

## Academic Programs 2023-24 Year-In-Review

# BUILDING COMMUNITY ACROSS THE CAMPUSES

In the 2023-2024 academic year, Five College Academic Programs continued to build community by supporting a diverse array of programs and events that brought together students and faculty from the five campuses.

*Five College Women's Studies Research Center Kick-Off the Summer Writing Retreat at Hampshire College, Photograph by Noah Loving*





## Student Events

Communities of students, supported by faculty, gathered for many events this year, engaging in conversation, celebration, and academic discovery. Below are a few highlights from this year.

The **Five College Film and Media Studies Undergraduate Conference**, hosted at Smith College, featured presentations by 10 students from across the campuses, showcasing their scholarly work in film and media.

Geology students, faculty, and staff gathered for the annual **Five College Geology Undergraduate Poster Session** at Amherst College. 68 people attended to share and learn about students' current projects.

The **Five College Jazz Festival**, which was last held in 2019, took place at UMass Amherst in Spring 2024. Approximately 140 students from the five campuses performed over the course of the lively two-day festival.

Over 100 students from the Five Colleges participated in **Springfield Bound and Holyoke Bound**, day-long, virtual learning experiences designed to introduce students to the Connecticut River Valley and led by community members.



Rennie Harris Masterclass at CRĀV The Harvest at Smith College,  
Photograph by Derek Fowles

## Student Events continued

In January 2024, 11 students from four campuses traveled to the **Perkins Telescope Observatory** near Flagstaff, Arizona and spent six 12-hour nights using the 1.8 meter telescope to gather data that they would analyze throughout the Spring semester in Astronomy 341: Observational Techniques in Optical and Infrared Astronomy.

Student writers from across the Five College community took part in the **Five College Prose and Poetry Prize**. Out of more than 125 submissions, 12 pieces were selected by UMass MFA judges. These winning works were read aloud at a reception at Hampshire College and featured in a printed chapbook.

**CRĀV The Harvest**, conceived to create a greater sense of community for practitioners of Black Dance forms and give more visibility of the forms as integral to the Five College Dance curriculum, consisted of student performances, as well as lectures and a masterclass by guest artist Rennie Harris, and included 619 participants.

Each year, up to three students from each campus are nominated to participate in the **Five College Advanced Studio Art Seminar**. This year's seminar, titled "Material, Process, and Poetics," was taught by Chicago artist Noah Greene-Lowe at Hampshire College.



# Languages

The Center for World Languages offers more than 40 less-commonly taught languages as credit-bearing courses for Five College students. In the 2023-24 academic year, enrollments at the Center increased 40%. Students took courses in 31 languages (including Kazakh for the first time), and 97% of students met or exceeded their target oral proficiency rating. Five students received \$5,700 in scholarships for immersive language study.

Five Colleges also supports four language initiatives, as well as the East Asian Languages Program, which hosts events for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean language students.

## FIVE COLLEGE LANGUAGE INITIATIVES

The curricula are coordinated to enable students to progress seamlessly to the next level language course from one campus to another.

**Arabic**—classes at Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and UMass Amherst

**Korean**—classes at Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and UMass Amherst

**Hebrew**—classes at Smith College and UMass Amherst

**American Sign Language**—classes at UMass Amherst and through the Center for World Languages

*Left: Swahili student, Mariam Keita of Mount Holyoke College, speaking at the Five College African Studies Council Community Dinner, Photograph by Noah Loving*



## Faculty Collaboration

Each year, Five Colleges supports a community of faculty in their participation in myriad scholarly projects and professional development opportunities. In 2023-24, faculty joined together to engage in a variety of academic collaborations.

This year marked the end of a 3 ½ -year \$2.5 million dollar grant project in **Native American and Indigenous Studies** supported by the Mellon Foundation. The NAIS grant project resulted in 5 new tenure track faculty, 5 new academic pathways in NAIS, dozens of new NAIS courses, and a large variety of residencies, lectures, and performances that enhanced Native American and Indigenous Studies across the five campuses.

# Faculty Collaboration

## continued

**29 Faculty Seminar groups**, including *Buddhist Studies*, *Interpreting Studies and Practice*, *Valley Geometry*, and *Trans and Queer Studies Colloquium*, engaging in discussions about scholarly interests and works in progress, and occasionally hosting guest speakers

**6 Events supported by the Five College Lecture Fund**, including *Intergroup Dialogue Symposium* at Mount Holyoke College, the event *Dawn Wooten: Stories of Reproductive Violence & Justice* at Amherst and Smith Colleges, and the event *Werk Related 2023: Celebrating Chicago Footwork* at all five campuses

**5 Events supported by the Five College Symposium Fund**, including *CRÄV The Harvest* at UMass Amherst and the symposium *Archives of World Socialism* at Amherst College

**36** weekly Write Together sessions hosted by the **Five College Women's Studies Research Center**, in addition to writing retreats and faculty book salons

**27 Jointly Appointed Faculty** teaching across the five campuses

**60** Faculty Participants across two tracks in the Mellon-funded **Building Academic Leaders in the Humanities Program**

**8** Fellows participated in the **Crossroads in the Study of the Americas (CISA) Seminar** for early-career faculty

**54** Faculty Members from the five campuses attended the **Five Colleges Department Chairs Meeting** at Mount Holyoke College

Participants in Building Academic Leaders in the Humanities Faculty Development Workshop at Smith College.  
Photograph by Noah Loving





# About Five College Academic Programs

**2 Five College Departments** - Astronomy; Dance

**1 Five College Major** - Architectural Studies

**17 Five College Certificate Programs**, including Asian/Pacific/American Studies, Culture, Health, and Science, and Cognitive Neuroscience

**2 Centers** - Center for World Languages; Women's Studies Research Center

**3000+ Registrations** for courses on other campuses

**7000+ courses** and **2100+ faculty** across five campuses

*Left: Mina Stern-Wenk's Take 5x2, a Div III Event, at Hampshire College, Photograph by Lailye Weidman*



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