

MIAMI UNIVERSITY

# Space shuttle astronaut to share experiences

**Charles Precourt also to present MU student with \$10K scholarship.**

Staff Report

OXFORD – Space shuttle astronaut Charles Precourt will share his experiences at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Hall Auditorium at Miami University.

Precourt will also present MU student Dirk Auman with a \$10,000 scholarship from the Astronaut Foundation. Auman is a senior biochemistry and engineering physics double major and computer science minor from Reynoldsburg.

Precourt spent 15 years in the space program, a period

in which he participated on four space flights and logged a total of 932 hours in space.

STS-55 Columbia launched in April 1993 and during this mission nearly 90 experiments were conducted to investigate life sciences, material sciences, physics, robotics, astronomy, the Earth and its atmosphere. On Precourt's second flight, STS-71 on Atlantis, he piloted the first space shuttle mission to dock with the Russian space station Mir.

In 1997, he launched aboard Atlantis again during STS-84. This mission was NASA's sixth space shuttle mission to rendezvous and dock with Mir. On his final shuttle mission, STS-91, Pre-

court served as commander during the ninth and final Shuttle-Mir docking mission. The STS-91 crew also conducted the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer experiment, which involved the first of its kind research of antimatter in space.

After leaving NASA in 2005, Precourt went to work for ATK Aerospace Systems, where he currently serves as general manager and vice president of Space Launch Systems.

Precourt was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2012.

Precourt's talk, free and open to the public, is sponsored by Miami's honors program.



Space shuttle astronaut Charles Precourt. CONTRIBUTED