



## The Conservatory construction nears completion

Construction continues on The Conservatory with the date of completion soon. Preparations are under way for a Gala Ribbon Cutting Ceremony scheduled for September 20 in conjunction with the Butler County Chamber Caucus and sponsored by First Financial Bank.

According to Dick Munson, manager of The Conservatory, hours of operation to the public will be limited for the first few months as staff work to implement plant collection plans. Look for more information including opportunities for community volunteers.

## Campus renovations welcome students to fall semester

As the newly constructed Conservatory makes its impressive debut this fall, renovations around Miami Hamilton also add to the overall aesthetics of the campus.

Students entering the first floor study lounge in Mosler Hall will find that the 1970s style study carrels have been replaced with modern chairs, tables, and window seats in the redecorated space. The new furniture in soft green solids and floral prints create a muted, warm atmosphere with the help of new carpeting. The university seal will adorn the center carpet area of the room.

"We wanted to replace the 1970s institutional feel of the space with more modern, functional, and comfortable seating where students can gather and study," Execu-

tive Director Dr. Daniel Hall said. "Next summer, new lighting will be added and the room also will become our history room highlighting Miami Hamilton events and memorabilia. In addition, we are very pleased to announce that the newly decorated space will carry the name of one of our former executive directors, Dr. Jack Rhodes, who served from 1995-2002."

Throughout campus, students will find other new seating arrangements and study areas as staff worked to create more comfortable spaces for students. "Many of our students are coming to us from recently constructed or renovated high schools that have the latest furniture, labs, and equipment. We have begun what will be several years of renovations to our most dated facilities. Our students and faculty need and deserve to have facilities that are modern, that support the academic enterprise, and that enrich student life. Given declining state support for such projects, we are optimizing our cost efficiency in these projects, Hall said.

## Weight room gets makeover

"For example, we converted our small, dark weight room into a large, lively fitness center. To do this, we refurbished all of the existing equipment. As a result, only a couple of new pieces of equipment had to be purchased. Also, donations of weight equipment and rubber flooring helped keep costs down. With paint and new lighting, what appears to be a project valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars, came in just under \$50,000," Hall said.

Other renovations this summer included new sidewalks and upgrades to existing patio areas and new signage around campus. Parrish Auditorium received new stage draperies and new chairs. The fourth floor science labs in Mosler also are being renovated.

## Campus bookstore to move

More renovations are in the near future as the university is making plans to move the campus bookstore from Mosler Hall to

Schwarm Commons. This will give the bookstore 200 more feet of display space and allow for the renovation of Schwarm Commons, also known as The Harrier's Nest.

With the bookstore move, work can then begin on renovating the Admission, Records and Financial Aid space located in Mosler. The offices will be expanded to create a more welcoming and user-friendly atmosphere. The projected timing for these projects to begin construction is the spring of 2006.

## Big news opens Artist Series

Miami University Hamilton's Artist Series opens with big news September 18 when Béla Fleck returns with his new acoustic trio, including powerhouse musicians Bryan Sutton and Casey Driessen.

"Bluegrass will be well-represented this year," according to Artist Series coordinator Howard Epstein, "with Bela Fleck, the super group Longview (October 22), the return of Claire Lynch, and a first-time appearance in Hamilton of the Nashville Bluegrass Band." Call 785- 3264 for tickets.

## Colligan Project celebrates history's inventors

The Michael J. Colligan History Project honors history's inventors during the fall 2005 lecture series.

On Wednesday, September 28, enjoy, "A Visit with Madame Curie" —A one-woman performance—with noted performer **Susan Frontczak**.

Then, join **Stephen Knott** for "Alexander Hamilton: Prophet without Honor," Wednesday, October 26.

Hamiltonian and crowd favorite **Jim Blount** revisits "Hamilton's Inventors and Inventions," Tuesday, November 1.

All lectures are free and open to the public and begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Harry T. Wilks Conference Center. Reception to follow. Contact 784-3277.