Biology professor recognized for curriculum work

By Lori Bettineski
Oregon Daily Emerald

A University biology professor has been recognized by the National Science Foundation as one of the nation's most progressive curriculum developers in undergraduate science education.

Daniel Udovic is one of the 250 scientists across the nation who will meet in Washington, D.C., from May 31 through June 3 to promote reforms in undergraduate education.

The scientists were selected based on the outstanding potential for national adoption of the undergraduate education programs they have developed.

Udovic has taught at the University since 1973 and is currently head of the biology department. He is a member of a team of University faculty members who created a biology course for non-majors called "Workshop Biology." Udovic will bring a display presentation explaining the course to the summer conference.

For the past three years Udovic's "Workshop Biology" has been supported by the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education as well as the National Science Foundation. The workshop is structured to engage students in four different types of activities that allow them to think critically about socially important themes.

"We're getting students to recognize the relationship between science and public policy," Udovic said, "and we're hoping that they come away from the class as lifelong learners."

Robert Watson, director of the NSF's division of undergraduate education recognizes Udovic's work as being a major contribution to building students' competence and confidence in the field of science.

> ***'We want to help our grant recipients achieve the greatest possible impact,'***
>
> – Robert Watson
> *director of the NSF's division of undergraduate education*

"Innovative science, mathematics and engineering education projects such as Dr. Daniel Udovic's, have already affected hundreds of thousands of undergraduate students throughout the United States," Watson said. "Changes in curriculum and teaching methods, including inquiry-based labs, hands-on experience and cooperative learning, have helped to build student competence and confidence significantly."

The summer conference will be the first NSF-sponsored gathering focused on undergraduate education reform. Textbook publishers, computer software distributors and vendors of educational products will attend the conference to advise the grant recipients on how to market their projects.

"We want to help our grant recipients achieve the greatest possible impact," Watson said. "Through such published products as textbooks, lab manuals, video tapes and computer software, other science educators can share in the benefits of these innovations and improve science education for millions of students."

Black Women of Achievement receive $3,000 in IFC funding

By Daniel West
Oregon Daily Emerald

Black Women of Achievement became a financially recognized group on this campus when the Incidental Fee Committee approved its budget for next year. The group received an estimated $3,000.

Before BWA received IFC support, their budget was submitted as a part of Black Student Union funding. The separate funding allowed BWA to be recognized as a separate group.

"People seemed to lump us together with other ethnic student unions and offices, but we have our own agenda," said Tonya Menefee, a BWA member. "The Women's Center is geared toward women in general but doesn't focus on the specific needs of black women. There are many similarities but our fight isn't necessarily the same."

Black Women of Achievement had seen the IFC several times before and had been denied funding. They admit that getting the funding was long process.

Kenya Luvert

"It was nervous sitting through the meetings, but we were happy with our budget," said Danielle McConaga, a BWA member. "This was only a stepping stone. We are looking for office space so that we can better serve the needs of black women on this campus. We want a place where we can distribute literature and discuss the needs of black women."

BWA was established because the needs of African-American women weren't being met on this campus. There are no classes that focus on the contributions that black women have made to this culture throughout history.

"We have very few classes that are geared toward African-American women," McConaga said. "We aren't targeted. In general, the University deals with the concerns of white males. This excludes women, especially black women."

Also, the group is fighting the negative stereotypes of black women in the media. They fear that these stereotypes contribute to internal racism on this campus.

"In the media, black women are seen in two ways: They have an attitude and they're domineering," said Kenya Luvert, co-director of Black Women of Achievement, "or, they are wild, primitive, exotic beings. Many professors and students don't take us seriously. BWA is going to show them that we're serious. We're going to show them what BWA is all about."

This term the group is organizing a Women's Empowerment Luncheon entitled "Power, Prestige and Purpose." Their goal is to enhance the University's knowledge concerning women's issues. The issues that will be addressed are health care, family relations, safety issues, scholarship and retention rates. This symposium will include guest speakers. Following the luncheon will be a semi-formal dance. The women of BWA welcome all women to attend the events. The money that is raised from these events will go toward a Black Women of Achievement scholarship.

"So many African-American students drop out of school for financial reasons," Luvert said. "We feel that this shouldn't be a factor. We hope that this scholarship will help these students remain at the University."

Next year, BWA will start a mentorship program with local middle and high schools. They want to reach the younger generations of blacks and guide them in a positive direction to higher education and a positive lifestyle.

In the future, the group wants to increase its membership and continue to serve African-American women on this campus.

Please Recycle This Paper

See the Big Apple.

There are thousands of great reasons to buy a Macintosh. We've given you quite a few in the past: It does more. It costs less. It's that simple. Three out of four students say Macintosh is the easiest computer to learn and use.* And Macintosh is considered the #1 computer value by students.*

Now we'd like to hear yours. Just come up with your two best reasons to buy a Macintosh, and you could win ***a trip to New York City*** for yourself and a friend! Come by the **Microcomputer Support Center** for entry forms and complete contest rules.

You know it's a great computer. Just tell us about it, and you could see the Big Apple... up close.

*Based on Campus Monitor Research Series Oct/Nov 1993 CASS Communications

Microcomputer Support Center
202 Computing Center • 346-4402
Monday–Friday 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.

©1994 Apple Computer, Inc. Apple, the Apple logo, and Macintosh are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc.

Best of 1994 Macintosh