

Three women collegiate fencers, Julia Jones and Dorothy Hafner of New York University and Elizabeth Ross of Cornell University, founded the NIWFA in 1929. The inspiration and model for the new athletic association for women was the men's Intercollegiate Fencing Association (IFA) founded a third of a century before. The purpose of the organization was to develop women's intercollegiate fencing and to sponsor an annual championship.

New York University won the first team championship. Mrs. Mildred Stuyvesant Fish of New York, donated the perpetual trophy for the team championship. Julia Jones, an N.Y.U. student won the first individual championship. Until her death in 1995, Ms. Jones was the guiding light of the association she helped to establish.

The Christmas Invitational is an individual event for collegiate women hosted by the NIWFA on the first Sunday in December. Each member college/university may enter a maximum of six foil, six epee and six saber fencers in the annual event. This developmental event for novice fencers sanctions the participation of United States Fencing Association (USFA) Class "C" fencers or below. (Fencers need not be members of the USFA.)

The competition in each weapon is conducted in a round robin format to a final of six fencers. Fencers eliminated in the first round compete in a consolation round. Each entrant is thereby provided with at least two rounds of fencing competition. The six finalists are awarded Julia Jones Medals. The Evelyn Terhune Trophy is presented to the winner of the foil event. The first place epeeist is awarded the Betty Santelli Trophy and the saber champion, the NIWFA Trophy.

The NIWFA Team and Individual Championships are held on the last Saturday in February or the first Saturday in March. Foil, epee and saber teams compete in separate round robin formatted championships. A match between each three-member team consists of three bouts. The total number of bouts won determines the team championship.

The Mildred Stuyvesant Fish Trophy is presented to the Champion Foil Team; the Raymond Miller Trophy to the Champion Epee Team and the Giorgio Santelli Trophy to the Champion Saber Team. The Combined Weapons Team Champion is awarded the Olympians Trophy. The second place team is presented with the West Point Trophy. Each member of the first four teams is awarded a Julia Jones Medal.

Sixteen fencers in each weapon qualify from the team events for participation in the Direct Elimination Individual Championships. The eight finalists in each weapon are awarded Julia Jones Medals. The Foil Champion is awarded the Julia Jones Trophy; the Epee Champion, the Salle Santelli Women's Epee Team Trophy and the Saber Champion, the Saber Trophy.

Any college or university granting a degree at the Bachelor's level is invited to become a member of the association. Members of fencing teams must be matriculated, undergraduate, full-time students in good standing. Student athletes must be amateur fencers. Following the guidelines of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), fencers are eligible to compete in the NIWFA for a total of four years.

The NIWFA remains true to the vision of its founders by continuing to provide competitive fencing opportunities for collegiate women and develop their skills in competition. Many NIWFA alumnae continue to be actively involved in fencing.

19 NIWFA alumnae have participated on one or more Olympic Teams

17 NIWFA alumnae have participated on one or more Pan American Teams

15 NIWFA alumnae have won one or more AFLA and USFA National Championships

How strong is NIWFA competition? Fencing is not a sport which can be measured in absolute terms of how far, how fast or how much. Most NIWFA fencers learn to fence while they are in college, although some started in secondary school or in a club. There is considerable range in skill level among NIWFA fencers. (The competitive field, however, is approximately that of USFA Class "C" fencers or below.)

### **Julia Jones**

In the fall of 1928, a New York University freshman walked onto the basketball court to try out for the men's basketball team. Julia Jones was told to leave as the team was not coed. Determined to participate in intercollegiate athletics, Julia and classmate, Dorothy Hafner who were joined by Elizabeth Ross of Cornell University, founded the Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association.

Later, that spring, the first championship, modeled after the men's IFA's, was held at Cornell University. Julia was the winner of the first Women's Intercollegiate Individual Fencing Championship, as well as a member of the winning New York University Team.

Julia coached the New York University team to three NIWFA Championships, 1932, 1933 and 1938. After raising her family, Julia returned to coaching at Hunter College. Julia was named NIWFA Coach of the Year in 1970 when her Hunter College Team won the Championship. Julia Jones is one of three coaches to win the NIWFA Championship at two different colleges. Julia was selected as one of the coaches of the World University Games Team in 1970.

Julia Jones guided the NIWFA from 1929 until her death in 1993 at the age of 84, one week after coaching Hunter College in the 65th Annual Championship hosted by Vassar College. The NIWFA had outlasted the A.I.A.W. and the N.C.A.A. with seventy four continuous Championships, celebrating its seventy fifth on March 1, 2003 at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey.

### **NIWFA Team Champions**

The NIWFA grew from an initial membership of four teams, Bryn Mawr College, Cornell University, New York University and the University of Pennsylvania to a membership of thirty two teams and, in the decade prior to 2005, twenty teams. In **1964**, the I.W.F.A. experienced a name change as the numerical and geographic growth of the membership called for a **National Championship**.

### **Foil**

#### *Mildred Stuyvesant-Fish Trophy*

1929 New York University

1930 New York University

1931 New York University

1932 New York University

1933 New York University

1934 Brooklyn College

1935 Hunter College

1936 Hunter College

1937 Hunter College

1938 New York University  
1939 Hofstra University  
1940 Hunter College  
1941 Brooklyn College  
1942 Jersey City State College  
1943 Jersey City State College  
1944 Hunter College  
1945 Brooklyn College  
1946 Hunter College  
1947 Hunter College  
1948 Hunter College  
1949 New York University  
1950 New York University  
1951 New York University  
1952 Hunter College  
1953 Hunter College  
1954 Elmira College  
1955 Rochester Institute of Technology  
1956 Paterson State College  
1957 Rochester Institute of Technology  
1958 Paterson State College  
1959 Paterson State College  
1960 Fairleigh Dickinson University  
1961 Paterson State College  
1962 Paterson State College  
1963 Fairleigh Dickinson University  
**1964** Paterson State College  
1965 Paterson State College  
1966 Paterson State College  
1967 Cornell University  
1968 Cornell University  
1969 Cornell University  
1970 Hunter College  
1971 New York University  
1972 Cornell University  
1973 Cornell University  
1974 California State-Fullerton  
1975 San Jose State University  
1976 San Jose State University  
1977 San Jose State University  
1978 San Jose State University  
1979 San Jose State University  
1980 Pennsylvania State University  
1981 St. John's University  
1982 Yale University  
1983 Yale University  
1984 St. John's University  
1985 St. John's University

1986 Temple University  
1987 Temple University  
1988 Temple University  
1989 Temple University  
1990 Paterson State College  
1991 Temple University  
1992 Cornell University  
1993 Cornell University  
1994 Princeton University  
1995 Princeton University  
1996 Rutgers University  
1997 Temple University  
1998 Fairleigh Dickinson University  
1999 Temple University  
2000 Temple University  
2001 Temple University  
2002 Temple University  
2003 Temple University  
2004 Temple University  
2005 Temple University

### **Epee**

#### *Raymond Miller Trophy*

1995 Princeton University  
1996 James Madison University  
1997 Johns Hopkins University  
1998 Temple University  
1999 Temple University  
2000 Temple University  
2001 Temple University  
2002 Temple University  
2003 Temple University  
2004 Temple University  
2005 Fairleigh Dickinson University

### **Sabre**

#### *Giorgio Santelli Trophy*

2000 Tufts University  
2001 Temple University  
2002 Temple University  
2003 Tufts University  
2004 United States Military Academy  
2005 Drew University

### **Combined 3-Weapon**

#### *Olympians Trophy*

1996 Temple University  
1997 Temple University  
1998 Temple University  
1999 Temple University  
2000 Temple University

2001 Temple University  
2002 Temple University  
2003 Temple University  
2004 Temple University  
2005 Temple University

### **Division III**

#### *West Point Trophy*

2001 United States Military Academy  
2002 Johns Hopkins University

### **NIWFA Individual Champions**

#### **Foil**

1929 Julia Jones New York University 1930 Elizabeth Ross Cornell University 1931 Elizabeth Ross Cornell University 1932 Dorothy Hafner New York University 1933 Frances Siegal New York University 1935 Madeline Dalton Hunter College 1936 Mildred Stewart Hunter College 1937 Mildred Stewart Hunter College 1938 Maria Cerra Hunter College 1939 Helena Mroczkowski Hofstra University 1940 Maria Cerra Hunter College 1941 Grace Acel William & Mary 1942 Grace Acel Cornell University 1943 Grace Acel Cornell University 1944 Grace Uthoff Hunter College 1945 Julia Kassell Brooklyn College 1946 Barbara Weiss New York University 1947 Estelle Osher Hunter College 1948 Diane Greenberg New York University 1949 Diane Greenberg New York University 1950 Sally Zacharewitz New York University 1951 Rosemary Nasce New York University 1952 Anne Drungis Hunter College 1953 Cathy Kopp Montclair State College 1954 Sandra Whithead Elmira College 1955 Joanne Monteverde Fairleigh Dickinson University 1956 Jane Dardia Paterson State College 1957 June Johnson Rochester Institute of Technology 1958 Dolores Comerio Jersey City State College 1959 Francesca Sidoti Jersey City State College 1960 Madeline Miyamoto Fairleigh Dickinson University 1961 Paulette Singelakis Paterson State College 1962 Paulette Singelakis Paterson State College 1963 Madeline Miyamoto Fairleigh Dickinson University 1964 Arleen Melnick Paterson State College 1965 Arleen Melnick Paterson State College 1966 Carol Abby New York University 1967 Patricia Preziosi Fairleigh Dickinson University 1968 Karen Denton Cornell University 1969 Sally Pechinsky New York University 1970 Sally Pechinsky New York University 1971 Ruth White New York University 1972 Ruth White New York University 1973 Susan McCourt California-State Fullerton 1974 Peggy Walbridge Cornell University 1975 Vincent Hurley San Jose State University 1976 Stacey Johnson San Jose State University 1977 Vincent Hurley San Jose State University 1978 Stacey Johnson San Jose State University 1979 Joy Ellingston San Jose State University 1980 Gina Farkashazy Wayne State University 1981 Sharon Sobers St. John's University 1982 Andrea Metkus Yale University 1983 Sharon Monplaisir Hunter College 1984 Anne Marie McGrath Paterson State College 1985 Sharon Monplaisir Hunter College 1986 Celeste Murphy Temple University 1987 Cathy Humphrey Temple University 1988 Zoila Palacio Brooklyn College 1989 Sarah Eisenberg New York University 1990 Marie Petit-Michele Temple University 1991 Rachel Carson Temple University 1992 Tracey Thorne New York University 1993 Christi Como Temple University 1994 Kim Carlton Cornell University 1995 Melissa DaSilva Rutgers University 1996 Debbie Curry Temple University 1997 Marissa Barnes-Hopkins Temple University 1998 Marissa Barnes-Hopkins Temple University 1999 Sheelagh Johnson University of Virginia 2000 Sheelagh Johnson Tufts University 2001 Gina Delseo Temple University 2002 Stephanie Izzolino Temple University 2003 Jeanne Browne Temple University 2004 Jeanne Browne Temple University 2005 Emily Hannenbergh United States Military Academy

#### **Epee**

1996 Jenna Morgan James Madison University 1997 Jennifer Rolling Johns Hopkins University 1998 Gina Deleso Temple University 1999 Kim Yasutis University of Virginia 2000 Julia Korony Temple University 2001 Julia Korony Temple University 2002 Julia Korony Temple University 2003 Sara Forsythe Temple University 2004 Stephanie Sargent Temple University 2005 Brena Rabel Drew University

**Sabre**

2000 Sara Walsh Johns Hopkins University 2001 Sara Walsh Johns Hopkins University 2002 Sakinah Shaahid Temple University 2003 Kasara Williams Tufts University 2004 Aziza Hasasan Temple University 2005 Nnennaya Okoro Temple University

**NIWFA Member Colleges (2005)**

City College of New York New York, N.Y. 10031 Cornell University Ithaca, New York 14853 Drew University Madison, New Jersey 07940 Fairleigh Dickinson University Teaneck, N. J. 07666 Haverford College Haverford, Pa. 19041 Hunter College New York, N.Y. 10021 Johns Hopkins University Baltimore, Maryland 21218 Marist College Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601 New Jersey Institute of Technology Newark, N.J. 07012 Queens College Flushing, NY 11367 Smith College Northampton, MA 01063 Stevens Institute of Technology Hoboken, N.J. 07030 Temple University Philadelphia, Pa. 19122 Tufts University Medford, Ma. 02155 United States Military Academy West Point, N.Y. 10996 University of Maryland FC College Park, Md. 20742 University of Virginia FC Charlottesville, Va. 22903 University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32601 Virginia Tech Blacksburg, Va. 24060 Yeshiva University New York, N.Y. 10033

**Sources**

National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association

**NIWFA INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS**

	<b>Foil</b>	
1929	Julia Jones	New York University
1930	Elizabeth Ross	Cornell University
1931	Elizabeth Ross	Cornell University
1932	Dorothy Hafner	New York University
1933	Frances Siegal	New York University
1935	Madeline Dalton	Hunter College
1936	Mildred Stewart	Hunter College
1937	Mildred Stewart	Hunter College
1938	Maria Cerra	Hunter College
1939	Helena Mroczkowski	Hofstra University
1940	Maria Cerra	Hunter College
1941	Grace Acel	William & Mary
1942	Grace Acel	Cornell University
1943	Grace Acel	Cornell University
1944	Grace Uthoff	Hunter College
1945	Julia Kassell	Brooklyn College
1946	Barbara Weiss	New York University
1947	Estelle Osher	Hunter College
1948	Diane Greenberg	New York University
1949	Diane Greenberg	New York University
1950	Sally Zacharewitz	New York University
1951	Rosemary Nasce	New York University
1952	Anne Drungis	Hunter College
1953	Cathy Kopp	Montclair State College
1954	Sandra Whithead	Elmira College
1955	Joanne Monteverde	Fairleigh Dickinson University
1956	Jane Dardia	Paterson State College
1957	June Johnson	Rochester Institute of Technology
1958	Dolores Comerio	Jersey City State College
1959	Francesca Sidoti	Jersey City State College
1960	Madeline Miyamoto	Fairleigh Dickinson University
1961	Paulette Singelakis	Paterson State College
1962	Paulette Singelakis	Paterson State College
1963	Madeline Miyamoto	Fairleigh Dickinson University
1964	Arleen Melnick	Paterson State College
1965	Arleen Melnick	Paterson State College
1966	Carol Abby	New York University
1967	Patricia Preziosi	Fairleigh Dickinson University
1968	Karen Denton	Cornell University

1969	Sally Pechinsky	New York University
1970	Sally Pechinsky	New York University
1971	Ruth White	New York University
1972	Ruth White	New York University
1973	Susan McCourt	California-State Fullerton
1974	Peggy Walbridge	Cornell University
1975	Vincent Hurley	San Jose State University
1976	Stacey Johnson	San Jose State University
1977	Vincent Hurley	San Jose State University
1978	Stacey Johnson	San Jose State University
1979	Joy Ellingston	San Jose State University
1980	Gina Farkashazy	Wayne State University
1981	Sharon Sobers	St. John's University
1982	Andrea Metkus	Yale University
1983	Sharon Monplaisir	Hunter College
1984	Anne Marie McGrath	Paterson State College
1985	Sharon Monplaisir	Hunter College
1986	Celeste Murphy	Temple University
1987	Cathy Humphrey	Temple University
1988	Zoila Palacio	Brooklyn College
1989	Sarah Eisenberg	New York University
1990	Marie Petit-Michele	Temple University
1991	Rachel Carson	Temple University
1992	Tracey Thorne	New York University
1993	Christi Como	Temple University
1994	Kim Carlton	Cornell University
1995	Melissa DaSilva	Rutgers University
1996	Debbie Curry	Temple University
1997	Marissa Barnes-Hopkins	Temple University
1998	Marissa Barnes-Hopkins	Temple University
1999	Sheelagh Johnson	University of Virginia
2000	Sheelagh Johnson	Tufts University
2001	Gina DeIseo	Temple University
2002	Stephanie Izzolino	Temple University
2003	Jeanne Browne	Temple University
2004	Jeanne Browne	Temple University
2005	Emily Hannenberg	United States Military Academy
2006	Emily Hannenberg	United States Military Academy
2007	Emily Hannenberg	United States Military Academy
2008	Nina Gernes	Temple University
2009	Melissa Parker	Temple University



	<b>Epee</b>	
1996	Jenna Morgan	James Madison University
1997	Jennifer Rolling	Johns Hopkins University
1998	Gina DeIeso	Temple University
1999	Kim Yasutis	University of Virginia
2000	Julia Korony	Temple University
2001	Julia Korony	Temple University
2002	Julia Korony	Temple University
2003	Sara Forsythe	Temple University
2004	Stephanie Sargent	Temple University
2005	Brenna Rabel	Drew University
2006	Brenna Rabel	Drew University
2007	Erica Galarza	Fairleigh Dickinson University
2008	Alyssa Lombardi	Temple University
2009	Kristin Howell	Temple University
	<b>Sabre</b>	
2000	Sara Walsh	Johns Hopkins University
2001	Sara Walsh	Johns Hopkins University
2002	Sakinah Shaahid	Temple University
2003	Kasara Williams	Tufts University
2004	Aziza Hasasan	Temple University
2005	Nnennaya Okoro	Temple University
2006	Louisa May Zouein	Tufts University
2007	Louisa May Zouein	Tufts University
2008	Christie Griffith	Temple University
2009	Kamali Thompson	Temple University