

## **DAWN MUSSELMAN INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER 2012**

The Pacific Northwest Association Local Masters Swimming Committee proudly presents the 2012 Dawn Musselman Inspirational Swimmer Award to

### **Kiko Kimura Van Zandt**

Kiko, you have built the Husky Masters team, served as PNA president guiding our then young organization, and devoted your life and career to helping others. Teammate Dennis Dacey writes, "I was shocked to see that Kiko Kimura was not a past winner. She epitomizes the virtues represented by the Dawn Musselman award. I met Kiko in 1986 when she was starting a Masters program at the University of Washington (she swam in college with the Huskies). She was without doubt a true team leader and the most generous and helpful person I ever dealt with while swimming with the Husky Masters; she was basically the assistant coach for the ten years or so that Joanne Brislin was coaching."

Joanne, now coaching at Dartmouth College, adds, "Kiko has long been a source of inspiration for PNA Masters swimming and particularly for Husky Masters as a founding member. Starting with two swimmers in 1981, Husky Masters grew into a club that competed locally, regionally and nationally. Whether competing at Juanita Pool for a local meet, Mt. Hood for Regionals or Stanford for nationals, Kiko was a team leader. Encouraging teammates at workouts, cheering them on at meets and always ready to fill a spot on those relays (despite being a miler!). Kiko's support extended to all PNA swimmers – she knew just about everyone on deck and encouraged one and all. Kiko epitomized the philosophy of Masters Swimming – Fun, Fitness and Fellowship.

"Kiko's inspiration extends beyond Masters swimming. Drawing on her Husky Masters teammates, Kiko organized a swimming day for the disabled athletes she saw as patients at Children's Hospital. That day laid the groundwork for a team of disabled athletes – Kiko has now been their volunteer coach for 20 years. She has organized local meets for her swimmers and taken them to regional, national and international meets, including the 2004 and 2008 Paralympic Games, serving on the USA Paralympics Swimming staff."

Dennis concludes, "Husky Masters has returned and I started swimming with them recently again. And there was Kiko, now in a slower lane but quietly spending EVERY spare moment helping the older swimmers in the 'slow' lane improve their strokes. I was amazed – nothing has changed with Kiko, still helping everyone she meets in the pool."

Kiko, for your inspiration to the entire membership of the Pacific Northwest Association of Masters Swimmers by your example of good sportsmanship, encouragement and commitment, the PNA is proud to recognize you as our Dawn Musselman Inspirational Swimmer for 2012.

For the PNA Board:

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Lisa Dahl, President

For the Selection Committee:

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Steve Peterson, Selection Committee Chair

