

President's Report to the Board of Trustees January 21, 2006



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Spring semester at Johnson State College is off to an energetic start. The semester actually began on Sunday, January 15 when new students gathered on campus for Winter orientation—a day-long event that brought new students together with advisors and each other, and introduced them to life at Johnson. Intensive recruitment for the spring semester yielded impressive numbers of students: Vermont students up 23 percent, out-of-state students up 43 percent, and transfer and EDP each up 30 percent. Recruitment numbers for the fall are encouraging, but it is too early to make predictions on enrollment.

In addition to positive developments in the College's admissions arena, the past few months have seen a number of transitions, enhancements, and accomplishments for the College and the community. Some of those include:

- Renovation to the Admissions Office has been completed. The new space provides a comfortable space for prospective students and their families and will give a nice first impression of our College to those visiting campus.
- Performances at the Dibden Center for the Arts during calendar year 2005 brought 12,962 people to campus. This is a record number of people attending performances and is due, in part, to enhanced community collaborations.
- Mentoring programs run by the men's and women's basketball teams with youth at the Laraway School received media coverage from an ESPN radio affiliate and WCAX television.
- The campus's Health Center has move to a new facility offering more space better suited to patient needs. The Center is open now, but its grand opening will be held this spring.
- With the new cell phone tower installed, the Johnson community is enjoying cell phone service across the campus.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Faculty and Staff

Professional Activity

In mid-December **Leslie Kanat** (Environmental and Health Sciences) met with 21 students from Wolcott Elementary School to work with compasses and GPS devices. Once the students were sufficiently chilled

from the cold, windy morning, they went into the rock lab to work with topographic maps, petrographic microscopes, and the rock saws. Also in December Dr. Kanat initiated a long-term monitoring project on the landslide of Deer Run Ridge in Jeffersonville, Vermont. He is working with Jon Kim (Vermont Geological Survey), George Springston (Norwich University), and students in the Environmental and Health Sciences program at Johnson State College.

Bob Genter (Environmental and Health Sciences) volunteered as a swing-dance performer at the Vermont Swing Dance held at the Edmunds School on First Night in Burlington.

Yankee Magazine (January, 2006) features photographic work by part-time faculty member **Gustav W. Verderber** (Environmental and Health Sciences), including recent images of Quoddy Head Light as well as a selection of great gray owl images. Stemming from his 2003 appointment as Kodak Ambassador in Yellowstone National Park, he has just completed a handbook on Yellowstone's world-renowned geothermal features, wildlife and landscapes. During his sojourn in Yellowstone, Gustav benefited from the vast knowledge of the park's interpretive staff and formed lasting friendships with the park photographer Bob Greenburg, backcountry guide Jett Hitt, and interpretive ranger Carol Shively. *The Yellowstone National Park Photographer's Field Guide* is the result of his own research and the accumulated contributions of people like these to whom



Yellowstone National Park is as familiar as their own back yards.

In early December **Ken Brighton** (Education) co-facilitated a presentation at the High School Renewal Conference at Killington sponsored by the Vermont Department of Education. The session was attended by high school teachers and administrators. His session focused on strategies to ease student transition from the middle school to the high school setting.

Michael Winkelman (Writing and Literature) attended the recent MLA annual meeting. He presented a talk, "My mind to me a kingdom is: A cognitive approach to John Donne's songs and sonnets," as part of a session on Theorizing and Historicizing the Mind in English Renaissance Literature. The presentation is part of his ongoing, book-length study.

Clyde Stats (Academic Support Services) performed with faculty members **Tony Whedon** and **Neil Shepard** (both Writing and Literature) and JSC alumnus **Caleb Bronz** at poetry + jazz performances (PoJazz) at Champlain College in November and JSC in December.

Elizabeth Smith and **Lori Adams** (Registrar's Office) attended the November annual meeting of the New England Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers in Rhode Island. Elizabeth serves on NEACRAO's Professional Ethics Committee and will be presenting a session on changing perspectives in the registrar's profession next November. She also serves on the Small College Committee for AACRAO (the national organization) and will be presenting two sessions at the annual conference in April: one on how small colleges can best cope with computer conversions and another on the importance of creating safe spaces for gay students on college campuses.

Ellen Hill (Career Center) has been invited to present at a forum for senior administrators at the C.O.O.L. Idealist National Conference

at Vanderbilt University on March 3, 2006. Ellen will be co-presenting with Polly Chandler, Service Learning Liaison, Antioch New England Graduate School (NH), Billy Newton, Chaplain, Rhodes College (TN), Felecia Pearson Smith, Director of the Bonner Office of Community Service and Student Development, Spelman College (GA), and Betty Hibler, Associate Director of the Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service, Berea College (KY) on innovative practices linking higher education to community based organizations. The focus of Ellen's presentation will be "*Turn the Curve*," a project supported by a VSC Learning Communities Fund grant. Six students in the Nonprofit Management Studies program will accompany Ellen.

Under the leadership of co-directors **Ellen Hill** and **Christie Haspray Leone**, the Career Center launched two services, peer advising and group advising sessions. After a two year hiatus, the Peer Advising Program returned. Peer Advisors, nominated by faculty, were on hand in the weeks leading up to, and during, pre-registration. They assisted students through the basics of registration, MAPLE, general education requirements, and course scheduling. Peer advisors did not replace faculty advisors, but were able to assist roughly 40-50 first and second year students. Feedback from both students and faculty was very positive. In a related initiative, the Career Center worked with faculty in the Business/Economics department and Outdoor Education program to provide group academic advising for first and second year students majoring in those areas. Outdoor Education faculty have long utilized a group advising model with the help of the Career Center, but this effort is new for the Business/Economics department. Both units use the group sessions to cover basic degree planning and course scheduling. With the basic scheduling complete, individual advising appointments focus on more detailed degree and career planning discussions.

Faculty members **Liz Dolci** (Environmental and Health Sciences), **Luke Krieg**, **Gina Mireault** (both Behavioral Sciences), **Leila**

Bandar, **John Miller** (both Fine and Performing Arts), and **Jean Haigh** (Education) are poised to become "service-learning ambassadors" for Johnson State College. With the support of Vermont Campus Compact, each will receive a \$1,500 subgrant to support the creation or redesign of a course to include a service learning component and to support their own professional development, including conferences, resources, release time, and/or a stipend. It is also expected that the new "ambassadors" will help influence and support colleagues to create extended classroom experiences. To date, John and Leila have registered to participate in the Problem Based Service Learning Institute at Middlebury College in January, 2006.

Under its director, **Jan Herder**, Dibden Center has finished up the calendar year 2005 with the highest number of performances since record keeping began in 1992. Sixty-four performances resulted in 12,962 people coming through the door! Some of this growth is due to enhanced community collaborations and internships with such organizations as the Career Academy of the Arts at People's Academy, River Arts of Morrisville, the United Way, the Clarina Howard Nichols Center, the Hyde Park Opera House, Higher Ground of Burlington and local dance studios such as Dancing with Style, Stowe Dance Academy, the Vermont Ballet Theater, the Ballet School and Dance Arts Academy of St. Albans, and the Lancer Dancers from Lamoyille Union High School.



The robust schedule of events has contributed to a 75% enrollment growth rate, from spring to fall 2005, in the Associate of Arts in Technical Theater program. Technology enhancement has also enhanced the program's desirability. The fall began with an updated computer lighting system called Emphasis by ETC, which features a dedicated server to process and control the lighting fixtures,

real time 3-D imaging, documentation management, design enhancements with on-board CADD, all displayed on four monitors. Access to this type of equipment is limited in the academic world but found in the best equipped modern theatrical facilities, such as the Flynn Theater in Burlington.

Dibden's sound recording studio also received an upgrade, so as to run the latest in recording programs and give JSC students exposure to the best in the contemporary music scene. An example is the recent *Blue Winter*, a two-CD release that captures a December 2004 Dibden Theater performance by saxophonist Fred Anderson, bassist William Parker, and drummer Hamid Drake. The recording has made numerous "Best Jazz Releases of 2005" lists, including those of the *Chicago Tribune* and *One Final Note*. The former notes that "Anderson rarely has been more faithfully recorded, the often leathery quality of his midrange, the acidity of his high notes and the barreling quality of his nethermost pitches captured more vividly than ever before"; while the latter finds that the discs reveal "rocking episodes, spiritual incantations, folk blues moans, and ballads that burst into flame performed by a trio of distinctive personalities, each performer powerful in his own right, yet creating spontaneously as if of one mind."



Students and Alumni Activities/ Achievements

The last report to the Trustees reported on the success of the student production of *Angels in America*, which took center stage at Dibden last November. Since then, although the production itself was not selected to proceed to the regional semi-finals of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, the judges have decided to nominate *additional* JSC students for the KCACTF's Irene Ryan

acting competition. The three Irene Ryan nominees are Dan Boyd, Morgan Eaton, and Joe Hannon, who will go forward with their scene partners, respectively, Adam Schuler, Merrick Neville, and Gina Michaud. Thus Johnson State College now has six students going on to the festival. The President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching and Learning will support their participation.

WCAX-Channel 3 Sports was on campus December 8 to cover the men's basketball game vs. Middlebury College. Unfortunately the JSC Badgers, despite a strong team effort, ultimately lost to an undefeated opponent. WCAX covered the game as part of a "Spotlight on Sports" segment. The foci of their interest were **Frank Ponte's** scoring his 1000th career point and being named co-Player of the Week *and* the mentoring program that both basketball programs participate in, along with the game itself. Also covering the mentoring program was an ESPN radio affiliate from Plattsburgh.

As an extended classroom project, under the supervision of **Jim Black** (Business/Economics), students in the Database course (CIS 3040) developed a new event planning database for Conference and Event Services (CES) at Johnson State College. The database project involved a complete overhaul of the existing database. In so doing, the students were able to reduce the process from 31 steps to five. As a follow up, **Hannah Morse** will serve as an intern with CES during spring semester, where she will continue the group's work on the database. This is one of several extended classroom projects that students in Business/Economics are undertaking.

In November, **Brad Moskowitz** (Environmental and Health Sciences) attended the 33rd Annual International Conference of the Association for Experiential Education in Tucson, Arizona. Johnson State College students **Amanda Barnard** (2006) and **Brent Hunsinger** (December 2005) traveled with Professor Moskowitz with financial support from Student Association mini-grants

and the President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The conference was an excellent professional development opportunity for the students and their professor, with innovative workshops that integrated topics such as place-based education, socially-just outdoor leadership, nature writing and language arts, brain-based research and experiential learning, and cultural philosophies of nature into the broad context of outdoor/adventure/experiential education. Professor Moskowitz is currently serving on the conference committee to plan the spring regional conference in April.

The second annual Outdoor Education Presentation Day took place at Johnson State College on December 6, 2005. **Brad Moskowitz** and students from the Adventure Education Theory & Practice class coordinated the event that included interactive workshops, learning activities, and presentations on independent research projects from students enrolled in Research in Outdoor Education (taught by part-time faculty member **Sean Collins**). **Wendy Brothers**, coordinator of the SHAPE facility and of intramurals and a graduate student with independent study in outdoor education, played a major role in coordinating the event and presenting material. Also of note was **David Damato** (2006) who contributed greatly through his leadership and presentations on three separate topics.

A front page photograph in the Burlington *Free Press* (December 6, 2005) showed **Jeanine Bunzigiye** (2006), formerly of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, standing during a naturalization ceremony at U.S. District Court in Burlington in which she was granted citizenship in the United States.

Painter **Julie Ruth** (2004, currently Advancement, Marketing and Public Relations) and her husband, sculptor Shannon Matthew Long, opened a new gallery at 23 South Main St. in Waterbury. The Julie Ruth Studio and Gallery features oil paintings by Ruth and eastern-influenced sculptures

incorporating river stones and adobe by Long. The gallery was a "best bet" in the Burlington *Free Press* (December 1, 2005).

LIBRARY

The start of the New Year brought many changes to the various databases offered to JSC faculty and students.

Reference staff have been updating documentation to reflect these changes, including the look and feel of many screens in the TILT information literacy tutorial. Public Services Librarian **Linda Kramer** is the lead person on these efforts.



Faculty Librarian and Chief Technology Officer **Joe Farara** continues to have his biographical information included in **Who's Who in America**.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology notes that the JSC Blackboard Portal continues to see increased use. Many Registrar and Public Safety Forms are now available for download from the Portal, and Student Activity events are posted regularly; class changes, and cancellation notices are now being posted to the Portal by the Registrar's office. Authoring instruction was provided to several additional staff members to increase the availability of timely information. Similarly, the college's IP videoconferencing unit has seen regular and increasing use.

IT completed its upgrade of the Microsoft Office suite to Office 2003 for faculty users, and the department has scheduled a wireless site survey and design process for the library. The start date is January 24, 2006.

Senior Desktop Specialist **Tom Fordham** has set up a test machine to examine the

feasibility of deploying open source instant message and chat software. The same machine also houses an open source network and port security package for research and development purposes.

Instructional Technology Specialist **Paul Bloomhardt** attended a NERCOMP seminar on Copyright and Scholarly Communication in the Digital Age in Worcester.



STUDENT SERVICES

Transitions

Jill Piacitelli, Coordinator of the Center for Service Learning, left JSC this past December to become the National Director of Break Away, the national non-profit organization that supports collegiate alternative break programs. While Jill will be greatly missed at the College, we are excited at her opportunity and proud to have one of our own in such a position. Picking up Jill's responsibilities for the spring 2005 semester will be **Sarah Dyke**, a 2005 JSC graduate who was very active in the SERVE program. As a student, Sarah had led Break Away trips and coordinated numerous service projects, with a focus on hunger and homelessness issues. In recognition of her accomplishments she received the JSC Community Service Award and the Vermont Campus Compact Commitment to Service Award.

Also joining the division, as Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Education, is **Valerie Welter**. Valerie recently received her M.A. from JSC in Counseling Psychology with an emphasis on Mental Health Counseling and Substance Abuse, and had previously served as the Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist intern in the Counseling Center. Her passion is working with college-age students

Craig Roach joins the athletic staff as Head Coach of the lacrosse team. A former Tri-Captain of the Keene State lacrosse team,

Craig comes to JSC after most recently serving as Head Coach of the Westford School lacrosse team.

New Health Center

In an effort to better serve students, the Health Center has been relocated to Senators Hall where it will be adjacent to the Counseling Center. The new center will include separate waiting and reception areas, an exam room, an observation room which will allow for extended visits, a larger lab space, and two handicapped accessible bathrooms. A grand opening of the new space will occur early in the Spring semester.

Health & Counseling Centers

Through proactive programming the Health Center continued to collaborate with other campus departments and increase its visibility on campus, something that we expect will continue to happen as the move to its new home is finalized. The Director of Health Services offered a workshop on female reproductive and sexual health as part of the Women's Center opening, made arrangements for an informational table in Dewey Campus Center as part of the Great American Smokeout, and oversaw the campus' annual flu vaccination program. The Counseling Center continued to see students at record high rates, with the vast majority of these visits being self-referrals (as opposed to mandated meetings). This reflects the Center's efforts to publicize its services and to provide a welcoming and safe space for students.

Student Association

JSC's elected student government ended a busy fall with several projects in process and a number of high profile accomplishments. The "highest" profile accomplishment is the new cell tower on Dibden Center. The student push for cell service, with its increased convenience and safety, had been led by the S.A. for the past year, and they worked with the Dean of Administration to make this service a reality. The S.A. also worked with the student newspaper *Basement Medicine* to help them realize their long-time goal of printing

color pages. Other initiatives, such as the installation of scrolling message boards and a coin machine, are progressing as the semester begins.

Athletics

In addition to their impressive performances on the fields, courts, and trails, student athletes at JSC had a successful Fall in community outreach. The Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) organized a coat drive which collected over 100 coats for Lamoille County residents in need of winter apparel. Other community service efforts of student-athletes received media coverage as an ESPN radio affiliate visited campus to observe mentoring programs that the men's and women's basketball teams run with youth at the local Laraway School. This program was also highlighted on WCAX-TV's Spotlight on Sports. The JSC Dodgeball Team placed fourth in their division and seventh overall at the Regional Dodgeball Tournament at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ. JSC competed against teams from Manhattan College, Eastern Connecticut University, and host Rider University. The team hopes to organize and host a tournament on campus in the coming year.

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

Business Office

Sheilah Ladd joined the Business Office in December as the new Johnson State College Controller. Sheilah comes to us from a manufacturing background and has several years of experience in the area of accounting. We are very pleased to have her be a part of our team.

Physical Plant

During December Physical Plant was actively involved in quite a few renovation projects:

In Martinetti Hall we completed renovations and upgrades to the Admissions and Academic Dean's area. The reception area in Admissions was expanded by moving one of the existing offices and then removing the walls to make

for a larger seating area. New paint in vibrant colors, acoustical ceilings and new carpet installation were also part of the changes. Soon, new matching furniture will be arriving to complete the renovations. The Academic Dean's Office received some renovations with the expansion of their filing area and a



few changes to the look of the space with the addition of a wall, new paint and carpet, acoustical ceilings as well as some new storage space. Additionally, the Graduate Office was moved from this space to the second floor.

Another office update includes The Dean of Institutional Advancement's Office being moved to the space previously housing the Graduate Office. At this time our department is in the process of coordinating and preparing for the next round of improvements which will include renovations to the Presidential Suite.

The Conference and Events Services Office (Senator's Hall) and the Health Center (Arthur Hall) switched spaces. Currently, we are finalizing the changes in these areas to include: new tile, carpet, painting and new lab counter tops with sinks being installed in the Health Center.

Other projects include painting the mailroom/bookstore entrance, as well as the hallway located outside the dishroom in Stearns and the hallway by the Computer Labs in the LLC. A new water ejection pumping system was installed for the Counseling Center at Senator and in Martinetti, the dorm bathroom floors were re-sealed to prevent leaking in those areas.

Finally, we are in the process of completing a campus wide electrical survey. Engineering services were contracted through Pearson & Associates and we expect to have a detailed report from them early this year.

Conference and Events

In addition to the 50 internal campus events set up by Conference and Event Services during the month, CES coordinated production of the December Graduation, attended by nearly 130 family and friends of the graduates. CES and Aramark staffs transformed the Base Lodge of Stearns Hall to an elegant holiday venue to accommodate a holiday party and food drive hosted by the President for JSC employees.

Conference and Events also supported planning and preparations for visitors to campus during November and December including The Housing Summit, local elementary school youth, students attending Early Admissions Days, audiences for the Vermont Youth Ballet's performance of the Nutcracker, and an overnight retreat for the Vermont School Counselor's Association.



ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

Admissions

The fall semester ended with the usual flurry of activity with an emphasis on attracting students for the spring '06 semester. Our Transfer Day events, held on Dec.7 and Jan.10, and our advertising campaign for spring were successful. Applications are up 21% (240 vs.198) with significant increases in both: Vermont up 23% (190 vs.155) and out-of-state up 43% (43 vs.30). NEBHE apps are down (7 vs.13). Deposits are up 13% or 20 students (170 vs. 150). Our greatest growth is in the transfer market with both the on-campus program and the External Degree Program attracting 30% more students than last year. The most popular majors among our incoming students for spring are Education, Business and Psychology.

Fall applications from Vermonters are up 3%, but it's too early to predict the enrollment for

fall 2006. Overall inquiries and applications are down 1% and 8% respectively. We will target out-of-state students for our upcoming special events on campus. Phon-a-thons are scheduled for January 21, 28 and February 4 to contact inquiries about visiting JSC. The spring calendar includes:

- Saturday Information Sessions and Tours - January through May
- Monday, February 13 - Winterfest Visitation Day (high school juniors and seniors may attend JSC classes with permission by faculty...details to follow)
- Monday, March 27 - Reception at ECHO in Burlington
- Friday, April 21 – JSC 101 Open House
- Saturday, April 29 – VSAC Visit

Also, the annual Consortium of Vermont Colleges' Bus Tour for guidance counselors will be touring colleges throughout the state April 23-28. JSC will host visiting counselors *on Monday, April 24 from 3:00-5:00 pm*. Please mark your calendars, and watch for details from the Admissions Office.

We're pleased to welcome a new counselor, **Kyle Dezotell**, to the Admissions Office. Kyle has served as the men's and women's soccer coach at JSC. He joins us in an expanded role to focus full-time on recruiting student-athletes. Kyle is a graduate of North Country Union High School and Middlebury College where he majored in Film and English.

Scholarship applications are now available, for currently enrolled students, in the Financial Aid Office and on the website. The deadline for applying for JSC scholarships is February 17.

Financial Aid—Aid for 2005-2006.

As the financial aid staff continues to work with currently enrolled students to process aid for the 2005-2006 year, it's also the time of year when we start preparing for next year's financial aid awarding cycle. As financial aid plays an increasing role in students' decisions

to enroll and to continue in college, the staff will encourage students at JSC to apply early for financial aid. A letter recently was mailed to prospective and currently enrolled students reminding them of deadlines and applications procedures for federal, state and institution aid. JSC scholarship applications will be posted on the website for new and currently enrolled students.



OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS REPORT

Endowment

Sylvester-Hulburd Endowment: This new endowment will support an annual seminar, the **Lamoille Seminars on Public Service.** The endowment is established in honor of Harold C. Sylvester, Esq. (1904-1985) of Eden and Johnson and Benjamin N. Hulburd, Esq. (1898-1964) of Hyde Park, as representative figures in the local tradition of private citizens serving the interests of their communities. The general theme of the Lamoille Seminars—public service in various forms and venues—will be supported by specific topics and speakers, and be presented at the College and other sites in the county. The Lamoille Seminars will be admission free and open to the public.

The establishment of the Lamoille Seminar series will greatly enhance the College's overall commitment to disseminating knowledge about our local region. As Academic Dean Daniel Regan says, "Local knowledge is the starting point for the largeness of mind the College encourages students to develop. Johnson State College's service learning, nonprofit management courses, independent studies, and research traditions all begin in Lamoille County."

Harold Sylvester practiced law for many years in Johnson, St. Albans, and Burlington.

His public service included appointments to the boards of directors of hospitals and schools and election to the Vermont House of Representatives. From his law office in Hyde Park, Benjamin Hulburd served as State's Attorney, school director, and village trustee. Additionally, both of them served in the Vermont judiciary. Sylvester served on the Vermont Superior and Supreme Courts. Hulburd was a Lamoille County probate judge and chief justice of the Vermont Supreme Court. The College is grateful to Professor Emeritus John Duffy for his key role in establishing this new endowment.

The endowment is established with an initial gift of \$15,000 from the Sylvester-Hulburd family, which is expected to be matched 1:1 by the U.S. Department of Education Title III endowment matching challenge, and then again by 1:3 by the State of Vermont legislative challenge. Once the matches are received, the endowment will be at \$40,000.

Recent Gifts to Endowment

Recent gifts to endowment include \$5,000 from the Stowe Rotary Club for their scholarship endowment, \$5,000 from the Union Bank for the Union Bank EDP endowment, \$1,000 from a private individual for the Stowe Rotary Endowment, \$7,000 endowment gift from an alumni, and \$2,100 for the Ottum Endowment.

Fundraising and the Annual Fund Fundraising for *Life in Lamoille: Stories from Vermont's Youngest County*

The "world premiere" of the new video produced by Professor Bill Doyle and his Vermont History and Government class students was held on the last day of classes, December 13, with the Ellsworth Room filled to overflowing. The video is quite a local hit, and the initial run of 350 sold out before the end of December. An additional 150 DVDs have just been delivered. Professor Doyle and the video have been featured in the *Stowe Reporter*, *Times Argus*, and on radio and television, and it was recently shown in the State House to the Senate Education Committee. The \$17,000

needed to fund the project came from private individuals, alumni, and local businesses, as well as from the President's Office and the Student Association. Produced by Vince Franke of Peregrine Productions, the video is full of stories on how people lived in the last century, from farming to preserving their food before electricity, from attending one room schools to spreading news to their neighbors. Students interviewed people from all the towns in Lamoille County. JSC will hold a second public showing on Monday January 23, 2006, 7 pm, in the Ellsworth Room of the Library and Learning Center.

President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Annual Fund donations for this fund include \$13,000 from local individuals and businesses. President Murphy makes grants from this fund to support outstanding student and faculty projects and trips.



