35th AIS Conference ‘Comes Home’ to Miami

The Association for Interdisciplinary Studies will come home to Miami University for its 35th annual AIS Conference scheduled for November 7-10, 2013, in Oxford, Ohio.

Miami University’s Western Program is hosting the conference, in partnership with the Bachelor of Integrative Studies Program, the Honors Program, and other interdisciplinary programs at Miami University.

Attendees will gather amid the beauty of the historic Oxford campus, with conference sessions and accommodations at the Marcum Hotel & Conference Center, which is situated adjacent to the university’s Formal Gardens.

Special events will be at Peabody Hall on the Western Campus. Built in 1871, Peabody Hall was the home of the former innovative Western College Program/School of Interdisciplinary Studies (1974-2008) and is now the hub for the Western Program, which engages students in interdisciplinary thinking and supports a foundation of individualized and integrated study drawing from the humanities, sciences, arts, social sciences, and professional programs. Peabody Hall has served as the

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Keynote Speakers

Carolyn Haynes

Carl Zimmer

Foshay frames the collection with an introduction exploring the theories of the modern university from Kant to Jameson as a means of situating the debate about “Interdisciplinarity. What For?” that is worked out in the succeeding essays. It is worth noting at the outset that the atom of interdisciplinarity has many different valences here. The chemical image of electrons jumping from shell to shell in their orbit around the nucleus figures forth the nature of the essays in the collection. They touch on a range

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Integrative Pathways

2013 AIS Conference

(base for AIS since its founding at a conference in 1979.
“Integrating Arts and Sciences” is the theme for the 35th annual conference, which will serve as a forum for a wide-ranging dialogue concerning the development of new approaches to teaching and research to meet the complex needs of students, employers, and other stakeholders in today’s society.

Nicholas Money, director of the Western Program, is the conference coordinator.

“We are working at a time when higher education is placing ever greater premium upon integrative and interdisciplinary approaches to learning and problem solving,” he said. “This shift in the academy is driven by multiple factors, including the professional demands of the 21st century marketplace. Major employers are looking for graduates with strengths in critical and creative thinking, broad cultural and scientific literacy, and a commitment to teamwork.

“These skills have proven difficult to obtain sometimes through traditional disciplines. Interdisciplinary studies hold great promise for enhancing the modern curriculum, but require imaginative strategies to enhance communication and collaboration among educators in the natural sciences, social sciences, and the arts.”

The keynote speakers will be Carl Zimmer, Science Writer for The New York Times, and Carolyn Haynes, Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Professor of English at Miami University.

Zimmer is author of Evolution: Making Sense of Life (with co-author Douglas Emlen), Science Ink: Tattoos of the Science Obsessed, The Soul Made Flesh: The Discovery of the Brain and How It Changed the World, and Parasite Rex: Inside the Bizarre World of Nature’s Most Dangerous Creatures, among others. He is a lecturer at Yale University where he teaches writing about science and environment. He will be the plenary speaker on Friday, November 8.

Haynes was previously director of Miami’s University Honors Program, which advances an outcomes-based and individualized liberal education plan. As the Honors Program Director, she worked to expand the overall size and diversity of the students and faculty involved in the program. She is the editor of Innovations in Interdisciplinary Teaching, and she has written more than 25 articles on student learning, pedagogy and curricular issues, focusing primarily on interdisciplinary approaches to education. She is a past president of AIS, and she currently serves on the Publications Board of the National Collegiate Honors Council and as a consultant-evaluator for the Higher Learning Commission. She will be the plenary speaker on Saturday, November 9, when she will discuss the challenges and joys of interdisciplinary education.

As part of the conference, attendees can sign up for the Freedom Summer Campus Tours, led by Jacqueline Johnson, archivist of the Western College Memorial Archives. In 1964, more than 800 volunteers gathered on the former Western College for Women campus to prepare to conduct voter registration drives among African-Americans living in the South. Three of these students, James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman, were later murdered in Mississippi. Johnson is the author of Finding Freedom: Memorizing the Voices of Freedom Summer and is the chairperson for the national Mississippi Freedom Summer Conference, which will be in Oxford in 2014.

Other special events include a Thursday evening reception at the Miami University Art Museum with the viewing of three exhibits: Early Modern Prints, William McGee: Abstract Expressionist, and A Museum Collects, and the 35th anniversary celebration of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies at Peabody Hall on Saturday evening.

There will be a pre-conference Nuts and Bolts Workshop, with Pauline Gagnon and Allen Repko, hosted by the Bachelor of Integrative Studies Program, in Marcum Conference Center on Miami’s Oxford Campus.

The planning committee includes Kim Ernsting, Audree Riddle, Louise Davis, and Nicholas Money.

The early registration deadline is October 1. More information can be found on the conference website: http://www.miamioh.edu/aisconference2013

The Western Program, host of the 2013 AIS Conference, is based in historic Peabody Hall on Miami University’s Western Campus in Oxford, Ohio.
**INTEGRATIVE PATHWAYS**

**JOBS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

**Boston University** seeks a visionary, innovative leader to become the next Dean of its College of General Studies. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. The position is available July 1, 2013.

**Benedictine University** has an opening for an Executive Director to be responsible for the leadership and strategic direction of the Cooperation Education Program. The position will be based in Springfield, Illinois.

**Norfolk State University** has an opening for a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies. The position will begin in August 2013 for the fall semester.

**Northern New Mexico College** is seeking an Assistant Professor of Humanities to teach general education courses and create interdisciplinary courses for an interdisciplinary BA program that has three concentrations: psychology, humanities, and Pueblo Indian Studies. Review of applications will begin May 10.

Look for more information on these position openings in the Jobs in Interdisciplinary Studies section on the AIS Website, www.miamioh.edu/ais.

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**About AIS**

The Association for Interdisciplinary Studies is the U.S.-based international professional association devoted to interdisciplinary teaching (including service learning), research, program administration, and public policy. Interdisciplinarity integrates the insights of knowledge domains to produce a more comprehensive understanding of complex problems, issues, or questions. AIS serves as an organized professional voice and source of information on interdisciplinary approaches and the integration of insights from diverse communities to address complex problems in education and research. Founded in 1979, it is incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)3 educational association in the state of Ohio.

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**ON THE WEB:**

www.miamioh.edu/ais

**WHAT’S NEW**

Find the latest news about the Association and interdisciplinary studies.

**CONFERENCES**

Registrations will begin in July for 2013 AIS Conference.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Find current and past editions of *Integrative Pathways*, *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*, and other publications.

**RESOURCES**

Resources include the 2nd edition of *Intentionally Interdisciplinary: Master’s Interdisciplinary Program Directory*, SOITL section, Peer-reviewed Syllabi, and more.

**MEMBERSHIPS**

It’s time to renew your membership for 2013.