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Grant works to improve free online learning resources

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Grant works to improve free online learning resources

NOVEMBER 19, 2012 BY D.J. CHUMBLEY

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Director of UM Center for Writing and Rhetoric Robert Cummings

OXFORD, Miss. — A new grant, awarded to Robert Cummings, director of the Center for Writing and Rhetoric at the University of Mississippi, will help improve the visibility of Open Educational Resources.

OERs are free and openly licensed online learning materials. Massive open online courses, or MOOCs, are one type of OER aimed at large-scale participation.

Cummings, along with researchers Pete Forsyth, Sara Frank Bristow and Alexis Hart, was awarded the \$140,000 grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for his work with the Communicate OER Project.

"The main purpose of the project is to improve the awareness of Open Educational Resources by improving the quality of OER pages on Wikipedia," Cummings said.

Through OER, Cummings and his associates are working to create a better way to reach students through the Internet and teach subjects not available locally. Along with bridging the geographic gap, the project plans to cut the financial burden that often accompanies education.

The project will run for about 18 months and will take place in two phases. It is currently in its second phase: gathering participants to promote OER awareness.

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Students Learn 'Real Politics' in Washington, D.C., Winter Session

OXFORD, Miss. – Eleven University of Mississippi students spent their winter break learning about the people who work behind the scenes of the American government in Washington, D.C. Lead by Jonathan Klingler, assistant professor of political science, the students of Pol 391: Applied Politics met not with candidates, but with the people who make candidates'

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OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to abate. The Federal Reserve's

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