



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**The Indiana Gymnastics Hall of Fame (INGHOF) has announced its fourth induction class of 2015. Dianne Durham, John W. Hinds Jr., Dr. Otto E. Ryser (deceased), Brent Simmons, Ed Straub, and Dr. Leopold F. Zwarg (deceased).**

The class will be inducted at a **1:30PM luncheon banquet on July 18<sup>th</sup> 2015 in the Upper Ballroom of the Athenaeum Turners located at 401 E. Michigan Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.** The induction luncheon is open to anyone who would like to attend and support the inductees plus learn a little bit about gymnastics history in Indiana. The famous Rathskeller restaurant will take individual luncheon orders of attendees and serve the best German food in Indiana.

There is no charge for attending the induction luncheon; however, all attendees **must make a reservation by contacting Terry Spencer Corcoran at (317) 443-0134 or E-mailing her at [thandstand@gmail.com](mailto:thandstand@gmail.com).** The INGHOFF will take any **donations** to help sponsor the yearly inductions.

Induction banquet attendees may take advantage of a **free informative tour** that will **depart from the Lobby at 12 Noon.** The tour will include seeing the gymnasium, the theater, the Rathskeller, the Normal College rooms, and seeing the INGHOFF perpetual plaque.

**Dianne Durham** grew up in Gary, Indiana, and was one of the first African-American elite female gymnasts in the United States. Dianne is a two-time junior national champion and the 1983 senior national champion. Only injuries stopped her from making the 1984 US Olympic team. Dianne credits Wanda Tomasi for much of her success as a gymnast. Later, Bela Karolyi in Houston, Texas, coached Durham. Durham successfully

represented the US in numerous international competitions such as the Sanlam Cup, the Chunichi Cup, the USA-JPN Dual Meet, and the USA-CHN Dual Meet. Durham was the owner/coach at Skyline Gymnastics on Chicago's North Side for 17 years. She received her FIG Brevet Rated Judge in 2001 and is a motivational speaker. Diane continues to teach and coach gymnastics in Valpariso, Indiana, and currently lives in Chicago, Illinois, with her husband Tom Drahozal.

**John W. Hinds, Jr.** was born in Maywood, Illinois, July 7, 2001, was declared John Hinds Day in Columbus, Indiana, in a proclamation by Mayor Fred L. Armstrong. Hinds was cited for having coached 13 State Team Champions, 47 individual State Champions, and 30 High School All Americans while serving as the Columbus High School gymnastics coach. John's gymnasts went on to compete on several National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) gymnastics teams and to win individual NCAA titles. Hinds served as a men's gymnastics judge for many years. He published over 30 articles for the *International Gymnast Magazine*; the *Athletic Journal*; and the *Journal of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation*. In 1972, Hind's book, *Still Rings, Skills and Techniques* was published. He served on the 1972 and the 1976 Men's Gymnastics Olympic Committee and was Chairman of the National Federation of State High School Gymnastic Rules Committee from 1970-1985. John is married to Marianne and resides in Columbus, Indiana.

**Dr. Otto E. Ryser (deceased)** fondly known as the "Father of Indiana Gymnastics," was the gymnastics coach at Indiana University from 1940 to 1970. Otto attended the Normal College of the American Gymnastics Union in Indianapolis beginning in 1936 before going to Bloomington. Ryser earned his bachelors, masters, and doctors' degrees from Indiana University. Otto coached Dick Albershardt to an NCAA Championship title in 1955 on the trampoline among other coaching achievements. Ryser's book, *A Manual for Tumbling and Apparatus Stunts*, published in seven editions was a reliable reference for physical education educators in teaching basic gymnastics skills. Otto established the Indiana Boys State High School Meet and was a long time judging official. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1916, Otto attended Lane Technical High School in Chicago, Illinois, and won high school championships on the parallel bars and the horizontal bar. Dr. Ryser passed away on March 14, 1999, at age 82.

**Brent Simmons** won a silver team medal and an individual bronze medal on the horizontal bar in the 1971 Pan American Games of Cali, Columbia. Simmons was a member of two US World Championships teams in 1970 and again in 1974. Additionally, Brent competed in many international competitions for the US in Europe and Asia. Collegiately, Brent led his Iowa State Cyclones to their first NCAA team title in 1971. He received the prestigious Nissen Award his senior year and was a five-time collegiate All-American. Simmons won two United States Gymnastics Federation (USGF) Championships on the parallel bars and the horizontal bar. Brent has been a national or brevet FIG judging official for 27 years, even acting as the master scoring on the vaulting event in the 1996 Olympic Games. Simmons works in regional sales for Midwest Gymnastics Supply, Inc. in Madison, Indiana. He is married to a former Iowa State gymnast Celeste Stevens Simmons.

**Ed Straub** was a basketball player turned gymnast. After Tech High School in Indianapolis, Ed attended the Normal College of the American Gymnastics Union on a scholarship in 1953. He went on to Bloomington and Indiana University becoming the gymnastics team captain, the team's high scorer, on the honor role, and graduated in 1956. His first job was at Clarksville High School where he coached his gym team to four straight high school championships. He wrote the curriculum and purchased all the equipment for the top-notch gym facility. He set up a KIGF compulsory developmental gymnastics meets with awards and judges. From 1962-64, at the Louisville Turners, Ed started a girl's 8-11 year old team with Adele Gleaves, a US Pan American Games gold medalist, emerging as one of his best gymnasts. Straub was responsible for the development of several important gymnasts programs that helped develop gymnastics programs in Southern Indiana. Ed is married to Victoria and resides in Clarksville, Indiana.

**Dr. Leopold F. Zwarg (deceased)** was born in Germany on the first day of 1886. He graduated from a Manual Training School and received his gymnastics training at a local Turnverein. He immigrated to the US and he enrolled at the Normal College of the American Gymnastics Union in Indianapolis. After finishing his formal training he moved to Philadelphia

and procured his Doctorate while teaching at Temple University Teachers College, the Philadelphia Turngemeinde, the Northeast High School, the Gratz High School, and the Germantown High School until 1952. While at Northeast High, Zwarg organized the public high school gymnastics league of Philadelphia. He authored *A Study of the History, Uses, and Values of Apparatus in Physical Education; Apparatus Work for Boys and Girl; and Apparatus & Tumbling Exercises*. Among gymnasts that Zwarg coached are Jack Miles, 1955 National Amateur Athletic Union (NAAU) Champion; Jack Sharp, the 1952 NCAA Flying Rings Champion; and Steve Greene, 1943 NAAU Rope Climb and Side Horse Champion. After retirement from teaching and coaching Leopold judged numerous gymnastics competitions.



*The information for this INGHOF Press Release was compiled and arranged by Jerry Wright and Bruce Davis. Inquiries can be made at (813) 641-3375.*