Graudons wins women so pole vault crown, three women's records set, as AU track and field teams compete at state meet

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ITHACA, NY -- The Alfred University men&s and women&s indoor track and field teams competed at the New York State championship meet Friday at Ithaca College, with AU junior **Rebecca Graudons** (**Mayfield**, **NY/Mayfield**) claiming a state title in the pole vault and sophomore **Miasia Hilliman** (**Buffalo**, **NY/Hutch Tech**) setting two school records.

After the first-day&s action at the two-day meet at Ithaca College, the AU men (seven points) and women (14 points) were both in eighth place. RIT leads the men&s standings, while Ithaca is leading the women&s.

Graudons claimed her title with a vault of 3.25 meters. Two other AU women scored points Friday: junior **Liz DeMonte** (**Melville, NY/Walt Whitman**) took seventh in the pentathlon (2,503 points); and senior **Kari Blatz** (**North Babylon, NY/North Babylon**) took eighth in the shot put (10.34 meters). The top eight in each event score point for their teams. DeMonte won the pentathlon high jump, setting a new school record of 1.58 meters.

The AU team of sophomores Miasia Hilliman (Buffalo, NY/Hutch Tech) and Patricia Banahene (Rochester, NY/Brighton), junior Corine Pettit (Strykersville, NY/Holland) and senior Jordyn Larkins (Rochester, NY/Harley-Allendale-Columbia) finished eighth in the women&s 4X200-meter relay in a school-record and ECAC-qualifying time of 1:49.78.

Hilliman qualified for the finals in two events, setting school records in each. She was fourth in the preliminaries in both the 60-meter dash (8.08 seconds) and the 200-meter dash (26.78 seconds). Both time met ECAC qualifying standards.

The AU men&s 4X200-meter relay team also qualified for the ECAC indoor championships. Senior **Chris Lopez** (Rochester, NY/Pittsford Sutherland), freshman Tchabelino Azimyt (New York, NY/A. Philip Radolf) and seniors Randy Brito (New York, NY/Cardinal Hayes) and Jeremy Weaver (Lancaster, PA/Lancaster Catholic) placed seventh in 1:33.27.

Freshman Joe Deurmeyer (Corfu, NY/Pembroke) was the lone member of the AU men&s team to score in an individual event Friday, taking seventh in the shot put (13.58 meters). The team of junior Eddie Potter (Lansing, NY/Lansing), Weaver, freshman Ethan Foster (Bolivar, NY/Bolivar-Richburg), and sophomore Nolan Rummel (Kings Park, NY/Kings Park) finished sixth in the men&s distance medley (10:39.94).

Two AU men completed the first four events in the heptathlon Friday. Senior Shane Stadtmueller (Red Creek, NY/Red Creek) stood in fifth place (2,398 points) and junior Mykal Ferguson (Rochester, NY/Greece Olympia)

was in sixth (2,392 points). The 60-meter dash, long jump, shot put and high jump were held Friday; the 60-meter hurdles, pole vault and 1,000-meter run will be held Saturday.

Other AU men finishing in the top 10 were: freshman **Phillip Caruso (Rome, NY/Rome Free Academy)** was ninth (12.73 meters) and Lopez, ninth in the long jump (6.37 meters).

The team of senior **Amy Morrissey** (**Hornell**, **NY/Hornell**), freshman **Shannon Dalton** (**Hamburg**, **NY/Frontier**), senior **Jennifer Miranda** (**Bronx**, **NY/Academy of Letters**) and sophomore **Tracie Forrester** (**Gainesville**, **NY/Letchworth**) were 10th in the women&s distance medley (14:07.68).

The championships continue Saturday morning at 9:30, when the men&s heptathlon resumes. Other track and field events will begin at 10 a.m. Alfred is among 12 schools competing in the two-day meet. A complete meet schedule, meet program and link to live results can be accessed at the Championship Website.