

Forum to cover women's issues

Oregon Supreme Court Justice Susan Graber will be the conference's keynote speaker

By Teri Meeuwse
Higher Education Reporter

Questions about the treatment of women in Oregon's legal system will be discussed at this year's Women's Law Conference on Friday and Saturday.

The conference, sponsored by the School of Law and the Women's Law Forum, is designed to provide a forum for students, practitioners, faculty and community members to gather and discuss legal issues pertaining to women.

"It's something undergraduate students who are interested in law should attend because [the issue] will be important for years to come," said conference co-chair Heidi Barker. "It's a great chance for students and practitioners to

network."

The conference keynote speaker will be Oregon Supreme Court Justice Susan Graber, a nominee for a federal judgeship.

"We're very excited to get her back again," Barker said. "She was here a couple of years ago. Once she gets into the realm of circuit courts, she'll be really busy. We're just taking that last chance to have her here before she gets really busy. She's a really great speaker."

Graber commissioned the Oregon Gender Fairness Task Force Survey, which questioned law students, faculty, judges, practitioners, clientele and police officers on the role of women in a variety of areas of Oregon's legal system, including courts, law firms and prisons.

"Other jurisdictions have done surveys like these, and she wanted to do the survey and test the water in Oregon," Barker said.

The conference will host a se-

ries of free public panel discussions between law students, faculty, judges and practitioners on issues pertaining to women in prison, women in the court system, and the balance between work and home for women who work in the legal system.

The conference will also include a film and student field trips to the Oregon Women's Correctional Center in Salem.

"The slots for the trip to the women's prison are full, but even a cancellation does not ensure a student's attendance because everyone who signed up had to undergo a background check," Barker said.

Graber will discuss the survey in a free lecture at 3:30 p.m. Friday at the Phoenix Inn. The rest of the annual conference will take place in the University Law Center at Grayson Hall. Students may contact the Woman's Law Forum via e-mail for the schedule of events.

Assault: Smith charged with harassment

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said to his knowledge has not returned to work. The two suspects left the area before Springfield police arrived.

Gaulton said no relief came from filing the charges.

"There's a big difference between filing charges and conviction," Gaulton said Tuesday.

McCullough's fourth-degree assault charge is for "hitting Steven Underwood in the back, knocking him to the ground, kicking him in the back and head," according to the press release.

Smith's fourth-degree assault charge is because he "recklessly caused physical injury to a Mill

Camp employee by striking him in the face with a closed fist."

Neither Smith nor McCullough could be reached for comment, and their lawyer, Ken Morrow, did not return a phone call.

When Smith's suspension was announced on Feb. 16, Bellotti said he would evaluate Smith's situation at the end of winter term.

Bellotti said his disciplinary action goes from probation to suspension to dismissal and that Smith was suspended for the combination of the two incidents.

According to Moos and Williford, the filing of the charges will not change the coach's timeline for evaluating the suspension.

Smith, a junior, transferred to Oregon from Grossmont Junior College in San Diego last spring and was SuperPrep magazine's top junior college quarterback in the nation.

Last season he helped lead the Ducks to a 43-14 Las Vegas Bowl win over Air Force and finished the season with 1,385 yards, 13 touchdowns and seven interceptions.

McCullough transferred to Oregon in 1996 and became the Ducks' all-time single-season rushing leader last season with 1,343 yards. His average of 108.5 yards per game made him the Pacific-10 Conference's leading rusher. In 19 games he scored 25 touchdowns.

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