

# ISAA 2015 ALUMNI AWARD HONOREES



**Gina Oliver**, from Pottstown, PA was a member of ISAA's first two summer FastTrack Camps held at Neumann University. She was a standout lacrosse and basketball player at Pottstown High School. After graduating she received a scholarship to the Ohio State University and became a first team All-American and two-time FIL World Cup gold medalist in her playing days as a standout midfielder at Ohio State (2002-05), Oliver was a four-year letter winner for the Buckeyes and earned All-America honors three times. She was named an Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association/U.S. Lacrosse Second-Team All-American in 2003 and was a third-team selection in 2004. Oliver was a First-Team WomensLacrosse.com All-American in 2003 and a third-team honoree in 2005. Oliver was a First-Team Warrior/Inside Lacrosse All-America selection in 2003. She was the American Lacrosse Conference Player of the Year in 2003 as Ohio State won the American Lacrosse Conference Championship.

Oliver was one of 18 players on the U.S. Women's National Team that won gold at the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) World Cup in 2013. It was the second FIL World Cup gold for Oliver, who also won the World Cup in June 2009 and was named to the All-World Team, which is awarded to the best 12 players in the world. She is currently the head lacrosse coach at the University of Cincinnati, and has raised the bar over her first two seasons as completing the most successful consecutive seasons in program history. Gina is a 2005 graduate of The Ohio State University, having earned her bachelor's degree in education.



Born and raised in Philadelphia, **Andre Hardy** grew up playing sports throughout his youth was an active member of ISAA since the year 2000. After participating in multiple programs through ISAA, Andre went on to graduate high school as the valedictorian of his senior class and team captain of the boys' varsity basketball team. Upon graduation, Andre went on to accept an athletic and academic scholarship to Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, MD. It was here that Andre graduated cum laude with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Public Relations after playing 4 years of Division II basketball.

After graduating college, Andre struggled to find his place in the world after taking jobs in Public Relations, Marketing, and Construction Management but it was during his time spent coaching middle school basketball that Andre chose his path to devote his life to impacting others, specifically urban youth, via education and social work. In 2013, Andre graduated summa cum laude with a Master of Education Degree from Cabrini College and currently runs a program for under-served youth at Penn Wood High School that provides resources and linkages to post-secondary education and part-time employment for 50 students from low-income backgrounds while supporting students in their pursuit of graduating high school.



**Samuel Tranks** grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended Martin Luther King High School where he was an All City and All Public honoree. Sammy started with ISAA as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. He went on to major in psychology at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. During his time on the football field at Seton Hill, he attained all American honors at WR & KR while also setting numerous Seton Hill football records. After Seton Hill, Sammy accomplished his dream of becoming a professional football player; having his first opportunity in the Canadian Football League in 2011 with the Toronto Argonauts. In 2012, Sammy was a part of the 100th Grey Cup Championship team with Toronto.

Most recently Sammy has seen action in 2014 with the Tampa Bay Storm of the arena football league. In 2014 Sammy became a father to Dominic Tranks. He currently is a free agent and lives in Irwin, PA where he runs his own training business, "Courage To Continue Training."



**Jameel Tucker** graduated from Edinboro University with a B.S in Health and Physical Education in 2006. He received his M.S in Sport and Recreation Management from Florida International University in 2009. He started off as a young ISAA athlete while playing football John Bartram High School where he was a City All-Star quarterback. He has been actively volunteering with ISAA for over ten years. Jameel was hired as the Assistant Director of Residence Life at Harcum College of Bryn Mawr, PA in 2010. He has since been named the Director of Residence Life and started a Recreation department at Harcum.

He is a strong advocate for Education and Health and Wellness. Jameel has a passion for the community and helping the youth achieve their goals. His professional goals are based around higher education, business and fitness. Jameel loves to see young people grow and succeed in their endeavors and will help them in any way he can.



**Jared Arnold** was born in Philadelphia, PA and is a proud graduate of G.W. Carver High School of Engineering and Science. He participated in cross country, track, and basketball at E&S and became one of the best long distance runners in the area. He received honors of All Public League in Cross Country (2004 & 2005) and All Public League in Track and was a member of State Championship 4x800 Relay in 2006. Jared was extremely active in ISAA since he was an 8th grader. Attended Bloomsburg University of PA where he participated in cross country and track and field. He achieved All Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference in the 4x400 relay in both indoor track (2010 & 2011) and outdoor (2011). Jared received a bachelor's degree in History from Bloomsburg in 2012. He currently is employed as a Teacher Aide at Chester Community Charter School in Chester PA, working with 4th, 5th, and 6th graders and still volunteers his time to ISAA.



**Michael Johnson** entered the ISAA program as a freshman at G.W. Carver High School of Engineering and Science. With the help and guidance of ISAA throughout his high school years, Michael received an academic and athletic scholarship to continue playing basketball at Virginia State University. As a 3 year starter and a member of the All-CIAA academic team he led VSU to its first tournament semi-final appearance in years. In 2008, Michael graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor's in Sport Management which was followed by a Master's Degree in 2010 with a GPA of 3.9. Since his graduation Michael has worked as an Advertising Executive with IHeart Media and the Philadelphia Tribune. He is currently working toward an opportunity within an NBA franchise. Michael says ISAA will forever be a part of who he is and he's grateful for everything the program has done for him.



**Kris Garner** came to ISAA while a high school student at Pottstown High School. She was a member of ISAA's first two FastTrack Summer College Exposure Camps. After excelling in basketball at Pottstown, she entered Millersville University where she controlled the paint and the backboards in four years with the Millersville women's basketball team. She holds the impressive distinction of being the only women's player in school history with 1,000 career points and 1,000 career rebounds. Garner was an All-PSAC East honoree twice, landing first team recognition in 2004-05 and a second team selection in 2003-04. For all four seasons, she led the Marauders in rebounds and still holds the school's career rebounding record with 1,005. Her single season record of 262 stood until 2011. She averaged 8.9 rebounds per game in her school record 117 games played.

Garner averaged no fewer than 8.2 rebounds per game in any of her four seasons. Even while playing with a pair of PSAC East Player of the Year winners, Garner still scored 1,200 points, ranking her 11th all-time. She also anchored one of the best defensive units in the PSAC, blocking 159 career shots. That total places her second in Millersville history. From 2001-2005, Garner's Marauders compiled an 82-36 record, won three PSAC East championships, earned three NCAA Division II Tournament appearances and won the PSAC Championship in 2004-05. In that championship season, she averaged 11.1 points, 9.0 rebounds, 1.3 blocks and 2.3 steals per game. In 2010, Garner was named to Millersville's All-75th Season Team.



Born and raised in Philadelphia, **Zafirah Green** started running track in the 5th grade. In her junior year in high school she was introduced to ISAA and participated in the afterschool program and summer camp. Zee graduated in the class of 2008 from William Penn High School being named captain and MVP of the track & field and cross country teams. In her senior year she was the 400m champion at the PIAA District 12 Championships.

Zee then went on to attend the Community College of Philadelphia where she earned a degree in Liberal Arts. In 2008 she received All-Conference and All-State honors in leading her team to EPCC and PCAA Cross Country Championships. She received athletic honors of the highest GPA and MVP on her teams. In 2009 she placed 1st in the 400m dash at the Colgate Women's Games and 1st place in the 100m dash at the New York Relays. At the USA Track & Field (USATF) East Regional Open & Masters Championship she received a silver medal in the 100m, gold in 200m and silver in 400m dashes, and gold in both 4x400m and Sprint Medley relays. In 2011 she was the 200m champion at the Colgate Women's Games. Zee won gold in the 55m and 400m and silver in the 200m dash at the USATF Mid-Atlantic Indoor Championship. At the outdoor championships she won triple gold in the sprints. Zafirah set seven records while at the Community College of Philadelphia from the 55m dash to the 1000m run.

Zee then transferred to Holy Family University where she received a full scholarship majoring in accounting. She became the star of the team where she set five school records including a 12 year record at the Penn Relays in the CTC 4x400m relay.

Zee has been named Athlete of the Year by the USATF Mid-Atlantic Association six times. She is finishing her accounting degree while taking classes and working part-time, training and coaching with ISAA.

### **Also receiving awards today:**

- **Raquel Flemings**
- **Janet Hamm**