



Photo by Jeff Paslay

Track-and-field athlete Bob Gray received the Emerald Trophy at the University's annual student-athlete recognition dessert Tuesday.

Duck dessert honors top student-athletes

By Erick Studenicka
Emerald Contributor

More than 50 of the University's top student-athletes were recognized for their academic achievements in the annual student-athlete recognition dessert Tuesday afternoon.

Track and field athletes Bob Gray and Camara Jones and softball player Tracey Simmons were among the participants receiving special recognition.

Gray received the Emerald Trophy, an award based upon athletics, academics, and citizenship. Gray, a French major with a 3.59 GPA, was the Pacific-10 Conference 400-meter hurdles champion this year and was second in the 110 event.

The senior has also participated in many community projects, including an elementary school reading program and Team Council.

Jones received the Higdon Award, reserved annually for the top sophomore student-athlete at Oregon. Jones, who established a new school record of 52.40 in the 400-meter run

during her qualifying heat at the NCAA meet in Austin, Texas, Tuesday, has a 3.48 GPA and is a previous academic all-conference selection.

Simmons received the Jackson Award, which is based on athletic and scholastic achievement and leadership and inspiration. A physical education major with a 3.21 GPA, Simmons led the Ducks in RBIs and was named to the GTE academic all-district team.

In addition to her athletic and scholastic responsibilities, Simmons made numerous appearances this year before various committees representing Oregon student-athletes.

In order to be eligible for scholastic recognition, each student-athlete had to maintain a 3.0 GPA while participating on an intercollegiate team. Graduating seniors were also recognized at the dessert.

Former athletes David Blair and Lisa Karnopp were the featured speakers. Graduating senior and All-American wrestler Dan Vidlak also made a speech on behalf of the senior class.

Search begins for new golf coach

By Steve Mims
Emerald Contributor

A search for the next head coach of the Oregon men's golf team is under way, but no one is expected to be hired until the middle of the summer.

The position opened up when former head coach Scott Krieger ended his eight-and-a-half year tenure last winter to take an assistant professional job at Broadmoor Golf Course in Portland.

Krieger was replaced on an interim basis by former Duck star Shawn Aicher, who led the team during the spring season. Under Aicher, the Ducks finished in the top 10 at every tournament until a disappointing 17th-place finish in the Western Regionals ended their season.

Jamie Klund, assistant sports information director, confirmed this week that the Ducks are conducting a nationwide search for a new head coach. Oregon placed an advertisement in *NCAA News* this month, and Klund said that about 25 people submitted applications before the May 27 deadline.

A committee composed of assistant athletic director Barbara Walker, women's golf coach Renee Baumgartner and women's basketball coach Elwin Helny is in the process of narrowing the list to a manageable number before

bringing the finalists to Eugene for interviews.

The committee will then expand to include a local golf professional and possibly PGA Tour star Peter Jacobsen, a former Oregon All-American, to conduct interviews in about two weeks.

"We're looking for someone with good experience," Klund said. "Somebody who played college golf and possibly with previous coaching experience."

All-Pacific-10 Conference selection Jeff Lyons will be next year's top returning player, and he said Oregon should look for someone with leadership and responsibility.

"We need someone who is supportive and positive toward us," Lyons said.

Oregon will be young next year with Lyons and Cam Martin the only seniors on the roster. Other lettermen who will compete are junior Randy McCracken and redshirt sophomores Ted Snavelly and Paul Rogali.

"I want a coach that has experience with coaching a team before," Snavelly said. "Someone with a structure for practice and physical fitness. They have to care about how we are playing, not just what scores we shoot."

Klund said the committee is hoping to hire a new coach in July and have the job begin August 1.

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