UC SANTA BARBARA

THE Current

September 10, 1998
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English Department Creating Innovative Computer Studio

UCSB's Department of English will soon be the site of a unique computer lab that faculty members say will help future students bridge the seemingly unrelated areas of literary scholarship and the Internet.

Department organizers envision a facility with a web server and eight or more networked computers that will enable students to access and submit course work on-line. The project also calls for the development of two new clusters of courses around the theme "literature and technology." The first of the new computers should be in place next month.

"Our initiative is called 'Transcriptions: Literary History and the Culture of Information,' in short, because we are seeking to transcribe across the boundary between literary humanities and new information technology," explained William Warner, one of six faculty members participating in the project.

"Literature has always been enabled by information technologies and the cultural practices that allow such technologies to work. This project will further offer new means to understand both traditionally important writers and the changing forms of literature and its contexts in the age of electronic media."

Under the leadership of project director Alan Liu, the department has already received a highly competitive "Teaching and Technology" grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and is now seeking to raise an additional $15,000 to

release an equivalent sum in matching funds set aside for the project by the agency.

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.