This has been a year of anniversaries: the 50th of our incorporation as Four Colleges as well as of our film studies collaboration, the 40th of our African Studies Faculty Council, and the 10th of our film major and our Museums10 collaboration. In 2016–17, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of becoming the Five College Consortium, with the addition of Hampshire College. We’re also commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Center for East Asian Studies and the 25th of the Women’s Studies Research Center.

We’ve been marking our birthdays in many ways, with special funding for events and programs, with posters celebrating campus collaboration, with publications and even a legislative resolution. But I think the best way we celebrate our long history of cooperation is by building on it.

You’ll see in the following pages how we have done that. Our established programs continue to thrive, with our language center enjoying another record-breaking year of student enrollments, thousands of students cross-registering for courses on other campuses and the consortium supporting hundreds of events and programs.

You’ll also read how Five Colleges continues to respond to the needs of our constituents, by initiating programs to merge technology with teaching and research in the humanities, blend classroom and online instruction and support innovations in language education. Two new Five College certificate programs joined 15 existing programs to enhance our campuses’ curricula. The year also saw planning completed for a Five College Library Annex that will give our libraries added shelving space to support the evolving goals of their campuses.

This Yearbook presents a lot of numbers, photos and descriptions to give you a sense of the consortium. The message I hope you get is that the heart of Five College collaboration is people. People who look to colleagues on other campuses to build communities, increase efficiencies, celebrate accomplishments and enrich experiences.

Neal B. Abraham
Executive Director
In a consortium coordinating dozens of programs populated by talented professors, students and staff members, each year brings a wide variety of accomplishments that are worthy of note. But even among those, the work of the Center for the Study of World Languages stands out. The center enrolled a record number of students—318—for instruction in some 50 less commonly taught languages. That is a 12 percent increase from the record-breaking previous year and three times the number of enrollments 12 years ago. When combined with the classroom offerings of the campuses, more than 70 languages are available to Five College students.

We are in the midst of a multiyear Innovative Language Pedagogy Initiative, funded by a $2 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The initiative funds faculty proposals for collaborative approaches to enhance language teaching and learning. As noted in the “Experiment” section of this issue, that effort has so far funded nine projects by 60 faculty members involving 200 students.

Other notable accomplishments of the year were the establishment of two certificate programs, in Biomathematics and in Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice (RHRJ). Researchers in biomathematics apply quantitative analysis to biological sciences to better understand the natural world, from molecular interactions to climate change. Participants in RHRJ explore the social, economic, legal and political conditions that influence reproduction from the perspectives of scholars, practitioners and advocates.
Cooperation creates both savings and expanded opportunities. Our campus libraries identified that value long before the consortium formed. In 1951 our four existing campuses formalized their practice of sharing materials with the creation of the Hampshire Inter-Library Center (HILC). In the decades since, that service evolved into our system of interlibrary loans, a shared online catalog linking patrons to millions of shared campus volumes, coordinated acquisitions and a shared print repository collection for infrequently circulated material. And our patrons use the system: 21 percent of borrowing from our libraries is by people from other member campuses.

Not only does intercampus borrowing put people in touch with the information they need, but it also takes the pressure off home libraries to carry as many redundant titles. That reduction in duplication sometimes saves money and space and other times allows more diverse purchasing. Only about half the new acquisitions in our libraries have duplicates on other campuses, and that percentage continues to decline.

The Five College Library Annex promises to reduce shelving duplication even further. When completed in spring 2017, the annex will have space for more than 2 million rarely circulating volumes—volumes listed in the shared catalog that can be delivered within 24 hours.

Sharing materials is not the only value that our librarians find in cooperation. Over the past two years they have organized more than a dozen professional development sessions attended by hundreds of library staff members.

Guiding all this cooperation is the Five College Librarians Council, which oversees eight consortium task forces, committees and programs.

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**Economize**

- 15 campus libraries, including the Five College Library Repository Collection
- 600,000 volumes currently held in the Five College Library Repository Collection
- 2,000,000+ volume capacity of the future Five College Library Annex
- 10,000,000 volumes in the combined library collections

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Pooling resources to expand opportunities is a practice our campuses began long before the birth of the consortium. The success of early efforts brought the campuses together more often, as they looked to solve problems, reduce costs and enrich experiences. Today, we continue to look for new opportunities to enrich the college experience.

Five College staff members, using pooled funding from our campuses and grants we have attracted to the consortium, support such public events as lectures, readings and performances. We coordinate opportunities for students to present and celebrate their scholarly and creative work in symposia, exhibitions and productions. We fund opportunities for faculty and student enrichment through seminars, joint research projects and other initiatives. All told, the consortium funded, coordinated and otherwise supported some 575 academically oriented projects and events over the year.

Other Five College initiatives support the work of campus administrators and their colleagues in area communities. Our emergency preparedness committee, for example, has representatives from campus police, facilities, health, student life and other staff members who meet regularly with local and state officials to plan responses to a range of potential emergencies and host joint exercises that give dozens of these professionals the opportunity to hone their skills.

Cross-registration remains an important and much-used value of the consortium. Last year, 4,958 courses were taken by students going to other campuses. By offering their students the opportunity to take classes at other institutions, our campuses expand the number of courses they each offer students, thus enriching their own curricula. Smith College, for example, offered 1,182 of its own courses last year, and its students took an additional 592 courses at other campuses, thus expanding Smith curricular offerings by 50 percent.

Percentage by which each campus’ course offerings were supplemented by courses taken by their students at other campuses:

- AC: 50%
- HC: 226%
- MHC: 101%
- SC: 50%
- UM: 11%

239,796 visits to fivecolleges.edu
960,000 passenger rides on fare-free Five College bus routes
Our campuses have a long history of working together to try new things. There were the radio broadcasts of college courses in the 1920s. Cross-registration was first tried in the 1930s. In 1948 a faculty member was hired to teach on multiple campuses for the first time, and in the year 1959, we initiated our first joint academic department, in astronomy.

While some experiments—such as broadcasting courses—fade, others flourish. Our joint faculty program has seen some 100 appointments since 1948; last year alone there were 39. Some experiments, such as our astronomy department, inspire further innovations; since 1959 we’ve created the Five College Dance Department, joint majors in film and in architecture and 17 certificate programs.

In recent years the campuses have been challenged to approach research and teaching from different perspectives. In 2011 the consortium received a five-year grant from the Mellon Foundation to fund a Digital Humanities Initiative and a Bridging Program. Digital Humanities introduces digital technologies into research and teaching. Bridging combines successful pedagogies from our liberal arts colleges with those of our university’s graduate and professional programs. In the five-year life of those two initiatives, 898 students and 75 faculty members took part in 70 projects. Digital Humanities has proved so successful that it is now a budgeted Five College program.

Our Blended Learning Initiative, in its second year, supports the development of courses that combine classroom and online learning. The Innovative Language Pedagogy Initiative, begun in 2015, encourages teaching approaches that make languages increasingly accessible, particularly through the use of technology and other new resources.

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Experiment

**Five College grant-funded initiatives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF PROJECTS</th>
<th>FACULTY INVOLVED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 blended learning</td>
<td>10 blended learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 bridging</td>
<td>29 bridging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 digital humanities</td>
<td>12 digital humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 language initiative</td>
<td>60 language initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>48 total</strong></td>
<td><strong>111 total</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**STUDENTS INVOLVED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>295 blended learning</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>491 bridging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 digital humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 language initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1,007 total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top: The Five College Digital Humanities program celebrated its fifth year with an undergraduate student symposium at Amherst College. Bottom: Faculty members gather at an Innovative Language Teaching summit to discuss new approaches to language instruction. Photos by Noah Loving.
Governing and Leadership Groups of Five Colleges, Incorporated, 2015–16

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There are many other important Five College administration committees, peer groups and advisory groups (usually without chairs) and there are many academic councils and program steering committees that have chairs, directors or coordinators who are continuing faculty members employed at the campuses and are appointed to those roles by the Five College deans.

CONSORTIUM STAFF MEMBERS, 2015–2016
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