

Academic Programs 2024-25 Year-In-Review

ONE CONSORTIUM, ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Five College Academic Programs offers something for everyone—from large performances to one-on-one classes, small faculty seminar gatherings to lectures with large audiences, humanities and performing arts to STEM programming.

*Spent Days Out Yonder (2000) by Bill T. Jones,
Frequency, Mount Holyoke College
Faculty Dance Concert, November 2024,
Photograph by Paul Bloomfield*



Student Events

Students participated in a variety of events, including research poster sessions and performing arts concerts. The following are a few highlights from this year.

Five College DataFest took place at UMass Amherst, with students receiving a dataset on a Friday evening and presenting findings and insights to the judges that Sunday. This year 194 students registered and 33 teams presented to the judges, making the 2025 event the largest ever.

Approximately 950 students attended **Five College Korean Language events** this year, such as the Korean Culture Festival at Mount Holyoke College, Hangeul Day Celebration at UMass Amherst, and a Conversation with Cho Nam-joo at Smith College.

Approximately 275 students performed in this year's **Five College Choral Festival**, which took place at Smith College in March. Visiting artist Judi Vinar joined for the event, teaching students during the rehearsal and conducting a piece with the entire student group, the Five College Festival Chorale, during the public performance.

Students from all five campuses performed in this year's **Faculty Dance Concerts**, featuring the repertory project *Spent Days Out Yonder*, choreographed by Bill T. Jones and staged by Amherst College faculty Jenna Riegel.



Student Participants in Five College DataFest at UMass Amherst, Photograph by Noah Loving

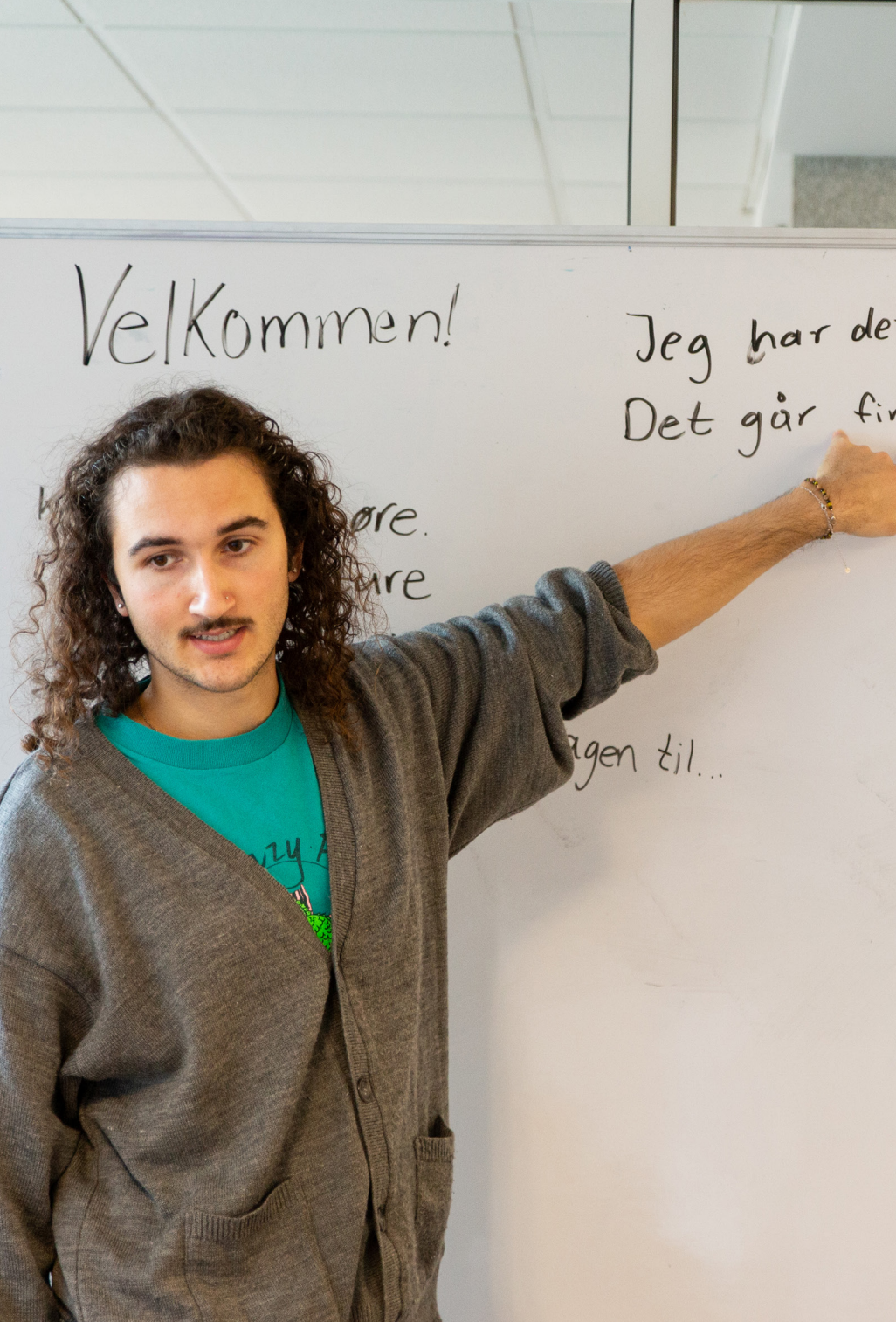
Student Events continued

This year's **Lorna Peterson Prize** was awarded to Sophia Hill, a student at Hampshire College who transferred from New College of Florida. Sophia has studied in the Culture, Health, and Science Program; worked in an internship at the Women's Studies Research Center; and presented at the Five College Undergraduate Anthropology Conference.

The **Coastal and Marine Sciences Poster Session** took place at the Hampshire College Red Barn, where 15 students presented the results of their scientific work conducted through internships, laboratory studies, and field experiences.

The **Five College Prose and Poetry Prize event** was held in the Weinstein Auditorium at Wright Hall, Smith College. Twelve winners were selected from more than 100 submissions, with each campus represented, as well as the Care Center at Bard Microcollege Holyoke.

The **Five College Student Film Festival** took place in Pruyn Auditorium on the Amherst College campus. Prizes were awarded to student filmmakers in three categories: Best Fiction Film, Best Experimental Film, and Best Documentary. Approximately 70 people attended the festival.



Languages

The Center for World Languages offers more than 40 less-commonly taught languages as credit-bearing courses for Five College students. In the 2024-25 academic year, 243 students took courses in 35 languages, and 93% of students met or exceeded their target oral proficiency rating. Three students received scholarships totaling \$3,000 for immersive language study.

LangMedia, the Center's website of Open Educational Resources in more than 50 languages, was relaunched in December following an extensive redevelopment.

Five Colleges also supports four language initiatives, as well as the East Asian Languages Program, which hosts events for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean language students.

FIVE COLLEGE LANGUAGE INITIATIVES

The curricula are coordinated to enable students to progress seamlessly to the next level language course from one campus to another.

Arabic—classes at Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and UMass Amherst

Korean—classes at Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and UMass Amherst

Hebrew—classes at Smith College and UMass Amherst

American Sign Language—classes at UMass Amherst and through the Center for World Languages

Left: Danish Conversation Partner, Henry Dizard, in a Session at the Five College Center for World Languages, Photograph by Noah Loving



Faculty Collaboration

The Five College Building Academic Leaders in the Humanities (BAL) program is a year-long intensive leadership development initiative funded by the Mellon Foundation. In the first three years of the program, there were nearly 150 faculty participants from the five campuses and two area community colleges.

The program featured two tracks— one aimed at faculty serving as department chairs and another for faculty looking to move into deanships and beyond. At least ten of the participants have since gone into more advanced leadership positions. Mellon has approved a one-year extension of the program for 2025-26.

Faculty Collaboration

continued

27 Faculty Seminar groups, including *Political Theory*, *Chemistry*, and *Educational Policy*, *Research*, and *Leadership*, engaging in discussions about scholarly interests and works in progress, and occasionally hosting guest speakers

70 Faculty from the five campuses attended the **Five Colleges Department Chairs Reception** at Smith College

27 **Jointly Appointed Faculty** teaching across the five campuses

18 Courses taught by faculty visiting at other campuses through the **Faculty Exchange/Borrow Program**

60 Faculty Participants across two tracks in the Mellon-funded **Building Academic Leaders in the Humanities Program**

17 **Events supported by the Five College Lecture Fund**, including the *Caribbean Women Writers & Scholars Symposium* at Amherst College, the event *Alice Wong: An Activist's Life* at Hampshire College, and *Banaras Soul Music* on the campuses of Smith, Mount Holyoke, and Amherst Colleges

3 **Events supported by the Five College Symposium Fund**, including a joint symposium of the Five College Native American and Indigenous Studies and Asian/Pacific/American Studies programs and the upcoming Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting in Spring 2026

67 Faculty attended the inaugural **New Faculty Reception** at Hampshire College

24 Weekly write-on-site sessions hosted by the **Five College Women's Studies Research Center**, in addition to a public work-in-progress series, four day-long Write Togethers, and two multi-day writing retreats

New Faculty Reception at Hampshire College, Photograph by Ben Barnhart





About Five College Academic Programs

2 Five College Departments - Astronomy; Dance

1 Five College Major - Architectural Studies

17 Five College Certificate Programs, including Logic, Sustainability Studies, and Coastal and Marine Sciences

50% increase in number of **Five College Certificates Awarded** over last year

2 Centers - Center for World Languages; Women's Studies Research Center

3300 Registrations for courses on other campuses, up **10%** over last year

7000+ courses and **2100+ faculty** across five campuses

Left: Five College Coastal and Marine Sciences Certificate Program Poster Symposium at Hampshire College, Photograph by Noah Loving



Five College Prose & Poetry Prize Reading and Reception
at Smith College, Photograph by Ben Barnhart

Five College Academic Programs Staff

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Ray Rennard
Sloan Friedhaber
Daniel Lavigne
Diana Marginean
Lily Sendroff
April Shandor

CENTER FOR WORLD LANGUAGES

Janna White
Karla Carruth
Anca Luca Holden
Theo Hull
Jane Kennedy
Agnes Kimokoti

FIVE COLLEGE DANCE

Melinda Buckwalter
Matthew Adelson
Hayden Gadd
Carlie Nieman

97 Spring Street, Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 542-4000 | fivecolleges.edu