



# Columbus Academy

## *Currier Lecture Series*

Presents Its 15th Guest Speaker Since 1996:



## Joan Benoit Samuelson

*1984 Olympic Gold Medalist*

**Wednesday, February 10, 2010**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Columbus Academy Schoedinger Theatre**

This is a FREE lecture, but seating is limited!

If you have a large group, please register in advance by contacting Kyle Tong at (614) 509-2282 or [currierlecture@columbusacademy.org](mailto:currierlecture@columbusacademy.org).

4300 Cherry Bottom Road • Gahanna, Ohio 43230  
(614) 475-2311 • [www.columbusacademy.org](http://www.columbusacademy.org)

Joan Benoit Samuelson is considered by many to be one of the all-time great marathon runners the world has ever seen. As a relative unknown, she won the 1979 Boston Marathon in 2:35:15, knocking eight minutes off the competition record. She repeated that success with a victory again in 1983 that took more than two minutes off the world's best time despite having had surgery on her Achilles tendons two years earlier. Her Boston course record of 2:22:43, set in 1983, was not broken for another 11 years.

At the 1984 Los Angeles Games, Benoit Samuelson won the first Olympic women's marathon in a time of 2:24.52, more than a minute ahead of her rivals; again despite surgery, this time arthroscopic surgery on her knee 17 days before the trials earlier that year. In 1985, she won the Chicago Marathon in an American Record time of 2:21:21 (that would last 18 years), won the prestigious Falmouth Road Race for the sixth time and received the 1985 James E. Sullivan Award as the top amateur athlete in the United States.

Benoit Samuelson has coached and written books – including “Running Tide” and “Running for Women” – and is a motivational speaker, sports commentator and an advocate for environmental and health issues. She also founded the Beach to Beacon Road Race, a 10 km (6.21 mile) race held each August in her hometown of Cape Elizabeth, Maine. In 2006, she helped pace former cycling champion Lance Armstrong as he competed in the New York City Marathon. She recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of her Olympic gold medal by running the New York City Marathon in 2:49:09, breaking the age 50-plus division record by almost five minutes.

