Innovations in language instruction can come in many forms—teaching Japanese with videoconferencing, exploring Hebrew and Arabic simultaneously and using cultural enrichment to engage with German. These are some of the projects that began over the summer as part of a new, $2 million Five College Innovative Language Teaching program.

The goal of the Mellon Foundation-funded effort is to increase student participation in language learning by attracting more students at introductory and intermediate levels and retaining them to study at more advanced levels. To achieve it, program leaders are supporting proposals that show students how understanding a language helps in understanding the cultural context of disciplines as disparate as art history and biology. They are also looking for ideas to develop communities of language learners and to make instruction more accessible with technology.

“We support faculty and students in helping them develop creative, collaborative and innovative approaches to language learning and teaching,” says Mark Lauer, coordinator of the program and a senior lecturer in German at Mount Holyoke. “We’re looking to support a portfolio of strategies that benefits different types of learners in their progress toward a wide array of language proficiencies.”

To date, eight projects involving more than 200 students have been initiated or completed. Among them are a team-taught course by instructors in Hebrew and Arabic that includes a linguistic survey of those languages and the role they play in religion. A Japanese-language project combines classroom teaching with videoconferencing and includes students building an online book-review site. German-language students have explored German and Austrian art in New York City galleries, complementing their classroom discussion on Modernism and turn-of-the-century Vienna. A full slate of projects is scheduled to begin in the spring.

To find out more about the program or how to submit a proposal, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

About this publication: Collaborations is a twice-yearly newsletter offering ways to engage with the consortium. Visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations for an online version of this issue, with links and additional content.
BRINGING A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE TO CHILDREN’S LITERATURE

A collaboration among the Five College Schools Partnership and other consortium and community members kicked off this summer to increase global understanding through literacy development in preschool to third-grade children in the United States.

The Longview Foundation-supported program Doors to the World: Critical Multicultural Literacies for Global Understanding, brought together 12 teachers from New England and New Jersey in a summer institute. Over four days, participants developed curricular plans for using picture books that represent diverse human experiences from around the world. Since then, they have been creating an online resource that features a list of published picture books relating to a wide range of international cultures. Each book is paired with curricular materials that help teachers integrate the book into their classrooms.

For links to more information, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

Photo: Noah Loving

EAST ASIAN STUDIES WEBINARS

Global trade, Hiroshima survivors and Chinese film music are all subjects of a series of webinars hosted by the Five College Center for East Asian Studies (FCCEAS) during the 2015–16 academic year. Thanks in part to a grant from the Freeman Foundation, the FCCEAS is reaching new audiences both inside and outside the consortium with timely information about East Asian studies.

More information is available at fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

VISITING HIROSHIMA 70 YEARS AFTER THE ATOMIC BOMB

In recognition of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, FCCEAS director Anne Prescott led a peace studies tour to Japan over the summer. A grant from the United States–Japan Foundation funded the two-week trip of U.S. teachers interested in incorporating peace studies into their classrooms. They traveled to Nagasaki, Hiroshima and Kyoto, visiting peace museums and parks, interacting with teachers and students, and talking with experts on peace and reconciliation. Since returning, participants have been creating classroom materials for teaching about peace. They will also conduct professional development workshops for educator colleagues as well as make presentations suitable for general audiences to maximize the impact of the study tour.

TEACHERS AND PROFESSORS JOIN TO IMPROVE MATH EDUCATION

Thanks to the Five College Partnership Program, area math teachers and professors can become students once more—and the experience is shaping how they approach teaching. In the Western Massachusetts Mathematics Partnership (WMMP) professional learning communities, educators from kindergarten through college explore new strategies for teaching math. Participants praise the impact this program has had on their teaching.

“I learned that math is much, much more than an answer,” says one K–12 participant. “It is a process that may entail different kinds of work that ultimately get you to a right answer, but [the answer] isn’t nearly as fun as the process that took you there.”

“I have learned new ideas about how to prompt and challenge the students to go further in their understanding—beyond an answer,” says another classroom teacher.

Each summer the Partnership Program reinforces the work of the professional learning communities with a two-day institute on improving math education, supported in part this year by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. Expert facilitators discuss such topics as algebraic thinking, supporting students with disabilities and group problem solving in the classroom. The Five College Partnership Program webpage features teaching resources and reports about these initiatives.

Visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations for a link to the site.
Sixth International Digital Storytelling Conference and Exhibition

Nearly 350 people from around the world convened in September at the sixth International Digital Storytelling Conference and Exhibition at Smith College and UMass Amherst that was cosponsored by Five Colleges and Mount Holyoke. The conference, being held for the first time in the United States, focused on youth and activism, and digital storytelling in public health, education, sustainability and participatory media.

FIVE COLLEGE CONSORTIUM TURNS 50

The 2015–16 academic year marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Five College Consortium. Incorporated in 1965 as Four Colleges, the consortium changed its name a year later after Hampshire College was founded. In celebration, Five Colleges is supporting events that feature cross-campus collaboration and that also highlight the history of the consortium. This fall, those have included the second International Shakespeare Conference and a performance of *Rice* by the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, both in September at UMass. On November 13, state legislators presented a citation to Five Colleges during the Mount Holyoke faculty dance concert that featured a performance of Pilobolus’ *Megawatt*.

In 2014–15

- **5,204** Cross-registration courses taken
- **Professors teaching on multiple campuses** 81
- **16** Certificate programs
- **Certificates awarded** 125
- **35** Graduates from both Five College majors
- **Rides on Five College bus routes** 1,001,883
- **$9 million** Campus investments in collaboration
- **Collective return on investment** $40 million

International Shakespeare Conference

The International Shakespeare Conference, held at UMass Amherst in September, featured scholarly work on prison productions, political crises and Shakespeare productions in Iran, Argentina and Turkey. As part of the conference the Harlem Shakespeare Festival performed The Sable Series: The History of Black Shakespearean Actors.

![Image of a man in glasses](Photo: Steven Frischling, courtesy of Hampshire College.)

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![Image of a conference setting](Photo: Steven Frischling, courtesy of Hampshire College.)

Check This Out

On December 2, the Jackie Pritzen Annual Lecture will feature Five College Professor Michael Klare presenting “World on Edge: War and Peace in the Climate Change Era” at Hampshire College.

Visit [fivecolleges.edu/collaborations](http://fivecolleges.edu/collaborations) for details.

Photo: Steven Frischling, courtesy of Hampshire College.
BLENDING TECHNOLOGY AND TEACHING

“I help colleagues solve problems,” says Luke Phelan about his role in the Five College Blended Learning Initiative, which supports faculty members developing courses that combine in-class and online components. Phelan’s job is to assist professors with the tricky task of determining how well technology supports learning in their courses.

“When we talk about assessment, it doesn’t mean standardized measures,” says Phelan. “I help project leaders understand what’s going on in the classroom regarding the key things they want students to learn. We work together to come up with novel approaches to assess learning.”

Currently, there are 10 blended learning projects in the works. Faculty members are using blended approaches to enhance learning in a range of areas, from Chinese character literacy to comparative politics to geospatial information sciences. Working in teams with consortium staff members and with instructional technologists on their home campuses, they will launch their courses in spring 2016.

With these courses in the final stages of development, the Blended Learning Initiative is seeking the next round of projects. A call for proposals is open through the end of January 2016 for new course ideas.

Learn more about Blended Learning at fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

WEIGHING THE VALUE OF THE DIGITAL IN DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Assessing the effectiveness of digital humanities in scholarly research and practice has been at the forefront of the Five College Digital Humanities (DH) program this year.

Cutting across disciplines, approaches known as digital humanities help scholars integrate technology into their work. They are at the heart of Five College program launched in 2011 with support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The New Rigor, a one-day conference held in May, was the first in a three-part process of developing structures to support and evaluate scholarship in the realm of DH. The DH community continued to discuss evaluation and assessment during summer 2015, and it concluded the series with a conference in October. Its next step involves collecting what has been learned and organizing it into a white paper to be shared with peer organizations nationally.

Find links to more information about DH and the New Rigor conference at fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

BLENDING TECHNOLOGY AND TEACHING

How do you know if new approaches to teaching and research are producing the desired results? This academic year, two Five College programs, through different methods and in different fields, are exploring ways to assess impact in the classroom and in scholarship.

BLENDED LEARNING FAQ

What is blended learning?

Blended learning combines face-to-face interaction with self-paced, online learning that can occur outside the classroom. Professors use blended learning to strengthen student engagement and create more in-class time for discussions.

Is funding available?

Yes. Thanks to grants from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Teagle Foundation, all project leaders receive financial support to carry out their blended learning work.

I have an idea for a blended course. Now what?

You can find links to information about projects and a grant application at fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

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Five College New Music Festival

The fourth Five College New Music Festival, held in September, was a celebration of the rich musical life of the Connecticut River Valley past and present. “The festival was a great success,” says Amherst College music professor and composer Eric Sawyer. “Five concerts across three days presented new and canonical compositions by 24 composers. Audiences overflowed the hall at the opening and closing concerts and remained robust throughout our extended day of three concerts on Saturday.”

Photo: Ben Barnhart
For a gallery of photos from the event, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

Taking NOTE

NEAL ABRAHAM GIVES KEYNOTE AT PHYSICS CONFERENCE

What will physics departments at colleges and universities look like in 10 years? That was the subject Five College Executive Director and Five College Professor of Physics Neal Abraham (above) discussed in his keynote address at the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers 2015 Physics Department Chairs Conference in June. His presentation touched on trends and transformations expected in the next decade.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAM HOSTS MAJOR CONFERENCE

Military intervention, terrorism, power and security, and counterinsurgency were just a few of the major topics discussed at the ISSS-ISAC Joint Annual Conference on Global Trends in War and Political Violence in October in Springfield. Cohosted by the Five College International Relations Program, cosponsored by the campuses and consortium and organized by program director and Five College Professor of International Relations Jon Western (above), along with a committee of faculty members from the program, the event featured the expertise of scholars from universities around the world.

Photo: Ben Barnhart

FCCEAS DIRECTOR EDITS NEW BOOK ON EAST ASIA

Both history and contemporary issues—such as globalization, new media and economics—are covered in a new book published by Routledge, East Asia in the World: An Introduction, edited by Anne Prescott, director of the Five College Center for East Asian Studies. Several Five College faculty members, as well as Prescott, contributed chapters to the book.

For links to more information about these stories, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.
New certificate program examines reproductive rights and justice

A new Five College program is matching student interest in a pressing national issue with the expertise of faculty members from across disciplines and campuses.

Reproductive rights are at the forefront of the news in the United States. The Five College area is no exception—and is a hub for interest in reproductive health, rights and justice.

Educators from the five campuses have responded to students’ growing interest in the field by creating the Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice Certificate Program (RHRJ), the 16th to be offered by the consortium—and the first of its kind at the undergraduate level in this country.

“Five Colleges and this area are the perfect place for this program given the many resources for reproductive justice scholarship and activism,” says program chair and Hampshire College professor Marlene Fried (pictured at right). She points out that the colleges have many faculty members who are scholars in the field, and there is a wealth of opportunities for local, national and international research and engagement.

“My students motivated me to help create the certificate,” says Smith College associate professor and RHRJ steering committee member Carrie Baker. “My reproductive justice class was overflowing with students eager to learn more about reproductive health, rights and justice.”

Scholarship on reproductive health, rights and justice explores the impact of reproductive policies on individuals as well as communities, with particular attention to those who have been marginalized. Study in this field touches on many aspects of society, from the health care industry to prisons to public policy.

“Students are passionate about reproductive justice and many want to work on these issues as activists, policy makers and health care providers,” continues Baker. “This certificate is a way to help guide them through the curriculum and to make more visible all that we do in the Valley on reproductive health, rights and justice.”

Find links to more information about RHRJ at fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

The new RHRJ program celebrated its launch with a reception in September.
Photos: Noah Loving

“Students are passionate about reproductive justice and many want to work on these issues as activists, policy makers and health care providers.”