

Delene Darst

Delene was on her high school gymnastics team where they vaulted over the men's pommel horse off a "beat board". The parallel bars were adjusted so that one bar was a little higher than the other. They made up their own routines the night before the competition. Delene was a cheerleader so she could tumble. She attended Springfield College in Massachusetts where she hoped to swim but instead was recruited for the girls' gymnastics exhibition team. They were only allowed to compete at men's home meets because they were not allowed to travel with boys.

In 1962, when Delene was a senior in college, one of the high school coaches asked her to judge one of their competitions. She said she didn't know anything about judging and there were no rules, so it was a matter of ranking them in the right order. At her first teaching job in Massachusetts, the coaches judged each other's teams. In 1965, Delene ran the state high school gymnastics championships at her school. She attended various clinics, met Muriel, and in 1966, she was invited to judge AAU Nationals. She was a new mom of a one-year-old son.

She became involved in the college gymnastics program while at Michigan State University, assisting Ernestine Weaver who was head coach of the women's team. Competition was under the auspices of the DGWS (Division of Girls and Women's Sports), an arm of the National Association of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. This is also when she met Jackie Fie and became involved with the new organization, USGF, becoming the first Regional Technical Director for Region 8, and in charge of developing the age-group compulsory program.

In 1975, at the age of 35, she was named an Outstanding Young Woman of America. She had graduated from both Springfield College and the master's program at Michigan State University with honors. She wrote her master's thesis on the "High Skilled Gymnast".

Delene was named Technical Director for the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984. As part of her responsibilities, Delene demanded that the assistants for the international judges had to be gymnastics people rather than local volunteers in order to understand what to do. In 1985, she was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame and the Springfield College Hall of Fame. She taught the Federation of International Gymnastics Brevet course in 1989 to judges in South Africa. She recently retired from serving for 25 years on the Board of Directors of the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

Over the years, Delene has enjoyed life in many ways. While living in Cincinnati, she and her husband Giles joined a gourmet dinner group where she learned to cook with wine – a little different than typical southern cooking! She said that back in the day, judges enjoyed time off during their breaks and did things like play tennis with each other. She also ran the New York Marathon in 1996 and the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington DC in 1998 with her oldest son Blair, a retired Marine.

Gymnastics has had a huge impact in Delene's life. She traveled the world visiting over twenty different countries. She made good friends all over the United States and around the world. Following her faith and family, gymnastics means everything to her.

LINKS TO MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DELENE:

Gymnast Magazine August/September 1973

Delene Darst, one of five to earn her Brevet rating.

https://issuu.com/usagymnastics/docs/1973_6augsept/29

USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame 1985

<https://usagym.org/halloffame/inductee/darst-delene/>



INDUCTEE
Delene Darst

Class of **1985** • Disciplines(s): **Women's Artistic** • Inducted as: **Athlete Coach Contributor**



Having coached, judged, and taught gymnastics since the 1960s, Delene Darst's resume matches her personal motto, "Bags Packed, Ready to Travel, & Lookin' for 10s!" She has held dozens of positions in her career to contribute to the sport of gymnastics, including seven years on the US Olympic Gymnastics Committee, five years on the National Coaching Staff for the Olympic Games, as well as officiating multiple national and international competitions. She also coached at many levels, from high school to national levels, for more than three decades.



Biography: DARST, Delene J.

March 21, 2018 by [Mary Hudson](#)

DARST, Delene J.

Inducted: 1985 Born: February 19, 1940, Atlanta, Georgia.



Motto: Bags Packed, Ready to Travel, & Lookin' for 10s!

As a teacher, coach, judge, and administrator, Delene has devoted a lifetime of service to the advancement of the sport of gymnastics. **Education:** B. S. Springfield College, (1962), M. A. Michigan State University, (1968). **Coaching/Teaching:** Minnechaug Regional High, Wilbraham, MA (1962-'63); Framingham North High, Framingham, Ma (1963-66); Henry W. Grady High, Atlanta, GA, (1966-67); Graduate Assistant, Michigan State U., (1967-68); Georgia College, Assistant Professor Health, Physical Education, & Recreation, (1968-71); **Other** – M.E. Lyons YMCA, Cincinnati, OH, (1973-74), Queen City Gymnastics Center, (1975-80); Atlanta School of Gymnastics, Advanced Team Coach, (1990-96); U. of Georgia, Assistant Coach, (1990-92); Owner, Director & President, Queen City Gym Center, (1975-79); Technical Advisor to The Athletic Institute, Women's Gymnastics Compulsory Films: 1970, '74, '79, and '84; USGF Women's Program Administrator, (1985-89). **Professional Organizations:** National Association of Health, Physical Education & Recreation, (1962-98); United States Gymnastics Federation, Professional Member, (1970-Present); National Association of Women's Gymnastic Judges Lifetime. **Gymnastic Teaching:** Master Teacher, New England Gymnastic Clinic, 10 years; Director, Women's Program Western National Gymnastics Clinic, 3 years; National Summer Gymnastic Clinic, Michigan State University, 6 years; Caravan of Camps, (Texas and New Mexico), 3 years. **Gymnastic Judging/Coaching Courses:** University of North Carolina, University of Wisconsin, Michigan State University, University of Alabama, University of Florida, Stephen F. Austin University, Northeast Illinois State University, University of Cincinnati, University of Georgia. **Gymnastic Judges Training:** USGF National Judges Training Committee, FIG Continental Judges' Course, Toronto, Canada, (1977); Mt. Herman, MA, (1980); Fort Worth, TX, (1985); New Jersey, (1989); FIG International Brevet Judges' Course, Johannesburg, South Africa, (1989). **Participation:** Second National Institute on Girl's & Women's Sports, (1966); Fifth National Institute on Girl's & Women's Sports, (1969); USGF Delegate to FIG Congress, Women's Technical Assembly: Rome, Italy, (1977), Strausburg, France, (1978), Ft. Worth, Texas, (1979), Moscow, USSR, (1981), Strausburg, France, (1983), Los Angeles, California, (1984), Montreal, Canada, (1985), Rome, Italy, (1986), & Rotterdam, Holland, (1987). USGF Representative Intercontinental Judging Course: Madrid, Spain, (1971), Thonon les Bains, France, (1975), Moscow, USSR, (1980), Filzbach, Switzerland, (1984), & Frankfurt, Germany, (1988); USGF Representative FIG 100 Year Anniversary: Montreux, Switzerland, (1981); Olympic Seminar, Springfield

College. **Gymnastic Official:** National USGF Championships, (1967-92), National AAU Championships, (1965-70), National Association Girl's & Women's Sports Championships, 10 years; Final Pan-American Trials, 1967, '71, '76, '79, '83, & '87; Final Olympic Trials, 1976, '80, '84, & 88; World University Games Turin, Italy; (1970), Birmingham, England, (1987); FIG World Gymnastics Championships, Varna, Bulgaria, (1974), Strausburg, France, (1978), Moscow, USSR, 1981, Budapest, Hungary, (1983), & Montreal, Canada, (1985); South African Games, Pretoria, South Africa, (1973); Moscow Invitational, Moscow, USSR, (1975); World Cup, Oviedo, Spain, (1978); Technical Director for Women, World Championships, (Ft. Worth, TX), 1979; American Cup, (1979-88); Chunichi Cup, Japan, (1980); Germany Tour USA Olympic Team, (1980); USA vs. USSR, Gainesville, Florida, (1982); USA vs. Canada, Huntington Beach, California, (1984); Technical Director for Women, Olympic Games, Los Angeles, CA, (1984); Pacific Championships, Australia, (1982), USA, (1984); Technical Director, American Cup Mixed-Pairs, (1984-'88); Olympic Games, Seoul, Korea, (1988). **Positions :** Regional Technical Director, USGF, Region 86 years, Region 5-4 years; Joint NAGWS-USGF Certification Committee, Chairman Compulsory Committee 8 yrs, (1972-'80); Olympic Compulsory Exercise Committee of the USGFNAGWS Gymnastics Guide Committee, Editor, (1976-'78), NAGWS Examination & Ratings Committee for Gymnastics; USGF Women's Technical Committee, Vice-Chair, 3 years; Chair, (1976-'84), United States Olympic Gymnastics Committee, (1970-'76); USGF Foreign Relations Committee for Women, (1977-'80), USGF Women's International Program Committee, (1980-'84), National Coaching Staff for World Championship Team, (1981, '83, & '87); National Coaching Staff for Olympic Games, (1984 & '88), Assistant Director, Director, USGF Elite Judges Course, Los Angeles, (1985); US Collegiate Sports Council Gymnastic Committee, Chairman for Women, (1969-'71); USGF Board of Directors, NAHPE&R Representative, (1972-'7); Chairperson, NAGWS/USGF Joint Certification Committee, (1977-'84); President, Judges' Certification, Inc., (1984 & 2004); Technical Coordinator Pacific Alliance of Gymnastics Federations, (1987-'89), Board of Directors, International Gymnastics Hall of Fame, (1999- Present). **Honors:** Kappa Delta Phi Honor Society, Springfield College, Springfield, MA, (1962); Service Award, The Athletic Institute, (1971), Outstanding Young Women of America, (1975), President's Commission on Olympic Sports "Gymnastic Sport Committee", (1976), Outstanding Contribution to the Sport of Gymnastics, MA Gymnastic Congress, (1982), NAWGJ "Judge of the Year", (1982), USGF Service Award, (1983), Springfield College 100 Year Anniversary "Celebrating Outstanding Women", (1984); *Who' Who in American Gymnastics*, (1985); Helms Gymnastics "Hall of Fame", (1987); Springfield College Sports Hall of Fame, (1992). **Family:** m. to Giles C. Darst, (1968). Two children.

Sources: Darst's personal resume and interviews with Darst. Introduction, commentary, and formatting by Larry Banner, Web Manager.

Springfield College, Massachusetts Hall of Fame, Awarded 1992

Delene Johnson Darst

https://springfieldcollegepride.com/information/ahof/hall_of_fame

Springfield College Athletic Hall Of Fame Inductees



The Official Athletic Website For Springfield College

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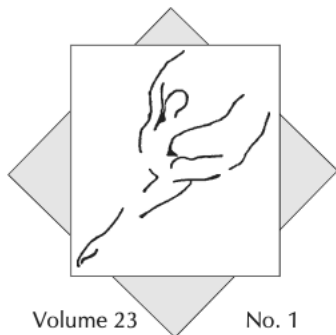
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Springfield College

Delene Johnson Darst '62

- Gymnastics Coach 1962- present
- Coached Regional & National NCAA Champions
- Coached USGF Regional and National Champions
- Coached Gymnastics Olympic Team Member- 1988
- Member Olympic Gymnastics Team Coaching Staff
- World University Games, World Championships & Pan American Games Gymnastics Coaching Staff
- Member U.S. Gymnastics Olympic Committee & International Official
- Outstanding Young Women of America
- Received NAWGJ, NAGWS & USGF Honors, Member of Helms Gymnastics Hall of Fame



National **NAWGJ**News

News for Artistic Gymnastic Judges

January 2003

In this issue . . .

NAWGJ Governing
Board Minutes
2, 16-17

NCAA Rules
3-4

NCAA Vault Table
5-6

Library Order Form
7

NAWGJ Warm-up
Order Form
8

Changes in J.O.
Program
2002-2003
9-15

Dear Judge Poem
15

NAWGJ
Mission Statement
18

Judges' Honorary Diploma

"In recognition of long term contribution and dedication as an international judge at the world level"

The criteria for the Judges' Honorary Diploma are five (5) Brevet cycles and eight (8) FIG competitions. The FIG competitions that are considered to meet the FIG competition criteria are: Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cup Finals.

The United States has four judges who have been honored. They are:



Jackie Fie
Brevet since 1968



Delene Darst
Brevet since 1973



Linda Chencinski
Brevet since 1977



Audrey Schweyer
Brevet since 1978