

Miami Hamilton
State of the Campus Address Notes by Daniel E. Hall
August 14, 2006

Making Miami Hamilton More Miami Hamilton

If you have been gone, welcome back. If you were with us this summer, I hope you had the opportunity to get away and refresh.

As I have done in past years, I plan to recap our most significant achievements of the past year, followed by my thoughts about the challenges we have in the years facing us. First, let's begin by introducing and welcoming the newest members of our community.

Perry Richardson – Campus Communications Officer
Michael Carrafiello – Assistant Dean

Ask assoc.'s dean & directors to introduce their new team members

Again, the accomplishments of this past year demonstrate that we are lucky to have the highest quality faculty and staff in the region. We are also blessed with great students who, through their diversity, enrich our collective experience as educators. It isn't possible to enumerate all of our accomplishments during this address. Please don't interpret any omission as a lack of support or enthusiasm on my part for the omitted accomplishment.

POWERPOINT SLIDES

Of course, we are all here to support our students and our faculty continues to deliver the best undergraduate experience of all our competitors. They continue to prove that the teacher-scholar model is not a dream, but a reality. The Hamilton Campus faculty produce, in proportion to our size, the greatest number of articles and books, and we are the most grant productive, of Miami's three campuses. I don't mention this to disrespect our colleagues, but to illustrate the commitment and hard work of our faculty.

Grants: TAH III: Civics Academy: Zoology

In support of faculty creative activities and scholarship, the Campus has committed considerable resources in the past three years. Dave Berg's appointment, Amy Lamborg's appointment, overhead sharing, and TERCCS. To give you an idea of the dollar value of these initiatives, consider TERCCS. We have a total of fifteen faculty members scheduled for a TERCCS between 2004 and 2010. The total financial cost of the program during that period will be in excess of \$600,000.

Other achievements include the GCCU Award Recipients: Bob Davis & Dave Sobecki (new system which includes new awards for teaching, research, and service)

The development of a criminal justice program, which is moving along nicely. And the development of an Appalachian Studies program, which is to be launched this semester with Appalachian Month, which will run Oct. 15 to Nov. 15 and will feature lecturers, panel discussions, and art displays. Also, Lee and Curt Ellison are teaching a course this fall. A larger group is working on developing an academic and development plan. Through our Office of Continuing Education and Business and Industry Center we continue to provide needed workforce training to businesses and workers.

During the past year, we implemented our new Honors Program. [Jim Kelly](#) has agreed to give us an update.

POWERPOINT SLIDES

As part of our initiative to increase our service to nontraditional learners, our SaturdaySelect & Degree Power Schedule programs were developed.

- Faculty involvement/faculty learning community

- Marketing

- External – Wittenberg & Mt. Union

- [Johanna Moyer presentation](#)

- Recognize all folks involved in development of Sat Select

Finally, I am pleased that we have been able to increase the size of our faculty – with three new visiting assistants professor this year.

Our staff continues to be creative, flexible, and innovative in supporting our students. The Office of Learning Assistance, for example, launched its new “Get Up to Speed” Program, which provides students the opportunity to learn study skills and other habits that will increase the likelihood of their success in the weeks immediate before the Fall Term. The Office of Advising has intensified its efforts to identify and intervene with low performing students in its Academic Recovery Program. We have increased our services to students with disabilities, to our athletes, and through the Office of Multicultural Services, we have increased our diversity and multicultural programming.

We have benefited from active, engaged student leaders for the past couple of years. I have increased my efforts to coordinate with this group and I encourage our faculty and staff to involve students in campus affairs outside of the classroom. Under the direction of Corrine Carthell, we have benefited from our regularly scheduled annual events, such as Fall Fest and Spring Fling. Corrine has also developed a new Café Music Series, Fall Finals Finale, and Fall Leadership Conference for the upcoming year.

We have also been successful in our piece of the University's capital campaign. As you may recall, we were the first unit in the University to reach our campaign goal – which was subsequently increased from slightly more than a million dollars to \$5.5 million. Well, here we are today, still two years from the end of the campaign, and we are at 96% of our new goal, a total of \$5.3 million. Of course, we are not raising money to raise money. What is important is the use of the money. Our Campus, especially our botanists, are enjoying The Conservatory, our nurses are providing care to SimMan, we will all enjoy Edward O. Wilson and other lecturers, and our students benefit from tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships, as a result of the gifts we have received. The internal campaign is set to begin this semester. I encourage every member of the staff and faculty to think about demonstrating support for this Campus through this campaign. The amount you give is not important. That you give is important.

As has been true for many years, the Campus significantly contributed to the intellectual and cultural life of our community through our performing artists series, the Colligan History Project, the Harry T. Wilks Lecture Series, Racial Legacies, and other events.

As I ponder what the next year will bring, I begin by reflecting on the leadership change this University has experienced in the past year. We have a new Provost and new President. For reasons I will mention in a minute, I am excited about the ideas our new leadership have expressed and the support they have demonstrated for our Campus. Jeffrey has demonstrated his commitment to regional higher education and to our access and opportunity mission. While we are still getting to know our new President, I will share with you what I have learned a little about him. First, he is fully committed to public higher education. Second, in an often-repeated phrase, he is committed to making Miami more Miami. I don't think we yet know precisely what this means, but I have heard him say that it means to identify and build on the characteristics that make Miami distinctive. One such characteristic has been Miami's commitment to outstanding undergraduate education. Third, he has been very clear in his commitment to bring both regional campuses back into the fold.

POWERPOINT SLIDE

Following President Hodge's lead, I ask, what has made Miami Hamilton distinctive? How can Miami Hamilton be more Miami Hamilton? Of course, we share in the University's overall mission and its commitment to outstanding undergraduate education. But our specific commitment to access and opportunity for the residents of our region, as well as to service to our communities, distinguishes us from our Oxford Campus. To this end, the Service Committee has done good work and we will continue our discussions about service this year (as demonstrated by the opening workshop this morning). So, this year, I ask everyone to reflect on what you are doing to advance our mission? What have you done and what you are plans to serve our communities? To this end, I plan to meet with every standing committee this year, and to work with the DCB, to identify ways we can better serve our students and communities.

An important initiative for next year is assessment. To this end, Kelly Cowan and I appointed a joint campus assessment team, headed by our own Beverly Taylor. They have been charged with examining assessment on the regional campuses, within the context of the University's assessment efforts. Although not included in the initial charge, I am going to ask that group to give special attention to our Saturday Select efforts. I am confident we are constructing a high quality learning experience, but as is true of all new learning experiences, we need to assess what we are doing, make appropriate adjustments, and continue to improve learning outcomes.

Unfortunately, enrollment continues to be a challenge. Date in time, our enrollment is down another 4.5% this year, adding to last year's 6% decline. But if we stay the course in improving our delivery to the region with programs that our communities desire, at times and in locations that make sense, we can reverse the trend.

Completion of the VOA center, which is now on track under the leadership of our new president, will help, as will a continuous commitment to meeting student needs through evening and weekend programming. To advance the cause of offering more degree programs that our communities want, the Provost and President have agreed to retain a consultant. Kelly Cowan and I have recently made a recommendation in this regard.

Another area of distinction for this campus is athletics. We have a robust and successful athletics program. Our baseball team, for example, has won its league for seven consecutive years. Athletics has, and can play a greater role, in recruitment and retention on this Campus. It also enriches Campus life and external visibility. During the next year, we will explore how we can better capitalize on this resource and how we can better support the efforts of our athletic director, coaches, and athletes.

The next couple of years will be marked with several changes to our physical infrastructure. The renovations, which we have discussed as a Campus for nearly two years, are converging to occur simultaneously. Hopefully, the renovations and improvements that will be undertaken this year will leave us with a better learning and living environment. [POWERPOINT SLIDES] I now have a request of everyone in this room. Patience. Understand that we don't have control over the timing of this work and that there will be some noise and dust during the upcoming months.

Last year, I challenged our community to operate in a new MODE: To seriously consider our mission, to be open to change, to be decisive, and to be expeditious. I am quite proud that so many of us met this challenge. The wide support for SaturdaySelect & Degree Power Schedule programs are examples.

Finally, I note that much, if not all, of what I have discussed can be found in the recommendations of the Regional Campus Task Force – service, degree mix, VOA, structure. So, to the members of that committee and to those who otherwise contributed

to the development of the task force's recommendations – thank you. This has not been another report that collected dust on a shelf.

I look forward to the year ahead and to working with each of you in making Miami Hamilton more Miami Hamilton.

Announcements