Charlotte Remenyik (1934-2011) arrived in the United States fleeing Hungary after the revolution in 1956. When she arrived in Chicago with her husband, she knew she wanted to teach fencing, but she had only a high school education and spoke only Hungarian. After quickly learning English, Remenyik received her associate degree from W.R. Harper College in Illinois in 1971, then she went to Northwestern University where she received her bachelor’s degree in physical education in 1973. Remenyik competed while in school throughout the Midwest and ranked 11th at the U.S. Olympic Trials in 1972. After graduation, she became the women’s fencing coach at Northwestern, where her team won championships under her leadership for five years. The Remenyik Open competition at Northwestern is named in her honor.

In 1978 Charlotte Remenyik came to Ohio State to coach the OSU women. In the fall of 1980, she made OSU history by becoming the first woman to coach a men’s varsity team—and as the first woman to coach both the men and the women concurrently. The women’s team offered scholarships, which attracted top fencers to OSU. Under Remenyik’s leadership from 1981 to 1984, the women won the Big Ten title each year, and the men placed third in the 1985 Big Ten Championships. In all, her programs turned out sixteen All-Americans. She also served on the NCAA Sports Committee for Fencing (1981-86), designing the format for the women’s NCAA championships. It was later used as the model for the men’s championships.

It was made public in 2020 Remenyik was also remarkable in her character for advocating against abuse. She was one of the very few school officials to formally sound the alarm about Dr. Richard Strauss during the nearly two decades that he molested hundreds of young male athletes and students, often under the guise of a medical examination at OSU. Remenyik regularly warned her athletes about Strauss and was so persistent that the doctor personally complained about her. She faced retaliation and threats, yet persisted in her warnings. A victim of Strauss calls Remenyik “a hero” and reports her as being “the only one who formerly stood up.”

It is also reported Remenyik regularly gave fencing lessons at tournaments in high heels.