



BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Commencement

2016



FRANK SHORTER, Doctor of Humane Letters (LHD)

Barry A. Logan, *Professor of Biology and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

Frank Shorter—Olympic gold medalist, entrepreneur, author—Bowdoin College honors you today for your athletic achievements, your contributions to the culture of health and fitness, and your unwavering advocacy for fairness in sport and for those who have experienced childhood abuse.

A graduate of Yale University, where you won the NCAA 10,000-meter track championship, you went on to earn a juris doctorate at the University of Florida, an astonishing twenty-four national distance running titles, and many of the world's most competitive marathons. In 1972, you represented the United States in the Olympic marathon in Munich, after finalizing your preparations at Bowdoin College, where the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Team gathered to train and where you completed runs familiar to many of us on Mere Point Road and our then-Magee, now Magee-Samuelson Outdoor Track. Your Olympic performance, in which you won gold, defeating your nearest competitor by more than two minutes, helped restore the Games to their purpose and ideals in the aftermath of the hostage-taking and deaths that marred the Munich Olympics only days before. You went on to earn a silver medal in the Olympic marathon in Montreal four years later.

Your performances, your running apparel company, and your race organizing helped kindle the U.S. running boom and fostered greater dedication to lifelong fitness and health for many.

You are a great champion of fairness in sport, having competed in an era that witnessed the rise of illegal performance enhancement. You contributed to the establishment of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency and served as its chairman.

You advocate for those who have experienced childhood abuse and have related your own wrenching experiences with abuse in articles and in your soon-to-be-released memoir, *My Marathon*, showing us once again that your courage ranges far beyond the race course.

President Rose, on behalf of the College, I am honored to present Frank Shorter for the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.