University at Albany
Track & Field/Cross Country
Wall of Fame
Dr. Kevin Williams is one of UAlbany’s most successful cross country coaches, guiding the program for 14 years from 1994-2001. He also was an assistant track coach, mentoring the distance program, from 1988 until 2001. Williams coached the Great Danes to two third-place team finishes at the NCAA Division II National Cross Country Championships. He coached 14 All-Americans, including two individual national champions in Howie Sellers (800m) and Scott Carroll (steeplechase). Williams was named the New England College Conference Coach of the Year in 1997 and 1998, and was the Collegiate Track Conference Coach of the Year in 1994 and 1997. Six of his former student-athletes are members of the UAlbany Athletics Hall of Fame - Sellers, Carroll, Tonya Dodge, Bill Vanos, Joe McCullen, and Samantha Cohen.

Williams, who is currently the Vice Provost and Dean for Graduate Education and a psychology professor at UAlbany, was the Chair of the Psychology Department from 2007-2011.

Barbara “Bobbi” Palma is one of the most influential people for women’s athletics at UAlbany. Palma, who was an inaugural member of the USATF Officials Hall of Fame, started the UAlbany women’s track and field program - before the NCAA recognized women’s sports - and was also the advisor for a successful student-sponsored petition to start the women’s soccer program. She was a physical education professor at UAlbany, developing new classes such as officiating courses and self-defense, and also coached women’s basketball and softball. The women’s championship race of the UAlbany Cross Country Invitational is named in her honor.

Palma’s reach extends far beyond the UAlbany campus. She also founded the Albany AAU Track Club and the Electric City Athletic Club for Girls, has been a member of the NYS Speakers Committee on Sport and Physical Fitness, was the coordinator of the first women’s Olympic Marathon Trials and established the Track & Field Officials Committee for Adirondack USATF. Palma was the Director of Track & Field for the Empire State Games for ten years. She was also on the staff for several international meets, including two World Championships, the Pan Am Games and the World University Games. Palma has also worked at several Olympic Trials, the Paralympic Trials and was an official at the 1996 Olympics and Paralympics in Atlanta. She has been involved in NCAA National Championships at all levels.

Robert Keith Munsey is the architect of UAlbany men’s cross country and track & field programs. He is a 2010 member of the UAlbany Athletic Hall of Fame, after being a coach for the Great Danes from 1958-1985. Munsey’s cross country teams won SUNY Athletic Conference titles in 1971, 1972, 1973, 1977 and 1984. The 1973 team finished second at the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships. His teams qualified for Nationals 11 times, and had six top-20 finishes. In 24 cross country seasons, Munsey’s teams were 182-65. In 18 outdoor track & field seasons, his teams were 137-34-1. Seven athletes who were coached by Munsey are also members of the UAlbany Athletic Hall of Fame, and five student-athletes earned All-America honors. The men’s championship race of the UAlbany Cross Country Invitational is named in his honor.

The first of five athletes to be inducted, Carlo Cherubino was a member of the 1973 cross country team that finished second in the NCAA Division III Championship. Already a member of the UAlbany Athletic Hall of Fame, Cherubino still holds the program’s 5.05-mile cross country record (25:03.4) and is tied for the five-mile record (24:38). Cherubino is the sixth-best all-time cross country runner, based on the mile pace for races at or near 8k, with a 4:57.78 mile pace. He was an NCAA College Division All-American in 1974 and was the first Great Dane to win the UAlbany Cross Country Invitational in 1975.

Cherubino also competed in the Olympic Trials in the marathon in 1976, and was the Age Group National Record Holder in the 30 kilometers that same year. In 1979, he was ranked the fourth-best 30-kilometer runner in the US by Runners World and Track & Field News. In more recent years, Cherubino has been a soccer and track & field coach at the Academy of Holy Names. He has led the track & field team to 16 Colonial Council League titles, and the cross country team to four CCL championships. Cherubino's indoor and outdoor programs have won 17 Section II championships and he has coached several individual and relay NYS Track & Field Champions, along with several All-Americans.
**CLASS OF 2012**

**Dr. Tim Hoff** was a two-time NCAA Cross Country National Championship participant, in 1984 and 1986, and finished fifth overall at the 1986 NCAA Regional meet. He had eight top-five finishes in SUNYAC Championship events, and earned three SUNYAC titles, en route to being named to the SUNYAC Cross Country Hall of Fame. Hoff set three school records, including being a member of the 4x800 relay team that set a NYS Division III Collegiate Track Conference record that stood for 25 years until 2011. He is ninth all-time on the UAlbany Cross Country list for 5.05 miles and is on four program top ten lists. As a captain of the cross country and indoor & outdoor track programs in 1986-87, Hoff was second at the NYS Division III Indoor Championship Meet in the 3,000 meters and was seventh at the NYS Division III Cross Country Championship Meet. Hoff was also a member of the 4x800 relay team that won its heat at the 1987 Olympic Invitational and took third in its heat at the Millrose Games, setting two school records.

Professionally, Hoff has been a professor at the UAlbany School of Public Health since 1998, in the field of Health Policy and Management. He has published over 40 academic articles and has written a book on the U.S. Primary Care System. A two-time winner of the UAlbany School of Public Health’s Excellence in Teaching Award, Hoff has been identified nationally as one of the “Top 100 Most Influential Professors of Public Health.”

**Deborah Rohrmiller-Baronowski** was a two-year member of the UAlbany track & field program, graduating in 1979 with a degree in social welfare. She was a two-year captain of the cross country program and was captain of the indoor and outdoor track & field teams for one season. As a senior, Baronowski was named the team MVP of all three programs, en route to earning UAlbany’s Sportswoman of the Year award. She set school records in the 440m, 880m, 400m, 800m, 1-mile relay, and 2-mile relay, and was inducted into the UAlbany Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989.

As an athlete, **Teresa Covert** was the first NCAA Division I Women’s Qualifier, as she was a six-time America East Conference Champion and the ECAC Champion in the 100HH. A team captain, Covert is the school record holder in the indoor 60HH and outdoor 100HH. She also has the top times in school history in the 100m (11.55) and the 100HH (13.30). Covert appears on the UAlbany top ten lists ten times, and is the third-best scorer in America East history with 107 points.

The most recent graduate of the inaugural Wall of Fame Class, **Joe Greene** was a three-time NCAA Division I All-American. He holds school records in the indoor 400m, outdoor 400m and 400IH individually, and is a member of two indoor relay record-setting teams (4x400m, DMR) and three outdoor relay record-holders (4x200m, 4x400m, SMR). He is on the program’s top ten lists six times, earning four IC4A Championships and 11 America East Conference Championships. He is the second-best scorer in America East Championships with 112 points.
If anyone set the tone for the women’s championship pedigree, it was Feyisara “Fey” Adaramola. A former team captain, Fey led the Great Danes to their first Division I conference championships, setting the championship expectations across a multitude of events, including the 60m, 200m, and 4x400m relay. Adaramola excelled at the 200m, and as one of the first women at UAlbany to break the 24-second barrier in the event, she earned a qualifying berth into the regional championships.

Fey holds indoor school records in three events. She is an eight-time America East champion, a 14-time America East All-Conference selection, and a three-time ECAC scorer. Adaramola earned a runner-up finish in the ECAC 100m in 2009. She ranks 13th among UAlbany women in America East Championship scoring with 86 career points.

Fey has been working as a Physical Therapist at Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery Specialists “ONS” since the completion of her clinical doctoral degree. Fey has training in the McKenzie method for treating spinal disorders, and has sought continued education in the sports realm. Fey’s experience as a former Division I athlete gives her valuable insight for her competitive athletes and patients returning from a musculoskeletal injury.

Fey volunteers at the New York City ING Marathon, and has run clinics and provided services during a medical mission in Kenya.

As a fearless competitor, Gered Burns proved that UAlbany could win at levels exceeding that of their conference. A four-time IC4A champion, Burns elevated the level of competition for the team, bringing it into a higher echelon previously unseen within the program. Burns was a member of the relay team that won the program’s first-ever IC4A championship.

He was one of the first Great Danes to take his training to the next level by traveling west to train with the Oregon Track Club, during which time he was seen as one of the premier middle distance runners in the country. A local product, his development through the program was tremendous, and solidified an expectation that the team continue to perform with the elite talent in the NCAA any beyond.

Burns holds two individual school records, and holds two additional records as a member of a relay team. He is a two-time NCAA qualifier, earning indoor All-America honors in 2005. He is a 10-time America East champion and a 12-time America East All-Conference selection. Burns ranks 15th among UAlbany men in America East Championship scoring with 80.5 points.

Burns left for Eugene, Oregon in the summer of 2007 to train with world-renowned middle distance coach Frank Gagliano and the Oregon Track Club leading up to the 2008 Olympic Trials. In 2009, Burns returned to UAlbany as a volunteer coach and to once again train under Roberto Vives and Matt Jones. For the past 4 years Burns has been pursuing a career in the field of environmental science while working at a small environmental consulting firm in Colonie, New York. Burns currently lives in Colonie with his long-time girlfriend Natalie and his rescued greyhound Bodhi.

When Samantha “Sam” Cohen competed at UAlbany, the women’s teams were referred to as “Lady Danes.” She continues to sign her emails, “Always a Lady Dane”. Cohen, who served as team captain during her time at UAlbany, was a pillar of the program’s Division II era, contributing to many championship teams. A premier United States race walk competitor, Cohen helped push the program to looking at the national, and even Olympic level. Post collegiately, Cohen finished fourth in several U.S. Olympic trials in her signature event. She remains inspired by a quote from legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, “Success is a peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best you are capable.”

Cohen holds school records across four separate race walking distances. In national competitions, Cohen placed fifth in the 3,000m race walk at the 1998 USA Indoor Track & Field Championships, and finished sixth in the same event the following year. She later moved to Wisconsin to train full time. In 2007, Cohen was the national champion in the indoor 3,000m and the outdoor 5,000m race walks, and went on to represent the United States at the Pan American Cup. She was a Team USA member at the 2008 IAAF Race Walk World Cup in Russia, and competed in the 20,000m race walk in four U.S. Olympic Trials, including two fourth-place finishes in 2008 and 2016. She has been on nine U.S. National Teams and numerous international teams, and has been a national champion many times over. Cohen continues to train and compete at a top level, while raising her family, and teaching full time.

Cohen earned a B.A. in English with a dual minor in Spanish and General Education Studies and has an M.S. in Teaching from Pace University. She teaches English Literature at Washington Park High School in Racine, Wisconsin. Cohen and her husband, Joshua Slamka, have three children, Ephraim (11), Helina (7), and Hadasa (4).
Mance was a seven-time member of the All-State track team and a four-time member of the All-SUNYAC team. As an athlete, he placed second in the triple jump at the 1984 New York State Indoor Championships, and placed third in both the long jump and the triple jump at the 1985 New York State Outdoor Championships. As a coach, he groomed several All-American performers and contributed to multiple conference championship teams, including one runner-up team finish at NCAA Championships.

Currently, Mance is the horizontal jumps coach at the Christian Brothers Academy in Albany, N.Y. In the last year, one of his athletes broke the Section 2 freshman record in the long jump with a mark of 21-10.00, which ranked second among New York State freshmen and 25th among national freshmen. Mance also coached modified girls basketball at Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School in Albany, N.Y., compiling a 43-4 record over four seasons, including an undefeated 2011-12 season, and three Big Ten Championships.

Mance was a part-time instructor for a coaching theory course for the Division of Physical Education in Athletics and Recreation, specializing in the horizontal jumps. He assisted in the development of eight national champions, 36 All-Americans, and numerous conference and state champions. In 2014, Mance received the City School District of Albany’s Golden Apple Award, which recognizes an outstanding teacher who demonstrates excellence in instruction and leadership within the school community.
The ultimate teammate, Kamilah McShine played a major role in the program’s America East conference success. She was the first member of the women’s team to break the 59-second barrier in the 400m intermediate hurdles. Her ability to do it all, and at an exceedingly high level, saw her compete successfully at the conference level, the ECAC level, and the national level, where she was a regional semifinalist in the 400m intermediate hurdles.

McShine’s time as a scholar-athlete at U Albany exposed her to the importance of patience, passion, and perseverance. McShine’s passion for athletics combined with her desire to help improve both physical health and personal esteem led her to pursue a Master’s degree in Exercise Science & Wellness at Old Dominion University. Upon graduation, McShine went on to develop community-based interventions to prevent chronic diseases and promote health and wellness in the community through Wellness education programs and workshops. When McShine is not working with the community, she serves as the Senior Wellness Coordinator for Houston Methodist Hospital where she guides the employee population towards their personal health and wellness goals through the development of skills that help them overcome obstacles and remain persistent in their pursuit towards a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle. McShine continues to break ground in the Holistic Health & Wellness field, working to ensure all individuals have access to resources that can positively influence not only their health, but the health of their family, friends, and community.

When he transferred to U Albany from William and Mary, James “Jay” Nixon joined a program that did not have a dedicated pole vault coach on the staff. But always eager to make the best of any situation, Nixon did not complain. Instead, he worked with Coach Vives, teaching him how to coach the pole vault, ultimately helping Coach Vives help him. He brought out the most of the limited facilities that the program had to offer a pole vaulter of his caliber. A member of the fourth-place Division III championship team, and a driven competitor, Nixon earned All-America honors in both his signature pole vault and in the decathlon.

Nixon is a four-time NCAA Division III All-American in the pole vault. In 1993, Nixon won the pole vault, long jump, and decathlon at the NYSCT&F Championships, and later that year won the decathlon at the Empire State Games.

Nixon graduated magna cum laude from U Albany in 1995. Following his graduation, Nixon attended Albany Law School of Union University, graduating in 1998. Nixon passed the New York State bar exam in 1998 and was admitted to practice law in February of 1999. That same year he joined the Albany County District Attorney’s Office as a trial attorney and compiled an amazing record of over 20 jury convictions with only one defeat over a span of approximately three years. Following his stint in the public sector, Nixon joined the private sector and began focusing his practice on his two passions in life — “kids and cars”. He opened his own practice in 2004, the same year his first child was born.

Nixon has represented hundreds of families across upstate New York whose children have been afflicted with childhood lead poisoning. He currently holds one of the largest recorded verdicts for a lead poisoning case in New York State. His firm also represents several car dealerships throughout upstate New York. Nixon is married to former track star Laura Nixon (née Somes), who still holds the school record in the women’s shuttle hurdle relay. They have 3 children, Olivia (11), Ashley (9) and Eric (5) and live in Utica, New York. All of the Nixon’s children love track and field, and hope to compete at the collegiate level one day.

Nixon’s last official track and field competition was in 2003 where he competed in the open men’s decathlon at the age of 32.

A team cannot succeed without the right mentality, and no one provided the right mentality better than Arnold “Arnie” Shell. A member of the very first U Albany indoor track team, and one of the first Division III track teams in the country, Shell was a product of Boys High in Brooklyn, now known as Boys & Girls High. The institution’s reputation for developing elite talent is legendary, and Shell brought with him that elite mentality to U Albany. Shell was a member of the Boys High 2-mile relay team that set the national record and won the Championship of America at the Penn Relays.

At U Albany, Shell served two seasons as team captain, in 1971 and 1972. He qualified for the small-school national championships in the 880y and in the 1-mile relay in 1971 and 1972. Now a coach at Lincoln High School in Yonkers, Shell has coached five All-Americans in his 25 year career. He is also the head coach of the Yonkers Public School Track team. He retired from teaching in 2012 after 30 years at the Yonkers Public School. Shell’s influence continues to resonate with the program to this day, as he sends some of his finest student-athletes upstate to be Great Danes.
When UAlbany transitioned from Division II to Division I, University Police Chief Frank Wiley told Coach Vives that the only team that was Division I-ready on day one was track and field. The mentality *Jeffrey “Jeff” York* brought to the team contributed mightily to that readiness.

In Coach Vives’ office on campus, there hangs a photograph of one of York’s 110m high hurdles races. The photo depicts York racing in the Penn Relays Championship of America finals, next to University of Connecticut’s Dudley Dorival, who would go on to win the bronze medal in the 110m high hurdles at the 2001 World Championships, and a hurdler from Seton Hall running in the 13.30s. In the photo, York is matching the two elite talents to his right step for step.

York is perhaps the winningest hurdler in NCAA history at any level. He has five NCAA Division III championships indoors and outdoors, and holds the Division III Championship meet record in the 110m hurdles. As a Division III athlete, York won the Division I IC4A championship in the 55m high hurdles. His ability to compete with anyone instilled in the program a belief that it could compete on any level. He volunteered as a coach for several years following his graduation, and still makes the occasional appearance at UAlbany practice to offer his wisdom to the current Great Dane hurdlers. York remains a staunch supporter of the program.

York holds two school records, in addition to one freshman record. He is an eight-time NCAA scorer, a two-time IC4A scorer, a CTC champion, a two-time NYSCT&F champion, and an Empire State Games champion. Currently, York is an Information Systems Project Manager for Albany Medical Center where he is responsible for the implementation of a new HIPAA training program. The majority of his work has been in the field of healthcare and in the development and implementation of classroom and one-on-one training curricula. He is the father of a delightful 13-year-old daughter who attends Troy Prep Charter School, who is looking forward to attending UAlbany one day and setting records in the classroom and on the track.