UNIVERSITY

Biology journal to make debut

By Jen Ellison Oregon Daily Emerald

Publishing in a scientific journal was nearly impossible for undergraduates — until now.

Next week, the University Department of Biology will publish its first issue of *Biospheres*, an undergraduate biology journal.

The first of its kind at the University, the journal is designed to give undergraduates experience in writing about their research and the process of getting published, said Janice Weeks, the faculty adviser of the publication.

During the 1991-92 school year, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute donated \$1 million to the biology department for the enhancement of undergraduate learning, said biology department head Dan Udovic.

A portion of this grant was used in the development and production of *Biospheres*, Udovic said.

The purpose of Biospheres is to recognize people for what they've done in their undergraduate years, Weeks said. The journal is designed to include undergraduate research theses, lab profiles, project progress reports, editorials and stories about undergraduate teaching experiences.

Weeks emphasizes that the journal is a non-competitive way for undergraduates to learn about research writing.

"It gets students published and gives them recognition for their undergraduate work," Weeks said. "Many undergraduates don't get the opportunity to write about what they do in lab. This is the perfect opportunity for them."

Six undergraduate students worked as the editorial board for the journal. Each published an article in the first issue, and an additional article was contributed to make a total of seven.

Editorial board member Joanne Van Sickle, a biology student researching the characteristics of a mutant plant named umbershoot, benefited from the production perspective.

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"Learning the editing process, how to use PageMaker, and the process of getting a paper into a journal was helpful," Van Sickle said. "It was good experience to be able to write about my

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 Janice Weeks, faculty adviser for Biospheres 342-2912

research, which is something I've never done before."

Terry Shroyer, a biology student and an editorial board member who will work on the journal next year, said his experience with *Biospheres* will help him in the future.

"Its best benefit is for anyone wanting to go to graduate or medical school who will have to do a lot of writing about their research," Shroyer said.

Weeks plans to publish Biospheres twice next year. Information for those interested in being involved with the journal will be available in the fall in the biology peer advising office.



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