

The Miami University
REPORT

April 13, 1995

Teens spend day shadowing students

On March 30, 13 teens from Peoples, Porter, Schwab and Bloom middle schools in Cincinnati spent the day at Miami shadowing college students.

The shadowing is a new part of Teens for Literacy, a program started six years ago by Allen Berger, Heckert Professor of Reading and Writing. The goals of Teens for Literacy are to encourage inner-city students to improve literacy in their schools and neighborhoods, to attend college and to consider teaching as a profession.

The students, who were the second group of shadowers to visit campus last month, arrived at 9 a.m. and stayed until 2 p.m. While at Miami, they attended classes, visited places on campus such as the art museum and the new recreational sports center and ate lunch with their college hosts.

Laura Bunker, a graduate assistant in the department of teacher education and coordinator of Teens for Literacy, created the shadowing program this year. She says the program benefits all those involved.

It gives the Miami students, many of whom are education majors, the opportunity to interact closely with young people. And it offers the middle school students a chance to experience college life and realize the opportunities available to them.

The middle school students also liked it for a more immediate reason.

"It was fun," said Serena Beatty, an eighth-grader at Peoples.

Jennifer Thorington, a graduate student in Miami's English department, escorted a student for the day. "It was a great experience," she said.