

Shaluinn Fullove '96

Interview

Q: Where did you receive your education?

A: After graduating from Louisville in 1996, I headed up to Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA. I graduated in 2000 with a B.A. in American Studies.

Q: Tell us about your athletic achievements at Stanford University

A: While at Stanford I was a member of the NCAA Division I Cross Country and Track & Field teams. My freshman year our team won both the men's and women's NCAA cross country championships and we were Pac-10 conference champions all four years (the team has continued to keep that streaking going!). On the track I was a three-time Pac-10 qualifier in the 1500m.

Q: Describe where your career has taken you.

A: I've been at Google since 2002 and we've grown a lot since I started. In the past six years I've worked on seven different products, including AdSense, Book Search, and the now decommissioned Google Answers. It's been a highly varied and fun experience. I started out managing teams in Operations and Sales then I moved over to Product Marketing to be more involved in product strategy. This fall I'll be taking a leave of absence from Google and returning to Stanford where I will be a Sloan Fellow at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.
<http://www.gsb.stanford.edu/sloan/>

Q: Any fond memories/teachers at Louisville?

A: I had many great teachers while at Louisville. I'm sure he gets it all the time, but Mr. Telesca's AP U.S.



Shaluinn and her husband Ramsey

History class really stands out in my memory. It was challenging, fun and it stretched us. He expected a lot of us and knew we could deliver even if we weren't sure. We walked away with a very strong command of the material—a point that is probably made most clear in the very high percentage of his class that pass the AP tests with high scores. It was a great class to prepare you for what would be expected of you at the next level of education.

Q: How did Louisville or your all-girls education influence your life/career?

A: For me it was important to be in an environment where excellence in academics and athletics was supported and accessible. Louisville provided that. I chose Stanford because it also struck that delicate important balance. Google also offers me the opportunity to work in a very driven environment that is supportive and enables you to live a balanced life.

Q: When did you begin marathon competition and what challenges have you faced?

A: I guess marathoning has always been in the back of my mind. Coach Marie Murphy, Louisville's long time track and cross country coach, is a former Olympic marathoner and she certainly influenced my running career. I also find it astounding that women have only been able to compete in the marathon at the Olympics since 1984. So it's a relatively new event for women and it's exciting to be a part of that. In April at the U.S. Olympic Trials I had the opportunity to race with Joan Benoit Samuelson who won the first Olympic gold medal in the women's marathon. We were actually trying to out-sprint each other in the last 400 meters. (Yes, I managed to out sprint her by eight seconds.)



Shaluinn in competition


I ran my first marathon in 2003 in San Diego. My training was non-specific and my goal was to break three hours. I ran 2:58. After that I experimented with a half ironman triathlon and shorter road races. In 2005, I was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. It was a bit of a shock, but I decided that I wasn't going to let the disease beat me. I made it a goal not only to overcome the cancer but to come back better than before. I thought a marathon would be a good goal, and I thought if I could qualify for the Olympic Trials it would make the goal steep enough for me to feel like I had really beat the disease. In 2006, less than a year after surgery and treatment, I ran my second marathon in Chicago and finished in 2:51—four minutes shy of qualifying. After that I knew that the qualifying standard was attainable.

Q: What marathons have you competed in? Best times?

A: I've completed in four marathons. My best finish was third place at the 2008 Napa Marathon where I ran a personal best of 2:46:04 and qualified for the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials.

Q: Anything else at all that you'd like included? (Husband? We don't want to leave him out!)

A: I met my husband, Ramsey Allington, at Google in 2002—we met at a Halloween party. He was Clark Kent/Superman and I was a Catholic school girl (ironic), but everyone thought I was trying to be Britney Spears. We just celebrated our two-year anniversary on May 20th.

 Do you have an interesting story to share about yourself or another alumna? Please contact Mary Loffa at mloffa@louisvillehs.org or 818-346-8812.