World Language Center moving to a new location

Nifasha Rusibamayila leads a conversation session in Swahili at Amherst College as part of the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages’ Mentored Language Program.

BY KEVIN KENNEDY

The French epigram Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose is particularly applicable to the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages. Much is changing — its location, its offerings, when it makes instruction available. For all that, however, its methods and its mission of offering many different levels of more than 47 less commonly taught languages and dialects to Five College students remain the same.

The changes are exciting. In fall 2013, the center will move from its low-profile offices on the UMass campus to a storefront location in an Amherst College–owned former church and bus station in downtown Amherst. “The move to our new home centrally located across from the town common corresponds with our impetus to make languages more accessible to all constituencies in the valley,” says Elizabeth Mazzocco, founder and director of the center and a professor of languages, literatures and cultures at UMass.

In addition, the center is initiating a program of courses for new constituencies and at new times of the year with Mount Holyoke Extension that will make its innovative approach to language instruction available to the public. Among the new offerings will be summer courses in both commonly and less commonly taught languages, introductory language courses designed for high school students, language partners to help those studying a language maintain fluency and proficiency over the summer, community courses offered in the evening during the fall and spring terms, and private and small-group tutorials for people who need a quick introduction or are embarking on long-term language study.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages a grant in spring 2012 to support the addition of resources and services. As part of the project, the center is expanding the Mentored Language Program and adding new courses, especially in less commonly taught languages and dialects, as well as courses in new times of the year.

The center is also adding to its offerings for high school students, working with Mount Holyoke College to offer introductory language courses for high school students during the summer. These courses are open to students from any school district and are taught by university faculty.

The center is expanding its outreach efforts through a new social justice initiative. In fall 2013, the center will bring social justice practitioners to campuses across the five colleges.

In this issue:

- Five Colleges hosts Summer Institute for the Association for Collaborative Leadership
- Women’s Studies Research Center celebrates 21st anniversary with three-day symposium
- Michael Klare presents at APEC summit
- Updates on Five College certificate programs and majors
- Initiative brings social justice practitioners to campuses

Continued on page 4
Five Colleges hosts national consortium leadership institute

Twenty higher-education consortia from around the country and abroad were represented at the second Association for Collaborative Leadership Summer Institute, hosted by Five Colleges in June. The purpose of the institute, says Five Colleges Executive Director Neal Abraham, is to begin cultivating leaders from within the ranks of consortia by providing promising staff members with the tools to manage higher-education collaborations.

For people working in higher-education consortia, finding professional-development opportunities applicable to their needs can be a challenge. “Different as they may be from one another, higher-education consortia inhabit an organizational niche all their own,” Abraham says. “It’s a niche with demands and priorities for creating collaborations out of self interest and mutual interest without separate resources or authority to command change. This is rather different from the situations of governance and planning in the colleges and universities they serve. The institute recognizes these differences with learning opportunities tailored specifically to consortia and other inter-institutional collaborations.”

Although professional-development conferences and seminars abound for college and university professionals, the institute is the first of its kind aimed at building leadership skills among consortia administrators. Its 21 participants and 14 facilitators discussed such issues as developing financial strategies, navigating campus politics and tackling communications challenges.

Sponsored by the Association for Collaborative Leadership, which comprises some 70 education consortia and collaborations, the summer institute hosted participants in Amherst College’s Alumni House, a block from the Five College center. Attendees, who had already completed pre-institute assignments, arrived ready to partake of three days of group work, lectures and case studies.

“I was most impressed by the caliber of the participants and their strong interest in learning more about cooperation in higher education,” says Larry Dotolo, who was a facilitator at the institute and who, at the time of the summer institute, was executive director of ACL. “I found their knowledge, their enthusiasm and their insights refreshing, and I learned a great deal from them. Maybe that’s the way it should be: faculty members and participants learning together.”

Conference explores intersections of queer identities

Now in its fourth year, the Five College Queer and Sexuality Conference “has grown into something that aims not only to celebrate queer identity, but also to foster critical thinking and combat oppressions experienced at the intersections of queer identities,” says organizing member Tejal Mankad, a senior at Smith. The March conference, hosted by Hampshire College, featured workshops, readings and speakers with a diverse array of activists, writers and organizations. This year, because of increased popularity, the conference expanded its scope by adding a second day.

In offering a variety of activities, from lectures to a queer prom and from spoken-word artists to workshops, organizers wanted to create an inclusive event. “This year we worked hard to feature more presenters and performers of color,” Mankad says. “It’s important to us to center historically marginalized communities within the Five College queer and trans community. Our vision of inclusivity is always a work in progress, and we welcome contributions and feedback about how to make the conference a safer space for everyone.”

—Lucas Weisensee HC ‘14

Michael Klare is “the only peace guy” at APEC summit

“In light of vast increases in Asian resource demand, only sustainable and cooperative solutions will work to promote security and prosperity over the long term,” says Michael Klare, director of the Five College Program in Peace and World Security Studies. He shared those sentiments at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Vladivostok, Russia, in September. Each year the APEC summit unites ambassadors, trade ministers and CEOs from 21 countries in the Pacific Rim for lectures, speeches and panel discussions about economic development in that region.

An expert on the underpinnings of international conflict and, as he puts it, “the only peace guy there,” Klare traced the motives for many international conflicts to competition over increasingly scarce resources. He explained to an audience of 500 that short-term energy production and disputes over production and land rights (at the cost of more-sustainable and lasting investments) tend to lead to destabilization and violent conflicts.

“The purpose of APEC is to reduce tension in the Pacific. Resource competition raises the stakes, making violent conflict more likely,” Klare says, citing contemporary Chinese—Japanese disputes over oil-rich islands as an example of resource-driven conflict. He says he hopes his 10-minute presentation, on a stage later shared by the likes of Hillary Clinton, Vladimir Putin and a business/political elite focused on free trade and business deals, helped to shift the weekend’s discussions a little toward the long-term-sustainability and human-security components found in APEC’s mission statement.

—Lucas Weisensee HC ‘14
New students welcomed at orientation social

Some 300 new students enrolling at their home campuses in January were welcomed to Five Colleges with food, performances and good company, thanks to the efforts of the Five College Student Coordinating Board (leaders of the five student government associations) and the orientation directors of member campuses. The two groups organized a social in the UMass Fine Arts Center lobby, bringing in student singers, drummers and a circus troupe to entertain. UMass Dining Services provided a superb selection of hors d’oeuvres, main courses and treats, and students got to know one another with a massive game of human bingo.

Students celebrate, share work

Actors read through a script at the WORD! Festival of Staged Readings at Smith College.

Over the course of the year, there are many opportunities for students to come together with their peers to share their work in the arts, sciences, humanities and social sciences. Listed here are those that took place during academic year 2012–2013.

Africa Day, at Mount Holyoke College
Anthropology Symposium, at Smith College
Arabic Night, at Amherst College
Chinese Speech Contest, at Smith College
Ethnomusicology Symposium, at Amherst College
Indigenous People’s Symposium and Community Powwow, at UMass Amherst
Japanese Speech Contest, at UMass Amherst
Latin American and Caribbean Latino Studies Program:
  On Protest Research Symposium, at UMass Amherst
  PoetryFest, at Smith College
Queer Gender and Sexuality Conference, at Hampshire College
Student Film and Video Festival, at Mount Holyoke
Student Sustainability Symposium, at Hampshire College
WORD! Five College Festival of Staged Readings, at Smith College

Architectural studies becomes newest Five College major

Since fall 2012, students at Amherst, Hampshire and Mount Holyoke have been able to enroll in a Five College architectural studies major, representing a new discipline for students on campuses that don’t otherwise offer it and offering a broader range of opportunities for students on campuses that do.

The major takes a cross-disciplinary approach to the field, introducing students to a variety of ways of thinking about design in history, in theory and in the studio, and encourages them to explore a cross-section of courses. This tactic makes the new major flexible for both students’ interests and campus requirements, according to Karen Koehler, co-coordinator of the Five College Architectural Studies Program and professor of architectural and art history at Hampshire. “The major was constructed in such a way that individual campuses could easily fold it into their individual requirements,” she says.

According to Stephen Schreiber, director of the Architecture + Design program at UMass, the flexibility of the major makes the most of the different approaches to the discipline taken by the campuses. “The idea,” he says, “was to create a connection between the more academically based programs at the colleges and the more professionally oriented program at UMass.”

Koehler points out that although the major is a significant accomplishment, it’s but one element in the overall Five College Architectural Program. Another accomplishment was Riverscaping, an 18-month, European Union–funded project that encouraged engagement with rivers through art, architecture and ideas. Most recently, in partnership with the city of Holyoke, the program began developing the Five College Holyoke Design Center. Still in its planning stages, the Design Center has as its goal enhancing collaboration among campuses, city officials and community-based organizations by connecting with the architecture and urban plan of Holyoke.

For more information about the Five College architectural studies major and the program, visit www.fivecolleges.edu/architecture.

Sustainability studies is latest Five College certificate

Sustainability studies is the most recent curricular area offered as a Five College certificate program. The program was engendered by the idea that because sustainability will be essential to sound environmental, economic and social progress in the 21st century, academic institutions have a responsibility to offer students extensive opportunities to pursue their interests within it as an academic discipline.

“The search for sustainability is something campuses around the country are really going to have to get behind,” says Jan Dizard, professor of sociology and American studies at Amherst College and a cofounder of the certificate program. “We here at Five Colleges can make an impression, we can make a dent, as a result of the five institutions collaborating.”

The Five College Sustainability Studies Certificate requires each student to complete a structured program that draws on courses from a range of disciplines organized into three core areas — environmental sustainability, sustainable economics and politics, and sustainable society and culture — with an internship or independent-study project that culminates in a symposium presentation to students and faculty members. Participants can choose from five elective concentrations:

- Agriculture and Food Systems; Energy, Climate, and Water; Culture, History, and Representation;
- Politics and Policy; and Green Infrastructure, Design, and Technology.

The Five College Sustainability Studies Certificate is currently open to students at Amherst, Mount Holyoke and Hampshire colleges and is under consideration by the faculties at Smith and UMass. The consortium offers 15 certificate programs, which are similar to academic minors in many areas of study, that are not available on any single campus.

The certificate-program model is perfect for making accessible this new and important field of study, says Dizard. “None of the campuses has the sufficient breadth or depth of courses to offer this on its own,” he says, “so this strikes us as a perfect example of a Five College program in which pooled resources amount to everything.”

To learn more about the Sustainability Studies Certificate Program, go to www.fivecolleges.edu/sustain.
Smith hosts first Five College Film Studies Conference

The first-ever Five College Film Studies Conference took place in February at Smith College. The event was organized by faculty members Jennifer Malkowski, of Smith, and Ken Eisenstein, of Mount Holyoke, in collaboration with their respective film studies departments and the Five College Film Council. “Getting film studies going at a small college is a long, hard journey,” Malkowski says. “The quality of the students’ work wonderfully showcases how far we’ve come.”

The conference consisted of four panels, organized around themes, of four students apiece, and each student gave a 15-minute presentation. The topics were Empowering Masculinity; Indian Cinema: Bollywood’s Borders; Film Genres Pre- and Post-9/11; and Film and Language: Over and Out. “It was well attended,” says Malkowski, “ripe with good questions and discussion and an important space for connections, friendships and learning across the five campuses.”

—Lucas Weisensee HC ’14

WMMP leader wins UMass service award

George Avrunin won the annual Outstanding Service and Outreach award from UMass’ College of Natural Sciences for his many years of service and outreach to the community and in particular for his work with the Western Massachusetts Mathematics Partnership (WMMP), a project of the Five College Schools Partnership. WMMP is a National Science Foundation-funded collaboration of school districts and higher-education institutions in the Pioneer Valley working to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics.

“We never would have gotten the NSF grant without George’s involvement,” says Sue Thrasher, coordinator of the Schools Partnership. “He was chair of the math department at UMass at the time we applied for the grant, and his lending his expertise and credibility to the application was instrumental in the project getting off the ground. Since then, he’s worked tirelessly on the project as its principal investigator.”

Language Center continued from cover

College consortium a grant to help the center make this transition. Previous grants and additional support from consortium resources have helped the center move its online instructional material to a high-speed server that can support more simultaneous users.

“Ever since we began our program in less commonly taught languages, in the early 1990s, we’ve focused on making as many languages as possible accessible to our undergraduate student body,” says Mazzocco. “The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation supported us generously in that endeavor and is now continuing support as we open our resources to a larger audience: faculty members and staff members, graduate students, high school students and members of the community at large.”

The center will host a national conference on best practices in the teaching (and funding of that teaching) of less commonly taught languages. Planning for the conference is in conjunction with the Modern Language Association and the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (the academic consortium of the Big Ten schools).

The center will continue to work with Five College students during the academic year, making available instruction in as many as 47 languages and dialects at more than 180 levels beyond those taught in traditional classroom settings. Instruction will still be decentralized, with tutorials, conversation sessions and independent study on the campuses and online.

Says Mazzocco:

“Although we’ll be operating from a new location and interacting with a group of language learners that will encompass more than just undergraduates, our goals are the same: to offer as many languages to as many people as possible by combining all available linguistic and cultural resources into unique and individualized academic opportunities, and to ensure that our students are able to speak and use the languages in everyday situations.”

Initiative brings social-justice practitioners to campuses

The Five College Public Policy Initiative continued its Social Justice Practitioner in Residence Program this year, bringing to consortium campuses a noted women’s rights advocate last fall and a leader in women’s health research and advocacy in the spring.

Over two weeks in October and November, Kim Gandy visited classes, gave lectures and participated in panel discussions on reproductive justice, the feminization of power, the politics of wealth and poverty and related issues. Gandy is president and CEO of the National Network to End Domestic Violence and was president of the National Organization for Women from 2001 to 2009.

In April, N. B. Sarojini followed a similar schedule, leading and participating in discussions of feminist scholarship, gender in the changing global economy and the feminist politics of new reproductive technologies in her home country of India, among other topics. Sarojini is the founder and director of New Delhi’s Sama Resource Group for Women and Health, an organization that conducts research and promotes policies relating to reproductive health.

The Five College Public Policy Initiative, based at the Center for Public Policy and Administration at UMass, was established to enhance collaboration among Five College faculty members and students interested in curricula, research and outreach in public policy.

For more information about FCPP, visit masspolicy.org/fcpp.
Eight joint appointees join campus faculties

Joint faculty appointees teach at two or more campuses on a rotating basis. Through shared faculty members, institutions develop and maintain their curricula by sharing the costs associated with appointments. This year the eight new faculty members bring the total number of joint appointees to 35.

For more information on joint faculty appointments, visit www.fivecolleges.edu/academics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Home Campus</th>
<th>Other Participating Campuses</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olla Al-Shalchi</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>All campuses</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriel Arboleda</td>
<td>Hampshire</td>
<td>Amherst, Smith</td>
<td>Sustainable Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennie Barbour</td>
<td>Amherst</td>
<td>UMass</td>
<td>Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Branson</td>
<td>Amherst</td>
<td>Hampshire, UMass</td>
<td>English/Comparative Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naomi Darling</td>
<td>Hampshire</td>
<td>Mount Holyoke, UMass</td>
<td>Sustainable Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtney Lannert</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>UMass</td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chanyoung Park</td>
<td>UMass</td>
<td>Mount Holyoke</td>
<td>Korean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Sheldon</td>
<td>UMass</td>
<td>Mount Holyoke</td>
<td>Computational Biology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hampshire physicist Bernstein tackles teleportation in Pritzen Lecture

In his Jackie M. Pritzen Lecture, presented in April, Herb Bernstein explored SuperDense quantum teleportation, science in the 21st century and its service to society. A longtime Hampshire physicist and currently a Five College 40th Anniversary Professor, Bernstein has focused his teaching and research on science and society, the effects of modern knowledge, quantum interferometry, information and teleportation, and theoretical modern physics. From 1984 to 2004, Bernstein held a visiting-scientist position at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he headed an international research team exploring quantum teleportation, computation and communication.

In his lecture, to a full house at Hampshire’s Franklin Patterson Hall, Bernstein also discussed his Hampshire-based Institute for Science and Interdisciplinary Studies (ISIS) and the connection between service to society and the moral epistemology of modern physics.

The annual Five College Jackie Pritzen Lecture is named for the consortium staff member who worked with many faculty groups during her 25 years with the consortium.

Lorna Peterson receives women’s leadership award

Lorna Peterson, longtime Five Colleges executive director, who retired in 2009, was one of 16 recipients of a Standing on Her Shoulders Award from the Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts. According to the fund, the award “celebrates outstanding risk-takers and innovators…who through their determination and leadership have increased opportunities and blazed trails.”

In nominating Peterson for the award, former Five College colleagues Sue Thrasher and Marie Hess noted that Peterson “put Five Colleges, Inc. on the map as a model for others to follow and became a national figure in the area of educational collaboratives.”

Peterson, who holds a PhD in Slavic languages and literature, had been teaching at UMass when she began her career at Five Colleges, in 1980. Within 10 years she was named executive director of the consortium. During her 19 years leading Five Colleges, she oversaw the creation of the Women’s Studies Research Center, the Center for the Study of World Languages and a number of other academic and administrative initiatives.

“Lorna also championed diversity on the five campuses, throwing her support to a myriad of programs including multicultural theater, African Studies, Latin American Studies, the Center for East Asian Studies, and the interdisciplinary Crossroads in the Study of the Americas,” wrote Thrasher and Hess.

The Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts works to advance economic and social equity for women and girls in western Massachusetts, focusing on educational access, economic justice and freedom from violence.
Local organizations to begin using fiber optic network

Two major local organizations have signed contracts to lease excess capacity of the Five College fiber optic network.

This spring Five College Net (FCN), a for-profit subsidiary of the consortium, agreed with Cooley Dickinson Hospital to provide high-speed fiber access to two of its facilities in Northampton and one in Amherst; and with Crocker Communications, a Greenfield-based telecommunications company, will use FCN fiber to provide Internet access to Chicopee High School and HitPoint Studios, fast-growing game company that recently moved to Amherst.

In 2007, Five Colleges completed construction of a fiber optic network stretching from Springfield up to and around the five campuses. The 53-mile-long network and switching optics and electronics, owned and operated by FCN, furnishes bandwidth for educational and research purposes to the colleges and UMass. Cooley Dickinson and Crocker Communications join several area municipalities as non-campus users of the network.

For more information about Five College Net, visit fivecollegenet.com.

Symposium explores feminist knowledge in the digital age

The Five College Women’s Studies Research Center recently celebrated its 21st anniversary with a symposium of keynote addresses, panels, workshops and seminars examining the impact on feminism of the Internet, social media and other digital technologies.

Mediating Public Spheres: Genealogies of Feminist Knowledge in the Digital Age featured more than 30 scholars and practitioners in a three-day series of events as part of the center’s two-year focus on new media and digital technologies. “From its inception in 1991 to the present, the center has brought together scholars from our colleges with those from around the world to engage in feminist scholarship, teaching and activism,” says Karen Remmler, the center’s director and a professor of German studies, critical social thought, and gender studies at Mount Holyoke. “Our new vision recognizes the transformation of collaborative research and teaching through digital technologies and through new approaches to engagement in the public sphere.”

Topics at the symposium ranged from a panel discussion at Mount Holyoke on racial violence in social media, to a workshop at Hampshire on creating sex-education comics, to the screening of Mount Holyoke graduate Sonali Gulati’s award-winning documentary I Am at the Amherst Cinema.

“Mediating Public Spheres: Genealogies of Feminist Knowledge in the Digital Age filled our room in the center’s Ride First Floor Conference Room, and is one of the largest and most successful academic events we’ve ever hosted,” says Remmler.

This symposium brought together leading feminist scholars to discuss the impact, application and consequences of digital technologies in sharing, evaluating and producing knowledge,” says Remmler.

Located on the Mount Holyoke College campus, the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center was founded in 1991 as a site for scholarly activity on issues relating to women and gender. Each year the center hosts up to 13 associates from around the world who engage with faculty members from Five College campuses through seminars, workshops and conferences dedicated to feminist inquiry. “With the symposium, we’re celebrating the work of more than three hundred and fifty scholars, artists, writers and community activists who have held associateships at the center since its inception,” Remmler says.

To learn more about the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center, visit www.fivecolleges.edu/fcwsrc.