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RWU Athletics Announces Fourth Class of Athletics Hall of Fame

Four athletes, one coach and one team to be inducted, another athlete to receive special recognition at ceremony on Oct. 24



July 21, 2015 | Public Affairs Staff

BRISTOL, R.I. - The Roger Williams University Athletic Department has announced the fourth class of the RWU Athletics Hall of Fame. Receiving induction are Sandy Vinton '89 (Women's Volleyball, Women's Basketball, Softball), Andrew Combra '04 (Men's Soccer), Jack Delehanty '04 (Men's Volleyball), Kristin Gaynor '04 (Women's Basketball), former Men's Soccer Head Coach Jim Cook, and the 2001 Softball team, as well as John LaScala (Wrestling) for Special Recognition.

The induction ceremony will be held in the Campus Recreation Center on Saturday, October 24 as part of Homecoming Weekend.

Vinton, a four-year member of the Women's Volleyball, Women's Basketball, and Softball teams, is the third 12-time letter-winner in school history. She was the Women's Basketball program's second ever 1,000-point scorer and finished her career with 1,044 points. She is currently eighth all-time in RWU Women's Basketball history in assists (250) and sixth all-time in steals (167). She holds the second-best mark in program history for assists in a game (12) and was the 1989 Commonwealth Coast Conference MVP and 1988 RWU Sharon Castelli Award winner. She was a three-time All-CCC First Team selection in volleyball and basketball, as well as being named All-New England Honorable Mention in volleyball.

Combra, a three-year member of the Men's Soccer team, left a significant mark on the program in his time as a Hawk. A three-time All-Commonwealth Coast Conference selection, he was named CCC Player of the Year in 2001 and 2002. He earned All-New England honors in each of his three years at Roger Williams and was named an NSCAA All-American in 2002. He helped lead the team to the 2001 Commonwealth Coast Conference Championship and the 2002 and 2003 ECAC Division III New England Championship. He currently holds the school record for career assists with 28 and is ranked sixth all-time in career points (94) and eighth in career goals (33).

Delehanty, a four-year member of the Men's Volleyball team, finished his career as the best player in program history. He was an AVCA All-American in 2004 for an RWU team ranked as high as sixth in the nation. He was a two-time AVCA National Player of the Week (February 10, 2003 and January 26, 2004) and was named to the RWU Invitational All-Tournament Team in 2002 and 2003 and the Vassar Invitational All-Tournament Team in 2004. In 2002, he led all NCAA Division III players in assists per game, averaging 13.85 on the season. A 2003 EIVA D-III All-Star, he recorded three triple-doubles and finished his career with over 3,500 assists. In addition, he helped the team to the 2003 ECAC Division III New England Championship and finished as runners-up in 2002 and 2004.

Gaynor, a four-year member of the Women's Basketball team, ended her career with her name etched all across the program's record books. She finished her career as the Hawks' all-time leading scorer with 1,350 points and is now currently second on the all-time list. A four-time All-Commonwealth Coast Conference selection, Gaynor holds the school record with 266 career steals and is second all-time in three-point field goals with 165. Her 13.7 points-per-game average and 527 field goals made are both third-best in program history. In addition, she ranks among the top ten in RWU history in games played (100; 6th), blocked shots (55; 9th), and three-point percentage (.302; 9th).

Cook, a legend in the New England coaching community, retired this past spring as the best coach in RWU Men's Soccer history. He ended his 22-year career at RWU with a record of 293-132-43 while guiding the Hawks to six CCC championships, two ECAC Division III New England Championships, and seven berths to the NCAA Tournament. In addition, Cook has been honored by the Commonwealth Coast Conference as CCC Coach of the Year five times in his Hawk career. His 1999 Men's Soccer team, a 2012 RWU Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, became the first team in school history to qualify for the Division III NCAA National Championship tournament.

The 2001 Women's Softball team became the first women's team in school history to reach the NCAA Championship after winning the 2001 Commonwealth Coast Conference Championship. The team concluded the year with an 18-1-1 mark in the CCC while finishing 26-10-1 overall, setting a school record for most wins in a season. The team was led by 2014 RWU Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Lauren Hall, who recorded a 24-8 record with a 1.69 ERA and 135 strikeouts, as well as leading the team offensively with a .441 batting average with 50 RBIs and a 13 runs scored.

LaScala became the first NCAA All-American in school history. As a freshman, LaScala was named to the Amateur Wrestling News All-Rookie Team, which recognizes the best first-year wrestlers among all NCAA Divisions. Though LaScala competed for two-plus seasons at the University, he still holds several program records, including career-winning percentage at 85%.