This spring, LIS will pilot three Learning Management Systems (LMS), one of which will replace Segue. In this roundtable discussion, faculty participating in the pilot will share their experiences and, more importantly, their pedagogical approaches to using an LMS. Does an LMS system change the way faculty conceptualize a syllabus? Can the organizational features that these systems provide be used to help cover more topics, or perhaps the same topics in greater depth? Would online grading and making grades available to students during the semester promote an even more grade-centric attitude among students? Please join the discussion; bring your own questions and experiences.

Race and Nature Writing
A Lecture and Discussion
John Elder
Friday, January 14 • 12:30–2:00 p.m. • Lunch provided at noon
Hillcrest 103 (Orchard Room)

The subjects of race and environmental justice have become increasingly central to environmental studies in general and the literature of nature in particular. To complement the Thoreauvian tradition of nature writing, John Elder has used texts by American writers of color and the haiku of Basho. During his presentation, Professor Elder will offer a personal account of this experience, and will also read selections from his current project. He will describe how his perception of the Vermont landscape has been transformed by learning more about Vermont's Abenaki heritage and about a community of African-American farmers in the town of Hinesburg. There will be ample opportunity after his presentation to discuss other ways that faculty members integrate issues of race and cultural diversity into their classes.

Situating Sustainability in the Curriculum:
A Multi-Disciplinary Perspective
A Roundtable Discussion
Rebecca Gould, Hector Vila, Jack Byrne, Steve Trombulak, Dan Brayton, Sandra Carletti
Thursday, January 20 • 1–2:30 p.m. • Lunch provided at 12:30
Hillcrest 103 (Orchard Room)

What are the “big ideas” surrounding the concept of sustainability? What is the place of sustainability in the liberal arts curriculum? In this roundtable discussion, faculty who have designed or revised a course to integrate sustainability topics into their teaching will share their firsthand experiences. Participants will also present an overview of a two-year collaborative project between Middlebury College and Furman University which provided professional development workshops for faculty, especially those not teaching environmentally related topics. If you have been considering how sustainability relates to your discipline, or your students have asked, this roundtable will offer you a useful set of perspectives from across the curriculum.

Meditation for Academic Excellence and Beyond
An Interactive Talk with Arthur Zajonc
Thursday, February 10 • 4:30–6 pm
McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216

Arthur Zajonc is professor of physics at Amherst College, author of the book Catching the Light, co-author of The Quantum Challenge, and co-editor of Goethe’s Way of Science. He serves as scientific coordinator for the Mind and Life dialogue with H.H. the Dalai Lama and directs the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society which supports appropriate inclusion of contemplative practice in higher education.

Contemplative Pedagogy Seminar
A Workshop for Faculty and Staff led by Arthur Zajonc
Friday, February 11 • 1–4 p.m. • Lunch provided at 12:30
Axinn 229

Research shows that secular contemplative practices such as silent focus on an image, concept or the breath can help the brain process information, sustain inquiry into contradictions and promote well-being. In this seminar, Arthur Zajonc will present research on the effects of mindfulness techniques, describe how faculty across the disciplines have incorporated such techniques into their classes, and lead participants in contemplative practice.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research and the Faculty-Staff Meditation Group; funded by an Alfred E. Sloan Work/Life Balance mini-grant through the Office of Faculty Development