

# A Diversity Moment

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October 2005

## Emerging Artists Program Partnership Formed

The Middletown School District has recently approved a partnership with Miami University School of Fine Arts, the Middletown Campus and the School of Education and Allied Professions for a new 'bridge' program in the arts. The program, geared to first-generation college educated students, would begin in the seventh grade and run through twelfth grade. It would focus on remediation of math and English skills, career exploration, college preparation information and refinement of artistic skills. I am assembling a core group of faculty to develop the program, and seeking funding. The plan is to pilot in fall 2006. Anyone interested in being involved should contact me.

Special invitation: In an effort to build a relationship with the Middletown School District throughout the year, the SFA will be hosting a few outreach activities. You are cordially invited to attend a reception with teachers and administrators from the Middletown S.D. on Friday, October 28 from 6-7:30 pm at the Miami University Art Museum.

## Artists Exchange Upcoming Events

The *Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit* is planning their annual visit in late October and we are looking for volunteer ushers and ticket takers. The Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is a national company of dynamic, talented high school students who have toured around the world performing. If you aren't familiar with this amazing group, check out their web site at [www.mosaicdetroit.org](http://www.mosaicdetroit.org). Current SFA students, who are alum of Mosaic include Cara Parrish and Danielle Ragland in Theatre and Tanesha White and Tamara Johnson in Music. The youth theatre performs in Hall Auditorium, showcasing their theatre talents on the first day and their choral ensemble on the second day. This year's performance *Now That I Can Dance*, a retrospective of Motown 1962, will be held on Saturday, October 29 at 7 pm. On Sunday, October 30 at 2 pm the choral ensemble takes the stage. Admission is free for both performances, but you must pick up a ticket from the Shriver Box Office in advance. If you are interested in helping out, call me.



Join me for a special SFA reception and a unique performance by *Ensemble Kaboul*, presented by the Performing Art Series, on Wednesday, November 9 in the Shriver Center. A private reception (open to all SFA faculty, staff and students) runs from 6-7:30 pm in 336 Shriver, with the concert to follow at 7:30 pm in the Heritage Room. You must purchase tickets in advance at the Shriver Box Office for the performance, but the reception is free. Ensemble Kaboul is a unique blend of Afghani music born at the crossroads of Indian, Persian and Arabic traditions.

## Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms – a Faculty Development Luncheon Series

Two workshops in this special series sponsored by CELT and the Division of Student Affairs are left this semester.

Monday, October 24, “Inclusion and Learning Styles” at noon in the Great Room of MacMillan Hall. Please RSVP by October 17 to Sue Treadway at 9-1877 or treadwsm@muohio.edu.

Monday, November 14, “Crafting Inclusive Syllabi” at noon in the Bystrom-Reid Room in Shriver. Please RSVP by November 7 to Sue Treadway at 9-1877 or treadwsm@muohio.edu.

*All workshops are free and provide a complimentary lunch.*



### Imani Winds Makes School Visit in Middletown

On Thursday, September 29, the Imani Winds performed for a group of 600 school children from McKinley Elementary in Middletown. Their program was a 45-minute introduction to wind quintets and the origins of each instrument. This was the first in a series of several outreach activities planned during the year to forge a partnership with Middletown School District and Miami University- Middletown as part of the Emerging Artists Program. Imani Winds was the opening program on the 2005-06 Performing Artist Series schedule.

### SFA Annual Search Committee Trainings Conducted

In an ongoing effort to recruit a more diverse pool of candidates, Dr. Michael Stevenson recently completed two training sessions for SFA search committees. SFA Dean, Jose Bowen, began the practice of training for search committee members last year. Stevenson, the newly appointed Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity, led the groups in a discussion of how we analyze and weigh credentials and a candid discussion of how individuals view diversity at Miami and within their departments. These trainings were the first in a series of new initiatives at the university.

### Freedom Summer Public Walking Tours Set

Ann Elizabeth Armstrong from the Department of Theatre announced two new public dates for the Freedom Summer Walking Tour. *Walk With Me: Freedom Summer Training at Western College Campus* is an interactive walking tour that explores Civil Rights History that occurred in 1964 on the Western College Campus. Open tours are available Monday, October 17 at 12:30 and Tuesday, October 18 at 5:30 pm. Private tours can also be scheduled by contacting the Center for American and World Cultures at 529-8309. Tours begin in Clawson Hall on Western Drive and no registration is needed for these public dates. These tours are sponsored in part by a grant from the Ohio Humanities Council.



### Recommended Reading Corner

For an interesting read on issues from how to deal with racism and sexism in the classroom to rethinking teaching practices in the age of multiculturalism, I'd like to recommend a book I just read by bell hooks entitled *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*.