



Paul Biggs SFSU

## **Olivia Quigley**

Chinese American

### **Track and Field**

Olivia Quigley (1991- ) was adopted from China when she was three years old. She had autism, which slowed down her ability to understand other people. Doctors warned her parents that their new daughter would never be able to live alone or hold a job but Olivia's parents were determined to help her. They enrolled her in special classes and sports programs. Slowly Olivia made progress. When she was 24, Olivia was scheduled to run in Special Olympics, but she received bad news about her health. She had cancer and had to have chemotherapy which made her very sick. Still, Olivia ran. The little girl with the quick smile grew up to be a kind-hearted young woman who won two gold medals and one silver one in the 2015 Special Olympics. She also proved her doctors wrong and held a full-time job.