Splain grabs top honors at annual athletics awards banquet

GENEVA, N.Y.—The William Smith Department of Athletics and the Heron Society honored the top student-athletes on May 4, at the annual athletics awards banquet. Senior BECCA SPLAIN received the Marion Harrison Greene ’20 Award, presented to the College’s most outstanding senior athlete.

One of the best goaltenders in the storied history of William Smith lacrosse, Splain holds the Heron record for career wins (59) and wins in a season (16). A four-time All-Upstate Collegiate Athletic Association selection, Splain led the Herons to three NCAA Tournament appearances, including last season’s run to the semifinals, and the 2001 ECAC Mid-Atlantic Championship. Through May 9, she ranks sixth in the nation in save percentage and 13th in goals against average.

Splain also received the Joseph N. Abraham Award and the Cynthia Oyler ’93 Award.

The Abraham Award is presented to the student-athlete who has persevered through injury. During the summer between her first and sophomore years, Splain was diagnosed with Prolonged QT Syndrome, a life-long condition that, if left untreated, can result in sudden death. Splain underwent a surgical procedure to attach a defibrillator to her heart. The device monitors her heart rate and, when an arrhythmia is detected, delivers a shock that resets her heart to a normal rhythm.

The Oyler Award is presented to the senior who will be continuing her education at the postgraduate level and displays outstanding athletic abilities, excellent academic record, and exemplary leadership. A recent inductee into Phi Beta Kappa, Splain is majoring in chemistry and English. She has been on the Dean’s List in each of her years at William Smith and has served as the editor of Thel, the College’s literary magazine. In 2003, Splain took part in an American Chemical Society Summer Research Fellowship.

The Winn-Seeley Award was presented to senior rower JULIE DEPREZ. A two-time All-American, she helped the Herons to a third place finish in the inaugural NCAA Division III Championship in 2002. This season, Deprez led the Herons to the inaugural UCAA Rowing Championship. The Winn-Seeley Award recognizes an outstanding student-athlete who has contributed to many areas of William Smith athletics.

Senior forward DANIELLE CORNETT received the Betsy Mitchell ’65 Award, for meeting and overcoming significant personal challenges. In an NCAA soccer tournament quarterfinal game at Tufts in 2000, Cornett broke her leg as the result of a collision with another player. Following surgery and extensive rehab, she returned to the pitch for the Herons in 2002, playing in seven games. This past season, Cornett played in 18 games, including two starts, and contributed a pair of assists as William Smith won the ECAC Northeast Championship.

Junior LISA WHITE was named the Evaleen C. Harrison ’19 Scholar-Athlete Award winner. A member of the Heron varsity eight, White helped William Smith capture the inaugural UCAA Rowing Championship this season. A double major in environmental studies and biology, with a minor in Spanish, she has twice been named to the Dean’s List.

The Melissa Mulliken ’80 Award for participation and leadership, combined with off-field endeavors, that advance William Smith athletics was presented to sophomore swimmer KATE FELLER. A sprinter, Feller captured third place in the 50-yard freestyle at the state meet, touching the wall in 25.41, a career-best time. She was a member of the NYSWCAA and UCAA All-Academic teams. She also captured a UCAA Championship in 2002 as a member of the victorious 200 free relay.

Feller is very active in the William Smith community, including serving on the Core20 Committee. An important part of the Heron Peak Performance Plan, Core20 members act as peer facilitators on their teams, leading discussions on goals, values, and conduct as they relate to peak performance.

Junior LAURA MAIER received the Susan Bassett Award for excellence in academics, athletics, and leadership. The captain of the tennis team, she posted an impressive 14-3 singles record this season, including an unscathed 10-0 mark in dual (See HERON AWARDS, p. 3)
Herons capture inaugural UCAA crew title

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.—In the inaugural UCAA Rowing Championship, William Smith beat the field by six points to clinch the conference title. Rowing in four of the five events, the Herons produced three first place finishes and a runner-up spot.

The women’s second varsity eight was the first to put points on the board for the Herons, battling through tough cross-head wind gusts and choppy water to defeat Vassar by 9.8 seconds.

In the boat for the Herons were coxswain AMANDA JANTZI, SARAH POWELL, LAURA BATELOR, SUSAN HENDRICKSON, SUSAN TARRANT, LIZ STAINO, NICOLE BALSAMO, MICHELLE DODGE, and COLLEEN FRANZ.

“The 2V rowed a tremendous race,” said Head Coach SANDRA CHU. “I was really impressed with how relaxed their rowing was, while retaining the aggressiveness they needed to win.”

Sustaining the momentum of the second varsity eight, the novice four, comprised of coxswain KAT DORWARD, SARAH LOOMIS, EMMA BRACKETT, LINDSAY BUTTON and LIZ COST, came across the line in 9:30.0, a full 22 seconds ahead of the rest of the field.

After winning their morning heat by 10 seconds, the women’s varsity eight came screaming down the course in the Grand Final to shut down Vassar, in the third 500, out pacing the Brewers by 5.4 seconds. Taking an entire boat length in the toughest part of the race, the group of first-year coxswain JESS HARDY, sophomore REBECCA GUTWIN, sophomore EDWINA WILSON, senior LIBBY WEICK, senior JULIE DEPREZ, sophomore CASSIE PRIEST, senior LAUREN ULYEASTAD, sophomore FRANCES PARSONS, and junior LISA WHITE had clinched the title with a first place win worth 12 points. Both Weick and Gutwin earned All-American honors with Weick garnering first-team praise, while Gutwin secured a spot on the second-team.

Meanwhile, the first novice eight had the toughest race of the day. Facing a strong crew from Saint Lawrence, coxswain JEN SINGER, LIZ OROFINO, LAUREN BRADY, KAT LODDENGAARD, REBECCA RACINE, KACY CERASOLI, CARRIE MILLER, LINDSEY SPRAGUE, and ALLIE CLARK fought to maintain a lead in the last 500 but fell short, crossing the line 2.1 seconds behind the Saints.

Genovese wins 300th en route to another UCAA championship, NCAA appearance

LACROSSE—The William Smith lacrosse team opened the 2004 campaign with four straight wins, putting Head Coach PAT GENOVESE on the cusp of her 300th career victory. Although the Herons stumbled in their first attempt, falling in overtime to St. Lawrence, they bounced back four days later with a 13-6 victory over St. John Fisher. The W put Genovese into the records book as the first Division III women’s lacrosse coach to reach the 300-win mark.

It was full speed ahead from that point on for the Herons as they rattled off 11 straight wins, putting Head Coach Pat Genovese an artist’s rendition of McCooey Field to commemorate her 300th career win.

Sailors earn three championship bids

HWS qualifies for Dinghy Nationals

GENEVA, N.Y. (May 2)—The Hobart and William Smith sailing team captured a runner-up finish in The America Trophy to qualify for the ICSA Dinghy Championships June 2-4. Sailing on Seneca Lake, HWS scored 92 points to earn second place, while St. Mary’s finished with a regatta-low score of 78. Kings Point garnered the final qualifying spot with a third place finish.

Sailing in the A division were seniors ED NORTON and JEFF SULLIVAN and sophomores AUGUSTA NADLER and JUSTIN BAUER. Earning fourth place on the strength of seven top-three finishes, including victories in the first and last races of the weekend, the group totaled 57 points, just four behind third-place Georgetown.

Seniors JOHN PEARCE, ALEXIS RUBIN, and OSCAR BARNEY and sophomore ROB ASPINWALL captured five victories and 11 top-three finishes in 14 races to win the B fleet with 35 points.

Herons earn trip to ICSA Women’s Championships

NORFOLK, Va. (April 27)—The William Smith sailing team earned a fourth-place finish in the MAISA Dinghy Championships at Old Dominion with 78 points. The host Monarchs earned the top spot, while Georgetown and Navy rounded out the top three. The top four teams all qualified for the ICSA North American Women’s Dinghy Championships.

Teaming up in the A division were senior MORA O’MALLEY and first-years AMANDA MARKEE and KATE BRUSH. The trio combined for four top-three finishes in 10 races, and never came in lower than sixth, earning third place with 42 points.

Rubin, Nadler, and junior EMLIE BARKOW grabbed fourth in the B flight with five top-three finishes, including two victories, for 36 points.

The Herons will travel to Cascade Locks, Ore., to compete for the Gerald C. Miller Trophy May 26-28.

(See TEAM RACE, p. 4)
Tennis posts 9th straight winning slate

TENNIS—Despite two of the team’s top-three players from the fall participating in a spring study abroad program, the William Smith tennis team started its spring season right where it had left off in the fall, capturing identical 7-2 victories over Stevens Tech and Principia in the first two matches of their spring break trip in Hilton Head, S.C. Carrying a 7-3 record over from the fall, the Herons pushed their win streak to four matches and their overall record to 9-3.

The Herons’ fortunes took a turn for the worse after that as they dropped each of their four next matches before rebounding with a narrow 5-4 win over Union. Against the Dutchwomen, junior SARAH COFFIN and first-year AMANDA FREEZE pulled out three-set victories to help William Smith capture its 10th win of the year.

That proved to be the final victory of the year as the Herons dropped their final two matches against Rochester and The College of New Jersey, finishing 10-9 for the year.

Closing the season with the annual William Smith Tournament, first-year HEIDI AMBROZAITIS and KRISTIN ALLEY went out on top as the champions of the C Flight doubles consolation draw, ousting the pair from St. Lawrence 8-4 in one of only two finals played due to inclement weather.

Junior LAURA MAIER finished the season with a team-best 14-3 overall, including a perfect 10-0 mark in dual matches, while sophomore KAREN NEWBURY won a team-high 16 matches. In doubles action, Coffin and sophomore KRISTIN DOWLING led all pairs with a 10-9 overall record.

TENNIS—Despite two of the team’s top-three players from the fall participating in a spring study abroad program, the William Smith tennis team started its spring season right where it had left off in the fall, capturing identical 7-2 victories over Stevens Tech and Principia in the first two matches of their spring break trip in Hilton Head, S.C. Carrying a 7-3 record over from the fall, the Herons pushed their win streak to four matches and their overall record to 9-3.

The Herons’ fortunes took a turn for the worse after that as they dropped each of their four next matches before rebounding with a narrow 5-4 win over Union. Against the Dutchwomen, junior SARAH COFFIN and first-year AMANDA FREEZE pulled out three-set victories to help William Smith capture its 10th win of the year.

That proved to be the final victory of the year as the Herons dropped their final two matches against Rochester and The College of New Jersey, finishing 10-9 for the year.

Closing the season with the annual William Smith Tournament, first-year HEIDI AMBROZAITIS and KRISTIN ALLEY went out on top as the champions of the C Flight doubles consolation draw, ousting the pair from St. Lawrence 8-4 in one of only two finals played due to inclement weather.

Junior LAURA MAIER finished the season with a team-best 14-3 overall, including a perfect 10-0 mark in dual matches, while sophomore KAREN NEWBURY won a team-high 16 matches. In doubles action, Coffin and sophomore KRISTIN DOWLING led all pairs with a 10-9 overall record.

HERON AWARDS (from p. 1)

SERAPHINE HAMILTON garnered the Hazel Nettleship Hardy ’65 Award, presented to the sophomore who has contributed to the growth of Heron athletics and is an excellent representative of William Smith athletes. A defender on the soccer team and a forward in basketball, Hamilton is a starter in both sports. On the soccer pitch, she anchored a defense that allowed just 18 goals in 22 games, while earning NSCAA first-team All-North-east honors. On the hardwood, she averaged 4.0 ppg and 4.6 rpg.

The Stephanie Christie Award, William Smith’s Rookie of the Year Award, was presented to field hockey forward SOPHIE DENNIS. The UCAA Rookie of the Year led the Herons in scoring with 17 goals and three assists for 37 points. An NFHCA second-team All-North Atlantic selection, she broke the William Smith record for goals in a season by a first-year. Dennis scored four or more points in a game five times, including a season-high six points (3-0) in the regular season finale against Nazareth.

More than 50 student-athletes received awards, including team and individual honors. The evening was sponsored by the Heron Society.

Heron E-Mail Updates

Sign up for e-mail updates on your favorite Heron team by visiting: www.hws.edu/athletics/emailsSIGN.asp

2003-04 Team Awards

Basketball
Barbara Easton Regan Coach’s Award
Paula Foote ’07
Leadership Award
Stephanie Leveille ’04
Cross Country
Coach’s Award
Molly Rider ’05
Sharon Peckham Best ’62 Most Valuable
Karen Thorpe ’07
Crew
Coach’s Award
Kat Loddengaard ’07
Weiskittle Most Valuable Oarswoman
Libby Weick ’04
Field Hockey
Beverly Singer ’74 Coach’s Award
Lauren Fuller ’06
Charles P. Boswell II ’50 Award
Jessica Kulesa ’04
Lacrosse
Shirley Zornow ’48 Coach’s Award
Brighde Dougherty ’04
Patricia Price Genovese Award
Gretchen Lasda ’04
Sailing
Coach’s Award
Amanda Markee ’07
Ady Symonds ’96 Award
Mary Hosking ’04
Squash
Coach’s Award
Shelley Ryan ’06
Irene Graves Harer ’28 Award
Sarah Coffin ’05
Tennis
Elizabeth Laird Redway Heja ’84 Coach’s Award
Amanda Freeze ’07
Mary Hosking Award
Molly Patterson ’05
HWS qualifies for ICSA Team Race Championships

ST. MARY’S, Md. (April 13)—HWS also captured the runner-up spot in the Prosser Trophy, hosted by St. Mary's College, to advance to the ICSA Team Race Championships in Cascade Locks, Ore. Georgetown University took top honors, while St. Mary's rounded out the top three.

Sailing in a triple round robin format, Hobart and William Smith finished the weekend with an 11-4 record in the six-team event. The regatta featured the top six ranked MAISA teams.

In the boats for HWS were Nadler, Norton, Pearce, Rubin, junior John Storck and sophomore Molly Lawson.

Hobart and William Smith will travel to Oregon to compete in the ICSA Team Race Championships May 30-June 1. HWS finished fourth of 14 teams last year at the same event in Detroit, Mich.

To find out how the Colleges fare in the ICSA championships, log on to: www.hws.edu/athletics/sailing

LACROSSE CHAMPS (from p. 2)

consecutive wins, including their second consecutive UCAA Tournament title. During the streak, William Smith provided its fans with everything from dominating performances to heart-stopping nail-biters.

The most exciting moments came in the regular season finale at Rensselaer. Trail 8-7, senior midfielder Brighde Dougherty scored her first goal of the game with 7:07 remaining to force overtime. Again trailing by one, 9-8, with the final seconds ticking away in the second overtime session, the Sea Girt, N.J., native ripped an unassisted tally to force a third overtime period. In the waning seconds of that period, Dougherty knocked in a rebound with one second left to push the Herons past the Red Hawks.

Dougherty continued her heroics the following weekend, scoring the winning goal with 3:25 left in a dramatic comeback victory over Skidmore in the UCAA semifinal. A 9-8 win over Union in the UCAA championship game gave William Smith a trip to NCAA postseason for the 16th time.

The Herons finished the season at 16-2, tying the program record for wins in a season. Senior Gretchen Lasda paced the Heron offense, compiling 82 points and earning UCAA Player of the Year Honors. Dougherty, Splain and junior defender Liz Harris joined her on the All-UCAA first-team, while senior defender Michelle Steigerwald and sophomore midfielder Jessica Tanner earned second-team honors.