot high photographs, film clips on small-screen televisions, newspaper clippings, reproductions of newspaper clippings, awards and bronze statues. In the words of Dawson, it all has the aura of a “junior high bazaar.” An appropriate flavor, since the former director finds himself uncomfortable in a tight collar. While the hall contains the chronicles of sport history from the aquatic arena, carefully catalogued on the ceiling-high shelves of its back room, the main display is definitely informal.

So is Dawson. His “official” office attire varies little: worn Adidas, sagging socks, Bermuda shorts and a baggy polo shirt, tucked in on rare occasions. And, of course, there is always the black eye patch, which has become not only a badge, but a trademark as well. Dawson signs his personal letters with a cartoon-line sketch of the patch. On his office desk is a pirate mug, eye patch and all, full of pencils and pens. Looking at it, the connections begin to emerge: the Florida Gold Coast, the black patch and Dawson, the swashbuckling fundraiser always in search of some hidden treasure, his sails always full of wind. One almost wishes he wore a knotted scarf on his nearly hairless head.

At 65, William “Buck” Dawson looks in a hurry to reach 80. He walks quickly in short, staccato steps, finds it hard to sit for any length of time and lets you know, with a flash of his gap-toothed smile that nearly buries his one eye, that a large part of him (maybe the major part) has never really grown up . . . and never intends to. This old fraternity boy ought to feel right at home in the mecca for sun-hungry college kids that try each year to cram a full season of partying into a single week. The hotbed of all the spring break activity is on the beach strip, only a block away from the Hall of Fame. But as close as all that is, Dawson said he had enough fun of his own dealing with swimming.
“I’m an incurable sports and trivia fan,” he says, in his half-hoarse, half-graveled voice. “I’m interested in this kind of stuff, museums, writing—I’ve written 11 books. This job just seemed to be a sum total of those things.”

Besides his books, Dawson had spent some time organizing the beginnings of the 82nd Airborne museum at Fort Bragg, and had done public relations and promotional work while in the Army. He was involved, via his wife Rose Mary, in swim programs in Michigan and Canada, was AAU chairman of women’s swimming in Michigan for eight years and served for 12 years on the U.S. Olympic Swim Committee. There is one thing, however, Dawson does not have to his credit, something one might think a must for the director of the International Swimming Hall of Fame. Despite coaching hundreds of swimmers over the years, his first-hand knowledge of the crawl stroke is tenuous at best.

“Have you ever seen him swim?” Rose Mary, herself a coach for years of national caliber swimmers, asks. “Oh my.”

“I was never worth a damn as a swimmer,” Dawson readily admits. “I managed to swim a quarter of a mile when I was 16 in order to pass the junior life-saving test, and I never swam again until I was 50. On my 50th birthday I swam my mile finally.

“My family is all in the swimming business. I married the swim coach’s daughter at the University of Michigan. My father-in-law (Matt Mann) was an Olympic coach, my youngest daughter (Marilyn Corson) was an Olympic champion, my other daughter was a darn good national coach, and my brother-in-law was a national champion. They all make me swim after dark because they’re afraid somebody will see my stroke.”

“Ask Doc Counsilman why he can’t swim,” Rose Mary says, referring to her husband’s failure to master the element. “He tried to teach him. We all tried. First we started with me, then my father, then my brother, Doc Counsilman, even Walt Schlueter tried. He knows what his arms and legs should do, but he can’t do it. He still swims like a football player.”

Which is how Dawson spent a large part of his own athletic career. At Blair Academy in New Jersey he was a state champion halfback on his high school’s undefeated football team. (It was the football team that gave Dawson the nickname Buck when he came back from a summer job on a ranch out West.) He also ran track, making all-state high school honors, and was part of a world record 880 yard relay team at the University of Michigan, where he received his bachelor’s degree.

He split his undergraduate years at Michigan with his service in World War II as an infantryman in the 10th Mountain Division and, eventually, as a glider trooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. He wound up in Berlin doing public relations work for the Army. His PR work allowed him the honor of escorting Ingrid Bergman around Berlin. Taken by the actress, he tried to impress her by leaping from Hitler’s private box in a Berlin theater.

“I thought my knees were going to go into my chest,” he said. “I was sore for two weeks. I saw her years later backstage on Broadway and she said, ‘You’re the fool that jumped off Hitler’s balcony!’ And then I knew it was worth it.”

He was also given the opportunity to help coordinate shooting for a Billy Wilder film called “Foreign Affair” that was just getting underway. The film’s star was Marlene Dietrich. The project gave Dawson his first real encounter with show business and when he was released from the Army in 1948 he journeyed to California where Wilder served as his host and, by virtue of Dietrich’s high praise of his ability as a public relations man, he was led to believe he could get a job with Paramount Studios. It was a high time in his life and the highlight of the trip was a New Year’s Eve party where he had the opportunity to meet—and hug—Rita Hayworth and Lauren Bacall. Humphrey Bogart reportedly collared him, wanting to know who this young upstart was. The two eventually fell to talking about football and the Rose Bowl game between Michigan and USC the following day.

“Bogey said, ‘What do you think (Michigan) is going to win by?’” Dawson remembers. “I said about 50 points and he said, ‘Put up or shut up.’ So I think we bet something like $10. And Michigan won 49-0. But he never came around to collect, even though he’d won technically.”

Certain of his employment prospects, Dawson decided not to immediately start work, but to return to the Dawson poses (above left) with Marlene Dietrich and Gen. James Gavin. During the time he was stationed in Berlin, following World War II, Dawson helped coordinate filming for a Billy Wilder movie starring Dietrich. The work led Dawson to seek employment in Hollywood later, but “movie magic” eluded him.
University of Michigan to complete his degree. When he returned to Hollywood a year later, he found an unopen market. The studios were in a depression and so was Dawson.

“That was probably the most discouraging period of my life,” he said. “I remember just sitting out on the sea wall by Cary Grant’s house. Peter Lawford and Jane Russell lived out there and they would all play volleyball every day. It sounds pretty glamorous, but I was pretty low.

“So I came back and sold Miracle Silk Stockings through vending machines.” The stockings were wrapped like cigarettes as a sales gimmick, and Dawson says most of the customers were men, buying them as gifts. “But they put all the vending machines in the ladies room. I had to go in and service the machines and they’d scream and everything else.” His following job, selling Vicks cough drops and inhalers door-to-door, was not enough to hold him when he was encouraged to re-enlist in the Army.

He ended up in Stuttgart, in charge of public relations with the Army air support system. While there, he met and fell in love with Countess Poloa de Janze. On the way to meet her in Backnang one night, he rounded a mountain road and met, instead, a six-ton German truck. For two weeks he was on the critical list while the doctors tried not only to keep him alive, but to rebuild the left side of his face—a job which eventually had to be redone. The accident left him with a broken jaw, a broken nose and a broken eye socket. The last break caused damage to the muscles of his left eye. The eye still has vision, perfect vision as a matter of fact, but the muscle loss keeps it from working in tandem with his right eye. The only way he could see without having double vision was to cover the injured eye with a patch. He’s become so accustomed to it over the years, he says he would feel naked without it.

“I’ve been experimenting now,” he said. “I’m trying to get my left eye back in shape so I can use the thing as a spare part if my good one goes to pieces. But if I do that I’ll have to give up my trademark. I think I might miss the patch more than having the eye back.” It’s not just the patch itself, but the fun it allows him to have.

“I used to have a glass eyeball that I’d carry under the patch. If a kid asked me about my eye, I’d lift up the patch and it would fall out on the floor.”

It gave him instant recognition in a crowd. It was the reason Rose Mary’s cousin nudged her and whispered, “Who’s that?” All three were attending a lecture back at the University of Michigan and Rose Mary recognized Dawson, after careful scrutiny, from having dated him before her first marriage. She went up and spoke to him. She had no idea what she was getting herself, and eventually her three children, into.

“If you had told me I was going to marry Buck, I would have told you you were crazy,” she says. “I remember one of our first dates; we went to a party on this bus and he spent the whole night running up and down the aisle talking to people. I don’t remember where we went, I just remember him running up and down the aisle and leaving me alone. And he still leaves me alone. We go out to the beach and he goes off and talks to other people.”

Dawson loves to talk, telling stories out of his past, details of his current projects and, most importantly, his ideas and plans for the future. He is, his wife says, primarily an idea man.

“When we were first married,” she said, “we were sitting in the kitchen talking about our plans and his face lit up and he told me about this idea he had. I said, ‘No. I don’t think so Buck.’ And he said, ‘That’s OK. I’ll have another idea.’”

Idea after idea after idea is what it took to get the Hall of Fame off the ground. Like pieces off an assembly line, the ideas took the shape of promotional gim-
micks, fundraising schemes and any stunt Dawson could pull to get attention.

“You and I both know it takes 100 ideas to find one that works. And none of them work unless you do the work on them,” Dawson says. “That’s the way it’s been with this place. This matter of selling memberships (the initial fundraising plan), that will only go for a few years. Fortunately it carried us until we found some other things.”

Memberships and other donations helped build the Hall of Fame to begin with, and it was no easy task to get that far. Although the swimming family had shown interest for years in having a central archives, getting them to put up the money was another story.

At the 1962 AAU convention, after holding the chairmanship of the Hall of Fame committee for several years, Max Ritter asked for a new chairman to be appointed. According to Dawson: “Ben York suggested my name. I said I’d take the job only if we made it a site selection committee and we’d come back in one year with a site for the Hall of Fame.”

The Dawson’s were at the height of their involvement in coaching, running the Ann Arbor girls’ swim team, women’s aquatics at the University of Michigan and their summer program at Camp Ak-O-Mak in Canada. Rose Mary coached and Buck managed, with the exception of the distance swimmers, who found Buck as their sole and potent director. He managed such distance swimmers as Marty Sinn (who would only swim naked in salt-water marathons) and Diana Nyad. Taking a directorship of a museum for swimmers had not yet entered Dawson’s mind. He had turned down other diversions in the past, including the offer of a small sport publication.

“When I first got into swimming, Peter Daland offered me a magazine he was having trouble with; it was called “Junior Swimmer.” I didn’t see how I could run a monthly magazine and still have my summers off to run the camp. And in all the history of swimming magazines, none of them had ever made it; they never got off the ground. I really wanted to do it anyway, but with great reluctance I turned it down. And I told Al Schoenfield (eventual publisher of Swimming World) it couldn’t be done. So, of course, he proceeded to do it.”

At the 1963 AAU convention in Detroit, Fort Lauderdale, already the site of the yearly college coaches forum, made the strongest bid for the Hall of Fame. The city sent over a dozen representatives, including the mayor, to the convention. They threw a “gin and orange juice” reception, Dawson said, and unveiled a scale model of the proposed Hall of Fame (“which didn’t look anything like what it does now”) for those attending. Not faced with any equally prepared opposition, there was little argument about where the hall would be built. Dr. James Counsilman was named founding president of the hall. He and other board members then went about selecting an executive director to get it started.

“We thought Buck had the flair needed to get things started,” Counsilman said. “We needed someone like that to get publicity. The success we’ve had is due to Buck’s influence and his raising of funds. I didn’t realize how hard it was to get publicity until I was associated with the Hall of Fame, but Buck was willing to try everything.”

Like water show extravaganzas at the adjacent pool that featured, among other things, Salty the seal and his Hall of Fame co-mascot Mark the Spitz, Midnight the Wonder Dog (who amused spectators by playing tether-ball) and the white horse from the Ajax commercials. During one performance the horse performed his tricks for the crowd (including rolling over), pranced around the pool and unceremoniously left his calling card on the deck.
The guy that ran the pool at the time was a guy named Lucky Jordan. He was always on the verge of blowing his top, and when the horse pooped on the pool deck, that was another excuse for him to try to close us up.” Dawson flashes his scamp smile. “So we took the road apples and had them dipped in gold paint and sent him one. I don’t think there’s any of those things left around here anymore.”

Another promotional boon was convincing Johnny Weissmuller to move to Fort Lauderdale from his Palm Beach home to help publicize the hall.

“He said, ‘You get me a free house to stay in and I’ll move down there,’” Dawson remembers. “He worked for a pool company and could work out of here as well as anywhere, he said. He lent us his name and his presence. His picture was on all the buses. He lived here for about six years and we had a lot of fun with him. This little room that’s sort of a storeroom for souvenirs, that used to be his office, but he never used it. We left his star on the door and the Tarzan poster on the outside and people would open it up and find it was just a storeroom and accuse us of being a fraud and everything else.”

So Dawson is the one that points it out, opening the door for visitors and showing them the “office” with a giggle, and cluing them in to his theory about the origins of the Tarzan cry.

“You know how Tarzan got his yell?” Dawson asks, standing with his finger on the button of the hall’s water fountain. He just smiles as he watches the water arch dangerously close to the loincloth of the photographic Tarzan above the fountain.

“Johnny’d come down any time we’d call him, and sometimes when we didn’t call him. But he was not the kind of guy you could depend on to put in an 8-5 day or anything. He was a hard guy to put a leash on, but he was great. He was very loyal.”

And he was good with animals, most of the time.

“Any person with a trained monkey showed up and Weissmuller was there,” Dawson said. “I haven’t seen a monkey around here since he left. He said, ‘I have an understanding of these animals, they know me and they won’t do this; that and the other thing.’ And then this one monkey proceeds to pee all over the front of his good coat.

“He was very active in promoting the hall. There were so many ways he helped us. We were in the throes of getting the building finished (at that time), so we didn’t really have time to sit down and chew the fat with him as much as we’d like.”

Getting the building finished was one thing. It must have seemed an easy task, however, compared to the preliminaries of just getting the ground broken. When Dawson first arrived in Fort Lauderdale, there was no actual site for the hall and he had a paltry operating budget of $8,000, which he had been led to believe was his annual salary.

“But then when I got down here they said, ‘Oh no, that’s the operating money for the first year. We had $13,000, but we already spent some of it throwing the party up there in order to get the bid.’ And the worst thing about it was they said we had $8,000, but $5,000 of that was in promissory notes they had to pay back in a year. So they said, ‘Well you’re the executive director, you go out and raise some money to pay your salary. And that $8,000 isn’t all for you. You’ve got to pay your secretary and whoever else you hire out of that.’”

The secretary he hired was Mary Church. They set up operations in an office donated by Judge G. Harold Martin.

“At that time it was just the two of us,” Church remembers. “The atmosphere was very laid back. We never knew if we really would get paid, but we weren’t
really worried about it. We’d just put on our suits and go to the beach to do work, to get away from the phones. It sure was a lot more fun. It was much more relaxed than most jobs, but we did get a lot of work done.”

The thing that helped most in getting the Hall of Fame off the ground, Church said, was Dawson’s personality.

“He would come up with the most outrageous ideas,” she said. “Sometimes we’d just cringe. And they’d work. I think Buck had seen a billboard in California for hiring the handicapped. He has one eye and Moon Mullins, our publicity director, had one leg. So Moon took off his (artificial) leg and Buck had his patch and they took this photo.” The picture, with the caption “Hire the Handicapped,” went out with a promotional mailer asking for donations for the hall.

“Bob Hoffman (president of the Hall of Fame at the time) said it was the worst taste he’d ever seen,” Dawson said. “But the campaign raised $1,700.”

“When Mark Spitz was married,” Church said, “his wife’s name was Susie Weiner. Of course we had Mark the Spitz, and Buck started calling (Spitz’s wife) Susie Wiener, like a wiener dog.” Dawson told her, she said, that it would be great to have a dachshund, Susie the Wiener, as a companion mascot to Mark the Spitz. “One day he saw this woman walking a dachshund and he ran out and accosted her to try to get the dog. She must have thought he was crazy.”

Dawson the dog lover struck out. He didn’t get the dachshund, but his own dogs evidently kept him busy enough. Church said he brought them to the office all the time. “He almost always has a dog with him. He used to bring Mickey-Mack (a Cocker Spaniel) into board meetings and the dog would either dump on the carpet or sit under the table. Buck would be running around after the dog with a paper towel. He never let it outside. The poor thing never had a chance to be housebroken.”

Church said her former boss was not initially “outrageous” when it came to fundraising ideas. “It was a gradual thing. It took him a while to get cranked up.”

One might say his flamboyance grew with the project.

The first thing the city broke ground on was not the Hall of Fame, but a new municipal pool for Olympic competition. The contractor was awarded the bid at a cost of $600,000, but by the time changes were made in the plans and construction was completed, the final tab was just under $1 million. At that point the city balked on continuing with the building of the Hall of Fame itself. They gave Dawson $175,000 and told him to raise the rest of the money for the structure from the field.

“I went and talked to the AAU people, and they said, ‘Hey Buck, the city promised to build us a Hall of Fame. They haven’t put one brick up for a Hall of Fame. They just built a new municipal swimming pool when they had a perfectly good one already. We’re not going to give you a cent.’ So they weren’t going to give any money and they city wasn’t going to give any money because they said they’d already given it. Talk about a fundraising bind.”

With groups like the College Coaches Association, which was the hall’s first $1,000 charter member, the Detroit Athletic Club, which donated $25,000 and friends and associates of Matt Mann, who came up with $19,000, Dawson and company raised the funds needed for the $260,000 hall and its adjoining auditorium. In 1967 ground was broken and the building was completed the next year. Somehow, when the International Swimming Hall of Fame opened, however, the inside didn’t quite fit the image some might have had. Impressive 12 foot high photographs lined the walls of the display hall, but none of the pictures were of swimmers.

“Our first objective was to get something in here, so we went and got the Sports Illustrated display, which they’d used as a build-up for the 1964 Olympics, out of their lobby. So all the displays around the sides of the building were these big heroic figures like you see now, but they were all trackmen or weightlifters or something else. There were no swimmers.”

“We gradually replaced them. We borrowed stuff
and begged for stuff and had stuff donated from all over. We sort of had a mish-mash, but sort of an interesting one, because it grew up with a personality to it. 

“I figured this would be the library and archives of swimming because swimming basically had no history. Secondly, I thought we should be the showcase for swimming. The athletes deserve a better place than a world record that might be broken next week. I think swimmers need to express an interest in the history of their sport, but they don’t seem to care. The Hall of Fame’s always been a questionable financial venture. I think it would have died without someone being very persistent in keeping it going.”

Dawson was that someone, but now he is retired, serving only in an advisory role as director emeritus.

“One of my functions, I think, is when people come into the front desk with a question they don’t know the answer to, they’ll say, ‘Well maybe that old guy in the back there knows.’ So they’ll come back and ask me.”

There are things, however, that even Dawson doesn’t know or remember. He says either a stroke he suffered in 1976 while running at Camp Ak-O-Mak, or old age is responsible for his memory being less “photographic” than it once was. It’s no problem, he says, since veterans like Bob Nelson and Ted Keller can fill in the missing pieces of swimming history.

“I hope I’ll be able to do some writing too. I was never a very good fiction writer, and you just have to go to New York if you want to be a non-fiction writer. I never really wanted to go to New York if you want to be a non-fiction writer. I never really wanted to go to New York. So I always had this dream of being a writer. I like that kind of lifestyle, but it was never very practical and I never got the whole thing together. I think I wanted to be a writer more than I wanted to write.”

“He feels naked without a yellow pad in front of him,” Rose Mary says. “We’ve always had an office in our home where Buck can go to write and be by himself. Where does he write? On the dining room table where everybody is, so he doesn’t miss anything.”

Dawson is currently considering an autobiographical work, focusing on the encounters he’s had with famous people over the years. He could easily sprinkle it with his own escapades as well, such as the time he masqueraded as Moshe Dayan at the Israeli pavilion at the 1967 World’s Fair in Montreal, Canada.

“I also have a definite resemblance to Mussolini,” he says, jumping up from his desk. “I definitely could have gotten a job on this Mussolini picture they’re putting out now.” He casts a serious, upturned-jaw profile, extends his arm and shouts, “Viva! Viva!” He smiles impishly and then shakes his head. “But everything in life is timing.”

Dawson could also put together a book without much trouble on fundraising ideas that don’t work. He has a wealth of them.

“For every idea that sounds like a success story, there were 100 that didn’t work,” he said. “I got a good price for blazer buttons with a swimmer on them, and they didn’t sell at all. Another idea—I got it from the Basketball Hall of Fame—was to sell wristbands. Everyone still ridicules me about that: what do swimmers need wristbands for? We finally used them up as sweat absorbers for glasses. I had all these fresh-baked fortune cookies with little sayings about swimming in them. They were $5 a box and they didn’t sell at all. We had hundreds of boxes of these cookies just sitting there.

“The thing that got us the most attention was our Dog Paddle Derby,” he said. “And that never took place. We had a big spread in Sports Illustrated, columns in all kinds of newspapers. There’s a scrapbook over there full of stuff on it. Then at the last minute, the board of health guy said he wasn’t going to let dogs in the pool, so it never came off. But meanwhile we got a lot of coverage and had a lot of fun.”

Finally, after all the scheming, came Swim-a-thon, a program the Canadian Swim Federation had started. Members of the federation suggested to Dawson that he start a similar program in the United States. It proved to be a gold mine for the Hall of Fame, and it put the hall in the black for the first time. The nationwide program allows clubs to raise monies by having their swimmers solicit pledges for every lap they swim at a Swim-a-thon event. The Hall of Fame
provided a kit for putting a Swim-a-thon together and
the swim teams in turn gave 15 percent of their pro-
ceeds to the Hall of Fame. Another 5 percent went to
the U.S. Swimming travel fund. In its most profitable
year, 1974, Swim-a-thon raised $213,000 for the hall.
But continuing problems with running and coordinat-
ing the program, along with a feeling that its populari-
ty would eventually die, led the hall to sell Swim-a-
thon to U.S. Swimming in 1982 for $830,143.

Swim-a-thon did not mean an end to Dawson’s
promotional ideas. There was, and still is, the matter of
getting people to visit the Hall of Fame. Last year
40,000 people clicked through the turnstile and the hall
took in $12,000 in gate receipts. The majority of that,
however, comes from swimmers and their families who
attend meets at the International Hall of Fame Pool.
Local interest is not what Dawson would like it to be.

“We haven’t yet found the gimmick that will
bring the local people through here in big numbers,” he
said. “The public is interested in swimmers, not in
swimming. The public doesn’t give a damn about
swimming or swimming meets.”

“We need to get with it and realize that if we want
the public interest, then we’ve got to be in show busi-
ness. You have to adapt, and (U.S. swimming as a whole)
doesn’t seem to want to do that. Everything is geared for
the athlete, and the coach is with the athlete dictating the
performance. In the other sports the athlete does what
the promoter or the man
paying the bills wants. I
think we just have to try
and not worry about our own comfort. The ultimate
compliment for the athlete is as much public recognition
as anything else. It’s great if you set a world record, but
it’s nicer if everybody knows about it.”

Dawson talks like a man who wants to be out in
front of the swimming bandwagon, coaxing spectators
onto the street to cheer it as it goes by. Instead, he says, he
will be a behind-the-scenes man, helping out at the Hall
of Fame where he can and still spending his summers in
Canada, running Camp Ak-O-Mak with his wife. He is
also hoping, with the extra time he will have, to get a bet-
ter idea of what is in the collection he has put together.

“One of the things that bothers me,” he said, “is
that I have not assimilated things here. I collected like
mad, but I haven’t read anything of it.”

Rose Mary doubts that will change much.
“He can’t sit still long enough to read.” She says
they may spend time on the road, visiting veterans of
the sport to find out what bits of history they can add
to the hall’s annals. Whatever they do, she said, she is
sure it will be interesting.

“I was thinking about this the other night and I
said, ‘Shoot, we’ve had a darn good time. With Buck
it’s fun, always fun. You never know what’s going to
happen, but it’s always going to be fun.”
2019 Honoree Selection Committee & Procedure
International Swimming Hall of Fame

The ISHOF Selection Committee, chaired by Camillo Cametti and comprised of internationally known authorities in the sport, receives and considers nominees. All aspects of a nominee’s career are carefully reviewed. A balloting process is used to finalize the list, which then is presented to the ISHOF Board of Directors for approval. For the complete selection process and criteria, visit our website at www.ishof.org.

The International Swimming Hall of Fame Selection Committee is comprised of:

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Joe Groscost (USA)

Camillo Cametti (ITA)
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Dawn Bean (USA)
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Mary Black (GBR)
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Robert Gaughran (USA)
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Tom Gompf (USA)
Russell McKinnon (AUS)

Rene Gonzalez-Mejia (NIC)
Jim Montgomery (USA)

Brian Gordon (USA)
David Morrill (USA)

Steven Munatones (USA)
Kevin Murphy (GBR)
Ron O’Brien (USA)
Derek Parr (GBR)
Roger Parsons (ESP)
Anke Piper (GER)
Mike Read (GBR)
Mary Ann Reeves (CAN)
Walt Reid (USA)
Nancy Ridout (USA)
Sharon Robb (USA)
Denny Ryther (USA)
Terry Sayring (USA)
Mark Schubert (USA)
William Shaw (CAN)
Geoff Stokes (GBR)
Shelley Taylor-Smith (AUS)
Fodor Szabolcs (HUN)
Mike Unger (USA)
Elena Vaitsekovskaya (RUS)
Karoly Von Toros (HUN)
Chuck Warner (USA)
Bryan Weaver (USA)
John West (NZL)
1965-2019 Honorees By Country
International Swimming Hall of Fame

ALGERIA (ALG)
Larfaoua, Mustapha (1998) Contributor

ARGENTINA (ARG)
*C Campbell, Jeannette (1991) Swimmer
*C Codaro, Osvaldo (2017) Pioneer Water Polo Player
Pli, Claudio (2014) Open Water Swimmer
* Zorilla, Alberto (1976) Swimmer

AUSTRALIA (AUS)
Armstrong, Duncan (1996) Swimmer
* Beaurepaire, Sir Frank (1967) Swimmer
* Berry, Kevin (1980) Swimmer
* Carlile, Forbes (1976) Coach
* Cavill Family (1970) Contributors (6)
* Charlton, Andrew “Boy” (1972) Swimmer
* Cooper, Brad (1994) Swimmer
*Cotton, Frank (1989) Pioneer Contributor
Crap, Lorraine (1972) Swimmer
Davies, John (1984) Swimmer
* Dennis, Clare (1982) Swimmer
Devitt, John (1979) Swimmer
* Durack, Fanny (1967) Swimmer
* Eve, Richmond Cavill (1991) Pioneer Diver
Ford, Michelle (1994) Swimmer
Fraser, Dawn (1965) Swimmer
* Gathercole, Terry (1984) Swimmer
Gould, Shane (1977) Swimmer
Gusterson, Bridgette (AUS) Water Polo Player
* Guthrie, Frank (1991) Coach
Hackett, Grant (2014) Swimmer
* Healy, Cecil (1981) Swimmer
Henricks, Jon (1973) Swimmer
Henry, Jodie (2015) Swimmer
* Herford, Sam (1992) Coach
Hoad, Thomas (2011) Contributor
Holland, Steve (1989) Swimmer
Jones, Leisel (2017) Swimmer
* Kieran, Barney (1969) Swimmer
Konrads, John & Elsa (1971) Swimmers
* Lane, Freddy (1969) Swimmer
Lawrence, Laurie (1996) Coach
* Marshall, John (1973) Swimmer
Montgomery, Peter (2013) Contributor
Neall, Gail (1996) Swimmer
O’Brien, Ian (1985) Swimmer
O’Neill, Susan (2006) Swimmer
Perkins, Kieren (2006) Swimmer
* Renford, Desmond (2016) Open Water Swimmer
Rice, Stephanie (2019) Swimmer
* Rose, Murray (1965) Swimmer
Sweetenham, Bill (2018) Coach
Tablot, Don (1979) Coach
Taylor Smith, Shelley (2008) Open Water Swimmer
Thiele, David (2015) Open Water Swimmer
* Thomas, Petria (2010) Swimmer
Thorpe, Ian (2011) Swimmer
Trickett, Libby (2018) Swimmer
Watson, Debbie (2008) Water Polo Player
Wenden, Michael (1979) Swimmer
Wickham, Tracy (1992) Swimmer

AUSTRIA (AUT)
* Neumann, Dr. Paul (1986) Pioneer Swimmer

BELGIUM (BEL)
* Blitz, Gerard (1990) Pioneer Water Polo
* DeBurghgraeve, Fred (2008) Swimmer
* Plentinex, Joseph (1988) Pioneer Water Polo
* Sintim, Geert (1996) Pioneer Water Polo

BULGARIA (BUL)
Stoychev, Petar (2018) Open Water Swimmer

BRAZIL (BRA)
Borges, Gustavo (2012) Swimmer
* Lenk, Maria (1988) Swimmer

CANADA (CAN)
Baumann, Alex (1992) Swimmer
Bernard, Sylvie (1996) Diver
Calkins, Michelle (2001) Synchronized Swimmer
Cameron, Michelle (2000) Synchronized Swimmer
* Colwin, Cecil (1993) Contributor, CAN/RSA
* Corsan, George Sr. (1971) Contributor
* Davis, Victor (1994) Swimmer
* Firby, Howard (1985) Coach
Frechette, Sylvie (2003) Synchronized Swimmer
* Gate, George (1989) Coach
Godfrey, Eldon (2012) Contributor
* Hodgson, George (1968) Swimmer
Hutton, Ralph (1984) Swimmer
* Lumsdon, Cliff (2013) Open Water Swimmer
* Muir, Debbie (2007) Synchro Coach
* Nicholas, Cindy (2005) Open Water Swimmer
Ottenbrite, Anne (1999) Swimmer
* Seller, Peg (1988) Pioneer Synchro
* Snelling, Deryck (1993) Coach, CAN/GBR
* Tanner, Elaine (1980) Swimmer
* Thierry, Nick (2001) Contributor
* Vandervorst, Helen (1985) Synchro
* Vilagos, Penny & Vicky (2014) Synchro
* Young, George (2014) Pioneer Open Water Swimmer
Walden, Carolyn (1994) Synchro

CHINA (CHN)
Chi Lieh, Yung (2013) Pioneer Swimmer
* Chuanyu, Wu (2017) Pioneer Swimmer
Gao, Min (1998) Diver
Fu, Mingxia (2005) Diver
Guo, Jingjing (2016) Diver
Huang, Shuxia (2005) Diver
Huang, Xiaolong (2013) Diver
* Iqbal, Ashiq (2015) Diver
* Jiang, Xiaowei (2017) Diver
* Lin, Zhiwen (2010) Diver
* Liu, Yixue (2016) Diver
* Lu, Xiwen (2018) Diver
* Ouyang, Wei (2013) Diver
* Peng, Jie (2018) Diver
* Peng, Li (2018) Diver
* Qin, Rui (2018) Diver
* Sun, Zhihao (2017) Diver
* Tan, Li (2019) Diver
* Tu, Qingsong (2018) Diver
Xiao, Xue (2018) Diver
Xu, Jing (2019) Diver
* Xu, Yanmei (2000) Diver
Xu, Yiming (2003) Diving Coach
Zhou, Jihong (1994) Diver
Zhang, Xuwei (2017) Pioneer Diver

CROATIA (CRO)
Bukic, Perica (2008) Water Polo Player
Radic, Ratko (2007) Water Polo Coach, CRO/ITA/USA/YUG

CZECHOSLOVAKIA (TCH)
Duchkova, Milena (1983) Diver

DENMARK (DEN)
Andersen, Greta (1969) Swimmer
* Clausen-Fryland, Stefani (1988) Pioneer Diver
Harup, Karen (1975) Swimmer
* Hveger, Ragnhild (1966) Swimmer

EGYPT (EGY)
* Abouheif, Abdellatif (1998) Open Water Swimmer
* Samaika, Farid (1982) Diver

FRANCE (FRA)
Bernard, Alain (2017) Swimmer
* Boiteux, Jean (1982) Swimmer
* Caron, Christine “Kiki” (1998) Swimmer
* Cousteau, Jacques-Yves (1967) Contributor
* Drigny, Emile Georges (1984) Contributor
* Jany, Alex (1977) Swimmer
* Muffat, Camille (2016) Swimmer
* Minville, Alban (1980) Coach
* Padou, Henri (1970) Water Polo
* Taris, Jean (1984) Swimmer
* Thevenot, Monfieur (1990) Pioneer Contributor

GERMANY & FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (GER/FRG)
* Bathe, Walter (1970) Swimmer
* Bieberstein, Arno (1988) Pioneer Swimmer
* Brack, Walter (1997) Pioneer Swimmer
* Fassnacht, Hans (1992) Swimmer
* Gorlitz, Horst (2016) Pioneer Coach
* Gross, Michael (1995) Swimmer
* Gunst, Fritz (1990) Pioneer Water Polo
* Gunther, Paul (1988) Pioneer Diver
* Happe, Ursula (1997) Swimmer
* Hase, Dagmar (2013) Swimmer
* Hoppenberg, Ernst (1988) Pioneer Swimmer
* Rademacher, Erich (1972) Water Polo/Swimmer
* Rausch, Emil (1968) Swimmer
* Ritter, R. Max (1965) Contributor, USA/GER
* Schrader, Hilde (1994) Pioneer Swimmer
* Sietas, Erwin (1992) Pioneer Swimmer
* Steffen, Britta (2019) Swimmer
* van Almsick, Franziska (2010) Swimmer
* Walz, Gottlob (1988) Pioneer Diver

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GDR)
# Anke, Hannelore (1990) Swimmer
# Ender, Kornelia (1981) Swimmer
# Hoffmann, Falk (1999) Diver
# Kother, Rosemarie (1986) Swimmer
Kramer, Ingrid (1975) Diver
# Krause, Barbara (1988) Swimmer
* Matthys, Roland (1981) Swimmer
* Metschuk, Caren (1990) Swimmer
* Otto, Kristin (1993) Swimmer
* Pollack, Andrea (1987) Swimmer
* Reinisch, Rico (1989) Swimmer
* Richter, Ulrike (1983) Swimmer
* Schneider, Petra (1989) Swimmer
* Tauber, Ulrika (1988) Swimmer
* Thuner, Petra (1987) Swimmer

GREAT BRITAIN (GBR)
Adlington, Rebecca (2018) Swimmer
* Batterby, Sydra (2007) Pioneer Swimmer
* Cameron, James Malcolm “Taffy” (2003) Contributor
* Cooper, M. Joyce (1996) Pioneer Swimmer
* Derbyshire, “Rob” (2005) Pioneer Swimmer/Water Polo/Coach
* Fletcher, Jennie (1971) Swimmer
* Forsberg, Carol (1998) Pioneer Open Water Contributor
* Gleitzne, Mercedes (2014) Pioneer Open Water Swimmer
Grinham, Judy (1981) Swimmer
* Hatfield, John (1984) Water Polo
* Hearn, George (1986) Pioneer Contributor
* Healty, Sir Peter (2016) Contributor
* Holman, Frederick (1988) Pioneer Swimmer
* James, Hilda (2016) Pioneer Swimmer
* Jarvis, John (1968) Swimmer
Lonsbrough, Anita (1983) Swimmer
* Mann, Matt II (1965) Coach, USA/GBR
* Moore, Belle (1989) Pioneer Swimmer
Mooresource, Adrian (1999) Swimmer
Murphy, Kevin (2009) Open Water Swimmer
* Parrott, Frank (1986) Pioneer Plunger
* Radmilovic, Paul (1967) Water Polo
* Rawlinson, Austin (1994) Pioneer Swimmer
Read, Michael (2011) Open Water Swimmer
* Sarfield, Norman (1973) Coach
* Smith, Charles (1981) Water Polo
* Taylor, Henry (1969) Swimmer
* Trudgen, John (1974) Contributor
* Webb, Captain Matthew (1965) Swimmer
Wilkie, David (1983) Swimmer
* Wilkinson, George (1980) Water Polo

BRITISH GUYANA (GUY)
* Spence Bros, Walter, Leonard, Wallace (1967) Swimmers

HUNGARY (HUN)
* Barany, Dr. Istvan (1978) Swimmer
Benedek, Tibor (2016) Water Polo Player
Biros, Peter (2016) Water Polo Player
Bodnar, András (2017) Water Polo Player
* Csik, Ferenc (1983) Swimmer
Danyi, Tamás (2000) Swimmer
* Donath, Leo (1988) Pioneer Contributor
Egerszegi, Krisztina (2001) Swimmer
Farago, Tamás (1993) Water Polo
Gyarmati, Andrea (1995) Swimmer
* Gyarmati, Dezső (1976) Water Polo
Gyenge, Valerie (1978) Swimmer
* Hajos, Alfred (1966) Swimmer
* Halassy, Oliver (1978) Water Polo
* Halmay, Zoltan (1968) Swimmer
Hargitay, Andras (2008) Swimmer
* Honnmann, Marton (1971) Water Polo
Hungarian Water Polo Team 2000-2008 (2016)
* Hunyadi, Stefan (1969) Coach, HUN/ITA/USA
Karpadi, Gyorgy (1982) Water Polo
Kassas, Tamás (2016) Water Polo Player
Kemeny, Dr. Denes (2011) Coach/Water Polo
Kiss, Gergely (2016) Water Polo Player
Kiss, Laszlo (2012) Coach
* Komjadi, Bela (1995) Pioneer Water Polo
Kovacs, Agnes (2014) Swimmer
* Lemnhenyi, Dezso (1998) Water Polo/Coach/Contributor
Markovits, Kalman (1994) Water Polo
 Mayer, Mihaly (1987) Water Polo
* Molnar, Tamás (2016) Water Polo Player
Nagy, Jozsef (2014) Coach, HUN/USA/CAN/ESP
* Nemeth, Jono (1969) Water Polo
* Novak, Eva & Ilona (1973) Swimmers
* Rajki, Bela (1996) Contributor
* Rossa, Norbert (1988) Swimmer
Salamon, Dr. Ferenc (2019) Contributor
* Sarosi, Imre (1981) Coach
* Szabo, Jozsef (2012) Swimmer
Szych, Tamás (2010) Coach
Szecsi, Zoltan (2016) Water Polo Player
Szych, Eva (1976) Swimmer
* Szivos Jr., Istvan (1996) Water Polo
* Szivos Sr., Istvan (1997) Water Polo
* Szeke, Katalin (1985) Swimmer

ITALY (ITA)
D’Altriui, Giusepppe (2010) Water Polo
D’Altriui, Marco (2010) Water Polo
Cagnotto, Giorgio (1992) Diver
Calligaris, Novella (1986) Swimmer
Campagna, Alessandro (2019) Water Polo Player
* Castagnetti, Alberto (2013) Coach
Consolo, Bartolo (2015) Contributor
DeMagistris, Gianni (1995) Water Polo
Dibiasi, Klaus (1981) Diver
Fioravanti, Domenico (2012) Swimmer
* Hunyadi, Stefan (1969) Coach, HUN/ITA/USA
Lamberti, Giorgio (2004) Swimmer
Lonz, Gianni (2009) Water Polo, Coach
* Majoni, Mario (1972) Water Polo
* Pizzo, Eraldo (1990) Water Polo
* Rubini, Cesare (2000) Water Polo
Silipo, Carlo (2014) Water Polo

JAPAN (JPN)
Aoki, Mayumi (1989) Swimmer
* Arali, Shigee (1997) Pioneer Swimmer
* Furuhashi, Hironoshib (1967) Swimmer
* Furukawa, Masao (1981) Swimmer
* Hamuro, Tetsuo (1990) Swimmer
Hashizume, Hiroko (1992) Swimmer
* Kitamura, Kusuo (1965) Swimmer
* Kiyokawa, Masaji (1978) Swimmer
* Koike, Reizo (1996) Pioneer Swimmer
* Kotani, Mikako (2007) Synchronized Swimmer
* Machida, Hideko (1979) Swimmer
* Makino, Shozou (1991) Swimmer
Matsuzawa, Ikkaku (2009) Coach
Miyazaki, Yasuji (1983) Swimmer
Nagasawa, Jiro (1993) Swimmer
* Osaki, Yoshiko (2005) Masters Swimmer
Tachibana, Miya (2011) Synchronized Swimmer

MEXICO (MEX)
Capilla, Joaquín (1976) Diver
Giron, Carlos (2001) Diver
Munoz, Felipe (1991) Swimmer
* Ostos, Javier (1981) Contributor

NETHERLANDS (NED)
* Braun, Ma (1967) Coach
* Braun, Marie (1980) Swimmer
* Brigithe, Enith (2015) Swimmer
* De Brujin, Inge (2009) Swimmer
* Den Ouden, Willy (1970) Swimmer
* Mink, Cor (1971) Swimmer
Kok, Ada (1976) Swimmer
* Kok, Mary (1980) Swimmer
Kiipers, Karin (2014) Water Polo
* Mastenbroek, Hendrika (1968) Swimmer
* Senff, Nida (1983) Swimmer
* Stender, Jan (1973) Coach
van Berkel-de Nijs, Judith (2014) Open Water Swimmer
* van den Hoogenband, Pieter (2013) Swimmer
* van der Laan, Irene (2015) Open Water Swimmer
* van der Weijden, Maarten (2017) Swimmer
* Vanslacht, Nel (1973) Swimmer
* Van Vliet, Nel (2015) Swimmer
* Wildschut, Monique (2016) Swimmer
* Willsem, Herman (2008) Open Water Swimmer

NEW ZEALAND (NZL)
Loader, Danyon (2003) Swimmer

PERU (PER)
* Salinas-Abril, Sebastian (1999) Contributor

PHILIPPINES (PHI)
* Velezus, Colos (2010) Pioneer Swimmer

POLAND (POL)
Jedrzejczak, Otylia (2019) Swimmer

ROMANIA (ROM)
* Marculescu, Corneliu (2010) Contributor
* Mocanu, Diana (2015) Swimmer

SERBIA (SRB)
* Sostar, Aleksandar (2011) Water Polo

SOLOMON ISLAND (SOL)
* Wickham, Alick (1975) Contributor

SOUTH AFRICA (RSA)
* Colwin, Cecil (1993) Contributor
* Harrison, Joan (1982) Swimmer
Heyns, Penny (2007) Swimmer
* Muir, Karen (1980) Swimmer
* Skinner, Jonty (1985) Swimmer

SPAIN (ESP)
* Estiarte, Manuel (2007) Water Polo
* Picornell, Bernard (1993) Pioneer Contributor
* Rollan Prada, Jesus Miguel (2012) Water Polo
ESP/HUN/ITA
Zuberi, Martin Lopez (2004) Swimmer
The International Swimming Hall of Fame launched its new online store featuring ISHOF New Logo Apparel.

Support ISHOF by visiting our NEW Swim Shop!
http://shop.swimmingworld.com

The new store features exclusive ISHOF apparel and competitively priced swimming and training products. All proceeds go to the International Swimming Hall of Fame to further its mission to collaborate with aquatic organizations worldwide to preserve, educate and celebrate history, showcase events, share cultures, and increase participation in aquatic sports.

We are excited for all the big changes coming to the International Swimming Hall of Fame Museum and would like to thank all of our sponsors, donors, and members for their support.

DONATE: You can now donate to ISHOF directly from your phone by texting the word Swimming to 243725

Thanks For Your Support!

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International Swimming Hall of Fame
Honoree Induction Weekend
Fort Lauderdale, FL
May 17-19, 2019
An incredible coach and force within the world of swimming, Jim Wood will always be remembered. From the establishment of Berkeley Aquatic Club to his prolific impact and work within USA Swimming, the waves generated from his unrelenting passion and dedication to the sport of swimming have and always will be felt within the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

#TeamSPEEDO is proud to honor Jim Wood and his legacy of inspiring the next generation of fast.
Jim Wood (USA)
2019 Lifetime Achievement Award

“A coach’s main job is not to take young athletes and create great swimmers, but to take young athletes and create great adults.” – Jim Wood

The loss of James “Jim” Martin Wood was felt deeply throughout the USA Swimming community as well as around the world. This year the International Swimming Hall of Fame decided it was a simple choice to present its Lifetime Achievement Award to Jim Wood. We lost Jim in January of this year, but he will never be forgotten.

In 2006, Wood was the first swim coach to be elected President of USA Swimming. After serving his term of President at USA Swimming, Wood was elected to serve the entire governing body community, when he was elected President of the United States Aquatic Sports group in 2010.

Wood founded the Berkley Aquatic Club in 1977, a successful swim club team in New Jersey, while simultaneously influencing the future of swimming on a global scale. His passion for the sport and his desire to see it expand and grow inspired the entire swimming community for decades. He spoke extremely well before a large audience and he was often outspoken in his messages on the floor of the USA Swimming House of Delegates at its annual convention. Many of his friends will remember Jim as the champion for bringing back Junior Nationals to USA Swimming, mostly because he saw so many young swimmers benefitting from this first step to being recognized on a national level.

Wood gained national attention for being very active on the administrative side of the sport, setting high ethical standards. His first national responsibility was as the Chairman of USA Swimming’s Time Standards Committee. He served 12 years (1992-2004) as Chairman of the USA Swimming Olympic International Operations Committee and was a member of the USA Swimming delegation at the 1996, 2000 and 2004 Olympic Games.

In 2011, Jim was inducted to the American Swimming Coaches Association (ASCA) Hall of Fame and in 2015, he was voted as one of the “30 Most Influential People in Swimming Over the Past 30 Years”. In 2017, he was elected as one of the ASCA’s Vice Presidents.

At the time of his passing, Jim was Chairman of the USA Swimming Steering Committee, a member of the USA Swimming Board of Directors and a member of the USA Swimming Foundation. On a local level he previously served as the General Chairman of New Jersey Swimming.

The Berkeley Aquatic Club (BAC) swim school that Wood founded, taught over 8,000 school children how to swim. In 2012, it was reported that BAC competitive swim team had won 57 out of the last 64 state championships. At least 30 BAC swimmers have held first place national rankings and have raced 38 times at the U.S. Olympic Trials since 1980.

BAC athletes have represented the United States and “medaled” in every major international swimming competitions including the Olympic and the Paralympic Games. Wood coached Scott Goldblatt, a USA Olympian who won silver in 2000 and gold in 2004 as a member of USA’s 800 Free Relay, and Lauren Reynolds in the lead up the 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games. Reynolds won a Paralympic Gold medal in the women’s 400 free (S7 disability class) setting a new world record. She earned two silver medals in the 100 free S7 and as a member of the 400 free relay.

At the 2001 FINA World Swimming Championships, Wood was on the pool deck in Fukuoka, Japan to watch the USA swim to a third-place finish in the men’s 4 x 100 freestyle relay. He may have been the only one to notice that two men swam in a different order, but while this may have escaped everyone else’s attention, he urged the National Team Director to self-report the violation, resulting in the relay team’s disqualification. Jim Wood was a man of integrity and this is but one example of his character. In 2003, the USA Swimming Award, the organization’s highest honor was presented to Wood in recognition of his contributions to the sport of swimming.

In 2004, he had a vision to build his own aquatic complex. It was a dream that started with the purchase of the 2004 USA Olympic Trials pool from Long Beach, California. The pools were shipped across country and were to become the cornerstone for his vision, “The Center for Excellence”. The pools sat in storage for years while he considered more than 50 properties and fought countless zoning issues across several municipalities while searching for the optimum location. In 2015, Wood’s dream facility finally opened in New Providence, New Jersey, just miles from his childhood home.

Beyond swimming, more than 50 BAC swimmers have earned High School All-American Honors. All Berkeley graduates have gone on to attend four-year colleges such as Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Penn, Texas, US Military Academy at West Point, the Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and UNC, to name a few. More than 20 BAC graduates have earned NCAA All-American Honors.

Over the course of his coaching career, Jim was stubborn……Jim was outspoken……and Jim was a man of the highest integrity. As a swim coach Jim Wood will always be loved.
Gold Medallion Award Past Recipients
1983–2019 International Swimming Hall of Fame

The International Swimming Hall of Fame Gold Medallion Award is presented each year to a former competitive swimmer for his or her national or international significant achievement in the field of science, entertainment, art, business, education or government. There are no restrictions other than the recipient must be an outstanding adult whose life has served as an inspiration for youth.

1983
Barry Goldwater
U.S. Senator, Swimmer

1984
Art Linkletter
Entertainer, Swimmer

1985
William E. Simon
U.S. Treasury Secretary, U.S. Olympic Committee President, Swimmer

1986
Capt. David McCampbell
U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor, Diver

1987
Willard Garvey
Entrepreneur, Swimmer

1988
Ronald Reagan
U.S. President, Swimmer

1989
Fred M. Kirby II
Industrialist, Swimmer

1990
James E. “Doc” Counsilman
Educator, Swimmer

1991
Donna de Varona
T.V. Spokeswoman, Swimmer

1992
Andrew Young
U.S. Ambassador, Swimmer

1993
Paul Tsongas
U.S. Senator, Swimmer

1994
Jim Moran
Entrepreneur, Swimmer

1995
Buddy Ebsen
Entertainer, Swimmer

1996
Joao Havelange
FIFA President, Brazil IOC Life Member, Swimmer, Water Polo

1997
Paul W. Bucha
U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor, Entrepreneur, Swimmer

1998
Rogers B. “Tiger” Holmes
Entrepreneur, Swimmer

1999
James Whelan
City Mayor, Swimmer

2000
Gregory J. Bonann
Executive Producer Baywatch Hawai’i, Swimmer
2001
Sandra Baldwin
U.S. Olympic Committee President, Swimmer

2002
Richard Pound
V.P., International Olympic Committee, Swimmer

2003
Julian “Tex” Robertson
Coach, Ambassador, Camp Entrepreneur, Swimmer

2004
Cirque du Soleil “O”

2005
E. Clay Shaw, Jr.
U.S. Congressman, Swimmer

2006
Jim Press
COO Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Swimmer

2007
Adolph Kiefer
Entrepreneur, Philanthropist & Olympic Swimming Champion

2007
Esther Williams
Movie Actress, Four-time National Swimming Champion

2008
Giovanni “Nanni” Moretti
Film Director, Producer, Screenwriter, Actor, Water polo

2009
William R. Timken, Jr.
Businessman, Ambassador, Swimmer

2010
Dr. Guy Harvey
Artist, Marine Biologist, Swimmer

2010
Zlatko Matesa
Prime Minister, Parliamentarian, Pres. Croatia Olympic Committee, Water Polo

2011
H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco
Swimmer

2012
Milton Gray Campbell
Olympian, Swimmer

2013
Peter Ueberroth
Entrepreneur, Water Polo Player

2014
Robert Dudley
Engineer/Businessman Swimmer

2015
Anne Warner Cribbs
Business Woman Olympian, Swimmer

2016
Tod Spieker
Businessman Swimmer

2017
Laurie Lawrence
Entrepreneur, Motivational Speaker

2019
Dr. Joseph MacInnis
Physician, Scientist, Explorer, Story Teller
Dr. Joseph MacInnis (CAN)
2019 Gold Medallion

He was born in the bayfront city of Barrie, Ontario, Canada, in 1937, and had a love of the water from an early age.

Water is much more than a drink to Dr. Joe MacInnis. It is a passion that was heightened by a visit to Fort Lauderdale for the Annual Christmas Swim Forum in 1954. It was here where Canada’s intercollegiate breaststroke champion and the captain of the University of Toronto’s swim team, made his first dive.

When he dropped into the water over Fort Lauderdale’s second reef, it was a life-changing experience. The things he saw and heard...everything from the Queen Angel fish to the sound of silence was beautiful. He knew that whatever he did after that, it had to be in concert with the ocean.

After his swimming career ended in 1958, he continued at UT as a medical student, always with the idea of combining medicine with the sea. He wasn’t sure how, but as men were beginning to explore the undersea world, he believed they were going to need a good physician.

Rather than working in hospitals during the summer, MacInnis dove in local waters and took off for Florida and the Bahamas whenever he could. By 1960, he had become an expert skin and SCUBA diver and saw his first article on the subject published.

It was after earning his M.D., during his internship, that he encountered a tunnel construction worker suffering from decompression sickness. It was then that MacInnis decided to pursue diving medicine in his post-graduate years at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1964, he was chosen to be the life support physician for phase two of the Man in Sea project sponsored by the National Geographic Society and Smithsonian Institution. In 1965, he directed over 75 experimental dives for Ocean Systems, Inc., then the world’s largest commercial diving company, and in 1967 became a consultant to the US Navy’s Sealab project. MacInnis was certified by the US Navy, in 1968 as a Man-In-Sea Aquanaut for its Sealab III program.

MacInnis constructed Sublimnos, Canada’s first subsurface research laboratory in 1969. It was the only freshwater underwater lab, the only under-ice station and it was the only “free “submerged habitat in the world. It was inspiration to Pierre Trudeau, who himself was a diver and a year later Trudeau asked MacInnis to help write Canada’s first national ocean policy. Supported by the Canadian Government, he began a series of ten research expeditions to study techniques for working under the Arctic Ocean. Later that year, Dr. MacInnis founded the James Allister MacInnis Foundation for underwater research education in Canada.

He led a team that constructed the first manned underwater station, “Sub Igloo,” in the Arctic Ocean in 1972, years later, he took His Royal Highness Prince Charles of Wales on a dive under the polar ice cap.

MacInnis was the first person to explore the freezing waters under the North Pole and by the mid-1970’s, had been on more than 100 expeditions and major dives around the world. In 1976, he became a member of the Order of Canada, his nation’s highest honor, for his pioneering research on undersea science and engineering projects.
While diving in 1975, Dr. MacInnis discovered a fragment of the world’s northernmost-known shipwreck, the HMS Breadalbane. It was a British merchant ship that sank over 100 years prior under the ice of the Northwest Passage and in 1978, he headed a five-man crew for the first expedition to find the whole wreck of the ship.

After a long search, the ship was discovered in 1980 using side-scan sonar in the waters south of Beechy Island in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. A year later, MacInnis’ group returned for a more detailed look, but this time they were accompanied by the Canadian Coast Guard, the National Geographic Society and other institutions. A remotely piloted submersible was lowered 100 meters into the lethally cold water, and the first color photographs were taken with still and video cameras.

A highlight of MacInnis’ career was in 1985 when he was an adviser to the team that discovered the wreck of the RMS Titanic. In 1987, aboard the French submersible Nautilis, he made his first nine-hour dive to the Titanic at 4,000 m. south of Newfoundland.

In 1991, he was the co-leader of a $5 million expedition to film Titanic on the giant-screen IMAX format. He made a second nine-hour dive that included spending time on Titanic’s bridge deck. It was his expedition that inspired Canadian filmmaker James Cameron’s Academy Award winning film, which hit the big screens in 1997.

As fate would have it, Cameron made his first contact with MacInnis after seeing Sublimnos in front of the Royal Ontario Museum. He wrote MacInnis asking for the blueprint for Sublimnos. MacInnis wrote him back and encouraged the 14-year-old Cameron to embrace his love of diving and undersea exploration. They’ve been friends ever since.

MacInnis has assisted Cameron on numerous expeditions since the Titanic film. In 2003, MacInnis accompanied Cameron on the Disney-IMAX expedition to the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, which resulted in the 3-D film, Aliens of the Deep.

In 2005, MacInnis teamed with Cameron for the Discovery Channel expedition which broadcast live images of the last remaining unseen rooms of the Titanic. The expedition involved the world’s largest research ship, 130 people, two $2 million subs and five mini-robots.

In 2012, he was expedition physician and journalist for Cameron and National Geographic for the seven-mile deep solo science dive into the Mariana Trench in the western Pacific Ocean, the deepest natural trench in the world.

Dr. MacInnis has spent 6,000 hours working inside the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans. He has authored nine books about undersea science and engineering projects and the leadership needed to make them succeed. They have been published by Random House, Penguin and National Geographic.

Dr. MacInnis currently examines and writes about leadership and team genius in lethal environments.
behind the design

In 1995, FINIS created the first center mount snorkel for the competitive swim market. The widespread use of snorkels helped identify two common complaints: head brackets HURT, and the earthquake experience you get off every wall is enough to drive you crazy. Seeing the market need, we invented a solution to these problems: the Stability Snorkel Series. The first of its kind, these bracketless™ snorkels are so comfortable and stable that you will forget you are wearing one. The Speed Snorkel is designed specifically for competitive swimmers who train at high speeds.

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Alessandro Campagna (ITA)
2019 Honor Water Polo Player


He was born in Palermo, on the beautiful island of Sicily, but he grew up in Syracuse, where he began learning to swim at the age of six. Sandro, as he is affectionately known, was afraid at first, but the more time he spent in the water, the more confident he became, and he soon came to love it. At the same time, he also loved football and trained seriously in both sports.

At the age of 12, Sandro was introduced to the sport of water polo. For him, it merged the two sports he loved, and the rules of the sport came quickly to him. In the very first game in which he played, he scored three goals and was hooked! He transferred his love of swimming to water polo and never looked back.

In 1976, when Sandro was 13 years old, he watched Italy win the silver medal in water polo at the Montreal Olympic Games. It was then that he decided that one day, he too would stand on the Olympic podium, playing water polo for his country, just like his idol, ISHOF Honoree, Gianni De Magistris.

Five years later, Sandro was playing for Ortigia, in the first division of the Italian League. In a game against Florentine, and their star, Gianni De Magistris, Sandro scored three goals. Ortigia won the game 5 to 4 and Sandro was invited to join the Settebello. Literally translated, Settebello means “beautiful seven”, an affectionate nickname the Italian water polo team earned after winning the gold medal at the 1948 London Olympic Games.

Just as his career was beginning to take off, Sandro suffered a serious injury that kept him out of the water for a year. When he returned, he helped the Settebello win the silver medal at the 1986 World Championships and Sandro was voted one of the world’s best.

Unfortunately, after finishing a disappointing seventh in Seoul in 1988, the Italian Federation turned to a foreign coach to make their team beautiful again. That coach was ISHOF Honoree, Ratko Rudic. With two Olympic gold medals for Yugoslavia to his name, Rudic brought with him a winning culture based on discipline and hard work.

The results were immediate. Behind the play of Alessandro Campagna, Italy won gold at the 1992 Olympic Games Barcelona...gold at the 1993 FINA Cup in Athens...gold at the 1993 European Championships at Sheffield...and finally, the 1994 World Championships in Rome. It was an unprecedented Water polo GRAND SLAM.

Alessandro (Sandro) Campagna was one of the most complete water polo players of all time. In his professional career, he played for two clubs: The first was, Ortigia Siracusa, where he was the captain and the leading player for ten championship seasons, and the second, Roma, where he won the Coppa delle Coppe, also known as the LEN Cup Winner’s Cup and the Len Cup. The winners of the LEN Cup Winner’s Cup went on to face the European Champions in the European Super Cup.

Campagna credits his success to the four coaches he trained under during his career. To his first coach, Romolo Parodi, he credits getting his love of the game. To Gianni Lonzi, for selecting him to the national team as a young player at 18 years old. He believes Fritz Dennerlein completed him tactically, and lastly he believes Ratko Rudic made him go further mentally than he would have on his own.

Upon retirement, after accumulating 409 caps playing for the Settebello, Campagna decided to put his water polo knowledge to use in coaching. As head coach of the Italian National Team, he led Italy to the top of the podium at the 2011 FINA World Championships, they took the silver medal at the 2012 London Games, bronze at 2014 European Championships in Budapest, and bronze at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

In May 2015, he was selected among the 100 Legends of Sport: in Italy for the Italian Walk of Fame CONI at the Foro Italico, in Roma.
Otylia Jedrzejczak (POL)

2019 Honor Swimmer

FOR THE RECORD: 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES: gold (200 m butterfly), silver (400m freestyle, 100m butterfly); 2001 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): silver (100m butterfly); 2003 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): gold (200m butterfly), silver (100m butterfly); 2005 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): gold (200m butterfly), bronze (100m butterfly); 2007 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): silver (400m freestyle), bronze (200m butterfly) 2000 World Championships (SC): bronze (200m butterfly); 5 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): 5 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze; 3 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (SC): 3 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze; 2005 UNIVERSIADE: gold (100m butterfly, 200m butterfly, 200m freestyle)

She was born in Ruda Slaska, Poland in December 1983 and began swimming at six-years-old because doctors thought it would help the slight curvature in her spine. She originally had no interest in the sport, but her father had the last word.

In high school, she started to take swimming seriously, and in 1999 at age 15, Otylia Jedrzejczak won the European Junior titles in the 100 and 200m butterfly.

A year later at the age of 16, Otylia won the 200m butterfly at the 2000 European Senior Championships. Later that year, she represented Poland at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, where she was the youngest on the entire Polish team. In Sydney, she was fifth in the 200 butterfly, but it was clear her career had just begun. Two years later at the 2002 European Championships, Otylia became the first Polish female swimmer to break a world record when she swam a 2:05.78 in the 200 butterfly.

Leading up to the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Otylia was reading Oscar and the Lady in Pink, a novel about a ten-year-old boy dying of leukemia as told through his letters to God. Otylia was deeply affected by the story and vowed that if she won a gold medal in Athens, she would auction it off and give the proceeds to a charity that helps children in Poland suffering with leukemia.

Otylia won the 200 butterfly gold medal in Athens, and out-touched Australia’s Petria Thomas to become the first swimmer from Poland to win an Olympic gold medal. As promised, Otylia auctioned off her gold medal and it sold for $101,000 US Dollars.

In 2005, Otylia successfully defended her 200 butterfly World Championship title, taking down her world record in the process with a 2:05.61.

Two months after the World Championships, Otylia was severely injured in a car accident that tragically killed her 19-year-old brother, Szymon. The accident and its aftermath took its toll on Otylia and she took a break from training for nearly eight months.

Leading up to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, Otylia was again one of the favorites to win the 200 butterfly gold medal, but did not have the meet she was hoping for. She finished fourth in the 200 butterfly, missing out on a medal by less than a second.

She initially said she was most likely going to retire from swimming after 2008, but continued her career and qualified for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. There she finished 16th in the 200 fly at the age of 28. She retired after London with three Olympic medals and ten World Championship medals to her name.

She is the founder of the Otylia Jedrzejczak Foundation, which strives to prepare young swimmers, mentally and physically, to be able to compete for medals at the Olympic Games. Her goal is to help athletes benefit from the positive impact of sport she experienced. She says that sport is a great adventure of life, which teaches consistency and determination in pursuing a goal, and failure is a stop on the way to success.

We welcome our first honoree from Poland into the International Swimming Hall of Fame.
Jason Lezak (USA)

2019 Honor Swimmer

FOR THE RECORD: 2000 OLYMPIC GAMES: gold (4×100m medley), silver (4×100m freestyle); 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES: gold (4×100m medley), bronze (4×100m freestyle); 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES: gold (4×100m freestyle, 4×100m medley), bronze (100m freestyle); 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES: silver (4×100m freestyle); 2003 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): gold (4×100m medley), silver (4×100m freestyle); 2005 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): gold (4×100m freestyle, 4×100m medley); 2007 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): gold medal (4×100m freestyle); 2011 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): bronze (4×100m freestyle); 2002 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (SC): gold (4×100m freestyle); 2004 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (SC): gold (100m freestyle, 4×100m freestyle, 4×100m medley); 2006 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (SC): silver (4×100m medley), bronze (4×100m freestyle);

From the beginning, Jason Lezak showed great promise in the pool, but he constantly butted heads with his coach, Dave Salo, over his commitment to training. Recruited to swim at UC Santa Barbara, Jason’s problems with authority continued until coach Gregg Wilson finally dismissed him from the team. This was the wake-up call he needed. He loved to swim and compete, and after promising to improve his training habits, he rejoined the team. In his Senior year, he was named Big West Conference Swimmer of the Year.

At the 2000 Olympic Trials, Jason finished fourth in the 100m freestyle. While he failed to qualify individually, his result was good enough to make the 4x100m freestyle relay team, an event Team USA had never lost in the Olympic Games. In Sydney, the Australians pulled off the unexpected upset in their home pool and the USA settled for the silver.

Over the next four years, Jason was the top sprinter in the world, and at the 2004 U.S. Olympic Trials in Long Beach, he qualified for the Olympic Games in both the 50m and 100m freestyle.

In Athens, the US freestyle relay team was trying to win back the title it had lost in Sydney four years earlier. Instead, they finished third behind South Africa and the Netherlands. The next day Jason did not swim as well as expected and failed to reach the semi-finals. Individually Jason finished fifth in the 50. Success came when he swam the freestyle leg behind Aaron Peirsol, Brendan Hansen, and Ian Crocker to win the medley relay gold medal, in world record time.

In 2006, Dave Salo left Irvine to take the coaching job at USC, leaving Jason without a coach. He began coaching himself and proved by qualifying for his third Olympic Games that he had the discipline to train daily without a team or trainer at his side.

When he finished second in the 100m freestyle at the Olympic Trials in Omaha, he was 32 years old, the oldest male swimmer to make the team and was selected by his teammates as a captain.

At the 2008 Games in Beijing, his first event was the 4x100m freestyle relay. The USA hadn’t won this race since 1996 and this time the USA was not the favorite. That distinction belonged to the team from France, with 100m world record holder, Alain Bernard as its anchorman. Swimming last, and starting nearly a fully body length behind, Jason chased down Bernard in the final 20 yards to win the gold medal by eight-one-hundredths of a second. Jason’s split time of 46.06, is still the fastest 100m split in history.

The next day, Jason won bronze in the 100m freestyle for the first individual Olympic medal of his career. On the final day of competition, he anchored the USA’s world record setting medley relay that gave Michael Phelps his historic eighth gold medal.

Continuing to swim on his own after Beijing, Jason passed up the opportunity to compete in the World Championships to participate in the Maccabiah Games in Israel, where he won four gold medals and celebrated his heritage as a Jewish athlete.

In 2012, at the age of 36, Jason qualified for his fourth Olympic team by finishing sixth at the Olympic Trials in the 100 free. In London, he swam in the preliminaries and helped earn a spot in the final for the silver medal winning U.S. team. In doing so, he became the first male swimmer in Olympic history to win four medals in the same event, in the 4×100m freestyle relay, in four consecutive Olympic games.

Jason ended his Olympic career with a total of eight medals, four gold, two silver and two bronze. Today, Jason is a proud husband and father of three and a popular motivational speaker who is successfully balancing his family life with business opportunities.
CONGRATULATIONS

JASON LEZAK

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE 2019
INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING
HALL OF FAME HONOREES
FOR THE RECORD: 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES: gold (10m platform synchro); 2003 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: gold (10m platform synchro); 2005 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: gold (3m springboard synchro); 2006 FINA Diving World Cup: gold (3m springboard synchro); 2004 FINA Diving World Cup: gold (10m platform synchro); 2002 FINA Diving World Cup (10m platform synchro); 2002 ASIAN GAMES: gold (10m platform synchro); 2006 ASIAN GAMES: gold (3m springboard synchro); 2005 SUMMER UNIVERSIADE: gold (10m platform synchro, 3m springboard synchro, 10m platform synchro); 2007 SUMMER UNIVERSIADE: gold (3m springboard)

Li Ting was born April 1, 1987 in the Lingui District in China. She and her twin sister were the youngest of three daughters.

Their hometown had an open-air swimming pool where her older sister was trained for basic diving. It was here that Li Ting, and her sister Rao, fell in love with diving at age six, and joined the Lingui Sports School. After school, the three sisters received basic training from Coach Tang Gengsheng.

When Li and her sister were seven years old, senior diving coach Deng Bigiang recognized that the twin sisters had athletic potential in diving and were selected into the Guilin Diving School and were trained by coaches Zeng Yong and Qin Jing. From then on, the sisters began formal training along with their normal education.

Soon, the six a.m. daily wake-up calls caused Ting Li to lose motivation and want to quit the sport. On one day in particular, she was crying during her entire training session and told Coach Qin she wanted to go home. She then thought of her parents and their original dream for her to become an excellent diver.

It is safe to say Li did not give up on her dream. In 1999, she and twin sister, Rao were selected to join the national diving team at the age of 12, suddenly being surrounded by national heroes, like Sun Shuwei and Fu Mingxia.

The training was difficult and the sisters were both under a great deal of stress. Within a year, they had adjusted well and were among China’s best in platform diving. In 2001, Ting and Rao went abroad for the first time to compete in Germany, Russia and the UK, winning gold in the 10m synchro event at all three meets.

A year later, Li Ting competed for China at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, and won gold in the 10m synchro event. In 2003, she won the gold medal in the 10m synchro at the World Aquatics Championships in Barcelona with new partner, 2015 ISHOF Honoree Lao Lishi.

Li Ting’s career culminated at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, where she won the gold medal in the 10m synchro with Lao, defeating the teams from Russia and Canada.

After Athens, Li made the transition to springboard diving, having already mastered the platform. It was not an easy transition, but she quickly became world class, winning the 3m synchro gold medal at the 2005 World Championships with ISHOF Honoree, Guo Jingjing as her partner.

After more springboard training, Li started to experience pain in her leg. She would find out it was from long-term overload training. She insisted she would endure the pain and keep competing, but it would eventually overpower her.

Li qualified to compete at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing but could not participate in the Games because of her leg. After the Olympics, she was selected again for the national team training but chose to complete surgery and rehabilitation treatment. The pain was too much and she ultimately ended her diving career.

After diving, Li was able to study humanities, sociology and sports management and completed her graduate program at Beijing Sports University. After briefly living in the United States, she returned to China as the Deputy Director of the Aquatic Center of Guangxi. In 2018, Li successfully passed tests to become an international diving referee, giving back to a sport that gave her so much.
FOR THE RECORD: 16 ENGLISH CHANNEL CROSSINGS INCLUDING 3 DOUBLE CROSSINGS, LOCH NESS (36 km/22 miles), AROUND THE ISLAND OF JERSEY UK (66 km/41 miles), EDERLE SWIM (28 km/17.5 miles), Three times across LONG ISLAND SOUND (27 km/17 miles), 5 times around MANHATTAN ISLAND (46 km/28.5 miles), MOLOKAI CHANNEL (42 km/26 miles), TAMPA BAY (24 miles), 3 times BOSTON HARBOR (10 miles), MAUI CHANNEL (10 miles), MERCER ISLAND, WA (20 km/12.4 miles) and the TRIPLE CROWN.

When she was just 12-years-old, she knew open water swimming was her passion, and she told her younger sister that she would swim the English Channel one day.

In high school, Marcella MacDonald swam competitively until she was 17, and went to American International College as a softball player. While in college, she would sneak into the nearby Springfield College pool during her free time to swim.

In 1993, MacDonald first heard of an opportunity to swim around the island of Manhattan and has since completed the 28.5-mile swim five times.

In 1994, Marcella MacDonald made her childhood dream come true, at the age of 28. Since then, she has swum the English Channel 16 times, including three times when she did a double cross, swimming there and back. MacDonald was the first American woman to swim across the Channel, from England to France and back in 2001.

At 18.2 nautical miles, the English Channel is considered by many to be the “Mount Everest” of open water swims. Only 1500 men and women have successfully swam the English Channel and many, many more have tried. The trek generally starts at the White Cliffs of Dover at Shakespeare Beach and ends on the shore of Cape Gris Nez. By many accounts, it is the most difficult swim to finish. It’s a very cold, 20-mile swim in water that is much saltier, and the changing tides approaching the French shore can force swimmers to basically swim in place for up to four hours.

The English Channel and the Manhattan Island Marathon swim are a part of the Triple Crown of open water swimming, which also features the Catalina Channel Swim, a 20.1-mile swim from Catalina Island to the shores of San Pedro, California. MacDonald completed the triple crown in June, 2013 when she swam the Catalina Channel in 12 hours and 9 minutes.

MacDonald has also successfully completed the 24-mile Tampa Bay, Florida Marathon Swim, a solo swim around Mercer Island in Washington, and a 17-mile swim across the Long Island Sound in New York.

This past September, MacDonald even attempted the 52-mile swim from the UK to Belgium in St. Margaret’s Bay, something no man or woman has ever completed. After 15 hours, an injury to her left shoulder forced her to stop at a beach north of France.

In addition to her open water swimming accomplishments, Dr. Marcella MacDonald is a Podiatrist who operates her own practice in Manchester, Connecticut. In her spare time, she enjoys coaching at the Laurel East Hartford YMCA and gives talks about her exciting adventures and open water swims.

MacDonald has already been inducted into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame in 2005 and was named the Open Water Swimming Woman of the Year in 2011 by the World Open Water Swimming Association.

MacDonald still finds the time to train to ensure she is ready for the next big swim. She is usually in the water training every day at 5:30 a.m. This July, she is set to swim the English Channel again, on the 25th anniversary of her first crossing. The way she puts it, “It’s just right stroke, left stroke, right stroke, left stroke — for hours on end.”
Alfred Nakache (FRA)

2019 Honor Pioneer Swimmer

FOR THE RECORD: 1936 OLYMPIC GAMES: 4TH (4x200m freestyle); 1948
OLYMPIC GAMES; 1938 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS: silver (4x200m
freestyle); WORLD RECORD: 200m breaststroke (1941), 3x100m relay 3 strokes
(1946); FRENCH CHAMPION: 13 titles, including 9 consecutive: 100m freestyle
(1935-38, 41, 42), 200m freestyle (1937-38, 1941-42), 400m freestyle (1942), 4x200m
freestyle (1937-39, 1942, 1944-52); 1931 NORTH AFRICAN CHAMPION: 100m
freestyle in 1931; 1935 MACCABIAH GAMES: silver (100m freestyle)

The name of Mark Spitz with his unprecedented seven gold medals and seven
world records at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games stands out above all other
achievements in Jewish sports history, but the title for the first great Jewish
butterfly swimmer, belongs to another and this is his story. This is the story of
French Algerian, Alfred Nakache.

With shoulders lined with hard and protruding muscles, “Artem” as he was known, took part in his first French
Championships, in 1933, in Paris where he later moved from Algeria that summer, to train and to pursue a degree in
Physical Education. At the 1934 French Nationals, he placed second in the 100m freestyle, behind his idol, Jean Taris. In
1935, Artem was one of 1,000 Jewish athletes who traveled to Tel Aviv to attend the second annual Maccabiah Games.

In front of Hitler, in 1936, at the Berlin Olympic Games, Nakache finished fourth in the 4×200m freestyle relay along
with teammates, Christian Talli, René Cavalero and Jean Taris. Although they didn’t make the podium, they had the
pleasure of beating the Germans -who finished fifth- in their home country.

Between 1935 and 1938, Artem Nakache won seven national titles and began training in the new butterfly-
breaststroke. After receiving his certificate as a professor of Physical Education, in 1939, he stopped training to join
the French Air Force in preparation for war with Germany.

In the early part of the 1940’s, Nakache was forced to flee to Toulouse, into the unoccupied “Free Zone”, with his new
wife Paulie. There he was welcomed like a son by two historical figures of French swimming, coach Alban Minville
and Jules Jany. He was provided a gym to run and he began training with Minville’s Toulouse Olympic Employee’s
Club Dauphins. In 1941 and 1942 Nakache won six French National titles, but the high point of his career came on
July 6th, 1941—when he broke American Jack Kasley’s world record, and Germany’s Joachim Balke’s European
record, in the 200m breaststroke with a time of 2:36.8. His world record would last five years, until broken in 1946
by Hall of Famer Joe Verdeur of the USA.

As anti-Semitic persecution was intensifying across Europe, the French media was split in their support for Nakache.
While Jean Borotra, the courageous Vichy Commissioner of Sport and Wimbledon tennis champion, celebrated
his achievements, others called for his exclusion from national competitions and the record books because of his
“Jewishness.”

In 1943, the French Swimming Federation finally gave in to the pressure from the Germans and banned Alfred
Nakache from swimming in their 1943 National Championships. Although many of the country’s best swimmers
refused to compete without Nakache, their support couldn’t save him from the Nazis. Finally, in December of 1943,
Nakache, his wife and daughter, were arrested and sent to Auschwitz. Upon arrival he was immediately separated
from his family.

Toward the end of the war, Nakache was moved to Buchenwald, where he was freed by the Allies in 1945. Of the
1,368 men, women and children in their death camp convoy, Nakache was one of only 47 who survived. His wife
and daughter did not. Four months later and weighing less than 100 pounds, he returned to Toulouse, where he
lived with the Jany family. Amazingly, less than a year after the liberation of Buchenwald, he was part of the French
team in 1946 that set a world record in the 3×100m medley relay and reclaimed his title as French national champion
in the 200m breaststroke.

He completed a truly remarkable comeback by qualifying for the 1948 French Olympic Team in two sports. At the
London Games, 34-year-old Alfred Nakache swam well enough to reach the semi-finals in the 200m breaststroke,
and after swimming concluded, he was a member of the French water polo team that finished in sixth place overall.

Nakache retired from swimming in the early 1950s and devoted himself to his gym and teaching. In addition, he
helped train 1952 Olympic champion Jean Boiteux. With his long over-due induction, Nakache will forever be
reunited with his idol, Jean Taris, his coach Alban Minville and world-record setting relay teammates, Georges
Vallery and Alex Jany, into the International Swimming Hall of Fame.
He was born in Moscow in 1941, during WWII, and grew up in Moscow at the height of the cold war. It was when sports in the Soviet Union were under the supervision of the ministry of defense and Boris Popov began his playing water polo at the TsSK Navy Children’s School. From 1960 through 1973 he played for the Moscow State University team and in 1964, was a member of the Soviet team that won the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics and gold at the 1966 European Championships.

After his MSU team won the European Champions Cup in 1973, he gave up his water polo career as a player and began coaching for Burevestnik, Moscow. The next year he was selected to be the coach of the National Junior Team, and his team brought home gold in 1975 and in 1978 at the European Junior Championships.

In 1972, the Soviet Union had won the gold medal at the Munich Games, but at the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games, the team placed a disappointing eighth. For the next several years they failed to reach the podium at all major international tournaments.

Popov’s success with the Junior Team was noticed and in 1979 he was selected to lead the U.S.S.R. National Senior Team, with the core of players he had developed at the junior level, including Hall of Fame goalkeeper, Evgeny Sharanov. Mixing the younger players with veterans Aleksei Barkalov and Aleksandr Kabanov, Popov led his team to the gold medal in their hometown of Moscow, at the 1980 Summer Olympics.

The Soviet team did not lose a game during the entire Olympic tournament at the 1980 Games. They went undefeated again at the II FINA World Cup in Long Beach in 1981. They won gold again at the 1982 FINA World Championship in Guayaquil and again at the 1983 FINA World Cup in Malibu. Unfortunately, the world never got to see what the Soviets could do at the Los Angeles Olympic Games due to the Soviet Block’s retaliatory boycott in 1984. However, after the 1984 Olympic Games concluded, the Soviets won the gold at a tournament in Havana, Cuba that featured the nations who boycotted LA.

Because the Soviets, Hungarians and other nations had boycotted the LA Games, they were banned by FINA from the 1985 World Cup - but the Soviet success continued by winning the gold medal at the European Championships in 1985 and 1987, and won gold at the 1986 and 1988 Goodwill Games. At the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, the team won bronze and after winning the 1989 European Championships, they took bronze again at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

In the years 1993 and 1994, Popov left Russia and went to Greece and his former player and assistant coach, Alexandr Kabanov took over the team. After the Russians finished a disappointing fifth in Atlanta, Popov was back in charge and directed with getting the team ready for Sydney 2000. The team placed fourth in the1999 FINA World Cup, and in Sydney, Australia.

After so much success, the failure to reach the podium in 1999 and 2000 was a major disappointment and the Russian Federation returned the reigns of the team once again to Kabanov, but with poor results. Popov was back in charge by 2006 until he retired in 2008.

It must be said that after the breakup of the Soviet Union, there was a great deal of social and economic problems that had a devastating effect on the fortunes of Russian water polo. They are just now recovering.

Currently, Boris Popov is the Vice President of the Russian Water Polo Federation. He is living in the city of Kirishi and devoting his time to the development of children’s water polo in the Leningrad region.
Stephanie Rice (AUS)

2019 Honor Swimmer

FOR THE RECORD: 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES: gold (200m I.M, 400m I.M, 4x200m freestyle); 2007 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): bronze (200m I.M, 400m I.M.); 2009 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): silver (200m I.M, 4x100m medley); bronze (400m I.M.); 2011 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): bronze (400m I.M., 4x100m medley); 2006 PAN PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS: bronze (200m I.M., 400m I.M); 2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES: gold (200m I.M, 400m I.M)

She first showed promise of being a great swimmer at 16, when she qualified for the 2005 Junior Pan-Pacific Championships. It was there that Stephanie Rice won two gold medals for Team Australia.

Rice burst onto the international senior scene in 2006 under coach Michael Bohl, winning two gold medals in both IMs at the Commonwealth Games in her home country. The next year at the World Championships also in front of a home crowd, Rice won two bronze medals in both IMs, lowering the Australian record in the 200.

In March 2008 at the Australian Olympic Trials in Sydney, Rice unexpectedly broke the world record in the 400m IM by a full second. Three days later, she broke the 200m IM world record that had stood for 11 years and qualified for her first Olympic team.

At the Olympic Games in Beijing, Rice became just the sixth Australian athlete to win three gold medals at a single Olympics when she won both IMs and led off Australia’s 4x200m freestyle relay team.

Stephanie became the first woman to break 4:30 in the 400m IM and lowered her own world record in the 200m IM later in the meet. To finish off her meet, she broke the Australian record in the 200m freestyle en route to Australia breaking the world record in the 4x200m freestyle relay. Rice was honored as the World Swimmer of the Year by Swimming World Magazine and in January 2009 was awarded the prestigious Order of Australia Medal.

After the Olympics, Rice started dealing with nagging shoulder pain while she swam. At the 2009 World Championships, she won silver in the 200m IM and bronze in the 400m IM.

In 2010, her shoulder pain had gotten so bad, she underwent surgery, causing her to drop out of international competition.

Her surgery was successful but nine months before the 2012 Olympic Games in London, she tore a tendon in her shoulder. She was going to need surgery with a six-month recovery, but with the Olympic Trials only ten weeks away, full surgery was not an option. She elected for a smaller surgery that would hopefully keep her healthy for the Olympics. Despite these injuries, Rice qualified for the London Olympics in both the 200m and 400m IM, posting times near the top of the world rankings at the Olympic Trials.

In the weeks leading up to the Olympics, the pain in her shoulder continued to get worse. She was cutting her work load in the pool to ease the pain, but it was still a struggle. With all the injuries behind her, Rice was proud of her 4th place 200m IM and 6th place 400m IM performances in London and announced her retirement in 2014 at the age of 24.

She co-authored the book, The Art of Wellness, and is an ambassador for numerous well-known global brands. Rice’s passion in life is to share her wealth of knowledge and her insights to positively impact others’ lives and inspire them to be the best they can be.

She is now giving back to the sport of swimming with her coach Michael Bohl. “Stephanie has now created and launched the ‘Stephanie Rice Swimming Academy’ in India, along with her coach Michael Bohl with the goal of producing India’s very first Olympic Swimming medalist in the next 10 years, along with inspiring many Indian kids to learn swim safety skills.”
Hungary is a land of thermal springs and although landlocked, swimming and water sports are ingrained in its culture. This love of water led to an early domination of international swimming and diving competitions in the late 19th and early 20th century. In the 1920’s, it was water polo that came to symbolize Hungary’s unique strengths and individuality. So, it was natural for a boy born in 1930 to want to play water polo.

Dr. Ferenc Salamon was a swimmer who started playing water polo late, at the age of 19, in 1949. He was a talented athlete, and his development was rapid. In 1952, he joined the Hungarian National Team and was a member of the silver-medal winning team at the World University Games in Paris in 1957. Although Dr. Salamon retired as a player in 1966, he has remained active in water polo for almost 70 years.

Two years after his retirement as a player, he became an internationally certified referee and immediately began officiating all types of competitions, including the 1970 European Championships, 1972 Olympic Games and the very first FINA World Championships in 1973 in Belgrade. He continued officiating major events, such as the European Championships for 34 years, the Olympic Games for 28 years, the World Championships for 26 years and the FINA World Cup for 21 years.

Salamon has served as a member of the European Swimming League Technical Water Polo Committee for 34 years, uninterrupted, from 1970-2004, and has also been a member of the FINA Technical Water Polo Committee for 28 years, from 1972-2000.

During these many years of service, Dr. Salamon’s contributions to the organization have been exemplary and he has been helpful in the various areas of aquatic sports, including organizing, directing, and participating in many world and other international events, tournaments, conferences, clinics and congresses between 1970 and 2004. They include ten Olympic Games, all World and European Championships, FINA World Cups, Youth World Championships, and numerous Olympic and World Championship qualification tournaments during these years.

Salamon is also a Masters Committee Member of FINA and is on the Awards Commission of the European Swimming League. In his role as Masters Committee Member, he participated in the FINA Masters World Championships in the 2014, 2015 and 2017 Games and is also a member of the recent action committee for the upcoming 2019 event.

He has offered numerous proposals, amendments and advice for the technical committee with the intention to improve and further develop the game. Some of his suggestions influenced the entire sport of water polo including the regulation regarding the 55-year age limit for acting referees; introduction of experimental tournaments, and the 1970’s system to supervise officials.

In addition to the many hours he devotes to the sport of water polo, Dr. Salamon is a Chief Hospital Physician. His medical and professional publications appear regularly in the FINA Magazine.

Dr. Salamon was presented the FINA and LEN gold and silver pins for his extraordinary work and dedication to the sport of water polo. He was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in LEN and to the Hungarian Swimming Federation. He has been bestowed with the honors of the Hungarian Sports Award, the Sport of the Hungarian Republic, and the Olympic Award, presented by the Hungarian Olympic Committee.
Olga Sedakova (RUS)

2019 Honor Synchronized Swimmer

FOR THE RECORD: 1992 OLYMPIC GAMES: 4th (solo, duet); 1996 OLYMPIC GAMES: 4th (team); 1991 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: 4th (solo, duet, team); 1994 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: 4th (solo, team); 1998 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: gold (solo, duet, team); 1991 WORLD CUP: 4th (solo, team); 1993 WORLD CUP: silver (duet), bronze (solo); 1995 WORLD CUP: bronze (solo, team); 1997 WORLD CUP: gold (solo, duet, team); 1994 GOODWILL GAMES: gold (solo); 1990 SOVIET WOMEN’S CUP: bronze (duet), 6th (solo); 1991 SOVIET WOMEN’S CUP: gold (solo, duet). Nine-time European Championships

The sport of synchronized swimming had been around since the early 20th century when Annette Kellerman and Katherine Curtis were the first performers of the growing sport, but it did not come to the Soviet Union until decades later. When Olga Sedakova was about nine-years-old, she and her twin sister came upon synchronized swimming by pure chance.

Olga’s mother, an engineer, was working at one of the largest aquatic centers in Moscow and it was there that the girls discovered the sport. Olga and her sister were trained by their young coach, Elena Polianskaja. It was clear Olga had raw talent in the sport, but because synchronized swimming was so new to the Soviet Union, it would be years before she would be considered world class.

When Olga was in her mid-teens, Soviet women’s magazine, “Journal Price”, hosted an international competition to celebrate International Women’s Day for Soviet Women, providing a great opportunity for young synchronized swimmers like Olga to see and learn from successful swimmers.

She absorbed as much knowledge as she could and in 1988 at the European Junior Championships, Olga helped the Soviet Union win its first gold medal in the sport. This led to her selection on the national senior team.

In 1992, at the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Olga finished fourth in both the solo and duet competition with partner Anna Kozlova.

After the Olympics, Olga decided to make a change and moved to Zurich, Switzerland to begin training with Kozlova’s coach, Svetlana Fursova. Together, they won Russia its first medal at the world level with a silver in the duet performance at a 1993 FINA World Cup meet in Lausanne. Then in 1994, Olga won her first international gold medal in the solo event at the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg.

After her success, Kozlova and Fursova moved to North America and she was left alone without a partner or coach. She decided to coach at her club in Zurich and train in her free time with the help of Swiss coach Susie Morger. She eventually moved back to Russia to train with the national team leading up to the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta where they placed fourth as a team, getting shut out of the medals for the second straight Olympics.

After the Olympics, Olga returned to Russia and began training with new partner, ISHOF honoree Olga Brushnikina and was performing at the top of her game.

Her career culminated in 1998 when Olga Sedakova won solo, duet and team at the World Championships in Perth, becoming just the fourth person to sweep every single event at Worlds.

Feeling that she achieved everything she set out to do, Olga retired from synchronized swimming and decided to take on a new challenge in coaching. She became the Swiss National Team coach and led them into the 2000 and 2004 Olympic Games but has since stopped coaching to focus on family.

She has since married and has three daughters and is hoping to one day return to the sport of synchronized swimming.
Britta Steffen (GER)

2019 Honor Swimmer

FOR THE RECORD: 2000 OLYMPIC GAMES: bronze (4x200m freestyle); 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES: gold (50m freestyle, 100m freestyle); 2009 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): gold (50m freestyle, 100m freestyle), silver (4x100m freestyle), bronze (4x100m medley); 2007 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): silver (4x200m freestyle), bronze (100m freestyle); 2011 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LC): bronze (4x100m freestyle); 2000 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (SC): silver (4x100m freestyle); 2012 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (SC): gold (100m freestyle; 5 WORLD RECORDS

She was winning youth championships in Germany at age 14 and was quickly becoming one of the top junior swimmers in all of Europe. At the 1999 European Junior Championships when she was just 15, Britta Steffen won six gold medals.

A year later, Steffen was selected to compete for Germany at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games in both freestyle relays. She led off Germany’s 4x200m freestyle prelim relay and watched as her teammates raced to the bronze medal in the final, earning her first major international medal at the senior level.

In 2004, Steffen missed qualifying for the Olympic Team by six hundredths of a second in the 50m freestyle, but still picked up a relay spot to compete in Athens. She again swam on the prelims relay in the 4x100m freestyle, but injured her foot and was unable to compete during the rest of the Games.

After a heartbreaking Olympic experience, Steffen returned home to begin her studies and work on her bachelor’s degree in Environmental Engineering, adding on to an already rigorous training schedule.

Steffen had to start practice later than all her teammates, because of her studies, and often had to practice alone. With the continuous work load, she was constantly tired and ended up bedridden with a severe cold. She decided then that maybe it was time to quit swimming.

One of Britta’s biggest struggles in swimming was her inability to put her swims together in competitions when it mattered the most. She knew that if she was going to come back to swimming, she was going to have to get out of her own head. She met with a sports psychologist, who specialized in high performance and health. She was able to help Britta make changes with her training as well as her relationship with her coach.

With this new mental training, Steffen hoped she would lead her swimming career on a new path and in 2006 at the European Championships, Steffen set a world record in the 100m freestyle and was on two world record setting freestyle relays for Germany, swimming one of the fastest relay splits in history. For these efforts, Steffen was honored as Swimmer of the Year by the German Swimming Federation.

After her seemingly meteoric rise to the top of the world rankings, Steffen was accused of doping by the international media, even though she had never failed a drug test. To hush these rumors, Steffen volunteered to take examinations to ensure she was clean and all of the tests came back negative.

Steffen struggled to return to her form as the best sprinter in the world after her spectacular 2006 performances. At the 2007 World Championships in Melbourne, she only managed a bronze in the 100m freestyle and a silver in the 4x200m freestyle relay. Leading into the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, Steffen was hardly a medal favorite.

She silenced all of her doubters when she won the 100m freestyle at the last stroke to win Germany’s first Olympic gold medal in swimming since 1992. Two days later, she won her second gold medal of the Games in the 50m freestyle, winning again at the very last stroke.

After the Olympics in 2008, she continued her momentum with two new world records at the 2009 World Championships in the 50m and 100m freestyles, but after 2009 her career would never be the same.

Illnesses and injuries kept her off the podium at the 2011 World Championships and 2012 Olympics and Steffen retired from swimming in September 2013. Today, she hosts TV programs and is involved in social projects for young children.
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Gregory Eggert (USA)
2019 Paragon Award / Competitive Swimming

Over the last 30 years, Greg Eggert has been one of the leading figures within USA Swimming, United States Aquatic Sports, the YMCA, UANA and FINA, in a variety of roles and duties.

Greg Eggert began as a swimmer on the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA, and later served as an assistant swim coach for the LHY team for one season. He was head coach at the West Morris YMCA for two seasons and then for two seasons as an assistant coach to Jim Wood at the Berkeley Aquatic Club in New Jersey. As an age group coach, he served as the Manager of several Eastern Zone All Star Teams and served as the Age Group Chair for New Jersey Swimming followed by two terms as the General Chair of New Jersey Swimming.

Eggert was elected to the USA Swimming Board of Directors as an Eastern Zone director and subsequently elected as USA Swimming Vice President. He served as Special Assistant to USA Swimming President Dale Neuburger. He was appointed to the International Relations Committee in 1998 and served as a member for 20 years including one term as the co-chair of the committee. He also served the shortest tenure of any member on the ISHOF Board of Directors during the transition from one CEO to the next.

Eggert served as the Press Information Manager at the 1995 FINA Water Polo World Cup and in the same role at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. Appointed as a member of the FINA Commission in 2000 and in 2017, he was appointed by FINA President Julio Maglione to serve as the Honorary Secretary of the FINA Media Committee. He serves as editor for the Americas of the FINA Aquatics Magazine and contributes articles to the magazine about athletes and coaches across each of the aquatic disciplines. Since 2004, he has served as the Media Officer of United States Aquatic Sports. Eggert has worked for NBC at the US Olympic Trials and various broadcasts of USA Swimming Nationals and the Duel in the Pool, and for ESPN during the NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships.

Appointed as the Media Officer of UANA by UANA President Eldon Godfrey in 2007, Eggert will serve in the role through August 2019. He was appointed Executive Director of UANA in 2015 and is responsible for oversight of the aquatic disciplines at the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru in August 2019.
Bill Farrar (USA)

2019 Paragon Award / Competitive Diving

Born in Washington, D.C. Bill Farrar graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.A. in General Studies, majoring in Economics and Business Administration. He received his Juris Doctor with Honors from the National Law Center of the George Washington University.

Bill Farrar has served USA Diving in a variety of capacities for nearly three decades.

As a long-time member of the Board of Directors, Farrar spent time as both Vice-Chair of Administration and as Law and Legislation / Governance Chair. He has also served as USA Diving General Counsel, and has been involved in the Board of Review Committee, the Long-Range Planning committee, the Business Affairs Committee, the Rules Committee and the Member Services Committee.

Farrar began his service with USA Diving in 1990, when he attended his first annual meeting as a delegate from the Potomac Valley Diving Association. At that meeting, he was elected to the Law & Legislation Committee as the Zone A member. He has been involved with USA Diving ever since.

He went on to serve ten years as Law & Legislation / Governance Committee Chair and six years as Vice Chair of Administration, resulting in 16 years on the Board of Directors.

In 1999-2000, he chaired the Long-Range Planning Committee, which led to an eight-year long range plan adopted by the membership in September, 2000.

Farrar was a member of the Business Affairs Advisory Committee from 2005-2008, with that committee recommending significant and substantive changes to the structure of USA Diving. He served on the selection committees that recommended Debbie Hesse as the first President and CEO of USA Diving as well as Linda Paul, who was Hesse’s successor.

During his many years of service, he has reviewed and drafted many contracts of various types and has provided legal counsel to the Board, the Executive Director and the Presidents. He led the Bylaws Committee that created the Amended and Restated Bylaws of USA Diving in 2017.

In 2014, he received the Glenn McCormick Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to the sport of diving.

Bill continues to serve USA Diving whenever called upon. He resides with his wife Karen in Beaufort, SC.
Dr. Igor Petrovich Kartashov (RUS)
2019 Paragon Award / Synchronized Swimming

Dr. Igor Kartashov was a competitive swimmer. He was educated at Volgograd State Institute of Physical Culture and Sport (1972-1976) and then entered graduate school at the Leningrad State Institute School of Physical Culture and Sport of Lesgaft (1980).

While in Leningrad, Kartashov worked with the great swim coaches Igor Koshkin and Genrih Yarotsky, where he developed training programs and analyzed equipment used to evaluate them. Kartashov developed and patented approximately 20 modifications of simulators for swimming. After completing graduate school, he remained in Leningrad to work at the Department of Swimming under the direction of Arvid Kozlov, father of Olympian Anna Kozlova (United Team ‘92 and USA 2000 and 2004).

In 1983, the Sport Research Support Group of the National Synchronized Swimming Program was created and led by Igor Kartashov. The ideology of the program was the organization of sport as “Synchro as a Gold Medal Factory”. The principle is constant controlled pressure and monitored competition of young athletes based on the results of famous athletes. It also supports the development of young coaches. The concept of the “factory” is “stiff competition, full control and deliberate correction.” This program was supported at the highest level of the Ministry of Sports of the USSR. Kartashov also identified model characteristics of the world’s leading synchronized swimmers based on testing at international competitions.

In 1984, Kartashov introduced video tutorials. At this time the program Reserve-92, Hope-96 was created for young synchronized swimmers. Russian junior athletes first entered the European Junior Championships and made the podium in 1985 (Bulgaria). In 1986, at the European Juniors in Holland, the Russians swept the gold medals. Many of the athletes on that team won the gold medal in the 2000 Olympic team event. They have remained undefeated in Olympic events and have dominated the World Championships as well. The Russian synchronized junior swimmers have been undefeated at the World Championships ever since. The senior national team has been undefeated at the World and Olympic Games since 2000.

Igor Kartashov’s challenge and dream of creating a Gold Medal Factory has been accomplished. Today, many of his pupils are coaching in countries all around the world, elevating the technical levels of synchronized swimming.

Kartashov has also held the following positions of leadership in synchronized swimming: President, Russian Synchronized Swimming Federation (1992-97 and 2000-2005). Member, LEN TSSC (1994), serving as Vice Chairman (12 years); Member, FINA TSSC (1996-2017), serving as Vice Chairman.

He has also produced movies on the analysis of sculling for both FINA and LEN.

Today, Kartashov continues to serve as vice president of the Russian Synchronized Swimming Federation training the leaders of today and tomorrow.
Don Holbrook (USA)
2019 Paragon Award / Water Polo

Don Holbrook has worked as a water polo coach, official, supervisor and commissioner for over 40 years. He has worked in these different positions not for fame or glory but for the sport he truly loves.

Holbrook coached boys’ water polo starting in 1972 at Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights, California, for well over 10 years and came back to coach the girls inaugural water polo team at Los Altos for five years.

Don became active in officiating at the high school, community college and college level shortly after coaching the boys at Los Altos.

He then became the head referee at the USA Water Polo National Junior Olympics for age groups 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U and worked for over 15 years in this capacity. As the tournament increased in the number of teams allowed to qualify, the tournament increased to over 200 teams for both boys, girls and co-ed for the 12U and Holbrook’s involvement increased as well. They utilized over 25 sites and had well over 100 officials for each session (boys and girls). Holbrook dealt with travel compensation, hotels, ground transportation and the assigning of the numerous games each day. He held clinics each night so the officials from all over the United States could have a knowledge clinic to add to their on-deck mentoring experiences.

On the local level, Holbrook worked as the liaison between the officiating governing BOD and the sports governing board for interscholastic athletics in CIF-SS. He was a member of this Officials Association BOD for over 15 years and he also worked as the representative on this board for the collegiate officials.

Today, Holbrook works with the governing association in dealing with their championship weekend for water polo. He oversees the field of play personnel for this event.

In addition, he is the supervisor of officials for the Southern California Community Colleges, three conferences (excluding San Diego), and has done this for approximately 10 years. Holbrook mentors and evaluates all officials working for these conferences.

He is also the supervisor of officials for the Southern California Interscholastic Athletic Conference (SCIAC) and has held this position for 15 years.

On the high school level, Holbrook also assigns the high school officials in his local area in Southern California.
Chief Peter Davis, a seventh generation Galvestonian, leads the Galveston Island Beach Patrol as well as the Park Board Police Department. He has been involved in lifesaving since 1983. This includes serving as a professional ocean lifeguard, but for many of those years he has acted in a voluntary capacity to develop lifesaving and reduce drowning worldwide, with a focus on Central and South America.

Peter has acted as Secretary General of the Americas Region of the International Life Saving Federation since 2008. He has visited many Central and South American countries to help develop national lifesaving organizations. He is currently involved in training Mexican lifeguards and is the coordinator of a lifeguard exchange program with Galveston sister city, Veracruz. Davis has been involved in numerous international efforts to train the first open water lifeguard instructors.

He is an Open Water Lifesaving and Personal Watercraft Rescue for the USLA and Red Cross open water lifeguarding, Red Cross Emergency Medical Response and personal watercraft rescue. He is an Emergency Medical Technician, Texas Peace Officer, Marine Safety Enforcement Officer, Emergency Vehicle Operator, Swift Water Technician, and Public Safety Driver. He is also certified as a Crisis Intervention Counselor.

Davis has also served as a voluntary official with the United States Lifesaving Association since 1985, in a variety of capabilities including President and Vice-President of the Gulf Coast Region. A key project Davis has been involved, is a partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to educate the Public about rip currents and rip current safety. Davis has written numerous articles and produced videos warning bathers about the dangers of rip currents.

Chief Davis was elected President of the United States Lifesaving Association in 2014 and currently serves in that capacity. He oversees the nation’s only national organization of open water lifeguards which sets the standards for beach lifeguarding in the USA.
Carvin DiGiovanni (USA)

2019 Paragon Award / Recreational Swimming

Carvin DiGiovanni has been a PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY ANSI Standards expert with over forty years’ experience building consensus with industry business segments and government officials. He has successfully forged relationships with the CPSC, CDC, OSHA, EPA, DOE, FBI and many industry allied associations and groups including the ICC. He has assisted federal legislators in the development of the VGB Pool and Spa Safety Act.

Since 1990, DiGiovanni has been the Vice President, Technical & Standards of the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals; From 2015 to the present he has been the Senior Director, Technical, Standards, Education and Government Relations. The years 1990 through 2015, he directed the industry’s standards, technical, education and government relations programs. DiGiovanni managed 200 industry technical experts in the promulgation of 17 ANSI/APSP/ICC pool and spa standards through the American National Standards Institute process resulting in various states, local jurisdictions and national building codes referencing these standards.

On the International Code Council, he was instrumental in aligning the APSP with the International Code Council with a Memorandum of Understanding which has led to both organizations developing a new ICC Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) incorporating many of the ANSI/APSP standards. States adopting this pool code achieve APSP’s government relations goal of having the APSP standards become law. This milestone relationship brings the code officials closer to the industry to enhance public safety.

He has been involved in expert witness testimony and successfully defended the APSP by providing testimony in lawsuits where the APSP was being sued. He successfully testified before the CPSC to secure industry unblockable drain technology. Additionally, he worked with both Houses in the U.S. Congress to ensure that the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB) was consistent with ANSI/APSP-7 Standard for Suction Entrapment Avoidance.

Carvin has worked collaboratively with industry representatives to USA Diving, American Public Health Association, National Environmental Association, World Water Parks Association, American Hotel and Lodging Association, American Red Cross, and YMCA, CPSC, and CDC. Education, Training & Certification Program Strategy-Provided leadership and direction for moving the association’s training and certification programs, DiGiovanni helped bring about a more progressive online platform comprised of learning modules. He managed the production of four industry core certification and training programs: Builder, Service, Portable Hot tub and Retail segments, including textbooks, PowerPoint slides and exams.

He has been recognized by numerous awards, including, World Water Park Association, “Al Turner Commitment to Excellence Award” (2018); APSP Fellow (2015); ICC “Industry Affiliate Award” (2014); Federal Bureau of Investigation Award for “Exceptional Service in The Public Interest” (2011); National Drowning Prevention Alliance “Community Lifesaver Award” (2009); Aquatics International Magazine “25 Towers of Power” (2006). Currently serving on the Board of Directors of the National Drowning Prevention Alliance.
Peter H. Bick, Ph.D. specializes in sports, nature and event photography. He received his B.S. in Biology from Albion College (1970) and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Immunology & Microbiology from the University of Michigan (1975). Bick pursued postdoctoral studies at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm (1975-76) and Washington University (1976-77). After serving as a faculty member of the Medical College of Virginia (1977-1985), Bick joined Eli Lily and Company as a research scientist. He retired from Eli Lily after 20 years of research and research management assignments.

Since moving to Indianapolis in 1985, Bick has been a part of the Indianapolis Sports Initiative through his involvement with the Indiana Sports Corporation, the RCA Tennis Championships, the Circle City Classic, various amateur sport governing bodies, Indiana and Purdue universities and event corporate sponsors. During this period, Bick has photographed numerous major events including, Olympic Trials in Swimming, Diving, Rowing, Synchronized Swimming, and Wrestling; NCAA Championships in Swimming and Diving, Track and Field and Water Polo, and Final Four Basketball; World Championships in Diving, Rowing, Gymnastics, Swimming and Basketball; National Championship events in Swimming, Rowing, Basketball, Gymnastics, Track and Field, and Water Polo; Davis Cup Tennis, IndyCar auto racing and U.S. National Drag races. For 16 years, Bick served as the tournament photographer for the RCA Championships, a significant event on the ATP Tour.

Bick is the Chief Photographer for Swimming World Magazine (2014) and his images have been published nationally and internationally. Bick’s publication credits include Sports Illustrated, Sports Illustrated for Women, Tennis Magazine, Tennis Week, Time, Swimming World, Swim, Splash, Swimmer Magazine, L’Equipe, U.S. Rowing, Synchro Swimming USA, USA Diving magazine, Indianapolis Monthly, Indianapolis Star, ATP Tour in Review, PGA programs, RCA Championships publications, and Big Ten and Indiana Sports Corporation publications, to name a few.

In the field of nature photography, Bick has traveled extensively throughout the United States, to the Galapagos Islands, the Falkland Islands and Antarctica and several times to Africa to photograph wildlife.

Peter lives in Zionsville, Indiana with his wife Carol.
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Ruth Meyer (USA)

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Ruth Meyer, MEd, RKT has been working in pools since the early 1970’s, teaching aquatics in suburban Philadelphia alongside her mother and sisters. Meyer swam competitively while at Conestoga High and received her WSI in 1973. Feeling driven to apply her love of water to her lifelong career while at Bucknell University, Ruth volunteered at Selinsgrove State School in 1977. While interning in the rehab department she developed a staff in-service on how to optimize the use of their uniquely designed therapy pool, improving safe access for clients and staff.

Meyer continued her education at University of Toledo where adapted aquatics and aquatic therapy were part of the Kinesiotherapy curriculum. Upon completion of her Master of Education in Kinesiotherapy, Ruth started working in 1980 at Fernald State School, in Waltham MA in 1980, teaching adapted aquatics. She then worked as a Kinesiotherapist in New Hampshire providing aquatic therapy, work reconditioning and Kinesiotherapy services at various pools and fitness facilities from Portsmouth to Nashua to Concord, with a strong focus on clients with back pain and disability. She continued her education becoming an AEA water exercise instructor, Arthritis Foundation water exercise/PACE and self-help instructor, and instructor-trainer; AAHPERD Adapted Aquatics Master Trainer, and ATRI aquatic therapist. She presented at various conferences: American Back Society, American Pain Society, NRPA, USWFA, ATRI, AEA, AF, AAHPERD, AKTA, MFA. She then became a Watsu practitioner and Watsu level 1 instructor.

She taught aquatic therapy, kinesiology and biomechanics at various institutions NEIWH (New England Institute Whole Health), NH Technical College, Macomb Community College, Virginia Commonwealth University, Murphy Deming School of Health Sciences (Mary Baldwin) and University of Virginia (master level adapted PE program aquatic section). She has offered aquatic therapy classes through ATRI, Medical Fitness Association and AKTA.

Ruth published various articles on health, wellness and was featured in her local papers about her work in aquatics and wellness. She completed her Federal Employee Wellness coaching certification in 2010 and presented at the first Federal Employee Wellness conference in Washington DC in 2012. Ruth wrote the chapter on Staff Training in Comprehensive Aquatic Therapy (Becker and Cole) editions 2 & 3. She taught with Dr. Becker’s aquatic therapy team in China in 2018.

She is an adapted ski instructor through PSIA and has volunteered at Wintergreen Adapted Sports for more than 10 years.

Ruth has recently been working at Hunter Holmes McGuire VAMC as a kinesiotherapist in employee wellness, weight management, health coaching, rehab and aquatic therapy. Ruth continues to offer Watsu as a practitioner and instructor and consults with various organizations.
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David S. Duda has been an aquatic professional for 60+ years and has been active in Florida aquatics for 31 of those years. He is the founder and CEO of MDM Aquatics/ Safety Training & Consulting, working closely with many community clients including five cities (Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Davie, Dania Beach and Cooper City), Memorial Health Care Systems, Seminole Tribe of Florida and Seminole Hard Rock Casino.

Prior to moving to Florida, Dave spent four years in Family YMCA's as an Aquatic Director. In the 1970's his two children were born. He promoted a very important new aquatics program for infant and preschool swim lessons. With an emphasis in family learning, he was actively teaching swimming and safety lessons using his own children in demonstrating skills and water play. This successful program grew very quickly.

Dave’s expertise in efficiency in the water also played a great role in his successful coaching of swimming and diving at age group, high school and collegiate levels as well. In 1987, Dave accepted the Aquatics Manager position at FIU in North Miami where he partnered with the FIU Early Education Department to initiate a swim / safety program for their pre-school participants. He also collaborated with many aquatics professionals throughout Florida to promote aquatics lessons and develop strong teachers. He hosted three successful ARC National Aquatics Schools with 300+ participants earning various Red Cross certifications. Dave received the Greater Miami ARC Chapter “Volunteer of the Year” Award.

In 1992, Dave took an assignment as an Associate in Program Development at the ARC National Headquarters in Washington D.C. working on the WSI program update. Today, he is an active member of the Broward Drowning Prevention Task Force and regularly invites new aquatic professionals for involvement. He is a former member of International Swimming Hall of Fame Executive Advisory Committee. He has been involved in spring break aquatic instructor training at Ball State University, and summer swim lessons at American Heritage and Beacon Hill private schools.

His focus continues to help teach aquatic skills to children and mentor instructors in diverse populations in aquatics. He partners with Seminole Tribe of Florida to train and certify aquatics staff as well as promote swim lesson programs in their preschool. He recently consulted with Florida Kiwanis District Chair in Naples and helped develop a brochure for Every Child A Swimmer to distribute at their state convention. The ECAS outreach program partners with communities and families to help reduce child drownings.
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Robert Strauss (USA)
2019 Virginia Hunt Newman Award
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Professor Robert Strauss, M. Ed. has dedicated his professional career to aquatics. Through aquatic education, he has enriched the lives of babies, toddlers, school-age children, teens and adults, assisting them in discovering how to be safer and stronger swimmers. Coach Robert is well known for the development of instructional skills based on soft-touch and soft-voice; these skills have been taught to thousands of teachers around the world.

Coach Strauss and his life partner, Jennie, founded Swim Gym in 1984; re-inventing the swim school business in a warehouse. After several moves, in the fall of 2012, the Swim Gym Swim School opened its doors at the Galbut JCC in Miami Beach, its present home and only location.

Swim Gym is one of the Top 25 authorized providers of the American Red Cross in the South Florida Chapter, and includes certification of water safety instructors and life guards, as well as the learn to swim program, that teaches an average 500 children per week during the school year and approximately 1000 children per week during the summer camps.

Most educators teach their subject in a classroom; Coach Strauss teaches water wisdom in a warm water pool, and coaches in a semi-Olympic pool, fast swimming.

From 1979 to present, Strauss has contributed to learn to swim and competitive swimming conferences around the globe: México, his country of birth, numerous countries in South and Central America, Europe, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, China & Iceland. He is a well sought-after speaker, as he is fluent in English, Spanish, Portuguese and German.

Strauss’ vision, is that every person should have the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to safely enter and exit a body of water; he believes, the value is through the art form of swimming, people learn to pay attention, to share, to cooperate, to wait their turn, to become valuable team members, and most important be safe in, around and under water; his mission is ‘To eradicate drowning from our communities, through education’; his objective, is to assist all participants to discover swimming in order to find the joy and passion coupled to the benefits inherent to swimming in particular and water sports in general.

And lastly, his Goal: Everyone should be Water Wise.
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Dale Petranech (USA)
2019 ISHOF Service Award

Dale Petranech has been a fixture at the Hall of Fame for as far back as anyone can remember. Whatever needed to be done, Dale was always there to pitch in and lend a helping hand. Whether it was getting up at 4:00 am to help ISHOF’s own, Bob Duenkel set up for the Ocean Mile Swim, or make a last-minute run to the Miami International Airport to pick someone up, Dale always did it with a smile on his face. And he never said no.

He first became involved in swimming on an administrative level in 1977, when he was selected to be the chairman of the first USA Swimming Open Water Committee and developed successful domestic and international programs. In 1984, Petranech was instrumental in getting FINA President Bob Helmick to establish a commission to study adding Open Water Swimming to the FINA and Olympic programs. Under Petranech’s leadership as Chairman, in 1991, the first FINA 25K was swum in Perth, Australia at the 1991 FINA World Aquatic Championships.

After the death of Commander Gerald Forsberg in 1998, Dale assumed the role of Secretary General for the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame and since then has been responsible for formulating the nomination ballots and for organizing the annual IMSHOF induction.

In 2014, Petranech was well-deservedly inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame, which followed an earlier recognition by the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Administrator in 1995. His work has spanned everything from U.S. Masters Swimming and USA Swimming to FINA and the Marathon Swimming Association.

Dale Petranech served as Honorary Secretary of the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame from 1998 to present; he became the first U.S. Swimming Open Water Swimming Committee Chairman in 1977; assisted U.S. Masters Swimming to form its own independent organization; served as chairman of the FINA Open Water Swimming Commission; made long-term recommendations to FINA for inclusion of Open Water Swimming into its full program; served as Honorary Secretary of the FINA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee 1992 – 1996; helped lay the groundwork to get marathon swimming into the Summer Olympics; provided the administrative background, expertise and efforts to maintain the records, rules, policies, procedures and protocols used at USA Swimming, local age-group and masters, and FINA levels; served as Chairman of United States Swimming Long Distance Committee 1979 – 1991; served as Chairman of first FINA Commission to Study adding Open Water Swimming to the FINA and Olympic Program 1984-1992; served as FINA Safety Delegate, Observer and Official from 1992 to present; and served as Chairman of National Aquatic Coalition 1994 – 1996.

These are only some of Dale’s accomplishments and they are just another part of Dale’s history and background, but to us, Dale is just another member of the family. Another person we can turn to when we need someone to set up tables, get the flags ready for the Honoree parade, help run an important errand, or just count on when you really need someone. There are not many people like that anymore, these days. That’s why Dale Petranech is so special to the staff and all of us at ISHOF. He is one of us and we can always count on him. He is one of the good guys. Thanks Dale for all your many years of support, kindness, hard work and friendship. We couldn’t have done it without you all these years.
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Thank You
Thank you for attending our 55th Annual Induction Ceremony!

We’d like to also thank all of our sponsors, donors, members, and friends who support the International Swimming Hall of Fame in its mission.

We are excited for big changes to come at the museum and the major renovation of the new Hall of Fame Aquatic Complex.

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Contact us
Have ideas or suggestions for the museum? We’d love to hear them! Contact Brent Rutemiller at brent@ishof.org.

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Carolyn Wood (USA)
2019 Buck Dawson Authors Award

*Tough Girl: An Olympian’s Journey*

Carolyn Wood swam in her first Olympic Games at the tender age of 14. She traveled to Rome in 1960 as a young teenager and placed fourth in the world in the 100m freestyle, failed to finish in the 100m butterfly final, because she swallowed water, but took home gold with her USA teammates on the world and Olympic record setting 400m freestyle relay.

Wood set another world record in the 100m butterfly, the next year, in Blackpool, England at another international competition. She was a four-time High School All-American (1959-1962), and a seven-time individual state champion. In 1992, she was inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame. Wood received her Bachelor of Arts, in English, from the University of Oregon, Phi Beta Kappa in 1976, a Master in Social Work from Portland State University, 1978, and a Master in Education, also from Portland State University, in 1979.

Now a retired English teacher, Wood spent more than 35 years encouraging students to write and recently took her own advice, although often she’d rather be practicing yoga, or outdoors tending her bees and garden, or hiking backroads and mountain trails. Ms. Wood’s work has appeared in *Teachers as Writers* and *Elohi Gadugi Journal*. In 2016, Carolyn Wood wrote her first book *Tough Girl: An Olympian’s Journey*. *Tough Girl* is a coming-of-age memoir of a young swimmer’s triumphs and heartbreaks on the path to winning Olympic gold at age 14. Some 50 years later, author Carolyn Wood embarks on a solo pilgrimage to walk the 500 miles of the Camino de Santiago in an attempt to reclaim her “inner tough girl” as she reflects on coming out as gay in the 1970s after marriage and motherhood, and the disillusionment and loss she experiences when her 30-year relationship suddenly ends.

“*Tough Girl* artfully weaves Wood’s life story around the tale of her long walk on the Camino de Santiago, an effort to tap into her tough girl resilience so she can begin to accept the end of her long marriage. The ups and downs of Carolyn’s childhood road to the Olympics as well as her journey on the Camino, will thrill and inspire readers.”

In 2018, Wood re-released the book as – *Tough Girl: Lessons in Courage and Heart from Olympic Gold to the Camino de Santiago*
Congratulations to the
International Swimming
Hall of Fame Inductees!

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2019 Paragon & ISHOF Awards Cocktail Party

ISHOF Chairman of the Board
Bill Kent with wife Kim

L-R: Ned Denison, Ellen Rutemiller, Jane Katz and Brent Rutemiller

2019 Paragon Award winner
Robert Strauss with family

Bruce Wigo and Janet Lowe
showing lots of love!

L-R: Bruce Wigo, Tom Gomgi, Ron O’Brien and
2019 Honor Synchronized Swimmer, Olga Sedakova

2019 Judge Martin Award winner
David Duda with daughter Kristin

Patty Miller, 2019 Paragon Award winner
Greg Eggert and Jim Miller

L-R: Janet Lowe, Debbie Hesse,
Olga Sedakova & Alex Blavatnik

The O’Briens L-R: Ron, Tim & Mary Jane

2019 Honor Open Water Swimmer
Marcella MacDonald

Julius Corolla (L), Jim Wood’s dear
friend with Jane Katz (R)

L-R: Kathy and Walt Read, John Spampath and
2019 Paragon Award winner Ruth Meyer
The 2019 Paragon & ISHOF Award Winners

The Induction weekend kicked off Friday evening, May 17th with the 24th Annual Paragon Awards, sponsored by Pentair Aquatic Systems. The Paragon Awards are presented annually to individuals or organizations for outstanding contributions to aquatics in six categories. Other award winners for the evening included, the John K. Williams Jr. International Adapted Aquatics Award; the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Judge G. Harold Martin Award, the Virginia Hunt Newman Award, the ISHOF Service Award & the Al Schoenfield Media Award.

Pentair

The 2019 Award winners from L-R: Dale Petranech, Ruth Meyer, Peter Bick, Jim Wood’s sister, Terry Commodore and brother Bob Wood, Greg Eggert, Bill Farrar, David Duda, Robert Strauss, Carvin DiGiovanni, Peter Davis, ISHOF President/CEO Brent Rutemiller

Carvin DiGiovanni - Paragon Award for Recreational Swimming
Bill Farrar - Paragon Award for Competitive Diving
Ruth Meyer - John K. Williams Award
Al Schoenfield Media Award - Peter Bick

2019 Paragon Aquatic Safety Award - Peter Davis (R)
Judge Martin Award recipient - David Duda (R) with Jim Martin
Greg Eggert (R) - 2019 Paragon Award - Competitive Swimming

Jim Wood - Lifetime Achievement Award represented by his sister, Terry Commodore and brother, Bob Wood
2019 Virginia Hunt Newman Award - Robert Strauss with wife Jeanie and grandkids, presented by Steve Graves (L)
ISHOF’s dear friend Dale Petranech - ISHOF Service Award with Bruce Wigo, Ivonne Schmid & Laurie Marchwinski
As in years past, following the cocktail party, the flag parade kicks off the 2019 Honoree Induction Ceremony. Our flag bearers were swimmers from Swim Fort Lauderdale, introducing the countries of the 2019 Honorees and guiding them up on stage.
Olga Sedakova was Russia’s first great synchronized swimmer to appear on the international scene. She represented her country in two Olympic Games, three World Championships, five World Cups and won gold in solo, duet and team competitions.

For over 70 years, Dr. Ferenc Salamon has been involved in the sport of water polo. Salamon, a medical doctor from Budapest, has been a player, referee, and an administrator. He has been on numerous FINA and LEN committees, dating back to 1972.

Stephanie Rice won three Olympic gold medals at the 2008 Olympic games in Beijing, in the 200 and 400m I.M. and in the 4x200m freestyle relay, each in world record time. Rice was the first woman to go under 4:30 in the 400m I.M. mark in the event.

Jason competed in four Olympic games, and won eight Olympic medals. Lezak will always be remembered as the anchor of the U.S. 4x100m freestyle relay team that won the gold medal and set a new world record at the 2008 Beijing Olympic games. Lezak’s split a 46.06, is the fastest 100m freestyle split in history by nearly six-tenths of a second.

Dr. Joe MacInnis is an underwater explorer, who was an adviser to the team that discovered the wreck of the RMS Titanic. In 1987, he made his first dive to the Titanic. In 1991, he was the co-leader of a $5 million expedition to film Titanic on the giant-screen IMAX format. He made a second dive that included spending time on Titanic’s bridge deck. It was his expedition that inspired Canadian filmmaker James Cameron’s Academy Award winning film, which hit the big screens in 1997.

Earlier that day, Dr. Joe MacInnis, a speaker for numerous Fortune 500 companies, gave ISHOF guests a special treat. He spoke on leadership in high risk environments, telling stories of his adventures and expeditions.
Alfred Nakache was a Jewish-French swimmer. When the deportation of the Jews began, Alfred, as well as his wife and two-year-old daughter were arrested and deported. In 1945, when the Auschwitz camp was freed by the Allies, Nakache was one of the 47 survivors of this camp. Four months later, he started training and became part of the winning French National relay and first post-war Olympics team in 1948. As far as is known, he is one of only two Jewish athletes who competed in the Olympics after surviving the Holocaust.

2019 ISHOF Honoree Induction Ceremony, Fort Lauderdale

The 55th annual Induction Ceremony began Saturday evening at 6:00 pm at the Ft. Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort and Spa.

This year's Induction Class of 2019 included four swimmers, Jason Lezak (USA), Stephanie Rice (AUS), Britta Steffen (GER) and Otylia Jęgrzejeczak (POL); one diver, Li Ting (CHN); one synchronized swimmer, Olga Sedakova (RUS); one water polo player, Alessandro Campagna (ITA); one coach, Boris Popov (RUS); one open water swimmer, Marcella MacDonald (USA); one contributor, Dr. Ferenc Salamon (HUN) and one Pioneer, Alfred Nakache (FRA). The Gold Medallion recipient for 2019 was Dr. Joseph MacInnis.
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Most people think of synchronized swimming, which gained Olympic status in 1984, as a newcomer sport that dates back only as far as Esther Williams’ midcentury movies. But the aquatic precursors of synchronized swimming are nearly as old as the Olympics themselves. Ancient Rome’s gladiatorial contests are well known for their excessive and gruesome displays, but their aquatic spectacles may have been even more over the top. Rulers as early as Julius Caesar commandeered lakes (or dug them) and flooded amphitheaters to stage reenactments of large naval battles—called naumachiae—in which prisoners were forced to fight one another to the death, or drown trying. The naumachiae were such elaborate productions that they were only performed at the command of the emperor, but there is evidence that other—less macabre—types of aquatic performances took place during the Roman era, including an ancient forerunner to modern synchronized swimming.

The first-century A.D. poet Martial wrote a series of epigrams about the early spectacles in the Colosseum, in which he described a group of women who played the role of Nereids, or water nymphs, during an aquatic performance in the flooded amphitheater. They dove, swam and created elaborate formations and nautical shapes in the water, such as the outline or form of a trident, an anchor and a ship with billowing sails. Since the women were portraying water nymphs, they probably performed nude, says Kathleen Coleman, James Loeb Professor of the Classics at Harvard University, who has translated and written commentaries on Martial’s work. Yet, she says, “There was a stigma attached to displaying one’s body in public, so the women performing in these games were likely to have been of lowly status, probably slaves.”

Regardless of their social rank, Martial was clearly impressed with the performance. “Who designed such amazing tricks in the limpid waves?” he asks near the end of the epigram. He concludes that it must have been Thetis herself—the mythological leader of the nymphs—who taught “these feats” to her fellow-Nereids.

Fast forward to the 19th century and naval battle re-enactments appear again, this time at the Sadler’s Wells Theater in England, which featured a 90-by-45 foot tank of water for staging “aqua dramas.” Productions included a dramatization of the late-18th-century Siege of Gibraltar, complete with gunboats and floating batteries, and a play about the sea-god Neptune, who actually rode his seahorse-drawn chariot through a waterfall cascading over the back of the stage. Over the course of the 1800s, a number of circuses in Europe, such as the Nouveau Cirque in Paris and Blackpool Tower Circus in England, added aquatic acts to their programs. These were not tent shows, but elegant, permanent structures, sometimes called the “people’s palaces,” with sinking stages or center rings that could be lined with rubber and filled with enough water to accommodate small boats or a group of swimmers.

In England, these Victorian swimmers were often part of a performing circuit of professional “natationists” who demonstrated “ornamental” swimming, which involved displays of aquatic stunts, such as somersaults, sculling, treading water and swimming with arms and legs bound. They waltzed and swam in glass tanks at music halls and aquariums, and often opened their acts with underwater parlor tricks like smoking or eating while submerged. Though these acts were first performed by men, female swimmers soon came to be favored by audiences. Manchester (U.K.) Metropolitan University’s sports and leisure historian, Dave Day, who studies Victorian natationists, points out that swimming, “packaged as entertainment,” gave a small group of young, working-class women the opportunity to make a living, not only as performers, but also as swimming instructors for other women. But as more women in England learned to swim, the novelty of their acts wore off.
In the United States, however, the idea of a female aquatic performer still seemed quite avant-garde when Australian champion swimmer Annette Kellerman launched her vaudeville career in New York in 1908. Billed as the “Diving Venus” and often considered the mother of synchronized swimming, Kellerman wove together displays of diving, swimming and dancing, which The New York Times called “art in the making.” Kellerman’s career—which included starring roles in mermaid and aquatic-themed silent films and lecturing to female audiences about the importance of getting fit and wearing sensible clothing—reached its pinnacle when she, and a supporting cast of 200 mermaids, replaced prima-ballerina Pavlova as the headline act at the New York Hippodrome in 1917.

While Kellerman was promoting swimming as a way to maintain health and beauty, the American Red Cross, which had grown concerned about high drowning rates across the country, turned to water pageants as an innovative way to increase public interest in swimming and water safety. These events, which featured swimming, acting, music, life-saving demonstrations or some combination of these, became increasingly popular during the 1920s. Clubs for water pageantry, water ballet and “rhythmic” swimming—along with clubs for competitive diving and swimming—started popping up in every pocket of America.

One such group, the University of Chicago Tarpon Club, under the direction of Katharine Curtis, had begun experimenting with using music not just as background, but as a way to synchronize swimmers with a beat and with one another. In 1934, the club, under the name Modern Mermaids, performed to the accompaniment of a 12-piece band at the Century of Progress World’s Fair in Chicago. It was here that “synchronized swimming” got its name when announcer Norman Ross used the phrase to describe the performance of the 60 swimmers. By the end of the decade, Curtis had overseen the first competition between teams doing this type of swimming and written its first rulebook, effectively turning water ballet into the sport of synchronized swimming.

While Curtis, a physical education instructor, was busy moving aquatic performance in the direction of competitive sport, American impresario Billy Rose saw a golden opportunity to link the already popular Ziegfeld-esque “girl show” with the rising interest in water-based entertainment. In 1937, he produced the Great Lakes Aquacade on the Cleveland waterfront, featuring—according to the souvenir program—“the glamour of diving and swimming mermaids in water ballets of breath-taking beauty and rhythm.”

The show was such a success that Rose produced two additional Aquacades in New York and San Francisco, where Esther Williams was his star mermaid. Following the show, Williams became an international swimming sensation through her starring roles in MGM’s aquamusicals, featuring water ballets elaborately choreographed by Busby Berkeley.

Though competitive synchronized swimming—which gained momentum during the middle of the century—began to look less and less like Williams’ water ballets, her movies did help spread interest in the sport. Since its 1984 Olympic induction, synchronized swimming has moved farther from its entertainment past, becoming ever “faster, higher, and stronger,” and has proven itself to be a serious athletic event.

But regardless of its roots, and regardless of how it has evolved, the fact that synchronized swimming remains a spectator favorite—it was one of the first sporting events to sell out at the 216 Olympic Summer Games in Rio—just goes to show that audiences still haven’t lost that ancient appetite for aquatic spectacle.

Vicki Valosik is a writer and synchronized swimmer. She is currently working on a book on the history of aquatic performance, with a focus on the development of synchronized swimming. Follow her on Instagram (@vickiswims) or find more of her articles at vickivalosik.com. This article was originally published by Smithsonian Magazine.
Esther Williams, the woman who swam her way across cinema screens and into the hearts of Americans, needs no introduction. It is worth taking a moment, however, to reflect on what made her films—sometimes called “aquamusicals”—so appealing to mass audiences.

The aquamusical was a splashy, water-themed film genre produced by MGM Studios during the 1940s and 1950s, with Williams always in the lead role. In addition to singing, dancing, and swimming, aquamusicals—such as Million Dollar Mermaid and Easy to Love—often featured daring high dives, spouting water fountains, glistening pools, and aerial shots of elaborate water ballets directed by choreographer Busby Berkeley. Though now seen as kitschy remnants of a bygone era, aquamusicals were spectacularly successful during their midcentury heyday and made Williams one of the top actresses in Hollywood. By Williams’ own admission, her films lacked critical acclaim and the plotlines were recycled (Girl swims. Boy falls in love.), and yet they struck a chord with post-World War II audiences for several reasons:

1. The All-American Mermaid
When MGM set out to find a swimming starlet who could do for MGM musicals what Norwegian skating sensation Sonja Henie had done for Fox—only in the water instead of on it, Williams had it all: a dynamite mix of sex appeal and girl-next-door charm, mile-high legs and a megawatt smile, and “all-American” good looks and diction that lacked any trace of ethnic roots or regional accent.

Williams also knew how to make swimming look good...and look good swimming. A breaststroke and freestyle champion whose Olympic hopes were dashed when the 1940 games were cancelled due to World War II, Williams instead became the headliner for Billy Rose’s Aquacade in San Francisco. At the Aquacade, Williams learned to “swim pretty,”—Rose’s term for moving gracefully through the water with head and shoulders held high—and was spotted by an MGM talent scout who recruited her to the studio.

MGM ran Williams through its star-making machine, circulating her pinup to Yank and other military magazines and sending her on goodwill missions to entertain wounded troops. By the time she made her first on-screen appearance, Williams was already well on her way to becoming America’s Mermaid.

2. Technicolor Escape
Although Technicolor was introduced much earlier, it wasn’t widely used in Hollywood films until the 1940s. The vivid, aquamarine colors of Williams’ movies became the perfect showcase for the new technology and served as escapist salve for the war-weary eyes of the public. Depression-era audiences had been dazzled by Berkeley’s black-and-white synchronized dream sequences, but seeing his work—he directed many of Williams’ water ballet scenes—in better-than-real-life colors and a Kodachrome Williams gliding through bright turquoise waters provided Americans reeling from World War II with a neoteric escape.

3. Legs!
In an era of Hollywood self-censorship, Williams’ aquamusicals showed no shortage of skin. MGM used chaste plot lines and capitalized on the association between wholesomeness and swimming—painstakingly established earlier in the century by women’s sports advocates—to evade the Production Code Administration, even as they displayed wet, barely-dressed female bodies on screen. Just as Fox had gotten away with Sonja Henie’s short skirts as the uniform of her sport, MGM reminded audiences of Williams’ swimming chops as they paraded her in a bathing suit at every possible opportunity. In Williams’ autobiography, she recalls how her white negligee in Texas Carnival passed censors only because she wore it in the water and not on land.
4. The Rosie-the-Riveter Effect

With ideas about women in the workforce and gender roles shifting after the war, aspects of Williams’ films appealed to new conceptions of the “modern woman.” Unlike the wispy starlets of the talkies, Williams, who was tall and athletic with visible muscles, was usually depicted as the physical equal of her on-screen love interests. And though her roles wouldn’t be considered feminist by today’s standards, her career-minded characters often postponed love and marriage until after they had realized their own dreams. The swimmer portrayed in Dangerous When Wet rejects the advances of a seductive Frenchman while in training to cross the English Channel. Of course she promptly marries him after she attains her goal, but at least she keeps her eyes on the prize for most of the movie.

5. The Rise of Synchronized Swimming

Esther Williams didn’t invent synchronized swimming, but she did glamorize a rising sport and bring it to a wider audience. Synchronized swimming—then commonly called “water ballet”—was immensely popular in the 1940s and 1950s, a time when few other athletic opportunities existed for women. National surveys from the era estimated that more than sixty percent of colleges and universities offered synchronized swimming clubs or teams.

Synchronized swimming has changed drastically since Williams was making her films, becoming ever higher, faster, stronger as it has secured its Olympic standing. Though the sport today is characterized by rapid movement through the water, acrobatic flips and throws, and long upside hybrids, synchronized swimming is forever linked in the public imagination with the fluid movements and kaleidoscopic float patterns of Williams’ films—and with Williams herself.

Decline of a Genre

By the late 1950s, musicals were on their way out, audiences were no longer titillated by the sight of swimsuited women, the home-pool craze had dulled the sheen of exoticism that swimming pools once held, and America’s Mermaid was getting older. After Williams left MGM in 1956, the studio stopped making aquamusicals. As a result, the genre didn’t evolve as the world turned on its head in the 1960s, but instead froze in time just as it was, making its films into instant classics.

Much more than a caricature of an era, the aquamusical was a genuine—albeit a micro-cosmic, candy-coated—product of its time that is worthy of study today for what it can tell us about both Hollywood’s golden age of film and audiences of the era.

Vicki Valosik is a writer and synchronized swimmer. She is currently working on a book on the history of aquatic performance, with a focus on the development of synchronized swimming. Follow her on Instagram (@vickiswims) or find more of her articles at vickivalosik.com. A version of this article was previously published by Huffington Post.
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Criteria:

- Nominee’s minimum age for beginning competition is 25 years. In the Masters category, FINA’s official age groups begin at age 25 years.

- All nominees (swimmers, divers, artistic swimmers, water polo players, coaches and contributors) shall have participated for a minimum of 15 years (regardless of affiliation); athletes covering at least four age groups.

- All nominees shall be limited to recognition for Masters participation only (not prior accomplishments).

- Emphasis is placed on international and regional performances

- Individual total dominance within an age group

- A genuine contribution to the sport in general.

- Recognition of accomplishments is based upon:
  - FINA Masters World Records
  - Masters World Championships
  - Masters Regional Championships
  - Masters National Championships
  - Masters National Records

A point ranking system has been devised for the swimming discipline only:

- 20 points for each FINA Masters World Record

- FINA Masters World Records Bonus Points: 2 points for each full year a record is held.

- FINA Masters Top 10 (Long and Short Course published every year: 1st Place=5 points, 2nd Place=3 points, 3rd place=1 point

- FINA Masters World Championships (Long Course every 2 years): 1st Place=3 points, 2nd Place=2 points, 3rd place=1 point

Approximately nine inductees shall be selected annually. Representation shall be proportionate to each discipline’s numbers of participants worldwide: female swimmers, male swimmers, divers, artistic swimmers, water polo players or contributors.

Selection Committee:

The Selection Committee, comprised of international authorities in the sport, receives and considers nominees. A balloting process is used to finalize those selected for induction.

Akers, Helen (GBR)  McGowan, Judy (USA)
Barney, David (USA)  McKinnon, Russell (AUS)
Bean, Dawn (USA)  Michelet, Aline (FRA)
Berger, Christian (CAN)  Montgomery, Jim (USA)
Blanco, Rafael (SPN)  Morche-Bloch, Sabine (GER)
Calligaris, Novella (ITA)  Morrill, David (VEN)
Cametti, Camillo (ITA)  Norman, David (RSA)
Cardoso Xavier, Mario (BRA)  Osaki, Yoshiko (JPN)
Chiang, Morrie (TPE)  Quezado de Magalhaes, Helane (BRA)
Clark, Anne (GBR)  Reid, Walt (USA)
Clark, Stephen (USA)  Ridout, Nancy (USA)
Cody, Rose (PUR)  Robb, Sharon (USA)
Consolo, Bartolo (ITA)  Sacadura, Jose (POR)
de Moura, Ricardo (BRA)  Speiker, Tod (USA)
Deininger, John (USA)  Spitz, Mark (USA)
Fraser, Dawn (AUS)  Stokes, Geoff (GBR)
Furniss, Bruce (USA)  Takagi, Kathumi (JPN)
Gompf, Tom (USA)  Talbot, Don (AUS)
Gonzalez-Mejia, Rene (NCA)  Thomas, Chief Olatokunbo (NIG)
Hanou, Rob (NED)  Thornton, Nort (USA)
Juba, Kelvin (GBR)  Vaitsekhovskaja, Elena (RUS)
Lahmy, Eric (FRA)  Vilagos, Diane (CAN)
Lamrini, Said (MOR)  Weaver, Bryan (USA)
Logan, Tom (NZL)  Whittall, Beth (CAN)
Lonsbrough, Anita (GBR)  Wightman, Nancy (USA)
Mangum, Jennifer (USA)
2003-2019 Masters Honorees By Year

Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame

2003
- Ransom Arthur (USA) Honor Contributor
- Jayne Bruner (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Barbara Dunbar (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Patty Robinson Fulton (USA) Honor Diver
- Tim Garton (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Peg Hogan (USA) Honor Synchronized Swimmer
- Graham Johnston (USA) Honor Swimmer
- June Krauser (USA) Honor Swimmer
- G. Harold “Gus” Langner (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Kelley Lemmon (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Maxine Merlino (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Arden Mueller (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Gail Roper (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Ray Taft (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Clara Lamore Walker (USA) Honor Swimmer

2004
- Jane Asher (GBR) Honor Swimmer
- Aldo da Rosa (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Mike Garibaldi (USA) Honor Water Polo Player
- Paul Hutinger (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Vi Hartmann Cathy Kranh (USA) Honor Diver
- Yoshiko Osaki (JPN) Honor Swimmer
- Frank Piernme (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Laura Val (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Louise Wing (USA) Honor Synchronized Swimmer

2005
- Flora Connolly (GBR) Honor Swimmer
- John Deininger (USA) Honor Diver
- Burwell Jones (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Betsy Jordan (USA) Honor Swimmer
- William McAlister (USA) Honor Diver
- Sandy Neilson-Bell (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Tod Specker (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Richard Reinaustadler (GER) Honor Swimmer
- Phil Whitten (USA) Honor Contributor

2006
- Drury Gallagher (USA) Honor Contributor
- Yoshiko Osaki (JPN) Honor Swimmer
- Katherine Pelton (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Walter Pfeiffer (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Rita Simonton (USA) Honor Swimmer
- William Specht (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Dr. Floyd Staubf (USA) Honor Diver
- Lavelle Stoinoff (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Nancy Hunt Weiman (USA) Honor Synchronized Swimmer

2007
- Woodrow Bowersock (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Jean Durston (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Carol Fitzsimmons (CAN) Honor Synchronized Swimmer
- Sandra Galletry (USA / GBR) Honor Swimmer
- Tom Hairdien (USA) Honor Diver
- Suzanne Heim-Bowen (USA) Honor Open Water Swimmer
- Ron Johnson (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Karlyn Pipes-Neilson (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Judy Wilson (GBR) Honor Swimmer

2008
- Bone Belausteguiotita (MEX) Honor Swimmer
- Russian Hafferkamp (USA) Honor Water Polo Player
- Maria Lenk (BRA/USA) Honor Swimmer
- Jim McConica (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Robert Strand (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Nitro van Rysel (GBR) Honor Swimmer

2009
- Karl Huter (GER) Honor Swimmer
- Margery Meyer (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Keijiro Nakamura (JPN) Honor Swimmer
- Gertrud Zint (USA) Honor Swimmer

2010
- Andrew “Andy” Burke (USA) Honor Contributor
- Richard Burns (USA) Honor Swimmer
- John Conner (USA) Honor Diver
- Louis Kivi Nochman (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Bonnie Pronk (CAN) Honor Swimmer
- Barry Young (NZL) Honor Swimmer

2011
- Richard Abrahams (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Peter DiCroce (USA) Honor Diver
- Jeff Farrell (USA) Honor Swimmer
- Lynn Marshall (CIN) Honor Swimmer
- Christel Schulz (GER) Honor Swimmer
- Gary Stutsel (AUS) Honor Contributor
- Gunde Vegard (NOR) Honor Diver
Marjorie Anderson (CAN)
2019 Honor Masters Artistic Swimmer

INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: 8 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 1994-2017; 18 MEDALS (8 GOLD, 9 SILVER, 1 BRONZE); NUMEROUS MEDALS IN CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Seeing the Santa Clara Aquamaids, team of eight, all in silver suits and crowns, swimming to “Champagne on Ice” was a moment Marjorie Anderson will never forget. The year was 1969 and she was at the Canadian Amateur Swimming Championships. It was then that Marjorie became hooked on what would become her lifelong passion - synchronized swimming!

It wasn’t until her fifth year at the University of Alberta, while she was completing her nursing degree, that she was able to join the synchronized swimming team as a junior coach and even swim a bit. A couple years later, she moved to London to work and found a small synchro group to swim with. Marjorie says, it was great fun finding the various swimming baths around central London, which were old and quite cold!

She returned home to Edmonton for good in 1982 and rejoined the Aquadettes as both coach and swimmer. As her work as an ICU nurse became too intense, Marjorie found she only had time for swimming. She began to compete in provincial Masters competitions, followed by national and finally, international competitions.

Her first international competition was in the very first World Masters Games, held in Toronto in 1985 where she struck gold in the team event. When the FINA World Championships were held in Montreal in 1994, she went and conquered with a gold in duet and two silvers, in solo and team. Anderson has been a fixture at or near the top of the standings at FINA Worlds and Canadian Nationals ever since.

Marjorie has attended eight FINA Masters World Championships between the years 1994-2017, winning 18 medals, eight gold, nine silver and one bronze. She has also won numerous medals at the Canadian National Championships.

Since retiring from nursing in 2002, Marjorie has taken coaching and judging courses. She is now a Level 2 judge, which means she can judge at the provincial level. One of the women she coaches is in her 90s and still swimming synchro recreationally. Marjorie hopes to continue swimming and perhaps be competing into her 80’s.

Anderson has a firm belief about synchronized swimming: “This is an excellent sport you can do forever!” And, at age 78, she must be doing something right...
INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: 47 FINA MASTERS WORLD RECORDS; WORLD POINTS-1474; 6 AGE GROUPS (40-44 THROUGH 65-69); TOP TEN: 15 TIMES; 25 LONG COURSE AND 22 SHORT COURSE FINA MASTERS WORLD RECORDS IN BREASTSTROKE, FREESTYLE, BUTTERFLY AND I.M.; IN WORLD RANKINGS SINCE 1992, HE HAS 31-NUMBER 1, 10-NUMBER 2 AND 7-NUMBER 3 LONG COURSE AND 23-NUMBER 1, 1-NUMBER 2 AND 1-NUMBER 3 SHORT COURSE FOR A TOTAL OF 54-NUMBER 1, 11-NUMBER 2 AND 8-NUMBER 3 TOTAL WORLD RANKINGS IN THE BREASTSTROKE, FREESTYLE, BUTTERFLY AND I.M.

This Seattle-born phenom started competitive swimming at age eight and rose through the ranks along with his older sister, Lynn. Both were star swimmers at the University of Washington and Olympic prospects. By the time Rick Colella was in his early 20s, he was one of the best swimmers in the world and represented the United States at the Munich and Montreal Games.

After swimming, Rick Colella then took a job with Boeing as a flight-operations engineer and dabbled in other sports including running, canoeing and Nordic skiing. But then in 1990, the year the King County Aquatics Center was built for the Goodwill Games, Colella started swimming again with a group of five friends.

“I realized swimming is a great exercise as you get older. Whereas jogging and other sports got too hard on my body, swimming makes less of an impact but keeps me fit,” he said.

Since competing in Masters, Colella has set 47 Masters World Records and the longevity of some of his records is what makes them more impressive. His 200m breaststroke short course world record in the 60-64 age group has stood for eight years.

Since retiring from Boeing in 2013, he has become one of the best Masters swimmers in the world, but his favorite part of Masters swimming is the social aspect. He loves seeing his friends each day at workouts and connecting with swimmers from around the country. Colella still enjoys swimming because it gives him a target and goal to point toward in training. But more importantly Masters swimming has been all about fitness, friendships, and fun. One of the most amazing things about the swimming community, he says, is that no matter how often you see someone, you have an immediate connection and common ground. “I can run into someone I swam with 50 years ago and we immediately connect and have lots to talk about. This is something very special for me about the swimming community.”
INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: 26 FINA MASTERS WORLD RECORDS; WORLD POINTS-1201; SINCE 1989, HE HAS COMPETED IN 4 AGE GROUPS (30-34, 35-39, 50-54, & 55-59); FOUNDER OF ROWDY GAINES MASTERS CLASSIC.

When your parents are world class water skiers at the famous Cypress Gardens in Winter Haven, Florida, there’s a good chance, you’ll be born in the water and swimming will be in your blood. But it took the man who has become known as the Ambassador for Swimming, until he was 17, to start swimming competitively.

As a sprint freestyler, Ambrose “Rowdy” Gaines became a legend when he overcame the disappointment of the 1980 Olympic boycott to win three gold medals at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

Then, in 1988, Rowdy got involved in Masters swimming when the legendary Tiger Holmes asked him to be a part of his Holmes Lumberjax Masters team and join them on the trip to the FINA Masters World Championships in Australia.

In 1991, Rowdy’s athletic pursuits in Masters Swimming came to a halt, when the swimming champion was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare condition in which a person’s immune system attacks part of their peripheral nervous system. He made a full recovery after only two months of treatment, eventually integrating swimming into his physical therapy routine.

In Masters swimming, Rowdy has broken 26 FINA Masters World Records (19 long course and 7 short course), 24 individual USMS records and has competed in four different age groups. Gaines has been in the Top Ten 17 times and he has had 57 swims ranked in the Top Ten. Rowdy has attended two FINA World Championships, and only one of those swimming in individual events, so he has accumulated most of his points through world records, world rankings and top ten standings.

The longevity of some of Rowdy’s world records is incredible. His longest standing world record of his 200m freestyle record in the 30-34 age group that was set in 1989 is still standing after 30 years.

Rowdy recently turned 60 and is hoping to swim in future Masters meets. Every year, he hosts the Rowdy Gaines Masters Classic, a Masters swim meet held every October in Orlando. This year will be the 11th annual.

Gaines is a well-known commentator for all major swimming events. His career as an announcer for NBC’s Olympic coverage began in 1992 with the Barcelona Olympics. He has since acted as the “Voice of Swimming” for seven Olympic games and will be going to Tokyo in 2020.

Among his many achievements, Rowdy’s immeasurable contributions to the sport of swimming earned him the prestigious USA Swimming Award in 2015 – the highest honor in swimming. If anyone deserves it, it’s Rowdy.
INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: 9 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS; 22 TOTAL FINA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS (11 GOLD, 5 SILVER, 6 BRONZE); 2000 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: SILVER (10M PLATFORM), BRONZE (1M SPRINGBOARD), 5TH (3M SPRINGBOARD); 2004 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: GOLD (10M), BRONZE (1M), 4TH (3M); 2006 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: SILVER (10M), BRONZE (1M); 2010 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: GOLD (10M), BRONZE (1M), 4TH (3M); 2012 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: GOLD (1M AND 10M), SILVER (3M); 2014 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: GOLD (1M & 10M), BRONZE (3M); 2015 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: GOLD (1M, 3M AND 10M); 2017 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: GOLD (1M), SILVER (3M & 10M); 2019 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: BRONZE (3M), GOLD (10M SYNCHRO 100+ AGE GROUP), 3 WORLD RECORDS IN 10M; 4 AGE GROUPS (40-44, 45-49, 50-54 AND 55-59).

She began her career in diving at the age of nine and went on to win multiple national championship titles in the former USSR. The platform was always her strongest event.

Life as a diver ended for Asta Girdauskiene in 1982 after she completed her university degree and began working as a lecturer. But she always had a passion for coaching children, and she would eventually leave her job as a lecturer and begin coaching children full time at the Sports School.

In 1991, a group of fellow divers from the Ukraine invited Asta to join them for a Masters Diving meet. Up until then, she had no idea that something like Masters even existed. That meet left a long-lasting impression on Asta, especially the American team. She had never seen a 60 year old, much less an 80 year old compete in diving!

When Asta’s group returned from the event, they decided to start organizing their own Masters events in Lithuania and held the first competition in 1992, in Vilnius city. Their newly-found friends from America also attended the event, as well as many local divers in many different age groups. They also decided to establish their own sports club, “SALTO” and international travels began shortly after the club was founded.

Asta has been competing in FINA World Masters Championships since 2000, starting in the 30-34 age group, and most recently she competed in the 55-59 age group in 2019. She has won a total of 10 gold, five silver, and five bronze medals and has set three world records on the 10m platform. Asta is also a top-level certified FINA judge and has judged numerous events, including the FINA Masters World Championships.

Asta says that “by far the greatest experience that comes from Masters diving is the opportunity to meet new people who are all in love with diving. Over the years I have learned that diving is the best way to remain youthful in both body and mind. And I also understood, that in Masters events, your position after the competition is not important. What is important, is the ability to meet fellow diving enthusiasts, share experiences and learn from each other.”

Growing up in beautiful Southern California, Caroline Krattli was quite an accomplished swimmer. She was ranked as high as 12th in the nation in the 200m breaststroke and was competing with the likes of Tracy Caulkins. She set the national community college record in the 100m breaststroke in 1980, while attending Grossmont Community College and after graduating with a nursing degree moved on with her life and left swimming behind.

Caroline began playing physically demanding two-man beach volleyball for the next ten years, and quickly rose to the top, becoming one of the best players in California. That is, until volleyball began to take its toll on her body. To give her body a break, Caroline decided to head back to the pool. That’s when she discovered Masters Swimming.

It also sparked that competitive urge. With the encouragement of her husband, Krattli went to the 1998 USMS Short Course Spring Nationals in Indianapolis and was hooked. She enjoyed being around the Masters swimmers she met as well as reconnecting with swimmers she had swum with years ago. She had always been an athlete and is drawn to others who share her passion for lifelong fitness and friendly competition.

And it didn’t take long for Caroline to make her mark. She became one of the best Masters swimmers in the pool in the early 2000’s and was swimming the best times of her life in her 40’s.

Krattli did not realize how important Masters Swimming had become in her life until it was taken away from her. In 2012, she had a recurrence of Parsonage-Turner Syndrome, which is a syndrome that can lead to muscle paralysis.

She was out of the water for several months and when she finally returned, practices were difficult, and she was always short of breath. But that has not stopped her determination.

In total, Caroline Krattli has set 38 FINA Masters World Records and competed in five different age-groups. She has been in the Top Ten on 15 different occasions and at the 2002 FINA Masters World Championships, she won five gold medals.

Caroline says her personal swimming goal is lifelong participation in Masters Swimming, whether that includes competition, workouts for fitness, motivating others or just continuing old friendships at the pool and making new ones.
Willard “Wink” Lamb (USA)
2019 Honor Masters Swimmer

INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: 95 FINA MASTERS WORLD RECORDS; WORLD POINTS-2263; 4 AGE GROUPS (80-84 THROUGH 95-99); TOP TEN: 12 TIMES; 26 LONG COURSE AND 32 SHORT COURSE FINA MASTERS WORLD RECORDS IN FREESTYLE, BACKSTROKE, AND I.M.

Not many individuals can take a 50-year break from swimming, come back to the sport and break nearly 100 world records. Meet Willard “Wink” Lamb.

Willard learned to swim in Lake Sacajawea in Washington State in 1935. He joined the swim team in high school and set the 220yd freestyle record.

He attended the University of Washington on a swimming scholarship, but for only a year. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he became a paratrooper and was sent to the Pacific theater. He came home in 1946 and worked as a carpenter until he retired at the age of 80 years old.

With retirement upon him, Lamb decided he needed some exercise and the pool seemed like his best bet. He connected with old friend and mentor, from his high school days, Wally Holden, who introduced him to Masters Swimming.

Willard travels around the country to different meets with his son, coach and team on a regular basis, breaking national and international records. Since he turned 95 and entered the 95-99 age-group, his number of world records have sky-rocketed. “I still think I can break some more records,” he says, noting that the records he breaks these days are usually his own.

Wink doesn’t know who came up with the idea that “swimming is for life”, but he believes in it. “I have to have some exercise and I’ve been pretty fortunate with my health,” he says. “Masters swimming gives you something to do – an interest - and it’s really a fun thing to be associated with all the men and women in different age-groups. It’s been a fun experience for me, and I think it keeps you away from the doctor.”

Wink Lamb holds almost 100 world records and more than 150 national records, he has never stopped swimming, and if he stays healthy, he says he has no plans to do so. He will even keep swimming the 1500m freestyle.
Joao “Pepito” Meirelles (BRA)  
2019 Honor Masters Water Polo Player

INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: 10 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (1996-2019): 1 SILVER, 3 BRONZE, TWO 4TH PLACES; INSTRUMENTAL IN ESTABLISHING MASTERS WATER POLO IN BRAZIL.

He began playing the sport of water polo at the age of 12, earned a scholarship to play collegiate water polo in the United States and was an NCAA All-American goal keeper.

Joao Antonio Meirelles would go on to win two bronze medals playing for the Brazilian National Water Polo team at the 1987 and 1991 Pan American Games.

Then, in 1994, at the age of 31, Pepito, as he is known, decided to start playing Masters Water Polo. He still had the athletic ability and Masters was the perfect sport at this point in his life. Although Masters tournaments were already organized and well established in the USA and in some European countries, Brazil had no history of it, prior to 1995. Meirelles decided to bring organized Masters water polo to Brazil. He was one of the founders of the AMPA (Associacao Master de Polo Aquatico), which helped to organize the game in Brazil.

As a masters player, Pepito competes as a member of the, “Masters Old Fellows” team and has competed in 10 FINA World Masters Championships during the years 1996 to 2019. Their best showing was a silver medal in the 40+ age group, at the 2006 FINA Masters World Championships. They have won three bronze medals in total, one in 2000 in Munich in the 30+ age group, the second in Christchurch in the 35+ age group and the final in Perth, in the 40+ age group. They also have two fourth places under their belt, one in 2004, in the 40+ and the other in more recently in 2017 in the 50+ age group.

Pepito’s plan is to keep playing water polo since it is the only sport he can do without feeling pain from his two spinal hernias and other injuries. He is very thankful for Masters and wants to leave a legacy for the next generation by demonstrating that sport is for life and can help to maintain a healthy, “young,” “competitive” feeling. For him this feeling gives him the energy to be a better husband, father, water polo supporter, active Association Chairman and an overall better citizen.

Pepito says, “I still have a lot to give back to water polo from what I have received.”
Dr. Jim Miller (USA)
2019 Honor Masters Contributor


He was a star track athlete in high school and college, but it was his job managing pools and coaching club swimming that helped him pay for undergraduate and medical school degrees at the University of Virginia. Then, after joining a family practice group in Richmond, Dr. Jim Miller entered the world of Masters swimming as a coach in 1981. Since then he has been involved in all aspects of Masters swimming and aquatics. His eclectic aquatic experiences as an athlete, coach, official, physician, leader and lecturer have given him a wealth of knowledge and experience beyond words. Only a person of Miller’s seemingly unlimited talents could fit all his contributions to aquatics and Masters swimming into one lifetime.

In 1986, at the age of 35, Miller achieved his first individual Top Ten time as a Masters swimmer and that same year he received the first Coach of the Year Award presented by USMS. Three years later, in 1999, he received the Dr. Ransom Arthur Award for his contributions to Masters swimming.

When Miller was elected president of USMS in 2001, he laid the groundwork for the organization to make a switch from an all-volunteer organization to a professionally managed national governing body with a paid staff. With Miller’s help, USMS put on what was then the largest FINA Masters World Championships in Palo Alto, California in 2006.

As a physician, he has served as Chairman of the USMS Medical Committee, as team physician for USA Swimming at the Olympics, World Championships and at open water events since 1996. He has been a member of the FINA Medical Committee since 2001 and lectures around the world on the benefits of Masters sports, nutrition and shoulder injuries for FINA and the International Olympic Committee.

For Miller, his years in Masters swimming have reaped the rewards of friendships, travel, personal growth, fitness and the opportunity to share his passion with his wife Patty, who is the current president of USMS.

As a medical doctor and advocate for the importance of exercise for a better quality of life as people age, Miller practices what he preaches by staying in great shape. Masters swimming could not find a better role model.
Satoko Takeuji (JPN)
2019 Honor Masters Swimmer

INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: 40 FINA MASTERS WORLD RECORDS; WORLD POINTS-1313; 9 AGE GROUPS (35-39 THROUGH 75-79); TOP TEN: 31 TIMES; 28 LONG COURSE AND 12 SHORT COURSE FINA MASTERS WORLD RECORDS IN BACKSTROKE; IN WORLD RANKINGS SINCE 1985, SHE HAS 34-NUMBER 1, 3-NUMBER 2 AND 2-NUMBER 3 LONG COURSE AND 13-NUMBER 1, 4-NUMBER 2 AND 1-NUMBER 3 SHORT COURSE FOR A TOTAL OF 47-NUMBER 1, 7-NUMBER 2 AND 3-NUMBER 3 TOTAL WORLD RANKINGS IN THE BACKSTROKE; 6 FINA MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: TEN GOLD.

In 1960, when Satoko Takeuji was just a Senior in high school, and a member of her high school swim team, she was selected as a member of the Japanese Olympic Team. She traveled to Rome, where she won a bronze medal in the 100m backstroke. Satoko was also a member of the 1964 Olympic Team that was held in her home country of Japan. After that, she took a break from swimming for just over a decade to raise her family.

Then, when the Japanese Masters Swimming Association was established, Satoko was asked to become an executive in the association. She also started swimming classes for adults to promote swimming. She was 43 years old when she came back to swimming. It was then that she began to swim Masters.

Satoko is a backstroke swimmer that competes in the 50m, 100m and 200m events. Her Masters career spans 33 years. She went to the 1986, 1988, 1996, 1998, 2004 and 2006 FINA Masters World Championships and won gold in all ten events entered. She is currently competing in the 75-79 age group.

Of her 40 world records, 10 of them lasted for five years or more. In 1992, Satoko had a stellar year in the 50-54 age group, setting long course world records for all three backstroke distances (50m, 100m, 200m). This included dropping the 50m record by almost two-and-one-half seconds, from 37.18 down to 34.87. That record stayed on the books until it was broken by the legendary Laura Val in 2001.

In 2017 she was the runner-up in Swimming World Magazine’s Top 12 World Masters Swimmers of the Year. She is a Senior Director in the Japan Masters’ Swimming Association and has held swimming classes for 120 children with asthma once a week for 30 years, in cooperation with doctors and nurses.
As in years past, ISHOF attended the United States Aquatic Sports Convention. We were joined by the City of Fort Lauderdale and Laura Voet, to promote the new aquatic facility and construction project, in addition to promoting ISHOF and producing the MISHOF induction.

ISHOF enjoys being supportive of the United States Aquatic Sports and this year we were a proud sponsor of the annual banquet. A very special thank you to the new staff of USAS for all their hard work in their first year in putting together this convention. A special thank you to Nadine Day, who went above and beyond for ISHOF, as she always does. Great job guys, you hit it out of the park!

One of the best parts of having a booth at USAS is all the friends that stop by to say hello. But almost as good as seeing our friends, are all the strangers that stop to tell us how important ISHOF and the aquatic facility are in their memories and that they cannot wait for the new facility and museum to open, and make a return trip to Fort Lauderdale!

The ISHOF hosted the Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Friday, September 13th in St. Louis, Missouri at the Hyatt Regency, overlooking the St. Louis Arch on the banks of the Mississippi River. The ceremony began with a cocktail reception at 6:00 pm featuring hors d'oeuvres with a St. Louis flair. USMS delegates and MISHOF Honorees got to mingle and relax for an evening of celebration to honor the aquatic greats in Masters sports.
The class of 2019 included five swimmers, Caroline Krattli (USA), Willard Lamb (USA), Rick Colella (USA), Rowdy Gaines (USA) and Satoko Takeuji (JPN); one Diver, Asta Girdauskiene (LIT), one Water Polo Player, Pepito Meirelles (BRA); one Synchronized Swimmer, Marjorie Anderson (CAN) and one Contributor, Dr. Jim Miller (USA).

Eight of the nine Honorees were present for their induction and it was agreed by all that it was one of the best ceremonies ever. The honorees, speeches, venue, guests and food...they all added to make it a fabulous evening for everyone.

97-year old Wink Lamb was the hit of the evening with his humor and stories. He is the reason we all swim and can only hope that we make it to his age and are as smart, sharp and witty as Wink at the age of 97. A big thank you to Matt Miller, Wink's Coach, and Wink's son, for bringing this gem of a USMS Swimmer to our event!

Honor Diver, Asta Girdauskiene, traveled with her children from Lithuania to accept her award in person. MISHOF Honoree and friend, John Deininger inducted Asta. John has been a long-time friend of Asta, traveling to her meets, he even dives under the flag of Lithuania sometimes!

As usual, everyone enjoyed swimming celebrity Rowdy Gaines' induction and speech. We were thrilled that Rowdy was able to rearrange his schedule and be with us, and his USMS family for his induction and celebration. The USMS delegates were happy to talk with Rowdy and share stories after the induction.

We will all look forward to watching Rowdy in Tokyo 2020, covering the Olympic Games.
Your future. Our focus.

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INDUCTION & AWARDS CEREMONY
Melbourne, Australia
Saturday 9th March 2019
About the IMSHOF Sea Goddess

Sculpted by artist Peggy Mach.

The official trophy for the International Swimming Hall of Fame, it evokes the seas qualities of movement, rhythm and temperament in a timeless portrait of a woman. One side is stormy and tumultuous, the other, pacific and serene—overall mystery and beauty.” Peggy Mach is a renowned sculptor whose works have been commissioned by towns, universities, and churches. To quote the legendary Life Magazine photographer, Phillipe Hallsman, “Her works shine with a light from within.”

Educated at Queens College, Peggy went on to study carving with Alfred Van Loen at C.W. Post University and did two years’ private study with international sculptor Robert Cronbach. In 1998, she was named an International Master of Sculpture. She lives on a small idyllic island called Shelter, nestled between the forks of Eastern Long Island, New York. USA.
Welcome to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame 2019 Induction and Award Ceremony. The first time the event has been held in Asia Pacific – another confirmation of the growth of our truly international sport.

Nine inductees and repeating the trend from last year more women than men. Two Administrators and a male and female elite racer with many records and medals including Olympic and FINA World Championships. Epic marathoners including the Ocean Sevens, first female to conqueror Manhattan as a teenager more than 100 years ago and a woman setting records at another age.

Two of the three award winners hail from Australia and the third is one of the most accomplished swimmers/administrators in the history of marathon swimming.

We catch up with the swimmers from Australia who recently set the new English Channel speed record and accomplished an amazing English Channel triple.

Congratulations and welcome to Melbourne Australia to the Class of 2019 inductees, award winners, families, coaches, crew, sport dignitaries and friends.
IMSHOF Honorees in attendance

Beth Yudovin, IMSHOF Executive Committee, USA

Chloë McCardel, AUS (2016)
Chris Guesdon, AUS (2009)
Forrest Nelson, USA (2015)
Jaimie Monahan, USA (2018)
James Pittar, AUS (2009)
Luciano Cotena, ITA (2019)
Melissa Cunningham, AUS (2013)
Ned Denison, IRE (2012)
Pat Gallant-Charette, USA (2019)
Phillip Rush, NZL (1985)
Richard ‘Dick’ Campion, AUS (2010/11)
Sally Minty-Gravett, MBE, GBR (2015)
Sandra Bucha, USA (2014)
Sue Guesdon, AUS (2019)
Tamara Bruce, AUS (2017)
Trent Grimsey, AUS (2018)
Yuko Matsuzaki, JPN (2010/11)
Trent Grimsey, Australia, 2018
Honor Swimmer

Trent Grimsey recorded an impressive resume in only four years of competitive marathon swimming after making the switch from the pool in 2008. At the 2009 Open Water Swimming World Championships in Italy, Trent placed second in the 25 km event. This was the first time Trent had ever swum that distance. The pinnacle of his marathon swimming career was in 2012 with three FINA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix wins and one second place earning him the overall FINA Grand Prix Champion. This ranked him the number one marathon swimmer in the world - the first Australian male to win this title.

That same year, Trent became the fastest person to have ever swam the English Channel in a time of 6 hours and 55 minutes. Achieving everything he wanted to in the sport of marathon swimming Trent opted to retire on top in early 2013, at just 24 years of age. Known for his determination, work ethic and never say die attitude, Trent now focuses his attention to Grimsey’s Adult Swimfit, a place where he shares his knowledge and experience in open water with other swimmers. To date he has inspired and coached 15 successful solo swimmers and numerous relay teams across the English Channel.
Kimberley Chambers, New Zealand, 2019
Honor Swimmer

Kimberley Chambers conquered the Oceans Seven as follows: English Channel in 12 hours and 12 minutes, Catalina Channel in 11 hours and 26 minutes, Cook Strait in 8 hours and 26 minutes, Strait of Gibraltar in 4 hours and 39 minutes, Molokai Channel 45km in 19 hours and 27 minutes, Tsugaru Channel in 9 hours and 38 minutes and North Channel in 13 hours and 6 minutes. Her marathon career started as she came back from a horrific accident which almost cost her a leg.

She also completed a 35.4 km/22 mile Lake Tahoe swim in 2012 in 15 hours and 30 minutes. Perhaps her greatest swim was the 48.2 km/30 miles Farallon Islands (seal colony circled by great white sharks) to the Golden Gate Bridge swim in 2015 in 17 hours and 12 minutes. One of only five to complete the swim, and the only woman.

Kimberley is also a member of the Night Train Swimmers who as a team raise money for at-risk members of the community. In 2012, six of them as a relay set off from San Francisco towards Santa Barbara. After six days and 181 miles they felt short of their swimming goal but raised an incredible $1.2 million for Semper Fi Fund.
Luciano Cotena, Italy, 2019
Honor Contributor - Administrator

Luciano Cotena was instrumental in restarting one of marathon swimming’s great events Capri-Napoli (36 km). The event, born on 1954, left the calendar for 10 years, from 1993 to 2002. Luciano, as the President of the Organizing Committee, brought the event back in 2003 to 2006 to the FINA World Cup. It then became part of the FINA Grand Prix from 2007 to 2017 and as a world challenge on 2018 – its 53rd edition.

In 2006, he was President of the Organizing Committee of the 4th FINA open water swimming Championships, held in Naples. In 2009, Luciano was the consultant of the open water swimming for the FINA world championships in Rome and has continued since as a FINA consultant helping to develop and expand the sport of open water swimming.

Luciano is an expert in sports and marketing. As the Chief Executive Officer, since 2003, of “Eventualmente Eventi & Comunicazione”, he aided the communications and organization of national/international sporting events including: swimming, water polo, high diving, boxing, basketball, volleyball, running, soccer and triathlon. His investment in volunteer aquatics carried on in parallel as President of his local club – Mind the Wave.


Nel 2006 è stato Presidente del Comitato Organizzatore della 4ª edizione dei Campionati del mondo di nuoto in acque libere della FINA, svoltisi a Napoli. Nel 2009, Luciano è stato consulente del nuoto in acque libere per i campionati del mondo FINA a Roma e ha continuato, da allora, come consulente FINA contribuendo a sviluppare ed espandere lo sport del nuoto in acque libere.

Ana Marcela Cunha, Brazil, 2019
Honor Swimmer


In 2014, Ana set the female record for the Capri Napoli (36 km) swim at 6 hours, 24 minutes and 47 seconds. No other female swim times comes within 5 minutes of her record. In the Olympics she placed 10th in 2016 and 5th in 2008. Ana continues to train for the next Olympics. While her induction is based on her solo marathon career (defined as 10 km and above) – she also proudly won four other medals at the FINA World Championship (5 km and relay).


Em 2014, Ana bateu o recorde nos 36 km de Capri Napoli com 6 horas 24 minutos 47 segundos. Os tempos de nenhuma outra nadadora chegaram perto de 5 minutos do recorde dela. Nas Olimpíadas ela ficou em 10º lugar em 2016 e 5º em 2008. Ana continua treinando para as próximas Olimpíadas. Embora sua indução seja baseada somente na sua carreira como nadadora de maratona solo (definida como 10 km ou mais), ela também conquistou orgulhosamente quatro outras medalhas no Campeonato Mundial da FINA na distância de 5 km e também no revezamento.
Bob Duenkel, USA, 2019
Honor Contributor - Administrator

Bob Duenkel, over a period of 40 years, greatly assisted the development and recognition of marathon swimming. He joined the International Swimming Hall of Fame as a staff member in 1977 and retired as the Executive Director & Curator in 2016. As a coach Bob was named in 1978 as the National Junior College Swimming Coach of the Year and in 1988 coached the USA to victory in the FINA Open Water World Cup team in Evian, France.

Bob served on Board of Directors of both the International Swimming Hall of Fame and the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame and was the administrative liaison. His extensive knowledge of aquatics and personal networks throughout the swimming world helped build the reputation, archives and artefacts of both organizations. Bob’s non-assuming personality and low-key approach help guide the IMSHOF while provide room for the growth and recognition of epic marathon swimming which never followed the more traditional ISHOF Olympics, Worlds and Records approach. This included a significant input into an early process for recording the marathon swims not under the jurisdictional authority of another body.

Bob was also an All-American pool swimmer and open water competitor. In 1970 his relay team swam in the 24 hour La Tuque Marathon, completed 48 miles and took 7th place.
Ida Elionsky, USA, 2019
Honor Swimmer

Ida Elionsky was the first woman to swim around Manhattan Island. Honoree Robert Dowling was the first to complete the swim in 1915. One year later Ida swam in 11 hours and 35 minutes, at age 13 and held the speed record for 11 years. She drew worldwide attention at the time but withdrew from the limelight embarrassed by her athleticism (unseemly for a woman!) and ground-breaking performance. Honoree Gertrude Ederle was the first woman to swim the English Channel ten years later. Her ticker tape parade in New York City was greatest recognition ever of marathon swimming and announced that women could proudly do sports! One can only image that Ida was one of Gertrude’s inspirations.

Ida’s swim was not universally recognized in the past. Recently Honoree Captain Tim Johnson (a leading authority of the history of the Manhattan swim) reviewed newly assembled historic reports supplied by Ida’s granddaughter Joanna Langfield, ran tidal simulations and now credits Ida’s swim. Ida swam her entire life—but her version of "taking a swim" was never what it is for most people. More than a few times, she would go to her family beach, Elrin Beach, on Pequot Avenue in New London, Connecticut, for an afternoon. Soon, she would stand up, stretch and casually say, "I’m going for a swim". Upon her return, several hours later, she would report that she had swum out to the Ledge Lighthouse and visited with the keepers of the light there. She continued these recreational swims well into her 50s. Even near the end of her life, Ida would find comfort in the water, choosing water therapies above all others.
Pat Gallant-Charette, USA, 2019
Honor Swimmer

Pat Gallant-Charette has defied age to assemble an incredible marathon career starting at age 58. Nine of her famous swims set the record for the oldest female swimmer: Catalina Channel, 60 years in 14+ hours in 2011; Tsugaru Channel, 61 years in 19+ hours in 2012; North Channel, 65 years in 14+ hours in 2016; in 2017 Molokai Channel, 66 years in 23+ hours, English Channel, 66 years in 17+ hours and Lake Ontario, 66 years in 24+ hours plus in 2018 Lake Tahoe, Loch Ness and Around Manhattan.

She has also clocked some fast times including the Straits of Gibraltar. At the age of 59 in 3 hours 28 minutes she was the third fastest woman of all time and the fastest American woman. Pat is an inspiration. There is life - lots of life, and success, for the swimmers taking up the sport after the age of 40. Set backs are part of life and part of marathon swimming. Pat endured six defeats in completing 6 of the Oceans Seven. The toughest were: North Channel pulled after 16+ hours – less than 1 mile from the finish and English Channel pulled 1.7 miles from the finish. She is followed as a role model by many aspiring marathon swimmers — young and not so young.
Thomas Lurz, Germany, 2019

Honor Swimmer

Thomas Lurz is the most decorated swimmer in FINA Open Water Swimming history and the only swimmer to have won at all events at the World Championships.

He has won more FINA World Championship medals than any other Open Water Swimmer in the history of the sport. Thomas has a career total of 20 FINA World Championship medals, winning 12 Gold, 4 Silver and 4 Bronze. He has also won three FINA Marathon Swimming World Cup series titles and was awarded the title of FINA Open Water Swimmer of the Year five times. In 2010 FINA named him Aquatics World Magazine Male Open Water Swimmer of the Decade.


Thomas Lurz ist der am meisten dekorierte Schwimmer der FINA Langstreckenfreiwasserschwimmer in der Geschichte der FINA und der einzige Schwimmer, der bei jeder Disziplin in der Weltmeisterschaft den Sieg errungen hat.


Auch wenn 5km Disziplinen vom IMSHOF nicht berücksichtigt werden, weist Thomas beeindruckende Fähigkeit über jede Streckenlänge den Sieg einzuholen auf seine allseitige Dominanz unseres Sportes hin.

Michelle Macy, USA, 2019
Honor Swimmer

Michelle Macy has proven to have few limitations in marathon swimming in terms of distance and water temperature. Michelle set overall speed record in the North Channel and the women’s speed records in the Tsugaru Strait, Anacapa Passage in 5 hours and 30 minutes, around Jersey 66 km in 9 hours and 29 minutes and Jersey to France in 6 hours and 42 minutes. Her cumulative time for the Ocean’s Seven between 2007 and 2014 is the fastest to date as follows: English Channel 3 times – the fastest in 10 hours and 2 minutes, Catalina Channel in 10 hours and 13 minutes, Cook Strait in 8 hours and 2 minutes, Strait of Gibraltar in 3 hours and 39 minutes, Molokai Channel 45 km in 14 hours and 12 minutes, Tsugaru Channel in 8 hours 55 minutes and North Channel in 9 hours and 34 minutes.

Other epic marathons include: four-time consecutive female winner of the 8.2 mile Pennock Island Challenge in Alaska, Manhattan Island, Boston Light and the first ever to complete the 14.5 mile Clarence Strait in Alaska.

Michelle has found that she can make a difference in the lives of others by swimming. Through the creation of “MacySwim for a Cure,” she uses her swimming to raise funds, $50,000 to date, for the Masonic Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota earmarked for Breast Cancer research.
Sue Guesdon, Australia, 2019
Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler
Memorial Award

Honor Contributor - Administrator

The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award is presented annually by International Swimming Hall of Fame to the organisation or individual who has contributed the most to the administration of open water swimming.

This year’s award honors Sue Guesdon, an open water swimming administrator from Australia who has served the sport for more than 50 years. She has contributed in a wide range of roles and assisted at many events across the world. Sue’s roles included: Race Director, Organiser, Coach Handler, Administrator, Team Official, Lecturer, Judge, Health & Fitness Advisor, Licensed Boat Captain, Writer and Open Water Official.

Over this half century she assisted at marathon swimming events in the following countries: Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Papua New Guinea, United Kingdom and USA. Selected examples help illustrate the range of Sue’s contribution:


Her ability in so many aspects of the sport gives her an understanding of the athletes and officials and was paramount in her success as a technical official lecturer and teacher and was a driving force toward the positioning and development of marathon swimming in the world.
Michael P. Read, MBE. Great Britain, 1978
Poseidon Award

The Poseidon Award is an award of the International Swimming Hall of Fame for high level achievements in the sport of marathon swimming.

As a swimmer he has competed more than 130 epic marathons including 33 crossings of the English Channel. Michael’s first ever swims include a 67 km (42 mile) quadruple-crossing of Lake Windermere. His longest 96.5 km (60 miles) around Isle of Wright in 24+ hours and his coldest 38 km (24 mile) Loch Ness in 14+ hours in 6° to 7°C (42.8° to 44.7°F) water. A member of Great Britain’s 1960 Olympic team, he is still active, in 2018 alone he completed the Gulf of Toroneos 26 km marathon won the European Masters 5 km Championship.

For nearly 45 years he has helped direct the Channel Swimming Association, becoming Chairman in 1993 and President in 2007.

He was inducted as an Honor Swimmer in the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) in 1978, honored by the ISHOF with the Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award in 2009 and inducted as an Honor Swimmer in 2011.
Christopher Guesdon, Australia, 2009

The Dale Petranech Award

The Dale Petranech Award is presented for services to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.

Christopher Guesdon is credited with creating the modern format of the Olympic 10 km Marathon Swim together with Sid Cassidy and Dennis Miller. He has been instrumental in the sport as a race organizer, behind-the-scenes administrator and race official who has written manuals, worked as support crew, lobbyist and historian throughout Oceania, Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe.

Christopher was a FINA accredited Open Water Swimming Referee between 1992 – 2008 and manager of the Australian Open Water Swimming Team between 1991 – 1996, and a member of the FINA Open Water Swimming Technical Committee between 1996 – 2000. He is also a life member and representative of the Channel Swimming Association and was the referee at the 1998 Perth World Championships. He organized the open water events at the 1998 Brisbane Oceania Championships, the 1999 Melbourne Pan Pacific Championships, 2003 Fiji South Pacific Games, 1991-2008 Tasmania Open Water Swimming Championships and the 2007 Darwin Arafura Games as well as lectured at the Argentina International Open Water Swimming Clinic, the Fiji Technical Officials Clinic, the Mombassa, Kenya Technical Officials Clinic.

In Australia, Christopher was the Secretary of Australian Open Water Swimming Technical Committee between 1988 – 2001, partly for which he received the Australian Sports Medal in 2000. He was the founder of the Australian Long Distance Swimming Federation, which he started to lead from Tasmania in 1973, and a bureau member of the International Long Distance Swimming Federation, which existed between its founding in Paris in 1953 until 1974. He also co-authored with Bill Ford the comprehensive and authoritative Australian Long Distance and Marathon Swimming Manual and helped draft the FINA Open Water Swimming Manual.

He was inducted as an Honor Contributor in the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) and awarded the Poseidon Award and the Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award by the International Swimming Hall of Fame. Chris served on the IMSHOF Executive Committee since 2010 with an initial remit for nominations/selection. Taking over as the Chair from 2016 to 2018 he provided the organisational leadership, vision and strategy after a significant organisational change.

This award was created in 2016 to honor Dale Petranech for decades of service to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame. Petranech is a dual inductee in both the IMSHOF and the International Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Contributor. As a marathon swimmer, Petranech previously held the record as the oldest solo swimmer across the Catalina Channel and has served for nearly 50 years in various capacities at all levels of the sport, local, regional, national and international.
In Memoriam

Francis "Frank" Pritchard, USA
Class of 2008

Linda Kaiser, USA
Class of 2018

Jacques Amyot, Canada
Class of 1995

Montserrat Tresserras, Spain
Class of 1970

Carl Walker, Great Britain
Class of 2005

Bob Duenkel, USA
Class of 2019
The Catalina Channel Swimming Federation welcomes three more Catalina Channel solo swimmers to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Class of 2019 inductees Kimberley Chambers (New Zealand), Pat Gallant-Charette (USA) and Michelle Macy (USA).

Honoree William Wrigley Jr. (Class of 1964/USA) organized the Wrigley Ocean Marathon in 1927 - won by Honoree George Young. This first successful crossing of the Catalina Channel became one of the top news stories in the decade of the Roaring 20s and one of marathon swimming’s top ten stories of all time. The Wrigley Ocean Marathon greatly helped advance our sport.

Every IMSHOF Honor Swimmer (Class of) to have swum the Catalina Channel

AUSTRALIA
James Pittar (2009)
Penny Palfrey (2009)

CANADA
George Young (1963)
Tom Park (1968)
Vicki Keith (2003)

CUBA
Jose Cortinas (1967)

GREECE
Jason Zirganos (1971)

HUNGARY
Attila Manyoki (2016)

INDIA
Taranath Narayan Shenoy (1987)
Rohan Dattatrey More (2018)

IRELAND
Ned Denison (2012)
Stephen Redmond (2017)

JERSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS
Sally Minty-Gravett, MBE (2005)

MEXICO
Nora Toledano Cadena (2006)
Antonio Arguelles (2015)

NEW ZEALAND
Kimberley F. Chambers (2019)

SWEDEN
Anna-Carin Nordin (2018)

UNITED KINGDOM
Kevin Murphy (1977)
David Morgan (1983)
Alison Streeter, MBE (1985)
Nick Adams (2013)

UNITED STATES
Greta Andersen (1964)
Florence Chadwick (1966)
Henry Sullivan (1968)
Penny Lee Dean (1980)
Lynne Cox (1982)
John York (1989)
Dale Petranec (1995)
Chad Hundeby (1996)
Karen Burton (1999)
David Yudovin (1999)
Carol Sing (2000)
David Clark (2004)
Marcella A. MacDonald DPM (2005)
Anne Cleveland (2010/11)
Elizabeth Fry (2014)
Forrest Nelson (2015)
David Barra (2017)
Cindy Cleveland (2018)
Jaimie Monahan (2018)
Sarah Thomas (2018)
Pat Gallant-Charette (2019)
Michelle Macy (2019)
In Memory Of...

Piero Borelli, Water Polo ITA
George Breen, ISHOF Honor Swimmer
Carolyn Burke, ISHOF Friend and ISHOF Honoree Andy Burke’s wife
Robert “Bob” Burnside, Founding President, United States Lifesaving Association
Jan Cameron, Olympic Swimmer and Coach, AUS
Noemi Carrozza, Swimmer, ITA
Robert “Bob” Duenkel, ISHOF Historian
Don Duncan, First Swimming Coach at Puget Sound
Patty Elsener, ISHOF Honor Diver
Stephen Estes, ASU Swimming Alumnus
Richard Fetters, Former Michigan State Coach
Dr. Samuel “Sam” Freas, ISHOF Past President
Roberto Gandolfi, Water Polo, ITA
Pete Higgins, Former Westminster School Coach
Mike Higgs, Mentor To Hardcastle, Wilmott, Foster & Generations of Southend Swimmers
Don Hill, Former Michigan NCAA Champion
Bob Horn, U.S. Olympic and UCLA Men’s Swimming and Water Polo Coach
Richard Hunkler, Author at Water Polo Planet
Brian Job, Two-Time Olympic Swimmer
Jeff Johnson, Long-Time Acton-Boxborough, Patriot Swim Club Coach
Graham Johnston, ISHOF and MISHOF Honor Swimmer
Mark Joseph, Former Philippine Swimming Chief
Don Lamont, Olympic Swim Coach, ASCA Hall of Fame
Don Leas, Former USA Diving Chairman, ISHOF Paragon Award Winner
Thompson Mann, ISHOF Honor Swimmer
Nick Martin, Former Olympic Water Polo Player, Longtime Coach
Eugenio Martinez, FINA Water Polo Referee, CUB
Roland Matthes, ISHOF Honor Swimmer, GDR
Jim McNally, Former Texas Tech University Swimming Head Coach
Dennis Miller, FINA Vice President Oceania Swimming
Ted Newland, Longtime UC Irvine Water Polo Coach
Betty Perkins-Carpenter, Olympic Diving Coach
Nikolai Pankin, Olympic Swimmer, RUS
Dale Petranec, ISHOF Honor Contributor & Service Award Winner
Andrea Pollack, ISHOF Honor Swimmer, GER
David H. Robertson, ISHOF Honor Contributor, NISCA Pioneer
Daniela Samulski, Olympic Swimmer, GER
Charlie Schlegel, Former National Swimming Coach of the Year
Gus Stager, ISHOF Honor Coach
Dr. Julian Stein, ISHOF Award Winner
Bill Stetson, Honored NISCA Swim Coach
István Szívós, ISHOF Honor Water Polo Player
Stan Tinkham, ISHOF Honor Swimmer
Kenneth To, Hong Kong National Swimming Record Holder
Mike Troy, ISHOF Honor Swimmer
Charles Van Der Horst, Marathon Swimmer, Retired UNC professor
James “Jim” Martin Wood, ISHOF Lifetime Achievement Award
Ken Wood, Swim Coach, AUS
At Camp Chikopi a maple tree was planted. Bob’s ashes were put in with its roots and a plaque was placed on the boulder beside his tree. The plaque reads: You will never be forgotten, We pledge to you today. A Hallowed place on Chikopi is where you'll always stay. Bob Duenkel 1945 - 2019

A large crowd of family and friends gathered on March 29, 2019 on Fort Lauderdale beach to say goodbye to our beloved Bob Duenkel. Longtime friend Greg Wolfe and ISHOF’s Bruce Wigo had the honor to speak about Bob and share some memorable stories of a life lived to the fullest.

Afterwards, everyone gathered at the ISHOF museum, where Bruce presented a beautiful video tribute to Bob and family and friends were given a chance to speak about the impact Bob had on their lives. It was a very emotional and memorable afternoon.
The transformation of Bob’s office - Now the “Duenkel Suite”

- Happenings at ISHOF -

Laurie proudly shows the finished “Duenkel Suite” to Bob’s family. L-R: Shaun, Collette’s sister Moita, Steve, Laurie, Bob’s wife Collette and daughter Teagan. They were all very impressed but commented that “Bob being Bob, he would have never allowed the transformation.” ;)

Bob in his “dungeon” pre-construction

The desk after the makeover

Above and below: During the remodeling phase under Laurie’s supervision and re-design

The room now has a beautiful meeting table and murphy bed
The ISHOF co-hosted the groundbreaking ceremony for the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center’s $27 million renovation project on Friday, April 5, 2019. The event was attended by the city’s Mayor and Commissioners, media, swimmers/divers, south Florida citizens and the construction team from Hensel Phelps.

The renovations are scheduled to be finished March 2021.

"Time took its toll on this facility and it is no longer up to standard. But I believe the new facility that is going to be built is going to bring this area back to the center of Fort Lauderdale," - Ron O’Brien, eight-time Olympic diving coach, pictured with son, 2000 Olympic coach Tim O’Brien.

"This was our home and we were sad it wasn’t kept up. And we were very sad that it might have to go. The same way, we are very happy today. This is not only south Florida’s home of swimmers, but the whole world looks up to the place. And many kids all over the place want to be a part of that." - Jesse Vassallo (R), pictured with Ryan Lochte (L) & Caleb Dressel (C).

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The ISHOF "girls" with Olympian Ryan Lochte.
L-R: Ivonne Schmid, Ryan Lochte, Laurie Marchwinski, Janet Lowe, & Lauren Serowik.

L-R: Dave Gibson, Montana Marcheschi, Brandon Stillion, Adam Caldwell, Leo Stutz, Laura Voet, Jeff Stafford, Carol Clifford, Ronnie Cooper and Denise Thompson.

The team of Hensel Phelps making it all happen! L-R: Brooke Bourgeois, Maritza Dominguez, Bryce Peterson, Greg Jennings, James Camps, Olympian Caleb Dressel, Kevin Curry, Chad Thompson, Alex DeArmas, Ruben Bravo, Cory Olson and Carrie Davis.
The 2019 Broward County Sports Hall of Fame inducted our very own ISHOF Honorees Guy Harvey (Gold Medallion Recipient) and Jesse Vasallo (Honor Swimmer) (*The BCSHF honors Broward County residents that have set the standard of excellence and positively affected our county through sports & athletic involvement.)

Thanks to the support of Russell Weaver, the ISHOF was able to promote our honorees at two Tower Club country events this year. One for Australia (above) and one for China (below) - Hall of Fame staff in attendance - Laurie Marchwinski, Ivonne Schmid, Bruce Wigo and Janet Lowe.

L-R: Laurie Marchwinski, Janet Lowe, Guy Harvey, Bruce Wigo and Ivonne Schmid

L-R: Janet Lowe, Ivonne Schmid, Jesse Vasallo and wife Bethsabee, Laurie Marchwinski
MAKING CHAMPIONS PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

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The International Swimming Hall of Fame honored Benjamin Franklin for his contributions to the sport of swimming. The City of Fort Lauderdale declared February 19th as Benjamin Franklin Day. Franklin did a Q&A with the swimmers of the local Swim Fort Lauderdale team during his visit to Fort Lauderdale.

He talked about why he learned how to swim and why he enjoys it so much, bringing up the book, “The Art of Swimming” as his inspiration.

Franklin recounted a story of when he swam in the Thames River in London and how he almost became a swim instructor. He talked about how he improved on the invention of the hand paddle, which many swimmers still use today.

Franklin also told the audience of local swimmers how he learned how to swim nearly 300 years ago. He said he would drop an egg in the ocean and then lean forward (facing the shore) to try and pick up the egg. He learned that he could still float while he tried to pick up the egg.

Franklin closed the Q&A by admitting he did not wear anything while he swam in the 1700’s.

Benjamin Franklin was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1968 as a contributor.
ISHOF’s German Connection

Water polo player Joachim Hinze and family visit fellow German Masters Inductee Brigitte Merten

Friends of ISHOF Honor Swimmer Andrea Pollack visiting the ISHOF museum after her untimely passing at 58 from cancer last year

Above photos taken 28 years apart. R: Father Christian in 1991 and daughter Katharina Engelhardt on left at her visit during the 2019 Induction Ceremony.

We loved her story so much that we spontaneously invited her and fiance Dennis Janssen to the Induction gala that night.

Below are two pictures they sent us from the Induction Ceremony. A visit they say they will never forget!

ISHOF friend Katharina Engelhardt with 2019 ISHOF Honoree Jason Lezak

Katharina Engelhardt with fiance Dennis Janssen at the 2019 ISHOF Induction Ceremony
Tackling the day to day challenges that come with working on a construction site together...
The ISHOF and Aquatic Complex staff working together in the west museum building during construction.
Every 15 minutes, 50 Americans are diagnosed with cancer. This is a sobering reality. But, the good news is that every year millions of Americans are beating cancer through advancements in treatments. Swim Across America has granted over $80 million to our network of doctors and researchers, who are the pioneers developing new cures and treatments to this dreaded disease. Rowdy Gaines, Missy Franklin and over 100 Olympians support SAA.
ISHOF Friends & Future Hall of Famers

Future Hall of Famer Frederica Pellegrini & Coach Matteo

Swimming World’s Editor-in-Chief, Craig Lord’s sister Deb Park (L) with Ivonne Schmid

Prof. Vincente Ambroio and Dr. Ana Miragaya researching the life of Maria Lenk

Bob Erikson and wife pointing to his picture at the Casino pool

L-R: ISHOF’s Bruce Wigo, Ivonne Schmid with Alessandro Oliverio, water polo enthusiast and international sports attorney

Swimmers from Brazil and Puerto Rico

Laurie Marchwinski with her SPEEDO sales rep Scott Coleman, who retired after 40 years

Jim Thorpe, posing with Duke Kahanamoku

John Thorpe, grandson of 1912 Olympic decathlon and pentathlon champ
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- Swimming World Vault With Access Back To 1980
- One ticket to ISHOF Induction Ceremony Dinner
$500

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP
- Basic Member Benefits
- ISHOF Pin & Patch
- ISHOF Embroidered Jacket
- Swimming World Vault With Access Back To 1980
- Two tickets to ISHOF Induction Ceremony Dinner
$1000

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This year we’re excited to be celebrating our 50th anniversary.

Find out more at usms.org