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From the Battleground State

10.17.2008 | Faculty, Culture and Society John Heitmann, a University of Dayton historian who specializes in the history of science, technology and the American automobile, was interviewed by a producer from *ABC World News With Charles Gibson* as part of the network's "Great American Battleground Bus Tour."

The segment aired Oct. 6 and focused on Heitmann's views of how layoffs in the automotive industry and Ohio's sagging economy will affect the presidential election. The piece also featured interviews with workers from GM's Moraine truck assembly plant.

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.

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

the Office of University Communications at 937-229-3241.