Second Annual Track and Field/Cross Country Dinner - An Evening to Remember!

Some of Yale’s greatest female Track and Cross Country Athletes were on hand February 7 at the Yale Club of New York City, as the Yale Track Association honored the 1986 Cross Country, 1987 Track and Field and 1987 Cross Country Heps Championship teams. Many of the former greats on hand were actually part of all three of these championships within one calendar year! Like the 2006 dinner, over 100 Friends of Yale Track and Field gathered to reconnect with each other and the program, and to honor these great female track and cross country stars. 5 decades of track alums were in attendance, along with current Yale track athletes, parents, coaches, and friends of Yale Track and Field.

Kim Ford (track and field captain ‘87) told some entertaining stories of the camaraderie of the “old days”, accompanied by Kelly Vanasse-Groteke (cross country captain ‘87). Coach Mark Young ‘68 related several stories about his former champions, and presented each with a nice keepsake award featuring framed team pictures from Yale Athletics archives.

The dinner was followed by lively socializing in the second floor lounge that continued well into the evening. This was a truly special evening, enjoyed by all in attendance. We hope to see you there in the future!

To view pictures from the dinner, check out the Yale Track Association website, at: www.yalebulldogs.com

Members of the championship teams and their teammates in attendance included:

Jane Buchan (Driscoll) ‘86
Kim Ford ‘87
Louisa Garry (Gerritz) ‘87
Sarah Gerritz (Smith) ‘89
Laura Hastings ‘86
Lisa Jones ‘89
Donna Lesch ‘89
Anne Maitland ‘86
Ifeoma Okoronkwo ‘87
Meredith Remigino (Gordon) ‘89
Carolyn Wasserman (Ballan) ‘87
Many thanks to all in attendance, and we hope to see many more of you at future alumni events!
Patricia Melton ‘83 is Honored with the NCAA’s Silver Anniversary Award

The NCAA doesn’t hand out very many Silver Anniversary Awards, but former Yale standout Patricia Melton received one in January. And then again, the NCAA doesn’t find many former athletes like Melton. Patricia Melton started running, under the tutelage of the late Lee Calhoun, a two-time Olympic gold medalist, when she first landed at Yale in 1977. Thirty years later she has yet to slow down. Her drive, which has resulted in a prestigious NCAA Silver Anniversary Award, one of six awarded nationally this year, has taken her all over the country, working to provide innovative educational opportunities to young urban children. Those with whom she shares a history and can steer toward success. “I really, really enjoy working with urban students,” she said in an interview for the Ivy League’s Black History Month celebration a few years ago. “Students who are the first to go to college in their family and where financial aid is a huge issue.”

Melton’s affinity for those types of students began back in Cleveland, Ohio, when she was a child. Sporting opportunities for girls may have been in their infancy around the nation, but any notion of such had yet to come to inner-city Cleveland. At a school where funding for books and teachers were limited, broad-based athletics simply did not exist. “Where I had gone to school in Cleveland, I had never seen a field hockey or lacrosse stick,” she remembered. The educational options were limiting as well.

Then came A Better Chance Scholarship that changed the course of her life. She wound up at Middlesex Prep School in Concord, Mass., for her sophomore year and all students were required to participate in athletics as a component of the school’s strong academic regimen. Suddenly she was hauling around a lacrosse stick, even toting it back to Cleveland during a break from school. “I just decided that I was going to learn this game,” she said. “When I got home, I didn’t know how to cradle the ball or anything. But all I did the entire time was practice with the ball and the lacrosse stick. By the time I went back, I had gotten it.”

Combining her new-found skill with her speed and tenacity, Coach Dale Walker discovered that she had an all-star. Athletically, her field hockey coach had her change positions and stuck her in goal, a position with which she was not at all familiar. Not only were the skills she had honed rendered useless, she couldn’t rely on her best attribute, her open-field speed. So she turned to track and field.

This time it was Calhoun who found out that he had an all-star. Under his guidance, she flourished, taking second in the 100-meter dash at the League Championship as a freshman. But over the next two years, she would be in-and-out at Yale because of family tragedy back in Cleveland. Orphaned at 12, she had lost her brother to violence on the first day of classes.

Melton opted to enlist into the Marine Corps before returning to Yale. “I thought it would help me to develop discipline. It was actually one of the hardest things I have ever done. They really break you down ... Yet, it was an experience that made me stronger.” And when she returned to Yale for the start of her junior year, she brought her strength, resilience and determination back to the track and new coach Mark Young. And over her last two seasons she would win six individual League titles, earn the Outstanding Performer of the Meet at the Heptagonal Championships and break school and League records. She still holds marks in both the 400-meter dash and the 400-meter hurdles at Yale. If that wasn’t enough, she also took second place nationally in the hurdles at the NCAA Championships predecessor, the AIAW. Her success and commitment to her sport made her a natural choice for Yale’s top athletic prize, the Nellie Elliot Outstanding Senior Athlete Award. She graduated in 1982 with a degree in Afro-American Studies.

Another of Young’s athletes, Joslyn Woodard, recently graduated with an incredible 20 individual League titles and he found something in her focus that he had not seen since Melton. “It is one thing to be great and there are a lot of great athletes in this League,” said Young. “But to be great and consistent is something entirely different. Pat was so focused, you couldn’t talk to her two days before and two days after a big meet. You’d get on the bus and say, ‘Pat, how you doing?’ She’d just nod. And she came up big every time.”

Yet her greatest accomplishment was still to come. Melton became a professional athlete — although ‘professional’ had little to do with financially viability. She struggled at times to find the funds to compete at national events and switched her event to the 800-meter run because hurdling took more training resources. Coaching herself in an unfamiliar event and running a limited schedule, Melton made the finals of the Olympic Trials in Indianapolis in 1988. "People were like, ‘Who is she?’ They had not seen me compete because I didn’t run a lot of races. And I looked around at the people in the race and I said, ‘They’re still in college, this one has a husband supporting her.’ I was really the only one out there just kind of struggling along. I think what I accomplished was really incredible.”

Upon retirement, she landed a job with the Goodwill Games, but she discovered that she truly enjoyed working in education, especially with children in circumstances like her own. “I’ve decided that the place for me is K-12 education, in particular charter schools. Now I am very clear about what I want to do. I want to start charter schools in urban areas all over the country.” And she has certainly been all over the country, trying to make an impact in communities through education, currently as the lead school design consultant and early college high school expert for the Center of Excellence in Leadership and Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis. “I am so proud that the NCAA is honoring Pat,” said Young. “I had a teammate (Kwaku Ohene-Frempong) who won this award and he is the nation’s leading researcher in finding a cure for sickle-cell anemia. Pat’s story isn’t like that, but she simply overcame every obstacle that got in her way and now works to help kids do the same. She is a great, great story.” — Brett Hoover
MEN’S SPRING SCHEDULE 2007

04/26/07  Penn Relays/Philadelphia, PA  All Day
04/27/07  Penn Relays/Philadelphia, PA  All Day
04/28/07  Penn Relays/Philadelphia, PA  All Day
04/29/07  Yale Springtime Invitational/New Haven, CT  All Day
05/05/07  Heptagonal Championship */Princeton, NJ  All Day
05/06/07  Heptagonal Championship */Princeton, NJ  All Day
05/11/07  IC4A Championship/Princeton, NJ  All Day
05/12/07  IC4A Championship/Princeton, NJ  All Day
05/13/07  IC4A Championship/Princeton, NJ  All Day
05/25/07  NCAA Regional Championship/Gainesville, FL All Day
05/26/07  NCAA Regional Championship/Gainesville, FL All Day
06/06/07  NCAA Championship/Sacramento, CA  All Day
06/07/07  NCAA Championship/Sacramento, CA  All Day
06/08/07  NCAA Championship/Sacramento, CA  All Day
06/09/07  NCAA Championship/Sacramento, CA  All Day

WOMEN’S SPRING SCHEDULE 2007

04/26/07  Penn Relays/Philadelphia, PA  All Day
04/27/07  Penn Relays/Philadelphia, PA  All Day
04/28/07  Penn Relays/Philadelphia, PA  All Day
04/29/07  Yale Springtime Invitational/New Haven, CT  All Day
05/05/07  Heptagonal Championship */Princeton, NJ  All Day
05/06/07  Heptagonal Championship */Princeton, NJ  All Day
05/11/07  ECAC Championship/Princeton, NJ  All Day
05/12/07  ECAC Championship/Princeton, NJ  All Day
05/13/07  ECAC Championship/Princeton, NJ  All Day
05/25/07  NCAA Regional Championship/Gainesville, FL All Day
05/26/07  NCAA Regional Championship/Gainesville, FL All Day
06/06/07  NCAA Championship/Sacramento, CA  All Day
06/07/07  NCAA Championship/Sacramento, CA  All Day
06/08/07  NCAA Championship/Sacramento, CA  All Day
06/09/07  NCAA Championship/Sacramento, CA  All Day
Donaldson Posts NCAA Qualifying Time at Stanford Invitational

Lindsay Donaldson finished 20th in the 5,000-meter run among some of the fastest collegiate distance runners in the country at the Stanford Invitational at Cobb Track and Angell Field. Despite a tumble that involved other competitors, she still managed to finish with an NCAA qualifying time of 16:27.29.

“Bruised and bleeding from a near catastrophic multi-runner pile-up in the first mile of the elite women’s 5,000-meter run at the Stanford Invitational, Lindsay Donaldson climbed out from under a stack of fallen runners to work her way back into the race and post an NCAA qualifying time of 16:27.29. Prior to the fall, Donaldson had executed her race plan to near perfection, easily holding 5:10 mile pace with her signature long stride while running mid-pack with the finest collegiate distance runners in America. After the fall, Lindsay was pure grit and gristle, fighting pain and fatigue as she climbed back into the race and posted the eighth fastest time ever by a Yale woman.” (courtesy of West Coast Bureau, Yale Track Association)

Donaldson still holds the third fastest time in school history behind the O’Neill twins at a time of 16:12.83.

Langhauser Takes Second at IC4A Championship

The Elis finished 15th with 16 points at the 2007 IC4A Track and Field Championship at Boston University’s Track and Field Pavilion. Cornell won the meet with 50 points. John Langhauser was second in the shot put with a distance of 17.64 meters.

The distance medley relay team of Connor Kilpatrick, Ted Galligan, Matthew Bordoni and Jake Gallagher placed fifth with a time of 9:58.23. The 4x800-meter relay team of Brian Gertzen, Christopher Smitsen, Tadgh O’Callaghan and Matt Shaffer was seventh with a time of 7:46.68. Gertzen also ran in the mile and placed seventh (4:13.14).

Davis Qualifies for NCAA Regionals at Princeton

The Bulldogs ended competition at the annual Yale-Princeton-Penn meet in third place with 54 points at Princeton’s Weaver Track & Field Stadium. Penn won with 81, while Princeton was second with 67 points. Erica Davis won both the discus throw (48.93 meters) and shot put (13.86 meters). Her mark in the discus throw qualifies her for NCAA regionals and shatters her old school record by over a meter.

Davis was not the only regional qualifier, as Elizabeth Calle qualified for regionals in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, dropping her time from last year by almost 40 seconds to 10:48.45, taking third in the event.

Cheng Wins 100 & 200-Meter Dashes as Yale Dominates Harvard

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. - Yale scored 114 points to beat Harvard’s 45 in their sole dual meet of the season at McCurdy Track. The Bulldogs won 16 events and swept some in the process.

One of the first sweeps of the day came in the 100-meter dash, where Yale took the top six places. Victor Cheng won with a time of 10.74, while teammates Omari Douglas-Hall and Russell Kempf were close behind with 10.80 and 10.87. Cheng later came back to also win the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.71. The Bulldogs also swept this event, taking the top five places, with Kempf in second (22.04) and Dan O’Brien in third (22.13).

The 3,000-meter steeplechase was also swept by Yale. Joseph Kingsbery won with a time of 9:11.21, while teammates Brian Hanak and Eric Kerchberger followed with times of 9:19.24 and 9:33.37. In the 110-meter hurdles, O’Brien and Ted Galligan took first and second with times of 14.48 and 14.96. Galligan came back to win the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 54.31. Remi Ray and David Soiles took first and third in the 400-meter dash with times of 49.95 and 51.01.
Men Finish Third and Women Finish Fifth at Heps

Men

May 6, 2007
PRINCETON, N.J. - Yale had outstanding performances across the board to finish in third place with 90 points at the 2007 Ivy League Championship. The Bulldogs have not placed this high since 1985, in which they also placed third. John Langhauser dominated the shot put, defending his title from last year and winning by over half a meter with a toss of 17.25 meters Saturday afternoon at Princeton’s Weaver Stadium. Yale ended the first day of Heps in fourth with 17 points. Brandon Giles, Dan O’Brien and Jeffrey Lachman all lead the way today as they won their respective events (100-meter dash, 110-meter hurdles, discus, throw). They all automatically qualify for regionals. Lachman won the discus throw by .02 meters on his third throw of 48.04 meters, while teammate Nate Noll also threw well, taking third with a distance of 46.40 meters on hist last throw. O’Brien hit the regional time qualifier as he won the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.10. The race was extremely close as he won by .007 with second place Jamil McClintock of Brown clocking a 14.10 as well. This time is also second fastest in school history, just behind Peter Coghlan, who ran 13.87 in 1998. Giles lowered his school record in the 100-meter dash as he won with a time of 10.58. His old record was 10.61, set in 2005. Victor Cheng was behind him in fourth with a time of 10.69, which is fifth fastest all-time. Cheng later came back to take second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.62. Continuing the trend of outstanding performances was Ted Galligan in the 400-meter hurdles. He finished in third with a time of 53.33, which is 11th fastest all-time. Yale also had two scorers in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Joseph Kingsbery was fourth with a time of 9:17.04, while Brian Hanak was close behind in sixth at 9:18.51. Samuel Fox was fourth in the high jump, clearing a height of 2.04 meters. Running with only one shoe for half the race after one flew off, Jake Gallagher finished the 5,000-meter run in sixth with a time of 14.34.05. The 4x100-meter relay team of Cheng, Giles, Omari Douglas-Hall and Russ Kempf ended up in second with a time of 41.08, which is the fifth fastest in school history. The 4x400-meter relay team of O’Brien, Kempf, Matthew Bordoni and Galligan was sixth with a time of 3:17.34.

Women

May 6, 2007
PRINCETON, N.J. - Yale finished the 2007 Ivy League Championship in fifth place with 71 points. Ashley Nolet nearly broke Molly Lederman’s meet record (3.88 meters) as she won the pole vault at a height of 3.85 meters at Princeton’s Weaver Stadium. She also qualified for regionals both by winning the conference title and clearing the qualifying height of 3.80 meters, highlighting the first day of Heps competition for the Bulldogs. Yale ended the day in second with 32 points. Erica Davis was another winner for the Bulldogs, taking the shot put with a throw of 13.79 meters, a full 20 centimeters ahead of second place Jamila Smith of Dartmouth. Lindsay Donaldson led the way with a third-place finish in the 1,500-meter run (4:36.50) and second-place finish in the 3,000-meter run (9:45.18). Just behind Donaldson in the 3,000-meter run was Allyson Rinderle, who finished in fourth with a time of 9:55.44. Erica Davis followed up her win in the shot put with a second place finish in the discus throw with a distance of 44.47 meters. Katrina Castille ended up in fourth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.93. The 4x100-meter relay team of Catherine Bader, Jessica Pall, Olakitan Awolesi and Castille was third with a time of 48.33, while the 4x400-meter relay team of Pall, Katherine Dlesk, Ingrid Sproll and Claudia Duncan was fifth with a time of 3:49.48. The 4x800-meter relay team of Kathryn Schleckser, Stephany Reaves, Kelli Buck and Meredith Leenhouts was sixth with a time of 9:08.92.

Letter from the Presidents

Track Association Fundraising Update  April 21, 2007

Yale Track Association Member/Friends of Yale Track/Cross Country:

O n behalf of the Yale Track Association, we would like to thank you for your contributions this year to the Track Association. We are truly fortunate to have alumni and friends such as you who are willing to assist in our efforts to attract and develop the very best track and cross country student-athletes, and assure that their experience at Yale is truly unforgettable.

We are making progress toward reaching our goal of $80,000 necessary to cover the costs to the Association of running both the men’s and women’s track programs this year. To date, over $50,000 has been raised, with more than 200 members participating. If you have not made a gift to the Association, we hope that you will consider doing so at this time.

Your support is essential to our future success. Annual gifts to the Association pay for the teams’ equipment, out of region travel, recruiting expenses, and alumni communications, all of which are vital to the quality of the experience we offer the members of our teams.

Sincerely,

Larry Kreider ’69
Co-President
Track & Field Board
larry@kreider.net

Louisa Gerritz Garry ’87
Co-President
Track & Field Board
louisa_garry@fa.org
Yale and Harvard Track Teams Travel to Oxford/ Cambridge This Summer!

Below is the Itinerary for this summer’s trip to the UK:
June 12:   Fly out of JFK  
June 13:   Arrive in Limerick  
June 16:   Track Meet at Univ. of Limerick  
June 17:   Travel Back to England  
June 19:   Track Meet at Univ. of Birmingham  
June 23:   Travel to Cambridge  
June 24:   At Fitzwilliam College  
June 25:   Travel to Oxford, Dinner at St. Hilda’s College  
June 26:   At St. Hilda’s College  
June 27:   11:00AM-Oxford/Cambridge vs. Harvard/Yale Match, Iffley Road Track  
           7:45 PM- Match Dinner  
June 28:   Depart Oxford  

*Members of the team will be keeping a daily “diary” of this exciting trip..look for updates on our Track Website at www.yalebulldogs.com
Thanks to the generous gift of Steve Brody ’66, we are currently designing a large display for Coxe Cage, which will chronicle the rich history of Track and Field and Cross Country at Yale, dating back to 1872 for the men and 1977 for the women. The display will also proudly list most of the notable performances over the years on large, colorful boards, which will clearly visible from the track, and have the ability to be updated when records are broken, or otherwise need to be edited.

The project will be developed in stages, with the first being the large record display boards mentioned above. Next, we hope to include large translucent track-action images, placed over some of the larger east-end windows of the cage, which should add a dynamic effect to that end of the facility, when light shines through. Finally, we plan to add smaller plaques, containing information about important historical events and competitors throughout Yale Track history.

The images and records will be displayed at the east end of Coxe Cage, in the upper pavilion, for all to enjoy when visiting Coxe Cage. This project will greatly enhance the appearance and ambiance of the Cage, and will beckon all who enter the building to go and peruse the rich and impressive history of our Track and Cross Country programs.

Stay tuned for more on this exciting project!
INFORMATION FOR OUR FRIENDS & FANS OF YALE ATHLETICS

As alumni, fans, and friends of Yale Athletics, we share responsibility for compliance. Our coaches appreciate your input in helping to identify outstanding student-athletes, however, the NCAA has restrictions on what you can do. Please refer to the list below of ways you can help Yale Athletics. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Yale University Athletic Compliance Office at (203-432-7668).

- Join A Friends Group/Sports Association
  These groups provide support for teams through funding for special team trips, recruiting, and hosting receptions for teams at home and away contests. This is the best way to help your team of choice, and you'll be kept up to date on their progress throughout the year.

- Identify Outstanding Student-Athletes
  If you know of outstanding student-athletes in your area, send information such as newspaper clippings to the respective coach, or give the coach a call and let him/her take it from there.

- Reminder
  You can not contact prospects directly, nor can you contact high school coaches or guidance counselors to get information on prospects, but there is no rule against attending their contests. This is the best way to help your team of choice, and you’ll be kept up to date on their progress throughout the year.

- Offer Assistance to the Coaching Staff
  You may provide lodging, meals and transportation to the coaches when they come to your community to contact and evaluate prospects.

- Provide Summer Jobs and Internships

REMEMBER: ALWAYS ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!

Yale Athletics Reunion Weekends
June 2, 2007 & June 9, 2007  3-4pm
Kiphuth Trophy Room  Payne Whitney Gymnasium
Come meet the Yale Athletics Coaches and Administrators at one of our open house dates.
For more Information: 203.432.1434

Save-The-Date

Blue Leadership Ball: Friday, November 16, 2007

Track Association Dinner, NYC: January 31, 2008

With over 150 years of athletics at Yale we have developed a proud tradition of a broad-based program where our participants share the exhilaration that the development of athletic skill provides as well as a camaraderie that endures beyond the recollection of game statistics. This historical campaign for Athletics, focusing on facility renovations and program endowments, will provide the next generation of Yale student-athletes with the resources necessary to achieve continued excellence both in the classroom and on the playing fields.

We hope you will continue to help us provide a world-class experience for our student-athletes for many years to come. Thank you, in advance, for your help with this important effort.

Thomas A. Beckett
Director of Athletics

For more information on the Yale Tomorrow Campaign and current athletic opportunities, please call: 203.432.1434 or visit our web site at: http://yaletomorrow.yale.edu/schools_units/athletics.html

REUNION GIVING
A great opportunity to support our endowments, special projects, or trips abroad

Did you know that a gift to the Yale Track Association can be credited to your reunion giving total? Even a pledge up to 4 years in advance of a 5 year reunion can be earmarked for support of Yale Track. Some or all of your reunion giving can be designated to support the Track Association in the following ways:

- Support the foreign trip (once every 4 years).
- Support special projects.

We greatly appreciate all the generous support of our wonderful alums and friends of Yale Track!

CAREER NETWORKING PROGRAM

Are you willing to help our current undergraduate athletes find summer internships or their final career goal? This requires nothing more than giving advice on how you did it. If you are willing please send name, sport, address where you would like to be contacted, preferred day and time of day. We also need information regarding preferred means of contact e-mail - give address, phone - give phone number. A brief description of what you do would also be helpful in guiding the student athlete.

Please email this information to donald.scharf@yale.edu or call Don Scharf ’55 (203) 432-7678 for more information.

For the latest updates, scores & info, visit our web site at: www.yalebulldogs.cstv.com