

= Theresa Andrews =

Theresa Andrews (born August 25 , 1962) is an American former competition swimmer and Olympic champion . Raised in Maryland , Andrews gained prominence as a national collegiate champion who competed for the University of Florida . In international competition , she was a backstroke specialist who won two gold medals at the 1984 Summer Olympics .

= = Early years = =

Andrews was born in New London , Connecticut in 1962 . She grew up in Annapolis , Maryland , where she initially attended St. Mary 's High School . She was one of twelve children of Frank and Maxine Andrews ; her father was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a former U.S. Navy officer . Andrews first trained in the Navy Junior Program as an age @-@ group swimmer , and then moved to the North Baltimore Aquatic Club (NBAC) , attending Archbishop Keogh High School in Baltimore , Maryland and staying with a succession of five sponsoring local families during her final two years of high school . She later described her training regime as " six hours a day , six days a week ... training in a pool . " Andrews was among the first generation of elite swimmers to train under coach Murray Stephens at NBAC , a club that has produced a succession of Olympic swimmers after her , including Michael Phelps and Katie Hoff . She was the first Olympic medalist produced by the club .

= = College swimming career = =

Andrews accepted an athletic scholarship to attend Indiana University in Bloomington , Indiana , and swam for the Indiana Hoosiers swimming and diving team in Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) and Big Ten Conference competition during the 1980 ? 81 school year . As a Hoosier swimmer , she won six Big Ten titles , and earned five All @-@ American honors .

After her freshman season , Andrews transferred to the University of Florida in Gainesville , Florida , where she swam for coach Randy Reese 's Florida Gators swimming and diving team in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and Southeastern Conference (SEC) competition in 1982 and 1983 . As a Gator , she was an eleven @-@ time SEC champion , including the 50 @-@ yard backstroke (twice) , 100 @-@ yard backstroke (twice) , 200 @-@ yard backstroke , and six relays . She was a three @-@ time NCAA champion (twice in the 400 @-@ yard medley relay , and once in the 200 @-@ yard medley relay) , and received a total of eighteen All @-@ American honors . The Gators won the 1982 NCAA women 's team championship , and the Gators ' winning 400 @-@ yard medley relay team of Andrews , Amy Caulkins , Michele Kurtzman and Kathy Treible set a new American national record in the event of 3 : 40 @.@ 99 . Andrews , together with teammates Kurtzman , Treible and Tracy Caulkins , won the NCAA 400 @-@ yard medley relay event again in 1983 , and the Gators placed second overall at the NCAA championship tournament .

= = 1984 Olympic swimming = =

Andrews qualified to represent the United States at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles , where she won two gold medals . She gained her first gold in the women 's 100 @-@ meter backstroke , narrowly edging fellow American Betsy Mitchell by eight one @-@ hundredths (.08) of a second ? about five inches ? for a final time of 1 : 02 @.@ 55 . It was the first time she had ever beaten Mitchell . She earned her second gold by swimming the lead @-@ off backstroke leg for the first @-@ place U.S. team in the women 's 4 x 100 @-@ meter medley relay event , sharing the honors with her American teammates Tracy Caulkins (breaststroke) , Mary T. Meagher (butterfly) , and Nancy Hogshead (freestyle) , and clocking a winning time of 4 : 08 @.@ 34 . Her split time of 1 : 04 @.@ 00 was slower than her gold @-@ medal time in the individual 100 @-@ meter backstroke , but her teammates made good the difference to win and set a new American record in the event .

Andrews later gave her first Olympic gold medal to her brother Danny in a private gathering , honoring him for his courage when he was paralyzed at the age of 19 after being struck by a car two years earlier . After the Olympics , she retired from competitive swimming at the age of 21 .

= = Life after competition swimming = =

Andrews graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor 's degree in therapeutic recreation in 1986 , and thereafter , from Ohio State University with a master 's degree in clinical social work . From 1992 to 1999 , she worked as a clinical social worker in children 's hematology and cancer treatment at the University of Virginia Health Science Center . Andrews has worked for MBNA America and Bank of America since 1999 ; as a Bank of America vice president and market manager for consumer banking , she has oversees fifteen banking centers in Delaware and Pennsylvania .

Andrews delivers motivational speeches for corporations , conferences , community groups and schools , usually on the topics of individual potential and the importance of teamwork in achieving goals , and drawing on the values of the Olympic movement . She is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee , and has served as a volunteer for the U.S. Olympic Alumni Association since 2004 . She is also a veteran celebrity swimmer for Swim Across America (SAA) , a charitable organization that uses former Olympic swimmers to raise funds for cancer research , and has participated in SAA events for nine years .

Andrews was inducted into the Maryland Swimming Hall of Fame as an " Honor Athlete " in 1987 . In 2008 she received the NCAA 's Silver Anniversary Award , which recognizes successful former student @-@ athletes who have excelled in their careers after graduation .