

# **OSCAR MOORE**

Oscar Moore, Class of 1956, a much honored college track coach and teacher, represented the United States in the 1964 Olympics.

The trajectory of Mr. Moore's life changed in his senior year at White Plains High School when he and a friend decided to go out for the track team to win a varsity letter. He wasn't big enough to throw the shot like his friend, so he decided to run. In his first mile race he broke the school record and qualified for the state tournament. Mr. Moore joined the U.S. Marines after high school and kept running whenever he could, winning the one mile championship at the All Service Track and Field meet in Japan.

In 1960, after his Marine service, Mr. Moore joined the New York Pioneer Track Club and also competed as a member of the U.S. track team in international meets. He then qualified for the 1964 U.S. Olympic team and ran the 5,000 meters in Tokyo.

Mr. Moore enrolled at Southern Illinois University in 1965 and embarked on a brilliant collegiate running career. As Captain of the track team for three years, he was a 6-time All-American and was ranked in the top five in the U.S. at two, three and six miles. He still holds the SIU record at 3,000 and 5,000 meters. An Achilles heel injury prevented him from participating in the 1968 Olympic Trials.

After graduating from SIU in 1971 with both a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree, Mr. Moore became the first track coach at Glassboro State College, now Rowan University, in New Jersey. His teams qualified for the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships for 20 straight years and captured five national championships. He also guided the school to 19 consecutive league titles and produced 130 All-Americans and 24 NCAA champions.

Mr. Moore also coached the women's track and field team for 7 years and was the assistant cross-country coach for 21. He was an assistant professor in the health and exercise department for 33 years before he retired in 2003.

He was selected to the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame and is a member of the Rowan University and SIU Sports Halls of Fame.

Mr. Moore lives in New Jersey and, in addition to being an ordained minister, remains an adjunct professor at Rowan University.