Supplier Diversity Initiative
Great progress made; efforts ‘must continue’

BY ANDY CLAASSEN

The Supplier Diversity Initiative’s annual report for fiscal year 2004 shows the University spent $11.2 million with minority-owned firms and $7 million with women-owned firms, a total of $28.3 million.

Construction spending continues to represent the majority of the total dollars spent directly with minority- and women-owned businesses, 38 percent of the total dollars spent with women and 49 percent of the total dollars spent with minority-owned firms.

Additionally, spending with joint-venture contractors (those that are at least 25 percent minority-owned) came in at $8.8 million in fiscal year 2004.

In 1999, the University started to build new relationships with women- and minority-owned firms and businesses, and those relationships are continually being built. Dr. Mark Wrighton, director of the Supplier Diversity Initiative, pointed out that the original goal was to cultivate and nurture these relationships.

This goal is still working.

“Initially, the community needed to know that Washington University was serious about its commitment to change,” Wrighton said.

“As an established institution for 150 years, WUSTL had a past that did not often reflect our commitment.”

“After the visible changes of new relationships and new programs offered by the University, the community began to take a more serious look. We serve as a model now for others who are looking at best practices for supplier diversity.”

“Although we continue to recognize the challenges and pitfalls we still have to overcome, we welcome the short of having accomplished.”

There are always more — and better — ways to incorporate minority- and women-owned businesses into the University’s goals. And to help get those businesses headed in the right direction, the University has several programs in place.

“We have indeed made some progress,” said Wrighton. “But we still have not yet achieved the extent of engagement that would seemingly be possible.”

“We must continue our efforts to build capacity and sustain our proactive efforts to work with existing and new companies.”

One of those efforts, a “Business of Construction” series for emerging contractors, is a joint effort between the University and the Associated General Contractors of St. Louis. To date, more than 80 individuals representing 44 firms have participated in the course.

“The program of Business of Construction is a great snapshot of what some of these contractors need to know because a lot of them are very small,” said Marion Hayes III, a University alumnus and owner of BRK Electric. “Some of them are only one-person residential areas, but have not been exposed to the major construction

See Diversity, Page 6

new type of RNA polymerase discovered in plants

BY TONY FITZPATRICK

WUSTL biologist have discovered an entirely new cellular “machine” in plants that plays a significant role in flower development and DNA methylation, a key chemical process essential for an organism’s development.

A team headed by Craig S. Pikaard, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts & Sciences, has discovered a fourth kind of RNA polymerase found only in plants and speculated to have been around for more than 80 million years.

RNA polymerase is an enzyme, or protein machine, essential for carrying out functions of cells and for expression of biological traits. It does its job by copying a template of DNA genetic information in order to make proteins.

Scientists have studied three kinds of RNA polymerase for decades in organisms ranging from brewer’s yeast to humans. In all eukaryotes, the RNA is transcribed by Pol II and III and perform the same distinctive functions despite separate, functions in different parts of the cell.

But then along came Pol IV. Pikaard and his colleagues looked for evidence for a fourth polymerase when analyzing gene sequences after Arabidopsis thaliana, the “laboratory rat” of the plant world, was sequenced in 2001. It originally looked to him like an alternative form of Pol II, and makes the largest of the three polymerases, Pol II, which makes RNAs for protein-coding genes or Pol II, a specialist in making the shorter of the ribo- RNAs and tRNAs.

The big subunit

WUSTL biologist have discovered specifically at two polypeptides that would be the key subunits if the fourth polymerase were functional, namely the largest and second largest subunits Pikaard refers to as the catalytic, or “business end” of any known polymerase.

“Now, we took a reversed genetics approach,” Pikaard said. “We See RNA, Page 6

Recent

4

Washington People: Michael Provinco finds solutions to genetic Rubik’s cube

March 25, 2006

University reaches out to develop mobile classrooms

By DANA BENEDIKTUS

The Monforte Fund has awarded the University $8.7 million to develop, build and operate two custom mobile classrooms, WUSTL will lead a/m partnership — including the St. Louis Science Center, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Saint Louis Zoo and the University of Missouri-St. Louis — to create and provide programming on the vehicles.

Through interactive experiences at stops, the program will help elementary-school students develop enthusiasm for learning and doing science.

Genomic analysis offers trauma treatment tool

BY MICHAEL C. PUDY

Genomic analysis may one day be a primary diagnostic tool for physicians deciding on a treatment course for trauma and other critically ill patients in intensive care units (ICUs), according to a new study by a national collaboration of more than 70 physicians and scientists.

The researchers showed that state of the art techniques for rapidly analyzing changes in activity of all human genes will likely produce useful insights into the health of critically ill patients.

The findings, which are online and will be published in the March 29 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, make it possible for physicians to begin answering important questions about critical care through genomic analysis.

It’s a very exciting time because our field has experienced such frustration with some of these questions, many of which have important ramifications for how we treat patients, said lead author J. Perren M. Cobb, M.D., professor of surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle.

“By doing this, we can begin to answer questions about what’s going on,” said Cobb.

“I think it was incredibly successful, and I’m very proud to have been a part of It.” The overnight event included approximately 1,600 participants on 153 teams and raised more than $224,000 for the American Cancer Society.
Bayly installed as first Hughes professor in engineering

By Barbara Rea

Philip V. Bayly, Ph.D., was installed as the first E. Lisle Hughes Jr. Professor in Washington University's School of Engineering & Applied Science at a ceremony April 1 in Uncas A. Whitaker Hall for Biomedical Engineering. The professorship was endowed by Lilyan Hughes, widow of the late E. Lisle Hughes Sr., who served as a design engineer for the University's mechanical and biomedical engineering departments. The professorship was established in honor of the late E. Lisle Hughes Jr., Whitaker Hall for Biomedical Engineering's namesake and one of the University's most distinguished engineers. Hughes was an international leader in the field of orthotic devices for children with spinal cord injury.

Bayly,持有美国卡内基梅隆大学和美国印第安纳大学博士学位，之前曾任美国卡内基梅隆大学高级研究员。他也是美国医学研究学会和美国国家科学院的成员。Bayly的研究工作主要集中在生物医学和生物医学系统方面的研究。他被授予了美国杜克大学的理学博士学位，并在杜克大学和美国密歇根大学获得了生物学和物理学的博士学位。

His research, though quite varied in function and scope, is focused on the development of devices for mechanical and biomedical systems. Bayly's research team has developed technologies ranging from high-speed machining to measuring deformation of mechanical systems. His research has resulted in numerous publications, conference presentations, and patents.

The symposium addresses several needs in graduate education at Washington University. Those include promoting interdisciplinary communication and community building, increasing awareness of the diverse and high-quality research being carried out by students on both the Hilltop and medical campuses, providing a forum for polishing oral and visual presentation skills, and recognizing laudable accomplishments of graduate students.

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B.C. Cokley has a blast blowing bubbles as part of the group painting program, a support group aimed at helping people who have breast cancer, offers us a chance to be a part of the healing process," says Villars, who is now cancer-free.

"When I was sick, it was hard for us to do things together as a family. That aspect of health care was really broken up. This program offers us the ability to reach out to the community and touch patients' lives," she says.

Diabetic heart complications focus is of $14 million grant

A five-year, $14 million grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute will establish a University center that will develop better ways to prevent and treat heart disease in diabetic patients.

Diabetics who have heart attacks confront a poor prognosis, according to Daniel P. Rejto, M.D., professor of medicine, of pediatric cardiology and pharmacology.

"Heart disease is the leading killer of diabetics," Kelly says. "When we treat diabetic patients, we have to be sure that they get the care they need."

"One of the main goals of the new SCCR grants is to aggressively link diabetic research to improving patient treatments," Kelly said. "This program will be a part of the healing process," says Villars, who is now cancer-free.

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Corporate Scandals • Greenhouse Effect • Injury Prevention

University Events

**Undergraduate research** Craig Wilson, a senior majoring in biology and economics, both in Arts 
and Sciences, will present his research titled "The Material Parasites and Hemoglobin Degradation" as part of the first Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium March 21-23. The event showcased undergraduate research across several academic disciplines and was held in Room 205 of the Arts & Sciences Laboratory Science Building. The presentations of March 21 focused on the natural sciences; March 22 featured tri student research; and March 23 had the social sciences/humanities symposium.

**Exhibits**


**Poverty as We Know It:** Guaran-
Riley Distinguished Professor of Envi-
ronment. America's working poor. Particu-
lar emphasis will be given to the pros-
perity and well-being for the many barriers to economic
in the Bryan Cave Moot Court-
Interdisciplinary Perspectives," the Working Poor: Clinical and
of Social Work will host the fifth
Conference, "Poverty, Wealth and
Fox, which has censored
humor has unnerved its host net-
programs more closely since the
among young adult males. The
Family Guy
BY JESSICA MARTIN

**How to submit University Events**

**Friday, March 25**

7 p.m., on Art Museum Presentation, Cohen Auditor, eye, dir., Cohen Museum, 928-4023.

7:30 p.m., on Italian Film Festival Presentation, Le Magh Grewal (The Best of Youth). (also 7:30 p.m. March 29) Co-sponsored by the Program in Film & Media Studies Program and the Italian Center at Chicago. Brown Hall, Rm. 990-4265.

8 a.m. B. Louis Screening, The Shrinker Jean-Christophe Lestrade, Co-sponsored by the Film & Media Studies Program and the Sundance Channel. Blackman Hall, Rm. 215. 9:30-4265.

**Friday, April 1**

7:30 p.m, on Italian Film Festival Presentation, If Dune Farrow (Norman). Sponsored by the Program in Film & Media Studies and the Italian Center at Chicago. Brown Hall, Rm. 990-4265.

**Tuesday, April 5**

7 a.m., on University Presentation, Changing Times on the Courtyard. Co-sponsored by the Cullman Library, 935-9949.

**WUSTL to host forum on 'Poverty, Wealth and the Working Poor'**

**How by JESSICA MARTIN**

The School of Law and the Center for Interdisci-
Study and the Journal of 
Conference, "Poverty, Wealth and the Working Poor: 
iorship will host the fifth annual 
Equal Justice Conference, "Poverty, Wealth and the Working Poor: Conference and Inter-
and the Journal of Law and Policy, the 
the conference is designed for all 
structors, including law, social 
ology, political science, psychology, 
education. William P. Quigley, the Janet 
Distinguished Professor of Law, WUSTL University in New Orleans and author of Finding Poverty as We Know It: Determining a Right to a Job at a Living Wage, will present the keynote

Federal Communications
Commission tightened restric-
tions on indecency. Fox canceled
several programs more closely since the

Federal Communications
Commission tightened restric-
tions on indecency. Fox canceled
several programs more closely since the

address at 9 a.m.

Other featured speakers include:

- Mark R. Rank, Ph.D., the 
- Sudan, and as co-author of the 
- Laura Lin, Ph.D., professor of social work and of anthropology at the University of Texas and co-author of Making Ends Meet: How Simple Market Survivors Survive and Succeed.
- Thomas M. Shapiro, Ph.D., the Pokross Professor of Law and Social Policy at the Brandeis 
- Sheila R. Foster, professor of law and co-director of the Tenant Center at the Faedholm School of Law, and Luke C. Wolfe, director of the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment in San Francisco. Foster and Coyle are co-authors of From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement. 
- Scott W. Saunders, asst. prof, of pediatrics. Medical Sciences Bldg., Rm. 426. 410-5406.
- Cell biology and Physiology Seminar. "Evading P53 Action During Tumor Development and Therapy." Scott W. Saunders, asst. prof, of pediatrics. Medical Sciences Bldg., Rm. 426. 410-5406. 7:30-12:45 p.m. on Italian Film Festival Presentation, If Dune Farrow (Norman). Sponsored by the Program in Film & Media Studies and the Italian Center at Chicago. Brown Hall, Rm. 990-4265.
- Registration and a conference agenda are available online at law.wustl.edu/links/conference/interdisciplinary/2005/ agenda.html.

**Monday, March 28**

7 a.m., on Working Family Pro-
cession Program Conference. "Transportation and the Home: The Home Market in the New Fiat." Continues 8:30 a.m., March 29, 9 a.m., March 30, 9 a.m., March 31.

2 p.m., on Loyola University's School of Health Sciences-Bloomington. "An Introduction to the History of Nursing." Sponsored by the School of Nursing. Schwartz Auditorium. 721-2884.

3 a.m., on Loyola University's School of Health Sciences-Bloomington. "An Introduction to the History of Nursing." Sponsored by the School of Nursing. Schwartz Auditorium. 721-2884.

**Thursday, March 31**

4 p.m., on Psychology and the Challenges of Achieving Equal Access to 
residual evidence is available online at law.wustl.edu/links/conference/interdisciplinary/2005/agenda.html.

**March 27**

4 a.m., on Working Family Pro-
cession Program Conference. "Transportation and the Home: The Home Market in the New Fiat." Continues 8:30 a.m., March 29, 9 a.m., March 30, 9 a.m., March 31.

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**Monday, April 4**


**April 1**


**April 5**


**April 11**


**April 11**


**Into the Woods to explore the darker side of fairy tales**

**By Liam OTTEN**

What happens after "happily ever after"? Find out when the Performing Arts Department in Arts & Sciences presents Into the Woods — Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine’s musical adaptation of fairy tale faves — as its spring mainstage production. Performances in Edison Theatre will begin at 8 p.m. April 1-2; 2 p.m. April 3; 8 p.m. April 4 & 21 and 2 p.m. April 22.

In addition, the PAD will present "An Interview With James Lapine" at 7 p.m. April 1 in the A.E. Hotchkin Studio Theatre.

Lapine — the Wolf in the PAD’s production of Into the Woods — will speak before the April 1 premiere with a talk at 7 p.m. April 1.

The ragged-looking Wolf (Ben Ogilvie) arrives in the kingdom of Far, Far Away, looking for a wife. He first encounters a baker and his wife (Justin Huebner and Amy Schwarz), who have been under a curse of childlessness by the Witch (Cheryl Howland).

To lift the curse, the couple must bring the Wolf four magical items: a cow as white as milk; a cape as red as blood; hair as yellow as corn; and a slipper as pure as gold.

Yet the quest goes well, and by the end of Act I the couple has secured the necessary items from Jack ("In the beautiful'"; played by Chris Jensen); Little Red Riding Hood ("As soon as the Wolf (Ben Ogilvie) is killed, damsels and princes are rescued.

Even the Witch, freed from a spell of ugliness, is revealed as a stunning beauty. The giant’s wife descends to earth, demanding vengeance and destroying houses.

"Act I is aboutGold. If Act I is about simplicity, Act II is about embracing complexity. It’s about coming to terms with tough decisions and not giving up in your quest to achieve clarity.

"Act III is a fairy tale with a darker side," Whittaker said. "In that, way, that’s the payoff of the play. If Act I is about simplicity, Act II is about embracing complexity. It’s about coming to terms with tough decisions and not giving up in your quest to achieve clarity."

"The trilogy," he added, "is a fairy tale with a darker side."

Paraphrase the above text for clarity: The Wolf in the Performing Arts Department’s production of Into the Woods is being directed by Liam OTTEN.

The performance will begin at 8 p.m. in Edison Theatre.

In addition to Into the Woods, Lapine served as librettist for Sommehold’s Sunday in the Park With Gershon (1983) and Passion (1995). He collaborated with William Finn on M. F. K. Fisher: A Life in the Kitchen (1990), A New Brain (1998) and, most recently, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, which will move to Broadway this spring.

Other Broadway credits include directing Michel Lonsdale’s Amour (2002), and Henry Huggins’ Goldilocks (1998) and the 1997 revival of The Diary of Anne Frank. A TV critic said Lapine "conceived and directed Dairy Blonde (2000).

In 1999, he wrote the book and directed Disney’s The Hunchback of Notre Dame, which premiered in Berlin and ran for 30 years. In 2004, he directed Daniel Goldfarb’s Off Broadway hit Modern Orphan.

Lapine has written five plays, Table Settings (1979), Twelve Dreams (1987), Look Both Ways (1993), The Moment When (1995) and Low (2001).

He has directed television productions of Into the Woods (1991) and the films Irma la Douce (1993); Only You (1994); The Laramie Project (1999), with Susan Stroman, and Lapine has won three Tony Awards, having been nominated 10 times.

Other honors include Five Drama Desk Awards, an Obie Award; the British Evening Standard Award; an Olivier Award; and the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for drama.

For more information, call 935-5585.

**Music**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 27**

11 a.m. Men’s Tennis vs. U. of Chicago. Kelly Field. 935-4705.

12:30 p.m. Women’s Tennis vs. Grinnell. Kelly Field. 935-4705.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 29**

12:30 p.m. Baseball vs. Maryville U. Kelly Field. 935-4705.

6:30 p.m. 17th Annual Mountain Dew College Slam Dunk and 3-point Championship. Student Center lounge. Cost: $15 for students; $20 for others.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1**

2 p.m. Women’s Tennis vs. Grinnell College Tennis Center. 935-4705.

3:30 p.m. Women’s Tennis vs. Harvard. WUSTL University. 935-4705.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2**

12:30 p.m. Men’s Tennis vs. Harvard. Kelly Field. 935-4705.

1:30 p.m. Women’s Tennis vs. Rhodes College. Tennis Center. 935-4705.

2:30 p.m. Women’s Tennis vs. Wash U. Tennis Center. 935-4705.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 3**

12:30 p.m. Women’s Tennis vs. WUSTL University. 935-4705.

1 p.m. Men’s Tennis vs. U. of Chicago. Tennis Center. 935-4705.

4 p.m. Men’s Tennis vs. Linneus Univ. Tennis Center. 935-4705.

**MONDAY, APRIL 4**

7 p.m. Men’s Tennis vs. U. of Minn.-Rochester. Kelly Field. 935-4705.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 5**

12:30 p.m. Women’s Tennis vs. Washington University. 935-4705.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6**

12:30 p.m. Women’s Tennis vs. Grinnell College Tennis Center. 935-4705.

1 p.m. Men’s Tennis vs. U. of Chicago. Tennis Center. 935-4705.

4 p.m. Men’s Tennis vs. Wash U. Tennis Center. 935-4705.
thought, "What happens if we knock these genes out? So, we decided to test whether these small RNAs could be responsible for the developmental defects, and there were huge consequences." The plants survived, but there were slight delays in flowering and some strange floral defects. The plants were having trouble forming flowers. Seedlings tried to turn into petals, for example.

"Our first hypothesis was that the fourth polymerase was involved in maintaining the integrity of the Arabidopsis genome, primarily in keeping the silent DNA stable," Pikaard said.

Coordinator and without Pol IV, whereas they couldn't do without Pol IV, they didn't do anything obviously like Pol IV in any other Arabidopsis accession and we might have overlooked," Pikiard said. While Pikaard and his collaborators have identified Pol IV as a distinct RNA polymerase, they have also found aspects of Pol IV to be unusual.

"We know what happens when it's gone, but not how it behaves at this point," he said.

"We don't know its template, or what kind of RNA — long or short — it made," Pikaard said. Because it is inherently different from their RNAs or the rules, the activity of different backdrop for Pol IV. While Pikaard said the Pol IV has a perfect match in rice, the only other plant genome to be sequenced, despite rice being a monocot and Arabidopsis a dicotyledon.

These two plants diverged 200 million years ago, and there is some speculation that this form of polymerase may have evolved as far back in evolution.

"We wanted to make sure that we could consistently get the same results from an analysis regardless of where the sample was gathered," Cobb said.

Researchers applied DNA microarray data and statistical analysis technology to blood samples and identified differences in 450 important genes in injured and healthy individuals.

"We should also be able to develop more sensitive and specific diagnostic criteria for rigorous science. The protocols they established represent a number of local science, and we're hoping that the project had to offer a number of other studies that we would visit could provide. "We didn't feel it was enough to just go to school and have kids come in for one activity," Myatt said. "We wanted it to be a broad developmental experience, helping them to make a difference in the world, and I am grateful for its efforts.""
Brax receives award for community service

BY NEIL SCHONHERR

Virginia Brax, lecturer in Spanish in Romance languages and literatures at Washington University, has received the Missouri Hispanic Award for excellence in community service from the Hispanic Leaders Group of St. Louis.

Brax is coordinator of community service programs for students of St. Louis.

"It is wonderful to be recognized by the community we are serving," Brax said. "I think this award should also be shared with the Romance languages and literatures department's Spanish students, tutors and volunteers involved in the Cambio, Ninos, Amigos, and La Clinica volunteer programs, serving at-risk adults and youth groups in St. Louis."

The Cambio Program was created six years ago in conjunction with Catholic Community Services of Hispanic's Center, a nonprofit agency in St. Louis. This Program was started three years ago in collaboration with Accion Languages and Literatures of Missouri State University, a non-profit agency serving Hispanics in St. Louis.

Brax is creating a "Gateway to the Future Program" for next year, which will be a bridge between high school and either community college or the job market for underprivileged Hispanic youth with the collaboration of faculty and graduate students from the WUSTL School of Social Work and the students of Spanish in Romance languages and literatures.

"I am grateful and privileged to be part of the outreach efforts in the department and the opportunity they give me and the students to serve the Hispanic community in St. Louis," Brax said.

For more information on Romance languages and literatures volunteer programs for students of Spanish, go online to arts.wustl.edu/forVolunteer.htm.

Campus Watch

The following incidents were reported to University Police March 19-22. Readers with information that could assist in investigating these incidents are urged to call 993-9999. This information is provided as a public service to promote awareness and is available on the University Police web site at police.wustl.edu.

March 16

6:19 p.m. — A student reported being followed by a partner from a previous relationship while he was walking in Snow Way garage. The victim refused to prosecute the suspect; therefore, contact was made with the suspect to warn that any further contact with the victim would result in prosecution for harassment and any further trips to the campus would result in a trespassing arrest.

March 19

11:23 a.m. — A secretary in the Department of Physics in Arts & Sciences reported a known person vandalized the walls on the first floor of Crow Hall. The suspect appears to be a green skater. The incident occurred between 6 p.m. March 17 and 7 a.m. March 18. An investigation is continuing.

March 19

1:27 a.m. — A hooded male of unknown weight was thrown through the front window of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house by an unknown person. The suspect was a white male, approximately 20 years old, wearing dark sunglasses, jeans and a brown feather coat. He had short, curly, brown hair. A damage estimate for the carport was not available. An investigation is continuing.

Additionally, University Police responded to false tornado and auto accidents and one report of a fire alarm. Burglary, radiological violation & property damage.

Notables

Celebrating social work (From left) Vincent Flanagan, a Danforth Urban Fellow in the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, chair with Edward P. Lawlor, Ph.D., dean of the School of Social Work and the William E. Gordon Professor; Betul Ozmat, special assistant to the dean; and Catherine Liff, a School of Social Work alumna, during a March 16 Social Work Month celebration in Brown Hall Lounge. Social Work Month is sponsored by the National Association of Social Workers, the discipline's largest professional organization.

Slam dunk, 3-point contest here March 31

In conjunction with the NCAA Final Four at the Edward Jones Dome April 2-4, the University will host the 7th Annual Machell Dowell College Slam Dunk and 3-Point Championships at 6:30 p.m. March 31 at the Field House.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $8 for students or those 18 and under. Tickets are on sale at the Edison Theatre Box Office, all MetroTix locations, or can be charged by phone at 534-1111 or online at metrotix.com.

The Field House will also host the NCAA Men's Final Four YES Clinic April 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and basketball fans will have the opportunity to meet college coaches and student-athletes and learn how to become a student-athlete.

For more information, contact the clinics, contact Lisa Miller at 977-3167 or millerlj@slu.edu.

Baseball wins first outright NCAA title

The baseball team had a monumental weekend, winning its first outright University Athletic Association championship and third overall title in Sanford, Fla., before returning home for a three-game sweep over the weekend.

The Bears opened the week by defeating Brandeis University, 14-4, March 14. Junior Kent Wallace pitched a complete game and allowed just six hits in the victory, which was the team's 15th win against No. 13 Central College, 4-3, on March 19. Next was a 6-0 win over Loras College on March 19.

The Bears suffered their first loss, 5-4, to No. 8 Augustana College.

Men swimmers, divers take 8th at NCAs

The men's swimming and diving team placed eighth of 56 teams March 17-19 at the NCAA Championships in Holland, Mich.

The finish was the best in program history, surpassing the 10th-place finish the team had established the previous two years.

Junior Michael Slavik took third place in the 100- and 200-yard freestyle events and fourth in the 50 free. He also led off the Bears 800-free relay squad and was joined by freshmen Ross Vinn, sophomore Anthony Venni and junior Eras Trice to clock a school-best time of 2:02 to take second place in the event, marking the best individual finish in school history.

Slavik ended the weekend with all-America citations. Trice also garnered seven all-America nods.

Men's tennis beats No. 19 Graceland

The No. 15 men's tennis team improved to 4-2 with a 4-3 win over Graceland University March 19 at the Tao Tennis Center.

Graceland, which is ranked 19th in the nation, could not get the doubles point by winning two of three matches.

The Bears responded in singles winning four of six matches to gain the one point victory.

Women's tennis team takes care of Cornell

The No. 16 women's tennis team returned from California to a light week, defeating Cornell College, 8-1, March 19 at the Tao Tennis Center.

The Bears took two of three doubles matches and swept all six singles matches in straight sets.

For the Record

Not of note

Hendrik Steven W. Kewyczynski, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics in Arts & Sciences, has received a three-year, $225,000 grant from NASA for research titled "High performance Low-cost Thin Ck CZT Detectors." Gregory C. DePallaga, Ph.D., professor of neurobiology, has won a Toulon Research Award from the National Academy of Sciences for his research into visual mechanisms that contribute to depth perception. The awards recognize unusual achievement in experimental psychology research by scientists under the age of 40. The award includes a $50,000 grant.

Heinz M. Schaeffer, Ph.D., associate professor of electrical and systems engineering, has received a one-year, $45,748 grant from the National Science Foundation for research titled "Optimal Control of Mathematical Models for Cancer Treatments."
Solving the genetics puzzle

Biotostatistician Michael A. Province isn't afraid to think outside the box

"I like being in a field that is so wide open for discovery," he says. "We're looking for what accounts for why we are the way we are. That can be how fat you are, how smart you are, how depressed you are... I believe some day that puzzle will be solved."

When Province started at the University in the late 1980s, both the computing tools and the math tools "were very crude." Back then, he remembers staying late into the evening feeding punch cards into a card reader. "With the computer programs we were coding, we were thrilled to be estimating 10 parameters in a matter of days or even weeks," he says. "Now we input hundreds of parameters and it takes just a few minutes to run the program. It's no big deal."

A multitasking expert Province serves as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on several genetic studies conducted in multiple centers across the world, a fact that keeps him traveling frequently to ensure connections are maintained. The division, and Province's lab especially, often serves as the data coordinating center for these studies.

"We're the traffic cops, directing how the data gets put together," Province says. "Then, of course, we also take a big responsibility in analysis of the data."

Province's projects include studies of longevity, hypertension, heart disease and obesity as well as research on cancer and HIV.

A recent collaborative project with McCleod, also the core director of pharmacology at the St. Louis Cancer Center, looks for genes that govern whether chemotherapy medications will be effective.

Identifying these genes will allow physicians to choose the drug that is apt to work best for each individual," Province says. The project tests varying doses of chemotherapeutic drugs on cell cultures derived from the whole blood cells of volunteers. Because chemotherapeutics are toxic by design, cell death in these cultures is a measure of drug effectiveness.

The cells used in the study came from volunteers who were members of large families and the familial relationship of the donors allows the researchers to trace genes through pedigrees and find genes through statistical analysis of geneticists. But instead of labeling the data as a "junk gene," Province’s lab effectively uses the data to look for genetic factors that can tip the scale of the disease condition — called susceptibility — to make things more interesting.

Province says, "I think Mike Province could run a late night show like David Letterman's," he says. "He's got a sense of humor, Province takes it all in stride. And when faced with a new, intricate and ambitious statistical project, his response is "Sure it's a huge task, but I'll be a lot of fun."