

Board of Trustees Report Johnson State College

October 24, 2008



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It has not been unusual over the past few months for Board reports to mention the renovation of Stearns Hall and how its transformation will create JSC's first true, multi-use student center. With this report, I am pleased to announce that Stearns Hall is open and we will hold our ribbon-cutting celebration on October 30.

The transformation is remarkable. With the ground in front of the student center filled in and the old bridge removed, Stearns is fully integrated with the Quad. Student response has been universally positive, and they are eager to claim their spaces. While the dining hall in Stearns has been open since the first week of classes, students began using the other floors on return from break, October 13. The mail room, fireplace lounge, and game room immediately saw traffic. Programming began in the Stearns Stage Space and Stearns Cinema last week, as well.

At our recent Fallfest (reunion and parent's weekend) celebration, alumni and parents were invited to tour the nearly completed facility. More than one alum lamented that the student center wasn't "on line" during their years at JSC, and several parents remarked that the facility was impressive.

Our fundraising in support of the renovation continues. To date, the college has received more than \$35,000 in gifts and pledges for the Stearns renovation (and associated renovations in Dewey Hall), with another \$20,000 in asks being negotiated with donors. The fall semester promises to be an exciting time for fundraising for the facility, and for building our community as we launch a full semester of programming for our students.

Of course, the opening of Stearns is not the only noteworthy event. There are an extraordinary number of accomplishments to report—too many to list in this brief summary. I invite you to read through the following pages and consider the talent and commitment of all of those individuals who make up the Johnson State College community.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Faculty and Staff Professional Activity

Marjorie Kramer (Fine and Performing Arts) will be working with feminists in New York City on the catalogue statements for a show called *Better than Ever*, Women Artists of the Cooperative Galleries in SoHo in the 1970s. Twenty artists, including Marjorie, will show a piece of work done thirty+ years ago and one recent piece. The show opens next March at Long Island University in Brooklyn and then travels to the Dishman Museum at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas in April.

Marc Awodey (Fine and Performing Arts) had a solo exhibition of paintings at the Fieck Art Center of Green Mountain College mid-July through mid-September 2008, and another at Kasini House Gallery, Burlington, in late summer. The latter was in conjunction with the release of his third book of poetry - *Senryu & Nudes* - published by Kasini House Books. Marc also participated in the South End Art Hop in September, and *FRONTIERE* - the Frelighsburg Festival of Fine Art, Frelighsburg, Quebec, over Labor Day weekend. These are but a few of his recent and upcoming shows. He is the art critic for Vermont's weekly newspaper, *Seven Days*, and the Vermont Editor of *Art New England*.

David Kearns (Fine and Performing Arts) had two exhibits this summer. "In the Zone II" appeared at the Brattleboro Museum, featuring the work of thirteen regional artists living in a 100 mile radius of Brattleboro and guest curated by Denise Markonish of MassMOCA.

Bethany Bond (Fine and Performing Arts) has been a featured artist in *Women to Watch: Four Photographers*, a selection of work by Vermont photographers curated by **John Miller** (Fine and Performing Arts) for the Vermont State Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC. The exhibit

was shown at the Vermont Supreme Court in Montpelier for the summer 2008 and will be featured at the Chaffee Art Center in Rutland from September 12 – October 29. Bethany has also developed a new blogging site this fall for digital students in the JSC fine arts department: <http://jscdigi.blogspot.com/>



Ken Leslie (Fine and Performing Arts) completed the first of two residencies in Inari, Finland, supported by grants from the American Scandinavian Foundation and the Johnson State College Faculty Development Fund. As part of

his continuing Top of the World series about circumpolar Arctic sites, he is producing summer and winter works in Inari, located 200 miles above the Arctic Circle. Ken is also researching Western Europe's only indigenous people, the Sámi, for which Inari is the Finnish Sámi cultural center. He will return for the winter portion of this project in December/January, when the sun won't rise once during the five-week residency. Ken's book, *Space + Time*, is featured in the Fall 2008 issue of *Modernist Magazine*. His work is the lone contemporary book featured in the article, otherwise devoted to the past century's history of the artist's book genre.

One of **John Miller's** black and white photographs began touring this summer with *Art of Vermont: The State Collection*, an exhibition that opened at the Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jeffersonville VT, in May and is scheduled to travel to the Bennington Museum, the Chaffee Art Center in Rutland, and to the Goodrich Library, Newport VT over the next twelve months. Miller had a one-person retrospective of photographs at Sterling College in Craftsbury during June and July. The photographs span more than thirty years as a photographer. He was also the plenary speaker at a week-long workshop at Sterling in June entitled *Rural Heritage Institute at Sterling College: The Place of Work in Rural Communities*. John

recently had a number of his black and white photographs published in the Fall issue of Northern Woodlands magazine http://north-ernwoodlands.org/articles/article/hunting_camp/ He continues work as a board member with the Warebrook Contemporary Music Festival in northern Vermont as well as Northwoods Stewardship Center in East Charleston where he also chairs the Nominating Committee. As a long-time member of the Coventry Planning Commission, he is working with other members on a new Town Plan. Miller will be giving an extended slide presentation at the annual meeting of the Northwoods Stewardship Center in October where he will talk about rural values and concepts of community <http://www.northwoodscenter.org/october.html>

Susan Calza (Fine and Performing Arts), spent five weeks traveling in the Canadian Maritimes working on a new video for an upcoming exhibition. The completed video is part of a multimedia sculptural installation to be presented this fall at the Dwight V. Dowley Gallery, Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. While in Philadelphia, she will be an Artist in Residence at Chestnut Hill College. Susan also serves on the operations committee of the Green Mountain Film Festival and is in the process of assuming the position of volunteer coordinator. While on Cape Breton Island this summer, Susan was an active member of the grounds crew at the Gampo Abbey Monastery in Pleasant Bay, Nova Scotia.

Voices, conceived and directed (and acted in) by **F. Reed Brown** (Fine and Performing Arts), premiered at Dibden on September 4. JSC students and recent alums composed most of the cast. Besides Reed, JSC faculty colleagues in Fine and Performing Arts were very much involved. **Lisa Jablow** provided musical direction, **Diane Huling** composed the music, and **Maris Wolff** played the demanding role of Helen Keller. Voices will continue to tour outside Vermont, most notably in January 2009 to the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, the largest arts presenter in the south, through a National Performance Network grant.

During the summer **Russ Longtin** (Fine and Performing Arts) appeared in the Stowe Theatre Guild production of A Delicate Balance, the 1967 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Edward Albee.

Leila Bandar (Fine and Performing Arts) was instrumental in organizing an extensive exhibit of outdoor sculptures at sites throughout Johnson. A list of all sculpture sites and participating locations is available at www.townofjohnson.com. The sculptures are by area artists, including six JSC alumni. The show will be up until October 26. One aim of the exhibit is to connect the JSC campus to village businesses. Leila was also one of the participating sculptors in Exposed!, Stowe's annual outdoor sculpture exhibit as well as a contributor to a juried outdoor show in Garrison, New York.

JSC's Green Mountains Review, under the editorship of **Neil Shepard** (Writing and Literature), received notice in the August 24 Boston Globe. Tracy Slater's article on New England literary magazines cites admiration for GMR "because it's put out by a small college in Vermont without the resources of some of the others on this list but still consistently turns out the kind of prose and poetry that earns praise from the likes of Robert Atwan, founder and series editor of "Best American Essays." Atwan puts this review...among the journals he sees every year when he's looking for items to include in his collection of greats." The article is at <http://www.boston.com/ae/books/articles/2008/08/24/journalemismem/>

Poet **Neil Shepard** has been awarded a fellowship by the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, located near Sweet Briar College in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in rural Virginia. He will be among the approximately twenty fellows focusing on their own creative projects at this working retreat for visual artists, writers, and composers.

A chapter by **Betsy Hanzimanolis** (Writing and Literature) will appear in a forthcoming anthology, *Navigating African Maritime History*, edited by Jeremy Rich and to be published in 2008 by Nova Scotia Press. Betsy also presented a paper in September in Lisbon, Portugal at the International Congress from Brazil to Macao: Travel Writing and Diasporic Spaces.

Several area newspapers covered a story about a new research project that explores how babies develop laughter and humor in the first six months of life. The principal investigator is **Gina Mireault** (Behavioral Sciences) and the study is supported by a grant from the Vermont Genetics Network. This research challenges conventional knowledge about the age at which infants develop a sense of humor.

Todd Comen (Business/Economics) collaborated with the director of CEPIA, a Costa Rican NGO that works with at risk youth, to organize participatory experiences for JSC students on a popular, May study tour to the Guanacaste region of Costa Rica. JSC students were introduced to the issues and challenges facing Costa Rica in the wake of tourism development. In addition, the students spent several days with elementary school children from a small village near their hotel, participating in a number of activities, including reading from books the students delivered to CEPIA from Vermont and painting signs with environmental messages in English and Spanish.

Jim Black, Henrique Cezar (both Business/Economics), and **Paula Ennis** (Fine and Performing Arts) took a group of Johnson State College Business and Hospitality students to Manaus, Brazil in the summer. The two-week trip introduced the students to Brazilian culture and life in the Amazon. In addition, Johnson State College and UniLins University in Manaus have begun to explore the viability of an exchange program for the students of the two institutions.

Fred Wiseman (Humanities) has been busy. A movie he produced called *The Changeling* is being submitted to Sundance Film Festival. It deals with Euroamerican/Abenaki relations in the 1770s. Fred helped to secure a grant to produce a film on the 10,000 year history of Lake Champlain. Filming is about one-third complete, and the hope is to premiere the film in the spring, 2009. Meanwhile, his *1609, the Other Side of History*, on the discovery of Lake Champlain, will premiere in the Grand Maple Ballroom, Davis Center, UVM on November 5. He is also co-producing a play for school children at the Flynn concerning the discovery of Lake Champlain.

Other activities include organizing a conference on the Native Experience in the Lake Champlain Basin 1550-1650, to be held at St. Michael's on May 2-3, 2009. His current work with producer Jay Craven and the City of Burlington aims to have a native program for the climax of the VT Quadricentennial in July, 2009. Back in July, Fred co-produced, with the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, a reenactment weekend celebrating native and French life in the 1600s in the Champlain Basin. He also presented on French and Native Arms and Armor at the Crown Point (NY) Historic Site's "Festival of Nations" on September 13. In the works is a seven-minute movie with the Title VII Indian Education Program, dealing with Native American smoking cessation. Fred continues to work with the White Pine Association on their Abenaki Language Revitalization Project, specifically developing content and imagery for the website, and providing archival tapes of the Abenaki language. Finally, Professor Wiseman is the major consultant on the ECHO Center's extensive Native American exhibit redesign that will open next spring.

In observance of U.S. Constitution Day, **Bill Doyle** (Humanities) and his students in State and Local Government opened the class to the campus community. Bill screened a twenty-minute video and then led a brief discussion on the fight to ratify the U.S. constitution.

Also part of the College's commemoration of Constitution Day was a special event held at the Lamoille County Courthouse in Hyde Park. Jeffery Amestoy, former Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court, spoke on "Judicial Independence" on September 18. This was the second lecture in an annual speaker series focused on encouraging public service. The Cashman and Sylvester families generously created an endowment in support of this annual event, as well as a student scholarship, to honor Judge Sylvester and Chief Justice Benjamin Hulburd. As its title indicates, the focus of this year's presentation was the role of the judiciary in maintaining the rule of law. The event also includes an annual award to a Lamoille County resident (or a person with strong Lamoille County ties) who has given outstanding public service to the County over the years. This year's recipient was long time Eden resident, Sharon Anderson, who served as Court Administrator for Lamoille District Court. Last year's award went to Professor and Senator Bill Doyle.

Recent commentaries by **Bill Doyle** have appeared in area newspapers on the origins of Vermont's Labor Day observance, and why the Battle of Bennington matters, among other subjects.

Besides teaching mathematics and chairing his department, **Chris Aubuchon** (Mathematics) is singer-guitarist for One Night Stand. His band got front page coverage in a May Transcript and plays all around Lamoille County.

The Center for Research on Vermont awarded JSC Professor Emeritus of English and Humanities **John J. Duffy** the center's Lifetime Achievement Award. He received the award at the center's annual meeting in May at UVM.

Ellen Hill (Experiential Learning) has been hard at work on enhancing the visibility of internships on the JSC website. Currently she

is working with Behavioral Sciences and Non-profit Management Studies as pilot programs. <http://www.jsc.edu/Academics/BusinessAnd-Economics/NonprofitManagementCertification/InternshipStories.aspx> A Psychology internship site will be launched very soon. Ellen and **Jean Haigh** (Education) collaborated on a Next Generation grant from the Vermont Department of Labor. The College has received a \$27,838 grant to create a behavior interventionist curriculum and internship program in Lamoille County. JSC will partner with Lamoille County Mental Health and Laraway Youth and Family Services to create a curriculum and a 240-hour internship. In the pilot year, twenty students will participate in the three-credit academic course and eight students will participate in the three-credit, 240-hour internship. The course will be available to current behavior interventionists working in the region. The awards were announced by Governor Douglas in a ceremony at Hubbardton Forge in Castleton on August 27, 2008. <http://www.jsc.edu/bic>

For the third year, first-year student advising is connected to the First Year Seminar courses. **Sara Kinerson** (Advising & Career Center) and **Margo Warden** (First-Year Experience) have worked closely to coordinate this program. This year, all first year advisors were provided with a copy of the newly created Advising Guide that incoming students were given at New Student Registration this summer. This guide is filled with important advising information including an outline of the First Year Advisement Program, dates and deadlines, an explanation of procedures related to advising and registration, and important contact information. Advisor feedback has been positive.

Heidi Wrighton (Advising & Career Center) is the new Career Services Coordinator. She has been busy building and marketing a comprehensive career program that is aligned with the National Career Development Guidelines and supports all JSC students, including beginning ones. She has already presented in several classes this semester and has begun

a weekly, informal seminar series, "Cookies and Careers." Heidi also serves as advisor to a group of first-year students that are still deciding what major to declare and provides ongoing support to them. Future projects include a Career Fair, a speaker series on non-traditional Vermont businesses, Career Fair opportunities at other campuses, implementation of a new web-based employment finder, as well as program assessment and evaluation.

The National Student Exchange, overseen at JSC by **Sara Kinerson**, provides students with affordable and practical opportunities to experience new and diverse settings in which to study and live. This year, JSC students are studying at twelve colleges and universities in the United States. Currently JSC has students visiting through NSE from SUNY College at Buffalo, University of Memphis, and from University of Wisconsin-Superior. Two students are studying abroad this semester, one in Manchester, England and one in Madrid, Spain.

The Child Development Center under director **Bev Corrow** got off to a quick start with a pair of staff trainings in mid-August. Students from child development classes have been using the CDC to observe children. Two volunteers in the section taught by **Carol Story** (Education) are assisting at the center. **Darlene Witte** (Education) has two students doing an independent study for her literacy class at the CDC.

Student and Alumni Activities and Achievements

As reported in the Burlington Free Press, **Kevin Briggs** of St. Albans was named Essex Middle School assistant principal and officially began working in the district in August. A nine-member screening committee recommended him from thirteen candidates to the superintendent and directors of the Essex Town School District. The School Board made

the decision. Kevin served as the principal of Bakersfield Elementary and Middle School since July 2006. He earned a bachelor's degree from Johnson State College and a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Vermont. Briggs said he believes in the importance of allowing middle school students to take an active role in their education.

As reported in the St. Alban's Messenger, two former JSC science students who recently graduated have already had their first research paper published. **Stephen J. Roy** and **Jennifer L. Dickie** (both 2007, E&HS) were undergraduates when they conducted a study to measure improvements in muscle response in inactive young and older women through resistance training. The peer-reviewed study made important findings into how to improve mobility in inactive young and older women. The study, "Elderly women have blunted response to resistance training despite reduced antagonist coactivation," is published in the September 2008 issue of *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise* by the American College of Sport Medicine. Dain LaRoche, a former faculty member at JSC, was the lead researcher. The two JSC student researchers are continuing their studies. Stephen is studying for an M.A. in Exercise Science at the University of Pittsburgh and Jennifer is studying to be a physician's assistant at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA.

2008 graduate **Amanda Thomas's** new teaching position in physical education at Cambridge Elementary School made the front page of *The Transcript* in late August.

Laraway School's proximity to Johnson State has helped form strong bonds with the College. "It's become a great partnership," president of Laraway's board of trustees **Duncan Tingle** (Education) was quoted as saying, for an article in the June 26 *Stowe Reporter*. Among other things, JSC students who are

earning counseling degrees volunteer at Laraway, and Laraway students take advantage of recreational opportunities at the SHAPE facility. In addition, **Mike Osborne** (Athletics) was the guest speaker at Laraway School's graduation and awards ceremony in June.

After four and a half years at the Stowe Reporter, alumnus **Scott Monroe** (Journalism) left the paper to become a reporter for the Morning Sentinel, a daily newspaper in Waterville, Maine.

Kelly Jackson, a graduating senior at South Burlington High School who will be attending Johnson State College, was one of 10 students to receive an annual service award from the Chittenden County Kiwanis Club. Kelly, along with other awardees, was selected for her volunteer service to the community and will receive a cash award toward school-related expenses.

Library

It's been a gratifyingly busy start to the fall semester, with library staff reporting increases in all aspects of operations: circulation, attendance, reference activity, and resource sharing. Given this growing demand, the temporary housing of student government in library space has caused some access issues for public catalogs and group study spaces. As campus construction nears conclusion, the library staff looks forward to a return to full programmatic space and the ability to deliver service in a more seamless fashion.

As part of the library's commitment to support the college's Common Reading Initiative, **Joe Farara** and **Ray Brior** have assembled a comprehensive reading and listening collection related to New Orleans and Louisiana. The list can be found at <http://www.jsc.edu/library/FindBooks/NewAcquisitions/CommonReadingInitiative2008.aspx>

Linda Kramer has revised a number of the library's video tutorials to reflect changes in

database interfaces and content. The tutorials are available at: <http://www.jsc.edu/library/GuidesAndHelp/>

With the growing demand from students for academic content, the library occasionally bumps up against copyright restrictions related to interlibrary loan. **Alice Kirk** is researching a number of fee-based document delivery services to alleviate the problem. The library intends to have a solution in place before the end of October.



STUDENT SERVICES

Residence Life

JSC is once again serving a record number of students in our residence halls, up nearly fifty from last year's prior record. Doing so has required patience on the part of students and residential life staff alike, as eight lounges have been converted to quad rooms and all thirty triple rooms are fully occupied.

The good news is that the high number of students in the halls has not compromised the quality of life that students have come to expect (and which has played a significant part in the increasing number of students choosing to live on campus). Nearly 400 residential students completed an early semester survey and more than ninety percent indicated they strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements: "the residents of my floor are supportive and respectful of each other", "the residence halls provide a safe and healthy living environment", "my residence hall room is comfortable and has adequate amenities", and "the College offers a sufficient variety of pro-

grams and activities for residential students.” These ratings help explain why our exit rates have been very low despite the tight quarters described above.

The residence life staff has engaged in significant programming. A notable early success was a “Rock the Vote” program in which more than 100 students were registered to vote. Each residential building will have its own service project over the course of the semester.

Athletics and Recreation

The fall 2008 semester has brought added fitness programming to the SHAPE facility. Students, employees, and community members have been taking advantage of various group exercise classes including water aerobics, spinning, body bar, fitness swimming, and Nordic walking. Also being offered is a twelve week weight loss challenge, patterned after TV’s “The Biggest Loser,” led by Wellness Coach and JSC alum **Amanda Burby**.

In athletics, a number of Badgers have collected early season North Atlantic Conference (NAC) awards. In men’s cross country **Jon Preuss** has been named NAC Runner of the Week and **Django Koenig** has received NAC Rookie of the Week honors. **Jasmine Yuris** received NAC Rookie of the Week honors in women’s cross country. **Ryan Demars** was named NAC Rookie of the Week in men’s soccer.

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), led by co-presidents **Steve Noyes** of the lacrosse team and **Miles Smith Jr.** of the men’s basketball squad, has its largest membership in history. This group will be consulted extensively as plans are developed for the upcoming SHAPE renovation project.

Center for Service Learning

In an early local service project students and staff worked with the Volunteer Center of the Lamoille Valley to clean out culverts along the Rail Trail in Johnson. Upcoming events, partnering with residence life, will include a “sort-

a-thon” at the Vermont Food Bank, a blood drive, and work on the Catamount Trail.

For our Break Away Leader Training, Coordinator of Community Services **Laura Megivern** compiled a “Break Away Site Leader’s Guide to Reflection,” a brief handbook of reflection and group process activities. This resource has since been shared with the national Break Away network and will be used in various capacities by alternative break programs at the University of Maine, Lafayette College, William and Mary, Western New England College, American University, and the University of Connecticut.

The Bonner Leader Program has recruited eight students this year. Confirmed community partner host sites for this year’s program to date are Laraway Youth and Family Services, River Arts, Lamoille County Conservation District, United Way of Lamoille County, Lamoille County Court Diversion, America Reads, and Special Olympics of Vermont.

Student Government Association & Student Activities

The Student Government has overcome the adversity associated with not having a physical home due to the Stearns construction project to have a productive first month. A long-time student-advocated project, the installation of a stairway from Arthur Hall to its nearby parking lot, came to fruition early.

Each student senator takes on a self-initiated project during his/her year of service. These range from an energy audit to a standardize-the-clocks initiative to arranging for the New York Times to be distributed free across campus.

Campus activities and events have also faced construction related challenges this fall, as a number of performance venues have been off-line. A beautiful autumn helped make a tent on the quad a viable events venue and participants and planners have shown good

humor in running some traditional events such as the weekly coffee house series in some very unconventional locations.

Health and Counseling Centers

New Nurse Practitioner **Jeanie Cass** has quickly become integrated into the JSC community through her involvement in numerous outreach and college-wide events, including serving as a discussion group leader during new student orientation, being a guest speaker in a forum on health care reform, and participating in discussions with students on campus safety.

The Counseling Center has also been active on the outreach front, offering support groups on campus and speaking in classes about the services they provide. Counseling staff provided training sessions for the residence life staff during their orientation and continue to work closely with that department.

Public Safety

The public safety department has moved into its new space in Dewey Hall. The department has already received positive feedback regarding the resulting increased accessibility and visibility. This move coincides with efforts on the part of the department to be a more visible positive presence that is more fully integrated into the life of the campus.

Upward Bound

The Upward Bound program wrapped up a successful summer session with its annual Classroom at Sea program. Students from four area high schools spent a week on the schooner, *The Westward*, learning about life at sea, interacting with the professional crew, and viewing maritime wildlife.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Business Office

The financial auditors (BDMP) were on site at JSC, August 26 & 27. Their final report will be presented to the Board of Trustees in October.

The results of the audit were excellent, with only minimal comments for Johnson State College.

JSC is scheduled to be the first school to switch to new loan provider, ECSI. We expect that conversion will be complete no later than December 31, 2008.

Andrea Wadlington has joined the Business Office as our newest Account Specialist.

Physical Plant

Physical Plant has been extraordinarily busy during the summer and early fall assisting with the transformation of Stearns Hall into a Student Center, and developing plans for bringing it on-line in early October. Physical Plant personnel have been integral to the overall success of the project, and their efforts have been especially appreciated during this stressful time.

As part of Johnson State College's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, manicured lawns in key areas have been converted to native grasses and wildflowers. Last spring, approximately 2 acres were converted, thus reducing our carbon emissions related to the mowing of the area. We estimate that approximately four hours of mowing per week were eliminated. Response from students, faculty, and staff has been extremely favorable. Therefore, later this fall, we will be converting approximately four more acres to native grasses and wildflowers.

A few upcoming ventures we are currently planning for include: renovations at the S.H.A.P.E facility, a new stage in the Dibden Auditorium, electrical primary replacement, and an array of campus safety projects. We are looking forward to yet another invigorating semester of renovating and upgrading our facilities as well as our grounds.

Conference and Events (CES)



The Conference and Events Services Office had a very busy and successful summer with many groups on campus. The fall semester has also been full of many activities and events including Fallfest.

We had record registration and participation for our Fallfest weekend. The Conference and Events Staff provided support for the entire weekend which contributed to the weekend's success. Plans for the Grand Opening of the Stearns Student Center are underway, as the Conference & Events office will provide logistical support for the many needs of the event.

The Conference & Events Office is changing how meetings and events are booked and how space is reserved on campus. Once the changes are made, Conference and Event Services will serve as the catering liaison between Aramark and all on and off campus customers. The office will serve as a one stop shop for on and off campus customers.

Information Technology (IT)

Phase 1 of our network bandwidth upgrade project has been completed. The library, computer labs, network servers, Martinetti switches, and the newly renovated Stearns building are now communicating at 1 gigabits per second (Gaps) to the core of the campus network. Completion of the project is scheduled for end of spring semester, and will include bringing the remaining campus buildings to Gaps as well.

Students returned to campus to new HP Workstations with 20-inch LCD widescreen flat panel moni-

tors in the HTM lab. Other lab upgrades included the installation of a new large format Epson scanner and three small format Epson scanners for the digital media lab; and the creation of a small Apple lab in the VAC. In addition, three new technology installations were completed including: Stearns Theater, large Dewey classroom, and the new Dewey 1867 conference room.

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

Admissions

Admissions counselors are well underway with their fall travel schedules visiting hundreds of high schools and attending college fairs throughout the Northeast. The Admissions Office has also launched its first regular electronic communication program with prospective students and guidance counselors.

In addition to travel, the admissions staff has scheduled two Fall Open House dates, three Early Admission Days and three days focused on the transfer student.

Financial Aid

Johnson State College financial aid director **Lisa Cummings** and **Sharron Scott** dean of administration had their first video conference with the other Vermont State Colleges on September 24 as part of the new Direct Loan Task Force. All colleges are concerned with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) that is requiring extensive disclosure, by the colleges, regarding the choice of preferred lenders. The VSC financial aid directors are all in agreement that research will continue to determine whether or not switching to Direct Lending will make borrowing easier for students, ease the burden on financial aid offices and take into consideration the current markets as lenders struggle to be part of the FFEL program. All participants agreed the transition would not be likely to occur until 2010.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

Homecoming

The year's Fallfest weekend took place on September 26 – 28 on the JSC campus. The event is

combined to include families, alumni, and students. There are certain challenges that come with a combined event, but care was taken to ensure that everyone felt included and that programming was diverse.

A survey done following the event produced positive input and helped to reinforce some changes that were made. This year there was additional programming throughout the day on Saturday, a BBQ in place of a more formal luncheon, and an ice cream social. Sporting events were held on Saturday and Sunday and pleasant weather, combined with the fall foliage, made it a great time to be on campus.

More than 130 parents and alumni participated in the BBQ under a tent on the quad. An equal number enjoyed ice cream. Another sixty stayed over and attended Sunday's Fallfest brunch.

Other events that coincided with the weekend included a concert by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra on Friday evening, and the President's Alumni Awards Ceremony, and Athletic Hall of Fame awards banquet and induction ceremony on Saturday. These events were also well attended making this one of our more successful events.

Boston Alum Reception

Boston area alumni gathered on a Monday evening at Cleary's at 113 Dartmouth Street, a location close to the T and parking. Fifteen alums attended, ranging from Class of 1980 to 2004. All present enjoyed the gathering and look forward to doing it again next year.

Ellsworth Trust

The Ellsworth Trust annual meeting was on September 20. This private trust, named in honor of the late Professor Emeritus Robert A. Ellsworth, exists to provide support for the teaching of political science and history at JSC. This past year grants of \$12,000 funded the annual Ellsworth Lecture (Julia Alvarez), scholarships for five students (called Ellsworth Scholars), and travel grants for students (to Sri Lanka, Eastern Europe, and Great Britain). The current exhibition in the Ellsworth Seminar Rooms features photos of the student travel.

Alumni Award Winners

During this year's Fallfest weekend, held in late September, several JSC alumni were recognized for outstanding achievements both personally and professionally during the President's Alumni Awards. Being recognized with the Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Award was Professor **Karen Uhlendorf**; the Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to **Mark and Star Heinrich**, both from the Class of 1969. In addition, Outstanding Alumni Awards were presented to **Mary Anderson '93**, and **Lee Khan '75**; External Degree Program Outstanding Alumni Awards were presented to **Owen Bradley '98**, and **Jeanne Kennedy '84**. The Outstanding Alumni Award to a Master of Fine Arts graduate went to **Won Lee '07**. Rising Stars/Young Alumni Awards were presented to **Danielle Hudson-Durkin '05**, and **Daniel Kabler '05**.

That evening, the following JSC alumni and friends were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame; **Steve Blouin '94**, **Wayne Bugden '85**, **Tiffany Corey '02**, **Patrick Glover '03**, **Richard Lussier '68**, and **Holly Patterson '00**. Professors **William Doyle** and **Donald Tobey** were inducted as Honorary Members. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to perpetuate the accomplishments of the College's greatest athletes, to bring honor and distinction to Johnson State College, and to support in all ways possible the College's intercollegiate athletic programs.