

2003 Joseph G. Rogers Award

For dedication, accomplishment, and excellence in
YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving

Jim Ryan

Jim Ryan started working in swimming at the Chester YMCA in Pennsylvania in 1970. He was the Swimming and Diving Coach at the Chester Y from 1970-1981, where he developed a program that had 30 boys when he started and included 180 boys and girls when he left. He also served as swim instructor and lifeguard during this time. While working for the Y, Jim began volunteer work as a Water Safety Instructor Trainer for the American Red Cross, teaching Water Safety Instructor Courses in Southeastern Pennsylvania from 1971-1991.

Jim served as the Assistant Swimming and Diving Coach at Widener University from 1975-1985 where he coached 3 of his former Chester Y Divers to Conference Championships and one to All American Status on 1 and 3-meter boards.

Jim received his Bachelors Degree in Psychology at Temple University in 1977. He began working at the Upper Main Line YMCA in 1981 as the Boys "A" Team Swim Coach. In 1985, he was promoted to Head Swim Coach and Aquatic Director for Upper Main Line, following in the footsteps of his mentor, 1988 Roger's Award recipient, Sue Clayton. This same year he

was appointed to the position of YMCA East Field, Eastern Cluster Coordinator for Competitive Aquatics, a position he holds till this day.

In 1986 Jim became active with the YMCA Swim Coach's Association, serving on the board until 2001. In 1988, he was elected President of the Coach's Association and became the first Coach's representative to serve on the YMCA National Competitive Swimming and Diving Committee.

Jim was elected Treasurer of the YMCA National Competitive Swimming and Diving Committee in 1991. He served in this role until 1999. During his tenure on the National Committee Jim served on the task force formed in 1996 to restructure this committee into its current form as the YMCA National Competitive Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee. Jim also served on the committee that developed the YMCA Swim Coaches Training Program and developed the manual, "The Principles of YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving".

Under Jim's leadership, the Upper Main Line YMCA Swim Team achieved a level of excellence in the pool reflected in multiple State Championships and a National Championship surrounded by many top 3 finishes. Administratively, the Upper Main Line YMCA is renowned as a model program for collaboration between YMCA professional staff and parent leadership.

Jim's service in Competitive Swimming has been a family affair. His wife Carolyn has served on parent committees in leadership roles as president and meet director. Their 3 children, Jim, Emily, and Pat completed successful careers swimming for the Upper Main Line YMCA before continuing on to swim in college.

Jim is currently the Branch Executive Director of the Upper Main Line YMCA. He has held this position since 1994, having a unique distinction of working as Head Swim Coach and Executive Director from 1994-1997. He continues his involvement in swimming as a volunteer swim coach, official, trainer for officials and swim coaches, and regional and national committee member.

HONORS AND AWARDS

YMCA Swimming Coach of the Year: 1994

American Swimming Coaches Association Award of Excellence: 1992,1993,1994, 1995,1996.

American Red Cross: 20-Year Volunteer Service Award