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## Artist Appreciates Her Many Connections

If you live in the Pioneer Valley and frequent art galleries or craft shows, you've likely run across Pat Hayes or her artwork somewhere along the way. Pat is a silk artist with her own business, P. Hayes Designs in Northampton. She creates hand-dyed silk scarves displayed in the Don Muller Gallery, also in Northampton, and has shown her work at many fine craft shows in New England, including the Paradise City Arts Festival. Pat also teaches at Snow Farm in Williamsburg, where teens and adults learn from master craftspeople.

A resident of Holyoke, Pat grew up in Springfield and attended UMass Amherst, largely because of its affordability. "Once I got there I discovered how many bright and talented people were there who had made the same choice based on costs," she says. Pat graduated cum laude from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1975 with a degree in graphic communication. "I chose to stay in the area after graduation," she says. "Not only is my family here, but this is such an incredibly vibrant area for the arts!" Pat went on to get her master's degree in art therapy from Springfield College.

In addition to her other work, Pat facilitates an art therapy program for breast cancer survivors called Art From The Heart. The workshop series, now in its tenth year, is funded by a grant from the Rays of Hope, A Walk Towards A Cure Of Breast Cancer, which is part of Baystate Health Systems. "I am most proud of my work with the Rays of Hope. I get to share my love of hand-crafted artwork by teaching breast cancer survivors new skills to help them in their recovery," says Pat. "They are the best and most interesting people who are willing to grow and try new things after a very difficult diagnosis. As they make art, they transform their lives."

Because UMass is so large, Pat says she learned early-on to make her own opportunities through contacts and networking, and put that same type of initiative to work when she wrote her first Rays of Hope grant for her master's thesis project. "I have learned to use the vast network that is out there to make a successful program and a successful life," she says.

Pat has maintained her connection to the university through her career: she participated in the Student Union craft show, and was invited to be a guest artist a few years ago. "UMass Amherst grads are everywhere!" she says. "I am always meeting parents and prospective students at the gallery, and a lot of my workshop participants over the years have attended the university."

*Prepared by the UMass Amherst Alumni Association. For more information go to [UMassAlumni.com](http://UMassAlumni.com).*