

Who is Jan Emler?



Jan Emler fell in love with teaching swimming at the age of 13 years in a local YWCA in Kansas City. Being a lifeguard and swim teacher allowed her to combine her joy in working with children and her love for water. She quickly developed a passion for helping children to fall in love with water. It's a passion she has never outgrown!

College Days

In the early 70's Jan came to Texas to attend SMU in Dallas. While at SMU she got involved in synchronized swimming because the swim team didn't accept women. She was advised not to stay in aquatic education because there was no future in that field. Jan graduated with a BS degree in Speech Pathology. After receiving an MS degree in Speech Pathology from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Jan came back to Texas to marry Dave Emler. In 1975 she began a short career as a speech therapist in the Arlington ISD and a long career as a summertime swim instructor for the newly formed Emler Swim School.

The Early Swim School Days

For seventeen years, Emler Swim School was a seasonal business operating in seven backyard pools. Dave, a high school football coach and history teacher, watched after the three Emler children while Jan ran the swim school every June and July. Jan retired from Speech



Pathology and was a stay-at-home Mom during the school year while Dave coached and taught.

The Swim School Moves Indoors

In 1992, Jan and Dave invested the children's college fund to build the first, indoor, permanent aquatic facility in central Arlington. Jan was willing to take the financial risk of a year round operation to offer ideal swimming conditions and comfort for the parents in all types of weather. The converted warehouse also prevented the loss of her students' swim skills during the school year.

Organizations and Awards

Jan has served on the Board of Directors of the National Swim School Association twice. In 1994 she was the recipient of the first Murray Callen Innovative Teaching Award and in 1995 she hosted the NSSA Annual Conference in Dallas. Each year, Jan is asked to make presentations at NSSA Conferences and other professional Aquatic Conventions as far away as Australia. In 2001, Jan received the Guiding Light Award, for outstanding leadership among swim schools in the United States.

Expansion

The growth of five total aquatic facilities...Arlington, Plano, Colleyville, Austin, & North Dallas, add greatly to the daily responsibilities of Jan. However, her passion remains the same...to gently introduce as many children as possible to the best element made by God...water!

