

# THE GREYLOCK INDEPENDENT

BEACON OF THE NORTHERN BERKSHIRES

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## The Stroudwater Report Is Out. Now What?

By Phyllis McGuire

The waiting and worrying continue for residents of North Berkshire County who relied on North Adams Regional Hospital for health care.

The abrupt closing of the hospital, on March 28, left an entire region without a hospital or emergency care, and 500 people without jobs.

Now six months later, though some of the jobs and services have been restored, SAVE OUR HOSPITAL signs are still displayed on front lawns in North Adams and surrounding areas.

When Berkshire Medical Center, based in Pittsfield, opened an emergency satellite facility in the former North Adams Regional Hospital (NARH), it was much appreciated. For one thing, emergency patients no longer had to endure the additional stress of fearing that the longer ride by ambulance to Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield or Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington would diminish their chances of survival or recovery.

In the wake of the shuttering of the full service 100-bed NARH, the Massachusetts Department of Health commissioned Stroudwater Associates, a leading health care consulting firm, to study health delivery in the Northern Berkshires.



*The Doctor's Building and the Ambulatory Care Center are once again busy places, but the main hospital building still has unused space*

The ultimate goal, according to state officials, was to create a health care center that would be financially sustainable and could avoid the fate that NARH had suffered.

"The Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Rural Health, in May asked us to provide *continued on page 2*

## TriDistrict Has Its Hands Full

By Alex Brooks

The bureaucratically complicated group of schools serving Williamstown and Lanesborough is currently juggling three major projects which will have a big impact on their future. These are the feasibility study on renovating or replacing the Mt. Greylock School District's building, the search for a Superintendent of the three schools to replace Rose Ellis, who is retiring in December, and a vote on uniting the three schools into one regional school district (usually referred to as "regionalization.").

Currently on the front burner is the Superintendent search, which went into high gear in mid-August after Rose Ellis announced that she would be retiring as of Dec 31. Previous to that announcement, she had been expected to step down in June of 2015 when her contract expired. A superintendent search committee has been constituted and began meeting by the end of September. The deadline for applicants has recently passed, and The committee will be meeting to review the applications this week. They expect to narrow it down and do interviews and school visits in November, and make a choice in early December. The choice must be approved by both the Mt. Greylock School Committee and the School committee of

Superintendency Union 71 (known as SU71), which oversees the Lanesborough Elementary School and the Williamstown Elementary School.

Here the Superintendent search intersects with regionalization issues. Until 2008, the two elementary schools and the Mt Greylock Regional High School were separate districts, each with its own school committee and Superintendent. There are still three different school committees, but now all three schools are united by a Tri-District administration which includes a Superintendent, a Business Office, and a Pupil Personnel Services Department.

The change began with the formation in 2008 of Superintendency Union 71, which united the two elementary schools under a single superintendent, and took the next step in 2010, when a Shared Services Agreement between SU71 and Mt Greylock Regional School District created the Tri-District. Since then the three schools have been exploring the possibility of uniting to become one school district with just one school committee and one budget.

About two years ago the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) awarded a \$50,000 grant to study in detail the implications *continued on page 3*

## The Hospital's Future...

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a third party assessment of the health care market of the Northern Berkshires," Brian Haalap, director of Stroudwater Associates, said in a telephone interview, speaking from Stroudwater headquarters in Maine.

"We held the first community meeting in July, at the American Legion in North Adams. Over 100 people participated in these meetings. The second part of our study was to look at health care data bases and see how much care was used by the community and how utilization might change in the future."

Advocates of reviving North Adams Regional Hospital were encouraged in August when Berkshire Health Systems, owners of Berkshire Medical Center, closed on a bid of \$4 million for the assets of the defunct Northern Berkshire Healthcare, owners of North Adams Regional Hospital.

Michael Leary, Director of Media Relations, Berkshire Health Systems, responded by email to The Greylock Independent's inquiry regarding plans for the former North Adams Hospital. He said they will be guided by the Stroudwater Report, "which will be part of Berkshire Medical Center's decision-making process as we move forward with the future use of the former NARH property through the establishment or restoration of services that are financially sustainable over the long term."

"At this point we have restored around-the-clock emergency services through the Satellite Emergency Facility, as well as VNA (Visiting Nurse Association) and Hospice care through the Berkshire VNA Hospice, and have assumed responsibility for Northern Berkshire Family Medicine and Northern Berkshire OB/GYN (obstetric/gynecological) practices."

Recently, at what is now known as Northern Berkshire Campus of Berkshire Medical Center, outpatient imaging services were restored and the availability of MRI scanning was expanded from three days per week to four days per week, Mondays through Thursdays.

"We are continuing to seek federal licensure for restoration of mammography testing, which we expect to achieve in the fall," Leary said.

The Stroudwater report was released Sept. 18 and posted on the Department of Health and Human Services Executive Office web site : [mass.gov/cohhs/](http://mass.gov/cohhs/)

The following week, Stroudwater held two public meetings in North Adams to present findings and give people an opportunity to ask questions. The meetings were held at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts with approximately 200 people in attendance.

Most attendees were sorely disappointed that the report did not recommend reopening the former North Adams Regional Hospital as a full-service facility. It proposed the possibility of a limited service facility with 12 - 18 beds, but only if it were designated as a critical access hospital. Without that federal designation, which increases Federal reimbursement rates, the cost of running such a small hospital would be prohibitive, the report noted.

Erwin Stuebner, who served as North Adam Regional Hos-

pital chair of medicine for over 20 years until his retirement from practice in 2007 and served on the board of trustees until 2012, said in a telephone interview that an attempt to attain critical access hospital status about 4 years ago had been unsuccessful. "Critical access designation would be wonderful but I am pessimistic that it can be attained, as it is a federal program administered by CMS and the qualifications have been tightened considerably. Even if we were to receive encouragement, the process is a long one, measured in years rather than months."

The long-time physician, currently the medical director of Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice, was "pleased that BHS was considering a day surgical unit as that would be a very important service to provide." In addition, Stuebner suggests other uses of the former North Adams Regional Hospital : Wellness Center, Rehabilitation Center, disease management programs, community programs for obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular health. These kinds of services were strongly endorsed by the Stroudwater report.

In the meetings at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Haalap spoke of the need for additional doctors in the Northern Berkshires, and the Stroudwater Report urged strong efforts to bring more primary care doctors to the area.

"One of the recommendations in the report is that the Department of Public Health should work with federal officials to get Health Professional Shortage Area designation for North County," said Alex Loftus, Communications Director of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, in a telephone interview. "While the region has a limited designation, we will be exploring any options to get an expanded designation. This would give docs more incentive to practice in the region and hopefully lead to better access and outcomes, when taken together with other collaborative efforts." Such incentives could include subsidies and student loan forgiveness.

In the meanwhile, Berkshire Health Systems owns a rather large campus of buildings with quite a lot of unused space. One positive recent development is an agreement to bring McCann Technical School's licensed practical nursing program back to the hospital campus. When the hospital closed abruptly in late March, McCann was suddenly unable to use the space in the Doctors Building it had been occupying since 2005. Although LPN students at that time were able to advance in the LPN program, the future of the program was in doubt.

"They were at a point in the curriculum where they did not need to use the lab, etc. at NARH. They were doing hands-on work at nursing homes, etc. and classroom studies," explained Pat Durkee, assistant to James Brosnan, Superintendent of Northern Berkshire Vocational /Technical Regional School District.

Over the summer, McCann looked into building an addition to its own building to house the program, but that proved too costly and the program continued to be in jeopardy for lack of suitable space with labs, etc. to house it. But the school has recently come to an agreement with Berkshire Health Systems to bring the program back to the Doctors Building.

In January, the program will be relocated from the school

## Tri-District Faces Challenges...

*continued from page 1*

of uniting the schools into one district. Throughout the spring of 2013 the committee held public meetings to gather input from the public, and consultants studied in detail how the transition would work, and a final report was released in June 2013. It's about 100 pages, and is available on the school website at [wlschools.org](http://wlschools.org).

The Mt. Greylock School Committee voted unanimously to continue to investigate regionalization, and seemed to be aimed at putting it before the town meetings in Lanesborough and Williamstown in May and June of 2014, until the Massachusetts School Building Authority accepted Mt Greylock into the pipeline for building aid, and the District focused on getting the Building Feasibility Study approved at the 2014 Town Meetings.

Now that that study is approved and in process, the school committee is returning to the idea of putting regionalization up for a vote at the 2015 Town Meetings in Lanesborough and Williamstown, so the argument about whether that is a good idea or not is beginning again.

There are a number of rather obvious benefits to uniting the three schools. Three school boards would become one, nearly a dozen collective bargaining units would become just a few, 300 reports required by the State would become a third as many. Sharing of staff and facilities between the schools would be easier, as would continuing progress with curriculum alignment and professional development programs, and central purchasing might save the schools some money. In addition, the State would provide additional transportation aid when the two elementary schools are part of a regional district, and Mt Greylock would get additional "reimbursement points" from MSBA on their building project, which would bring additional state dollars in building aid.

But many are concerned about a loss of local control over their elementary schools, and in particular control over the budgets of those elementary schools. Mt Greylock School



*Voters may soon be asked if Williamstown Elementary School is better off as its own one-school District, or as part of a three-school District with Lanesborough Elementary and Mt Greylock*

Committee member David Langston has been publicly stating his opposition to regionalization in the past month or two. At the August school committee meeting he said his experience has been that putting together the Mt. Greylock budget leads almost every year to "some kind of tussle" because Lanesborough's ability or willingness to support the level of funding that Williamstown will support has been an issue. Langston said he thought there have been "too many compromises," and that this problem is "a barrier to quality education." He doesn't want this continuing issue to bedevil the elementary schools as it has the middle and high school. Langston came to the Williamstown Elementary School committee's September meeting and made a similar argument there.

Lanesborough Elementary School Committee member Bob Barton has also been critical of regionalization. He said at the August Mt. Greylock School Committee meeting that he is worried about "the political mess that the [MGRHS] budget creates each year." Regionalization would bring "that awkward dance" to the elementary school budgets as well. "I don't like the idea that we're going to end up in a permanent tug of war," said Barton.

Another element of regionalization described in the June 2013 report may partially offset the problem described by Langston and Barton. Consultants hired to analyze the financial consequences of regionalization found that after the three schools join together into one district, Williamstown would pay more than they do now, and Lanesborough would pay less than they are now paying. The consultants cautioned that their numbers came from a simulation with a lot of moving parts, and the final numbers may turn out to be different, but their simulation found that Williamstown may pay as much as \$345,000 more annually, and Lanesborough may save \$300,000 to \$350,000 annually.

Many more facts and arguments remain to be elucidated on the subject of regionalization, but once a new Superintendent has been chosen, this will be the next question up for decision.

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## Hospital...continued

to space in the Doctors Building (first opened in 1970) on the Northern Berkshire Campus of Berkshire Medical Center.

Many important and difficult decisions remain to be made about the future of the largest building on the North Berkshire campus: the former hospital. Doctor Stuebner is among those who trust BHS to do what is best for the area's health care infrastructure. "BHS will take the lead in planning for the best possible solutions to our health care needs," he said. "Fortunately, we have many resources in our communities that can assist in that process. For example, current and past medical providers, the mayor (of North Adams) and leaders of our other municipalities, the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, some of our larger businesses and institutions, and a number of folk who have been involved in the medical system for a long time and have dedicated their professional lives to making certain that our community is well served."

## *Town and Gown Collaboration - MCLA President Mary Grant talks about the role of the public liberal arts college in regional development*

By Tela Zasloff

In Ancient Greece, the “liberal arts” consisted of the subjects considered crucial for becoming a free and active citizen of public life—skills in language and public debate (grammar, rhetoric and logic) and knowledge of science (arithmetic, geometry, music theory, and astronomy). Mary Grant, President of Massachusetts College of the Liberal Arts (MCLA) in North Adams, believes that these arts of a free mind are still the center of a well- rounded education that best bonds its students and their communities in a common enterprise of development. And during her 13 years as college president, she has been one of the primary movers and shakers in promoting that common enterprise in this area.

Grant’s list of accomplishments is long, including local and regional organizations she has headed, but the enterprise most relevant



Mary Grant

to the subject of this article is her role as President of the Board of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC). Its mission is “to advance the aims of liberal learning in a global society”; its members include 28 colleges and universities in 26 states and one Canadian province. In sync with the mission of COPLAC, President Grant has brought MCLA into the ranks of the Top Ten Public Liberal Arts Colleges in the country, according to a US News and World Report survey. A second relevant and more local organization, founded by Grant, is the Berkshire Compact for Education, a countywide initiative that serves as a model for regional collaboration, operating under the premise that everyone, regardless of personal circumstances, should have the opportunity to achieve higher education.

When asked how a public liberal arts education can develop a community, Grant, taking job needs in a community as one example, quotes research showing that it is the hallmarks of a liberal education that are in most demand from employers of college graduates, including not only depth of knowledge in their academic major and their acquisition of analytical, problem-solving and communication skills, but also that applicants’ experience include internships or other community-based field work that connect classroom learning with practical applications. She adds that, if we agree that learning these skills is valuable to the development of our whole social fabric, then we have to insure that such an education is available to everyone—which is where the word “public” becomes of prime importance in describing a college or university. Grant describes her dedication to public higher education this way: “Affordability remains a serious concern for students, families, and for college and university faculty and administrators. The prospect of doubling federal loan rates is a significant concern, and even more troubling is the amount of private loan debt many students incur. This is where the value proposition of public

higher education offers great promise and a great return on investment.” While private institutions also care about access and offer aid, the cost of public higher education runs about 70% below private institution costs, and for New England, it’s almost 80 percent lower.

How does Grant assess the accomplishments of MCLA so far, as a public liberal arts college that is taking part in developing its surrounding community? On the question of MCLA’s initiatives in one year alone, she lists the following activities from faculty and students: “Traveled to Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates to study women’s issues in the Middle East; provided relief efforts to tornado victims in Kentucky as part of a service learning course; planned, curated, installed, and promoted an original art exhibition in a working gallery in North Adams; supported the work of the many partners in the Berkshire Com-

pact for Education to introduce new opportunities throughout the region; researched and published as part of a national neutrino scattering experiment based at Fermi Lab; received an award for outstanding undergraduate research at a meeting of the American Physical Society; and organized a local student-initiated business venture competition.” The initiatives in the arts for downtown North Adams, including MCLA’s Gallery 51 and Downstreet Art festivals, have brought more foot traffic to the town, including from visitors to MassMoCA who are now encouraged to explore the other regional historical and commercial attractions now offered by recent new developments in town, through partnerships among MCLA, MassMoCA, town officials, and local businesses.

These community initiatives, Grant explains, began with the business community in North Adams, who saw it in their interest to partner with the energized art, MassMoCA and MCLA academic communities to redevelop their region with a new identity. This would not have happened without the participation of the whole region, something Grant realized was possible early in her professional career when she was a community organizer and studied social policy, public affairs and sociology.

As she leaves MCLA in January for her new appointment as President of another public liberal arts institution, the Asheville campus of The University of North Carolina, Grant hopes that MCLA will continue to attract more students and continue to be available as a quality liberal arts education for anyone who wants to pursue it. She also hopes that MCLA will maintain the characteristics that have given it such a strong foundation as an institution—the small scale and close faculty-student ratio, the academic quality available to a large sector of the population, its reputation as being a crucial contributor to the development of the region, and the refreshing beauty of the surrounding Berkshire mountains.

## ABOUT JIM BURNS *by Susan Dunn*

Jim's wonderful research assistant Milt Djuric, Williams class of 1980, just handed me this article that he found in the NY Times archives.

The headline is **WILL BUY VIENNA BOOKS** and the date is: April 25, 1938, Williamstown, Mass.

In a protest against the seizure of all "non-Aryan" books in the Vienna National Library for burning, a small group of Williams College students sent a cablegram to the chief librarian of the famous library today offering to purchase all these books. Basing their action on the "liberal traditions" of Williams, the students asked for an answer. Among those who contributed to the fund were James M. Burns, editor of the college newspaper and Woodrow Sayre, grandson of Woodrow Wilson.

In 1973 or 1974, at one of the first faculty meetings I attended as a young assistant professor, the discussion was about whether the college should sell the lovely Mount Hope property. I remember that a tall, well-spoken professor stood up and said that he hoped that the college would not sell this extraordinary property -- and that in fact, he had recently escorted Lady Bird Johnson up there; and he mentioned how impressed she had been. I was sitting next to my friend Jay Pasachoff and I asked Jay, "Who is that?" And he said, "That's James MacGregor Burns."

Two decades later, Jim and I became a couple. We were too old to have children, so instead we wrote books together, op-eds and articles. We did research in the FDR Library in Hyde Park, we vacationed in Honolulu, Paris, Florence, and London, and we had small dinner parties, that were like seminars -- with Jim the master of the lively political discussion.

There were some stories that Jim loved to tell -- and now I have inherited them. And I'm going to tell you two of his favorites.

Jim graduated from Williams in 1939. During the next year, 1939-1940, he worked as an intern for a congressman in Washington and lived in a town house near the White House with some fellow interns.

In June 1940 Eleanor Roosevelt invited all the interns to dinner at the White House. But -- now here's a history question for you-- what happened in June 1940? Well, France fell to the Nazi planes and tanks and the country surrendered to Hitler.

Jim liked to say that he was very upset - not that France fell to the Nazis -- but that Eleanor Roosevelt might cancel the dinner!! But she didn't cancel it -- and the dinner went on. The evening of the famous dinner, Jim and his friend Arista left their house and started their walk to the White House, but Arista suddenly hailed a cab. And Jim said, "Arista, what are you doing? We're only three blocks from the White House and a cab is 25 cents and a nickel tip!" And Arista said, "No matter, Jim, all my life I've wanted to hail a cab and say "The White House, please!"

The Second Story is what Jim's beloved student Michael Beschloss calls "Jim's Short Career in the Senate."

In 1958 Jim ran for Congress from Berkshire County -- and since JFK was also running for his second term in the Senate, Jim and JFK often campaigned together and they became friends. Jim lost the election to Silvio Conte (who would serve in Congress until 1991) but JFK of course won -- and that

meant that his Senate seat was open!! The governor, a Democrat named Foster Furcolo, would appoint someone to the seat, but everyone knew that the governor would choose the person whom JFK wanted.

So when JFK was President Elect, Jim decided to go down to Washington to let JFK know that he had fought the good fight for the Democrats in 1958 and that now he was interested in that Senate seat -- and Jim underscored that he didn't want JFK to say to him later, "Oh Jim, I didn't know that you were interested in that seat!"

So in November 1960 Jim flew down to DC, knocked at the door of JFK's Georgetown house. Jim was surprised that there was no evidence of Secret Service men ; JFK came to the door himself, greeted Jim and took him upstairs to what Jim described as a little sewing room. They chatted -- and then Jim came to the point. He said that he was very interested in the Senate seat. "But I know," Jim said, "that I am probably Number 93 or 94 on your list." JFK interrupted him. "Oh no Jim," JFK said, "You're not 93 on my list! I would say that you are number 2 or number 3 on my list!" Their meeting was over, they went downstairs and said good-bye. Back on the sidewalk, Jim was elated at his promotion from 93 to number 2 or 3 on the list -- but then he realized that even that promotion to number 2 or 3 wasn't good enough. You had to be Number 1. And that was Jim's short career in the Senate.

In case you're curious, JFK picked for the seat his former college friend Benjamin Smith, the mayor of Gloucester, Massachusetts, because he could count on him to give up the seat in 1962 for none other than Teddy Kennedy. And JFK apparently wasn't sure that Jim Burns would do the same.

A few years ago, David Shipley, Williams class of 1985 and then the op-ed page editor of the New York Times asked Jim to write a short piece on advice for first-year students, and I thought I'd close by reading what Jim wrote:

"Try to read a good newspaper every day -- (actually Jim had written "read the New York Times every day, but David changed it to "a good newspaper") at bedtime or at breakfast or when you take a break in the afternoon. If you are interested in art, literature or music, widen your horizons by poring over the science section. In the mood for spicy scandals? Read the business pages. Want to impress your poli sci prof? Read columnists.

The newspaper will be your path to the world at large. At Williams College, where I was a student in the 1930s, we read the alarming reports in The Times about Germany's brutal onslaught against peaceful nations. In the spring of 1938, we burned Hitler in effigy -- and made Page 11 of The Times! In June 1940, as France fell to Nazi troops, hundreds of graduating seniors urged compulsory military training, and provided another Williams story to the paper.

In addition, a great newspaper will teach you how to write: most articles are models of clarity and substance -- with no academic jargon! Pay attention to the writer's vocabulary, see how many active verbs are used, file away striking new words for future use. Study how articles are structured -- how the first two paragraphs tell the reader simply and clearly the subject

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# INDEPENDENT *Perspectives*

## Editorial

By Alex Brooks

An article in last week's New Yorker (dated Oct. 6) tells the story of a young man named Kalief Browder who was arrested in the Bronx, a few days before he turned 17, for robbery, for allegedly taking someone's backpack. He was put in the notoriously violent juvenile detention center at Riker's Island, and held there for over three years without getting a trial. The prosecutor said over and over again that he needed another week to prepare for a trial, and each time the court docket was so crowded that the next available hearing date was six weeks or so later. One is supposed to have a right to a prompt trial - courts have defined this as within six months. But each time the prosecutor asked for another week to prepare his case, and Browder spent another six weeks in a violent prison environment, it counted for just one week toward the government's six-month deadline. Browder spent a significant part of the time that he was incarcerated in solitary confinement because he got into fights with other inmates. He never got any kind of hearing on the charges against him, and no evidence was ever produced to show that he did the robbery of which he was accused. He finally was released when the prosecutor said the man who accused him of the robbery had left the country.

You readers all know by this point in the story that Mr Browder is black, even though I haven't said so, because you know that white teenagers are not treated this way. With many of the most significant events of the civil rights movement coming up for their fifty year anniversaries, it is sobering to be confronted with the continuing presence of racism in America. But the reason this story haunts me goes well beyond race. In a nation dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, that guarantees liberty and justice for all, and is supposed to be an example for all the world to see of a government based on the rule of law, and of the principle that all men are treated equally under the law, this story exposes the broken promises we have made to ourselves.

Most of us will look at this story through our habitual ideological lenses. Some will point to government inefficiency, although anti-tax, anti-government attitudes have contributed to the underfunded court system that failed Mr. Browder. Some will talk about institutional racism among the cops and the courts, although there are many people of good will working hard on the police force and in the court system to make it work the way it should. Some will blame family breakdown for the overloaded justice system, and some will blame capitalism. Though there is some truth in all of these ideas, they all ring a bit hollow in the face of this young man's senseless suffering. Making this story into more fodder for an endless partisan debate while nothing of substance is done to rectify the problem is deeply unsatisfying. There are no easy answers here. I urge us all to come out of our ideological bunkers and work together in a practical way to close the gap between our ideals and our reality.

## Letters To The Editor

### The Price of Electricity

Dear Editor,

I am concerned about the 37% price increase of electricity in particular in the Northern Berkshires as per the Boston Globe (see most recent article published today 10/11/14 and local news). The town of Williamstown has also announced the signing of a new contract (cf. the town hall site.)

It would be helpful to get a better picture of the energy crisis in Massachusetts. Is it particular to Massachusetts? How does it compare to other states? Is it connected to the closing of several plants in Vermont (nuclear) and around (coal)? Moreover, is it related in some way to the plan to add a gas pipeline therefore adding pressure on the opposition in Massachusetts to such a project on environmental and economic grounds (see the Sierra Club recent article in their newsletter comparing coal vs. gas impact on the environment).

The social and economic impacts might be quite painful for many. A clearer analysis might help find a way to get into action with our local and state governments. Certainly some households will need help to bear the cost this winter in particular.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Françoise Connors  
Bee Hill Road, Williamstown

*The issues you raise do indeed all play into the price of electricity, in complicated ways. Regional, national and global developments can rather suddenly land here on our doorstep in the form of electric bill spikes. The Greylock Independent will seek to learn more about these forces and how we as citizens can address them. -Ed.*

## Falk Hails Collaborative Process

To the Editor:

I'm impressed by the dedication and focus of all those who, as recently reported, are working to adapt our local health care system to the new realities.

Among those involved are the State's Office of the Governor and Office of Health and Human Services, our elected officials, Berkshire Health Systems, the ambulance services, and health care unions.

I'm grateful for the considerable progress made in recent months and believe that it bodes well for the further cooperative development of a system that meets the needs of all in our community, especially those who face the most challenges.

Sincerely,  
Adam Falk  
President  
Williams College

## Town and Gown - Voices from the Town on an 800-year-old issue

By Tela Zasloff

Williams College recently made public a report—the Southwest Campus Sector Plan (SWCSP)—of a Working Group charged by President Falk two years ago to develop a master plan for the southwest section of the campus. [<http://campus-life.williams.edu/letters-and-reports/southwest-sector-plan>] This places Williamstown and Williams College squarely in the long history of the town/gown issue that university towns have been facing since the foundation of medieval universities in the 12th century. Of course, we no longer face some of the problems of those early years—like university members' exemption from civil law, the language barrier between the Latin of medieval higher education and the local town dialect, violent eruptions between town and gown, and the independent protection afforded to universities by the clergy.

By the mid-fifteenth century, the European monarchies had gained control over and regulated the universities, and in the modern age relations between town and gown have evolved mostly into mutual support and dependence, although full of ambivalence. While universities in crisis have sometimes been rescued by the dynamics of their surrounding towns, urban development has also threatened the university's existence. And while universities have provided a source of cultural pride to a town, they have, in other instances, withdrawn their responsibilities to the town and undermined its culture and nature.

So Williams College, in putting out this recent SWCSP, should recognize the need to inform its neighbors of their plans and seek their input on such potential problems as traffic and parking, problems during the construction period, and the potential for driving up the cost of space in that area, displacing those local residents and businesses who can't afford to pay.

Surprisingly, the SWCSP includes no consideration of these questions. The Vice president for Campus Life, Steve Klass, summarizes the intent of the 11-member Working Group, composed of faculty, students, deans and vice presidents, as proposing scenarios "in support of the academic mission of the college", that focus on "mid-to-long term campus planning opportunities and options," with the added focus "primarily on the adaptation of existing buildings rather than the assumption of a lot of new construction." The southwest campus sector they are looking at, is bounded by Main Street on the north, Spring Street on the east, Walden Street on the south, and South Street on the west. These boundaries encompass 11 buildings being considered for redevelopment to answer the college's space needs for academic offices, classrooms, administrative facilities, and student and faculty housing. Two addi-

tional buildings being considered by a related planning study are the Science Center Complex for academic offices, classrooms and labs, and Miller, for academic offices.

These plans cover or border on streets where town residents and businesses own property—Hoxsey, Spring, Walden, and Latham—and already there have been public information problems because of Williams' late revelations of its development plans. In response to Williams' intention to demolish two historic Stetson Court houses to build a 40-60 bed dormitory—the Harper and Mather houses—developer Vincent Guntlow, of Guntlow & Associates, offered to purchase and relocate the Mather House to 63 North Street at the corner of Lee Terrace, as a partial business site, for which the property had been recently re-zoned. At a September 22 Zoning Board hearing, a number of residents of Lee Terrace protested that such commercial development would threaten the quality of their residential neighborhood, create more storm water run-off issues than they already have, increase traffic hazards turning down Lee Terrace, and decrease their property values. At a Zoning Board meeting three days later, the Zoning Board granted Guntlow's request to relocate the Mather house and he proposed to make some relocation modifications to respond to Lee Terrace residents' objections. The residents continued to protest that they should have been informed of this proposed move long before it was finally announced.

Sale and movement of the Harper House may still be pursued by the college but there's no word of a potential buyer/mover. The only public announcement Williams College made of its intended demolition of the Harper House was a college staff member telling the Town Historical Commission in August that the college had sent out one "internal memo" on both Stetson Court houses but found a buyer only for the Mather House.

Another imminent problem between the college and the town is Williams' proposed rebuilding of the large science quad, which would disrupt residents of Hoxsey Street for years to come. Why isn't the college opening a dialogue with Town residents living in the area of college rebuilding? Citizens, who pay taxes and own property and raise families in town, have to participate and have a say in their own future, especially when it involves the powerhouse that Williams College has become. One long-time resident of Williamstown put it this way:

"When I was growing up, Williams College didn't seem that dominant back then, didn't seem like a corporate entity. The scale itself is so big now. It used to be a community—the town and the college—you lived and played together, security was only two vehicles, our summer jobs were at B&G, it was quiet and private, we all went to the theater. . . .What's been consistent in my lifetime is that Williams College, as it gets larger and is praised nationally, has turned inward, focused on its reputation and public face. We in the town have always been proud of the college. But now there's no room for that community feeling. Why can't the college share their plans with us from the beginning? This is our home, we have a stake in this and we may have some ideas that the college may not have considered. We need to have a reasonable, permanent dialogue and be respectful and be heard. That would be the ideal."

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### THE GREYLOCK INDEPENDENT

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## Clark Art Institute Receives Grant To Digitize Rare Book Collection

The Clark Art Institute has been awarded a \$118,737 Museums for America grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to digitize significant volumes from the Julius S. Held Collection of Rare Books in the Clark library. These materials will be made available through the library's digital collections interface; the Internet Archive; the Getty Research Portal; the Massachusetts Digital Commonwealth; and the Digital Public Library of America.

Museums for America grants help museums address their key needs or challenges, enabling them to provide better service to their communities. The Clark will digitize 185 of the collection's 283 volumes and enhance cataloging and metadata for the more than 107,000 images in the collection, including a significant number of rare titles and unique volumes dating from the sixteenth century through the nineteenth century. The project fulfills the museum's goal of collections stewardship by allowing access to these exceedingly rare volumes, ensuring their physical preservation while facilitating access and knowledge.

"We are delighted to be able to digitize and share this important scholarly collection, including Dr. Held's annotations, to the broadest possible community," said Clark Librarian Susan Roeper. "At the same time, we are able to provide for the preservation of the both the physical volumes and the digitized files."

Art historian Julius S. Held (1905-2002) was renowned internationally as a distinguished scholar of Rubens and Rembrandt. Educated in Europe, Dr. Held joined the faculty of Columbia University in 1937 and gained international recognition through his writing and frequent calls for his consultation and authentication of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish art.

The Julius S. Held Collection of Rare Books encompasses imprints from the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Many of the extraordinary volumes in this collection include illustrations by artists such as Peter Paul Rubens, Albrecht Dürer, and Anthony van Dyck. The broad scope of these books include works by Virgil and Ovid, versions of Aesop's fables, and titles on art and art theory, astronomy, religion, natural history, travel, and anatomy in a range of languages. The collection also includes important art histories and early treatises on iconology and emblems. Of note are the approximately 80 books that form the working core of Dr. Held's scholarly collection. These texts hold Dr. Held's manuscript annotations and commentary concerning provenance and identification of illustrations present in the texts and appear on the inside of covers, as marginalia, and as end notes on fly leaves.

IMLS received 554 applications for the highly competitive Museums for America grant. Of these, slightly more than one third (196 projects) received funding.

"Millions of Americans visit museums each year," said IMLS Director Susan H. Hildreth. "These federal investments will ultimately help museums deliver enhanced learning experiences, improve collections care, and address community needs."

## New Orleans Legends: Allen Toussaint and Preservation Hall Jazz Band Thursday, October 23, 8 pm at Mass MoCA



As both a brilliant pianist and as the city's premier composer, arranger, and producer, Allen Toussaint is New Orleans' musical foundation, having worked with a who's who of Big Easy musicians including Dr. John and the Neville Brothers — as well as other luminaries such as Paul McCartney, the Band, and Albert King. The Preservation Hall Jazz Band has been a musical treasure chest of traditional New Orleans sounds for half a century.

Advance: \$28 mezzanine / \$34 orchestra / \$70 preferred  
Day of: \$36 mezzanine / \$42 orchestra

## About Jim Burns...continued from page 5

and main points. Take a look at the last paragraph; it will often show you how to conclude an essay with a pithy phrase or a telling quotation.

A great newspaper will help you in the classroom — and it will be your conduit to the real world outside the classroom. Become addicted.

Another way to stay connected with the real world: get to know your teachers outside of class. Chat and engage with them, perhaps on the walk away from class. Ask them not only about the coursework but also about their own intellectual interests and research. Equally important to maintaining that lifeline to the universe beyond college is getting to know the janitors and housekeepers in your dorm, the security staff on the campus, the people who work in the cafeteria. Talk to them, ask them questions and thank them."

That brief article mirrors who Jim was: a brilliant writer with a phenomenal vocabulary and style; always active and deeply engaged in the world; always considerate, interested in and respectful to other people. When I went to Jim for advice, which I often did, that advice was precious: it was always wise, kind, generous, and inclusive. I had the best twenty-two years of my life with Jim —and I still like to walk up to Mount Hope and think of his walk there with Lady Bird Johnson and our many walks up there together on lovely fall days like this.