“This is science as a collaborative, cross-disciplinary activity.”
—Rob Dorit, Smith College

From measuring the interactions of the smallest atoms to tracking changes within the largest environmental systems, the discipline of biomath is ideal for investigating some of life’s most interesting challenges.

“The field of biology is changing in a dramatic way, as cheap, plentiful data becomes readily available,” says Rob Dorit, Smith College biological sciences professor. “The question is: how do you extract value from it? That’s where biomath comes in.”

Dorit, program coordinator Denise Lello of Smith and a team of faculty members from all five campuses have created the Five College Biomathematical Sciences Certificate Program, kicking off this fall.

This newest Five College program—the 17th certificate we offer—will open up the field of biomath to students at Hampshire and Mount Holyoke alongside their Smith peers and, pending faculty approval at the other two campuses, to all undergraduates in the consortium.

The program comes out of Four College Biomath Consortium (4CBC), an undergraduate biomath training program established in 2011 by Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith with a $1 million, five-year National Science Foundation grant.

The 4CBC funded undergraduate fellowships and research projects for the last five years, encouraging cross-campus collaboration on a range of topics, from bioacoustics and neurodevelopment to the kinetics and geometry of protein folding.

For more information about the Five College Biomath Program visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.
Cooperation among Five College libraries began decades before there was a consortium, and has evolved along with our campuses. At its most fundamental, library collaboration means books can easily be shared among the campuses. A patron can search online from among 10 million volumes, check out a book and have it delivered to their home campus within 24 hours. In fact over the past year 21 percent of all library borrowing was by people from other campuses. Intercampus borrowing puts people in touch with the information they need and it takes the pressure off home libraries to carry so many titles. This reduction in duplication saves money and space and allows for greater collection diversity.

Doors to the World offers literacy resources to teachers and the public

Changing how literature is taught, how to engage families in their children's learning and the ways schools approach multicultural education—these are just a few of the skills teachers gained from their participation in the 2016 Doors to the World summer institute.

Thanks to a $25,000 grant from the Irene and George Davis Foundation, this second annual institute brought together 12 preschool through third grade teachers from the Holyoke and Springfield public schools for a week in July to learn how to strengthen children's global literacy. The literature featured the work of Latino writers, such as award-winning author-illustrator Eric Velasquez, who spoke to the group during the institute.

Participants spent the week deeply immersed in learning new approaches to teaching literature and developing resources for other teachers to use, all of which are now available on the recently launched Doors to the World website.

“The idea of the website is to provide teachers with a preselected set of resources so they can immediately use a book without having to hunt around for lesson plans and other materials they may need,” says Marla Solomon, director of the Five College Partnership Program. Solomon has been spearheading the Doors to the World project with director and UMass professor Maria José Botelho and faculty consultant and Hampshire professor Natalie Sowell, along with a team of educators and experts in literature and multicultural studies.

For more information about the Partnership Program and a link to its Doors to the World website, visit [fivecolleges.edu/collaborations](http://fivecolleges.edu/collaborations).

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**Library cooperation by the numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Million volumes shared among campus libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Million volumes to be shelved at the Five College Library Annex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Percent of borrowing is inter-campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Joint professional development sessions, 2014–2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Percent reduction in duplicate acquisitions in recent years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Five College library task forces and committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Joint professional development sessions, 2014–2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Campus libraries, including the Five College Repository Collection</td>
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</table>
Blending new approaches to teaching and learning

“We’re in a moment where I think some of these things are here to stay, and it’s exciting to me to figure out how we’re going to participate in these new trends in higher education.”

That’s TreAndrea Russworm, new faculty coordinator for the Five College Blended Learning Initiative, talking about the growing use and impact of technology in education.

“I want people in the humanities to be part of leading conversations about when to use and when not to use technology,” says Russworm, “because they are much more in touch with some of these existential questions and potential limitations about technology and pedagogy.”

Russworm, an associate professor of English at UMass, joined the Blended Learning Initiative in the spring. She is well versed in teaching with technology, team-based learning and using a flipped course approach to her classes. In flipped courses professors provide lecture materials to students outside of class, carving out more in-class time for other pedagogical approaches in class, such as team-based or project-based assignments.

Throughout the year, the Blended Learning team and faculty members with whom they’ve worked will be visiting departments on the campuses to talk with faculty members about possibilities for blended learning in their courses.

“My role as a faculty liaison is to advocate for people willing to try this out in their classrooms and also to facilitate often difficult and critical conversations about these pedagogies,” she says.

At the end of the year, the Blended Learning team hopes to have available for the Five College community a digital tool kit filled with examples of past courses using blended learning, resources for bringing blended learning into other courses, information about assessment and an archive of what’s worked and what needs to be improved during the past several years of the Blended Learning Program.

For more information about Blended Learning, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

WORK BEGINS ON LIBRARY ANNEX

Staff members from Five Colleges and its campuses participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Five College Library Annex in Hatfield. From left: Ida Hay, Five College Library Repository Collection Assistant; Kathy Leigh, Five College Library Repository Collection Supervisor; Jason Fuller, Five College Library Repository Collection Assistant; Jennifer Gunter King, Hampshire College Director of the Library; Simon Neame, UMass Amherst Dean of Libraries; Neal Abraham, Five College Executive Director; Susan Fliss, Smith College Dean of Libraries; Chris Loring, former Smith College Director of Libraries; Alex Wirth-Cauchon, Mount Holyoke College Executive Director of Library, Information, and Technology Services; Barbara Lucey, Five College Treasurer.
Taking NOTE

DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECT RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT FUNDING

A Five College Digital Humanities project spearheaded by two professors is making words written millennia ago come alive again for an entirely new audience—a digital one.

From about A.D. 200 until the turn of the first millennium, Middle Eastern Christian scribes copied thousands of manuscripts in the language of the day, Aramaic. To the majority of us living in the modern day, this writing is inaccessible. For the last several years, though, a Five College team has been developing a digital tool to allow students and scholars to better investigate these ancient manuscripts. They were recently awarded a $149,000 Digital Extension Grant from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) to continue their work.

The Modern Technology/Ancient Manuscripts project grew out of a conversation between religious scholar Michael Penn of Mount Holyoke and computer scientist Nicholas Howe of Smith, and the database their team created currently houses more than 70,000 letter images from some of the earliest Aramaic manuscripts. The idea is for the software to identify the scribe of a given manuscript and approximate the date of composition.

The goal of the project is for students to become active investigators in the digital humanities, gaining firsthand knowledge of scholarly work in both history and science. They are taking some of the first steps along a trail that has yet to be blazed but will eventually change the way we understand our past.

To learn more of the Modern Technology/Ancient Manuscripts project, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

Photo: Syriac manuscript
Credit: From Dominican Friars of Mosul, MS 13, fol. 57v OR fol. 89r (1723 CE).
Courtesy of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Collegeville, MN.

LORNA PETERSON PRIZE AWARDED TO MOUNT HOLYOKE STUDENT

Each year Five Colleges awards the Peterson Prize to a student embodying the commitment to collaboration that characterized Lorna Peterson, the consortium’s longtime executive director who retired in 2009. The work of the students nominated for the prize this year ranged from a Hampshire student who designed and built a bird observatory at an Easthampton bird sanctuary to an Amherst student who developed a curriculum for community health center engagement. This year’s winner is a Mount Holyoke student in the Five College Queer and Sexuality Studies Program.

Recipient: Patricia Garcia MHC ’16, Queer and Sexuality Studies

Project: Creating an annual scholarship for undocumented students

Background: Garcia has been instrumental in advocating for the rights of undocumented students, founding the Undocumented Immigrant Alliance group at Mount Holyoke and working with her peers throughout the five campuses on advocacy and activism.

Nominator: Christian Gundermann (MHC):
“Her thesis work itself, as well as her advocacy on behalf of queer undocumented students, should be considered as an important contribution not only to Gender Studies (the department where she is writing the thesis) but also to the Queer and Sexuality Studies Certificate, the course work for which she will have completed by the end of this semester.”

For information about each of the Peterson Prize nominees, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.
Operas to explore shame in small-town New England

Sin, secrecy and shame collide and combust in the story of a gay professor exonerated by authorities for possessing male erotic photos. The setting was Northampton in 1960, and the professor was renowned literary pioneer Newton Arvin, who taught at Smith. The Scarlet Professor, a new opera by Amherst music professor Eric Sawyer and UMass theater professor Harley Erdman, tells Arvin’s story and will premiere September 2017 as a joint Five College Opera and Live In Concert, Inc. production.

The opera is based on the award-winning biography The Scarlet Professor: Newton Arvin: A Literary Life Shattered by Scandal by Northampton author Barry Werth. Arvin was a specialist on Hawthorne and The Scarlet Letter. The opera explores the parallels between Arvin and the character Hester Prynne in Hawthorne’s novel.

Auditions for the opera will be held in November 2016 on each campus. There will be performances by a cast of guest artists on the weekend of September 15, 2017, with a parallel cast of current Five College student singers performing on the weekend of September 22. The guest artists will be actively involved in mentoring the student cast. The chorus ensemble for all performances will be made up of Five College students.

Amherst College theater professor Ron Bashford will direct the production, collaborating with a team of designers from the consortium. Opportunities will be available for student assistance in the design, construction and staging of the production.

Curricular programming related to Arvin’s story, its background and its continuing significance across the colleges is planned for fall 2017. A public symposium will accompany the first weekend of performances, with author Barry Werth leading panel discussions involving scholars, Smith alumni and a team of screenwriters developing a feature film based on the same events. Guest artists will conduct a master class for Five College singers.

For more information about Five College Opera and The Scarlet Professor, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

First annual Mazzocco Memorial Lecture held in April

UC Berkeley emeritus professor Anthony Newcomb delivered the first annual Elizabeth Mazzocco Memorial Lecture in April at UMass. The lecture is named for the director of the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and professor of Italian at UMass Amherst from 1990 until her death in 2014. She was a specialist of language pedagogy and a scholar of the Italian Renaissance.

For more information about the award winners, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

Five College dancers scoop up choreography awards

Four dancers with ties to the Five College Dance Department swept up all the 2016 Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship awards in choreography. These competitive fellowships are awarded on the artistic quality and creative ability of the individual, and each comes with a $12,000 grant to the awardee.

The four are: Hampshire assistant professor Deborah Goffe; Mount Holyoke 2016–17 visiting artist Candice Salyers SC MFA ’03; Amherst librarian Sara Smith HC ’95; and Dahlia Nayar, who has taught dance at Smith.

For more information about the award winners, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.
NAIS hosts annual decolonization symposium

In April, Hampshire hosted the D.I.G. (Decolonizing Indigenous Generations) Annual Decolonization Symposium and the Five College Native American and Indigenous Studies Annual Symposium. The symposium brought together three Indigenous scholar-activists who are working in their local communities and in transnational spaces to decolonize the ways Indigenous peoples imagine, map and enact their futures.

New Five College postbaccs

Instructional Technology Specialists for Blended Learning:

◆ Sylvia Nashipae Mosiany, Smith College graduate
◆ Michelle Anderer, Smith College graduate
◆ José Rodriguez, Amherst College graduate

At the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages:

◆ Carson Carruth, Hindi Teaching Assistant
◆ João Baltazar, Specialist for Innovative Language Learning

For links to photo galleries of these and other Five College events, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.