

Board of Trustees Report Johnson State College October 25, 2007



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As we move deeper into the fall semester here at Johnson State College, I'm struck by the ease with which our campus community has embraced the new academic year and its challenges. I'm struck, too, by the pace at which we're moving forward with many of our strategic objectives.

- We have the highest number of students in residence in a decade.
- Our efforts to enhance the first year-experience have moved to a new level, with the launch of our Common Reading Initiative, which culminated with a visit to campus by author Ishmael Beah.
- Our External Degree Program turned 30 this year, which gives us a substantial foundation on which to grow that program.
- Our focus on campus safety continues with the addition of surveillance cameras in select sites and the launch of an emergency notification system.
- The launch of our first electronic newsletter will take advantage of the flexibility of our new Web site as we explore new ways to take advantage of electronic communications.

These highlights reflect a concentrated effort to excel in the areas of student recruitment and retention. Our admissions and marketing staff continue to refine our message to prospective students and to expand our range in reaching them through print, radio, and personal visits. Our residence life staff has paid particular attention to developing a range of events this semester to keep students on campus and engaged.

We've entered a year-long major gift focus in our \$5 million comprehensive fundraising campaign. During this phase we will continue to test our campaign priorities with prospective donors and keep them informed of the college's progress in realizing goals laid out in our strategic plan. Our progress on our major capital project—the complete renovation of Stearns Hall—continues. We eagerly await the Board's approval of our bonding request and financing plan; should all go well, we anticipate reviewing bids on our RFP for a construction manager by the end of October.

It's a busy time at Johnson State College, and a fulfilling time to be part of this great institution. I am happy to share the many stories that follow with you in this report.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

New Student Orientation

New Student Orientation was, by all accounts, a success. Individual programs throughout the weekend were marked by high participation, high energy, and positive reviews. The Class of 2011 was greeted and guided by 36 returning students who were trained as Orientation Leaders. The numbers that filled the seats at Opening Convocation gave testament to the orientation leaders' superb job in creating an environment that encouraged engagement and inquiry. The Common Reading Initiative was a very rich component of New Student Orientation. The 23 discussion groups, facilitated by faculty and staff members throughout the college, served as an authentic introduction to JSC's academic community. The programs supporting the themes of *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* have also had healthy participation. The Sierra Leone All Stars played to a packed house in Dibden on August 27. A mid-September screening of a documentary film on the band saw more than 70 students in attendance. Events surrounding Beah's memoir concluded with the author's visit to campus on October 22.



As part of orientation planning, a parent resource committee worked on a number of communication efforts including two well-attended, family information sessions during orientation; improving and expanding the information provided to families during the new student registration events; and the first-ever Johnson State College Parent and Family

Newsletter, *Family Link*. (See "Student Services" section of this report.)

External Degree Program

This semester marks the 30th anniversary of the External Degree Program at Johnson State College. Begun in fall 1977, on the strength of a grant from the Fund for Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE), the program now enrolls more than 500 adult learners statewide. The first graduating class in 1978 consisted of 2 students. Last May, 141 EDP students received bachelor's degrees at JSC's commencement.

The External Degree Program and its students depend on a talented pool of instructors who combine teaching expertise with deep experience as practitioners in their fields. We'd like to highlight the important contributions of some of these faculty who teach online or on weekends at sites throughout Vermont.

With three master's degrees and extensive experience in the public school system, **Ray Lambert** has taught courses in education, psychology, and humanities for all 30 years of the EDP's existence. He was also one of the founding EDP mentors (advisors) and retired from that work in 2001. For 31 years, Ray has also taught the very important course, Assessment of Prior Learning (APL), through which adult learners earn credit for life experience from the VSC's Office of External Programs. In November, Ray will attend the CAEL conference in San Francisco as part of a four-person VSC contingent making a presentation about the APL program. He lives in Brattleboro except for the winter months, when he sojourns in Florida and continues to teach – online – for the EDP.

Nancy Thompson teaches Rhetorical Expression, Religions of the World, and other courses in the humanities. Whether living in Vermont, Ireland, or Oregon, where she teaches at Clark College, she has been one of EDP's most popular instructors since 2000. Nancy holds an M.A. in Social and Intellectual History (SUNY)

and an M.F.A. in Non-Fiction (Goddard). She writes articles for the Home Forum and Kid-space page of the *Christian Science Monitor*. Her book, *Killing the Buddha*, is coming out in March.

Dr. Wil Pigeon has taught Social Psychology and other courses for the EDP since 1998, when he was a researcher on sleep disorders at Dartmouth. Now he is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. He frequently publishes articles in national journals and presents at conferences on the subject of insomnia and behavioral sleep medicine. He was recently appointed chair of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine's Behavioral Sleep Medicine Committee.

Library

The beginning of the academic year has been a busy one for the Johnson State College Library. In addition to a great deal of activity at the reference and circulation desks, Public Services Librarian **Linda Kramer** has been teaching daily, even twice daily, information literacy instruction sessions for courses across the college's many disciplines. In addition to this work, Linda has been adding content to the library's Web site.



Technical Services Librarian **Ray Brior** finds himself in the midst of a number of projects, including an evaluation of backlogged donations for inclusion in the library collection; the creation of newly acquired items lists for distribution to the faculty; and a collaboration with

Vermont State Colleges' Bibliographic Database Coordinator, Kay Schlueter, to modify government document workflows. In addition, Ray has been working with Faculty Librarian **Joe Farara** to identify and replace lost items of continuing curricular relevance to the collection.

As part of the growing consortial efforts among the state's academic libraries, Faculty Librarian **Joe Farara** has been named to a working group charged with assessing inter-library loan delivery within Vermont. Given the attention other libraries have paid to the rapid turnaround of materials within the VSC, it seems likely that VSC borrowing policies and methodologies will be adopted for broader application.

Faculty and Staff Professional Activity

New faculty member **Hans Haverkamp** (Environmental and Health Sciences) attended an August meeting in Burlington of the Northeast Regional IDEa Conference. At the meeting he presented a poster on "Evolution of airways hyper responsiveness and its physiologic basis after chronic allergic airways disease." Professor Haverkamp's research interest is asthma.

Brad Moskowitz (Environmental and Health Sciences) spent much of the summer leading extended classroom experiences, traveling with his family, and engaging in professional development activities. The summer began with the Camp Abenaki Outdoor Education Program, where JSC students plan and carry out a weeklong outdoor learning experience for all 6th graders from the Grand Isle schools. He and **Karen Uhlendorf** (Environmental and Health Sciences), along with 16 JSC students, carried out the 35th season of this collaborative effort between JSC, YMCA of Burlington, and the Grand Isle Supervisory Union. Days later, Brad took seven students on a 17-day expedition to the southwestern states where they met with an elder from the Zuni Pueblo, backpacked for seven days in Grand Gulch, mountain biked and hiked near Arches National Park, and learned to guide rafts in class 3 whitewater.

In July, while in British Columbia with his family, Brad took a six-day advanced alpine ice climbing course with the American Alpine Institute, one of the premier guiding and training organizations in the U.S. This course enabled Brad to synthesize his skills in rock, ice and snow climbing, high-angle rescue, client management and leadership, and remote mountain travel and apply them to big mountain glaciated terrain. The course culminated in a summit push of Mount Baker in Washington, via the technical north ridge.

Several naturalists from around Vermont, including **Gustav W. Verderber** (Environmental and Health Sciences), have been featured on WCAX television, the Burlington, VT CBS affiliate, to inform viewers about our state's outstanding natural history. Meteorologist Sharon Meyer hosted a brief segment during the evening news in which she accompanied a naturalist into the field and reported, on location, about migrating trout, bird eruptions, celestial events, or unique species such as freshwater jellyfish, as well as the best places to spot a moose or view the fall foliage. WCAX also posted video clips of these episodes to their Web site.

Marjorie Kramer (Fine and Performing Arts) was awarded a painting residency at Governors Island in New York Harbor for June and July, 2007. The island, a new National Park historic site with many lovely deserted mansions among hundred-year-old trees, is located just a few hundred yards from lower Manhattan with views of the Wall Street area. A show at the New York Studio School Gallery on 8th Street featured work done by the 20 artists in the residency program. The show ran September 6 through October 13. Marjorie also exhibited in the Small Works Invitational 2007 show at Blue Mountain Gallery, on West 25th Street in New York City, during July and August.

Ken Leslie (Fine and Performing Arts) is one of nine artists from around the nation who were invited to contribute work to a group exhibition, "Nature Remains: The Artist as Environmentalist," that opens September 14 at

the Helen Day Art Center in Stowe. The show runs through November 17.

"Top of the World," an exhibition of Ken Leslie's work at the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, opened in July and runs through January 27, 2008. The show features paintings and artists' books completed in a number of Arctic locations, including Alaska, Iceland, Svalbard and Nunavut, and includes environmental commentary by Steve Maleski, well-known "Eye on the Sky" meteorologist at the Fairbanks.

John Miller and **Mary Martin** (Fine and Performing Arts) traveled to Italy for 17 days in June with JSC art majors to study Italian art and create portfolios of digital photographs. Besides visiting famous galleries, extraordinary churches, notable pieces of architecture, medieval towns, and major cities, the group also stayed in country houses amidst olive groves and vineyards and visited vintners, farms, and a number of contemporary artists' studios and regional museums. They sampled many regional foods and attended a medieval festival (the Gaite) to enjoy an annual neighborhood feast. Students will present an exhibit of their digital photography from Italy in the Visual Arts Center gallery during the spring semester.

Amy May (Fine and Performing Arts) is organizing the 14th Annual Throw-A-Thon to benefit Operation Smile. The event will occur at the college's Visual Arts Center on Friday October 19 from noon to midnight. For a donation of \$5, participants are invited to create hand crafted and/or wheel-thrown ceramic forms. Works made during the Throw-A-Thon will be donated and sold during the JSC Holiday Ceramic and Bake Sale in November. All proceeds benefit Operation Smile.

Interpreting Nature: Part III, an exhibit by **Joseph Salerno** (Fine and Performing Arts), opened at Stowe's Helen Day Art Center on September 14 and will run until November 17. An artist's talk is scheduled for October 25 at 5:30 p.m.

This semester marks the beginning of a campaign to transform the curricular approach to technology, e-portfolios, cutting-edge software, and 3-D applications in the Associate of Technical Theater program. In May director **Jan Herder** made an e-portfolio presentation at the VSAC Pathways to College workshop at St. Michael's College. He discussed new Web 2.0 applications and digital storytelling as techniques for building an e-portfolio. About 30 prospective college students and their parents attended.

In June, **Russ Longtin** (Fine and Performing Arts) worked on a TV pilot for Robert Fritz productions. In July and August he rehearsed and performed in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* at Quarry Works Theatre in Adamant. Russ is scheduled to perform his one-man *Barrymore* with Lost Nation Theatre in January and will be taking on the role of Iago in Shakespeare's *Othello* next summer at Quarry Works Theatre.

Lisa Jablow (Fine and Performing Arts) has been appointed Chorus Director of the Pioneer Valley Symphony and Chorus beginning with the 2007-08 season. The Pioneer Valley Symphony & Chorus, based in Greenfield, Massachusetts, is now in its 69th season. Lisa is also Music Director of the current Lamoille County Players production, *Spitfire Grill*, at the Hyde Park Opera House. **Reed Brown** (Fine and Performing Arts) assisted with the choreographic aspects of the production. The musical stars JSC student **Amber Couture**.

Maris Wolff (Fine and Performing Arts) was one of four professors featured in "Where campus meets community," an article appearing in the September/October 2007 issue of *Vermont Magazine*. In the article, Maris and her colleagues reflect on how Vermont's small colleges help students connect the classroom and the outside world.

Jo Anne Edwards (Library) is principal trumpet in the Vermont Philharmonic and a founding member of the Constitution Brass Quintet, which is a juried artist with the

Vermont Arts Council. Among other recent concerts, the Vermont Philharmonic performed a pops concert in August in a beautiful setting at the Moose Meadow Lodge in Duxbury. Jo Anne was one of two guest soloists, and **Paul Silver** (Humanities) was also in the orchestra. Paul has also published several reviews for *Choice*, a publication of the American Library Association, used by libraries to select books for their collections.

The KoSA International Drum and Percussion Festival, which was held at JSC during the summer, was featured on WCAX-TV on August 8.

Fred Wiseman (Humanities) uses his research to promote native awareness in Vermont. He is part of a Native American advisory team that is helping the museum at Fort Ticonderoga revamp its exhibits to portray the native participation in the history of the fort. He gave a presentation regarding the Vermont Abenakis at the "Festival of Nations" held at Crown Point State Historic Site in New York on September 14. A few days before, he attended a meeting at the ECHO Center in Burlington to discuss the creation of native exhibits and programming using his own collection of artifacts.

Fred continues to advance the professional development of area teachers through activities such as a keynote speech at this December's, upcoming VASS conference; and November 5 he will be presenting his work on Abenaki history at a presentation for Vermont teachers during the Vermont Quadracentennial. He also is working with the UVM Osher Institute to present native-based programming to seniors in St. Albans and Barre, VT.

Professor Wiseman is co-producing a film with NY film producer Ted Timreck on the creation and natural and cultural evolution of the Lake Champlain Basin. He will be filmed this October for Caro Thompson's (VPT) upcoming movie about Native and European life in the Champlain Basin from 1609-1763. He is the representative of the VT native American Commission to the VT Lake Champlain Quadracentennial Commission.

Cynthia West (Humanities) wrote "The Long View of Foreign Language Teaching," which appeared in the recent issue of the *Vermont Foreign Language Association* (VFLA) newsletter. In it, among other themes, she discusses the way language study opens the way to wider thinking about cross-cultural teaching and learning. In addition, Cynthia has served on the VFLA board of directors for over 25 years in various capacities.

Margaret (Betsy) Hanzimanolis (Writing and Literature) attended the Atlantic History Seminar Conference on "Regional Networks, Shared Experiences, Forces of Integration" at Harvard University in June, and the Fifth Triennial Conference of the International John Bunyan Society at Dartmouth College in August. She is presenting "White Lies and Black Peril: Castaway Women, Nineteenth-Century Novels, and Lady Travelers in South Africa" at the Chimalpahin Conference 2007. The conference, with a focus on "Colonial and Post-Colonial Remembering and Forgetfulness" took place in Mexico City October 15-18. She presented four conference papers during the 2006-2007 academic year: "North to South Africa: Marianne North and Botanical Imperialism," at the Global/Local conference sponsored by the Association for the University Teachers of English in South Africa (AUETSA) at the University of Stellenbosch; "Gender, Empire, and the Portuguese Shipwreck Accounts" at the Center for Portuguese Nautical Studies, 2nd annual conference, Mossel Bay, South Africa; "Eight Hens Per Man Per Day: Shipwrecks and Pastoral Prosperity in 16th-century southern Africa" at the African Studies Association, San Francisco, California; and "From Dawn to Noon Such Pleasures They Pursued: Luís de Camões and the Isle of Love," at the Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Jim Black (Business) is co-hosting True North Radio every other Thursday on WDEV, AM 550.

Neil Shepard (Writing and Literature) read his poetry at the recent Burlington Book Festival. He also performed PoJazz with **Tony Whedon** (Writing and Literature) and others

at Halverson's on Church Street. On October 2 Neil will be the featured reader at Green Mountain College. The 20th anniversary issue of *Green Mountains Review* just hit the newsstands. Because of GMR's special issue on Literature of the American Apocalypse, Neil has been invited to serve on a panel—Poetry and the Atom Bomb—at this year's Associated Writing Programs conference. Other panelists include Carolyn Forché and William Heyen.

Ken Brighton (Education) is the author of a textbook recently published by the National Middle School Association. The book, *Coming of Age: The Education and Development of Young Adolescents*, was written as a resource for middle-school educators and parents of young adolescents. The book highlights the developmental traits of young adolescents, the contexts in which they must function, and health and wellness issues that affect this age group. In composing this work, Ken drew from current research and his own experiences as a middle school teacher and parent of a young teen.

Ellen Hill (Career Center) will attend the Lamoille Valley People in Partnership retreat on October 12. Member organizations and individuals have regularly come together since 1994 to share effective practices, coordinate approaches where possible, and consider the use and management of resources, as the landscape for social, health and education services continues to change.

Academic Support Services concluded a two-year review and self-assessment following standards developed by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education, an organization that creates professional standards and self-assessment guidelines for post-secondary student programs and services. Academic Support Services Program staff collaborated with other JSC staff to assess and rate our facilities, equipment, programs, and mission, and to make recommendations for improvements. The process concluded with a site visit and review by Student Support Services directors John Case (Southern Vermont College) and Ellen McShane (UVM). Recom-

recommendations made and implemented included developing an ethics statement, revising the program's mission statement, clarifying disability issues pertaining to EDP students, and increasing student participation in all planning processes.

Karen Madden (Academic Support Services) attended the annual National TRIO Convention in Chicago in September.

In June, **Luma Mufleh**, JSC's 2007 commencement speaker, had a pair of moving segments about her and her Fugees on the TODAY show. The pieces were available on the show's Web site, complete with a direct link to her JSC commencement address.

Student, Alumni, and Community Partner Activities and Achievements

Emmanuel Riby Williams, a Vermont Teacher Diversity Scholar who has completed his B.A. at JSC, has returned to U-32 as a para-educator and soccer coach while he pursues Peer Review Certification to become a physical education teacher. Another scholarship holder, **Owen Campbell**, likened his first year of teaching science at Windsor High School to a Jackson Pollack painting. He taught bioethics, environmental science, 9th grade honors earth science and integrated science, and served as the NEASC chair for the Instructional Committee. Additionally, Owen was the co-advisor for the PSLTV club which is a group of students who perform community work and promote public awareness of important issues. He also tried to form a Footbag club for at-risk kids not involved in other school sports but was unable to sustain it due to discipline problems among the students involved. Finally, he was a member of the Paradise Park Commission as a liaison between the town and school.

The Nonprofit Management student association has agreed to support "Club Johnson" by a commitment to raise \$3,000 to meet programming costs. Lamoille Court Diversion Restorative Justice Program, Laraway Youth

and Family Services, and Johnson Elementary School are partnering with Johnson State College and the Vermont Studio Center to create this innovative out-of-school-time program for some of Johnson's highest-risk young people in 5th through 8th grades. Pursuing these monies will help JSC students achieve fundraising competencies and add to their nonprofit management portfolio.

This summer students in the technical theater program interned at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Weston Playhouse, Bindlestiff Circus, the Burklyn Ballet, Higher Ground, and Mojo Recording Studio in Burlington, Hartford Stage Co., and the Hyde Park Opera House. Ten of these students—a third of the program—returned as Orientation Leaders, making up nearly a third of that group. Many of these students were the technical wizards of theater from their respective high schools.

This summer, under the direction of **Leslie Kanat** (Environmental and Health Sciences), students in the Environmental Science Program at JSC initiated research projects on the Deer Run Heights Landslide in Jeffersonville, VT. This work is being conducted in association with the Vermont Geological Survey and George Springston of Norwich University. Expedition Drilling (from Manchester, NH), in association with Wilcox and Barton (Moretown, VT), graciously provided the expertise and resources required to drill four monitoring wells at the site.

Journalism graduate **Scott Monroe**, an editor of the Stowe Reporter, received second-place honors for the Best Local Story (non-daily) at the Vermont Press Association's annual luncheon and awards banquet.

Alumnus **John King** (Business Administration) of Colchester, president and CEO of Vermont Public Television, was elected to a three-year term on the national Public Broadcasting Service board of directors.

STUDENT SERVICES

Family Link Newsletter

We recently mailed the first issue of our new parent and family newsletter, *Family Link*. The newsletter serves as an additional vehicle for sharing information with students' families, with the aim of providing helpful tips related to common issues that students face and to bring attention to services that we offer students. The first issue was mailed to the families of first-year students. In October we will launch the electronic version of this newsletter, (www.jsc.edu/parentnewsletter) and in the spring hope to launch an electronic newsletter targeting parents of 2nd-, 3rd-, and 4th-year students.



Residence Life

Last year at this time we reported that we had the highest number of students in residence in a decade. This year, that is the case again with approximately 30 more residential students than we had last year. We were able to accommodate these additional students through the conversion of a floor in Martinetti Hall from offices and classrooms to residence hall rooms. As was the case last year, the increase in the number of residential students is a result of a rise in the number of returning students choosing to live on campus combined with a higher number of new students.

Early feedback from students tells us that the quality of programming in the residence halls has improved this year. Attendance at these events has also increased. The residence life staff has been proactive in regard to alcohol and drug concerns, having presentations in the

halls by **Valerie Welter**, coordinator of drug and alcohol education. The number of alcohol and drug violations on campus has decreased from last year. This is also the case for other on-campus code-of-conduct violations.

Student Government Association

The student government has been very active to date, working with the administration on a number of campus improvement initiatives. The SGA recently oversaw a campus trail clean-up project, clearing brush and debris from the varsity cross-country course. The Town Liaison position has been filled by student **George Black**. The main role of this SGA officer, who attends local Johnson Select-board meetings, is to increase communication between the local community and the College's student body.

Center for Service Learning

Local service projects have been a major focus of this office. To date this semester, 41 volunteers have provided 185 hours of service, working with local agencies that include the North Country Animal League, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, United Way of Lamoille County, the Volunteer Center of Lamoille Valley, and Lamoille Valley Mentoring Partnership. Eight new student readers have joined five returning students to participate in the America Reads program in local elementary schools.

Bonner Leader Program

We are entering our second year of the Bonner Leader Program. Ten new leaders are being recruited to join the five original Bonner Leaders. The program has secured AmeriCorps Education Awards (equivalent to scholarships) totaling over \$23,000 for our new Bonner Leaders. Several new potential community partner sites are being pursued, including the Waterville Town Library, Clarina Howard Nichols Center and Special Olympics Vermont.

Athletics and Recreation

A new card swipe system has been installed at the SHAPE (athletic) building, enabling staff to track use of the facility, both in terms of

times and constituencies. This fall has seen increased participation in intramurals, with outdoor activities such as kayaking and backpacking being especially popular. The campus quad and south lawn have been hubs of activity on a daily basis, with ultimate frisbee and volleyball players

taking advantage of the beautiful fall weather. Students are very excited by the expansion of the campus disc golf course, a project that is currently underway. The officially recognized course is expanding from 12 to 18 holes.



A number of JSC student-athletes received North Atlantic Conference honors in the first few weeks of the semester. In cross-country, **Jamie Bean** was men's rookie of the week and **Nemesia Sorcar** received women's rookie-of-the-week honors. **Dylan Woolf** received a NAC player-of-the-week award in men's soccer. On the women's tennis squad, **Chelsie O'Connell** was player of the week and **Laura Wnuk** was rookie of the week.

Health and Counseling Centers

Both the health and counseling centers are offering programmatic outreach. As previously noted, the counseling center is sponsoring alcohol and drug education programs. The health center is planning smoking cessation and weight loss programs and will be scheduling free HIV testing for students through Vermont CARES. Both departments are also actively seeking feedback, with the health center planning to deliver both student and staff/faculty-focused surveys.

Public Safety

Safety and convenience upgrades have been received positively by students. In the residence halls the old key system has been replaced by building and room swipe-card access, giving students an all-inclusive card that also gets them into the SHAPE facility and serves as their library and meal card. As part of this upgrade, surveillance cameras were installed in the public entryways of the residence halls and in the library by the 24-hour study room. Finally, the campus has launched E2Campus, an emergency notification system that sends immediate notices to cell phones and e-mail accounts in the event of a campus emergency. Additional safety upgrades are being planned and will be highlighted in future reports.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Business Office

End-of-year audit and start-of-term activities went exceptionally well this year with few problems in any areas. New processes associated with the intake of students during New Student Orientation were well received, with increased student/parent visits to the office. It is our hope that this will reduce collection problems later in the year.

Two new staff members started in the Business Office, one specializing in Accounts Payable, the other in Accounts Receivable. Both individuals have been excellent additions to the staff and have provided new life and energy to the department.

Purchasing Card (P-Card) rollout has gone very smoothly on campus. The Business Office is planning training for the last group of cardholders for early October. We are seeing a good reduction in the volume of transactions processed by Accounts Payable. This has allowed us to focus more energy on process improvement. We next anticipate focusing on improved Purchasing procedures.

Sheilah Ladd, Johnson State College Controller, has announced plans leave JSC and move to Lyndon State College as Controller, replacing Bob Bean, who will be retiring later this year. We are grateful for Sheilah's expert leadership during the last two years and Lyndon is fortunate that she will be working for their college. A search has been launched for Sheilah's replacement.

Physical Plant

Fall has arrived and the college Physical Plant crew has wrapped up the final work associated with summer construction projects, and the start-up of the college heating system. Numerous projects were completed this summer including the conversion of the third floor of Martinetti Hall to residential space, creation of new quarters for the Business and Economics Department, water tower renovation, pedestrian promenade and many others.

The college continues to actively work with Freeman French Freeman on the plans for a renovated Stearns Hall. An RFP for a construction manager for this project will be sent out during the second week of October.

Conference and Events

This past month, Conference and Event Services coordinated a number of beginning-of-school activities, including Opening Convocation, Orientation, Registration, and a Vermont Symphony Orchestra appearance at Johnson State College. Additionally, the department recently completed Homecoming and Alumni Weekend activities, and is completing negotiations for the groups that will be on campus with us during the summer of 2008. This year's negotiations are somewhat complicated by prospect of construction on Stearns Hall. The department is working closely with ARAMARK, Physical Plant and other departments on campus to implement plans in the event construction is ongoing during this time.

HUMAN RESOURCES

In support of the JSC Strategic Plan, we have begun important work to "Launch an integrated Human Resources Office with a focus on advancing the JSC mission and ongoing professional development." We have solicited input from a wide range of staff, faculty and administrators—an ongoing component of this process—and incorporated their ideas, opinions, and critical thinking into the first phase of this work. In addition to our goal statement, we have identified the outcomes that will demonstrate success:

- High standards of human relations;
- Employees engaged in productive employment; and
- Employees involved in lifelong learning.

The next phase includes further development of core activities and objectives, an action plan for the current and next two academic years, and developing standards and methods to measure success.

New staff:

Catherine Wilson has joined JSC as the new academic and career advisor. She has extensive higher education experience teaching adults various aspects of counseling as well as over 20 years in high school counseling. She earned her Ph.D. in school counseling from the University of Maryland.

Renate Callahan, administrative assistant for the Business/Economic Department, has worked in administrative and secretarial positions for over 20 years in the United States and internationally. Renate is originally from Germany and recently moved to Johnson.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

Homecoming Weekend 2007

Alumni Homecoming and Reunion Weekend was held September 28, 29, and 30, again as part of the College's Fall Fest, which includes Family Weekend and student association

events. Highlights included a celebration of 20 years of service learning, reunion luncheon, and the Athletic Hall of Fame annual banquet and inductions. In all, about 250 alumni were in attendance for the weekend, joining 100+ family members as we combined family and alumni weekends.



Alumni Awards are always a high point of the weekend. Awardees were honored by President Murphy on Saturday afternoon. Alumni spoke of the great value of their JSC education, and of their gratitude to their professors. A list of awards and recipients follows:

Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Award

Professor Ken Leslie

Ken Leslie is Professor of Fine Arts, having taught painting and drawing here in the BFA and MFA degree programs since 1984. His exploration of time and space has taken him to several residencies on and above the Arctic Circle, both in winter and summer, where he created his "Top of the World" paintings and artists' books.

Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award

Sandy Carroll Chadwick, '67

Dr. Chadwick is professor of education at SUNY Potsdam, where she coordinates Graduate Childhood Programs, the largest graduate program at the college, and is a Chairperson of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

Outstanding Alumni Award Recipients

Susan Lancaster Collins, '70

An elementary school teacher for many years, Susan became school librarian for the Swanton Elementary School in 1989, a position she continues to hold. In 2001, she was named one of Vermont's Outstanding Teachers by the University of Vermont, and in 2006 she received the Lyman C. Hunt Award from the Vermont Council on Reading.

Lori Morse Furrer, '80

A skiing coach for more than 25 years, Lori has directed Mt. Mansfield Winter Academy, a non-profit organization providing academics and athletics for elite ski racers and snowboard/freeride competitors, for 14 years. She recently completed a successful \$2 million campaign to provide a permanent home for the academy in Stowe.

Sandra Buck Howard, '75

Sandra is co-owner (with her father) of Buck's Furniture in Wolcott, Vermont's largest furniture store and a significant employer in northern Vermont. She has served as the chairman of "Love Lights a Tree" since 1992 with annual proceeds going to the American Cancer Society; the Lamoille Area Cancer Network; and the Susan G. Koeman Foundation.

Margaret Swinchoski, '82

Margaret is a well-known classical flutist, a founding member of the Palisades Virtuosi, and she has served as principal flutist with the Westchester and Harrisburg Symphony orchestras and the Lancaster Festival Orchestra. Her debut recital was presented by Artists International at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall.

Jane Godfrey White, '71

Jane is associate director of the Executive M.B.A. Program for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus. She manages the admissions and registration process, working as general advisor to students on non-academic matters, manages the finances, and organizes the logistics for a yearly trip for 50 to 60 students to China.

Outstanding EDP Alumni Awards

Susan M. Hill, '84

Susan is a certified public accountant and the founder and president of Hill & Thompson, P.C., a Certified Public Accounting firm located in Manchester Center, Vermont. In 2000 she was named Vermont's 2000 Accountant Advocate of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. She is a director of Factory Point National Bank, as well as Berkshire Hills Bancorp.

Trevor S. Whipple, '94

Trevor serves as Police Chief in South Burlington, the third-largest municipal police department in the state. He is senior juvenile law instructor at the Vermont Police Academy and adjunct faculty at Woodbury College and CCV.

Rising Stars Young Alumni Award

Laurie A. Bragg, '96

Laurie transferred to JSC after a first semester of feeling like a nameless face at a big university. After graduation, Laurie went on to the University of Nebraska for graduate work (museum services degree), and now is development director for Youth Alternatives, a major social services organization in Portland, Maine.

Rebecca K. Fay, '01

A former Ellsworth Scholar and JSC Student Association president, Rebecca graduated in the top quarter of her class from Williams University School of Law. Today, she is a member of the law firm of Johnson & Perkinson in South Burlington, where she co-managed a discovery review team of 35-40 contract attorneys for a high-profile Securities Class Action for violation of federal securities laws. She is currently doing legal work at Legal Services Law Line of Vermont.

Karen Marineau Mabe, '00

A recipient of numerous scholarships while a student at JSC, Karen is Field Operations and Human Resources Supervisor for the City of Greensboro in North Carolina.

Rebecca Smith McGregor, '02

Rebecca is a full-time dance instructor in the fine and performing arts department at Lyndon Institute. In 2004, Rebecca founded the Vermont State Dance Festival. She also taught and choreographed for the Youth Advisory Council's 2006 Youth Town Meeting Day at Lyndon State College. Last year she won the Youth Impact Award and has founded a new dance company for young dancers.

Julie A. Ruth, '04

Julie with her husband, Shannon Long '05, are the owners and managers of Great Big Graphics in Morrisville. Julie has exhibited her art in numerous group and solo shows in the local area, including the Vermont Arts Council in Montpelier. Her awards include a CASE Silver Award, a Vermont Arts Council Artist Development Grant, first place in the Helen Day Art Center's For Arts Sake, and a Vermont Studio Center Fellowship Award.

Outstanding Master's Degree Alumni

Carleen A. Musick, '97 M.A. '04

Carleen is a member of the Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union, working in the Bakersfield Elementary and Middle School. As a facilitator for the reading program, Success for All, she became the reading coach for the school in 2003. In 2004, Carleen was named a Vermont Outstanding Teacher.

Deborah Stieglitz Shell, '96 M.A. '98

Deborah is a licensed clinical mental health counselor, currently working as an outpatient therapist. She has recently co-authored a book for treatment providers, *Creating Capacity for Attachment: Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy in the Treatment of Trauma Attachment Disorders*, and is teaching in the graduate counseling program.

Fundraising

Recent Gifts to the College

A generous gift of \$43,000 to the **Professor Emeritus Margaret G. Ottum Environmental Scholarship Endowment** was received this past month from Professor Ottum's sister, Florence Ottum, and the estate of her late brother, James E. Ottum. This generous gift nearly doubles the amount in the endowment, which funds an annual scholarship for an upper-class student majoring in natural resources, environmental science, or environmental education. The scholarship is awarded to a student in good academic standing who

has demonstrated a commitment to the college and/or community service and displays leadership potential.

Endowment Growth

With the Higher Education Trust Fund and Vermont Legislative Challenge funds of \$34,474 allocated, the cash value of the JSC endowment has grown to \$1,676,829. The remaining Title III matching funds of \$260,000 will be paid over the next three years. When these funds are received, four pending endowments will reach endowment level, bringing the endowment total to \$1,931,829.