

Human anatomy lab receives four new cadavers

Dissection provides students with hands-on learning about the human body

By Sarah Skidmore
Oregon Daily Emerald

Kip, Jessica, Nicole and Mack just arrived at the University. They will be here for about two years, the duration of which they will

spend entirely in the basement of Klamath Hall.

Kip, Jessica, Nicole and Mack are the new cadavers for the Exercise and Movement Science Department's Human Anatomy lab.

The EMS department usually gets two new cadavers every two years from the Organ Donation Program. Because of a change in professors, no new cadavers were ordered in spring 1997. The new

professor, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Greg Straum, had extra funds to work with and ties at Oregon Health and Sciences University, enabling him to acquire the four new cadavers.

"Now we are hoping to recycle all four of them every year so we can have a lot of dissections and involve more students in the process of dissection," said Reed Ferber, the Graduate Teaching Fellow who is facilitating the lab for his fourth year.

Ferber said Human Anatomy, a yearlong course taught by Straum, is challenging.

Fall term is dedicated to the study of the muscular-skeletal system, winter to systems such as the

digestive, nervous and circulatory, and spring and summer sessions to dissection.

The top students in the class have an unlikely reward. Nicole, Jessica, Kip and Mack are the names of the top two female and top two male students from the previous term, Ferber said.

The challenges for most students are primarily academic. However, some students experience a few difficulties with the realities of the cadavers.

"You might have one or two students a quarter who need to step outside," Ferber said.

The toenail polish on Jessica's feet and hair on the scalp or face of a cadaver that is not completely

dissected are the more difficult realities, Ferber said.

"The human connection isn't really made when you first see them because there is no skin on them," he said.

The cadavers are human, however, and this type of learning is invaluable for students, Ferber said.

"This is a very significant experience for a lot of people just to be able to actually touch a cadaver and even feel it, or even dissect them," he said. "That is when you learn a whole lot about the human body."

Having more than one cadaver offers learning opportunities for more students and also allows students to see differences between the individuals.

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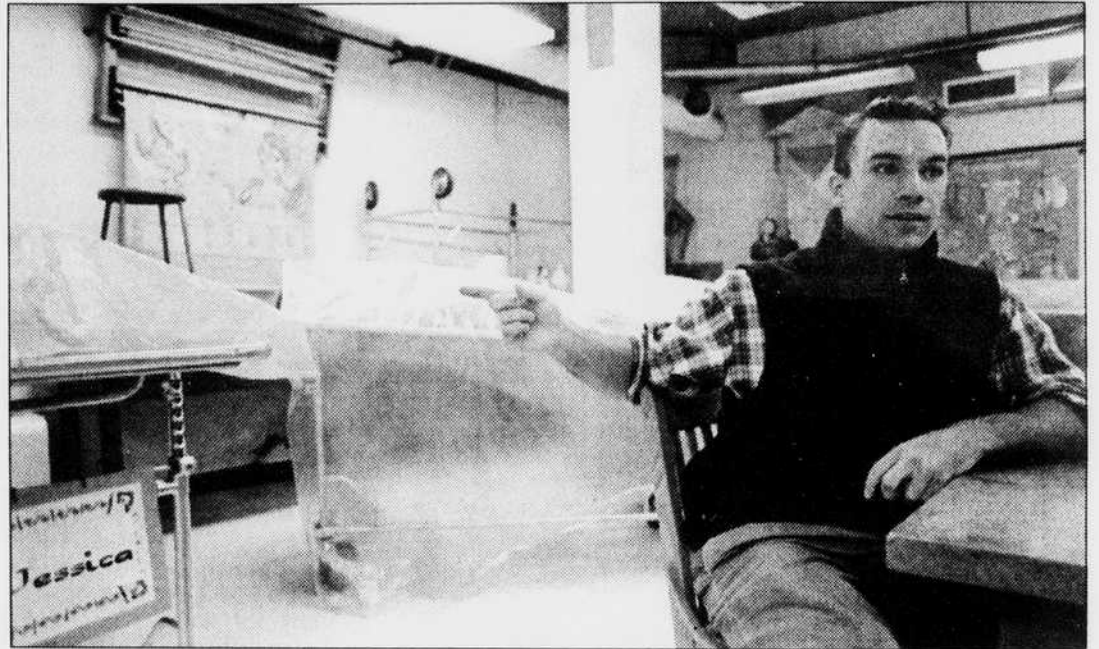
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Graduate teaching fellow Reed Ferber points to 'Jessica,' one of the new cadavers for this year's Biology 311 class.

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