



F.Y.I.

For Your Information @ Miami University Middletown • August 20, 2008

Miami Regionals Get New Bachelor's Degree

Miami University's regional campuses in Hamilton and Middletown are launching a new four-year degree program – the Bachelor of Integrative Studies (BIS) – beginning this fall.

Eric Fingerhut, Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, approved the BIS in July.

"We're really excited about it. This provides an opportunity for students to finish their degrees in their own community," said Dr. Daniel Hall, Miami Hamilton Campus Dean.

"By offering an array of alternatives in both applied and liberal studies, students can find a program that fits their interests and prior education and prepares them to meet the demands of the 21st Century workforce," Hall said. "For the student, it's about making connections that create fusion and synergy through integrative learning."

Offering the BIS at Miami Hamilton and Miami Middletown is in line with a statewide initiative to provide more convenient and affordable access to higher education for all citizens of Ohio, according to Dr. Kelly Cowan, Miami Middletown Campus Dean.

"Ohio ranks 39th in the nation for the percentage of adults holding bachelor's degrees," Cowan said. "It's time to do all we can to change that statistic, first by removing barriers to higher educa-

tion. We think this new BIS degree will open doors for many residents of our region."

The BIS builds on an associate's degree, or on the first two years of most college programs. It offers seven primary concentrations -- of five courses each -- in applied and liberal studies.

Program requirements include courses with intercultural perspectives and 21st Century literacies. The BIS is tied together by integrative seminars which guide students in linking different areas of study and different patterns of thinking.

Hall and Cowan said that as the BIS degree was being developed over the last nine months, academic advisors on both campuses continued to have conversations with potential students who emphasized their need to complete a bachelor's degree in order to get a promotion, a raise, or other advancement.

Both Deans commended the BIS Task Force for working so hard to bring the new degree offering to fruition in time for the 2008-09 academic year. The task force was led jointly by Dr. Lee Sanders, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Miami Hamilton, and Dr. Jeff Sommers, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Miami Middletown.

Additionally, both of Miami's regional campuses have signed

partnership agreements with Cincinnati State Technical and Community College and Sinclair Community College's Courseview Campus in Mason. These agreements are expected to eliminate even more barriers to higher education and create convenient pathways to help students achieve their educational goals.

The "two-plus-two" model being advanced through the collaborative effort will make it easier for students to transfer credits between the institutions, with most upper-division courses to be taught at Miami's regional campuses.

For more information on the BIS, visit www.regionals.muohio.edu/bis/

BIS Concentrations

- Applied Sociology
- Contemporary American Experience
- Environmental Studies
- Families, Gender, and Society
- Information Technology
- Organizational Leadership
- Understanding Media and Visual Culture

Coming up...

University Convocation, Aug. 22, 9 am, Millett Hall, Oxford Campus. Live feed aired in Performance Area, MUM Campus Community Center.

The **Bookstore, Records & Registration, Business Services and Cashiers Offices** are open, Aug. 23, 9 am - 1 pm.

Classes Begin, Aug. 25.

Multimedia Recording Booth & United Voices of Middletown Auditions, Aug. 25, 10 am- 3 pm, Performance Area, Campus Community Center.

Ultimate Game Zone, Aug. 26, 11 am- 1 pm, Performance Area, Campus Community Center.

Welcome Picnic, Aug. 28, 11 am - 1 pm, Quad Area behind Johnston Hall, \$3 with Student ID.

Labor Day, no classes, Sept. 1.

Convocation, Sept. 2, noon, Room 142, Campus Community Center, with speaker Dr. Eric Melbye, free and open to the public, reception to follow.

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Watch Oxford's Convocation Live on August 22

Oxford's Convocation will be broadcast live at 9 a.m. on Friday, August 22 in the performance area of the Campus Community Center at Miami University Middletown.

This year's keynote speaker is Jeffrey Bennett, author of the Summer Reading Program book *Beyond UFOs: The Search for Extraterrestrial Life and its Astonishing Implications for Our Future*.

Bennett, an astronomer, author, speaker and science education consultant, has taught at every level from preschool through graduate school. He has written college textbooks in four distinct areas: astronomy, astrophysics, mathematics and statistics. His book, *The Cosmic Perspective*, is the most popular college astronomy textbook in the country. Among his major projects, Bennett proposed the idea for and helped develop the Colorado Scale Model Solar System and the Voyage Scale Model Solar System on



the National Mall in Washington D.C. In *Beyond UFOs*, Bennett begins by discussing the nature of science and "why it cannot say much about reports of UFOs, a fact that he uses to argue that we must take our discussions 'beyond UFOs' if we really want to know whether other intelligent beings share the universe with us." Through a discussion of the science of astrophysics and topics such as the origin of life on earth and the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI), Bennett shows that these scientific issues have "profound implications to our own civilization."

MUM Hosting Art by Andrew Martin

"Plainsights II," an exhibition by artist Andrew Martin, appears in the Campus Community Center Galleria at Miami University Middletown from August 19-October 23. A lecture by the artist will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, with a closing reception to follow at 6 p.m., both in the Campus Community Center.

Martin's work features acrylics and colored pencil on masonite and wood, as well as pigment, conté and charcoal on paper.

Martin has a B.F.A. in drawing and painting from the University of New Mexico and an M.F.A. in painting from the University of California. His work has been shown widely in California, Ohio and Texas. He has had numerous two-and three-person exhibitions, and received ten awards in over 65 juried and invitational group exhibitions across the United States, including the Fifteenth Annual Greater Midwest Invitational Exhibition, and the San Diego Art Institute 41st Annual International Juried Exhibition. Martin is an Associate Professor of Art at Texas Tech University.

Free and open to the public, this exhibition is open from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

