March madness: Men's, women's basketball advance to Final Four

By Jim Dryden

For the second time in three years, Washington University is sending both its men's and women's basketball teams to the NCAA Division III Final Four.

The No. 2-ranked and defending national champion men's team defeated No. 1-ranked and previously unbeaten St. Thomas, 79-64, March 14 in Wheaton, Ill., to advance to the Final Four for the third-straight season.

The Bears will take on No. 23 Guilford College (Greensboro, N.C.) in the national semifinals at 4 p.m. (ET) Friday, March 20, at the Salem Civic Center in Salem, Va.

The No. 5 sowomen's basketball team won a second-half surge by No. 1 and previously unbeaten Illinois Wesleyan University to pick up a 58-53 win March 14 in Bloomington, Ill., and secure its eighth trip to the women's Final Four. They'll travel to the campus of Hope College in Holland, Mich., to take on No. 11 Amherst College (Amherst, Mass.) in the national semifinals at 4 p.m. (ET) Friday, March 20, 2007, the women continue their quest for the national championship game only to lose to DePauw University, 55-52.

"I think that we always knew that we had it in us to get back to the Final Four," junior Zoe Unruh said. "I think that we always knew that we had it in us to get back to the Final Four," junior Zoe Unruh said. "I think that we always knew that we had it in us to get back to the Final Four," junior Zoe Unruh said. "I think that we always knew that we had it in us to get back to the Final Four," junior Zoe Unruh said. "I think that we always knew that we had it in us to get back to the Final Four," junior Zoe Unruh said. "I think that we always knew that we had it in us to get back to the Final Four," junior Zoe Unruh said.

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**Relay For Life to raise money for cancer research**

**By Neil Schoeneweis**

The annual WUSTL Relay For Life will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 23, in the Francis Field. The campus-wide event is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. and end at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 24.

The relay is a 12-hour family-friendly event that takes place on the St. Louis University 合并了的 Commons. Participants form teams made up of students, faculty and staff. Teams raise money for the American Cancer Society through fundraising efforts, as well as through donations from individuals interested in supporting the cause.

Cancer survivors — patients, caregivers and cancer patients — will be remembered and honored. Teams participate in games and activities, including "Relay Race," "The Shining Knight" and the "Sickle Cell Race," which are designed to promote teamwork and foster a positive atmosphere.

Throughout the night, participants will be encouraged to come together to support one another and celebrate the fight against cancer.

**United Nations ambassadors meet at WUSTL March 24**

**By Jessica Martin**

The School of Law will host a delegation of 10 senior diplomats from the United Nations for a public town hall meeting on "Human Security and Humanitarian Intervention" at 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 24, in the Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom of Anheuser-Busch Hall.

The ambassadors will give brief presentations and then take questions from the audience.

The delegation is in St. Louis for five days as part of the United Nations University’s Humphrey Diplomacy Project (HDP) and World Affairs Council’s "UN Across America" initiative, which showcases ambassadors and other diplomats from the United States that they might not normally have an opportunity to visit.

*To schedule an interview with the ambassador, please contact Michael A. Peil, J.D., associate professor of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York.

**International festival March 22**

**By Jessica Martin**

From traditional foods to lively entertainment, students from various countries at the George Washington University’s School of Social Work will gather at their annual spring festival on 2 p.m., Sunday, March 22, in Lab Science Building, Room 300.

The event, which is open to the public, begins with an intercultural performance and ends with an art exhibition. The theme this year is "The Cultural Express: WUSTL brings our social work community together by celebrating all different cultures and traditions."
Mild traumatic brain injuries are focus of research project

By MICHAEL C. PENDY

The Centers for Disease Control reports that every year about 2,800,000 Americans are hospitalized because of traumatic brain injuries, ranging from soldiers injured in Iraq and Afghanistan to football players to auto accident victims. For a person with mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI), also known as concussion, the disabling long-term effects can include fatigue, sleep disruption, memory problems, and changes in mood and behavior. Standard anatomical brain imaging scans will be integrated with three experimental scanning techniques to study patients with MTBI.

The first experimental technique, magnetic resonance diffusion tensor imaging (DTI), produces detailed measurements of water diffusion within tissue. Researchers can use this data to detect how functional damage too fine to be detected by structural scans. The second, functional connectivity MRI, detects functional abnormalities by measuring long-term changes in activity of brain areas that are connected to each other. The third, magnetoencephalography, very rapidly records changes in brain activity by detecting small changes in the magnetic fields produced by the brain.

"If you view the brain's gray matter as a network of computers, then a traumatic injury is a little like a virus that changes the connections between them," said Corbetta.

"We are investigating whether MTBI patients have changes in the anatomical network that connects different regions of the brain that function together," said Corbetta.

"They didn't need to wear a neck brace after surgery" said Riew. "That would mean they had a better clinical outcome. That's good for patients. If they had a job, they returned to work faster. And many had a resolution of their pain faster than fusion patients. With a spinal fusion, there are some pain and activity restrictions until the bones of the spine are fully incorporated."
**University Events**

**Exhibits**

- "Two Souvenirs: Dudley's "School in the Future.""
- "Feast From the Womb of 1717 to the Womb of the 21st Century."
- "Shanghai Images From the 1979-82 Exposition of 1900: Images From the Yellow Building from Nature's Blueprints."

**Film**

- "Metamorfs: An Animal Drama," starring peter sarsgaard, kate winslet, and ben whishaw.
- "The ABCs of DNA," a documentary on the discovery of the DNA double helix.
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**Lectures**

- "Annelise Mertz Dance Studio." A performance by the Annelise Mertz Dance Company. In the Annelise Mertz Dance Studio.
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**Brugada Syndrome • Imperial China • Reforming Family Court**

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T he annual Washington University African Film Festival will be March 26-29. The event will feature films that emphasize movement and migration in Africa and explore their cultural and political identities.

The African Film Festival is a unique event on this campus that I look forward to every year," said junior Chiamaka Onwuzurike, president of the African American Student Association. "It brings together not only students but members of the St. Louis community who share an interest in Africa. Some of the films will make you laugh, some will make you cry, but you're sure to come away with new information.

All screenings are free and open to the public and begin at 7 p.m. each evening in Brown Hall. Room 100. A preview discussion and reception will follow Saturday's films.

Also on March 26, the "Documenting 100 Years: The Lost Women," a film about narrating moving their husbands through black nationalism and the consequences when Metenza, a young African woman, becomes pregnant. Willetta Toliver-Diallo, Ph.D., assistant dean, senior lecturer in African & African American studies in Arts & Sciences and the event's organizer, said "It's a fascinating film because the women in it defied all stereotypes people have about African-American women."

Toliver-Diallo said one of the most captivating films in the series is "Shoot the Messenger," with both a female screenwriter and director. The film, being shown March 27, won the Dutch Screen Potter- writing Award and two British Academy of Film and Television Arts Awards.

The film is a journey of self-discovery for the protagonist, who is struggling to understand what it means to be black in 21st century Britain. In the United Kingdom, blacks come from the Caribbean as well as Africa, so forming a community is not something easy.

Many of the films being shown are award winners and all are suitable for all ages.

The films have been produced by Africa's African Film Festival, a New York-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting African art, literature and culture.

The traveling film series is in its 15th year, highlights an often-neglected part of the international film culture — and one frequently overlooked by major film distributors. Each year, the series travels to about a dozen cities, thousands of viewers. who would otherwise have little or no opportunity to view African cinema.

The traveling series is made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Campus sponsors include African & African American American Studies and Films and Media Studies programs, both in Arts & Sciences; the African American Student Association; and the African Students of the George Washington University. Additional support is provided by the Women's Social and Community Center.
Saturday Science focuses on Galileo

WUSTL physics professors will explore the genius of Galileo during the Saturday Science semi-
series, sponsored by the Department of
Arts & Sciences. Board 256A, Galileo was the first to understand the
role of controlled experiments in science. His methods of reasoning
represented a sharp break from traditional philosophy. Among
Galileo's great interests were mathe-
atics — the science of motion
— and astronomy.

Galileo's observations and inventive interpretation pro-
vided major support for Coperni-
cus' model of the solar system. It also
undermined the Catholic Church's
imposition of its own theory and created an his-
toric confrontation between
Galileo and the Catholic Church.

The popular Saturday Science
seminar series is in its 17th year. The 2009 lectures begin
Saturday, March 21. They are free and open
to the public, and no registration is required.

Presentations begin at 10 a.m.
and will take place in the Hall
Room 201. The schedule:

• March 21: Michael Friedlander, Ph.D., professor of
physics and science curator, will present "The Scientific Back-
ground.

• March 28: Patrick Gibbons, Ph.D., professor of
physics, will discuss "Galileo's Anomalous Discoveries.

• April 4: John S. Rigden, Ph.D., adjunct professor of
physics, will present "Galileo, A
Founder of Modern Physics.

• April 18: Friedlander will speak about "Galileo's Trial.

For more information, call
935-6237.

Metro

— from Page 1

"Changes made by Metro were not
severe in the areas immedi-
ately surrounding the University," Staff said. "WUSTL is located in a busy
area, where there is high
volume of Metro ridership — not
to mention that these lines serve
vital areas such as shopping and
medical centers."

Cutbacks in Metro service, the University
renewed efforts to promote public transportation — a signifi-
cant factor in the sustainability of
and reducing its carbon footprint — and its U-Plan program.

"The U-Plan enables our campus
community members to
maneuver around the St. Louis area easily and free of charge," Staff said. "It is not only a way
to reduce their carbon footprint, but
also to reduce parking ex-

ces and personal transportation
overhead!"

On Saturday, the University,
The U-Plan program provides benefits-
eligible faculty and staff, tenure
track and full-time employees of basic service contractors
a Universal Metro Pass that allows
free boarding of any Metro bus or
Metrolink light-rail train.

For more information about
Metro changes and to locate re-

cently released schedules and route maps,
visit metrostlouis.org or call
Metro at 231-2345.

For more information on
the U-Plan program, visit parking.
wustl.edu/upass.htm.

Other transportation alternatives

Other transportation altern-
atives exist that can help the
WUSTL community overcome problems caused by changes in
Metro service.

RideFinders car pooling and
van pooling: RideFinders is a regional ridepool
program that helps commuters find other
carpoolers for car pools or
van pools. Visit ridefinders.com for
information. Employees also
can set up their own car
pooling network with neighbors or friends who work at a University
location.

Currently, RideFinders has
established School of Medicine
van pools from Washington, Union
and Festus, and employees
can set up new carpool racks
starting new van pools from St.
Charles/St. Peters and from the
St. Louis/Benefis area.

Car car-sharing pro-
gram: With car sharing, WUSTL
community members can have a vehicle when they
need one if they take alternate
transportation to campus. Registration is free and required
to participate in the program.

To reserve a car, visit share-

wustl.edu. The hourly rate is
$10 for a Toyota Prius and $12
for a Ford Escape. Cars can be
rented for a maximum of 15

Guaranteed Ride Home:
Employees and students must register with Citizen's

Modern Transit to participate in
the program. The program enables those who take
Metrolink or MetroLink
bus or ride their bicycle to work to

take a discounted taxi ride
home up to four times per year if
they or an immediate family
member becomes sick, if they have
unprecedented, unscheduled
overtime. Visit carpool.wustl.edu for
more information.

Cycling to work: Recycle

racks are located around the
campus for the convenience of
employees who choose to
bike to work.

Eyes

Light-sensing molecules
bind to retinal pigments

— from Page 1

Scientists have long known that
light-sensing molecules bind
to retinal pigments. Those
pigments are destroyed when
they absorb light and must be
replaced, or recycled, for the
corneal cells to continue sensing
light. In order to be recycled, key
components of pigments called
chronophores leave the retina and
travel to the eye's retinal pigment
epithelium, where the chrono-
phores are recycled and returned
to the retina.

"If the chronophores cannot be
recycled, cone cells gradually run
out of visual pigment and
cannot "detect" light," Kefalov said.

But the process of traveling to
and from the retina is not
a simple one. The journey
takes too long to explain how
cells are able to swiftly
do this, Kefalov said. The following
covering the retina to bright
light, so Kefalov's team was looking for
a second, supplementary pathway.

Working in salamander eyes,
the researchers identified a new
pigment epithelium layer so that
pigments could be recycled
through the known pathway.

When the scientists exposed
the retina to bright light and
darkness, the cones continued
function, even without the pig-
ment epithelium. That meant the
pigment molecules were recycled
in spite of the fact that they could
not travel to the pigment
epithelium.

"So it was clear that a second
pathway is being used by the cone
cells," Kefalov said.

But where? Biochemical

evidence had suggested cells
involved in the recycling of
Müller cells might be involved.

Like glial cells in the brain that
support and interact with neurons,
Müller cells in the retina support
and interact with photoreceptors.

The researchers tested salam-
ander retina with a chemical that
destroyed the Müller cells.

"The chromatophores did not
work anymore in the same way the
Müller cells were involved in the

One recent finding, however, that

said he will be important to
determine exactly how the Müller cells are
interacting with photoreceptors.

Although these studies confirmed
the existence of the second photore-
ceptor pathway, they didn't

discuss the question of why it was not

Kefalov's laboratory has recently

received a five-year, $1.1 million
National Eye Institute grant to study
how this newly identified pathway functions in the
retina.

If it is active in the human eye,
Kefalov said it may be possible one
day to manipulate this pathway to
"unload" excess photoreceptor pigments in cases of retinal degeneration caused by injury or disease.

One disease is age-related macular
degeneration, where cone cells
begin to malfunction over time.

Because the disease and the path-
way Kefalov's team identified both
involves cones, he said it may be
possible someday to target that
pathway, rev it up as activity
and suppress the release of cone pigments.

For more information, call
935-6410 or e-mail kefalovl@wustl.edu.

"By blocking the function of Müller
cells, we prevented the recycling of
chronophores. The cones ran out
of photopigment and could not
adapt to dark," Kefalov said.

Vladimir J. Kefalov

Fine art: Cheryl Wales (left) and Rhonda Garver, both parents of preschoolers at the Washington University Nursery School, admire the paintings during the school's annual gallery night fundraiser March 7 at the Sheepturn William Gallery in St. Louis. Each child created an original acrylic "masterpiece" on canvas at the nursery between two years, seven months, to five years. Around 70 percent are children of WUSTL faculty and staff members. The school serves as a site for research in child development and early childhood teacher preparation. University students participate in a teaching practicum, and WUSTL students are employed to assist in the classrooms.

Pianist and harpsichordist Sarah Metz, Ph.D., will perform an intimate pro-
gram next month for the Department of Music in Arts & Sciences at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 22, as part of its spring 2009 concert series.

Titled "Musical Journeys: Love,
and Voice," the concert will feature a program of 16th- and 17th-century English and
18th-century Italian music. It will be presented in the Ballroom

The concert is free and open to the
public.

The program also will
highlight soprano Emily Heslop in a selec-
tion of consort songs by William Byrd, a leading composer of
the Elizabethan Age.

Heslop will be accompanied by the Washington University
Consort of Viols under the direc-
tion of Elizabeth Macdonald,

department.

A smaller, rectangular version of
the harpsichord, the virginal

was built, this instrument sur-

recycled, cone cells gradually run
out of visual pigment and
cannot "detect" light," Kefalov said.

But where? Biochemical evi-
dence had suggested cells
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Müller cells might be involved.

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how this newly identified pathway functions in the
retina.
Mathematics of Arch explained for Assembly Series

BY KURT MUELLER

The Gateway Arch rises above St. Louis. Eero Saarinen’s awe-inspiring masterpiece is not only an architectural marvel, but it is also a mathematical marvel. Everyone wondered about the shape of the Arch. Pre-eminent mathematician Robert Osserman, Ph.D., certainly has and will explain in mathematici-

Blood drive scheduled for March 25

The next University-wide blood drive will be held Wednesday, March 25, at various locations throughout the Danforth Medical and Dental Campus.

The theme of the drive is “What’s Your Reason?” Organizers hope to encourage individual students and faculty and on ways people can show their support to her family. They want to let people know why they are donating.

Oblivarties

Olasov, engineering student

Anthony Louis Olasov, 22, a junior electrical and computer engineering student, died Thursday, March 5, 2009, when he acci-
dently drowned while on spring break in Costa Rica. Olasov was born March 2, 1987, the son of William and Jean Olasov. He was in his junior year at Washington University at a blood drive on campus.

Memorial service for Nassief May 5

Memorial service for Nassief May 5

A memorial service for Abdulrahman M. Nassief, a prominent professor of neurology, will be held Monday, May 25, at the Callaloo Auditorium in the Farrell Center on the Danforth Campus. Nassief, 69, from Page 1

Olasov was born March 2, 1987, the son of William and Jean Olasov. He was in his junior year at Washington University at a blood drive on campus.

Memorial service for Nassief May 5

A memorial service for Abdulrahman M. Nassief, a prominent professor of neurology, will be held Monday, May 25, at the Callaloo Auditorium in the Farrell Center on the Danforth Campus. Nassief, 69, died Monday, March 9, 2009, after a long battle with lymphoma.

Assistant professor, most recently, of “April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King Jr’s Changing America” (2008). Other events will include readings by Pulitzer Prize-

other events, rather than the concluding readings — are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Anton Difilicandi, lecturer in English, at antondifiliar@wustl.edu or 314-935-6420.

For a complete schedule, go to callaloo.tamu.edu/events/StL scheduled.html.
Virginia Buckles, Ph.D., is a consummate team player. Whether talking about what she enjoys at the office or on her own time, she tends to bring up the pleasures of working with other talented teammates.

Buckles, 57, has played volleyball since she was 11, and her love for the game centers on the cooperative nature of the sport. "You can't showout in volleyball like you can in many other team sports," Buckles says. "You need everyone else, so it's the ultimate team sport."

Buckles speaks with similar admiration of the confidence of talents that she helps bring together at the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), where she has been executive director for 10 years. "It's just the most amazing place to do research," says Buckles, research associate professor of neurology. "Hardly anyone ever says, 'That's not my job.' And if you need it, people are there to help."

Interestingly enough, Buckles' team tends to be winners. Her volleyball team placed first or second nationally in the past three Senior Olympics, and researchers at the ADRC are perpetually winning national and prestigious papers that are leaders in scientific citations.

"Virginia is very much invested in the work the team does and how we do it," he says. "She cares very much and wants us to be the best. I was very lucky to find her."

Finding John Morris

Buckles, who has an infectious, easy-to-provoke laugh, jokes that until "all roads led to John Morris" when she was a student at St. Louis University in 1991. Her husband, Jim, had just been transferred from teaching Army ROTC classes at the University of Southern California (USC) to the University of Missouri at the Army's National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis.

At the time, Buckles was finishing postdoctoral work at USC, at the Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center. She began her career in science studying learning and control of movement and earned a doctorate in those topics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. But she had also developed an interest in aging at that time and investigated the extent to which ideas from experiments with college students could be applied to the elderly.

"At the Davis School, then one of the few gerontology schools in the nation, Buckles collaborated with a retired dean and a member of the psychology faculty to study attention and aging. "It's kind of a leap, but there is a link," she says, laughing. "Several of the cognitive tasks in learning movement overlap with those involved in attention."

In 1990, Buckles wrote to Martha Storandt, Ph.D., professor of psychology in Arts & Sciences, to ask if Storandt could recommend anyone who studied aging and movement. Storandt suggested Morris, who at the time had a new grant to study the topic.

At about the same time, a new volleyball team at the Jewish Community Center also recommended touching base with Morris. She did, and, in 1992, Buckles started working with Morris, initially analyzing data for his grant and, later, helping him. She gradually took on more and more of the responsibilities until she became executive director of the ADRC in 1999.

"Virginia is very much invested in the work the team does and how we do it," he says. "She cares very much and wants us to be the best. I was very lucky to find her."

Buckles and the ADRC crew seek the roots of Alzheimer's disease

The position involves a variety of different research administration tasks, from gathering the required contributions for a 450-page grant renewal from various ADRC faculty and sending it on its way to facilitating collaborations with international researchers. Morris recently won funding for a project called the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Network, which seeks to learn more about Alzheimer's disease from the rare inherited forms of the disorder and partners the ADRC with other similar centers in the United States, England and Australia.

"There are little details that you never think about until the international effort gets running, like how the test licensing agreements we acquired in the United States are valid in other countries," she says. "And then there's the whole issue of what to do about a study that asks subjects how many quarters there are in 46.75, or pictures that ask the subject to identify an object that's not commonly recognized overseas."

Buckles loves the "do-it-yourself" mentality that prevails at the ADRC, noting that she keeps a toolbox in her office and installs her own shelves.

"We've done some reuphol-