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Students receive journalism awards

HONORS: Hearst Foundation recognizes two UO journalism students for writing

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

Recent University graduate Gayle Forman and senior Jennifer C. Davis were honored Tuesday when the top 20 winners of the thirty-sixth annual William Randolph Hearst Foundation Journalism Awards for in-depth writing were announced.

Forman, a journalism major, won third place for her feature on Holocaust revisionists titled "Denying History." The article ran in last June's *FLUX* magazine, an annual student publication of the journalism school.

Faculty members of the journalism school submit numerous

pieces from the magazine to various competitions, winning various awards every year.

Forman said while she knew her piece was entered in the contest, she wasn't expecting the results until the fall.

"I figured the letter was just a thanks for submitting, so I was really excited when I found out what it really was," she said.

Forman, who graduated last term, said she plans to invest the \$1000 cash prize that came with the award. After working as an intern at *Ms.* and *Spin* magazines last summer, she will

move to New York in March to find a job.

Associate journalism professor Thomas Wheeler, the 1995 *FLUX* adviser, said after watching Forman go through the process of writing the story, he was pleased she was recognized for her work.

"Gayle went through multiple drafts and did a lot of research and work for [the] piece," Wheeler said. "I am extremely pleased [the piece] won but I can't say I'm surprised."

Davis won fourteenth place in the Hearst competition for "Out of the Blue, Depression On Campus: Symptoms, Stigmas and Treatment," another story featured in the most recent issue of *FLUX*.

Davis, also a journalism major, will receive a certificate of merit for her work.



FORMAN

Incoming freshman class is larger, smarter

STUDENTS: The University's diverse schools and honors programs appear to be attracting higher-quality students

By Sean Rossol
Higher Education Reporter

More students with higher GPAs are choosing the University as the place to earn their bachelor's degrees, and the University's freshman class is the strongest in three years, according to admissions officials.

"More students with better grades are choosing U of O," said Martha Pitts, director of admissions.

Pitts said the University is experiencing a 7 percent increase in enrollment, but the enrollment of students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher is up 13 percent, she said.

"The students are coming to college better prepared," Pitts said. "The mean SAT scores rose from a 997.4 average score in 1992 to 1,015.6 for this year's entering class."

Not all of the freshmen are from Oregon, however.

"We have 1,567 freshmen from Oregon, which accounts for 60 percent of the freshman class," Pitts said.

The University's minimum GPA entry requirement for high school students is a 3.0.

According to the 1995 fall student profile, high school grades for entering freshmen have climbed from a 3.26 to a 3.31 GPA.

One of the reasons for the higher GPAs might be the attraction of honors programs in different schools within the University.

"The honors club is expanding, and there are several new honors programs," Pitts said. "We are attracting more students with the programs that appeal to them."

Another reason students are choosing the University is its excellent schools.

"There is a high quality of academics that is offered here," Pitts said. "That's a real big incentive."

"We recently had some professors call prospective students, and they gave the students some background knowledge on the programs we offered, and so [the students] decided to come here."

The majority of freshmen who enter the University are entering as undeclared.

"We had 3,673 freshmen enter this year, 2,782 of whom were Arts and Science majors, which includes 1,737 undeclared," Pitts said.

The school claims to enroll 3,690 new students, but several of these are double-majors, which accounts for the discrepancies.

Of the other students enrolling in the University, 457 entered as pre-business administration majors, five as education majors, 226 as pre-journalism majors, and 145 as allied and applied arts majors, Pitts said.

The rise in the GPA clearly shows that the University is doing a better job of attracting and enrolling higher quality students, she said.

School superintendent arrested for beating son with rubber snake

JEFFERSONVILLE, N.Y. (AP)

A school superintendent's arrest on charges of beating his son with a 3-foot-long rubber snake has this rural community debating whether the man is fit to oversee their children.

David Wax, 43, is accused of whacking his 8-year-old son,



Korey, several times across the back and chest with the toy snake after the child was suspended from school for misbehaving.

Wax hit the boy hard enough to leave several welts, which were photographed by school

officials to be used as evidence, said Stephen Lungen, Sullivan County district attorney.

A tip to a child abuse hot line led to Wax's arrest Jan. 17.

Since then, he's been on leave from his \$65,000 a year job, and the Jeffersonville-Youngsville school board and parents in this Catskills district must decide whether he should remain in charge of 925 students, including his own son.

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