

Otterbein Receives \$250,000 Grant from McGregor Fund

Otterbein recently received a \$250,000 grant from The McGregor Fund for a project titled *Transformation Project: Supporting Students' Ability to Integrate Learning*.

The three-year initiative will support the next critical step in the development of Otterbein's Integrative Studies Program by creating a coherent linked curriculum and co-curriculum for a proposed new Integrative Studies major. The project will create an integrated learning experience for faculty and students alike, enhanced by global learning and thoughtful assessment.

With this grant, Otterbein will be able to provide 50 competitive grants for faculty to support significant course and program development, and to hold collaborative events and structures including annual two-day institutes, workshops, working groups of grant recipients. A core team and a communication coordinator position will be created to ensure curricular and organizational coordination to ultimately develop shared goals for students' integrative learning. In addition, student learning, assessment and documentation practices will be facilitated through an electronic portfolio platform.

"It is our hope that the McGregor Fund transformation project will help the Otterbein faculty re-envision, re-invigorate and reinforce an integrative curriculum that invites students to explore questions relevant for today's global society," said Project Co-Director Amy Jessen-Marshall. "This grant will focus on the structured integration of students' core curriculum, their disciplinary major and their co-curricular experiences at Otterbein College. Otterbein students will have the opportunity to earn both a disciplinary major and a major in Integrative Studies, giving them a unique position in a competitive world."

The McGregor Fund is a private foundation established in 1925 by gifts from Katherine and Tracy McGregor "to relieve the misfortunes and promote the well-being of mankind." The foundation awards grants to organizations in the following areas: human services, education, health care, arts and culture, and public benefit. The area of principal interest of the foundation is the City of Detroit and Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties. The McGregor Fund has granted nearly \$180 million since its founding and had assets of \$197 million as of June 30, 2007. Visit <http://www.mcgregorfund.org> for additional information.

For more information about this grant or the project, please contact Project Co-Directors Amy Jessen-Marshall, chair of Integrative Studies at 823-3395 and Leslie Ortquist-Ahrens, director of the Otterbein College Center for Teaching and Learning at 823-1034.