

President's Report to the Board of Trustees March 3, 2006



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A recent visit to the Johnson campus by Governor Jim Douglas offered members of the campus community an opportunity to learn more about the Governor's Vermont Promise Scholarship proposal and for the Governor to experience life at Johnson State College. Governor Douglas met for dinner with 17 students, three faculty, and five staff for a conversation about his scholarship proposal and what it means to Vermonters and to the campuses of the Vermont State Colleges. The students, faculty, and staff will initiate a conversation about the scholarship proposal with other members of the campus community. After dinner, the Governor remained on campus to attend a screening of the film *Lost Boys of Sudan* and to participate in a post screening discussion. Governor Douglas spent the night on the Johnson campus in one of our campus apartments.

January and February brought exciting opportunities for the campus and for our students. A few that I'd like to highlight include:

- Students **Chelsey Snyder** and **David Jacobs** have been accepted to the TRIO 2006 International Leadership Training Program, a 3-credit European study program. Only 25 students will participate, and Chelsey and David are the first Vermonters to be accepted into the program.
- *Life in Lamoille: Stories from Vermont's Youngest County*, a film created by **Bill Doyle** and his Vermont History and Government class has received a great deal of attention in the media and has been shown to full houses on and off campus.
- WCAX/Channel 3 came to campus on February 2 to film a segment on the muscle function and aging study of **Dain LaRoche** (Environmental and Health Sciences). His colleague, **Jean Haigh** (Education), was the featured subject for HealthWatch, a segment on the evening news.
- On February 13th the College held its annual Winterfest, a program designed to give prospective students the opportunity to attend classes, meet with faculty and students, and generally participate in life at the College. We received 29 applications at the event, nine more than last year.

Finally, I'm sorry to report that Professor *Emeritus* Margaret G. Ottum, a long-time member of the Johnson community, passed away in January. Margaret had taught at Johnson for 20 years before retiring and had recently established an endowed scholarship at the College. A memorial for Margaret will be held on campus Sunday, April 30 at 2 p.m. in Bentley 207.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Student and Alumni Activities and Achievements

Life in Lamoille: Stories from Vermont's Youngest County, a film created by **Bill Doyle** and his Vermont History and Government class continues to show to full houses, including 220 people at JSC on January 23. Kenneth Peck, host of Vermont Public Television's *Reel Independents: Vermont's Film Showcase* says of the film: "[Films we receive] often do not touch close to the soul of Vermont in any manner. 'Life In Lamoille' does. It deserves to reach a broad statewide audience." The **Burlington Free Press** published a front page story in its Living Section on 1/21/06, and articles have appeared in the **Stowe Reporter** (12/01/05), the **News and Citizen** (1/12/06), and **Vermont Journal** (12/7/05). Copies of the film have been given to libraries, town clerks, and historical societies in Lamoille county. Vermont Public Television will air the film on March 9 at 7:30pm.

Chelsey Snyder and **David Jacobs** have been accepted to the TRIO 2006 International Leadership Training Program. The 3-credit European study program for TRIO college students, on "World Citizenship: Building Leadership Skills in a Multicultural Society," will take place June 10-July 2, 2006 and is co-sponsored by the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) and the University of Liverpool. Only 25 students will participate, and Chelsey and David are the first Vermonters to be accepted into the program.

Ross Connelly, editor and publisher of the *Hardwick Gazette*, contacted the offices of Johnson State College's *Basement Medicine* asking for some help on Town Meeting Day. He needed reporters to cover Greensboro, Wolcott, Stannard, Woodbury, Marshfield, and Calais and wondered if JSC's journalism students could help out. Mr. Connelly offered to pay for their attendance at a February 4 workshop on covering town meetings sponsored by the Vermont Press Association at St. Michael's College. Students will write two

articles each for the *Gazette*: one a preview of the meeting the week before, and the other a focus on the meeting itself. **Daphne Larkin**, **Beth Bingham**, **Lisa Boucher**, **Jen Kittell**, **Sean Chen-Haider**, and **Nick Martin** will be participating. This project dovetails with the campus focus on "community journalism" and the College's participation in the nationwide American Democracy Project.

The North Atlantic Conference announced the Fall All-Academic honorees, which included **Jackie Brennan** (2006, Sociology/Anthropology, Women's Soccer), **Jennifer Dickie** (2007, Biology, Women's Cross Country), and **Dyan Schmidt** (2007, Elementary Education, Women's Soccer). To be honored, a student-athlete must have reached junior academic standing, and have competed in a minimum two years in his/her sport with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5.



Faculty and Staff Professional Activity

In an 'honoring democracy' ceremony February 13 at the Vermont State House, Senator and Professor **William Doyle** (Humanities) received a National Association of Secretaries of State Medallion Award. In doing so he joined two other recipients of this prestigious medallion award and three recipients of the Vermont Secretary of State Enduring Democracy Award. Secretary of State Deb Markowitz officiated at this event "honoring those Vermont citizens who have demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting the tenets of democracy."

Under the direction of **Maris Wolff** (Fine and Performing Arts), the Vermont Dance Collective's winter tour 2006, "Dance Journey Through History," is playing to enthusiastic and appreciative audiences throughout Vermont. At a recent performance in Hyde Park, for instance, a parent reported that elementary school students in the packed gymnasium

stood and cheered. To date the group is halfway through their 25-stop tour.

Elizabeth Dolci (Environmental and Health Sciences) recently received notification that her math/science partnership grant application was funded by the Vermont Department of Education. The grant award is for \$1,080,000 over three years and will provide funds to both continue and expand the Vermont Science Initiative.

Karen Uhlendorf (Environmental and Health Sciences) traveled to Australia and New Zealand during her fall semester sabbatical. She visited the University of South Australia and LaTrobe University in Australia and Otago University in New Zealand to learn about their outdoor education programs and make connections with faculty there. While at UniSA, she joined a class on a four-day paddling trip on the Murray River, and learned about the cultural and natural history of the area as well as the university curriculum. At LaTrobe, she visited a class engaging in a field experience almost identical to one offered through JSC's Learning in the Outdoors class at Camp Abenaki with sixth graders each May. During the rest of her time in Oceania, Professor Uhlendorf had an opportunity to experience and examine outdoor recreation and tourism in both countries.

WCAX/Channel 3 came to campus on February 2 to do a segment on the muscle function and aging study of **Dain LaRoche** (Environmental and Health Sciences). His colleague, **Jean Haigh** (Education), was the featured subject for HealthWatch, a segment on the evening news.

Darlene Witte-Townsend (Education) is one of only 35 literacy specialists nationwide to be invited to attend an Oxford Round Table on literacy in Oxford, England this summer. She will be spending a week with an interdisciplinary group at Harris-Manchester college; the topic of discussion will be "the teaching of reading and the expansion of literacy."

At the recent American College Theatre Festival competition, covered in recent reports, faculty sponsor **Russ Longtin** (Fine and Performing Arts) was asked to take over for one of the judges who dropped out at the last minute. As a result, he is now certified as a professional adjudicator on both the regional and national levels.

Shellie Helane Levine (Behavioral Sciences) has been invited by Oxford University to be a visiting scholar at the Oxford Round Table at a summer session devoted to the "Psychology of the Child." The round table is composed of a small interdisciplinary group of scholars and Professor Levine has been invited to submit a paper and/or make a formal presentation.

Women at Work 1800-1984, a photo collection of the American Association of University Women on loan from **Karen Madden** (Academic Support Services), will be part of an exhibit celebrating Women's History Month in Vermont. The exhibit will be displayed at the State House cafeteria March 8-31.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology Services

IT Services has conducted a wireless site survey plan for the Library Learning Center. Implementation is scheduled for July 2006.

After investigating various network access control systems, ITS narrowed the pool of viable products to two: Cisco Clean Access and Bradford Networks Campus Manager. After discussions and meetings with both vendors, as well as a stringent comparison of the two products, Campus Manager was chosen as the best solution for JSC. A tentative implementation timeframe of late May 2006 has been set.



Library

Toni Fortini has joined the library staff as a temporary, part-time reference librarian. She comes to Johnson State College from Bard College.



The Library is offering trial access to a number of online databases, including Academic Search Premier, Business Source Premier, the Psychology and Behavioral Sciences

Collection, Health Sources: Academic Nursing Edition, Professional Development Collection, and the Vocational and Career Collection.

STUDENT SERVICES

The start of the spring semester has brought renewed energy and some exciting new initiatives to the student services division.

Residence Life

Dean of Students Dave Bergh is convening a residence life task force in order to look at the residential experience at JSC and how well it is meeting the goals of connecting students to the community, enhancing student growth and development, and helping students achieve academic success. This task force will be made up of students, staff, and faculty, and will make recommendations to the College leadership later in the semester.

Public Safety

Director of Public Safety Mike Palagonia reports that between the installation of the cell tower and campus and the purchase of a new radio repeater, communication capacity has dramatically improved on campus. It has become much easier to contact public safety, as phone calls can now literally be received anywhere on campus.

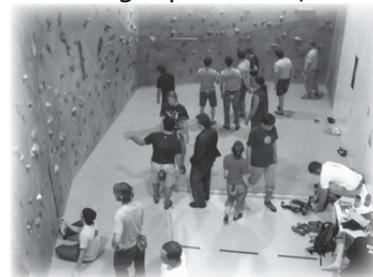
Winterfest

The Student Association and Residence Life department worked together to plan a Winterfest weekend on the weekend of

February 10-12, highlighted by a Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball which was a benefit for the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. The weekend's events were held in conjunction with events sponsored by the Town of Johnson, which had its Winter Carnival the same weekend.

Athletics and SHAPE Facility

Extensive evening programming has been added at the SHAPE facility this semester, with new offerings including aqua fitness, abdominal workouts, and total body conditioning.



JSC student-athletes excelled academically in the Fall 2005

semester. Thirty-three fall student-athletes earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher last fall.

Sophomore women's tennis player **Emily Picard** (Nashua, NH) and sophomore men's basketball player **Zach Gervais** (Enosburg Falls, VT) both earned perfect 4.0s.

Health Center

Director of Health Services Rebecca Hill is starting a new student-centered Health Center Advisory Board. She also will be offering monthly health and wellness talks for the Women's Center starting in February. Staff from both the health and counseling centers have reported an immediate improvement in coordination of care between the two areas as a result of the recent move of the Health Center to Senators Hall, adjacent to the Counseling Center. Student feedback on the new health center has been overwhelmingly positive.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Business Office

Johnson State College has been working extensively on several important projects that are in the final stages. These include: Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT)

analysis, Unclaimed Property reporting to Central Office, consistency of Object Codes, and publishing FRx reports to the web. In addition, the business office has improved its appearance yet again, as the new windows have been added to the cubicles allowing for better servicing of our best customers – the students.

Physical Plant

Our Maintenance Office is in the process of planning, designing and scheduling for expected summer capital projects. The actual work completed will depend upon what Legislative action is taken in the upcoming weeks. Once that has been determined we can make final arrangements and will forward the information on to the JSC community.

Recently, 24-hour emergency was installed in various areas within Stearns making this high traffic building more safely lit. Upgrades in Martinetti specifically in the Presidential suite will take place during the week of February break.



Conference and Events

The Conference & Event office has been settling into our new home and storage space in Arthur Hall. This month our Director moved-on to pursue other opportunities outside of Johnson State College. New student hirings have gone smoothly with no retention issues expected for the remainder of the academic year.

Since the start of the new semester, we have scheduled 85 meetings & events with 170 separate space reservations, including such events as: New Student Registration, Vermont School Counselors Board Retreat, a screening of Bill Doyle's Vermont History and Government class film: *Life in Lamoille County*, Simon Yates' presentation *Beyond*

the Void and the Reverend Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou's talk *Martin Luther King and the Crisis in Religion and Politics*.

We continue to discuss plans and schedule summer groups, make daily space reservations, as well as gather facts/figures to update our webpage. We are anticipating a multitude of upcoming spring events, including our largest: Commencement.

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

Admissions held its annual Winterfest on Feb. 13 for prospective students. Fifty-seven students attended; twenty-nine students dropped off their application for admission. Students came from CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI and VT. The day included students visiting classes, meeting with faculty, interviewing with admissions counselors, touring the campus, and attending workshops.

Many students who were registered to attend cancelled due to snowstorms in southern New England. We are grateful to all faculty, staff and JSC student tour guides and panelists who helped make our event successful.

Vermont Visitation Day Winterfest	Feb. 13, 2006	Feb. 14, 2005
# of Students attending	57	62
# of parents and family members	43	63
Total # students and parents	100	125
Applications received	29	20

Overall, numbers of applications for Fall '06 are down 3% as of 2/14/06 (540 vs.558). Vermont applications are up 12% (239 vs. 214), but out-of-state apps are lagging behind by 12% (245 vs. 278) and NEBHE apps are

down as well.

Recent and upcoming recruitment activities and mailings include:

- Phon-a-thons held on Saturdays (1/21, 1/28, 2/4) were successful. Eight JSC students called 3,564 inquiries in CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI and VT.
- New poster, designed by JSC alumna Julie Ruth sent to counselors at VSAC, all VT high schools and at out-of-state feeder schools. The spring Arts and Events brochure was mailed as well.
- Spring travel to college fairs and programs will start in March
- Reception at ECHO/Leahy Center in Burlington on Monday, March 27
- JSC 101 Open House on Friday, April 21
- CVC (Consortium of Vermont Colleges) Guidance Counselor Bus Tour will be held on Monday, April 24. Our usual breakfast time slot has changed. Counselors will visit JSC in the afternoon 3-5 pm.

On the financial aid side of the house, the staff is gearing up for the 2006-2007 awarding cycle. Review of scholarship applications will be underway soon.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

Endowment Campaign

The goal is to match the \$365,000 challenge grant from Title III and bring the endowment to \$2 million by 2008. The College has made great progress in recent months. On 6/30/05 the endowment stood at \$840,564. As of 2/9/06, counting pledges to be matched by Title III, the endowment is at \$1,429,121.

Several endowments are in the "hatching stages," and will come to endowment level once the match has been realized. The most recent is *Carolyn Bover Graves/Barbara Graves Story/Carol Story Endowment*. Retired Professor

Carol Story has made the preliminary gift to establish an endowment in the names of three generations of alumni: Carol Story '69 & MA '74; her mother Barbara Graves Story, Class of 1942 and 1981 (BA); and her grandmother Carolyn Bover Graves, Class of 1915. The purpose is to provide a cash prize for the winner of the JSC Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Award and to fund a scholarship for a student working in gifted and talented education.

Birthday Party for Professor Bill Doyle

Bill Doyle will be 80 on May 8, and has taught at JSC for 48 years, and been a member of the Vermont Senate for 38 years. His knowledge of government, history, and politics is legendary. Plans are underway for a birthday party at JSC on a Monday in April, at 2 pm, with the date to be finalized.

