



JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE
President's Report
 to the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees

OCTOBER 29, 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2009-2010 academic year is off to a terrific start at Johnson State. We hit the ground running with new student orientation in August and have been going full throttle since. It is shaping up to be a very good year indeed.

Our official snapshot on October 15 indicates that the hard work of JSC faculty and staff over the past year to attract, engage and retain our students has paid off. We are happy to report our highest number of enrolled students –at least since we started recording—of 1964 students. Because we have a number of EDP students enrolled in CCV courses-only this semester, we actually have 2000 students enrolled in a JSC degree program. We are particularly pleased to see significant progress in our first to second year retention, having made a 5 percent increase (68.2%, up from 63% in 2008)

Another indication of our growth not only in student numbers but of their engagement on campus is the fact that participation in our award-winning SERVE program of volunteerism and community service is at the highest level in years.

We are thrilled to be hosting Fulbright Scholar Zaharom (“Rom”) Nain of Malaysia for five weeks, from Oct. 12 to Nov. 13. Rom comes to JSC



Fulbright Scholar Zaharom ("Rom") Nain of Malaysia arrived on campus Oct. 12 and will stay with us for five weeks, through Nov. 13.

as the result of our successful application to the Fulbright Visiting Specialists Program: Direct Access to the Muslim World. The centerpiece of his stay at will be making connections to faculty and students in classes across the curriculum. He also is meeting with student and staff groups, as well as speaking in the community beyond JSC. This is a somewhat unusual way of handling Fulbright visitors (who more often interact with a small group of research colleagues and/or teach a particular, small class), but one that befits JSC.

Rom's visit is one of the many fall events and activities scheduled to complement this year's common book by Moustafa Bayoumi, *How Does it Feel to Be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America*, which relates the stories of seven young Arab-Americans living in Brooklyn, New York at the time of and since 9/11/01. A photo exhibit of mosques in America by Edward Grazda has been on display in the Dibden Center Gallery since the school year began, and both Grazda and Bayoumi

spoke on campus in early October. And Rom, our visiting scholar, will address the college community Wednesday evening, Oct. 28. Students, faculty and staff have embraced these events with enthusiasm.

Another cause for celebration at JSC is the now-complete renovation of SHAPE, our beautiful athletic and recreational facility, which re-opened earlier this month. Non-stop activity – from yoga to Zumba classes to weight training, swimming, basketball and more – keeps the facility hopping. An official "grand opening" is scheduled for November.

Reading through the report that follows, I am struck by the breadth and depth of all that comprises the JSC experience. The professional accomplishments and community involvement of JSC faculty and staff is nothing short of phenomenal. The active participation of our students in the greater community is inspiring. The teamwork and camaraderie of the entire JSC community – so apparent during our recent Fall Fest/Reunion/Parents Weekend -- is exhilarating. And the hands-on, extended learning experiences we provide our students are a model for others. We look forward to sharing these and other stories with the VSC community and the public at large in the months ahead.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This summer **Jan Herder** (Dibden Center and Fine & Performing Arts) presented at the International Association of Technology, Education and Development meeting in Barcelona. His paper, supported by the President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, focused on "information, communication and technology for emergence (ICT4E): An immersive learning community blended with virtual worlds and Web 2.0."

Russ Longtin (Fine & Performing Arts) played the villain Iago in Quarry Works Theatre's summer production of Shakespeare's *Othello*. Quarry Works Theatre is a 60-seat, black-box theatre on the grounds of the Adamant music school in Adamant. In July he performed as Baptista in the theatre's production of *Kiss Me, Kate*.

In July the Stowe Reporter wrote about the departure of **Anthony Geraci** (Fine & Performing Arts) to Beirut to play in the Zouk Mikael Music Festival with Sugar Ray and the Bluetones, a Rhode Island-

based band with which he has played for more than 30 years.

Under the auspices of the Vermont Arts Council, the work of five Vermont artists, including that of **Leila Bandar** (Fine & Performing Arts), premiered in the Council's Sculpture Garden at 136 State St. in Montpelier. The exhibition runs through 2011.

Vermont artist Clark Derbes collaborated with JSC art students to transform the JSC Visual Arts Center courtyard "from one of the more homely and neglected, if functional, parts of the campus to one of the most pro-art, public-art sites I know," writes

Marjorie Kramer (Fine & Performing Arts). More than 20 students in classes taught by **Joe Salerno, Leila Bandar,** and Marjorie worked on the painting. It took about six hours of collaboration, resulting in a drawing/painting that stretched about 100'. The process was highlighted, with photos, in the Oct. 7 issue of *Seven Days*.

A chapter from a soon-to-be-defended dissertation by **Mary Martin** (Fine & Performing Arts) will appear in a collection of essays about art and law.

Ken Leslie (Fine & Performing Arts) spent a month in June and July in Kjøllefjord, Norway, guest of the Christensen Gallery, where he exhibited his work and produced a new artist's book, *Kjøllefjord Summer Cycle*. Kjøllefjord is on Europe's most

northern peninsula, just northwest of Murmansk, Russia. This project was made possible through a JSC Faculty Development Grant. In addition, Ken has been invited by the Gilfélagið Foundation to be Resident Artist in Akureyri, Iceland, in December 2010 and January 2011. He will exhibit selections from his Top of the World series in Akureyri's Deiglan Gallery and produce a new artist's book, *Winter Solstice* in Akureyri. The book will serve as a companion piece to his *Summer Solstice* in Akureyri, completed 10 years ago in the same town, just inches below the Arctic Circle in northern Iceland.

David Grozinsky (Fine & Performing Arts) is curating an exhibition at the Firehouse Gallery in Burlington called "This World, Other World." The show will run Feb. 19 to April 10 and includes the work of nine artists who have spent time at the Vermont Studio Center. The show, which includes painting



The Visual Arts Center courtyard as transformed by JSC arts students.



and sculpture, is based on the idea of invented landscape and imagined structure.

Sue Bettman (Fine & Performing Arts) has edited an 18-minute segment for The Vermont Movie: Freedom & Unity, Exploring Vermont's Independent Spirit, a collaboration by nearly two dozen Vermont independent filmmakers. Her segment looks at "arts, landscape, political activism, and spirituality" as components of Vermont's independent spirit. The segment is entitled "Four Friends" and features interviews with Helen and Jules Rabin of Plainfield, Elka and Peter Schumann of Glover's Bread and Puppet Theater, and artists, political activists, and artisanal bread bakers. The completed film is slated to premiere at the Vermont International Film Festival in Burlington in 2010.

John Miller (Fine & Performing Arts) completed his suite of large-format digital collages for the "Art of Action," an exhibit funded by the Vermont Arts Council and the Orton Family Foundation. The exhibit opened in Manchester and will travel throughout the state as well as to Washington, D.C. (hosted by Sen. Patrick Leahy) over the next year. Miller also has his photographic work in the Vermont State Art collection exhibit, now at Cata-mont Arts in St. Johnsbury. His photographs for the Art of Action commission have just been published in a new catalogue that profiles each of the commissioned artists.

Research on infant humor by **Gina Mireault** (Behavioral Sciences) and her students continues to receive attention. Vermont Public Television aired a story about the research on June 8. In addition, Gina presented preliminary results from the ongoing project at the annual conference of the Vermont Genetics Network this summer. The title of the presentation was "A naturalistic observation of humor perception and creation in 3- to 6-month old infants: Preliminary descriptive findings." At

the same session, **Hans Haverkamp** (Environmental & Health Sciences) displayed a poster presentation of his ongoing asthma research, "Effects of pre-exercise airway function on airway function during exercise in asthmatic humans." JSC also was well-represented by several students working with their professors.

A summer JSC anthropology field course taught by Corbett Torrence (Behavioral Sciences) brought WCAX, WPTZ, the Burlington Free Press, and the Transcript/News and Citizen to the excavation site at Boyden Farms. The story aired on WCAX and WPTZ, and the Free Press made it a front-page feature. Through the course, JSC archaeology students explored the Lamoille River's cultural history. In Phase I of the Lamoille Project, they focused on the section of river between the falls in Fairfax and Johnson. Initial site inspection of the Boyden farm site in Cambridge indicated that the site is about 1,000 years old, and students identified more than 100 artifacts. Scott Dillon from the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation called to congratulate the instructor and his students on their project and the extensive media coverage.

Doug Boardman (Education) published a My Turn column in the Burlington Free Press (July 30) under the headline "Some teachers better than others."

Renee Affolter, a colleague of **Liz Dolci** (Environmental & Health Sciences) in the Vermont Science Initiative, conducted a daylong in-service Aug. 27 for Lamoille North Supervisory Union teachers. The session focused on engaging students in scientific inquiry as they develop and refine an understanding of the natural world. The session explored how science can provide a foundation for the development of language, logic and problem-solving in the classroom.

A “What is it?” photo, published in the Stowe Reporter about a month ago, found its solution in Europe, thanks to **Renate Callahan** (Business/Economics). She sent the mystery photo to her parents in Germany, who took it to a friend who owns a cafe south of Hamburg. She knew exactly what the item was: a cork stopper, used to install corks into bottles of wine, vinegar and other products.

Jim Black (Business/Economics) is now producing frequent “Lamoille Now” shows for cable access TV. He also is a member of the new board of directors for the reorganized Johnson Works Community Organization Inc. The organization focuses on helping downtown Johnson develop as a vital and diverse community center. The 14-member board also includes **Leila Bandar** (Fine & Performing Arts), vice president, and **Renate Callahan** (Business/Economics), treasurer.

The JSC campus was a bustling place this summer. Four faculty members in the Environmental & Health Science Department worked on research projects associated with the local watershed. **Les Kanat** and two students investigated the Deer Brook landslide in Jeffersonville, while Tania Bacchus supervised the research of two students conducting a biological and chemical assessment of the Lower Pond on the JSC campus. **Bob Genter** continued his VT EPSCoR-funded study, investigating sources of total phosphorus and E. coli

from three land uses in the Lamoille River drainage basin, with the help of three undergraduate students. (EPSCoR is a program of the National Science Foundation program -- the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.) **Liz Dolci** began an investigation of microbial communities of an environmentally impacted waterway at the Lowell/Eden asbestos mine. Meanwhile, in the health sciences, Hans Haverkamp continued his research on asthma and exercise, working with two JSC summer interns.

Judy Rosovsky (Environmental & Health Science) was featured on the front page of the Aug. 13 Burlington Free Press, examining trees in a search for signs of the destructive emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle. She joined 26 other insect and tree-health professionals and volunteers as citizen scientists in Burlington for a day-long “surveillance” workshop.

Daniel Regan (Academic Dean) has been invited by Judith Van Houton, director of both Vermont EPSCoR and the Vermont Genetics Network, to join the internal steering committee of Vermont EPSCoR. He also has begun to serve as higher education liaison to the new Lamoille North Supervisory Union curriculum council.

Senator Bill Doyle (Humanities) participated in a U.S. legislative delegation visit to Prague, Czech Republic, and Berlin, Germany, in late



JSC lab technician Matthew Rossman (left) measures the level of oxygen output by JSC alum Zachary Patterson (right) under the observation of JSC Prof. Hans Haverkamp, who is leading a research project on the effects of exercise on people with asthma.

September and early October. The visit, under the auspices of CSG International Programs and led by West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin III, featured a meeting with President Klaus of the Czech Republic. Bill also co-chaired an August conference in Burlington on “Fiscal Crisis: Navigating the turbulent economy.” The proceedings drew about 400 leaders from the U.S. and Canada for the Council of State Government’s Eastern Regional annual conference. Finally, Bill had a “My Turn” column in the July 4 Burlington Free Press titled, “State’s major role in our independence.”

Life in Grand Isle County, the newest in the Vermont County video project, premiered at the Grand Isle Lake House in July. The 30-minute documentary--an independent-study project of JSC student Kris Oechlin '09, working with **Bill Doyle** (Humanities)--played to a standing-room-only crowd. Because of the large turnout, in fact, a second showing was scheduled immediately after the 7 p.m. event.

For the third summer **Cynthia West** (Humanities) spent the warm weather months gleaning for Salvation Farms and the Vermont Foodbank. A picture of Cynthia hard at work adorns the cover of the 2008 Vermont Food Bank annual report.

Frederick M. Wiseman (Humanities) has published two books regarding the European Discovery of Lake Champlain: *At Lake Between*, a historical narrative of Samuel Champlain’s voyage from a native perspective; and *Champlain Tech*, which tells how the arms, armor, transportation and other early 17th century technologies used during Champlain’s voyage in large part determined the outcome of the battle with the Iroquois, thereby altering the course of history. Fred has finished work on a third, *Baseline 1609*, due out in November, dealing with new archaeological and anthropological discoveries surrounding the early 17th

century. He will be doing a series of book-signing tours around Vermont and eastern New York to promote the book series.

In addition, as coordinator of the Vermont Indigenous Alliance, a coalition of the four main Vermont Abenaki bands representing thousands of enrolled Native Vermonters, Professor Wiseman has been working with the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) since May 2009 to demand that Sotheby’s auction house in New York City return an Abenaki wampum belt and a Kahnesetake (Iroquois) wampum belt to their rightful owners. He has attended meetings in Quebec with Canadian Iroquois and Abenaki bands, and corresponded both with Native advocates and with Sotheby’s lawyers in an attempt to have the belts returned without legal action. He also has been working over the last few months with the Narragansett Nation in the protection of indigenous stone ruins in northern New England, one of which – the Calendar II site in Woodstock -- is slated to become the second northeastern indigenous stone structure on the National Register of Historic Places. At the request of Sen. Hinda Miller (D-Chittenden), Fred met in early September with a group of Vermont legislators and Native advocates to arrive at mutually acceptable language for Vermont state legislation recognizing specific Vermont Native bands for the purposes of fulfilling the requirements of the Native American Arts and Crafts Act.

Professor Wiseman was one of two higher educators who served on the Vermont Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission over the late spring and summer. He was one of three coordinators of a national symposium on the Native world of 1609, held at St. Michael’s College in May; he coordinated the 1609 Native encampment and commemoration at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in June; and he worked with Vera Sheehan to coordinate the five-day Vermont Indigenous Celebra-

tion signature event held on the Burlington Waterfront in July. In addition, he participated in 15+ other events through the late spring and summer, including the St. Albans' French Heritage Signature Event in June and the Appletree Point (north Burlington) Historical Society meeting in September, for which he was the keynote speaker.

The band PoJazz -- featuring JSC faculty, staff and students as poets and musicians -- played at the Stearns Hall Stage Space Sept. 1 and just released a CD.

"Beautiful, bittersweet September [is] perfect for poetry readings," writes **Dave Cavanagh** (External Degree Program) -- and he's been doing several. He read his poetry Sept. 27 at Burlington's Waterfront Theater as part of the Burlington Book Festival, and three days later at UVM's Fleming Museum as part of the Painted Word Poetry Series. As well, since late August, he has been a featured reader in The Yellow Door Reading Series in Montreal. October includes appearances at Bear Pond Books in Montpelier and the Cover to Cover Bookstore in Randolph.

Thanks to the efforts of Access Services Librarian **Jo Anne Edwards**, the JSC Library launched its redesigned Facebook as the fall semester got under way. Informed by focus groups representing a broad range of library constituents, the results can be found here: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Johnson-VT/Johnson-State-College-Library/103493749736>.

com/pages/Johnson-VT/Johnson-State-College-Library/103493749736.

While JSC's reference librarians have a long track record of serving as embedded librarians in online courses, **Linda Kramer** is piloting the service in one of our campus-based first-year seminars, A Call to Action. She reports that students have responded very positively to her inquiry-based approach to information literacy instruction.

Ray Brior (Library) organized a book sale for Fall Fest weekend. In addition to selling duplicate and discarded items from the library's collection, Ray discussed current library initiatives with former students and their families.

Faculty Librarian **Joe Farara** is the new president of the Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries. He's also serving as the Vermont State Colleges' representative to the Vermont Online Library selection committee.

Last October, JSC received a \$27,838 Next Generation grant from the Vermont Department of Labor to create a Behavior Interventionist (BI) curriculum and internship program in the Lamoille Valley. The College partnered with Lamoille County Mental Health (LCMH) and Laraway Youth and Family Services (LYFS) to create a Behavior Interventionist training curriculum connected with a 240-hour internship, organized by **Ellen Hill** (Experiential Learning). With this funding, JSC and our partners at LCMH and Laraway are helping meet a critical need through the creation of specific training needed for emerging and

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Students gather at JSC on a chilly Friday morning, Oct. 16, for the 2009 Hike for Hunger. Organized by Ellen Hill of SERVE, the event raised funds for the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger.



“Mediators,” a sculpture by Won Lee, M.F.A. '08, overlooks the Green Mountains from the JSC campus at autumn's peak.

existing BIs. We offered training via academic coursework and career exploration, and readiness via internships. The three-credit course EDU 4710 Topical Seminar — Behavior Interventionist Training, taught by **Jean Haigh** (Education), attracted 23 participants, while eight JSC students interned at either LYFS or LCMH for six academic credits (240 hours/intern). The success of this program is evidenced in the evaluations, the feedback from participants, and most significantly, from the employment opportunities offered to the interns. Seven of the eight were offered positions at these organizations; four students accepted, and another was hired as an Applied Behavior Analyst in northern Massachusetts.

Ellen Hill (Experiential Learning) attended an advisory council meeting and a full partnership meet-

ing of the “People in Partnership” regional group, focusing on basic needs (housing, food and fuel), and a statewide planning meeting of “Neighbor-Keepers” to create a strategic plan for the anticipated statewide roll-out of that organization.

Karen Madden (Academic Support Services) serves on the board of the Council on Opportunity in Education (COE), the chief lobbying organization for TRIO programs nationwide. She attended the most recent COE board meeting and 25th Annual Conference in San Antonio in September. As president of the New England Educational Opportunity Association (NEOA), she chaired her first regional meeting in Lake Sebago, ME, in September, and represented NEOA at the Maine Educational Opportunity Association conference in Presque Isle in October. She also attended the Vermont Educational Opportunity Program's conference at Vermont Technical College in October.

Dian Duranleau (Academic Support Services) attended a meeting with Vermont Voc-Rehab in August on adaptive technology. In October, she hosted a meeting of learning specialists from Vermont colleges at JSC and attended the VEOP conference at VTC.

Jeanette Damato (Academic Support Services) created a TRIO student organization on campus this semester. Its goals are to organize social and cultural events for members, promote a sense of community among TRIO students, and inform other students of TRIO's goals and benefits. She also organized a raffle to benefit VEOP's scholarship fund and attended the VEOP conference in October.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This summer **Tanya Luce** ('09 Business) began her new position as education coordinator of the Northwestern Medical Center in St. Albans.

Honored with Outstanding Alumni Awards at this fall's Alumni Awards Ceremony, **Matthew Nadeau** and **Renee Brunault Nadeau** (both '89) and their team at Rock Art Brewery in Morrisville have named the Lamoille Family Center to receive the profits from weekly beer tastings at their business in October.

Cody Heuer ('08 Business) also earned a minor in art while she was at JSC. Among a number of interest areas she studied digital media with John Miller. Recently accepted at two prestigious NYC art schools -- Pratt Institute and Parsons -- she has begun studying design at Parsons.

Three JSC students are studying abroad at another institution: Erica Gustafson in Santiago, Chile, through University Studies Abroad Consortium; Jessica McCoy in Australia via Globallinks; and Jonathan Owen in a Buddhist Studies program in India.

After 28 years in the state legislature representing Cambridge, Rich Westman (' JSC alumnus, Political Science) became state tax commissioner in August.

Mallory Hazen played Glinda, the good Witch of the North, in the Lamoille County Players' summer production of the Wizard of Oz and the Fairy Godmother in LCP's just-completed run of Cinderella. JSC senior Justin Pomerville (Theater) joined Mallory in Oz as the Scarecrow, as did recent graduate Dana Thomas (Music Education) as Gloria.

Recent graduate Jess Silva (Theater) appeared in a summer production of The Clean House, staged by the Waterbury Festival Players.

Krystal Blackburn ('04 Theater and Drama) has just been invited to join New York's famed Neigh-

borhood Playhouse as a permanent member of the company. Dan Boyd ('07 Theater and Drama) has also been successfully auditioning in Los Angeles.

In September Katie Crown displayed her work from a summer of study in Spain and Vermont (the Vermont Studio Center) in an art show at the college's Visual Arts Center. She currently works part-time in the Admissions department at the Vermont Studio Center.

BFA graduate **Mary E. Johnson**, photography program director at Burlington City Arts, is showing recent photographic work in the exhibition "DISTRACTION// ATTRACTION" at the UVM Living/Learning Center Gallery through Oct. 30.



Junior Rob Key, of New Britain, CT, is organizing a mentoring program for at-risk youth in Lamoille County.

BFA graduate **Justin Epchook** is completing a photographic internship at the Rome Snowboard Company in Waterbury.

Vocalist **Jahida Esperanza Jorganes** ('09 Music) and her band Doodus closed the Tuesday Night Live season at Legion Field in Johnson Aug. 25. All of the band members are current JSC students or graduates.

Rob Key (Psychology) has been organizing about 20 fellow student-athletes to become one-on-one mentors to area youth through a program called Club Johnson, under the Lamoille County Court Diversion Restorative Justice program. Rob and his student colleagues will receive mentor training from the Restorative Justice program, under whose

umbrella the Lamoille Valley Mentoring Partnership also sits.

Recent grad **Mollie Norcross Young** has joined the board of the Lamoille Prevention Campaign, a group devoted to curtailing youth alcohol consumption and other risk-taking behaviors.

Alaina Clements ('09 Creative Writing) writes columns under the auspices of the Hemispherectomy Foundation chronicling her life after a hemispherectomy. A September blog reports that she is pleased to have landed a great job as a Home Access Program Specialist for the Vermont Center for Independent Living. The VCIL mission is to help people who are disabled lead independent lives with dignity.

In partnership with the Nature Conservancy, three JSC students -- **Ali Graham, Jasmine Yuris** and **Jon Adams** -- are organizing JSC's first Coral Reef Run on Nov. 6. Participants intending to walk or run will raise money to protect one of the world's most diverse habitats by purchasing acreage in the Pacific surrounding the Republic of Palau. The goal is to raise \$5,000, which would save 100 acres of reef.

Courtney Gabaree ('09 Anthropology/Sociology) was honored in August by the Clarina Howard Nichols Center, a nonprofit agency working to end domestic and sexual violence in Lamoille County, for outstanding volunteer work at the Center for the past two years.

JSC TRIO student **Cheri Keith** was featured in a front page article in the latest issue of VSAC's Life 101: The Magazine for Vermont Students. Entitled "The First to Go," it describes the challenges she overcame to be the first in her family to attend college. In addition to maintaining a 3.70 GPA as an English major with secondary education licensure, Cheri is an active participant in JSC's Women's

Center and the newly formed JSC TRIO student organization. She also was a mentor in this summer's Transition Program pre-Orientation overnight activity for academically at-risk first-year students.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology group spent September dedicated to three main tasks. The first was bringing the SHAPE building back on-line. The SHAPE renovation included not only the addition of new ports, it also encompassed moving the data and communications room to a more secure area of the building. This meant significant work for IT during the last few weeks of the renovation.

The second key project during August and September was connecting first-year and returning students to the JSC network. Each year the IT staff spends time working one on one with students who experience connectivity issues. This task is worthwhile and gives our students the best possible service.

Last but not least, the IT staff has been working on the reassignment of computers from the computer labs to offices and departments on campus. As always, this is a time-consuming process – but also one that staff and faculty look forward to each year, as they receive the latest equipment from the labs.

STUDENT SERVICES

SERVE (Center for Service Learning)

The SERVE office has experienced major transitions, with a new staffing model and new location in the new Stearns Student Center. Adjunct faculty member **Russ Weis** is now overseeing local service programming; Coordinator of Student Activities **Krista Swahn** has taken on the Break Away (alternative break) program, and SERVE's founding director and current Director of Experiential Learn-

ing, **Ellen Hill**, is providing guidance and support to the office, particularly in the areas of student leadership development and local partnerships. Their work is being supported by new Graduate Assistant Kelly Palmer. Students have embraced the new SERVE model and location, driving service participation rates to the highest level in years.

Service in the Local Community

Our new “SERVE FRI” initiative has garnered significant local coverage and attention. Under this program, each Friday students, faculty and staff engage in service-learning projects in the local community, arranged in conjunction with community partner agencies. In the first month of the school year, 40 students volunteered a total of 237.5 person-hours serving area residents and the local environment! Projects thus far have included a Lamoille river clean-up, a visit to the North Country Animal League, weatherization of a Johnson senior’s home, delivering and stacking wood for area residents, and brush-clearing at the Lamoille County Nature Center.

Another promising community program is the mentoring effort -- mentioned earlier--being spearheaded by junior **Rob Key**, with the support of **Kelly Palmer**. Rob has involved the Lamoille County Mentoring Partnership in plans to train and support JSC mentors as they work on academic and social skills with younger students in area schools and in the community.

Student Leadership Institute

Ellen Hill and **Krista Swahn** have taken the lead in creating a new student leadership development program, designed to give students the skills and knowledge to become involved campus leaders and active citizens. Sixteen students are par-

ticipating in this semester-long program, which kicked off with an inspiring leadership panel comprised of students **Courtney Gabaree** and **Rob Key**; Scott Johnson, deputy commissioner of the Vermont Agency of Human Services; JSC Assistant Professor **Jerry Himelstein**; and JSC President **Barbara Murphy**.

- *Break Away*

Four alternative Spring Break trips are being planned for 2010. Focus areas are Hunger and Homelessness, Disaster Relief, Arts and Youth, and Sustainable Agriculture. Student trip leaders have been working hard to establish relationships in their host sites, create budgets for their trips, participate in weekly training sessions, and prepare for their first participant meetings.

A total of 86 students applied to participate in the program -- a 43 percent increase over 2008 and the highest number in several years. For the first time this year the application was available online, and 41 percent of applicants chose this option. Of the applicants 29 percent identified as first year students, 15 percent as sophomores, 22 percent as juniors, and 34 percent as seniors. 36 students were selected to participate. Students will learn of their trip placement at the “Big Reveal” event on October 14.

Health and Counseling Centers

This year the Counseling Center has nine counselors on staff, including two graduate interns. Of particular note is that four of the counselors are post-graduate students (former graduate assistants in our counseling center) who are volunteering their services. When combined with the graduate assistants, this means that a significant number of our counseling appointments and programs are covered by volunteers.

Core staff members from the health and counseling centers were involved in every aspect of the First Year student Orientation weekend, giving a name and face to their services and providing assistance to students who were having trouble adjusting to college life.

Athletics and Recreation

- *SHAPE Re-opening*

Student excitement is high as the renovations to the SHAPE facilities are being unveiled. A “soft opening” occurred the week before fall break, with students able to tour the facility. It is now fully open and being put to great use. An official grand opening celebration is being planned for Nov. 9.

- *Athletics*

This fall has seen the debut of two new varsity sports: women’s volleyball and men’s golf. A number of Badgers have earned early season North Atlantic Conference (NAC) awards. Noor Bulle was honored as NAC Player of the Week in men’s soccer, Corey Hellwig received NAC Rookie of the Week honors in men’s cross country, Ally Fortier was recognized as NAC Rookie of the Week in women’s soccer, and Tyler Parker was named NAC Rookie of the Week in men’s golf.

Public Safety

Public safety has continued to work to increase its visibility on campus through educational outreach and a more public presence. Director Michael Palagonia gave a presentation during orientation to outline the department’s services. The department also unveiled new, more professional uniforms this fall. The uniforms were the subject of an article in the JSC student newspaper, Basement Medicine.

Student Activities

Attendance at campus events has increased more

than 50 percent over last year at this time and has been especially strong on the weekends. Student feedback has been positive regarding the range and quality of programming offered.

Upward Bound

Upward Bound at JSC had an incredibly successful summer, even by its own high standards. All 68 of the participants in this residential program for aspiring college students from low-income or first-generation backgrounds successfully completed the program. For the first time in nearly a decade, we realized a 100 percent retention rate!

Also of Note

A profile of Dean of Students Dave Bergh appeared as a feature in the summer 2009 newsletter of Laraway Youth and Family Services, where he serves on the board.



One of the new exercise rooms at the renovated SHAPE facility.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Business Office

The functionality of the VSC e-commerce billing project continues to expand. The payment plan functionality was rolled out for the summer terms, and 63 students signed up. This functionality allows students to pay their summer tuition over a period of time, thus allowing greater payment flexibility. The next phase of electronic commerce will focus on college event ticket sales and will allow guests to purchase tickets using a credit card.

Physical Plant

Renovation of the JSC SHAPE facility wrapped up in September just in time for Fall Fest/Parents/Reunion Weekend. Tremendous improvements have been made to the functionality of the building, including the creation of a new, first-floor fitness center, group exercise rooms, a spinning studio, and a completely renovated varsity gym.

The next major project for the college will be the renovation of Bentley Hall to enhance teaching and community spaces and improve the building's energy efficiency and safety.

Other smaller but equally important renovations are planned, including the replacement of the electric primary that serves the southwest side of campus and the creation of a new computer lab to serve the Fine Arts programs.

Conference and Events

The fall semester began with many highly successful events for first-year and returning students. Late August and September included three to five major events and up to 10 smaller events each week. Fall Fest Weekend, held Sept. 25-27, was the culmination of an action-packed month at JSC, featuring two days of vibrant and interesting activities.

ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID

Recruitment

As students returned from fall break and settled back into their routines at JSC, the work of the Admissions staff was well under way to recruit for Spring and Fall 2010. Counselors are visiting hundreds of high schools, attending college fairs and making connections at community colleges from Maine to Pennsylvania. On the road are **Elga Gruner, Penny Howrigan, Julie Noyes, Rebecca Pastor** and **Pat Rogers**. Recent graduates **Tommy O'Connor** ('09 Outdoor Education) and **Miles Smith** ('09 Sociology & Anthropology) are the "fall recruiters," working through the fall travel season in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Veteran admissions staffer **Joye Lyon** ('09 Health Sciences) is seeing some road time this year as well, recruiting in upstate New York (Watertown to Plattsburgh) and New Hampshire.

As we meet with prospective students at high schools and fairs, we encourage them to get on our mailing list. Inquiry cards are returned to the office with **Bethany Harrington** ready to enter each student's name into our database. The process continues with the help of our 20+ student workers sending mailings of our newly designed publications -- viewbook, brochures (academic, campus life and athletics), open house invitations, applications, bookmarks and posters -- to our new prospects. New staff assistant **Erin Nally** is busy scheduling tours, information sessions and interviews for students and parents contacting us to visit.

Prospective students have many options for learning about JSC. The full schedule of the year's daily tours and info sessions (including Saturdays), and special events can be found on the JSC website. Open Houses will be held on Oct. 17 and Nov. 7, both Saturdays. More than 100 students and a total of 255 people have already registered for the Oct.

17 session. We are tremendously grateful for the faculty, staff and students who are volunteering their time for the Open House programs. Prospects can also “get connected” to JSC on Social Media options such as Blogger, YouTube, Flickr, Twitter and Facebook.

Planning is in the works for out-of-state information sessions/on-the-spot decision days this fall in Manchester, NH; Boston, MA; and Portland, ME.

We also will host two new events this fall: a VSAC Major Day on Wednesday, Oct. 21, and a Vermont Guidance Counselor Breakfast on Wednesday, Oct. 28. The annual VSC Guidance Counselor Breakfast programs will take place in November in Brattleboro, Essex, Rutland, St. Johnsbury and Montpelier.

- *Spring '10 and Fall '10*

Numbers for January are on track with last year. We have 90 applications compared to 85 last year at this time. Although it's early, fall 2010 numbers are slightly up as well (27 vs. 25). Invitations on our December Early Admission Day Program are attracting seniors to apply early.

Financial Aid

The VSC Financial Aid Team is beginning to prepare for the implementation of Direct Lending. The impact this will have on the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, which is the primary lender for JSC borrowers, is uncertain.

DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

Ellsworth Trust Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The College is enlivened and energized by the presence of the Ellsworth Trust, a private foundation established by the late Professor Robert E. Ellsworth, which celebrated its 25th anniversary at the annual meeting this Fall. While many trust

members are alumni who studied with Professor Ellsworth in the '60s and '70s; some are more recent graduates who were Ellsworth Scholars. Over the years, the Trust has greatly enriched the study of history and political science at JSC. Gifts made by the Trust are substantial: JSC has received nearly \$133,000 since 1998, which have supported:

- \$68,000 for undergraduate scholarships, for Ellsworth Scholars (history and political science majors, who are leadership students for this campus)
- \$55,000 in funds for programming, which supports the annual Ellsworth Lecture -- an important intellectual event on campus -- and grants for student and professor travel and study, much of it international
- Exhibits in the Ellsworth Seminar Room as a window to other cultures. These include items from the collection as well as photos and artifacts documenting student travel -- most recently Meredith Kenton's semester abroad in Scotland, Chris Moran's experiences in Sri Lanka, SERVE's international travel to the Dominican Republic, and Deborah Nevil's immersion Lakota Oglala Sioux culture during a course-credit trip to South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. These experiences and exhibits, which were supported by \$9,500 in grants, have enriched the entire campus as well as the lives of the students involved.

Reunion Weekend

Reunion Weekend, held in conjunction with Fall Fest and Parents Weekend, took place Sept. 25 – 27. The weekend began with a performance by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra in the Dibden

Center Friday evening. The weather was glorious on Saturday, when nearly 150 alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends gathered to participate in a barbecue and alumni luncheon, the President's Alumni Awards and the Athletic Hall of Fame inductions. Two alumnae from the Class of 1944 represented the earliest reunion class of the weekend, while the Class of 1969 had the greatest number of returning alumni. New this year, the Class of 1964 was recognized for the greatest percentage of participation in the annual fund, and the Class of 1969 received recognition for providing the greatest amount in annual fund support.

The President's Alumni Awards, bestowed this year on 13 JSC alums for outstanding accomplishments in their careers and lives, are always a highlight, and this year was no exception.

Award winners included **Tim Halvorson** ('83), owner of Halvorson's Upstreet Café in Burlington, recognized for his commitment to downtown business and the Church Street Marketplace in particular; and Matthew Nadeau ('89) and **Renee (Brunault) Nadeau** ('89), married alums who together run Rock Art Brewery and were recognized for their community outreach. Sharon Sousa ('74) was recognized for her commitment to higher education, and **Jane Bradley** ('96) was recognized for her design and implementation of a corporate education initiative. **Carol Buchdahl** ('85) was recognized for her diversity of experience and leadership in workforce training and development; **Kathleen**

Sawyer ('02) was recognized for providing inspiration through her business Local Wisdom, and her commitment to embracing opportunity; and **Sally McCarthy** ('97) was recognized for her commitment to providing service to JSC, its graduate students, and the Vermont community. Rising Star award winners included **Steven Cook** ('03), recognized as Vermont's "youngest ever" deputy commissioner for the Vermont Division of Travel and Tourism; and **Jesse Gaudette** ('00), recognized for his commitment to middle-school education at St. Francis Xavier in Winooski,

Later that day seven alumni were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame during the annual banquet and induction ceremony. Inductees included **Amanda Burby** '99; **Seth Gabriel** '97; **Matt Mahar** '96; **Tom Roberge** '92; **Jessica Sobolowski-Quinn** '98; and **John Spinney** '97. **David Cobb** '79 was inducted as an honorary member. The weekend wrapped up with a brunch on Sunday for students and parents.



Jane Bradley, EDP'96, one of two winners of the President's EDP Alumni Awards, accompanied by her family at the awards ceremony. The ceremony took place in the newly renovated Stage Space of the Stearns Student Center.