William Hogenson [second from left] crossing finish line in an unidentified collegiate race ca. 1904 as published in *Lewis Annual* (Lewis Institute yearbook), 1904, page 171

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IIT's Olympic Heritage

By Catherine Bruck, University Archivist

With the possibility of the Olympics coming to Chicago in 2016, IIT is gearing up to both help our city win the bid and to greet athletes, judges, trainers, volunteers, and visitors who will be venturing to spots away from the Olympic Village when they need a break from the action there.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase IIT's scholastic competitiveness and our own world-renowned campus to people from around the globe. While academics and architecture may be our *raison d'être,* we also lay claim to at least two Olympic medal holders and one "image maker" within our ranks of engineers, entrepreneurs, and designers.

Our earliest Olympian came from the halls of Lewis Institute. William P. Hogenson's 1902 application to attend Lewis indicates that he wanted "to prepare for business" and cites athletics as his special interest. Much to the chagrin of his dean and his father, William apparently spent more time on the run than he did hitting the books. One of Dean W. A. Greeson's notes to William's father informing him that his son's work in math, chemistry, and drawing was unsatisfactory received the following response: "I can offer no excuse only that he is not of a studious mind and it does not seem to help to talk to him. His interest taken in athletics no doubt is part of the cause." We can only hope that William redeemed himself both with his papa and with his alma mater when he went to St. Louis in 1904 for the III Olympiad and came home with one silver and two bronze medals in track and field events.

Fifty-six years later, William W. Parks (CE '44) won a bronze medal in sailing at the XVII Olympiad in Rome. Early in his sailing career, Parks represented IIT in an intercollegiate race in 1940. He has remained connected to IIT ever since. Through the years, he has served on various committees and as president of the Alumni Association prior to being appointed to the Board of Trustees in 1977, a position he still holds. He is also currently on the Board of Overseers for Student Life but still finds time to enter Star Class races at age 87.

While Parks could be found yachting off the coast of Italy in 1960, another IIT alumnus was at the same Rome Olympics with a press pass in his hatband. Marvin E. Newman, who was among the first Master of Photography graduates of the IIT Institute of Design in 1952, may have been behind the camera, but he was front and center at many of the events and award ceremonies in his role as *Sports Illustrated's* official photographer of the Rome competitions. Framed in Newman's viewfinder were such notables as Muhammad Ali, Wilma Rudolph, and Herb Elliott, who may have outrun Hogenson, but then again, Elliott didn't have Dean Greeson breathing down his neck.

Are there other Olympians or hopefuls out there? If so, let us know at archives@iit.edu.