Jim Richardson was the head coach of the University of Michigan women's swimming and diving team for 27 years. He announced his retirement on May 16, 2012.

During his tenure at Michigan, the Wolverines have had unparalleled success in the Big Ten Conference, while also achieving several firsts on the national level. His teams won 12 consecutive league titles from 1987-98 -- a precedent among Big Ten women's athletic teams -- before adding the team's 13th in 2001 and 14th in 2004, a league high for a women's sport.

Since taking over the program in 1985-86, Richardson has finished in the top 10 of the NCAA in all but 10 years. In 1995, Michigan finished in second place as a team. The Wolverines followed that up in 1996 with a third-place finish when they hosted the NCAA Championships in Canham Natatorium. Richardson was one of two recipients of The Richard E. Steadman Award at the 2008 CSCAA awards ceremony. The Steadman award is conferred annually to a coach who, in the opinion of the ISHOF, CSCAA Forum and CSCAA, has done the most to spread happiness in swimming and diving.

Under the direction of Richardson, Michigan consistently qualified student-athletes for the NCAA National Championships and U.S. National Championships. Richardson's coaching achievements and respect within the swimming community have earned him various honors. He reached the coaching pinnacle in 1993 and again in 1995 when he was named NCAA Coach of the Year. He also served as assistant coach for the United States at the 1993, 1995 and 1999 World University Games. In 1997, Richardson was offered an assistant coaching spot for the U.S. Pan-Pacific Championship team but declined in order to spend time with his family.

Richardson's Wolverines earned 162 NCAA All-America honors, including nine in 2008. Additionally, Richardson coached 223 NCAA honorable mention All-Americans, 168 Big Ten champions and 36 Olympic Trial qualifiers, including 2008 Olympians Natasha Moodie and Valeria Silva. A six-time Big Ten Swimming Coach of the Year, Richardson led teams to undefeated seasons from 1987 through 1989 and in 1994. From 1987 to midway through 1990, the Wolverines went 33-0 in dual meets.

In addition to his Michigan coaching duties, Richardson is a member of United States Swimming and the American Swimming Coaches Association. He previously served as a member of the Board of Directors and as president of the CSCAA. He was a member of the NCAA Division 1 Swimming and Diving Committee and was the principle author of the rule banning full body suits in 2009. Richardson received his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University in 1971 and attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

His collegiate coaching career began at the University of Iowa, where he was an assistant for three years before coming to Michigan in 1985. Richardson resides in Ypsilanti with his wife, Mary Sue. They have four children and three grandchildren.

Richardson is the owner of the Wolverine Swim Camps, director of the Michigan Swim Camps, and conducts clinics for USA Swimming and FINA.