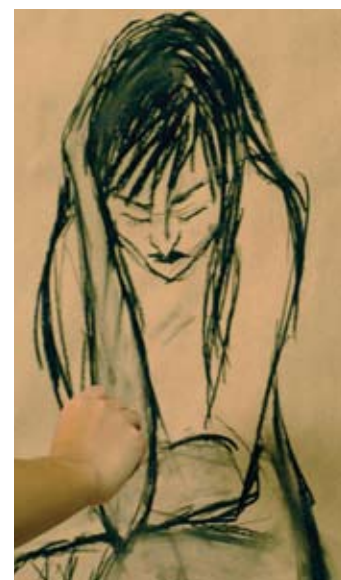


Five College drawing course celebrates 15 years



PHOTOS: NANCY PALMIERI



One of the consortium's most collaborative academic efforts, the Five College Advanced Drawing Seminar is enjoying its 15th anniversary this fall. Three students from each campus work with a different faculty member each week, exploring a variety of approaches to the visual arts. Here Hampshire instructor Daniel Kojo teaches large-scale charcoal drawing techniques.

Screwing the Pooch to be a thoroughly Five College film

Five College film studies major Hannah Scarritt-Selman says she is "interested as a writer in seemingly 'simple' stories." On the surface, the Mount Holyoke senior's short film *Screwing the Pooch* is just that—two guys spend their lives writing *Law & Order* fan fiction hoping to get their big break. They think that break comes when they misidentify a high school teacher as Dick Wolfe, the creator of the television show, and decide to create their film themselves to

put on YouTube. Hannah's goal, despite what she describes as simplicity of the plot, is to create a film "where the audience watches the film and says, 'Oh, the obstacle in this story is easy to overcome,' and as a result they look a little deeper into the characters and the situations."

When the film is finished—by mid-March at the latest, she plans—Hannah says that "it'd be great to show it around the five colleges, if to show nothing more than a positive, creative project that the

five colleges can collectively produce." Her actors and production crew come from all five campuses, especially the males, because "while at Mount Holyoke . . . you have to go off campus if you want to get men into male roles." It will be shot in locations throughout the Pioneer Valley.

The screenwriter, director, executive producer and editor of *Screwing the Pooch* has made the film the center of her honors thesis for the Five Colleges film studies major. It explores, she says, "the

topic of how my education from the film major led me to make the film."

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Five College efforts receive wide recognition

Lorna Peterson receives lifetime achievement award

“Lorna Peterson has for many years been one of the essential driving forces behind the consortia movement in higher education in the United States and abroad,” said Lawrence G. Dotolo, president of the Association for Consortium Leadership (ACL), presenting Five Colleges’ executive director with its lifetime achievement award in October.



Dotolo and Peterson

Given to “an individual who has contributed significantly over the years to support and strengthen cooperation among institutions of higher education and between those institutions and their partners in the community,” the Pioneer Award was given to Lorna at the ACL’s annual conference in Alexandria, Virginia. Lorna is a frequent speaker and consultant on collaborative arrangement and a special adviser to the board of the ACL. Made up of 60 higher education consortia, the ACL provides

guidance to strengthen cooperation and a forum for professionals to discuss their work.

Dr. Dotolo went on; “Lorna’s suggestions and her advice on enhancing cooperation are eagerly sought by all involved in the cooperative endeavor. . . Her visionary approach, her intellectual capacity and her ability to articulate the effort make her, quite frankly, among the best of all of us in this field. Her retirement will be a huge loss to us and to the consortium endeavor.”

Archivists’ Toolkit wins national award

Open-source software is expanding access to information in all aspects of society, from computer operating systems to cell phone applications. That this technology is firmly planted in academia is evidenced by the Archivists’ Toolkit, developed as a joint effort by university library systems in New York and California with the Five College libraries. The value of this new resource was not lost on the Society of American Archivists, who awarded it the 2008 C. F. W. Coker Award recognizing “tools that enable archivists to produce more effective finding aids.”

The Archivists’ Toolkit is the first open-source archival data management system. Among its strengths are establishing names

and subjects associated with archival materials, describing those materials and managing their locations.

“The Archivists’ Toolkit has already made a tremendous impact on archival practice and the promotion and adoption of descriptive standards,” says Chris Burns, curator of manuscripts for the University of Vermont and chair of the selection committee. “It has been rapidly adopted by archivists. Its creation serves as a truly wonderful model of a collaborative design, testing and implementation process.”

The new system was created with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation by the University of California San Diego Libraries, the New York University Libraries and the Five College libraries.

Schwartzwald wins prestigious Canadian Studies award

Former Five College faculty member Robert Schwartzwald was honored last spring as the 2008 recipient of the Governor General’s International Award for Canadian Studies.

Currently a professor of English studies at the Université de Montréal, Robbie was founding director of the Five College Center for Crossroads in the Study of the Americas (CISA) and chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at UMass, where he taught for 22 years. His research focuses on Canadian national identity, especially as it exists in the culture and literature of Quebec.

The prestigious award is given out each year to “a scholar who



has made an outstanding contribution to scholarship and to the development of Canadian Studies internationally.” It is given in alternating years to a scholar who has done much of his or her work in Canada and one who has done his or her work internationally. Robbie was honored in the latter category based on his work while at Five Colleges.

Hampshire joins Smith and Mount Holyoke as domain of Paul Ominsky

Paul Ominsky, the director of public safety at both Smith and Mount Holyoke, has added Hampshire to his responsibilities. On Hampshire’s campus, he says, “it is important to educate each community about recognizing and avoiding danger.”

By bringing three colleges

under one public safety office, Ominsky says “the colleges are able to realize cost efficiencies — for example, training three departments at the same time rather than training three departments separately — as well as share information. And they benefit from having a single

person who is directly aware of what is happening on all of the campuses at the same time.”

Ominsky has been director of public safety at Mount Holyoke since 1992, and at Smith since 2003. From June, 2005 through June of this year, Ominsky served as North Atlantic region-

al director of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. In 2005, Mount Holyoke Public Safety was accredited under the Massachusetts Accreditation Commission, becoming the first campus in the state to earn that status.

Students Share New Vision for Skinner Museum at National Conference

Mount Holyoke's Skinner Museum — also known as “Mr. Skinner’s Curiosity Cabinet” — had a strong pull on Kate Freedman, Cheryl Harned and Kristin Lailey with its collection of marvels, objects from the everyday to the extraordinary. In the course of a field service project for the UMass graduate class Introduction to Public History, the students became fascinated with the objects the museum holds. Kate became interested in the two-person bicycle and the significance of the bicycle in the women’s movement. Cheryl found a copy of *The Penny Magazine* and focused on the museum’s role in early arts education.

From their research, they created a booklet that suggests

creative ways faculty can use the entire museum, or specific objects in it, in their classes. The National Council on Public History selected the students to present during a poster session at its annual conference held in April in Louisville, Kentucky. At the conference, “we were able to get a sense of what the field is doing right now,” says Kate.

The conference allowed Kate and Cheryl to reflect more deeply on their project and on the current challenges facing museums. “Outreach helps insert creativity and outside-the-box thinking into academia,” Cheryl said.

— *Meghan Gelardi Holmes, Skinner Museum assistant curator*



Part of the collection of “Mr. Skinner’s Curiosity Cabinet” — also known as Mount Holyoke’s Skinner Museum. A booklet created by UMass graduate students recommends ways the collection can be put to use.

Jake Bishop retires from MHEC

In October, 32 years after he founded the Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium (MHEC), Jake Bishop retired. As director of MHEC, Bishop “has come to personify MHEC — all his admirable qualities are woven into its core,” says Phillip DiChiara, managing director of the Boston Consortium.

MHEC got its start as a Five College purchasing program, moved out on its own in 1976, and now comprises dozens of members throughout New England. Based on the UMass Amherst campus — where Jake once served as chief procurement officer — MHEC uses its clout of more than 90 members to save money purchasing from over 600 vendors nationwide. Bishop’s greatest nightmare, he says, is “the \$100,000-a-year professor driving



down to Staples to buy an office chair that doesn’t meet fire code. It’s just not a good use of his time, or of the school’s money.” Bishop’s career has been spent helping institutions avoid this scenario, by making purchases convenient and as inexpensive as possible.

Though he has officially retired, Bishop will remain involved with select MHEC projects, such as its annual vendor expo in December, until the first of the year. After that, he plans to do some writing, speaking and traveling.

On 20th anniversary, LIR awarded \$4,090 grant

Celebrating a significant birthday this fall, Five College Learning in Retirement nevertheless shows no signs of slowing down. It continues to organize peer-based workshops for the community and was recently recognized with a grant that will make a landmark lecture series affordable for 100 participants.

Speeches, a skit and a slide show all helped mark Learning in Retirement’s 20th anniversary at a well-attended dinner at UMass’ Marriott Center in October. The party came on the heels of news that Mass Humanities awarded the organization a \$4,090 grant for its Great Decisions Lecture Series, to be held in the spring.

The 2009 Great Decisions series, open to the public, will be held at the Northampton Senior Center March 27 through May 1. Using

materials provided by the Foreign Policy Association of New York, Five College faculty will discuss topics ranging from Afghanistan and Pakistan to the United States and Egypt, the global food supply, rising global powers, and human rights. The Mass Humanities grant will be used to provide need-based scholarships for 100 attendees.

Learning in Retirement began in 1988 with 45 members and a goal to offer retirees an opportunity to engage actively in academic pursuits. The organization was modeled on the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement. Within a year, membership had shot up to 150, and has now reached 275.

For more information about Five College Learning in Retirement, visit its Web site: 5clir.org.

Donna Baron joins western Mass broadband effort

The woman who led the effort to bring high-speed Internet to the Five Colleges is joining the effort to bring it to western Massachusetts. Donna Baron came to Five Colleges as director of information technology in 2000 and directed the creation of the Five College Fiber Optic Network, a 53-mile loop from Springfield circling north around the five campuses. Completed in 2007, the \$3.6 million project gave the institutions the fastest, highest-capacity Internet access available.



“Perhaps one of the most ambitious and significant Five College projects undertaken since the founding of Hampshire College was the building of the Fiber Optic Network—and Donna was in the trenches all the way, literally,” said Lorna Peterson, executive director of Five Colleges. “It was an enormous challenge and we are grateful to her for getting us through, over and around the 53 miles.”

Donna’s new position is program director of the Massa-

chusetts Broadband Institute. Recently created by Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, the institute describes itself as a “quasi-public” organization dedicated to bringing broadband Internet access to every town in Massachusetts, with western Massachusetts its top priority.

“It was a hard decision to leave Five Colleges,” said Donna. “I cherish the quality of life and intellect that comes from working in higher ed and particularly with our five schools.”

Five College Americorps*VISTAs provide training for other volunteers

Training volunteers in Holyoke and Amherst, Americorps*VISTA volunteer Vilay Senthap has strengthened Five College Community-Based Learning by giving other volunteers the skills and opportunities they need to make a difference.

Born in Thailand, Vilay earned her bachelor’s degree in sociology from UMass Amherst in 2006. After graduating, she stayed on as the Five College

Americorps*VISTA volunteer, located in the UMass Amherst Office of Community Service Learning. Americorps*VISTAs are required to work at their location for a year, but Vilay stayed for two, which, she says, “allowed me to build more meaningful relationships with community agencies and find projects that were a better use of our time and funds.”

Those two years were busy

ones. Vilay helped organize Holyoke Bound, a training for community-based learning volunteers who had been placed in Holyoke. She co-taught an honors course on diversity, identity and community service at UMass. For the program Youth with a Future and College Access, she helped create a curriculum, led workshops and created a workbook to help Holyoke high schoolers go to college.

With Vilay now in graduate

school at Brown, Jillian Meade has taken on the Americorps*VISTA post. A 2008 graduate of UMass, Jillian is no stranger to Five College Community-Based Learning, having been a student and teacher in the Citizens Scholars Program while completing her degree in anthropology. Her priorities, she says, include managing Holyoke Bound and coordinating the tutor/mentor programs at each Five College campus.