

The Ohio Mechanics Institute, forerunner of the OMI College of Applied Science, was founded on November 20, 1828. OMI was the fifth Institute established in the US, and historical records indicate it is the oldest continuously operating Mechanics Institute in the country.

From November 2003 through the TECH EXPO in 2004, we will celebrate for close to 175 days the achievements of 175 years. Profiled below are the events planned and carried out with university and community partners.

Mechanics & Citizens Ball (November 2003)

The look back

A formal event in November 2003 will evoke the spirit of the original Mechanics and Citizens Ball, in 1838, and kick off our 175th celebration. The ball will connect key citizens to the history of the OMI College of Applied Science, the spirit of the Mechanics Institute movement, and the longstanding contributions of the College and University to the region's economic growth.

Historic displays of machinery, technical instruments and artifacts will surround the guests much as they did later in 1838 when the OMI held its first Annual Fair, an "Exhibit of Arts and Manufacturers."

The Mechanics and Citizens Ball will be held in the Armory Fieldhouse on the Clifton campus of the University of Cincinnati.

OMI and the Visual Arts (January to March 2004)

Unique artifacts from the archives of the OMI College of Applied Science will reveal connections between the artistic process and the process of developing new technical products. The exhibit will include photographs, drawings, models and hands-on displays that suggest an evolving relationship over two centuries of technical education.

In partnership with the College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning, University of Cincinnati, this exhibit will take place at the DAAP Galleries Downtown, 314 West 4th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

History of Technology Symposium (February 2004)

The Symposium will bring together national and regional experts on the history, development and effects of technology. Participants will explore the special role of mechanics institutes and analyze the changing contributions of technology and technical education over time.

In partnership with the Department of History, McMicken College of Arts and Sciences, University of Cincinnati, this conference will take place at the College of Applied Science campus, 2220 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio.

TECH EXPO 2004 (May 2004)

The look ahead

An expanded public exposition of seniors' technical projects and products will showcase some of the contributions of the OMI College of Applied Science to the community at large. Exhibits of current and developing technologies will invite viewers of all ages to imagine tomorrow's technological achievements.

The location of *Tech Expo 2004* will be announced in 2003.