

Miami University Hamilton
Annual Report
2003-2004
Highlights

Miami University Hamilton continued to pursue its mission throughout the 2003-2004 academic year with a renewed emphasis on connecting to the community. Enhanced academic programs, remarkable special events, and continued growth highlighted the year.

Academic Excellence

As the campus prepares for a 2005 accreditation review, all academic programs continue to update their course offerings to maintain Miami's standard of excellence. The Department of Nursing, housed on both the Hamilton and Middletown campuses, received outstanding reviews from the Ohio League of Nursing. The curriculum has been approved for another five years. The Engineering Technology Department, also located on both Hamilton and Middletown campuses, launched a new mechanical engineering option within its program. Two new courses in Latin American Studies were offered for credit to address the changing faces of Southwest Ohio's population. And, within the Business & Industry Center, an expansion of the Command Spanish® program saw more employees from area businesses learn conversational Spanish.

Landmark Events

The 2003-2004 academic year brought some remarkable special events for Miami Hamilton. Just before the holidays, a \$3.3 million gift from the Richard J. Fitton family was donated to Miami Hamilton to build a 7,000 square foot botanical conservatory on the campus grounds. The Conservatory will house the botany program and serve as a resource for not only students in the natural sciences, but across disciplines. The Conservatory also will serve the community with a number of educational programs. Funding provides for maintenance of the facility, along with a landscaping that will connect to the campus's existing prairie filled with native Ohio plants. In the fall of 2003, Miami Hamilton received word that the Michael J. Colligan History Project and the Hamilton City School District were recipients of a \$731,631 Teaching American History Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The program, now in full operation, is an institute for k-12 history teachers. Racial Legacies & Learning town meetings brought in two distinguished guest lectures during the year—Jane Elliott and Julian Bond. Numerous other programs filled Parrish Auditorium and the Harry T. Wilks Conference Center to capacity.

Continued Growth

Once again, Miami Hamilton hit record numbers of students as enrollments increased another 2 percent. Serving more than 3,500 students, the campus continues to grow. Currently, a Master Plan is in development to provide our students and the community with even more academic offerings and an even more efficient and welcoming campus. Miami Hamilton requested a new address name change and was formally approved by Hamilton City Council this spring. Our new address is 1601 University Boulevard. And, with the opening of University Hall this summer, the campus will gain more classroom, lab, and faculty space to better serve our students and the community.

MU Goal 1: Strengthen the academic profile of entering students

MUH Goal 1: Extend the marketing of degree and non-degree programs to traditional and non-traditional students.

- Applications for the 2003-04 school year increased by 2.5 percent or 1,832 students.
- Financial Aid awarded \$102,208 in scholarships, a 9.5 percent increase from the previous year. About 47 percent of our students receive some form of aid.
- Initiated new on-line registration and record keeping processes and procedures for open enrollment courses in Continuing Education with new LLMS software.
- Miami Hamilton enjoyed another year of record high enrollments. Part of the growth is due to more first time college students. The undergraduate headcount grew by 2 percent during the fall and another 2 percent in the spring over the previous year.
- Launched award-winning marketing campaign consisting of postcards, billboards, and cable television spots.

MU Goal 2: Strengthen the academic profile of new faculty and the academic support for existing faculty.

MUH Goal 2: Strengthen academic profiles of new faculty within the context of the campus mission and to strengthen support for existing faculty and staff.

- To help with the increased student enrollment, Miami Hamilton welcomed 16 new full-time faculty with seven filling new positions.
 - Continued financial support for professional conferences and for research, scholarship, or creative project needs. David Berg was promoted professor of zoology, Mark Christian was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor and David Hergert was promoted to professor of engineering technology.
- Whitney Womack, English, was elected President of the American Literature 1 group for the Midwestern Modern Language Association. She also was recognized as the Teaching Excellence Award recipient from the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities and received Outstanding Teacher from the Hamilton Campus.

MU Goal 3: Develop a curriculum for the 21st century at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

MUH Goal 3: Broaden developmental, pre-baccalaureate, and technical curricula to meet diverse student needs and to prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century.

- The Department of Engineering Technology launched a new Mechanical Engineering Technology option in the bachelor's of science completion program. The department also added web enhancements to several engineering technology courses with the goal of offering more courses on the web.
- New courses are being developed to enhance current programs in the Natural Sciences and will be housed at The Conservatory, to be built this coming year.
- Developed two new courses in Latin American Studies to address the changing faces of Southwest Ohio's population.

- An agreement between MU and Fort Hamilton Hospital was established to offer bachelor of nursing courses part time at the hospital beginning fall 2004.
- The Computer Information Technology program is fully implemented.
- Campus Kids and the Miami's Department of Education developed a program to allow the child care center to serve as a training ground for the student teachers in the Pre Kindergarten program. Currently, Campus Kids is the only site for student teachers doing their infant/toddler student teaching hours.
- The Business & Industry Center launched Command Spanish®, which trains employees from various businesses to learn conversational Spanish.
- In partnership with the Middletown Campus, the executive director and his academic leadership team are working to identify needed programs.

MU Goal 4: Strengthen academic standards and enrich campus intellectual and cultural life.

MUH Goal 4: Encourage teaching and learning in a variety of contexts by enhancing the intellectual and cultural life of the campus.

- The newly formed campus Theatre Department produced two plays which included members from the community.
- The Racial Legacies & Learning town meeting series resulted in two excellent opportunities for learning enrichment. Jane Elliott focused on her landmark research initiative dealing with diversity and Julian Bond discussed the importance of civil rights and a spirit of activism.
- The Michael J. Colligan History Project averaged 200 plus participants from the campus and the community at each of its lecture events. This year's focus was on heroes and heroines.
- The Harry T. Wilks Lecture Series welcomed Pat Buchanan to the campus.
- Each month, Miami Hamilton hosts Faculty Seminars, which highlight the research of individual faculty members.
- A number of procedures and policies were clarified and refined under the guidance of the Learning Assistance staff. For instance, an increase in minimum standards for participation in athletics and improving the transition process between the Hamilton campus and Oxford campus for students of color.

MU/MUH Goal 5: Increase the diversity of the faculty, staff, and student body.

- University Hospital will offer a scholarship to cover full cost of an associate nursing degree program to one minority student in nursing.

MU/MUH Goal 6: Enhance campus facilities, buildings, systems and technology.

- Initiated a request to change the campus address from Peck Boulevard to University Boulevard. The request was officially approved by Hamilton City Council members this spring.
- Revised an Emergency Plan for the campus.
- The renovation of University Hall, the planned construction of The Conservatory, and the development of a Master Plan for the entire campus will greatly enhance the campus facilities including the immediate addition of three new classrooms, a computer classroom, two seminar rooms, a computer lab, a

faculty and staff lounge, a student lounge, new Nursing laboratories, and 27 new faculty and staff offices.

- The initial phase of providing wireless access for the Hamilton campus has been put in place. The initial phase includes all high-student activity areas such as the Schwarm Library, the student common area, the student study lounges and the Multicultural Center.
- For the first time in the history of the campus, all six computer classrooms will have all new computers with the same configuration allowing students and faculty to seamlessly operate.

MU Goal 7: Strengthen the university revenue base.

MUH Goal 8: Strengthen the fiscal position of the campus

- Graciously accepted a gift of \$3.3 million from the Richard J. Fitton Family to build and maintain a botanical conservatory. The Conservatory will be built this summer and fall.
- Created a Grant Development Position for the campus. Plans are under way to begin recruiting this summer.

MUH Goal 7: Strengthen existing relationships and foster increased interaction with the greater Hamilton community by focusing on community outreach programs, K-12 partnerships, and service learning.

- Received a \$731,631 grant from the United States Department of Education to develop a Teaching American History project with the Hamilton City School District to further train history teachers.
- Miami Hamilton and the School of Fine Arts Department hosted the Greater Hamilton Art Exhibition at the Fitton Center, which featured student works.
- Received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to offer a summer institute for teachers k-12. The project is entitled “Philosophy for Children: Mining for Meaning in Children’s Literature.”
- A plan for initiating a service-learning program on the Hamilton campus was developed in conjunction with the Oxford campus during this academic year and will be implemented in 2004-05.
- Miami Hamilton is a partner in two area collaborations–The SEBC Workforce Academy and the Butler-Warren County Regional Training Collaborative.
- Miami Hamilton is working with Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Miami University Middletown, UC Clermont College, UC Raymond Walters College on the Southwest Ohio Homeland Security Training Collaborative.

MU Goal 8: Develop improved benchmarking with peer institutions.

MUH Goal 9: Develop processes for continuing campus improvement.

- The Ohio League of Nursing presented an outstanding report after their site visit with the nursing department.
- The campus is preparing for the 2005 accreditation process.

