THE THOMAS J. VOLPE LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS

BECKY HAMMON

FIRST FEMALE NBA ASSISTANT COACH AND SEVEN TIME WNBA ALL-STAR

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015
12:30PM
FOUNDERS HALL AUDITORIUM

TICKETS ARE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY AND WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

300 TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE. PLEASE PICK THEM UP AT THE CONCIERGE DESK IN THE LOBBY. ONE TICKET PER PERSON WILL BE ISSUED.

WHEN ALL TICKETS ARE GIVEN OUT, THERE WILL BE 100 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE CONCIERGE DESK FOR THE OVERFLOW ROOM IN THE CALLAHAN CENTER. ONE TICKET PER PERSON WILL BE ISSUED.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR UPCOMING LECTURERS

STEVE HINDY – NOVEMBER 16, 2015 CHAIRMAN & CO-FOUNDER OF THE BROOKLYN BREWERY
GLENN ADAMSON – FEBRUARY 29, 2016 NANETTE L. LAITMAN DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM OF ARTS & DESIGN
Rebecca “Becky” Lynn Hammon, grew up as the youngest of three children and played high school basketball at Stevens High School in her hometown of Rapid City, South Dakota. As a junior, she was South Dakota Miss Basketball. As a senior, she was voted the South Dakota Player of the Year after averaging 26 points, 4 rebounds and 5 assists per game. In March of 2010 Becky was inducted into the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame. Hammon had a distinguished career at Colorado State. Her prolific scoring made her an All-American as well as Colorado Sportswoman of the Year. She led her team to a 33-3 record in the 1998-1999 season and helped them advance to the NCAA Tournament’s Sweet Sixteen. She was the WAC Mountain Division player of the year for the 1998-1999 season and surpassed University of Utah player Keith Van Horn as the WAC’s all-time leading scorer. On November 12, 2004, Hammon was inducted into the Colorado State University Sports Hall of Fame. On January 22, 2005, her #25 Colorado State jersey was retired at the Moby Arena.

Un-drafted during her rookie season, Hammon was signed to the WNBA on May 12, 1999 and joined the New York Liberty. She had a surprisingly solid rookie season statistically, backing up starting point guard Teresa Weatherspoon. Her aggressive play at both ends of the court made her a favorite among Liberty fans. After the 2003 season, Hammon took over for Teresa Weatherspoon as the Liberty’s starting point guard and along with Vickie Johnson and Crystal Robinson, became one of the team’s co-captains in 2004.

On April 4, 2007, during the WNBA Draft, Hammon was traded to the Silver Stars along with a second round draft pick in the 2008 draft for Jessica Davenport, the draft’s second overall pick. Hammon’s impact in San Antonio was immediate as she had the best season of her career, posting career highs of 18.8 ppg and 5.0 apg (first in WNBA). Hammon’s incredible season didn’t go unnoticed and she finished second in MVP voting, earned WNBA First Team honors as well as WNBA Peak Performer honors for leading the league in assists. She became only the second player in WNBA history to be voted to the All-Star Game for both the East and West. While in San Antonio, Hammon earned the nickname, “Big Shot Becky” because of her ability to hit shots in clutch moments. Hammon also became a member of the elite 3000/800 club in 2008, as one of a handful of WNBA players to score 3,000 career points and dish 800 career assists.

Hammon also became a Naturalized Russian citizen in March of 2008. The Russian passport opened up many new basketball opportunities for the veteran guard. With Hammon’s CSKA sports director also serving as coach of the Russian National Team, she received an invite to play for Russia in the 2008 Olympics. After much agonizing over the decision, plenty of prayers and conversations with close friends and family, Hammon announced she would join the Russian national team, fulfilling her own lifelong dream to compete in an Olympics. Four years later Becky became a two time Olympian when she played for the Russian National Team in the 2012 Olympics.

In 2011, Becky earned her seventh WNBA All-Star selection (2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011) and became the only player in league history to participate in three different All-Star games with two different teams. Becky also was honored by being named to the WNBA Top 15 Players of All-Time.

In 2013, Becky was sidelined at the beginning of the season due to a broken middle finger on her right hand suffered during training camp on May 18. On July 6, her first game back, Becky sustained a torn left ACL during the second quarter at Los Angeles. During her year-long rehabilitation, Hammon attended the NBA’s San Antonio Spurs’ practices, coaches’ meetings, and games, where she was frequently invited to contribute opinions.

Hammon’s contribution to the staff made an impression on head coach Gregg Popovich. In a media statement released at the time of the hiring announcement, Popovich stated: “I very much look forward to the addition of Becky Hammon to our staff. Having observed her working with our team this past season, I’m confident her basketball IQ, work ethic, and interpersonal skills will be a great benefit to the Spurs.” On July 23, 2014 Becky announced that at the end of the 2014 season she would retire from the WNBA. On August 5, 2014, the San Antonio Spurs named Becky as an assistant coach for the 2014/2015 San Antonio Spurs season. On July 3, 2015, Hammon became the first ever female head coach in the NBA’s Summer League when the Spurs announced she would coach their team. Hammon led the Spurs to the Las Vegas Summer League title on July 20, 2015, becoming the first female NBA head coach to win a summer league title.