

COACHES BIOS

Chris Carver - Head Coach

Chris Carver has been involved in Synchronized Swimming since the 1950's when she was introduced to the sport in its infancy through the Palo Alto school system and the Athen's Swim Club. In those early days, synchronized swimming was experiencing a huge impetus from the work of actress and athlete Esther Williams, Chris' idol.

Chris began coaching in 1960 and was involved in Aquatic Art where her team won many International Awards. She was invited to come to Santa Clara in 1980 and in 1984 became its fourth and longest serving Head Coach. Chris has coached countless athletes to national and international victories, and holds the longest consecutive winning streak for national level grand slams (all events) in the history of the sport. She has helped to place over 20 athletes on the Olympic Team, the most of any club in the U.S., and has been responsible for many national and international titles for her club and for the United States. Chris has been on the National Coaching staff since 1984 and has coached three Olympic Teams (Atlanta, Sydney and Athens).

Chris is known throughout the world as an innovative choreographer. She was the head choreographer for the French production, "Sirella." She was the choreographer and coach for three "Classical Splash" shows which combined the National Team with a live Orchestra. She choreographed for Sea World in 1994 and has assisted in several commercials including AFLAC's most popular commercial of 2003.

Chris has been United States Synchronized Swimming Coach of the Year an unprecedented 14 times. She has been named U.S Olympic Committee Coach of the Year 10 times. She is a member of the Santa Clara and the Synchronized Swimming Hall of Fame, and was recently nominated to the International Hall of Fame. In 2001 Chris was inducted into the Women's Foundation Hall of Fame established by Billie Jean King. Despite her numerous achievements, Chris' biggest thrill is meeting and being befriended by her idol, Esther Williams.

Nancy Hines - Assistant Head Coach

Nancy Hines came to Santa Clara from Ohio in order to swim under the late Kay Vilen who was the first coach of the Aquamaids. Nancy was a member of the first Santa Clara team to win a National Championship (1968). Nancy went on to win several national championships in both the team and duet event.

After her retirement, Nancy Hines coached synchronized swimming in Japan for three and a half years followed by three years at Ohio State. In 1981 she returned to

Santa Clara where she presently coaches.

Ms. Hines has, additionally, served as the Head Coach of National Team II and the National Junior Team. She was the Manager for the 2004 Olympic Team. Nancy Hines' honors include the USSSI Hall of Fame and a three-time member of the All American Team. In 2009, Nancy was awarded the U.S. Synchro Developmental Coach of the Year.

Michele Costanza

Michele Costanza began her swimming career in 1968 and went through the age group program at Santa Clara. She ultimately became a member of the National Championship SCA team in the team and duet events. Her competitions included Pan American Games, World Games, FINA Cup, and numerous international Open Competitions.

Michele has coached with SCA since 1980. She has coached at every level from beginning age group through senior A team program, national team program, and Olympic team. She was the Assistant Coach at the 2004 Olympics.

Michele was the Assistant Choreographer for the Classical Splash show and assists in the Santa Clara water show productions. She is a member of the Santa Clara Hall of Fame and the U.S.S.S.I. Hall of Fame.

Jenny Ekhilevsky

Jenny came to Santa Clara from Virginia in 1990 to attend college and further her swimming career. Jenny is a three time senior national champion and was a member of the U. S. National Team for two years.

During Jenny's career she won team, duet and solo in the prestigious 1991 Olympic Festival. She was a gold medal soloist in collegiate swimming winning that title for San Jose State University.

Jenny's participation in the French production of "Sirella" contributed to her artistic training, and this experience has served her well as a senior coach for Santa Clara. Jenny has coached many United States National Teams. As Head Coach of National Team I, she helped them achieve silver medals in the 2004 Swiss Open. Jenny was also the Head Coach for the Netherlands during the 2008 Olympic Games. Jenny is currently working as Head Coach of National Team I.

Anna Kozlova

Anna was born in St. Petersburg, Russia and became a member of Russia's Jr. National Team in 1989. She competed for Russia in the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992. Anna fell in love with the United States and emigrated in 1993. After waiting for five years to become an American Citizen, Anna competed for the United States Olympic Team in 2000 and 2004 winning two bronze medals.

Anna was the foremost soloist in the United States and represented her new country in several competitions throughout the world. She won three grand slams (solo, duet and team) nationally. This is a feat seldom accomplished by any American athlete. Anna began coaching full-time in 2004. The expertise she brings to budding soloists is truly a treasure.

Anna has been the U.S.S.I athlete of the year as well as the USOC athlete of the year. She has also been a member of the All American Team on several occasions. She has won the honor of Developmental Coach of the Year, West Zone Coach of the Year, and Junior Coach of the Year.

Since completing a Nursing degree from San Jose State University in 2010, Anna is currently pursuing a career in the same field. Although this limits her time with SCA, we are thrilled to have her as a routine and figure consultant.

Patti Andresen

Patti grew up as an Aquamaid. She began her swimming in 1979 and retired in 1992. During that time she distinguished herself by winning solo, duet and team in every age group. She and partner Heather Simmons Carrasco were known for their artistry and both served on our National Team I. Patti has coached for Santa Clara off and on since retirement. When her family moved to Sacramento, Patti became the Head Coach of the Sacramento Synchronized Swim Club. Happily, Patti is back at Santa Clara working primarily with our 10 and Under program.

Megan Azebu

Megan recently retired from swimming with SCA in order to attend Santa Clara University. The highlight of her career was receiving a silver medal at the Junior National competition. Megan is known and loved by Santa Clara for her remarkable sense of teamwork and for her strong character. Megan's love of children and her knowledge of synchronized swimming provide her with the perfect tools for instructing our novice swimmers in both the FFF program and in our younger age groups.

Bianca Johnson

Bianca was a member of Santa Clara's prestigious A team and a gold medalist in the 2007 Junior Nationals. Bianca has a talent for working with young swimmers. As a big sister to four siblings, Bianca brings a maternal quality to her coaching while insisting upon a good skill base. She is creative in her approach to coaching and makes her classes fun. Bianca is currently coaching in Santa Clara's FFF program and assists with our 10 and under program.

Bahareh Nikbakht

Bahareh swam for many years with SCA, including a position on the Junior A team. She retired from swimming after graduating high school, but continued her involvement with SCA as a devoted age group coach. After completing an undergraduate degree at San Jose University, Bahareh has returned to coaching full time in the 12 and Under Program. Her patience and expertise have helped her young athletes to make the 11-12 National Team.

Janet Redwine

Janet came to SCA in 2000 from the Rocky Mountain Splash team in Colorado. She was a part of many Santa Clara Senior National Championships and rounded off her swimming career as a 2008 Beijing Olympian. Janet was an All-American from 2003-2007. She won the Jerry Smith good sportsmanship award in 2001 and is a two-time recipient of the Nell Piece Award. This is an award which is given to the most outstanding Aquamaid. She currently coaches in SCA's Junior and 13-15 programs.

Kendra Zanotto

Kendra is yet another example of the success of the Santa Clara Aquamaid program. She began her swimming career with the Aquamaids. Kendra progressed through the program and ultimately became a member of the 2004 Olympic Team that won a bronze medal for the United States. Kendra has served as a United States athlete's representative and is a member of the International Relations committee. She briefly coached for Aruba and, after graduating from Columbia, is back at Santa Clara coaching in our 13-15 Age Group and Junior programs, and is leading our cross-training.