

# Honors College seeks to diversify curriculum

■ The college will revamp its history courses with the help of a \$12,000 grant

By Brooke Ross  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Diversity improvements are in the works at the Robert D. Clark Honors College, and over the course of the next few years the faculty hopes to see a more diversified student body and faculty, and even a more global curriculum.

The Honors College recently received a \$12,000 grant from the Williams Council that will allow its faculty to develop and eventually implement a history curriculum focus-

ing on the histories of a variety of cultures. The faculty will spend the next academic year researching and planning the revised curriculum.

In addition to revamping the curriculum, David Frank, associate professor of rhetoric and director of the Honors College, said he is determined to see diversity among the Honors College faculty and student body increase. He said focusing on these two groups while revising the history curriculum may be key to improving overall diversity.

"No one change will make the differences we seek," he said. "Our intent is to embrace diversity and do so carefully."

Frank said next fall's freshman

class appears more diverse than this year's, and revising the history curriculum is one way to ensure a variety of students remain in the college.

Joseph Fracchia, an associate history professor in the Honors College, said selecting material for the revised classes will be a challenge because there is so much information to choose from. He said one part of the grant will fund a two-week seminar allowing University faculty to meet this summer to develop ideas for the future curriculum, including possible course topics, texts and materials.

"We are looking to develop a curriculum that has integrity and yet also can deal in depth with various cultures," he said. "We have to organize it so we do justice to all cultures."

Fracchia said improving diversity

in the Honors College has been a concern of his for nearly a decade. For a long time, he was the sole history professor in the Honors College and revising the curriculum was too much for one person to do alone, he said. Now that there are two history professors and there is grant money, the faculty are more able to take action to improve diversity.

"This is something that's overdue," he said. "I'm excited it's happening."

Fracchia said students share his enthusiasm.

"Students regularly expressed concerns to me that the curriculum is too narrow, so many of them are now pleased," he said.

Frank said the new curriculum will be ready to test in the 2002-2003 academic year. He also said the Honors College will begin a search for an

additional history professor for next year. The department hopes to bring in someone who is an expert in a field outside Western history.

In addition to hiring new faculty, Frank said the Honors College will offer a handful of courses next year with topics ranging from global human rights to Latin American ethnicity. He said the college invited University professors outside the Honors College to teach in their areas of expertise.

Carlos Aguirre, an assistant history professor, will teach Race and Ethnicity in Modern Latin America to Honors College students next winter. He said he hopes to teach them how to appreciate the complexities of racial identities among Latin Americans and also dispel some of the typical stereotypes surrounding Latin Americans.

## SASS forms new group to help assault victims

■ Survivors of sexual assault can attend a weekly support group exclusively for students

By Lindsay Buchele  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Those who have survived sexual assault are hesitant to talk about what has happened to them and often have difficulty finding the right support system, said Robin Tiedeman, the Sexual Assault Support Services support group program manager. But University students who have been victims of sexual assault now have one more resource for dealing with their experiences.

SASS has joined forces with the University Counseling Center to bring a safe and comfortable environment to University women who can find support with each other. Starting today, the counseling center will host a closed group session once a week until the end of spring term to provide support for University females who have been victims of sexual assault.

"SASS does important work in our community for survivors," said Dr. Joy Lum, a staff psychologist for the University Counseling Center. "[We] wanted to work jointly with [SASS] because we have mutual goals of helping those who have experienced sexual assault or abuse."

Students can sign up on a first-come, first-serve basis and take part in the exclusive group, Tiedeman said. The group will be limited to six or eight female University students.

"It's important not to add people once the group has started," she said. "The idea is that the group becomes comfortable enough with each other to share their experiences and feel-

ings. If people are added, this can create an uncomfortable situation."

She has recently taken over the position of support group program coordinator and said she decided that it was time to start a group again, with a new group of sexual assault survivors established every term.

"At this point, the group is just for students in order to present a safe environment," she said. "If the group flourishes, we may be able to add a faculty group."

Tiedeman and Lum agree that support from others who have shared the same experience can mean a lot to a sexual assault survivor.

"So often survivors fear they must have done something wrong or have been bad to be assaulted or experience abuse," Lum said, "and while this is not the case, groups like the one we are forming help survivors find more power and feel less alienated."

Lara Modisette, a sexual assault prevention and education coordinator for the ASUO Women's Center, said the center supports the group.

"We get women looking for support resources all the time," Modisette said. "A group atmosphere might be more comfortable."

Tiedeman warns that a group atmosphere might not be best for everyone. For those who need that support, there are strict guidelines of confidentiality.

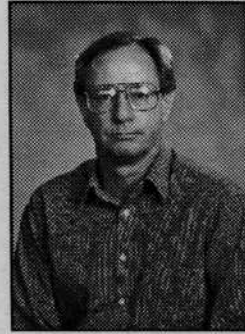
"Students will need to make agreements with each other on how they communicate outside the group," Tiedeman said.

The group will meet today from 12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the University Counseling Center. To sign up, call the Counseling Center at 346-3227 or SASS at 484-9791.

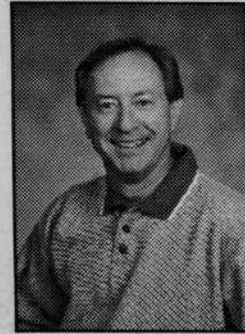
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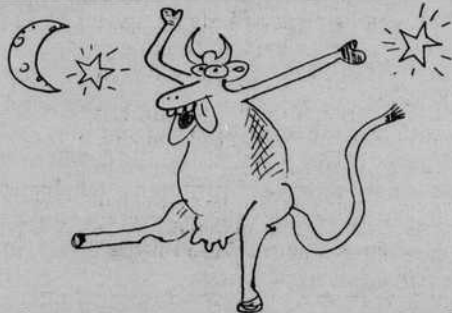
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