

## THERESA SHIPLEY

Class of 1981



Terry credits her athletic ability to her family. Her father competed in track and field at Hempstead High School. While competing for Hempstead, he set the NYS high jump record which stood for nine years. Her mother was a member of the swimming and field hockey teams at Queens College. Her sisters also inherited the athletic gene. During their time at Mynderse, Terry and her three sisters Frances, Anne-Marie and Barbara earned a combined 30+ varsity letters in track and field, cross country, soccer, volleyball and basketball.

Basketball was the first sport that caught Terry's interest and she started playing in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She would finish her basketball career at Mynderse as starting center her senior year. Although basketball was her first scholastic sport, cross country and track ended up playing more to her strengths. She was one of the top runners in the league for cross country, and qualified for the NYS championships in 1980. In track and field, she set school records in the 800M, 1500M, and high jump and was a member of the record setting 4x800M relay team. Three of those records still exist today. Her senior year, Terry qualified for the NYS track and field meet in the high jump.

Terry also took her studies and music seriously. She graduated in the top 10 of her class and is an accomplished pianist. In her first two years of high school, she participated in concert and marching band. She earned spending money working on the weekends as an organist at Saint Patrick's Church.

Terry earned an athletic scholarship to Hartwick College and continued to improve her running times while competing for the cross country and track teams. While at Hartwick she set multiple school records. She set indoor track records in the high jump, 300M, 400M, 800M, 1200M, 4x400M, 4x800M and distance medley relay. Terry was the indoor state champion in 1000M. She also set records outdoors in the high jump, 400M, 800M, 4x400M and 4x800M. Terry was the first woman in

Hartwick's history to qualify for the NCAA Division III Championships in track and field where she competed in the 800 meter run and finished 9<sup>th</sup>.

After school, Terry moved to Boston where she continued to run in local road races often winning or placing in her age group. She soon started challenging herself with the marathon and to date has completed 15 of them. She has qualified twice for the Boston Marathon. Her favorite marathons are Disney, Boston and the two she's run overseas in Rome and Amsterdam.

Throughout the years Terry has felt compelled to give back to the sports that have brought so much to her life. In the early years of her move to Boston, she volunteered her Saturday mornings to run the sports hour of a supplemental education program for inner city children. She has also volunteered for the Boston Marathon since 1986 (except for the years she ran it). Since 2005 she has been the captain of the mile 10 hydration station. In 2012 she was honored to be elected as an ambassador to the elite athletes for the Boston Marathon. Duties included personal handler for runners at press conferences and various PR events as well as being available for their day to day needs. It's an experience she will never forget. Terry still lives in the Boston area where she works as a Technical Lead developing software for the John Hancock Insurance Company. She plans to keep adding to her marathon count and hopes to be running from retirement and beyond.