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# Five College *Ink*



*Inside:* Campuses embrace sustainability  
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Student projects and more



# *Ink*

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PRATEEK RAJBHANDARI HC '07F

# Sustaining the environment, sustaining our institutions

Campuses use green tactics to improve the bottom line

*By Alexandra de Montrichard, MHC '92*

As colleges and universities struggle to maintain offerings in the midst of a deep recession, the term “sustainability” has taken on a broader meaning than it had just three years ago. Fortunately for the environment and academe, the Five College campuses have found that fiscal sustainability and environmental sustainability are complementary, not mutually exclusive. From moving their bodies to heating their buildings, consortium members are taking the lead with efforts to sustain the environment while improving the bottom line.

“What’s nice is that the ‘green’ initiatives we continue to implement are usually more than just good environmental

investments—they often pay themselves off within a short period of time, so they make sense financially, too,” said Jim Brassord, director of facilities and associate treasurer at Amherst College.

While faculty members and students at Five College campuses work to develop the clean-energy technologies and practices of tomorrow, planners, engineers and other staff members have been in the field, as it were, making progress of their own in cutting campus greenhouse-gas emissions through power plant, building, transportation and food service innovations.



Above: Amherst College's utilities engineer Aaron Hayden explains the campus' cogeneration plant. Left: Students working at Hampshire's farm center.

## Cogeneration—a new generation of power plants

When Amherst College's state-of-the-art cogeneration power plant was under development in 2006, there were only six similar facilities in Massachusetts. Since then the University of Massachusetts and Smith College have also opened cogeneration power plants and the technology is being adopted by more and more institutions.

Before the rise of cogeneration, the conventional approach had been for colleges to purchase electricity off the grid to meet their electrical needs and, supplemented by fossil fuels, power central-campus steam boilers that provided heat and hot water for all campus buildings. Experts agree that this method is only about 45 percent efficient, with the balance of fuel-energy consumption lost to wasted heat and other inefficiencies.

The idea behind cogeneration, also referred to as CHP (combined heat and power), is to produce electricity and heat simultaneously on campus, to recycle the heat created in generating electricity to warm buildings and water, and even to provide air conditioning. The process is about 75 percent efficient in transforming fuel energy to useful energy.

The Amherst College cogeneration plant uses a 1,250-kilowatt gas turbine, similar to a small aircraft engine, to run an electric generator that provides the campus with its electricity. The gas turbine's hot exhaust is recycled to create steam, which is used to provide campus buildings with heat, thereby reducing the need to use conventional boilers. The cogeneration plant supplies approximately 50 percent of the college's peak electrical load and 67 percent of its annual electricity supply.

"It's a real cornerstone of the college's sustainability program, and has contributed to a 25 percent reduction in the college's carbon footprint," said Brassord. The plant

cost \$8 million to build and is expected to pay for itself in about seven years: a return on investment of 16 percent per year. "It's an example of how being green fosters financial sustainability," said Brassord.

UMass Amherst recently went online with its own cogeneration plant. The facility, which opened last year, uses natural gas and diesel fuel to generate steam and electricity, replacing a coal-fired plant. It includes several features to reuse exhaust heat and to use rainwater, saving hundreds of thousands of gallons of water annually. Eventually, managers predict, the campus will be able to produce 80 percent of its total electrical load.

Cogeneration is not the only factor in reducing carbon dioxide emissions at the Commonwealth's flagship university. Efficiency efforts, such as retrofitting 117,000 lightbulbs and light ballasts, toilets and other plumbing fixtures, and using infrared scans to help identify leaking underground steam lines for repair, have contributed to the campus reducing its carbon dioxide emissions by more than 21 percent, according to the UMass sustainability office.

Smith College's cogeneration plant went online in October 2008, replacing 60-year-old steam boilers. The heart of the system is a 3.5-megawatt natural gas-fired turbine that will eventually generate about two-thirds of the college's total electrical power. It is estimated that when the system is at full operation, it will cut energy costs by approximately \$650,000



UMass Amherst's cogeneration plant.



*Workers begin the installation of photovoltaic panels on Smith College's Campus Center.*

annually and significantly reduce carbon emissions. It's well on its way to achieving that goal—in fiscal year 2009, Smith produced 37 percent of its own electricity, according to Danó Weisbord, environmental sustainability director and vice president for finance and administration.

So far the new system at Smith has run only in the winter when heat is needed. “The addition of an absorption chiller device will allow us, through the principles of thermodynamics, to transform steam into cold water to meet the campus’ summer air-conditioning needs and run year-round,” said Weisbord. Similar cooling devices are used in both Amherst’s and UMass’ cogeneration systems.

## Green buildings going for gold

Take a walk on any of the five campuses and you’re likely to see newly installed solar panels, one of the ways their buildings are incorporating more sustainable technologies and designs. Mount Holyoke College’s first new residence hall in more than 40 years, which opened in September 2008, incorporates solar panels, one of the factors that led to it being awarded a Gold LEED™ certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

“From the project’s beginning, we had been working

toward silver certification,” said John Bryant, the college’s director of facilities planning and management. “That was always the goal.” But Bryant and the building team exceeded even their own high expectations and amassed enough points on the LEED scorecard for features of design, construction and operation to earn the gold.

According to Bryant, the new building is 45 percent more energy efficient than the Massachusetts building code requires for new construction, and the Massachusetts code is one of the more stringent in the country. Bryant explained that engineers used energy-performance computer modeling, which takes into account all conservation features of the building, from its high-tech envelope insulation and high-performance windows to its solar hot water system and daylight level sensors that adjust lighting. “Energy conservation is a win-win,” Bryant said. “It’s the right thing to do for the environment because it reduces greenhouse-gas emissions, and it reduces the college’s operating costs year after year.”

Saving energy requires a multifaceted approach, and small hardware changes can add up to big savings. The new residence hall has 24 solar panels to make hot water. “These panels will make 20 to 25 percent of the hot water used in the building, primarily for showers. This saves the equivalent of more than 1,000 gallons of fuel oil per year.”



*New green dorm at Mount Holyoke College.*

said Todd Holland, Five College energy manager. The showerheads specified for the building use 40 percent less water than the maximum allowed by Massachusetts' energy code. "These actually save as much hot water as the solar panels make! Water use is reduced 500,000 gallons a year, enough to fill the swimming pool," according to Holland. The showerheads have proved so popular that they've been installed in all the dorms at Amherst and Smith colleges.

One of the most recent Five College building projects to go for LEED gold certification is the \$2.4 million Ken Burns Wing of the Jerome Liebling Center for Film, Photography and Video, at Hampshire College. It's the latest in more than 30 years of green building projects at the college, projects that began in 1979 with the installation of an array of solar thermal panels connecting four academic buildings. "The new Ken Burns Wing provides state-of-the-art classrooms for film, photography and video instruction in a way that is sustainable," said Larry Archey, associate director of facilities and grounds.

The 6,700-square-foot addition's contemporary design is structured around a curvilinear central gallery and circulation space filled with natural light. It provides a large screening room and gallery, a classroom for work in digital media, several production laboratories, a student lounge and several faculty offices. The new construction incorporates high-

efficiency insulation and heating and air-conditioning units as well as a 4.6-kilowatt photovoltaic array to provide up to 12 percent of the annual electricity needs of the building.

Other facilities at Hampshire College have been designed to LEED standards, but this is the first one for which the college has submitted an application to the U.S. Green Building Council for certification. Archey expects to hear from the council soon and said he hopes the project will achieve the gold certification, given that it has already received high marks for its design.

In the meantime, Archey is at work on a new sustainable energy project, a solar canopy for the Longworth Arts Village, the artistic and creative hub of the campus, which houses the Liebling Center. The project will reuse the support structure of the original 1979 solar array.

Advocacy for solar power at Hampshire has never waned since those early, experimental panels were installed, but plans for an array that would both support the college's goals for sustainability and allow ongoing scientific investigation on campus gained new momentum this year as Hampshire celebrates its 40th anniversary. Massachusetts Congressman John Olver secured a \$534,000 grant last year for the new 36-kilowatt photovoltaic array and the college has turned to alumni for additional support.

The solar canopy will provide electric power for the

campus while serving as a visible symbol of the college's commitment to sustainable-energy development. Features such as monitoring equipment that presents data on prominent, interactive visual displays will allow easy accessibility for research and educational opportunities. "The solar canopy will provide the college energy, but perhaps more important, it will provide students and the public with an example of how green technologies work and how we can become energy independent," said Olver.

At Amherst College, solar panels on the Mayo-Smith House, located on the corner of Routes 9 and 116, will provide the renovated 1923 residence hall with 60 percent of its hot-water needs.

The Knowles Engineering Building at UMass Amherst draws electricity from a 7.5-kilowatt array of photovoltaic panels. The campus' sustainability coordinator, Josh Stoffel, predicts that both solar power and wind energy will play larger roles in meeting the university's future energy needs.

At Smith College, last November photovoltaic panels were mounted on the roof of the Campus Center to reduce the college's electricity costs and produce electricity without carbon emissions. The 130 solar panels will generate 28,000 kilowatts per year, roughly equivalent to the power needed to run the Campus Center Café. A less visible innovation last year was the replacement of the lights in the indoor track and tennis facility. "The new fixtures will save 226,000 kilowatts in electricity a year, eight times the savings of the more visible solar panels," said Todd Holland. "Not only will the investment be paid back quickly from the savings, but it has improved the lighting quality and reduced maintenance as well.

"The Campus Center solar project is unique in that it is financed through a Power Purchase Agreement," he added. Under that agreement, renewable energy marketer and developer Community Energy will own and operate the \$240,000 solar panel system, which enables the college to take advantage of the renewable-power source without funding the system's purchase up front. Community Energy will sell Smith electricity that is produced by the system at a locked-in rate for 20 years, insulating the college from rising energy costs. Smith will augment the power it purchases through Community Energy with power generated by the college's cogeneration plant and with electricity from the grid.

## Transportation

The Five College transportation system is one of the largest free, private bus systems in the country and has received national recognition for sustainability. The extensive five-campus transit system, most of which is



*Five College bus.*

operated by UMass Amherst, boasts a high ridership, a large student workforce and many incentives to reduce single-occupant car trips.

As part of the Five College community, the UMass Amherst Transit System provides fare-free rides on 10 routes for students, faculty members and staff members of the five campuses, including service to nearby Pioneer Valley towns. Al Byam, director of the system, says an outstanding measure of success is "huge" commuter acceptance. In particular, student ridership is extremely high and "it's a sign of our overwhelming success that we can't meet all the areas of increasing demand," he said. "They're always asking for more."

Glenn Barrington, operations manager for Transit Services, says the routes carry 14,000 to 16,000 passengers each weekday during the academic year. Total ridership for fiscal year 2009 was more than 2.8 million—a 6.86 percent increase over the previous year. "The system really serves as the life blood of the university," said Barrington. "Without the bus system, there would be gridlock in Amherst every weekday during the school year." The 37 buses run on ultra-low-sulfur diesel, one of the cleanest-burning fuels available for these vehicles.

In 2006, UMass Amherst Transit won the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Commuter's Choice Award for its Transportation Demand Management program, which offers several alternatives for reducing single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) traffic on campus. Among them are a link to the Norwottuck Rail Trail bicycle path, a ride-share matching service and reduced-cost parking for carpools. Together these have yielded a 20 percent reduction in SOV commutes to campus over the past three years, and, Byam says, "we plan to continue to be aggressive and proactive with that program so it can have even more success in the future."

## Sustainable dining

From buying locally from area farms to developing composting programs for food waste, Five College dining services are taking sustainability seriously.

At UMass Amherst, dining services in 2009 reached a milestone by purchasing 25 percent of its fresh produce and dairy products from local farms, thus not only supporting the area economy but also reducing the campus carbon footprint by minimizing transport. The dining services on the other campuses have similar purchasing agreements that support local farms and the “Be a Local Hero, Buy Locally Grown” campaign of Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA), according to Roger Guzowski, recycling manager for Five Colleges. The colleges also contract with area farms for composting to turn food waste back into fertilizer for future crops.

In an attempt to further reduce food waste, several of the dining services have tried going trayless. By having students use plates instead of trays, dining service staff found that students are less likely to take more food than they can eat. A one-day experiment at Amherst College reduced food waste by 100 pounds. The approach also saves hot water, soap and cleaning time.

Five College dining service staffs have developed close relationships with local farmers; Amherst College, for example, has been buying its apples from the same family farm for generations. Hadley farmer Joe Czajkowski sells produce to several of the colleges. “It keeps jobs in the Valley, it preserves open farmland, it brings more nutritious



JOHN SOLEM

*From buying 25 percent of its produce and dairy locally to going trayless, UMass dining services is following a variety of sustainable practices.*



PRATEEK RAIBHANDARI HC '07E

*Hampshire students enjoy some of the fruits of their farm center.*

food and it's more ecological,” he told a *Hampshire Gazette* reporter recently. “The typical distance that food travels in this country from farm to fork is 1,500 miles. To UMass, we're about a mile away. I think this is more efficient.”

Hampshire College reduces the farm-to-table commute even further, maintaining its own Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm center on campus. In addition to being a working farm, the center is a research, education and outreach facility dedicated to sustainable agriculture. It's a place where students and faculty members can integrate science and alternative technology as a means for testing sustainable methods of farming. As an educational center, the farm provides agricultural programs for the college, local community members and school groups and is yet another example of the multiple ways in which sustainability efforts benefit the five colleges and can provide opportunities to fulfill their educational mission in an innovative fashion.

Not all campus sustainability efforts are as transparent as educational opportunities, but they all help create campus cultures that can only inspire those in the classroom and laboratory. “By establishing such institutional policies and practices that minimize our environmental impact,” said Amherst's Brassord, “we also send a clear message to our students: Collectively and individually, we must be committed to conserving our resources.”

# Museum Collaborat⑩n Hits Its Stride

Museums10's impact is felt in the region's culture, schools and economy

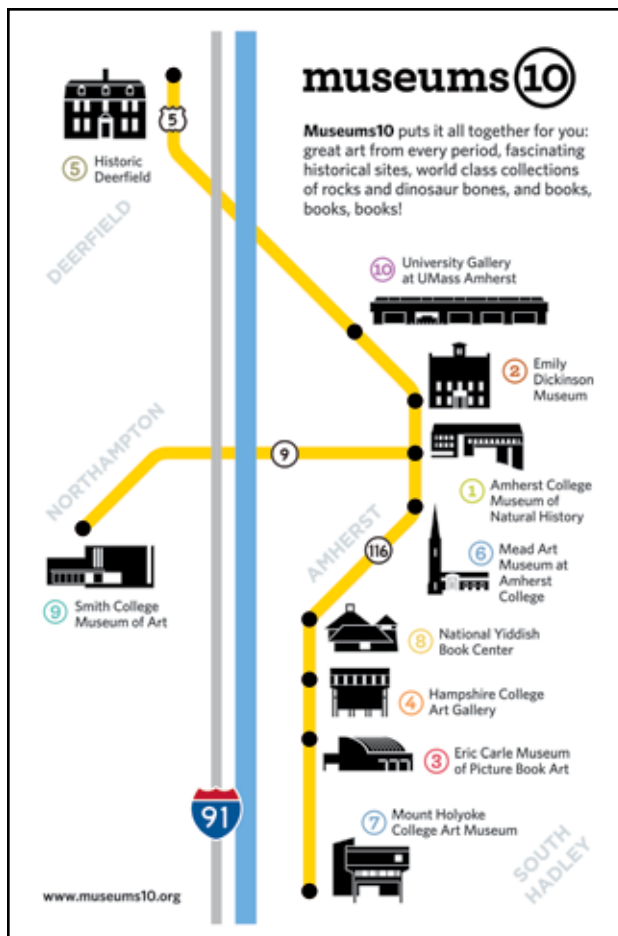
By Alexandra de Montrichard, MHC '92



*Illustration from Today Is Monday, copyright © 1993 by Eric Carle. Headline typography by Robert Stewart of Rob & Damia Design.*

The announcement in February that the Massachusetts Cultural Council is awarding Museums10 a \$48,000 Adams Grant was just the latest example of the success the collaboration has enjoyed in supporting the culture and economy of the region. The five-year-old collaboration of Five College museums and affiliated independents annually attracts nearly 200,000 visitors, who, according to museum surveys, spend millions of dollars locally on shopping, food and lodging. And the impact goes beyond dollars and cents.

Last summer the pedagogical expertise of Museums10 staff was in evidence when the museum educators organized “Seeing through Art and Objects,” a professional development workshop for kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers from the Springfield public schools. Over the course of two days, more than two dozen teachers were introduced to the museum collections while learning ways to integrate visual-thinking strategies and object-based learning into their lessons. Both methods use the discussion and exploration of images and objects as teaching tools to pique students’ interest and nurture their critical-thinking and language skills.



Museums10 postcards were distributed in coffee houses and bookstores throughout the Pioneer Valley. Design by Rob & Damia Design.

## Table for 10 offers a full menu of museum exhibitions

Table for 10 museum exhibitions will include (chronological by opening date):

- May 16: *Essen! Jewish Food in the New World*, at the National Yiddish Book Center through Oct. 2010
- Jul. 9: *Luscious: Paintings by Emily Eveleth*, at the Smith College Museum of Art through Oct. 24, 2010
- Aug. 21: *Dinner Is Served: Dining and the Decorative Arts*, at Historic Deerfield through Feb. 2011
- Sept. 1: *The Politics of Food*, at Hampshire College Art Gallery through Oct. 2010
- Sept. 2: *Wine and Spirit: Rituals, Remedies, and Revelry*, at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum through Dec. 12, 2010
- Sept. 21: *A Feast for the Eyes*, at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art through Mar. 20, 2011
- Sept. 24: *Sugar: Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons*, at the Smith College Museum of Art through Jan. 2, 2011
- Sept. 25: *Art Has a 'Palate': The Dickinsons and Dining*, at the Emily Dickinson Museum
- Sept. 28: *Tell Me What You Eat . . .*, at the Amherst College Museum of Natural History through Jan. 2, 2011

Augmenting this lineup will be a multi-media exhibition titled “creAte: Food as Artistic Inspiration” at the Paradise City Arts Festival in Northampton over Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 9–11, and Cabinet of Culinary Curiosities: Books and Manuscripts from the Mortimer Rare Book Room, an exhibition at Smith College Neilson Library (Aug. 5 through Dec. 22).

Programming by the Museums10 partners will include the Emily Dickinson Baking Contest on Sept. 25; What’s Cooking at the Mead? a fall series of free public talks at the Mead Art Museum at Amherst College by Pioneer Valley “foodies”; A Movable Feast, a public art project and related events presented by the University Gallery at UMass Amherst in fall 2010.

For the most up-to-date information about Table for 10 events, maps and directions, visit [museums10.org](http://museums10.org).

A silhouette of various museum buildings of different architectural styles, including a tall spire, set against a dark background.

museums 10

Explore the Valley.  
Discover the World.

[www.museums10.org](http://www.museums10.org)

“The goal of the workshop was to help educators feel comfortable using art in teaching without feeling they have to be art educators,” said Rosemary Agoglia, curator of education at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. In their evaluations of the session, the teachers were enthusiastic about the workshop and the use of objects to spark open-ended learning experiences for students. They also valued the emphasis on using art as a starting point for other subjects in their curricula and the ability to learn about many museum resources in one workshop. The school district has invited the museum educators to give another presentation this summer.

While the museums’ educators were busy engaging teachers, the museums’ marketing staff members, working with Northampton’s Rob & Damia Design, sought to engage area residents by creating a collection of marketing materials aimed at raising the profile of Museums10 and its members.

“The strength of Museums10 lies in leveraging the power of the 10 partners by marketing together and positioning each institution as part of a larger cultural resource in the Valley,” said Marc Belanger, director of marketing at Historic Deerfield and chair of the Museums10 marketing committee. “For leisure travelers who are wondering if it’s worth the trip to the area to visit one museum, Museums10 allows them to see that while making the trip to Historic Deerfield, they can also visit the Smith College Art Museum and the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art; therefore, the value of the trip in their minds increases and this increases the likelihood of their visits.”

Buttons, T-shirts, coffee-cup sleeves and postcards, sporting an encircled 10 and the museum buildings in silhouette, were distributed in coffee houses and at events throughout the Pioneer Valley last fall, often from a new Museums10 tent. The same icons adorned 12-foot ads on Pioneer Valley Transit Authority buses, along with slogans that incorporated the numeral 10 into the lettering, all with

the slogan “Explore the Valley. Discover the World.” The local campaign was reinforced with Museums10 advertising in *Preview* magazine and coverage in the *Valley Advocate* as well as in the distribution of rack cards among the Five Colleges and at hotels, travel information centers and attractions along the I-91 corridor.

In March, the mixed-media campaign created by Rob and Damia Design was recognized by the regional advertising industry for its creative excellence and received a gold ADDY award. “The campaign was very successful,” said Belanger. “Numerous people saw it and were impressed with the look and feel. The message was fun and intriguing and made them aware of the Museums10 brand as a whole.”

Throughout 2009, a committee representing museum directors, curators, educators and marketers met regularly to plan Museums10’s third joint exhibition, *Table for 10: The Art, History and Science of Food*. *Table for 10* will bring together artists, farmers, restaurants, food writers and gourmards to celebrate all things food. Museums10 is partnering with a variety of organizations and businesses as part of the celebration. The MCC’s Adams Grant will support the promotion of *Table for 10*, which will infuse the Pioneer Valley with museum exhibitions, wine tastings, literary dinners and other special events in the summer and fall of 2010.

“Everything will be organized around a core group of new food-themed exhibitions and public programs at the Museums10 partner sites,” said Jessica Nicoll, director of the Smith College Museum of Art and co-chair of the *Table for 10* executive committee. “This is a terrific opportunity to introduce new audiences to the cultural treasures as well as the rich food culture available right here in the Five College area.”

For more information about Museums10 and *Table for 10*, visit [museums10.org](http://museums10.org) and become a fan on Facebook.

# NewsBreaks

## DANCE PERFORMANCE COMBINES LIVE MUSIC, RENOWNED CHOREOGRAPHERS



Last year the National Endowment for the Arts awarded a prestigious American Masterpieces grant to the Five College Dance Department to help fund the restaging of “Gloria,” Mark Morris’ early masterpiece. Morris is hailed as one of the great musical choreographers of the modern era, and “Gloria” provided the perfect opportunity for a remarkable series of live music and dance collaborations across the five campuses. The piece is set to Vivaldi’s “Gloria in D,” which, as it turns out, is a popular, accessible piece for college orchestras and choral ensembles.

The piece was double-cast on 20 advanced dancers from all five campuses, and in the fall it was presented in a series of concerts featuring live musical accompaniment by resident orchestras and choral ensembles at Mount Holyoke, Smith and UMass. In March a final round of performances, with live music by the Amherst College Symphony Orchestra and Choral Ensemble, was presented in an all-live music and dance concert at the Academy of Music Theatre in Northampton.

In addition to “Gloria,” guest choreographers Kinsun Chan and Megan Bonneau McCool presented new work, as did Amherst dance professor Wendy Woodson and



PHOTOS BY JIM COLEMAN

Five College dance students perform in “Gloria” at Northampton’s Academy of Music Theatre.



UMass dance professor Billbob Brown, all incorporating live music into their choreography.

Performing to live music is both exhilarating and terrifying for dancers; it forces them to prick up their ears and bodies in heightened attunement to the greater subtle shifts of the musicians’ playing. A

slowed-down tempo can push leaps to greater heights, and speeding up can push already fast steps to comical extremes. But for audiences, this tension is what makes live music and dance so exciting to watch.

The collaborations this project created were especially valuable for the educational synergies they produced: musicians and dancers, in their nightly negotiation of rhythm, melody and phrasing, came to appreciate firsthand the nuances of each other’s craft. Also, with its final performances taking place off-campus, at the historic public venue the Academy of Music Theatre, the project was a great town-gown success, bringing dance to a much broader audience.

—Jim Coleman, professor of dance at Mount Holyoke and chair of the Five College Dance Department.

## A CHANGE IN FIVE COLLEGES' FINANCIAL GUARD

When Marie Hess retired in December as Five Colleges' treasurer and business officer, it was actually her second retirement in six years. Hess came to the consortium in 2003 after a 25-year career at the University of Massachusetts Fine Arts Center, where she had been honored in 2000 with a Chancellor's Citation as university employee of the year.

In her time at Five Colleges, Marie oversaw an \$8 million budget and worked with a dozen committees, ranging from the chief financial officers to food service directors to transportation directors. When she wasn't making sure the buses ran on time, Marie handled human resources responsibilities for the 35 employees of the Five College consortium.

"I relied heavily on Marie's knowl-



*Five College Treasurer Barbara Lucey*

edge and wisdom, on her humanity," said Lorna Peterson, Five Colleges' executive director from 1990 to 2009. "She is both a numbers person and a people person—her columns al-

ways added up and her patience never wore down."

Taking on Hess' position is Barbara Lucey, who since 1997 had been the chief financial officer of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Lucey managed all financial aspects of the non-profit, which has a \$10 million annual budget and serves more than 100,000 people each year.

"I'm thrilled that we have recruited an experienced nonprofit chief financial officer who will bring her skills to our Five College consortium," said Five College Executive Director Neal Abraham. "As the consortium's liaison to many groups representing areas of finance and administration at the colleges, Barbara will play a central role in our work to develop and implement the next strategic plan."

## TASK FORCES REVIEWING HUNDREDS OF STRATEGIC PLANNING IDEAS



The Five College strategic planning process entered the spring with three cross-institutional task forces reviewing ideas that have been submitted by students, faculty members, staff members and alumni of the consortium. In February, trustee chairs of the consortium's members met in a half-day retreat to participate in the planning process, and their ideas were added to those generated by retreats of the presidents and chancellor, faculty members and administrators as well as those submitted through the Five College Web site.

All told, more than 400 ideas have been submitted. Strategic directions are coalescing around a number of themes:

- The commitment to academic excellence and innovation, out of which Hampshire was

founded, and the importance of maintaining that as a foundational commitment.

- The importance—and potential—of joint technology investments, both academic and administrative.
- The need to move forward on some (relatively) quick fixes: express buses, with wireless on all; calendar alignment; and an enhanced Five College catalog, for example.
- The potential for approaching environmental sustainability and energy investments collaboratively.
- The need to position ourselves collectively with regard to the important conversations happening in our region involving issues such as transit planning, economic development in Holyoke and Springfield and legislative

priorities on Beacon Hill and in Washington.

- The need to strengthen Five College identity and community, for both our external marketing and our internal audiences.

Composed of students, faculty members and staff members, the task forces—academic matters, Five College identity and community, and administrative operations—are evaluating and prioritizing ideas in their particular academic or administrative areas for expanded collaboration, cooperation or coordination, and passing on recommendations for the final plan. Over the summer, all task force recommendations will be assembled into a draft plan, made available for community review and feedback. The plan is expected to be finalized in the fall.

To review and comment on the planning process, visit [fivecolleges.edu/planning](http://fivecolleges.edu/planning).

## HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE PLANS ITS 40TH BIRTHDAY PARTY



HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE PHOTO ARCHIVES

*Hampshire College film and photography professor Jerome Liebling films on campus in the 1970s.*

In 1970, Four Colleges, Inc. had to change its name. Amherst, Mount Holyoke, Smith and UMass had been collaborating since the 1950s on projects ranging from a shared astronomy department to a public radio station. But in 1970 there came to fruition the most ambitious project they had ever—and perhaps would ever—contemplate: creating a new college.

Built on a farmer's field in South Amherst, Hampshire College has been a true child of the consortium. More than

those of any other member, Hampshire students can be seen on consortium campuses, with some 96 percent taking at least one course through the Interchange before they graduate.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Hampshire's birth, and it plans to celebrate. "We are very excited about this coming-of-age milestone, at a time when, despite the recent and continuing national economic challenges, Hampshire is thriving, celebrating its myriad successful alums worldwide, its unique

and constantly evolving pedagogy and its very special Five College relationships," said Killara Burn, director of alumni and family relations.

The college expects more than 1,000 at its birthday party the weekend of June 11, with events ranging from a panel discussion with four past presidents to performances by jam band Soulive and comedian Eugene Mirman. To find out more about the celebration, visit [hampshire.edu/anniversary/anniversary.htm](http://hampshire.edu/anniversary/anniversary.htm).

—*Elisabeth Sweeney AC '11*

## CAMPUSES PITCH IN FOR HAITI RELIEF

Student groups organized candlelight vigils, donation contests, benefit concerts and other events to help Haitians in the wake of their country's devastating January earthquake. The student-driven events and fund-raisers came from a wide variety of groups, drawing on their own strengths to raise money and awareness.

Music played a large part in these efforts. The UMass Fine Arts Center sponsored a benefit concert, which raised more than \$9,000 with performers ranging from Martin Sexton to the UMass Jazz Ensemble. At

Amherst's candlelight vigil, attended by 250 students, a cappella groups performed and leaders from several faiths led the assembled in prayers. After the vigil, students screened a short film of the reactions of Haitian-American students to the disaster.

Students at both UMass and Amherst College raised some \$7,500 selling Help Haiti wristbands (a competition with Williams helped motivate sales). Hoops for Haiti pitted Mount Holyoke students against a faculty and staff team in basketball, with admission fees going to relief efforts.

Support for Haiti was not confined to fund-raisers. UMass hosted several discussions to educate students about the broader context of Haiti's history and current suffering. The Five College Women's Studies Research Center combined education and fund-raising when it showed the film *Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy*, with a talk by the director, at a sold-out screening at Amherst Cinema, with nearly \$3,500 in proceeds going to Haiti.

—*Elisabeth Sweeney AC '11*

## TAP DANCING AMERICA OFFERS INCLUSIVE CULTURAL HISTORY



Five College dance professor Constance Valis Hill (above left) at an April 5 party celebrating the publishing of her book *Tap Dancing America*, at which renowned tap dancer Dianne Walker (above right) performed.

Whether it is Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, Gregory Hines or Savion Glover, most of us know the names of at least some of the legendary male tap dancers. The same can’t be said for Ada Overton Walker, Cora LaRedd, Eleanor Powell or any of the other outstanding female dancers in this distinctive American art form.

*Tap Dancing America*—an important new cultural history researched and written over the past decade by Constance Valis Hill, Five College professor of dance at Hampshire College, and released through Oxford University Press—is a step

toward rectifying that oversight.

Tap was long considered “a man’s game,” and Professor Hill’s inclusive history is the first to also highlight the outstanding female dancers. The book fulfills the dream Hill describes, in her preface, of writing “an intercultural and interracial history that would not be star-centered but people-full. There are more female than male dancers in the history,” Hill says. “We just don’t honor or see them the same way. People tend to valorize the male performances.”

Herself an accomplished jazz tap dancer, choreographer and performance scholar, Hill starts *Tap Dancing*

*America* at 1900 and proceeds decade by decade, starting with buck-and-wing and ragtime and moving through to hip-hop-inflected hitting and hoofing in heels from the ’90s right up until today. Drawing on eyewitness accounts of early performances and on interviews with today’s greatest tappers and illustrated with more than 90 images, *Tap Dancing America* fills a major gap in American dance history.

Although Hill’s classes typically focus on dance theory, she was inspired to offer a dance class in tap this semester. Thirty-five students showed up for the first session.

## BOOK EXPLORES CHINESE IMMIGRANTS AS “OTHER” IN PHILIPPINES

Five College Assistant Professor of History Richard Chu has expanded his work examining the Chinese experience in the Philippines with a new book. Published by Brill Academic Publishers, *Chinese and Chinese Mestizos of Manila* focuses on Chinese merchant families in Manila from the 1860s to the 1930s,

exploring the differences between Chinese and Hispanicized or Catholicized mestizos.

Chu delves into Spanish colonial practices of seeing Chinese immigrants as an “other” in the Philippines while considering Chinese mestizos as Filipino. Through this historic lens, Chu describes how

diverse ethnic histories influence current identities and stereotypes. Based at UMass, the Philippines-born Chu teaches courses on Pacific empires, Philippine colonial history, Asian American history, the Chinese diaspora and world history.

—Elisabeth Sweeney AC ’11

## NEW MUSIC COMPOSERS CELEBRATED AT FESTIVAL

Thanks to the efforts of a handful of faculty members from the five campuses, hundreds of area residents last fall enjoyed the region's first new music festival in 30 years. Held over three days in September at Bezanson Recital Hall at UMass, the Five College New Music Festival celebrated the work of the region's many composers with performances that included Five College students.

Coming up with a definition of new music is impossible, and that's partly the point. New music began

in the 1940s with "a realization that there was a broad expanse of artistic potential available to composers and performers that could quite literally embrace the whole world," said Salvatore Macchia of UMass, who with Elizabeth Chang of UMass and Eric Sawyer of Amherst College organized the festival. New music pioneers were often classically trained composers looking to push past the boundaries of classical music; performers as disparate as Benny Goodman and Yoko Ono have been associated with it.

Although it concluded with a concert of Hungarian pieces, the Five College festival focused on the wide-ranging work of a dozen area composers, most of whom have taught at the campuses. "This recognizes the fact that for probably the past 35 years there's been a tremendous amount of activity in this field, and there are some very, very important composers here," said Macchia. "We've done Five College concerts over the years, but nothing as thorough as this."

## JOHN SLEPIAN: EXPLORING ART AND TECHNOLOGY

John Slepian is busy practicing what he teaches. The Five College assistant professor of art and technology is in two shows, one on each coast, this spring: a group show and a solo exhibition.

In what *boston.com* describes as "a loose band of artist geeks working along the intersection of art and technology," Slepian's COLLISION-collective is showing at Boston's Axiom Gallery in "COLLISION15:

findings." On April 10, Slepian's solo show opened at the Catherine Clark Gallery in San Francisco.

In his artist statement for the solo show, Slepian writes, "My project has been to create digitally generated photographs, video installations, and interactive sculptures that investigate what it is that makes us feel human. In this world of rapidly advancing, and often paradigm-shifting, technologies, this

is something that is becoming harder and harder to determine." Which is right along the lines of what he is currently teaching here. Based at Hampshire, Slepian explores with his students the intersection of technology and art, this semester in a course entitled Interactive Digital Multimedia at Smith and Digital Art/Multimedia/Malleability at Hampshire.

—*Elisabeth Sweeney AC '11*

## FILM EXPLORING DEMOCRACY TOURS CAMPUSES

It's about immigration legislation, Ted Kennedy and post-September 11 America, but at its heart, *How Democracy Works Now*, a documentary shown on four consortium campuses in April, is about making policy in the world's most powerful democracy.

Filming for the show began in the summer of 2001, as immigration-reform legislation worked its way through Congress. The legislation's prospects for success became a casualty of the September 11 attacks, as anti-immigration sentiment swept the country and Congress. The film follows

attempts at resuscitating the bill and concludes with its ultimate defeat in the Senate in 2007.

Hampshire College sociology and American studies professor Wilson Valentín-Escobar worked with the filmmakers (whose staff includes 2007 Hampshire graduate Yasmine Farhang) to arrange a Five College tour of *How Democracy Works Now*. Over the course of a week in April, five of the show's 12 episodes were shown on four campuses, with a final showing at the Amherst Cinema.

Valentín-Escobar said his goal

in getting the show to the area was to spark campus discussions about immigration, particularly in the wake of the 2007 arrests of hundreds of illegal immigrants in New Bedford, Massachusetts. "We think of these things as happening in border states," he said, "and Massachusetts is not a border state. I therefore wanted to foster a conversation around immigration. And there is definitely a civics educational element to this. You can extrapolate from the film a sense of how democracy works in D.C. It's a really ugly process."

## SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE PRESENT MULTIFACTED LOOK AT AFGHANISTAN

The Five College ethnomusicology committee hosted two particularly timely Five College scholars in residence in March. As musicians, filmmakers, authors and ethnomusicologists, John Baily and Veronica Doubleday changed the way the world thinks about music and gender in Afghanistan, based on extensive research they conducted in that country beginning in the 1970s.

In 1985, Baily premiered his award-winning film *Amir*, documenting the life of an Afghan musician living as a refugee in Pakistan. Three years later, Doubleday published *Three Women of Herat*, describing her relationship in pre-Soviet Afghanistan with three Muslim women who shared with her the music, customs and details of their everyday lives.

In 2002, after the fall of the Taliban, Baily and Doubleday established the Afghanistan Music Unit at Goldsmiths College, in London, and began returning to Afghanistan, which gave them the opportunity to continue writing about and filming firsthand their experiences.

Doubleday and Baily brought to Five Colleges their understanding of the value of music in culture, the basic tenet of ethnomusicology.

“We begin to see how important music is in the human condition



and also, perhaps, how important music has been in the development of humanity over the last 10,000 to 20,000 years,” Baily told the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*. “Music is very central to our social activity. Every kind of social event has music.”

In addition to meeting with classes on each of the campuses, Baily and Doubleday presented

lectures, films and even a concert of traditional Afghan music with tabla player Samir Chatterjee. And somewhere during their weeklong visit, they were delighted to field a call from a U.S. Army captain stationed at Fort Bragg who wanted their advice on how best to relate culturally to the Afghan people during his imminent deployment there.

## STUDENTS AND FACULTY CREATE AN “EMPATHETIC SPACE” AT HAMPSHIRE

Think of how you responded to the last piece of art you saw, and now try to remember the last time a piece of art responded to you. That was the idea behind *TES* (for *The Empathetic Space*), an installation combining fabric, wood, wire and motion detectors that hung from the ceiling of Hampshire’s Harold F. Johnson Library and pointed itself at people

walking under it. It was the product of a January-term course in Hampshire’s new Design Art and Technology (DART) program, taught by Five College Assistant Professor of Architecture Thom Long and Five College Assistant Professor of Art and Technology John Slepian. Long described the course as one in which “two professors from different dis-

ciplines get together and brainstorm how their different approaches, philosophies and disciplines overlap and engage each other.” Working with students from Smith and Hampshire, Long said they pursued the idea “that we can produce a space that actually physically and virtually responds to people’s behaviors.”

## STUDENTS SHARE WORK WITH EACH OTHER AND COMMUNITY

Symposia offer students in a range of disciplines the chance to share work with peers and faculty members across the consortium. Presentations include poster sessions, art shows and other presentations. For most of the students, this was their first chance to participate in an academic conference and to present their own papers.

In addition to the student performances featured on these pages, the Five College symposia and their hosting campus included:

Chinese Speech Contest, UMass  
 Crossroads in the Study of the Americas Student Symposium, UMass  
 Drawing Seminar Student Show, Amherst College  
 Geology Student Symposium, Amherst College  
 Indigenous Peoples, Cultural Survival: Art, Health, Education Symposium and Powwow, UMass  
 Physics Symposium, Smith College  
 Theater Portfolio Reviews, Mount Holyoke College and Smith College  
 Undergraduate Anthropology Conference, Hampshire College

## POETRYFEST CELEBRATES STUDENT WORK

With poems ranging from the whimsical to the profoundly spiritual 10 students shared their work at the eighth annual Five College PoetryFest at Mount Holyoke's Gamble Auditorium. Two students from each campus were selected to read their poems, and after the reading, the poets were presented with a published collection of the group's poems and gift certificates to local bookstores.

This year's poets were:

Deepti Mandiyan  
 Amherst College  
 Christopher Spaide  
 Amherst College



*Bryna Turner and Jenna Lempesis.*



*Shelby Kinney-Lang.*

Teal Van Dyck  
 Hampshire College  
 Amanda Krebs  
 Hampshire College  
 Bryna Turner  
 Mount Holyoke College  
 Jenna Lempesis  
 Mount Holyoke College

Melissa Davis  
 Smith College  
 Julia Marley  
 Smith College  
 Caitlin McLaughlin  
 UMass Amherst  
 Shelby Kinney-Lang  
 UMass Amherst

## WORD! CELEBRATES DIVERSE STUDENT BACKGROUNDS

In playwriting workshops and staged readings, WORD! Multicultural Theater each year explores and celebrates the diverse backgrounds that Five College students bring to the Pioneer Valley. Students begin in the fall, participating in a script-writing workshop with a playwright in residence; this year it was Marcus Gardley at UMass Amherst. Up to 10 short scripts are then chosen by the Five College Multicultural Theater

Committee to be presented at the WORD! play-reading festival. This year's selected scripts ranged widely over themes of gender, race and culture and were presented in a staged reading at Mount Holyoke in March. They were:

*The Mammy Statue (Working Title)*  
 Written and directed by J.D. Stokely, Hampshire College  
*An Unusual Testimony*  
 Written and directed by Bethel Vlahakis, Mount Holyoke College

*One-Way Ticket to Solid Ground*  
 Written by Cerstin Johnson, Smith College, directed by Lisa Meyers, Smith College  
*Soft Blues Stick on a Sunday Afternoon*  
 Written by Katrina De Wees, Hampshire College, directed by J.D. Stokely, Hampshire College  
*Shikata Ga Nai (It Can't Be Helped)*  
 Written by Kendra Arimoto, Smith College, directed by Emma Weinstein, Smith College

## CHORAL FESTIVAL HARNESSSES 500 VOICES

From overhead, 500 voices rose up in the exquisite lament of a father for his lost daughter. Sung from the balcony of Smith's John M. Greene Hall, Giacomo Carissimi's "Plorate, filii Israel" was the final piece of the Five College Choral Festival. The student singers, from 12 choirs representing all five campuses, were conducted from the stage by visiting artist Kristina Boerger, who said the performance brought out "the wrenchingly plangent harmonies that Carissimi created to illustrate anguish."

Boerger, an internationally recognized choir director, singer and educator from Carroll University, spent the week leading up the festival traveling from campus to campus, working with choirs and teaching classes.

In the two hours preceding the Carissimi piece, each chorus performed on the stage with its own director, singing songs ranging from spirituals to folk songs, Giuseppe Verdi to Douglas Ipson. The audience nearly filled the 1,000-seat hall with campus and community fans.

—Elisabeth Sweeney AC '11



NANCY PALMIERI

Some of the 500 students rehearsing "Plorate, filii Israel" at Smith's John M. Greene Hall.

## JAZZ FESTIVAL ATTRACTS HUNDREDS OF PERFORMERS AND FANS



PHOTOS BY NANCY PALMIERI

Seventeen bands jammed into—and at—the Friedmann Room of Amherst College's Keefe Campus Center in March for the Five College Jazz Festival. Groups from each campus served up performances that ranged from a cappella to improvisational orchestra to chamber jazz, with a jam session for everyone on Friday night. Begun in 2004 at Smith College, the festival rotates from campus to campus as it is held every other year.

"Students told me this was an



Scenes from the Five College Jazz Festival included bands from (clockwise from left) UMass Amherst, Hampshire, Hampshire and Mount Holyoke.

eye-opener for them, in terms of being exposed to the approaches and kinds of music being studied and performed on other campuses," said Bruce Diehl, Amherst's director of jazz perfor-

mance and the organizer of the event. Nearly 200 Five College students played "everything from 1930s swing music to the current compositions by UMass graduate students," he said.

## FIVE COLLEGE FESTIVAL TURNS THE LENS ON STUDENT FILM WORK

Some 200 people braved seasonally challenging weather to see the Five College Student Film and Video Festival in February. The range of films, including experimental, dance, documentary and animation, delighted a lively audience. “I believe this festival is special because it is by and for the students,” said Lee Tae Cobb, student director of the festival. “It represents the amazing ability of the students who make up the five colleges.”

Juried by students and faculty, 80 entries were received from students at all five campuses, and 25 were screened at the festival. Cobb said she hopes interest in the festival will increase in coming years, particularly with the advent of a film and media studies major at Amherst. Interest in the festival reaches beyond campus borders, with Northampton’s Pleasant Street Theater screening the winning films in early April.

—*Elisabeth Sweeney AC '11*

### 2010 Five College Film and Video Film Festival Award Winners

**Best of Amherst:** *5 Minutes*, Matt Hartzler

**Best of Hampshire:** *Odd, Even*, Maxime Simonet & Stephen Sues

**Best of Mount Holyoke:** *Thanksgiving Dinner*, Hyo Rhi Kim

**Best of Smith:** *The Cat & The Fox*, Elizabeth Thompson

**Best of UMass Amherst:** *Two men Drowning in Quicksand*, Ben Leonberg

**Best Animation:** *Where Are We Going*, Lauren Flinner, Hampshire College

**Best Dance on Camera:** *Cradled: in Context*, Alexis Zaccarello-Grimes, Mount Holyoke College

**Best Documentary:** *Powerless by Choice*, Reema Naqvi, Mount Holyoke College

**Best Experimental:** *Halcyon Glare*, Daniel Peck, Hampshire College

**Best Narrative:** *Safe as Houses*, Molly Koch, Hampshire College

**Jurors’ Choice:** *The Evolution of Roth*, Roth Sok, Smith College

To view clips of the winners and to get more information about Film Studies at the Five Colleges, visit [fivecolleges.edu/sites/film](http://fivecolleges.edu/sites/film).

## 2008 FILM FESTIVAL WINNER RETURNS

A recent Five College Film and Video Festival winner has returned with her winning entry as part of a traveling international film festival. *In My Genes*, which Lupita Nyong’o created as her Division III thesis project while she was a student at Hampshire, “addresses the personal and societal challenges that people with albinism face as members of one of the most hyper-visible and misunderstood minority groups of Kenya’s predominantly black society,” she writes.

Nyong’o spent eight months in her native Kenya completing the project, documenting the lives of eight albinos from different socio-cultural and economic backgrounds. It ultimately won best documentary and best film awards at the 2008



*Lupita Nyong’o*

Five College festival, and went on to become a “souvenir selection” at the Africala Film Festival in Mexico later

that year. It is now part of the New York African Film Festival’s Traveling Series of 2010, brought to the area by Smith College.

While attending Hampshire, Nyong’o worked on the production teams of such critically acclaimed films as *The Constant Gardener* and *The Namesake* and made a number of short experimental films, including *Decolonizing the Mind*, which won the Best of Hampshire College award at the Five College Film and Video Festival in 2007. Last year Nyong’o starred in *Shuga*, a three-part Nairobi-based MTV drama created to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS in developing countries. She is currently pursuing a master of fine arts degree in acting at the Yale School of Drama.

## MOUNT HOLYOKE STUDENT WINS AMERICA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS PHYSICS AWARD

Kathryn Greenberg, a 2009 graduate of Mount Holyoke, returned to her alma mater in March to give the 2010 Five College Physics Symposium lecture on her senior thesis, "Thermal Coupling and Lensing in Arrays of Vertical Cavity Surface Emitting Lasers." That thesis won for Greenberg the 2009 LeRoy Apker Award, presented by the American Physical Society (APS) to recognize outstanding achievements in physics by undergraduate students.

"The Apker Award," said Neal Abraham, executive director of Five Colleges and a fellow of the American Physical Society, "not only recognizes the high caliber of the research done by Katie Greenberg, but also brings recognition and credit



*Kathryn Greenberg*

to the educational environment and research support at Mount Holyoke College, in the sciences more generally and in the physics department in particular. Katie's accomplishments and this recognition by APS reinforce the importance and significance of undergraduate student research in liberal arts colleges across the country."

Greenberg discovered her love of physics during her freshman year at Mount Holyoke while working with Janice Hudgings, the chair of the physics department. She is now studying physics at the University of Cambridge as the recipient of a Gates Cambridge Fellowship and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in applied physics at Harvard University in the fall.

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