

MIAMI UNIVERSITY HAMILTON: 2004-2005 HIGHLIGHTS

Academic Excellence

As the campus seeks to maintain the high quality of Miami University in all efforts, it also strives to respond to the changing and growing needs of the students and the business community. In 2004-2005, we developed the Hamilton Honors Program that will offer students who obtain an associate's degree the opportunity for an honors designation on their transcripts. It will also articulate with the University Honors Program if qualified students wish to participate when they relocate to Oxford. The still new CIT department has taken seriously the charge of responding to business needs, and developed two new associate's degrees. One has a concentration in IT support; the other, developed in collaboration with ART, is Digital Media Technology. They have also created a course called Ethics in IT, in keeping with the Miami Plan principle of "reflecting and acting." The faculty in all disciplines have demonstrated increased excellence. Dr. Ann Rypstra was named Miami's Distinguished Scholar; Dr. John Williams earned the 2004 Outstanding Service Award from the Cincinnati Section of the American Chemical Society (over 1700 members); ten books were published, one journal was edited, a DVD series for history teachers was produced, and over \$415,000 in new grant money was received.

Landmark Events

University Hall's renovation was completed and the departments of Nursing and Business Technology were in place as classes began there in late August. In September, ground was broken for The Conservatory, a gift from Richard J. Fitton and family, and the structure is now "under glass" and nearing completion. In the meantime, a botanist/conservatory manager was hired and has been planning the collection and programs for the new facility. The Michael J. Colligan History Project had what may be its most successful year yet, with five of its programs serving standing-room-only crowds. The "spin-off" Teaching American History grant project served teachers from Hamilton City Schools; a renewal proposal is in the works to serve two more school districts. The Racial Legacies & Learning town meetings continued into its seventh year with strong topics and speakers that drew ongoing financial and in-kind support as well as attendance from campus and community. Speakers were Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Dr. Maulana Karenga, and Molefi Asante, Jr. The Artist Series, with bluegrass and jazz performances, brought almost 5000 people to campus, regularly packing Parrish Auditorium.

Planning for the Future

In response to the facts that regional campus students now comprise 22% of Miami's population and that the campuses are experiencing new and intense competition from new institutions in the area, a task force was formed by the Coordinating Council to study the relationships among Miami's three Butler County campuses. The results both call for and guide future planning. In addition, the Hamilton campus completed plans for space utilization, IT needs and growth, and a feasibility study for campus housing. A grants coordinator/writer was hired to aid in obtaining external funding to enhance both scholarship and fiscal health.

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

- The campus offered a record high 26 programs that targeted adult learners in the area, as well as additional programs reaching out to traditional students. Winton Woods High School was added as a regular site for visits from our admission counselors.
- New articulation agreements were entered with Tech Prep high schools, as well as with other institutions of higher education for bachelor's degree completion programs (e.g., for BTE students).
- The regional campus CIT department sponsored an IT Industry/Education Forum to bring students, faculty, and IT professionals into conversation about trends and issues in the IT world.
- A new model of instruction was piloted for a summer course, to serve adults with limited time available in the summer for education.
- Visits to local high schools and vocational schools provided good opportunities to inform students about both our pre-kindergarten associate's degree and our co-op/internship office's services in a variety of areas.
- The number of off-site courses doubled at the Lakota West site, and summer offerings were increased on campus.

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

- Faculty support included developing a new position of Special Assistant to the Executive Director for Scholarship; increased monies for travel, research support and student wages; and for pre-tenure faculty, a semester of minimal teaching in which to focus on scholarship or special service projects (called TERCSS).
- Dr. Whitney Womack Smith was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor; Dr. Sree Subedi was promoted to Professor.
- Dr. Ann Rypstra was named as Miami's Distinguished Scholar.
- Dr. Mark Christian was recognized by the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities for excellence in teaching.
- Faculty accomplishments included the appearance of ten books, seven book chapters, over thirty articles in refereed journals, and one journal edited, along with seven juried art exhibitions and a DVD series for history teachers.
- Two classified staff members were added to the Hamilton Campus Senate.

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 campus developed a new associate's degree in Digital Media Technology, a collaboration between CIT and ART, and another in IT support (CIT).
- Techniques were newly introduced into science laboratories, such as DNA extraction and electrophoresis; an additional half-time lab technician was hired to support the science labs.
- Our new Director of Learning Assistance began work. The office hired a half-time ESL instructor/specialist to serve our non-native English speakers. The director developed a required training program for the peer tutors. The office provided academic assessment for over 1500 students.

- A new Ethics in IT course was developed and approved; and a new web-based Nursing class was developed.
- The collaboration between the child care facility and Academic Affairs was broadened: now students in education, psychology, and art courses engage in service learning through Campus Kids.

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

- The campus developed and approved the Hamilton Honors Program, which will provide honors courses and experiences to Hamilton Campus students. The campus collaborated with the University Honors Program so that the Hamilton Program will articulate with the University program for those eligible students who choose to participate in Oxford upon relocating.
- The Michael J. Colligan History Project continued to bring to campus outstanding speakers, such as Christopher Browning, to stimulate the thoughts of the community as well as of students, staff, and faculty.
- The Artist Series provided a fine series of musical guests from the bluegrass and jazz genres, and brought almost 5000 guests to campus.
- The science faculty used the Miami Hamilton Tall Grass Prairie Demonstration Garden and Forest Succession Experiment to enhance their courses.
- A national conference on slavery and colonialism brought experts to campus to connect with Anthropology, Black World Studies, and History classes, among others.
- The Senior Design Project public presentations by ENT students allowed the campus to celebrate the creativity and accomplishment of the seniors, among them some national award winners.
- The campus offered more cross-listed courses with LAS, WMS, and FST than ever before; and more courses had web enhancements.
- Our monthly faculty research seminar finished its 9th year; the Student Scholar Symposium highlighted outstanding student academic and creative achievement for the 5th year.

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

- The percentage of minority students held steady for Miami Hamilton at 9% (10% in Nursing); however, efforts were increased to retain those students by the Office of Multicultural Services, the Office of Advising and Retention, and the Office of Learning Assistance. For instance, for English Language Learners (ELL), we created sections of writing specifically to help with their needs, and conversation workshops were offered to both students and community members; also, a policy was developed for an extended time option on tests for ELLs.
- Efforts continued to hire minorities in all areas; the faculty currently includes 14% minorities.
- The Office of Multicultural Services offered programming for everyone: a Hispanic Fiesta, a Multicultural Thanksgiving Feast, a film series on diversity, an African American Student Leadership Summit, and February's Taste of Soul Dinner.
- Accommodations were arranged for 137 students with disabilities in 341 classes, including the proctoring of 432 exams. Ninety-two new students with disabilities were registered, a 51% increase from last year.

- Three faculty attended a Chautauqua workshop on the retention of under-represented groups in science, technology, engineering, and math; another collaborated on a research project on retention of female physics majors.
- The admission team has worked more actively with Winton Woods High School to attract more African American students to campus; they also developed a special program for Spanish speakers in the local area.
- A Special Assistant to the Executive Director for Diversity Initiatives was appointed to spearhead the “14 in 40” initiative—an effort to reach 14% minority enrollment by the campus’ 40th birthday in 2008.
- Revision was begun on the campus diversity plan.

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

- The Conservatory construction was begun, and is nearly complete.
- Implementation of the Space Planning Report was begun, including plans for major renovations in Mosler Hall.
- Two new buildings along University Boulevard were acquired and cleaned; they now house the operations of the Hamilton Campus Physical Facilities team.
- New computers were installed in all computer classrooms and labs (nine rooms in all) and on all 14 audio-visual media carts; the entire campus has wireless accessibility.
- University Hall renovation was completed, and classes began there in the fall.
- ENT expanded its use of the web and DVDs to make course materials available to all students at all times.

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.

- The Colligan History Project, and its offshoot, the Teaching American History grant project (funded by the Department of Education), serve both the public schools and the greater community by making the study of history accessible. Their credits also include the very successful Kids Voting program among area schools.
- Among the campus faculty and staff are the president of the Audubon Society of Ohio (2200 members); the director of the MU Ecology Research Center, which has an outreach mission; the winner of the 2004 Outstanding Service Award of the Cincinnati Section of the American Chemical Society (more than 1700 members); and many other members of boards of directors of local agencies and volunteer organizations, sharing their varied expertise.
- Racial Legacies & Learning: How to Talk About Race, a campus/community forum, experienced its seventh successful year of bringing learned speakers to campus to challenge the community and campus. This year saw Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Dr. Maulana Karenga, and Molefi Asante, Jr.

MUH Goal 8: Strengthen the fiscal position of the campus

- There were several principal and co-principal investigators of new and ongoing external grant projects, totaling over two million dollars, at work on their respective projects. Granting agencies include the NSF, the US Department of Education, and the State of Ohio.
- The Executive Director’s Office hired a grant coordinator to help faculty and staff work in a more directed and efficient way to gain external funding, where

appropriate. Work was begun on several new proposals, including one for almost a million dollars that is a renewal of the Teaching American History grant.

- A new decentralized budget system was implemented, increasing unit responsibility for expenditures.

MUH Goal 9: Develop processes for continuing campus improvement.

- After their Academic Program Review, the Department of Business Technology initiated the development of a strategic plan to guide their future progress.
- Ongoing conversation with EDT's Early Field/Literacy team helped the campus to align better the expectations for specific courses and field assignments.
- The campus has representatives on three key all-university assessment groups: one each on the University Assessment Team, the University Assessment Council, and the Assessment Fellows.
- The campus has developed several plans with timelines for accountability, including a space plan for using internal campus space more effectively, and an IT strategic plan was developed with the help of the University IT staff.
- A housing feasibility study was commissioned and completed.
- A Regional Campus Task Force was commissioned by the Coordinating Council to identify the issues facing the regional campuses (particularly the increasing competition), prioritize them, and develop recommendations for action; to consider the most appropriate relationships among the three campuses; and to determine strategic directions for the regional campuses. A report was presented in early May. MUH and MUM have been working closely together in this effort.