

UCLA's SCHOLAR-ATHLETE BANQUET

Each spring, approximately 200 student-athletes with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher are invited to the Scholar-Athlete Banquet. Made possible by a donation from Rose Gilbert, the event features distinguished guests and allows UCLA to honor its most academically accomplished student-athletes. In past years, the banquet has featured notable alumni speakers return to campus, inspiring the athletic department's student-athletes to succeed in the classroom and use their education for great endeavors.



(left to right) Recipients of the Academic Excellence award included Samantha Peszek (gymnastics), Grady Howe (men's soccer), Jacob Tenzer (men's soccer), Jessica Amaral (softball), Elena Clarke (track and field), Chloe Kojima (rowing), Kendal Mitchell (rowing) and Kaitlin Ray (women's tennis).



(left to right) Academic advisor Kevin Chen, UCLA baseball players Scott Burke, Nick Kern, Grant Watson, Keenan Pierandozzi-Howes, Justin Hazard, Brett Stephens, Christoph Bono, Tucker Forbes and head coach John Savage.



(left to right) Track and field athletes Jonny Moniz, Ratanya Washington and André Chapman.



From the swimming and diving team (left to right), Taylor Carlson, Montana Monahan and Jessica Khojasteh.



Courtney Proctor (left) of the women's soccer team, alongside head coach Amanda Cromwell (center) and teammate Belden Long.



Grady Howe of the men's soccer team was honored as the men's Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

UCLA's STUDENT-ATHLETE GRADUATION

For the fourth consecutive year, UCLA's Athletic Department hosted a student-athlete graduation ceremony at the conclusion of the school year. UCLA had 134 student-athletes participate in the Class of 2015 graduation celebration. UCLA welcomed the graduates and their families to a special ceremony in Pauley Pavilion the evening of Thursday, June 11, 2015.

The list of 134 graduates included student-athletes who graduated in Fall 2014 and Winter 2015 and who were projected to graduate in Spring 2015, Summer 2015 and Fall 2015. Jerry Neuheisel of the football team and Kaitlin Ray of the women's tennis team served as the student-athlete graduation speakers.

Academic award-winners were recognized during the ceremony. Receiving Pac-12 postgraduate scholarships were Noelle Tarazona (swimming and diving), Dennis Mkrtchian (men's tennis), Chloe Kojima (rowing) and Mike Woepse (track and field). Grady Howe (men's soccer) and Kaitlin Ray (women's tennis) were honored as Scholar-Athletes of the Year. Samantha Peszek (gymnastics) and Mkrtchian were the 2015 Tom Hansen Pac-12 Medal Winners. This award is annually presented to the outstanding senior male and female student-athletes from each Pac-12 institution that exhibits the greatest combination of performance and achievement in scholarship, athletics and leadership.

2014-15 AWARD WINNERS

UCLA's Athletic Department had 296 student-athletes on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll in the fall 2014 quarter (3.0 or higher quarterly GPA). Of those 296, 115 student-athletes had a 3.5 or higher GPA, and 13 had a perfect 4.0. In the winter 2015 quarter, UCLA produced 293 student-athletes on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll. Of those 293, 120 had a GPA of 3.5 or better and 21 had a perfect 4.0. In the spring 2015 quarter, 272 student-athletes were named to the Honor Roll. Of those 272, 113 compiled a GPA higher than 3.5 and 17 logged perfect 4.0 GPAs.

SUCCESS Award

Presented to one male and one female graduating senior who are self-sufficient student-athletes and took advantage of all the opportunities and resources available to them at UCLA.

Samantha Peszek.....Gymnastics
Dennis Mkrtchian.....Men's Tennis

Maggie Gilbert Academic Achievement Award

Presented to senior student-athletes who improved and overcame obstacles through the course of the career at UCLA and still excelled in their sport.

Norman Powell.....Men's Basketball
Shelby Couture.....Women's Water Polo

Athletic Director's Academic Achievement Award

The following seniors who received this award made the Director's Honor Roll every quarter they were at UCLA:

Jessica Amaral.....Softball
Ally Courtnall.....Women's Soccer/Track and Field
Elena Clarke.....Track and Field
Grady Howe.....Men's Soccer
Chloe Kojima.....Rowing
Kendal Mitchell.....Rowing
Kaitlin Ray.....Women's Tennis
Ida Storm.....Track and Field
Jacob Tenzer.....Men's Soccer

Bruin Leadership Award

Presented to student-athletes who demonstrate leadership on their team as well as within the UCLA community.

Justin Hazard.....Baseball
Chloe Kojima.....Rowing
Cathy Stoltzka.....Rowing
Belden Long.....Women's Soccer

Rose Gilbert Courage and Character Award

Presented to one male and one female who not only excelled in their sport and in the classroom, but overcame adversity and hardship to do so.

Allison Wine.....Swimming and Diving
Clay Paullin.....Men's Volleyball
Courtney Proctor.....Women's Soccer

UCLA All-Academic Team

The All-Academic Team consists of 25 members and is comprised of the person with the highest cumulative GPA from each of UCLA's team sports. The overall GPA of UCLA's All-Academic Team in 2014-15 was 3.62.

Third-time selection:

Samantha Peszek.....Gymnastics
Chloe Kojima.....Rowing
Kaitlin Ray.....Women's Tennis

Second-time selections:

Kari Korver.....Women's Basketball
Dennis Mkrtchian.....Men's Tennis
Rachel Inouye.....Beach Volleyball
Emily Donohoe.....Women's Water Polo

First-time selections:

Nick Kern.....Baseball
Kory Alford.....Men's Basketball
Thomas Schwab.....Football
Loren Chan.....Women's Golf
Yvonne Zheng.....Women's Golf
Grady Howe.....Men's Soccer
Sarah Killian.....Women's Soccer
Jessica Amaral.....Softball
Emily Hammond.....Swimming and Diving
Torie Owers.....Track and Field
Daniel Herrera.....Track and Field
Sean Davis.....Cross Country
Bronte Golick.....Cross Country
Jake Reeves.....Men's Volleyball
Jennie Frager.....Women's Volleyball
Patrick Woepse.....Men's Water Polo

Scholar-Athletes of the Year

Grady Howe.....Men's Soccer
Kaitlin Ray.....Women's Tennis



(left to right) From the gymnastics team, Samantha Peszek and Ellette Craddock.



(left to right) From the tennis teams, Ryoto Tachi, Robin Anderson, Kaitlin Ray and Dennis Mkrtchian.



(left to right) Distance runners Chase Zukerman, Jordan Senko and Daniel Herrera.



UCLA football player Librado Barocio on stage at the 2015 ceremony receiving his graduation medal from Director of Student-Athlete Counseling Mike Casillas.



(left to right) UCLA softball players Tara Mueller, Maddi Mobley, Stephany LaRosa, Sam Duran, Ally Carda and Jessica Amaral during the 2015 ceremony.