MELLON FOUNDATION AWARDS
$1.8 MILLION TO LANGUAGE CENTER

Instruction in less commonly taught languages at the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages—from Albanian to Zulu—got a big boost from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The foundation has awarded Five Colleges $1.775 million toward developing a sustainable income stream for the center. Of the award, $1 million is a challenge grant to match $2 million to be raised by the consortium to create an endowment for the center. The income from the endowment, when combined with ongoing support from the five campuses, will support the center’s operations in perpetuity. Included in the award is an additional $775,000 to provide operating funds until the endowment investments begin to pay off. See accompanying article about the endowment fund-raising campaign.

“We are profoundly grateful to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for this generous award,” said Neal Abraham, executive director of Five Colleges. “This grant is a fitting capstone for this vital consortium program that has enjoyed deep support from the foundation.”

With origins dating back to 1987, the Center for the Study of World Languages combines independent study with conversation partners and mentoring by native speakers. Student enrollment in the 54 languages and dialects offered by the center has set a record (over 300) for the second year in a row. For more information about the grant, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

Endowment campaign for language center announced

Five Colleges has announced the start of a $3 million endowment campaign for its Center for the Study of World Languages. For every $2 raised, the Mellon Foundation has pledged to give $1, up to $1 million.

With hundreds of students each year studying less commonly taught languages there, the center is one of the consortium’s most popular programs. The flexibility created by its independent study approach to language learning allows students to choose when and where they study. When fully funded, the endowment will generate income that covers about a third of the center’s budget. For more information about the endowment fundraising campaign, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.
Faculty program expands offerings

One of the most effective ways the campuses collaborate to increase curricular offerings and program strength while conserving resources is through the Five College Joint Faculty Appointment program. There are 40 joint faculty members at the consortium in 25 different fields. Joint appointees are employed by one campus and teach at one or more additional campuses on a rotating basis with participating campuses sharing the cost. Of the total, 13 teach languages—Arabic, Japanese, Korean, Hebrew and Russian—and 5 are funded in part by a 2015 $2 million Mellon Foundation grant to develop initiatives for innovations in teaching and learning of languages.

FULL-TIME JOINT LANGUAGE FACULTY APPOINTEES BY NAME, HOME CAMPUS AND OTHER CAMPUSES SERVED

ARABIC
Heba Arafah, Mount Holyoke (all)
May George, Smith (all)
Mohamed Hassan, Amherst (all)
Nahla Khalil, UMass (all)
John Weinert, Smith (all)

HEBREW
Joanna Caravita, Smith (UM)

JAPANESE
Fumiko Brown, Amherst (all)

KOREAN
Shihyun Kim, Mount Holyoke (SC, UM)
Suk Massey, Smith (MHC)
Chan Young Park, UMass (MHC)

RUSSIAN
Evgeny Dengub, Smith (UM)
Irina Kogel, Mount Holyoke (SC, UM)
Susanna Nazarova, Mount Holyoke (SC)

For more information on Joint Faculty Appointees, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

EIT ACCESSIBILITY A PRIORITY OF THE CAMPUSES

Ensuring that campuses are as accessible as possible to everyone has long gone beyond installing wheelchair ramps and braille signs. Every advance in classroom technology needs to be examined to determine its accessibility to students of all abilities. For years this role has been handled by an assistive technologies office for UMass, but the consortium’s colleges lacked similarly focused employees, and instead relied on collaborations of IT and accessibility staff members. That changed with the hiring of Rob Eveleigh as electronic and information technology (EIT) accessibility coordinator for the colleges.

Eveleigh previously served as an access technologist at UMass Amherst and Harvard University and brings years of expertise, technical direction, assessment and implementation support to the new position. As the EIT accessibility coordinator, he is helping the campuses implement sustainable IT goals and strategies that address the accessibility of existing and emerging technologies to people with disabilities.

“I was attracted by the campuses’ strong commitment to harnessing the promise that accessible technologies hold for all students, staff, faculty and guests, regardless of ability,” says Eveleigh. “I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in and help develop a new progressive program that proactively addresses technology accessibility at four distinct small liberal arts colleges.”

For more information on accessibility at the campuses, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

Examples of Eveleigh’s work include:

- Expanding captioning programs that make audio and video media more accessible
- Conducting EIT accessibility trainings
- Negotiating savings for EIT accessibility program purchases
- Expanding and upgrading campus-wide assistive technology programs
- Improving and streamlining collaboration among campuses to address EIT accessibility needs

For more information on Joint Faculty Appointees, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.
Nate Therien, Five Colleges’ academic programs director since 1995, will retire at the end of April. Therien is only the second person to hold the position since it was created in 1969.

“The consortium certainly does more now than it did when I started, because the campuses, often with support from external grants, have chosen to intensify their collaboration in many areas,” he says, pointing out that the Joint Faculty Appointment program has grown from 9 to 40 appointments, certificate programs increased from 5 to 17, and there are now two Five College majors (in architectural studies and film studies).

Asked about some programs that particularly engaged his efforts over the years, he points to Crossroads in the Study of the Americas (CISA), the African Studies program, and the major in architectural studies.

“They are good examples of different ways programs evolve to serve changing needs,” he says. “When CISA began in 1997, its purpose was to support faculty members, including many junior hires, interested in new cross-disciplinary and transnational approaches to the study of the Americas and the exploration of relational aspects of identity. There were Five College faculty retreats devoted to rethinking the field and campus curricula, a series of course-development seminars, a postdoctoral fellowship, and student symposia,” he said. “CISA’s work helped transform the campuses, and as the campuses did more on their own, its offerings were reduced.” Many veterans of the program’s early days are now chairing departments, he adds. And junior faculty CISA Fellows still convene for works-in-progress presentations three times a semester.

African Studies, historically one of the consortium’s most active programs, “has been a major focus of my work,” he says. “By working together, Africanists at the campuses have made the Five Colleges an internationally recognized center for the study of Africa, to the advantage of students and faculty members at each of the campuses. No single campus on its own could have done as much.”

Architectural studies is an example of how cooperation helped to bring a new field to the campuses, says Therien. “Although the future of Five College architectural studies is still being written, the presence of three joint appointments and the intensification of multilayered collaboration among the campuses, including the university’s professional program, suggest much is possible.”

Therien says that more than service to particular programs, what he has found most satisfying over the years is working with colleagues to sustain a culture of collaboration that enables faculty members to find ways to work together in the interest of their students. “In my experience,” he said, “this has been most effective when senior campus leaders engage across the campuses with one another to give strategic direction.”

Therien’s retirement plans include sailing with his wife, engaging locally in the politics of resistance and becoming a better cook. He also says he looks forward to attending campus events “as a civilian.”
AMHERST COLLEGE HOSTS
“BETWEEN US: A SOCIAL PRACTICE EXHIBITION”

“My ideas were around collaboration,” says Amherst College second-year Jonathan Mark Jackson of his project for the Five College Advanced Studio course last fall. The course challenged students, three from each campus, to explore the many possibilities for incorporating the principles of social practice in their art. It culminated in a December exhibition of their work at Amherst’s Eli Marsh Gallery.

According to course instructor Amanda Herman, “social practice encompasses work as diverse as interventions, utopian proposals, guerrilla architecture, project-based community practice, art and activism, collaborations, social sculpture, interactive media and street performance.”

For Jackson, who said that he is accustomed to working alone, that meant pushing himself to work closely with others. “I wanted to do an exercise where I invited people in and have some dialogues about photography and about image making, about what interests them, as opposed to only sharing my own personal voice.” He assigned them to take portraits and self-portraits and hung their work in the show.

Other exhibits in the show explored racism, collections of community art and a piece that instructed viewers to literally tear it apart. Jenny Hersh, a UMass student whose project involved collecting and presenting DNA swabs from 90 different people, said working with a diverse selection of students was a highlight of the course. “It’s been phenomenal working with the other students at the five campuses and just engaging with the different student approaches.”

The Advanced Studio Course, with equal student representation from each campus, is just one of many examples of community within the consortium. Students come together in courses, affinity groups, sports and extracurriculars; faculty members find peers within academic programs; and administrators enjoy the professional development that comes from meeting with colleagues.

For more images from the “Between Us” show, and for information about Five College committees and programs, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.
Lecturer speaks of parallels between poetry and healing

Last fall, the Five College Culture, Health and Science (CHS) certificate program hosted a visit by physician-poet Rafael Campo AC ’87, who currently teaches at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. Campo is also an award-winning poet. His book *Diva*, which explores themes of his Cuban heritage, his work as a doctor caring for AIDS patients and his identity as a gay man, was a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist. He discussed with the consortium community the parallels between poetry and healing, and explored social determinants of health, cross-cultural awareness and end-of-life issues.

The following day, CHS and the UMass Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures hosted a faculty seminar and luncheon with Campo, “No Body Stops Dreaming: Illness Narratives and Cross-Cultural Awareness in Medicine.”

Through these connections, the CHS program is working to develop the next generation of scholars and practitioners who can interpret and communicate their cutting-edge research to not just others in their fields but policy makers and the general public as well.

*For more photos of Dr. Campo’s visit, and more information about Culture, Health and Science, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.*

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Five Colleges hosts national professional development conference

In October Five Colleges hosted the annual conference of the Association for Collaborative Leadership (ACL). ACL offers a variety of professional development services for staff members of higher ed consortia, highlighted by the annual conference, which this year included 10 sessions in subjects ranging from assessment to strategic planning. Nine staff and faculty members from Five Colleges and its member campuses presented in sessions, in addition to some 30 contributors from other organizations. The conference opened with a dinner celebrating Five Colleges’ 50th anniversary, with the 80 conference attendees joined by more than 100 members of the campuses and area communities.

Pictured at right, Barb Allen of the Big Ten Academic Alliance moderates a panel made up of (from left) Brian Williams of Associated Colleges of the Midwest, Bob Crowley of Hampshire College and Maria Toyofuku of Five Colleges. Not pictured: Marla Solomon of Five Colleges. Photo: Ben Barnhart.

*For more about the ACL Conference hosted by Five Colleges, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.*
**Library Annex nears completion**

Work continues on schedule for the Five College Library Annex, with a ribbon-cutting expected in late May. When complete, the 35,000-square-foot building will provide shelving for up to 2.5 million items from campus libraries, freeing up space for new materials and other academic needs.

*Photo: Noah Loving*

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**Taking Note**

**AMHERST COLLEGE PROFESSOR DELIVERS 2017 JACKIE PRITZEN LECTURE**

This year’s Jackie Pritzen Annual Lecture was delivered by Wendy Woodson, Roger C. Holden 1919 Professor of Theater and Dance at Amherst College. She discussed her life and work as an academic and an interdisciplinary artist in dance, theater and video. Woodson’s works for stage and video have been presented around the world. This annual lecture honors long-standing consortium staff member Jackie M. Pritzen, who worked with faculty members to build and sustain academic cooperation across the five institutions until her retirement in 1995. Each year the lecture celebrates a distinguished faculty member whose scholarship, teaching and service continue that work.

*For more information about any Taking Note articles, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.*

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**WOMEN’S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

The Five College Women’s Studies Research Center has been celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with events on topics ranging from reproductive justice to postcolonial literature and will conclude its celebration on May 4 with a year in review and reception. Since its founding, the center has been a hub of initiating and supporting collaborative projects in feminist scholarship. It hosts visiting scholars from around the world, enriching the consortium community with new perspectives.

**FCCEAS DIRECTOR RECEIVES BOOK AWARD**

The Association for Asian Studies has awarded its 2017 Buchanan Prize to East Asia in the World: An Introduction, edited by Anne Prescott, director of the Five College Center for East Asian Studies. Chapter authors and coauthors include Prescott, Bruce Baird of UMass, Jerry Dennerline of Amherst, Vanessa Fong of Amherst, Junko Oba of Hampshire and Joshua Hotaka Roth of Mount Holyoke. The Franklin R. Buchanan Prize is awarded annually to recognize an outstanding curriculum publication on Asia designed for any educational level.

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