

ARLINGTON SPORTS HALL OF FAME

2012 INDUCTEE – TIMOTHY MENERING



Tim Mengerling was born in West Virginia and grew up in Arlington, where he graduated from Washington-Lee High School. He went on to graduate from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio and did post graduate work in child development, physical education, athletic training and secondary education at the University of Virginia, William & Mary, Virginia Tech and Shenandoah University.

In 1971, Tim began his 32-year career as a physical education teacher in the Arlington County public school system. Tim worked at several elementary schools including Nellie Custis, Oakridge, Jamestown, Long Branch and Hoffman-Boston.

For the past 15 years, Tim has served as a Virginia State Board Member for the USA Gymnastics organization, which is the national governing body for virtually all aspects of the sport including the Junior Olympics program for Women's Gymnastics. Tim is also a Certified USA Gymnastics Meet Director. In the mid-1970s, Tim and fellow P.E. teacher, Steve Garman, began incorporating gymnastics instruction into the after-school recreation programs at the elementary schools where they taught. They soon realized that there was sufficient local talent and interest in gymnastics to create a competitive team. In 1979, Tim and Steve established the *Arlington Aerials*, which then consisted of approximately 20 gymnasts. The new team became one of only two Women's Gymnastics teams in Arlington County participating in the rigorous Junior Olympic program.

After several years at the Gunston Middle School, the program expanded to such a degree that a larger facility was needed for Arlington's competitive and recreational gymnasts. In 2000, the *Arlington Aerials* moved into the Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center, a 28,500 square foot county athletic complex on South Four Run Mile Drive.

The *Arlington Aerials* competitive team has grown to 137 gymnasts from the 20 that originally started the program. There are currently more than 1,500 local residents enrolled in the recreational gymnastics program that Tim and Steve initiated, and is now run by the Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources.

There are approximately 65 gymnastics clubs throughout Virginia that are eligible to compete at the state Junior Olympic championships. Over the past 7 years, the *Arlington Aerials* captured a total of 579 Virginia state medals and 29 regional medals. This is a testament to the effort and expertise put forth by Tim Mengerling for so many years.