



FRANKE BELL

Senior Coach

Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center

Franke is a native of Gaston County who graduated from Belmont's Sacred Heart College and The University of North Carolina. She began coaching at Charlotte's Johnston Memorial YMCA. During her 27 years at JMY she produced championship swimmers who routinely set state, national and occasionally world records.

Franke traveled with coaches as a representative for Swimming World Magazine to the 1964 and 1968 Olympics and was nominated to the coaching staff for the Pan American Games three times. The success she enjoyed at JMY led to numerous North Carolina Coach of the Year Awards, eventually having the yearly award named in her honor and in 1989 being inducted into the North Carolina Swimming Hall of Fame.

In 1991 she was asked to continue her winning tradition at the newly constructed Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center, a position she gladly accepted. At MCAC, Franke built the Aquatic Team of Mecklenburg (ATOM). During her 25 years at ATOM Franke continued to produce swimmer who competed on the national and international stage. Franke continues to work with athletes at all levels, most recently developing an outreach swim lesson program for immigrant children.

Through all of these accomplishments, Franke has always sought to use swimming as a means to care for, encourage and help young people develop into responsible adults. She believes swimming is a great opportunity to change lives and create champions in and out of the water.

Franke Bell will be in the first inductee Hall of Fame Class of ISCA this year.