Champions again! Senior Rodgers sparks Bears to 4th consecutive national title

BY ANTHONY WILSON

For a brief moment in the history of basketball, Tasha Rodgers owned the game. The Bears' starting power forward and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association National Player of the Year declared the national championship game Saturday against Messiah College her own.

"You never assume you'll win four championships in a row," Bears head coach Nancy Fahey said. "We've been blessed with great players, and big-time players perform in big situations. That's what happened with Tasha."

Holding a precarious 40-35 lead halfway into the second half after leading by 15 at halftime, Rodgers ripped three consecutive steals from the 5'10" Falcon player and raced the length of the court for uncontested layups.

It was the beginning of a 20-0 run that would propel the Bears to a 67-45 win in Danbury, Conn., for their fourth consecutive NCAA title.

Rodgers finished with 18 points and seven boards, giving the Bears a dominating physical presence on defense and an all-around offensive contribution. "It was just a lot of hard work," Rodgers said.

"My teammates did an excellent job of getting me the ball, and I just made the shots I needed to make."

In the tournament semifinal March 16 against Emmanuel College, Rodgers tied for game-high honors with 24 points, impressive in that she didn't put her name on the scoresheet until 16 minutes into the contest. It was junior forward Robin Lahargoue who drained many of her shots in the second half, scoring 14 after the break on the way to a career-high 20 to help the Bears notch a 78-62 win.

Bуд stay stellar in the final as she hit three free throw attempts to improve her team's lead six minutes into the second half.

Senior Tasha Rodgers (right) and her teammates hold up four fingers during the postgame celebration of Saturday's 67-45 win over Messiah College that gave the Bears their fourth consecutive NCAA title.

Rodgers matched only by North Tropic national championship, a to a 67-45 win in Danbury, Conn., for their fourth consecutive NBA title.

Dribble of a Falcon player and consecutive steals from the...
Colwell, NSF director to speak at May 18 Conference
— Tom Page

By Donna Kettenbach

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced that it will host the inaugural conference to formally inaugurate the Interdisciplinary Studies Program at Washington University in St. Louis.

The conference is being held in conjunction with the opening of the new Interdisciplinary Studies Program, which is designed to bring together faculty members from various disciplines to explore the intersection of science and engineering.

The conference will feature presentations by leading researchers and educators, including highlights from the annual NSF symposium on the role of computational scientists in modern science.

The conference will also feature panels and workshops on topics such as the future of computational science, the role of NSF in supporting interdisciplinary research, and the importance of interdisciplinary education.

In addition to the conference, the University will also be launching a new Interdisciplinary Studies Program, which will bring together faculty members from various disciplines to explore the intersection of science and engineering.

The program will focus on the important role of interdisciplinary research in addressing complex problems in science and engineering, and on the need for new approaches to training and education in these fields.

The program is being led by Dr. Sherry University Professor, who is a leader in the field of computational science.

The Interdisciplinary Studies Program is being supported by a $5 million grant from the NSF, which is one of the largest sources of funding for research in the United States.

The grant will support the development of new courses and research projects that will explore the intersection of science and engineering, and will provide opportunities for students to work on interdisciplinary research projects.

The center will also offer a number of opportunities for students to engage in research, including a new, fully endowed graduate student position in computational science.

The center will be located in the new Interdisciplinary Studies building, which is currently under construction.

The building will include state-of-the-art research facilities, including a high-performance computer and a supercomputer.

The center will be dedicated to the study of complexity and the role of computation in modern science, and will bring together faculty members from various disciplines to explore these topics.

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Depression affects heart rate after heart attack

BY JOE DUTIEU

A study by the Memory and Aging Project at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., published in the New England Journal of Medicine, found that individuals with MCI, or mild cognitive impairment, have significantly lower heart-rate variability than those who do not have MCI. This lower heart-rate variability is associated with increased risk of heart attack and death.

Mild heart impairment is among those who are likely to be clinically depressed, and the incidence of depression rises as people age. So scientists now believe that depression is a risk factor for death.

The volunteers were reassessed annually for up to 9.5 years. After five years, Alzheimer’s disease had developed in 6.8 percent of the nondepressed patients and 39 percent of the depressed patients. The results suggest that MCI, confirmed that 21 had developed the clinical symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease.

In the study, participants return with their volunteer, call 286-2683.

The Memory and Aging Project (MAP) develops and tests new interventions for Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of cognitive impairment. The researchers — including the principal investigator, John C. Morris, Ph.D., professor of medicine and primary investigator for the Memory and Aging Project (MAP) develop a relative or close friend to the study participant, call 286-2683.

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The University's Assembly Carbondale (SIUC), which he Southern Illinois University at Memorial lectures at 4 p.m. Monday in Graham Chapel.

Noon. Cell biology and physiology 11 a.m. Religious Studies Program

Friday, March 23

362-7043.

Noon-1 p.m. Genetics seminar.

Saturday, March 24

4:30 p.m. Science colloquium.

Sunday, April 1

Noon-1 p.m. Neuroscience seminar.

Monday, April 2

1 p.m. Complex analysis seminar.

Monday, March 30

3 p.m. NMR Spectroscopy seminar.

454-6006.

Monday, April 2

10:30 a.m. Mesoamerican and Early Americas Colloquium. "The Fission 1 p.m. Complex analysis seminar.

8 a.m.-5 p.m. PDI Spring Maintenance. (Also March 31 and April 6-7, same time, and March 30-31, 3 p.m. only). Tufts Library. For information, call 935-5565.

Music

Friday, March 23

11 a.m. Mathematics colloquium. "The Fission of the Groups $U(n)$ and $SU(n)$ on Complex Manifolds." Alexander Isaev, U. of Zurich, Switzerland. Room 928 McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 935-5098.

4 p.m. Music department recital. "Science and/or Education Center. 362-2763.

6:30 p.m. Symposia on Science, Religion and Science. "Science and/or Education Center. 362-2763.

4 p.m. Medical Microbiology and Immunology seminar. "Insights Into the Evolution of Lysine Sensitization Can Be a Real Pain." Jon Boothroyd, prof, and co-chair of Microbial Pathogenesis Seminar Series. 935-6276.
The Darker Face of the Earth, a St. Louis premiere, at Edison Center, 6352 Forsyth Blvd. 935-9191.
**Religious groups bring spirituality into trips**

By Neil Schoenherr

Spring break is traditionally a time for students to get away, relax and leave behind the pressures of studying, at least for a little while. But for several religious groups on campus, the break was a time for conducting service, discovering new friendships and reflection on the Jewish faith.

The St. Louis Hill at the University sponsored a "spirit quest" to the deserts of New Mexico. The trip was a chance for 14 students and a tutor to focus on spirituality and the true nature of Judaism as it developed out of the dozen centuries of years ago.

"It was an incredible experience," said Rabbi Hyim Shafar, a leader on the trip. "We were really in the middle of nowhere but the scenery was incredible. People became inspired by the kind of beauty, and we had some great discussions about the nature of our faith and spirituality in general."

The group, divided into four units, spent their mornings exploring, and discussing of nature and spirituality as they reflected on Jewish faith.

"We really encouraged the students to take this experience home with them and to remember it in their everyday lives," Shafar said. "Hopefully it will help them to live life more attuned to the present moment."

Both the Catholic Student Center and the Lutheran Campus Ministry used spring break as a time for service to communities. Students went to Costa Rica and Ireland, respectively.

"It was rewarding to build the foundation of a home. They also worked and ministered at a soup kitchen," said Freeman, who helped plan and organize the trip.

Sophomore Meredith Schwinder (left) and senior Sara Takalski take a break from hiking in the desert highlands of New Mexico during their spring break trip.

**Emerald Isle trip opens eyes to Irish culture**

By Neil Schoenherr

The students in Philip Freeman's early Irish literature and mythology class have spent the semester immersed in the Emerald Isle's history and literature. What better way to make the informed leap than to see the subject firsthand?

That's exactly what the 15 members of the class did during spring break.

"I was looking at all these different places where these myths and legends lived," said Freeman, Ph.D., assistant professor of Classics in Arts & Sciences and live-in faculty fellow at Brookings Residential College. "This trip would really give the students a feel for the Irish history and culture behind the literature."

Students were able to visit several museums, explore archaeological sites, attend a performance in Dublin's Abbey Theatre, see the country's west coast, and much more. They even picked up a bit of Gaelic along the way.

"It was a wonderful trip," Freeman said. "It was definitely a great time but it was also very educational. It really gave us an Irish perspective on things and a firsthand look at Irish culture."

It was Yeldani's first time in Ireland; he enjoyed it thoroughly.

"We were able to see Trinity College in Dublin, the National Museum and in Copenhagen, Ireland," he said. "The trip really expanded my knowledge of Irish culture."

Even though Freeman made previous trips to the trip well in advance, the group was not able to stay for Ireland's most famous holiday, St. Patrick's Day.

"They were so happy to stay that in advance, we couldn't," Freeman said. "All the hotels were booked solid."

**Vegas**

University students help build homes in N.M.

from Page 2

and volunteer at a preschool.

These spring break trips are far from the ones shown on TV. Students weren't always living in the lap of luxury, but that never stops the alternative spring break program from being popular.

Student response to the program has been quite positive. Many students said that an application and selection process has never been more important.

"It was definitely hard work," said Eric Christensen, a student leader of the Suffolk Springs trip. "We were building a habitat to house chickens and other animals. The structure was 10 feet by 40 feet.

It was rewarding to meet the local people we were helping and it was good to get involved. I'd definitely do it again."
Lee Ratner, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine, has received a one-year, $72,000 grant from the American Foundation for AIDS Research for a project titled "Inhibition of HIV with Transduced Tat Fusion Proteins."... 

Edwin Fisher, Ph.D., professor of psychology in Arts & Sciences, medicine and pediatrics, has received a nine-month, $61,838 grant from the Longer Life Foundation to help fund the "Longevity Center at Washington University."... 

Tatiana Akimoto, M.D., postdoctoral fellow in the School of Medicine, has received a one-year, $20,000 grant from the National Kidney Foundation of Eastern Missouri and Metro East Inc. for research titled "Chimeric Pig Kidney."... 

Richard J. Battafarano, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor in cardiothoracic surgery in the School of Medicine, has received a two-year, $190,000 second John H. Gibson Jr. Research Scholarship from the American Association for Thoracic Surgery. ... 

Renee M. Cunningham-Williams, Ph.D., research assistant professor of social work in the School of Medicine, has received a five-year, $559,187 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for a research project titled "Issues in Gambling and Comorbid Drug Abuse."... 

Tetra Akimoto, M.D., professor in the School of Medicine and former chairman of the Department of Medicine, will be honored, along with Miriam and Helios Schonfeld, by Bikur Cholom Hospital of Jerusalem at a testimonial dinner at the Shenandoah Clayton Plaza Hotel in June. The Schonfelds are being honored for their outstanding contributions to the civic, philanthropic and medical communities. 

Carrie Heilman, Ph.D., assistant professor of marketing at the Olin School of Business, has been named winner of the 2001 Paul E. Green Award from the Journal of Marketing Research for a paper she co-authored titled "The Evolution of Brand Preferences and Choice Behaviors of Consumers New to a Market." The paper appeared in the May 2000 issue of the journal. The award recognizes the article published in 2000 that shows or demonstrates the most potential to contribute significantly to the practice of marketing research and practice in marketing. ... 

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From Japan to the University

Suga and his family emigrated from post–World War II Japan. Five months before the war’s end, allied bombers raided Suga’s hometown of Yamagata, burning out the city. The Suga family came out unscathed, but Suga’s father’s printing business was totally destroyed. Nonetheless, the young Suga eventually was able to attend Tokyo Metropolitan University and earned a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1958. Suga said a pivotal point in his career came shortly before he graduated.

“I was traveling by train from the university with my advisor, Dr. Katsuki Dan,” Suga said. “He asked, ‘What are your plans after graduation?’ I told him I wanted to continue my biology. I could think of nothing else that interested me so much. And Dr. Dan, a famous embryologist and son of a baron, said, ‘If you are the first person I know who wants to be a biologist without money.’”

In Japan, Suga explained, biology was largely a taxonomic science. The tradition was to study from wealthy families and don’t even need to take a salary. A week later, Dan suggested that Suga write a paper on English about his human brain processes speech sounds. Suga’s work has been honored many times, culminating in his 1989 appointment as a professor in the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest distinctions accorded a scientist or engineer can attain.

Dr. Dan told me he thought I'd do well in neurophysiology, plus his friend had lots of research grants,” Suga laughed heartily. “I visited the professor and was offered a job working on auditory physiology in cats. Dr. Katuki suggested that I work on hearing in insects for my Ph.D. While I worked with – ‘you colleagues on cats and then try independently on insects.’

Money was never a problem again for Suga. His early work on insect neurophysiology was so successful that he attracted the attention of D.V. Wigglesworth, Ph.D., of Cambridge University, a prominent insect physiologist, and Donald R. Griffin, Ph.D., of Harvard University, a pioneering bat researcher known as the “Father of Echolocation.” Wigglesworth suggested that Suga apply for a fellowship at the British Embassy in Tokyo, whereas Griffin had an NSF research grant to support his research at Harvard. Ironically, Suga, who traces his fascination for biology to childhood summer projects on insects, a staple food for bats, found himself pulled away from insects to bats, one of his major predators.

“I had the choice of staying at an existing place without money or getting into another exciting place with money,” Suga said. He went to Harvard after finishing his dissertation in March 1963. From Harvard, Suga’s career took off in stunning fashion. He made a name for himself in neurophysiology with the publication of several important papers, and two years after landing in the United States, the research hierarchy provided new insights at a time when both the research community and students are highly interested in the brain. His presence on the Arts & Sciences faculty brings great distinction to Washington University.”

Edward S. Macias

“His pioneering work with the auditory system of bats has provided new insights at a time when both the research community and students are highly interested in the brain. His presence on the Arts & Sciences faculty brings great distinction to Washington University.”

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Nobuo Suga, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts & Sciences, works in his den-like Monsanto Laboratory office, which is adorned with photographs of bats, Suga’s research specialty. At the entrance of Suga’s office is a Noren, an ornate denim cloth with a samurai decoration framed in leather. His choice of materials reflects his Japanese heritage. Suga is also an enthusiastic supporter of local restaurants and stores. A Japanese post-doctoral student of Suga’s presented him with the gift.

Nobuo Suga, Ph.D., has led groundbreaking studies of neural mechanisms involved in echolocation.

By Tony Fitzpatrick

Nobuo Suga

Born: Toyko, Japan

University position: Professor of Biology in Arts & Sciences

Education: B.A., biology, 1958; Ph.D., biology, 1963, both from Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo

Family: Wife Hiroko; son Ibuki; daughter Yuko

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