Cross Country Alumni Scholarship Renamed in Honor of Hunter

The Cross Country Alumni Scholarship at the School of Mines Foundation was recently renamed the Jack Hunter Athletic Scholarship to support Cross Country and Track and Field in honor of Jack Hunter, a celebrated Cross Country and Track and Field coach at the School of Mines from 1975-1986.

Hunter was a three-sport athlete at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He participated in football, basketball, and track and field, but he had the most success in track and field. An 800 meter runner, Jack was the team’s two-time MVP and captain. Hunter continued to run while he was in the Army, participating in several national meets in the 800 and 400 meters.

While he was in the Army Corps of Engineers, Hunter volunteered his time as a coach of high school track and field athletes at several stateside locations. When he was assigned to the Military Science Department at the School of Mines in 1974, Hunter volunteered his time to Mike Riley, then the School of Mines basketball, cross country, and track and field coach, and he served as an unpaid assistant coach in 1974-1975. In 1975, Riley, athletic director Dud King, professor of Military Science Colonel Rick Rhicard, and Hunter reached an agreement whereby Hunter would become the unpaid head cross country and track and field coach, serving while he was a member of the ROTC staff. Hunter continued in that capacity until 1986. His work with School of Mines’ athletics led his induction into the Hardrock Hall of Fame in 2008. Some of Jack Hunter’s notable coaching accomplishments include:

- Developed and found funds for the first university Track and Field and Cross Country scholarship fund - The SDSM&T Marathon Club
- Coached nine (9) athletic and academic All-Americans, including the first woman All-American
- Coached 1980 Olympic Trials 100-meter qualifier Duane Haugen
- Developed, secured funding for, and recruited the first women's Track and Field and Cross Country teams
- Graduated ninety-nine percent (99%) of athletes coached
- Won SDSM&T’s only SDIC Track and Field Championship - 1984
- Won two (2) SDIC Cross country titles

Hunter left active duty in 1979 and accepted a position as the director of Surbeck Center, which would begin a nineteen-year career serving students at the School of Mines as a student affairs administrator and as a coach, including nearly 11 years as director of Career Planning and Cooperative Education.

Hunter currently serves as associate vice president for Student Academic Support Services and director of The Career Center at Missouri State University in Springfield.

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