SMITH GRADUATE SARAH PFATTEICHER TO LEAD FIVE COLLEGES

Following a national search that drew 200 applications, the Five College board of directors appointed Sarah Pfatteicher executive director of the consortium, beginning April 23. This new role represents a return to the area for Pfatteicher (pronounced FAH-ticker), who attended high school locally at Northfield Mount Hermon before attending Smith, where she graduated in 1988. She went on to earn her PhD in the history of science at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1996.

“I’m excited to return to the Valley and honored to have the opportunity to work with these unique and storied institutions,” she said. “I’m particularly drawn to the unusual breadth of the Five College portfolio and its inclusion of both academic and administrative programs.”

Pfatteicher served most recently as associate dean for academic affairs and as a research professor in civil and environmental engineering at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. A specialist in ethics, she oversaw more than 70 academic programs, services for 5,000 students and a budget of $2.3 million. She has extensive experience in both academic and administrative efforts, having created new academic programs, led a major curriculum revision, coordinated strategic planning efforts and helped develop a blueprint for diversifying her college, all while teaching engineering courses.

“The board was impressed with the breadth and depth of experience that Sarah will bring to the position,” said Jonathan Lash, president of Hampshire College and of Five Colleges, Incorporated’s board of directors. “The level of leadership she’s shown at the University of Wisconsin in both academic and administrative endeavors is remarkable, and will serve the consortium well.”

Pfatteicher says that her administrative experience has helped her appreciate just how much effort can go into keeping an organization running smoothly. “When I was a student at Smith, I rode the Five College bus, I took courses on other campuses, I borrowed books from the other campus libraries and I was blissfully unaware that there was a consortium office with a staff that made all these things happen,” she says. “I know far better now how much work has to go on behind the scenes to keep these kinds of services and programs running smoothly, and it’s the sort of work I deeply enjoy. But I also recognize that one measure of the consortium’s success is how invisible it is to students.”

Pfatteicher succeeds Neal Abraham, who is retiring after nine years at the consortium. ■

About this publication: Collaborations is a twice-yearly newsletter describing collaborations and offering ways to engage with the consortium. Visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations for an online version of this issue, with links and additional content.
Grant for Five College Partnership Programs supports regional K–12 diversification efforts

A coalition of organizations led by the Five College Partnership Programs will work to improve diversity among teachers in the area’s public school classrooms, thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

Students of color are a majority in many schools in this area, particularly in Springfield and Holyoke, and yet people of color make up only a small percentage of K–12 teachers. At the same time, a far greater percentage of classroom paraprofessionals are people of color. Citing evidence that having teachers who look like them can improve student educational achievement, Five Colleges and the Diverse Teacher Workforce Coalition identified paraprofessionals of diverse backgrounds as an ideal source of future teachers, as they already work in the schools and are committed to serving students in the region.

With $133,000 from the Community Foundation’s Innovation Grant Program, the coalition will provide resources, structure, tutoring and advocacy with the goal of helping 20 paraprofessionals attain licensure and move into teaching positions in Hampshire and Hampden County public schools by the year 2020.

“We are thrilled to receive this funding,” said Marla Solomon, Partnership Programs director and coordinator of the coalition. “This initiative will make a powerful difference in our schools and in the lives of Black and Latino paraprofessionals who are residents of our communities.”

In addition to the Five College Partnership Programs, key partners in the Diverse Teacher Workforce Coalition are the teacher education programs at Springfield College and Mount Holyoke College. Other coalition partners include school districts and teacher unions in Amherst, Northampton, Holyoke and Springfield; the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Holyoke Community College and Springfield Technical Community College. In addition, the Regional Employment Boards of Hampden and Franklin-Hampshire are also involved, along with community organizations such as the New North Citizens’ Council in Springfield.

Find out more about the Schools Partnership and the Diverse Teacher Workforce Coalition at fivecolleges.edu/partnership.

LANGUAGE CENTER RECEIVES STRONG SUPPORT FOR ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

Five Colleges has raised $482,000 toward its new endowment to sustain funding for ongoing operations of its Five College Center for the Study of World Languages.

Enrollments have climbed steadily over the last decade, with more than 300 students in each of the last three years studying less commonly taught languages at the center. As one of the consortium’s most popular programs, the center has had a far-reaching impact on students, offering a rich and diverse set of language learning opportunities and resources that prepare students for a wide variety of majors, internships and careers. When fully funded, the planned $3 million endowment will cover about a third of the center’s budget, with the remainder of the budget covered by annual campus payments.

Contributions to the fund, which have so far come from 15 individual donors and the five campuses, will be matched by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, $1 to every $2 raised, up to $1 million. Those wishing to support the center can do so via the Five College website. All donors whose gifts are received by December 31, 2021 will be listed as Founding Donors to the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages Endowment Fund.

For more information on the Center for the Study of World Languages and to contribute to the campaign, visit fivecolleges.edu/fclang.
GRANT SUPPORTS DANCE DEPARTMENT
RESTAGING OF NEW SECOND LINE

A grant from the National Endowment for the Arts will support the Five College Dance Department (FCDD) in its continuing efforts to address racial diversity and inclusion in dance teaching and programming.

The $10,000 Art Works program award will support a restaging of New Second Line, by award-winning contemporary African American choreographer Camille A. Brown. FCDD chair and Smith dance professor Rodger Blum will be spearheading the project, which will include performances at multiple campuses by two casts of dancers during the 2018–19 academic year. In addition, Camille Brown will lead a master class for Five College and high school dancers from the region, and she will give a public lecture and demonstration titled “The History of African American Social Dance” based on her TED talk.

New Second Line is a performance celebrating the spirit of the people of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The “first line” is a traditional brass band parade for weddings, social events and funerals in New Orleans. Those who follow the parade enjoying the music and dancing with high energy are known as the “second line.”

Brown’s artistic work exists at the intersection of Black female identity, contemporary dance, and African American social dance forms. This is the third NEA award the FCDD has received, and with this project in particular the department hopes to spark conversations across the campuses about the role dance can play in racial equity and inclusion.

Learn more about the Five College Dance Department and its upcoming programming at fivecolleges.edu/dance.

National consortium award presented to Neal Abraham

The Association for Collaborative Leadership (ACL) honored outgoing Five College Executive Director Neal Abraham at its annual conference last fall with the John B. Noftsinger, Jr. Award for Service and Leadership. The award, given to Abraham and Barbara McFadden Allen, retired executive director of the Big Ten Academic Alliance and Thomas R. Horgan, retired president and CEO of the New Hampshire College and University Council, recognizes contributions to improve cooperation among institutions of higher education and partners in the community. ACL is dedicated to developing leadership capabilities and advancing higher education collaboration through professional development, resources and programs. Abraham has served on the ACL’s board of directors for eight years, and as treasurer for seven years. In the last six years, Five Colleges hosted ACL’s leadership institute and its annual conference.

Learn more about the ACL and its Noftsinger Award at national-acl.org.
Five College African Studies professors honored for editing national journal

Sean Redding and Elliot Fratkin received the African Studies Association Service Award for editing the association’s scholarly journal, *African Studies Review*, at the 2017 ASA annual meeting in Chicago last November.

Redding is the Zephaniah Swift Moore Professor of History at Amherst College, and Fratkin is the Gwendolen Carter Professor of African Studies at Smith College; both are members of the Five College African Studies Program, which coordinates offerings of Africa-related courses on all five campuses, plans seminars, organizes study-in-Africa opportunities and manages visits to the area by African scholars and artists.

They served as editors of *African Studies Review* from 2010 to 2017. Under their leadership, the journal created an international advisory board, broadened the participation of African and junior scholars, instituted the annual *African Studies Review* Distinguished Lecture, ran workshops for emerging scholars and oversaw the publication of articles, book reviews and film reviews of broad interdisciplinary interest.

The *African Studies Review*, published three times a year by Cambridge University Press, features African studies scholarship in all academic disciplines. The ASA Service Award recognizes individuals or organizations that have distinguished themselves through outstanding dedication to ASA’s mission of encouraging production and dissemination of knowledge about Africa.

Learn more about the Five College African Studies Program at fivecolleges.edu/african.

Cultural organization leaders from all five campuses met at Smith College in November to get to know one another, trade ideas and plan for future collaborations.

*Photo by Noah Loving*

By the end of spring semester, five of Five College’s senior staff members will have retired over a 12-month period. They are, from left: Barbara Lucey, treasurer, who worked at the consortium for 8 years; Neal Abraham, executive director, 9 years; Nancy Goff, director of development, 12 years; Nate Therien, director of academic programs, 22 years; and Carol Aleman, assistant to the executive director, 29 years.

*Photo by Dennis Lee German*
At its January annual meeting, the Design-Build Institute of America, New England Region, presented the Five College Library Annex project team with a Bronze Award in the Building Construction category. The winning collaboration included Five Colleges, CSL Consulting, Cutler Associates, Cutler Design, RDK Engineers, TFMoran and Berkshire Design, which worked together to build the 35,000-square-foot, climate-controlled shelving facility in Hatfield, opened in May 2017. With a capacity for 2.5 million volumes and more than 1 million volumes in place, the Annex currently houses much of Smith’s circulating collection, a portion of the Five College Library Repository Collection and items from UMass. Additionally, while Smith’s Neilson Library undergoes renovation, about a dozen of the library’s technical services staff members have temporary quarters at the Annex, which is a short drive from campus.

Learn more about the Five College Library Annex at fivecolleges.edu/libraries.

Five alumnae theater artists—one from each of the campuses—returned to the area last fall to meet with students, share highlights from their work and discuss issues of race and social justice in theater today. From left: Dawn Monique Williams, UMass MFA’11; Sueann Leung, Mount Holyoke ’10; Nia Witherspoon, Smith ’05.

Photo by Noah Loving

STUDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MANY VENUES FOR PRESENTING WORK

Each year students enjoy many opportunities to share their work with peers and the consortium community through symposia and performances. Below is a sampling of what has been taking place this year:

- German Studies Undergraduate Research Symposium, UMass
- Who Am I to Feel So Free?: Five College Studio Art Exhibition Opening, UMass
- Student Film and Video Festival, Mount Holyoke
- Queer Gender and Sexuality Conference, Hampshire
- Undergraduate Film Studies Conference, Hampshire
- PoetryFest, Smith
- African Studies Community Dinner and Student Performances, Hampshire
- Datafest, UMass
- Jewish Studies Symposium, Yiddish Book Center, Hampshire
- Coastal and Marine Sciences Student Poster Session, Amherst
- Ethnomusicology Certificate Celebration, Amherst
- WORD! Five College Festival of Staged Readings, Smith and UMass
- Anthropology Undergraduate Student Conference, Smith
- Geology Student Symposium, Amherst
- Resist! Native American and Indigenous Studies Student Symposium, Amherst
2017 PETERSON PRIZE AWARDED TO HAMPshire STUDENT BROOKE FITzGERALD

Five Colleges presented its Lorna M. Peterson Prize for 2017 to Hampshire College fourth-year student Brooke Fitzgerald. Nominated by Hampshire professor Ethan Meyers on behalf of the Five College Statistics Program for her academic efforts, research and active engagement with the program, Fitzgerald celebrated the prize during a lunch with Lorna Peterson and other nominees last fall.

The Peterson Prize supports scholarly and creative work by undergraduate students taking part in a Five College program. Dr. Peterson served as the executive director of Five Colleges from 1990 to 2009. This prize, established by the Five College board of directors and Peterson’s colleagues and friends throughout the consortium, honors her commitment to collaboration as a means of advancing understanding and expanding opportunity, especially for students.

The Five College Early Music Program’s Five College Collegium rehearses for the performance of its annual Christmas concert at the Grace Episcopal Church in Amherst.

Photo by Noah Loving

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