

Also in the works is a contract with Effat University for women in Saudi Arabia, which is interested in enhancing its student life program. In time, Herman says, MHC might be able to act as a consultant to other colleges for women starting up worldwide. (Mount Holyoke has already done similar work as a cofounder of Women's Education Worldwide; for more information, see mtholyoke.edu/proj/wew/about.html.)

Other ideas include establishing a summer writing program, upgrading the new international teaching certificate to a master's in teaching with an emphasis on teaching overseas, establishing a Confucius Institute to promote Chinese learning and language, developing a health and welfare program for horses in conjunction with the MHC Equestrian Center, and establishing a center for philosophy for children.

All ideas are welcome, Herman says, but pragmatism lies at the heart of the implementation of any new program. "Complementary program development will account for all expenditures, direct and indirect, so that the profit it generates for the college is real," he says. "Becoming a bona fide profit center will take a number of years. But if we're successful, Mount Holyoke will have a reliable profit center."
—M.H.B.



In Session

Ancient Art "Lives" Again

In the MHC Art Museum this fall, a cluster of Roman empresses seemed to murmur among themselves while satyrs and dancers cavorted on nearby vases. Around the corner, Leda transformed herself from a woman into a swan. And the Olympian gods observed all with equanimity from a wall frieze. These ancient presences are being put to work anew as the Art Museum becomes a classroom.

To help thoroughly twenty-first century students grasp what life was like in ancient times, it helps to have original artifacts in front of you. And thanks to a multi-institution collaboration, more MHC students than ever are learning directly from ancient Greek and Roman frescoes, sculptures, vase paintings, coins, and mosaics.

Mount Holyoke was chosen as the first of six colleges to receive multiyear loans of priceless artworks from Yale University, and professors are making the most of the opportunity. A Five College faculty seminar is helping faculty integrate the loaned

objects into fields as disparate as theatre, history, and politics, as well as art history and classics.

Supported by a Mellon Foundation grant, MHC received forty objects hand-picked to enhance its already strong collection of antiquities. Among the fall courses focusing on these objects was *The Female in Ancient Art*, taught by art historian Bettina Bergmann.

Rachel Davis '14, a student in Bergmann's first-year seminar, says, "Before taking this course, the closest access I ever had to ancient objects was through photos in a textbook. Going to the museum and seeing for myself is a totally different experience. I can now make my own opinions about ancient culture and art based on what I see. It makes a world of difference."

This sixth-century BCE Greek drinking cup attributed to Oltos is among the original ancient works loaned to MHC by Yale for the "Reconstructing Antiquity" project.

Students in professor Bettina Bergmann's course *The Female in Ancient Art* spend half their time looking at original artworks in the Art Museum.

Each Monday, her class meets in the museum galleries, where the old stones and clay "speak" again thanks to context provided by Bergmann. She helps students look closely and think clearly about the artworks' aesthetic qualities and history. Thus students learn that each object was once used by real people, for a specific purpose, and embodies the values of its culture.

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