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UO instructors receive grant for joint project

■ BOOK: The award will fund an exploration of ancient Greek and Chinese cultures

By Sean Rossol
Higher Education Reporter

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded an \$83,000 grant to two University instructors to enable them to write a book that explores similarities and differences between ancient Greece and ancient China.

The book, "The Siren and the Sage: Knowledge and Wisdom in Ancient Greece and China," is a collaborative project between Stephen Durrant, director of the University Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, and Steven Shankman, professor of English and Classics and director of the Oregon Humanities Center.

"It's basically a comparative studies book that lists the similarities and differences between the two cultures," Shankman said.

The NEH grant will allow Shankman and Durrant to do research, collect data and write the book.

"This will allow us more time to do research and give us more money for travel and research expenses," said Shankman. "It will release us from our teaching duties so that we are able to complete the project."

The grant is one of only two

collaborative projects funded by the NEH in 1996.

"We are very honored to be one of only two groups to receive a grant," Shankman said. "At the same time, I'm also very sorry about the decreasing ability of the NEH to give out funding. I'm sorry to see public funding dry up for this kind of research."

"The Siren and the Sage" is not the first book the two men have collaborated on.

Shankman and Durrant first worked together in 1991, during a faculty seminar designed to integrate Asian materials into the mainly Western humanities curriculum at the University.

Shankman and Durrant have since worked with four other University scholars on a new-world literature anthology, emphasizing East-West connections. The anthology will be published by Prentice-Hall in 1997.

Shankman said he hopes "The Siren and the Sage" will be finished sometime in 1997 as well.

"We're going to try and finish it by the summer of 1997," he said.

"Our biggest hope is that it will lead toward a more global understanding of world civilizations," he said. "It allows us to see certain characteristics that people wouldn't be able to see if they only studied Western culture. They wouldn't have anything to compare it to."

New home page offers access to student health information

■ RESOURCE: The site covers all aspects of the Student Health Center

By Jennifer Schmitt
Higher Education Reporter

Information on health questions, student health insurance and even how to make an appointment to see a health practitioner on campus is now available to students on the Student Health Center's home page.

The home page provides a lot of basic information, especially concerning health and medical issues, that students want and need to know, said James Jackson, physician at the Student Health Center.

"Students like to do some of the research themselves when they are sick," Jackson said.

Jackson, who created the home page, spent about 80 hours of his own time setting it up.

"It was just something that I thought needed to be done," he said. "Since I need to see patients during the day, I had to work on it after hours."

The home page provides students with information on all aspects of the Student Health Center, including access to the center's resource library.

Jackson said the home page would be especially helpful for new and out-of-state students who are trying to take care of their medical requirements before fall term.

"Someone from Seattle who needs a second measles shot before he comes to school in the fall can get the form off the Net," Jackson said. "Then all he has to do is take it to his physician, have it filled out and then he

can mail it or fax it to us."

The home page also lists services available at the health center and its hours of operation.

"If a student is at home on a Saturday afternoon and want to know if the Urgent Care Clinic is open, all they have to do is click on 'Urgent Care Clinic' and they get all the information they need," Jackson said.

The home page also links to other universities' health centers, providing students with even more avenues to find information.

One example of this is the "Go Ask Alice" page from Columbia University. The confidential question-and-answer forum gets about 15 to 20 questions a day, which are answered by health professionals and then posted on the Internet.

"This is the most popular one in the U.S. as far as young adults are concerned," Jackson said. "The questions usually tend to deal with issues that concern young adults, like STDs and drugs."

Jackson plans to add more university links to the home page. He hopes to make the page compatible with Netscape 2.0, the newest Netscape version on the market. With the new program, students would be able to split the screen. They could scroll down one side and save the other half for information they want kept on the screen. Jackson also is hoping to be able to link photos into the home page.

The address for the home page is <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~uoshc/>.

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