2014 CROSS COUNTRY WRAP-UP

Early in the season, part of the team traveled to Pennsylvania to compete at the Paul Short Invitational, where we finished 4th out of 40 teams, beating a number of Division I teams and some highly ranked DIII teams from other regions. This gave us good momentum heading into championship season. Our goals for the season were a top 3 finish at NESCACs and a berth to nationals, and the team accomplished both. The 7 athletes who ran at nationals all raced exceptionally well, and we were thrilled to place 11th as a team. Savanna Gornisiewicz ’17 was the top Amherst finisher at nationals, where she placed 23rd, and Nicky Roberts ’18 was not far behind her. Nicky’s 41st-place finish earned her the position of #3 freshman in the entire race.

2015 TRACK + FIELD WRAP-UP

One of the most exciting highlights of the 2014-15 season was the return to our home turf with a 6 team invitational April 4th. This being New England, we still had snow on the ground, which made things a bit more exciting than we had anticipated, but the team got after it and made the most of the opportunity to compete in front of family and fans. Other highlights of the year included 5th place finishes at both the NESCAC championships and the indoor New England DIII championships, and qualifying a great squad of individuals for the NCAA championships.

Indoors, we had 5 individuals qualify for nationals in 4 different events. Kiana Herold had a great meet, placing 3rd in the high jump. This was the third All-American performance for the sophomore. She was joined by Karen Blake (60m dash), Savanna Gornisiewicz (5000m), and Lexi Sinclair and Lizzy Briskin (3000m). Outdoors, both Kiana and Karen returned to compete at the NCAAs in the high jump and 100m dash and 200m, respectively. For both sophomores, it was their 4th time competing at nationals- an impressive feat!

COACH FUNKE-HARRIS’ CORNER

We are so lucky to have the opportunity to coach such fantastic women each day. Five of our seniors wrote theses. Members of the team were RAs, TAs, SHEs, gave admissions tours, and played in the orchestra. The team volunteered at the college’s Book & Plow farm, read books at Crocker Farm Elementary School, helped with Amherst Public Schools’ First Day celebration, and coordinated Special Olympics on campus. Athletes studied abroad in Nicaragua, Argentina, Greece, and South Africa. These women truly embody the essence of a liberal arts education.