



F.Y.I.

For Your Information @ Miami University Middletown • February 16, 2005



Hotel Rwanda Hero to Speak on Feb. 23

Black History Month continues at Miami University Middletown with a lecture by real-life "Hotel Rwanda" Manager Paul Rusesabagina on Feb. 23. Free and open to the public, this lecture will be held in Dave Finkelman Auditorium at 10 a.m.

Over the course of 100 days, in 1994, almost 1 million people were killed in Rwanda as the majority Hutus set out with clubs, guns, and machetes to exterminate their Tutsi countrymen. During this genocide, Rwandan hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina risked his life and took courageous action, using the Mille Collines Hotel to shelter over a thousand refugees from death. This inspirational story is the subject of the film *Hotel Rwanda*, starring Oscar nominee Don Cheadle.

For more information, call (513) 727-3353.

\$3.4 million to improve the teaching of science

A \$3.4 million investment in improving science in grades 7-10 will bring decades of Miami University science education expertise to 4,800 Ohio teachers in a multi-level training effort.

Miami's Institute for Integrated Science (IIS), a collaboration of programs working to improve science education, has received the two-year \$3.4 million grant from the Ohio Department of Education to provide training, materials and extended learning opportunities for teachers in life, earth and physical sciences. Content areas focus on topics in which students scored poorly on the Ohio Graduation Test.

"We will provide exciting ways for teachers to present science and we hope to build partnerships, so that teachers develop career-long growth in their teaching," said Mickey Sarquis, project director and professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Miami Middletown's Center for Chemistry Education. Sarquis and the center have built a nationwide network of educators and private-sector partners, reaching about 12,500 teachers who teach more than 1 million students each year (400,000 in Ohio).

Co-project directors Richard Lee, Distinguished Professor of Zoology, and Christopher Myers, professor of interdisciplinary studies and director of Project Dragonfly, both at Miami, have similarly improved science learning for thousands of students each year through environmental workshops and Web learning communities for teachers, among other programs.

The new program will train facilitators across Ohio so that the teachers only have to travel regionally for the five-day summer institutes and follow-up workshops. Tuition is covered by the grant, as are supplies so that teachers leave with the resources to recreate lessons. Teachers and facilitators will receive graduate credit. For one year after the in-person training, teachers will be guided through online discussions and be able to chat with other teachers about lessons, providing vital support needed while implementing change, says Sarquis.

Miami is able to provide such a far-reaching scope because its existing science education programs have developed award-winning research-based materials and curriculum, a statewide network of educators, a Web-based learning platform and years of administrative experience.

Other partners in IIS who will contribute to the teacher training program are the Discovery Center with iDiscovery, the Evaluation and Assessment Center for Science and Mathematics and Experiential Learning in Earth and Life Sciences.



Teachers trained at Miami Middletown's Center for Chemistry Education teach more than 1 million students each year.

Coming up...

Friday Film Series, "Ali",
Feb. 18, 1 pm, 120 Johnston
Hall.

Open Mic Night, Feb. 24, 7
p.m., Verity Lodge, everyone is
welcome to recite or read poet-
ry, lyrics and spoken word.

Bad Weather? Visit our web
site at www.mid.muohio.edu
or call the weather hotline at
(513) 727-3477.

Tech Challenge Returns

High school students from around
the region are gearing up for Tech
Challenge 2005, to be hosted by
Miami Middletown on Friday, April
29. This event attracts over 300 stu-
dents and their teachers to campus
to compete in a variety of contests
including a LEGO Mindstorms
Robotics Contest sponsored by
Miami Middletown's Engineering
Technology Department and CSI
Miami Middletown, a crime science
investigation for chemistry students.

Contest entries must be received
no later than March 31. For more
information, call (513) 727-3251 or
visit the Tech Challenge web site at
www.mid.muohio.edu. High school
aged home-schooled students are
invited to participate in all aspects of
Tech Challenge.

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Attending the Academic Recognition Banquet in Oxford last month
were: (seated, from left) Danielle Blevins, Hope Specht, Amanda
Shepherd, Kyerra Shepherd, Bethany Butler, Tiffany Smallwood,
(standing, from left) Jason Williamson, Chris Blinn, Zach
Frymoyer, Frederick Boebel and N. Matthew Miller.

Students honored for academic achievement

Miami Middletown had 32 first-time students who earned a 3.73 or above, taking
at least 12 hours, during fall semester 2004 and were invited to attend an Academic
Recognition Banquet in Oxford.

They are: Kathryn Amburgey, Allison Barnett, Nika Bevis, Sarah Binns, Bethany
Butler, Brian Fisher, Janice Martin, Mark Messer, Brandon Perry, Kyerra Shepherd
and Tiffany Smallwood of Middletown; Courtney Curtner, Christina Robbins and
Rachel Roberts of Dayton; Danielle Blevins, Sarah Mentzel
and Matthew Reams of Lebanon; Whitney Green, Hope Specht and Rose Jena of
Hamilton; Brianna Pennington and Amanda Shepherd of Trenton; Jessica Back
and Sarah Lewis of Camden; N. Matthew Miller of Springboro; Frederick Boebel of
West Alexandria; Elizabeth Hess of Monroe; Zachary Frymoyer of Germantown;
Chris Blinn of Eaton; Rachel Klipfel of Kettering; Brandon Wesley of Kings Mills;
and Jason Williamson of Harrison.

Free Brass Concert on Feb. 18

Miami University Middletown
continues its "Fantastic Free
Fridays" program with a perform-
ance by the Queen City Brass on
Friday, Feb. 18 at 10 a.m.

The Queen City Brass is a select
quintet of Cincinnati Symphony
and Kentucky Symphony
Orchestra musicians. This per-
formance, entitled "Gershwin and All That Jazz" is an introduction to
jazz composers, important musical terms and the influence of African-
American music on jazz.

The "Fantastic Free Fridays" series of performances is designed to pro-
vide opportunities for schools, area seniors and Miami Middletown stu-
dents to enjoy a wide variety of performances during the week.

