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# Program offers oasis of learning

■ **EDUCATION:** Variety of classes offered for older adults through center

By **Brian Womack**  
Higher Education Reporter

Education is a never-ending process.

That's the philosophy for people who attend classes at the Older Adults Services and Information System (OASIS). People of the age 55 and older can sign up for free membership and attend classes for \$3 or less, said Barbara Susman, director of the OASIS.

The program has a strong focus on volunteerism and the only person paid to work at the center is Susman. Classes the center offers include finance,

botany, psychology, religion, economics and history.

Instructors to teach these classes come from the surrounding community. Sometimes they are current professors, but others are people who have never officially taught before.

The center opened last February and is part of a nationwide chain of centers that boasts 230,000 members.

Locally, the center is sponsored by Meier and Frank and McKenzie-Willamette Hospital. The center is located on the second floor of the rotunda at Meier and Frank in the Valley River Center.

Alan Kimball, professor of history and director of the

Russian and Eastern European Center, has taught three OASIS classes.

He said the center is important to him because it gives him an opportunity to teach a sector of the public he wouldn't usually come into contact with.

"It's an example of something we need to see a lot more of," he said. "It's important to stay in touch with the community."

Susman said the center has some important functions.

There is a growing number of people who are thirsty for enrichment, she said. "The more opportunities we can afford them, the better."

For more information on OASIS, call 342-6611, ext. 2601.

# Home page examines media effects

■ **LINKS:** Media Literacy Project features access to other on-line sources

By **Brian Womack**  
Higher Education Reporter

A home page that focuses on the societal effects of the media was ranked among the top 5 percent in its class, said Gary Ferrington, the home page's developer.

Ferrington, a senior instructor in the School of Education, said the home page is a data base for educating teachers about the media and its effects on society.

The home page, called the Media Literacy Project, features links to other home pages that deal with topics related to media issues, such as media literacy.

"It is the most comprehensive site [because] it has other home pages involved in it," Ferrington said.

The functions of the home page are:

- Collecting articles and biographies for teachers to use.
- Using gateways to other home pages for film, television,

journalism and advertising in the media.

• Building links on the home page with other groups that couldn't otherwise afford to set up their own.

John Pungente, president of the Canadian Association of Media Educational Organizations, said the page is an important tool for a project he is involved in.

He has been using the page to assist him in his work with the Canadian Radio/Television Telecommunications Commission, which is currently working on new guidelines for violence in the media.

"The page is the most valuable resource for media literacy," he said.

"He's done a phenomenal job in designing the page and working to establish a relationship to other groups," said Martin Kaufman, dean of the College of Education.

"It establishes the college [of education] as a focal point for media literacy and gives us both national and international visibility."

Kathleen Tyner, founder of

Strategies for Media Literacy, said the home page saves money in research time as well because the sources of information are easily accessed.

Approximately 400 to 1,200 users dial up the page each month to use the sources, Ferrington said. Home pages of this kind usually draw 500 to 1,000 users a month.

He said the number of users is what is important to him.

"It nice to have the recognition, but the more important thing is the number of people using it," he said.

Ferrington said he didn't know how to set up home pages when he began to work on the page. He was doing research for a project on the effects of media on children when he realized a data base of all the information relevant to his subject could be helpful. He began the home page last November on Gopher and moved to the World Wide Web last January.

Dial up <http://interact.uoregon.edu/MediaLit/HomePage> to find the home page on the Internet.

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<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ode>

**ET ALS**

MEETINGS:  
Student Health Advisory Committee will meet today at 3 p.m. in the Student Health Medical Library. For more information, call 346-4447.  
Faith Center College Age Fellowship will sponsor a Friday Night Fellowship tonight at 7:30 at Faith Center's Family Center, 1410 W. 13th Ave. For more information, call 686-9244.

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