

International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame

Newsletter December 2014

Contents:

New IMSHOF inductees, Davids-Wheeler Memorial Award & George Park

Change in the IMSHOF organization (including a new logo)

IMSHOF Inductees – now joining the International Swimming Hall of Fame

Still looking for news/contact details for 7 inductees

Please be a nominator

Do you want to contract a friend?

Yes, you can provide a second contact address

New IMSHOF inductees

Please welcome the new group of inductees! The descriptions below are courtesy of Steven Munatones (inductee) writing in the World Open Water Swimming Association web site.

Antonio Argüelles Díaz-González

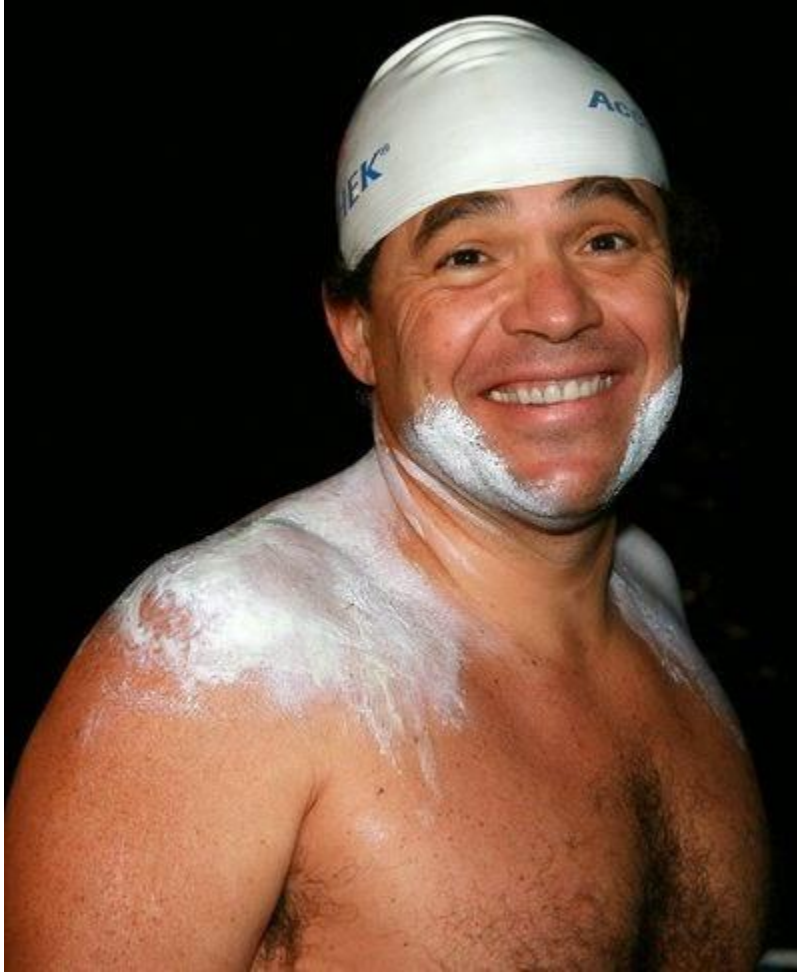
"We all have one 'channel' to cross: be it the English Channel, thirty minutes of daily exercise, or just not quitting school."

So said Antonio Argüelles Díaz-González, the epitome of a Renaissance Man in the open water swimming world.

The Mexican business leader and endurance athlete was voted into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honour Swimmer in the Class of 2014.

Argüelles was born in Mexico City in 1959 and is a 1982 graduate from Stanford University.

His passion for swimming was born in Cuernavaca, Morelos where his grandfather had a cold water pool. He started off swimming fast and has never slowed down.



Courtesy of WOWSA, Huntington Beach, California.

Inspired by the 1968 México City Olympic Games, he eventually earned a place in Mexico's national swim team in the 400m and 1500m freestyles. Later, he took up running and triathlons, and completed several marathons and Ironman triathlons while establishing a reputation as a business leader, educator, and author in his native Mexico.

He became the first two-time member of the Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming and founded the Mexican Triathlon Federation in 1989 where he served as its honorary president since 1995.

He also established de 'Day of going to work without car' (Día de trabajo sin coche'). Because of this, he was awarded the Golden Shoe Award by Runners World Magazine in 1993. But he always found time to train and complete all kinds of endurance events including the Manhattan Island Marathon Swim, Catalina Channel crossing, Swim Around Key West, and English Channel.

He also co-wrote with Nora Toledano the book, "*A cada brazada: el azul interminable*" ("*At Each Stroke: The Endless Blue*") in which he retells his experiences of crossing channels. The Spanish-language book colorfully describes Toledano and Argüelles' numerous open water swimming challenges around the world and what they experienced. In their colorful prose, they equate their channel swimming experiences to a survival in the sea of life.

Argüelles is done much more than just survived; he has absolutely thrived.

Jersey Long Distance Swimming Club

The Jersey Long Distance Swimming Club, located on the isle of Jersey in the middle of the English Channel, is touted as "*possibly the best little swimming club in the world*".

While the reputation is well-deserved and well-known among the channel swimming community, the Jersey Long Distance Swimming Club is now formally acknowledged as an Honour Organisation by the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.

Currently managed by a renowned pair of passionate open water enthusiasts, Sally Anne Minty-Gravett (President) and Charlie Gravett (Vice President), the club was the vision of Denize Le Pennek who kick-started marathon swimming on the island.

With her channel swimming career off and running in 1966, Denize was the first Jersey-to-France swimmer and later became the first Round Jersey swimmer in 1969. With her drive and pioneering spirit, the Jersey Long Distance Swimming Club now boasts an ever increasing number of ocean and sea swimmers (see here).

As Minty-Gravett writes, "*Our club looks onwards and upwards with a number of local youngsters taking on personal challenges each year and inspiring the next generation.*"



Courtesy of WOWSA, Huntington Beach, California.

Martin Strel

Martin Strel is a legendary Slovenian long-distance swimmer. Strel was born in the town of Mokronog, in the Slovenian region of Lower Carniola, then part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. He is best known for completing Stage swims along the entire length of the Danube River, the Mississippi River, the Yangtze River, and the Amazon River. He is a member of the 24-hour club.



Speaking at the 2011 Global Open Water Swimming Conference in New York City. Photo by Skip Storch



Martin Strel swimming in the Amazon River. Photo courtesy of the Strel Swimming Adventure Holidays

He spoke at the 2011 Global Open Water Swimming Conference and will be recognized and honored at the 2012 Global Open Water Swimming Conference and the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame induction ceremonies on the RMS Queen Mary on 22 September 2012 in Long Beach, California.

Forrest Nelson



Courtesy of WOWSA, Huntington Beach, California.

Forrest Nelson does his swims quietly and under the cloak of darkness.

But when he does his swims, it is always a major effort.

Similar to his Mexican counterpart Antonio Argüelles Díaz-González, Nelson is a Renaissance Man in the marathon swimming world.

Newly voted in the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honour Swimmer, the MIT graduate is a member of the 24-hour Club, president of the Catalina Channel Swimming Federation.

He possesses the smarts and experience to intelligently analyze a swim before, during and after at a level rarely seen in the open water swimming world.

He has swam the Kaulakahi Channel (Kauai to Niihau in Hawaii), the Palilolo Channel (Maui to Molokai in Hawaii), the Tsugaru Channel (Honshu to Hokkaido in Japan), the Cook Strait in New Zealand, Tampa Bay Marathon Swim in Florida, and the Anacapa Channel in California.

He also completed 3 Molokai Channel crossings (achieved in both directions between Oahu and Molokai) a 23-hour double-crossing of the Catalina Channel, a 48-mile 25 hour 35 minute circumnavigation of Catalina Island, the first December crossing of the Catalina Channel, a Palilolo Channel, and an English Channel crossing in 12 hours 41 minutes.

He was also a member of the 52-mile 25 hour 48 minute HTC Relay from San Clemente Island to the

Southern California mainland, and the unprecedented 6-way Catalina Channel crossing in 61 hours 7 minutes with Team FTD.

Nelson also frequently volunteers as an escort crew member and Observer on a number of solo swims and relays from the Catalina Channel to the Santa Barbara Channel and the Hawaiian Islands. When he is serving in those capacities, he never sleeps or rests no matter how long or rough the swim is. His eyes are always on the swimmer while he frequently consults with the pilot in order to help navigate the optimal course for his athletes.

Whether in the water or onshore, whether he is in the office or on a boat deck, Nelson received a well-deserved honor.

Varne Ridge

Evelyn and David Frantzeskou run a small secluded family-run award-winning holiday park in Folkestone, England.

Varne Ridge Holiday Park, well-known among English Channel swimmers, sits near to the cliffs with panoramic views over the English Channel stretching out towards the coastline of France. Those views welcome swimmers from around the world who gather to test themselves in the open water world's most well-known stretch of water.

But it is the hospitality and passion generously and genuinely poured out from the hearts of the Frantzeskou over the decades that led to their induction in the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honour Organisation for the Class of 2014.



Courtesy of WOWSA, Huntington Beach, California.

Marty Veen

After a long career as an open water swimmer and event organizer in the Netherlands, the renowned Marty Veen has been recognized by his peers and the marathon swimming community.

Veen was voted into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honour Administrator in its Class of 2014.

He not only founded the Scheerwolde Classic Swim, but also served as a member of the the Dutch Technical Open Water Committee for over 20 years.

As the innovative chairman of the Dutch Committee, Veen was always been known to put swimmers on a pedestal and treated everyone - coaches, judges, referees, safety personnel, organizations, federations - fairly and positively. Among the many changes he initiated or coordinated, he accomplished the following:

1. The Dutch National Championships added a 10 km marathon swim to its calendar.
2. He promoted 5 km, 10 km and 25 km races even when Dutch open water swimming traditionally focused on 2 km and 3 km swims.
3. He started the Dutch National Championship Long Distance and Marathon Swimming in 1989 with 5 km freestyle and breaststroke races. Later, the 10 km was added as well as distances for juniors and masters. The 15 km and 25 km national championship marathon swims were added in 1992 with the last several events taking place at the IJsselmeerzwemmarathon.
4. He implemented an observer system where referees observed swims, but they did not officiate. They watched and judged the safety procedures and the officials in action. Competitions that were judged to require improvement were advised to either make changes or withdraw from the national competition.
5. He organized an annual meeting to determine the optimal meet calendar with everyone's best long-term interests at heart.
6. The annual race organizers' meeting developed into an Open Water Congress for swimmers, coaches, organizers and officials/judges.
7. Since 1992, he experimented with the concept of a time trial and eventually incorporated the Open Water Time Trials into the national championships.
8. He established the Open Water Yearbook in 1988. It started as a brochure that had all the information on a swimmer before they entered a competition. It is published every year and has developed to become the primary open water information source in the Netherlands.
9. Participation in the European and World Championship events was a priority under Veen. He work was showcased when the LEN Cup competition and the European Youth Championships were held in Hoorn in 2010.

Dauids-Wheeler Memorial Award: Dennis Miller



Courtesy of WOWSA, Huntington Beach, California.

The annual Irving Davids-Captain Roger Wheeler Memorial Award was awarded to FINA Bureau member Dennis Miller of Fiji for his contributions to marathon swimming, especially his vision to bring the 10 km marathon swim to the Olympic program.

As a long-time member of the FINA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee, Miller and American Sid Cassidy and Australian Christopher Guesdon, literally mapped out the Olympic 10K Marathon Swim concept on a napkin in a restaurant. This revolutionary plan eventually led to the sport of open water swimming being added to the 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2020 Olympics.

Miller joined the following International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame honourees in its Class of 2014:

Martin Strel (Slovenia), Honour Administrator Marty Veen (Netherlands),

Irving Davids-Captain Roger Wheeler Memorial Award is an award of the International Swimming Hall of Fame, established in 1970 by the New England Marathon Swimming Association, to honor and recognize the contribution of individuals and groups making major contributions to marathon swimming and serve as a perpetual memorial to Irving Davids and Captain Roger Wheeler.

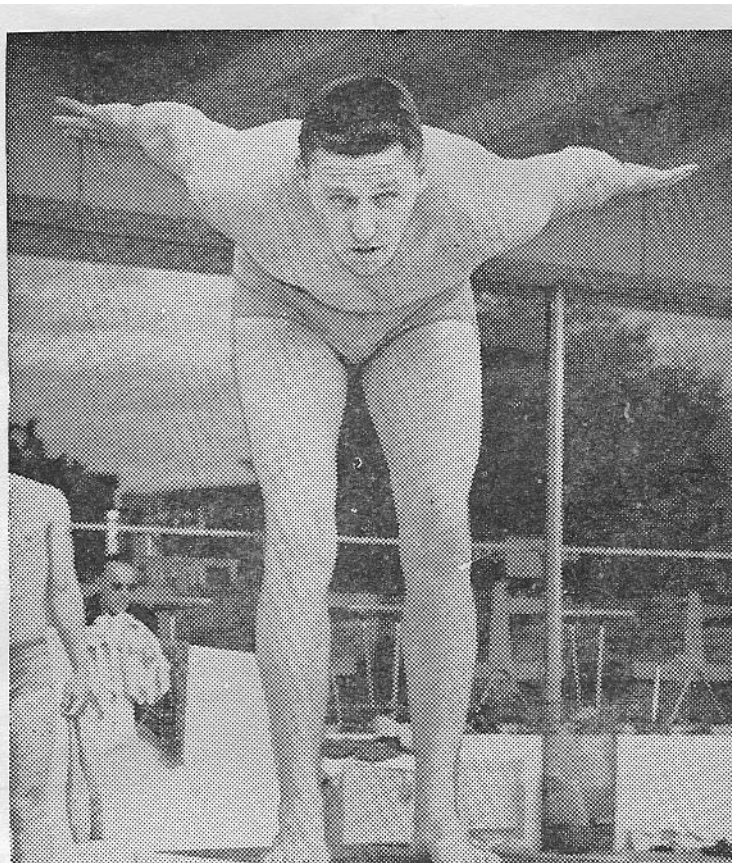
George Park (1978)

For more than 35 years, the official IMSHOF records, due to an oversight, omitted George Park – the third of this talented family to be inducted. He will be added to the official website and his brief bio is given below



Swimming with a Great White Shark in a 1968 professional marathon swim to Block Island

George Park was a Canadian pool and marathon swimmer and water polo player for the Hamilton Aquatic Club. He set Canadian records in the 50 and 100m freestyle and butterfly and qualified to be a member of the 1954 and 1958 British Empire and Commonwealth Games. He anchored two 2nd place finish relays and came 4th in the 100m freestyle. He won a silver medal in the 1955 Pan American Games in Mexico City in 100m freestyle and qualified for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.



Park also competed in the 1968 14.1-mile race from Narragansett, Rhode Island to Block Island where he encountered a Great White Shark. He also completed a 9-mile swim across the Northumberland Straits from Cape Tormentine to Borden Prince Edward Island. He competed in the 28-mile Saguenay River in 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968 and the 16 km (10-mile) Hamilton Marathon Swim. In the 1964 race that started in Chicoutimi, Quebec, Canada, he finished in 9 hours 18 minutes, two hours ahead of the second place finisher, Armond Cloutier. He also competed in the 24 Heures La Tuque with American Billy Barton, and with Thomas Bucy in 1966.

Change in the IMSHOF organization (including a new logo)



Date: December 21, 2014

From: International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame

To: All Past Inductees, Future Inductees, and Marathon Swimming Enthusiasts

It is a great pleasure to announce that a new chapter for the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame will begin as of January 1, 2015.

The International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) will remain an autonomous, self-governing entity, but will move under the umbrella of the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF). We believe the resources that the ISHOF have to offer will allow us to move into the future and initiate moves toward financial soundness more efficiently. Beth and I have been given the privilege of spearheading this transition. We have several ideas that we believe will help move the IMSHOF into a world-class Hall of Fame befitting our grand sport.

We very much look forward to working with the ISHOF CEO, Bruce Wigo and his staff, as well as you, the marathon swimming community in the future.

Very Sincerely,

David and Beth Yudovin

Please feel free to contact Beth or I at: 2aquadreamers@gmail.com



IMSHOF and ISHOF Honour Swimmer David Yudovin and his wife Beth.

IMSHOF Inductees – now joining the International Swimming Hall of Fame

IRENE VAN DER LAAN (NED)

52-year-old Irene van der Laan, inducted as an Honour Swimmer in the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame in 1985, will also be inducted in the International Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Open Water Swimmer in 2015. It is a well-deserved recognition for an athlete with one of the most comprehensive marathon swimming resumes in the world. Not only was van der Laan one of the fastest and most durable marathon swimmers in her heyday during the 1980s, but the prolific Dutch swimmers has been competing on the professional marathon swimming circuit for 3 decades, quite possibly participating in more marathon swims and competing for longer overall distance than anyone in history.



Courtesy of WOWSA, Huntington Beach, California.



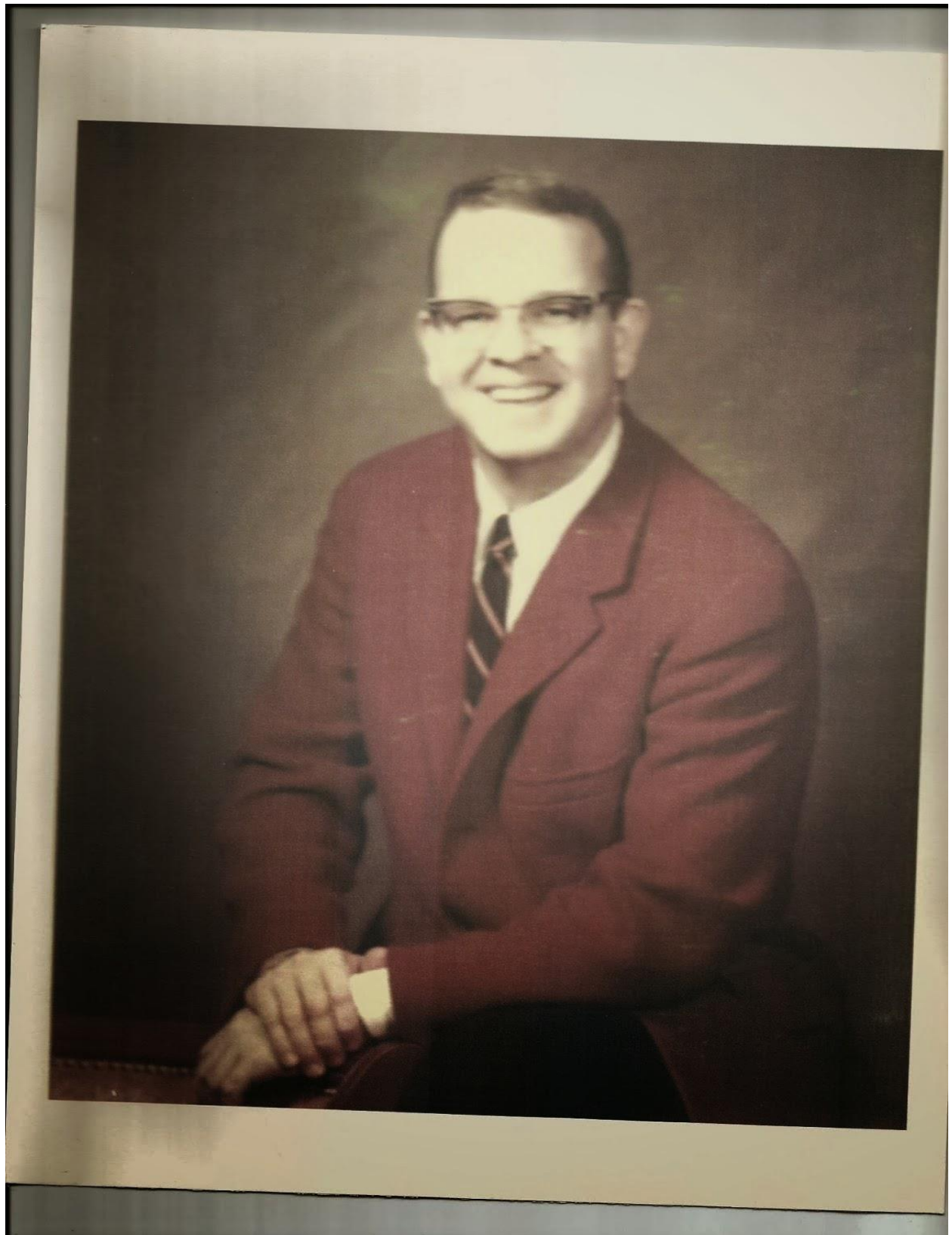
Olivier Eryvn, a Belgian who creates spectacular documentary photography, captured van der Laan getting out of her 20th successful completion of the Faros Maratón in 2013.

She completed her 21st Faros Maratón in addition to dozens of other marathon swims, completed over 15 times each. Her career has also included over 200 professional marathon swimming competitions where she has transitioned from being coached by her father early in her career to having her daughter Jolina Stap take over the reins in the later part of her career.

She first swam the English Channel in 1979 and completed a double-crossing in 1983, establishing a new record and fastest swim of the year on her first leg. Van der Laan was the first person to win the Rolex watch two times for the fastest crossings in the English Channel of the year in 1982 and 1983.

Van der Laan was also the first women in several events on the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation circuit during the 1980s. She competed in the 64 km (40-mile) Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean in 19 hours 5 minutes in 1986, the 64 km (40-mile) Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean in 18 hours 15 minutes in 1987, the 64 km (40-mile) Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean in 19 hours 47 minutes in 1988, the 40 km (25-mile) Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean in 10 hours 54 minutes in 1990, the 40 km (25-mile) Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean in 11 hours 50 minutes in 1991, the 40 km (25-mile) Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean in 11 hours 20 minutes in 1997.

DONALD WATSON (USA)



An assistant coach to the legendary Doc Cousilman, Don Watson became one of the most successful high-school swimming coaches in history, producing swimmers who earned 167 High school All-America, 4 Olympic medals and multiple world professional marathon swimming titles. Watson was voted Coach of the Year by the American Swimming Coaches Association in 1970 and served as USA Team coach or manager at six major international competitions. For 24 years, Don was the Director of the University of Texas Swimming Stadium and the Longhorn Aquatic Swim Club, where he collaborated with Hall of Fame coaches Eddie Reese, Paul Bergen, Richard Quick and Mark Schubert. He joins three of his swimmers, John Kinsella, Sandra Bucha and Gold Medallion recipient Bob Dudley in the Hall of Fame.

Still looking for news/contact details for 7 inductees

Thank you for your help this summer in providing contract details and leads! We are just missing details for 7 inductees....one last push please. Can you help?

Induction Year	Name & Country	Notes - Suspected Age
1979	Alawi Makki, UAE	60 to 70 in 2014
1965	John Sigmund, USA	95 in 2014
1967	Jose Cortinas, CUB	98 in 2014
1971	James Toomey, USA	85 in 2014 - last in N.J. USA
1970	Helge Jensen, DEN	76 in 2014 - possibly in B.C. Canada
1973	Feng Yao-Hsein, CHI	86 in 2014
1978	Jerry Kerschner, USA	88 in 2014 - last in FL USA

Please be a nominator

The IMSHOF inductees shared another common experience. They were nominated by their coach, swimmer, competitor or friend – thus appearing on the ballot. PLEASE think about the great marathon swimmers, coaches, organizations and pilots who influenced your experience.

Nominating is very easy – the forms are at: <http://imshof.org/organization/nominations/>

The real joy is looking through the list – just to make sure you didn't miss them: <http://imshof.org/honourees/honourees-by-year/>

Then find an excuse for lunch, a phone call or even an email. Just let them know how the influence that they or their legacy had on your marathon career – and ask their permission to nominate them. Fight through any initial objections like you would a weak tide and get down to asking about their career and highlights. Guarantee you that both of you will enjoy the experience...then get to the forms.

Do you want to contract a friend?

I am happy to forward your request on to the other person. It is a great way to rekindle a friendship..

Yes, you can provide a second contact address

Several of you have provided a second contact. It tends to be a child for those of you not “on email”. The newsletter will be sent to both contacts.