Professor Cohn Awarded Prestigious Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grant

In the dry, unpredictable climate of sub-Saharan Africa, pearl millet grows better than other grains such as maize or wheat. It is often girls and women in countries like Namibia that pound the pearl millet with heavy pieces of wood to separate the grain from the chaff. The pounding area is covered with a concrete-like coating and as a result, the flour the process yields contains other, non-edible materials. Visiting Assistant Professor of Applied Design Donna Cohn learned about the challenges of threshing pearl millet when a former student, Aaron Wieler 01F, described eating the grain in Namibia. “He was told to chew without bringing his teeth together because the cereal contained small rocks and grit,” she said. Since that 2007 conversation, Professor Cohn has researched pearl millet and looked for ways to produce a cleaner, purer product. On November 20, Professor Cohn’s concept was announced as one of 81 recipients of a $100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations grant. These grants fund “innovative ideas to tackle persistent global health and development problems.” The Gates grant will enable Cohn to focus on refining the threshing machine. She will continue to develop her project with students enrolled in one of her spring courses.

Creative Media Institute Receives Start-Up Funds from Alums

Summer 2014 will be an exciting time for Hampshire; The College is now offering a range of innovative summer programs based on Hampshire’s approach of linking critical engagement to experience-based education. They are geared toward professionals and practitioners, advanced high school students, graduate students, and lifelong learners as well as undergraduates. The four-week Creative Media Institute (July 13-Aug. 9) is structured as a series of pop-up labs and workshops. Alum Ken Burns 71F will be guest faculty during the third week of the program, affording attendees the opportunity to participate in a film workshop. Ken and alums Erica Huggins 83F, John Huggins 80F, and Bill Kern 75F have generously donated the startup funds to launch the Creative Media Institute. Andrew Hart, program director, is hard at work arranging other guest faculty for the remaining three weeks. These gifts will ensure that participants will have every opportunity to work closely with leaders in the field as well as develop their own creative potential.

Two Exciting Hampshire Fund Challenges to Increase Giving

ALUM CHALLENGE
A donor from the class of 1977 will contribute $40,000 if 1,500 alums make a gift by December 31. As of December 13, we have received 580 gifts, and need 920 more!

HAMPshire fund challenge
If a donor increases their Hampshire Fund gift by $25 or more, a Hampshire alum (’71F) will match it with $100.

THE mission of College Advancement is to build and sustain positive relationships across multiple constituencies and to engage robust philanthropic support from many different sources in order to fully realize the academic mission and potential of Hampshire College.
Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 6, LOS ANGELES, CA: Please join Alumni and Family Relations and the L.A. Hampshire community for the Southern California screening of the 2013 Alumni Reel. Following the screening, Brett Morgen 87F will speak about the path that led him from Hampshire to a career as an award-making filmmaker. 7–9:30 p.m. at The Charles Aidikoff Screening Room.

FEBRUARY 6, PHILADELPHIA, PA: Alumni Advisory Group member, Kevin Brown 79F, invites you to join him along with Mitchell Kramer 87F, Jillian Graves 89F, and fellow alums for a fun night out in Philly. Dean of the School for Interdisciplinary Arts and Associate Professor of Theatre Djola Branner will join the group and lead a discussion entitled “Race and Culture Through the Lens of Contemporary American Theater.” 6-8 p.m. at Solutions for Progress.

MARCH 28-30, ON CAMPUS: Hampshire of Color: A Celebration of Us (Re)uniting Hampshire’s Multicultural Community and Marking the Cultural Center’s 25th Anniversary. Please save the date for a weekend of reunion, celebration, and conversation. Events will include roundtables, flash sessions, exhibitions, screenings and a farewell brunch hosted by Maddie and Roberto Marquez.

Save the Date: Div IV and Reunion is June 6-8!

We hope you will save the date for Div IV 2014: Transforming Ideas, Pursuing the Humanities, which will take place June 6-8. Ken Burns 71F will be on campus Saturday, June 7 to screen “The Heart of the Matter” and do an informal Q&A. Div IV brings the Hampshire community together to explore ideas and learn from one another. For alums, it is a chance to revisit your student experience: the critical inquiry and intellectual excitement of your years of studying at Hampshire. Anniversary celebrations are for the classes of 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004.

Have you checked out our planned giving website lately?

There are many ways to give—are you familiar with them all? Check out www.legacy.vg/hampshire to learn about gifts that anyone can afford, gifts that pay you income, and gifts that protect your assets. You can also compare gift plans, utilize our will planning wizard, and make use of the personal finance calculators.

Updating your will?

Make a gift for Hampshire’s future that costs you nothing now: include a gift in your will or trust.