

## Greater Capital Region Aquatics Hall of Fame Announces its First Class of Inductees

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. – The Greater Capital Region Aquatics Hall of Fame announced today its inaugural class of honorees.

**Kari Andersson** is an NCAA Division III champion from Williams and was a 13-time All-American. Kari has 12 relay and 24 individual USMS top ten times in the country, and is an All-American USMS swimmer with United States Masters American records. Kari was ranked first in the FINA World rankings in 2000 for the 25-29 age group in the 100 meter backstroke.

**Cassandra Cardinell-Metzler** competed at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, in the women's synchronized diving 10 meter platform with Sara Hildebrand, placing seventh. She has represented Team USA at multiple international events. At Indiana University, she was an NCAA champion on the platform in 2005, and won a National title in the Senior Women's 10m platform final in 2008. At Shaker HS, she set the Section 2 diving record in 1999, also breaking the NYS diving record in the process.

**Richelle (Depold) Fox** was on the National Team for the USA from 1995 through 2000, winning medals at the US National Championships and at Swimming World Cup meets throughout the world. She was a six-time individual All-American at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a two-time ACC Swimmer of the Year for the Tar Heels. Richelle capped the most decorated career for a Section 2 female swimmer with multiple wins at the NYS meet, and was named the event's top performer three times. She had six individual state wins, five state records, and seven Section 2 records.

**Edward (Ned) Monthie** is a long time swimming and diving coach for Shaker High School. He coached many divers who competed in both the Section 2 Championships and the New York State Swimming and Diving Championships, including fellow Hall of Fame inductee Cassandra Cardinell. Ned was the Section 2 Swimming and Diving Coordinator for the NYSPHSAA, and was inducted into the Shaker High School Hall of Fame.

**Kevin Paulsen** was the most decorated male swimmer in the history of Section 2. He was undefeated in individual events at Sectionals, with eight titles. He held Section 2 records in the 200 and 500 freestyle, and was a five-time NYS Champion. At St. Bonaventure, Kevin placed first at the Eastern Intercollegiate Championships many times throughout his career, and is a member of the school's Hall of Fame.

**Manny Pollard** captured the 2011 NYS diving title, and shattered an 11 year old state record at the Section 2 championships in 2012. At the University of Minnesota, Manny was a two-time Minnesota Diver of the Year, and also earned All-American honors three times. He placed all four years at the Big Ten Championships, and qualified for the 2016 USA Olympics team trials. He currently serves as the vice chair of USA Diving's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council.

**Pat Potter** has dedicated herself to the swimming community in the Glens Falls area for over six decades. She instructed others with inspiring diving clinics for 35 years, and was the Section 2 Officials Association President for 12 years. She was the first woman to represent Section 2 on New York State Committees, was a diving judge or referee at the NYS Championships for 30 years, and was the longest serving active official in Section 2.

**Kathleen Rogan** participated in 231 track and field and swimming events since 1999 through the Special Olympics. She competed in the 2018 and the 2022 USA Games, and a World Games in Ireland in swimming.

**Arthur F. Young Jr.** was honored with the Distinguished Service Award for NYS Certified Swimming Officials, and has been Director of Adirondack Swimming. He was the Finance Committee Chairperson for USA Swimming for several years, and was instrumental in the sport of swimming separating from the AAU, thus creating USA Swimming. The Adirondack District honored him with lifetime membership to USA Swimming. He has continued his officiating career in the area, as well as at international meets, six Olympic trials, and 19 national meets.

Established in conjunction with the Capital Region Aquatic Center, the Hall of Fame will annually recognize athletes, coaches, officials and community supporters who have made significant contributions to local aquatic sports through their service, performance and dedication. Inductees will be honored on a wall of the Capital Region Aquatic Center, which is coming soon to downtown Schenectady.

Spearheading the Hall of Fame effort is Tim Sinnenberg, a local coach, parent and Capital Region Aquatic Center advisory board member. "When Tim first approached us about a Hall of Fame, we were excited at the idea of bringing something like this to the area," said Kara Haraden, Capital Region Aquatic Center board president. "We feel privileged to be able to play a role and help celebrate and honor exemplary members of our aquatic sports community."

"We would like the Hall of Fame to serve as an avenue to highlight and thank all types of individuals who have dedicated themselves to elevating these sports throughout the region," said Sinnenberg.

In addition to selecting the inaugural class of inductees, the Hall of Fame committee will also recognize a high school coaching staff for their contributions to the sport, and present scholarships to two deserving high school juniors. The Shenendehowa Girls and Boys Swimming and Diving Staff was chosen as Coaches of the Year. Both teams won Section 2 Large School championship titles this year, and numerous athletes went on to compete at the New York State Championships.

An induction ceremony is scheduled for October 19 at the Hilton Garden in Clifton Park. For information on how to purchase tickets, or to support the Hall of Fame as a sponsor, go to [capitalregionaquaticcenter.org](http://capitalregionaquaticcenter.org).