Track Dedication

Honors Coach Sudeck

The track at Case Western Reserve's Case Field has a new name: the “Coach Bill Sudeck Track” after the university’s legendary coach, mentor, and friend. Sudeck, who coached cross country, track and field, and men’s basketball at Case Institute of Technology (CIT) and Case Western Reserve for 46 years, died of cancer in 2000.

This dedication was made possible by a generous gift from James Wyant (CIT '65), former captain of the CIT Roughriders’ cross country team, pictured left with President Barbara R. Snyder. “Coach dedicated his life to athletics at Case,” says Wyant. “It just seemed appropriate that the university’s excellent track facility have his name associated with it.”

Sudeck’s caring, yet challenging coaching style greatly influenced Wyant’s undergraduate experience, setting the course for a successful career as a pioneer in optical science. He currently serves as dean of the College of Optical Sciences at the University of Arizona. “I always hoped that someday I would make enough money to come back and help the athletic department in some way,” he notes. Sudeck’s family, past and present student-athletes, and university leaders attended the dedication in April.

Joseph White Ph.D., chair, Political Science Department, (seated left), with Liz Hill (seated far right), her grandmother, Lil, and recipients and alternates of the Wellman Hill Internship.

Thanks to a recent gift from Elizabeth Hill, a 1997 joint bachelor’s and master’s graduate in political science, five political science undergraduates are exploring potential future careers this summer, with projects ranging from global elections to genetic disease advocacy.

Hill, now deputy district attorney in San Mateo County, California, recognizes the power of a great internship to help young students determine early whether a particular career path is right for them.

“All too often in law school I saw fellow students discover too late that being a lawyer was not the right choice for them,” she says. The program is funded by an endowment named in honor of Hill’s grandfather, who devoted his life to government service. “He was a lifelong patriot,” Hill recalls of the grandfather who passed away in 2006. “He taught me that government service is an honorable path.”