

9-30-2008

"World News with Charles Gibson" to Interview Auto Historian as Part of ABC's "Great American Battleground Bus Tour"

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

""World News with Charles Gibson" to Interview Auto Historian as Part of ABC's "Great American Battleground Bus Tour"" (2008). *News Releases*. 9423.

https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/9423

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

7 JA (1)



Sept. 30, 2008
Contact: Teri Rizvi
rizvi@udayton.edu
937-229-3241

NEWS RELEASE

"WORLD NEWS WITH CHARLES GIBSON" TO INTERVIEW AUTO HISTORIAN AS PART OF ABC'S "GREAT AMERICAN BATTLEGROUND BUS TOUR"

DAYTON, Ohio — John Heitmann, a University of Dayton historian who specializes in the history of science, technology and the American automobile, is scheduled to be interviewed by a producer from "ABC World News with Charles Gibson" as part of the network's "Great American Battleground Bus Tour."

The segment, to air Oct. 6, will focus on Heitmann's views of how layoffs in the automotive industry and Ohio's sagging economy will affect the presidential election. The piece also will feature interviews with workers from GM's Moraine plant, according to Alice Maggin, producer.

The cross-country bus trip is part of *USA Today* and the network's "50 States in 50 Days" project. The two news outlets are coordinating reports from every state in the 50 days leading up to the presidential election on Nov. 4.

"I will be talking about the plant closings and the loss of living-wage jobs, particularly jobs for high school graduates," said Heitmann, alumni chair in the humanities who teaches a course called "The Automobile in 20th Century America." "That old notion that high school graduates can make a living wage working at companies like General Motors is gone."

What's the future for the automotive industry? "Electric cars," Heitmann said. "I see a future of zero-emission vehicles. That's going to be the future of our economy."

Heitmann's upcoming book, *In High Gear: The Automobile in 20th Century Life*, is expected to be published in 2009. He will be interviewed by Chris Paine, maker of the documentary, *Who Killed the Electric Car?*, for his 2009 sequel, *Revenge of the Electric Car*. This summer, the Associated Press tapped him for his expertise on two national stories — GM closures and cutbacks and the 100th anniversary of the Model T.

Heitmann is currently organizing an Oct. 29 Humanities Symposium, which will feature alternative fuel vehicles' advocate Chelsea Sexton who appeared in the documentary, *Who Killed the Electric Car?* She will offer a free talk at 7 p.m. in the Sears Recital Hall on campus.

-30-

For interviews, contact **John Heitmann** at 937-229-2803.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax
www.udayton.edu