

# President's Report to the Board of Trustees

December 7, 2006



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As we end fall semester and the calendar year, we are ending the early phase of planning for our first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign at Johnson State College.

We have recently completed phase one of our work with our fundraising consultant, Eric Staley, president of Missionmapping. During this early work, we identified a set of funding priorities and established a preliminary goal for the campaign. Eric and our dean of institutional advancement are currently putting the finishing touches on a draft case for support (case statement).

Phase two—our market study—will commence in January and be completed by the middle of February. During this phase, the funding priorities and overall goal will be tested with a select group of alumni and community and business leaders through a series of individual meetings with our consultant. During these meetings, participants will be asked to react to the priorities as they are outlined in the case statement. They will be asked whether any of the priorities resonate with them in terms of their own philanthropic interests; they will be asked for advice on the campaign priorities and the overall goal; finally, they will be asked about their participation as a volunteer and as a donor to the campaign and at what level they might be inclined to invest in the campaign for JSC.

Based on Eric Staley's feedback and recommendations, we will make final adjustments to our funding priorities and campaign goal. I anticipate that we will be actively fundraising for the campaign in March.

The campaign is an enormous initiative for the College and is creating excitement on campus. We have been able to move forward rapidly, in part, as a result of one-time resources to support fundraising allocated to each of the five colleges by Chancellor Clarke.

In the pages that follow, you'll find small stories of faculty, staff, and student accomplishments. You'll read details about a campus actively advancing student safety. You'll learn about educators continuing to refine academic and outside-the-classroom experiences for students. You'll hear about our first steps toward meeting the goals set forth in our campus master plan. These are exciting developments that we are excited to share with trustees.

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### Faculty and Staff Professional Activity

Under the direction of **Amy May** (Fine and Performing Arts), over 60 students, faculty, and staff from JSC and visitors from surrounding communities came together on October 20 to participate in the 13th Annual Throw-A-Thon to benefit Operation Smile. Participants created ceramic forms of all shapes and sizes, which were sold at the Holiday Ceramic and Bake Sale, held at the College on November 29. Throughout the world Operation Smile volunteers surgically repair childhood facial deformities while building public and private partnerships that advocate for sustainable healthcare systems for children and families.

**Marjorie Kramer** (Fine and Performing Arts) is represented in *Feminists Who Changed America, 1963-1975*, an edited volume from the University of Illinois Press (2006). The book is a directory of pioneer feminists who reignited the women's movement and helped make permanent changes to social customs and laws. Marjorie organized women artists shows, an open feminist show, edited a newspaper, *Women and Art* (only had two issues), and took such actions as organizing a successful petition to the Whitney Museum to include Alice Neel, then 70 years old. Marjorie has been nominated for Cooper Union's 2006 Augustus Saint Gaudens Award.



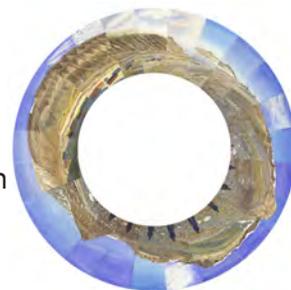
"Ridgeline Clouds", Joe Salerno

Supported in part by a grant from the Part-Time Faculty Professional Development Fund, **Joe Salerno** (Fine and Performing Arts) participated in a workshop at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, MA. The work created there was included in a solo exhibition at the Furchgott Sourdiffe Gallery in Shelburne

September 29-October 26. This work featured prominently in a review of the exhibition in *Seven Days* ([www.sevendaysvt.com/art](http://www.sevendaysvt.com/art)).

**Marie LePre Grabon** (Fine and Performing Arts) is newly represented at Pine Street Art Works in Burlington. She is currently showing at the Painted Caravan in Johnson, Studio Place Arts in Barre, the Artisan's Gallery in Waitsfield, West Branch Gallery in Stowe, and the Shelburne Art Center.

**Ken Leslie** (Fine and Performing Arts) returned from a sabbatical residency in Longyearbyen, the capital of Svalbard, 800 miles above the Arctic Circle and the *most* northern town on the globe. His exhibition, "Top of the World," had its debut at the Julian Scott Gallery in October. The exhibition of paintings and artist's books from Arctic Svalbard will continue its tour for the next year: February through March 2007 at the Brown Gallery at Sterling College, Craftsbury; April through May 2007 at the Feick Arts Center at Green Mountain College in Poultney; July 2007 through January 2008 at the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium in St. Johnsbury.



"Svalbard Summer Cycle", Ken Leslie

The Modern Language Association is publishing an anthology entitled *Teaching the Graphic Novel*, which will include an article by Ken Leslie, "Seminar Meets Studio: Reading AND Creating Graphic Works." The article presents several projects from Leslie's Freshman Year Seminar course, *Comix Go Legit: Contemporary Graphic Novels*, which was developed two years ago as part of JSC's commitment to reinvent the First-Year Experience.

**Leila Bandar** (Fine and Performing Arts) was invited to participate in a summer 2006 cultural exchange between the United

States and Slovakia. With funding from the U.S. Embassy in Slovakia, Bandar focused on meeting artists from different countries, developing her sculptural vision, and creating a piece of sculpture. Her finished piece, carved from a pine tree cleared in 2005, uses open holes and energetic twists to integrate elements of the sky with elements of the earth. It is now permanently on display in the village of Nova Bosca, just over an hour's drive northeast of Slovakia's capitol, Bratislava.

**Susan Calza** (Fine and Performing Arts) will be exhibiting video, sculpture and still images at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia during the spring 2007. Susan's sculpture students have been actively exhibiting their sculpture on campus for many years. As a result, during spring 2006, the work of the advanced sculpture class was included in a show of outdoor sculpture in Morrisville. Marjorie Kramer and Susan are in the preliminary stages of a volunteer effort, working with female inmates at the Dale Correctional Facility in Waterbury, on video narratives.

**John M. Miller** (Fine and Performing Arts) recently gave two lectures on "The Vermont Humanscape," about 35 years of his photographic work focusing upon the Vermont landscape from a cultural perspective, at the Vermont Humanities Council's fall symposium, *Setting as Character: Vermont's Landscape, Stories and Sense of Place*. The conference dealt with the history of writing, painting, photography, and story telling as well as the geology and geography of Vermont and how the State has been perceived, promoted, and understood over time. He was recently asked to be the curator/juror of submitted photography portfolios of Vermont photographers for possible inclusion in a 2007 exhibit of women photographers around the world at the National Museum for Women in Washington, D.C. He will also be giving a day-long workshop in November at the Northwoods Stewardship Center in the Northeast Kingdom about using historical photographs to better understand one's local history from both a human and environmental perspective. This

will be taught using new technologies, such as computers, scanners, and digital cameras, in order to help participants understand ways to archive materials from their communities for future use by community members and by others doing research and publishing about Vermont.

**Dave Cavanagh** (External Degree Program) and **Neil Shepard** (Writing and Literature) did a poetry reading/book signing at Barnes & Noble in Burlington on November 9. *Verse Daily* (the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest poetry website) featured one of the poems from Neil's new book, *This Far from the Source* ([www.versedaily.org](http://www.versedaily.org)). A month ago, *Poetry Daily* (the biggest poetry website) featured another one of its poems ([www.poems.com](http://www.poems.com)).

**Brad Moskowitz** (Environmental and Health Sciences) helped to coordinate and carry out a full day of trail work for the Catamount Trail Association on October 13. The Catamount Trail is a 330 mile backcountry ski trail that runs the length of Vermont. Brad and the College agreed to become stewards of section 30, the Hazen's Notch to Jay section of the trail. On a cool October day, he and students **Patrick Abbott, David Jacobs, Rory Wagner, Josh Gerasimof and Rebecca Ridella** walked most of the 6.5 mile section and completed lots of clearing, cutting of downed trees and rerouting of the trail, with the help of some other CTA volunteers. This event was supported by the SERVE office, the Outing Club, and the Outdoor Education Program.



Moskowitz with students

Professor Moskowitz also attended the Wilderness Risk Manager's Conference that was held at the Killington Grand Resort & Conference Center October 27-29. This event drew more than 300 participants from outdoor schools, guide services, land management agencies and

the law profession to better understand and manage the risks associated with the work of outdoor educators. **Patrick Abbott, Joshua Gerasimof and David Jacobs**, all JSC students, joined Professor Moskowitz for the conference and were financially assisted by the Student Association and the President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

**Leslie Kanat** (Environmental and Health Sciences) brought 16 students to the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Intercollegiate Geological Conference that was based in Rangeley Lake State Park, Maine, from October 28 through September 1. He and his students joined approximately 350 other students, professors, and professional geologists from New England to devote themselves to a weekend of fieldwork and lively discussion about the geology of Maine and its implications for the development of the Appalachian orogen. In addition, Dr. Kanat brought several students with him to participate in the fall field trip of the Vermont Geological Society held on October 14. The participants studied the glacial history of the sediments in Lamoille County, VT, and the associated economic implications for the region. He was elected to serve as a board member of the Vermont Geological Society at the society's business meeting. On October 21 Les took 22 students from his Introduction To Earth Science course to conduct a full day of fieldwork at Redstone Quarry (South Burlington), Salmon Hole (Winooski), and Lessor's Quarry & the Beam (South Hero).

**Peter Burmeister** (Behavioral Sciences) publishes a monthly column on human resources topics in "Strictly Business," the monthly publication of the *Times Argus*. He is also widely published in a variety of business publications in St. Petersburg, Russia. Currently he is the interim general manager of the Vermont Milk Company, in Hardwick, the new farmer-owned milk processing company that has gotten so much publicity lately.

**Lynn Almon** (Behavioral Sciences), recently achieved dual licensure in Maine as a LCPC,

licensed clinical professional counselor, and in Vermont as a LCMHC, licensed clinical mental health counselor. She has joined the Integrated Behavioral Healthcare, a private practice in Portland, Maine, as a clinician specializing with children and families mental health.

During the week of November 5-12, **David Hutchinson** (Behavioral Sciences) worked with a team of six Vermont counselors and educators to provide training assistance to the country of Grenada. The team traveled to Grenada to provide two days of training for 28 school counselors, one day of training for teachers in St. Andrews parish, and three days of video instruction for young people in schools. The video training is part of a "twin schools" project, initiated earlier this year by Dr. Hutchinson, which establishes relationships and communication between Grenadian and Vermont public schools. The project pairs five schools in an economically challenged parish about 45 minutes from the capital city, St. Georges, with five schools in Vermont, including schools in St. Albans, Craftsbury Academy, and Lamoille Union High School. Fifteen additional Grenadian schools have requested the opportunity to become a part of the Sister School Project. Additional Vermont schools will be sought to meet the request. This project is being structured to allow for long term relationships to develop between Vermont and Grenadian schools.

One thousand copies of *Against the Darkness*, a film made under the close supervision of **Fred Wiseman** (Humanities), a noted author and scholar on Abenaki culture and history, will be distributed (along with a comprehensive CD appendix) to all K-12 schools, libraries, cultural and educational institutions in the state. A website is under construction. The premiere is planned for Swanton in November, and subsequent screenings are to occur at Johnson State College and UVM.

**Karen Madden, Dian Duranleau, Jeanette Damato, Sally Klaasen, and Jenny Grosvenor** (Academic Support Services)

all attended the Vermont Educational Opportunity Program's (VEOP) statewide conference in October. Karen is VEOP's president for 2006-07. She also attended the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) national conference in Indianapolis in October.

JSC's Career Center, among other units, has paid a lot of creative attention to first-year advising this year. Peer Advisors are working to guide first year students through the basics of registration, Web Advisor, general education requirements, and course scheduling. Seven students have been working out of the Career Center office during the weeks of November 6-10, and 13-17. Their work includes assisting students in creating a tentative course schedule for spring 2007, reviewing general education requirements, and helping students use Web Advisor to register for classes. Peer Advisors will not replace the faculty advisor, but they can help new students get started on the right foot during the busy, and sometimes confusing, registration period.

**Sara Kinerson** and **Lesley Martin-Lewis** (Career Center) together with **Margo Warden** (Director, First-Year Experience) are working closely with first year 'exploring' students with an emphasis on developmental advising and making on-campus connections.



JSC Job Fair, October 2006

**Ellen Hill** (Career Center) and **Jim Black** (Business/Economics) organized a Career and Experiential Opportunities Fair in mid-October. Twenty organizations participated

and featured speakers included Linda P. McIntire, Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources, and Allan Rodgers, Director of Vermont State College's Workforce and Business Development. The event, which was designed to connect Vermont businesses with students and new graduates, was a joint venture with the Vermont Department of Labor, offering students the chance to talk with potential employers, and to explore job options, internships, and volunteer opportunities.

### **Student and Alumni Activities and Achievements**

Supported by the college's Title III grant, freshmen in a number of fall 2006 First-Year Seminars have participated in a variety of experiential learning activities designed to engage students, connect them to each other, their instructor, and the College, *and* to support learning beyond the classroom. For instance, students in "Hidden History of Vermont" took an historical tour of Shelburne Farms. Those in "If I Can't Dance..." went to the Fleming Museum, attended a performance of the Royal Drummers of Burundi at the Flynn and, in between, dined together at Ali Baba's. Seminar participants in "Tradition and Identity..." visited the Shoreham Community Church to listen to the Jamaican Migrant Worker's Choir, while those in a course on "Decision Making" toured a dairy farm in the Champlain Islands.

**Amie Bettencourt** (Psychology '07) had a lead role (Dolly Tate) in this fall's *Annie Get Your Gun* at the Hyde Park Opera House. She garnered enthusiastic reviews for her performance as Dolly Tate. Meanwhile, **Jo Anne Edwards** (Library) and **Paul Silver** (Humanities) were in the orchestra.

Under the direction of **Carolyn Mecklosky** (Fine and Performing Arts), students in this fall's Art Education class created a show of large, paper maché masks. The masks were exhibited at Groovin' Beans Café in downtown Johnson. A reception closed the show on November 1.

## **LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

### **Information Technology Services**

Information Technology Services undertook a number of substantial projects over the summer months. Among these was a wireless initiative in the Library and the basic setup of a network security tool, Campus Manager. Campus Manager integrates all network security applications and devices under one central management system. The next phase of this project includes launching an extensive informational campaign about the product and its benefits, along with a timeline for its rollout. Thanks to Assistant Chief Technology Officer **Sally Searles**, Network Administrator **Stewart Ressler**, and Senior Desktop Specialist **Tom Fordham** for their hard work on these initiatives.

As part of the above work, ITS moved VLAN switching from a static structure to a Dynamic VLAN (DVLAN) switching structure. Dynamic VLAN switching is a more efficient and flexible way to manage and monitor network drops, allowing role-based VLAN assignments of ports. The result is a more secure networking environment.

The department also upgraded a number of computing facilities, which included, thanks to Physical Plant, fresh paint and new carpeting.

Instructional Technology Specialist **Paul Bloomhardt** reports that Media Services completed its installation of DVD players in 80% of JSC classrooms; most JSC classrooms now have DVD and VHS playback through an assigned TV monitor. Paul also completed upgrades to the JSC digital video editing suite to offer expanded disk space and greater functionality. Media Services has seen approximately a 50% increase in the use of video editing in the past year. Incoming students are showing increased familiarity with video production from high school media courses, and usage is expected to continue to grow.

### **Library**

The library has expanded its web presence by adding a special news section, thanks to the efforts of Public Services Librarian **Linda Kramer**. For information about library and ITS activities during Orientation, please visit: [www.johnsonstatecollege.edu/library/1553.html](http://www.johnsonstatecollege.edu/library/1553.html).

As the Vermont State College's representative to the Vermont Online Library project, Faculty Librarian and Chief Technology Officer **Joe Farara** participated in the construction of an RFP for database needs, and is now reviewing vendor responses. This is interesting work, not the least of which is identifying research resources that can address the needs of elementary school students, junior and high school students, college students, and the general public.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **Office of First-Year Experience**

Working in collaboration with Residence Life and other student services departments, the First-Year Experience office is overseeing the establishment of a "Student Services Satellite Site" in Governor's Hall, a primarily first-year residence hall. This initiative, based on a desire to help build a stronger learning community on campus, as well as to have more staff/faculty after-hours presence in the residence halls, involves employees taking turns staffing the Governor's office during specific evening hours. Staff members may offer tutoring or other support services (especially at targeted times in the semester), coordinate a programmatic offering, or simply catch up on some work while taking periodic breaks to mix and mingle with students. It is expected that a more formalized version of this program will be launched in the spring semester, influenced by feedback received during the current pilot period.

### **Residence Life**

The Residence Life department, with support from the Student Association and other student services departments, sponsored a successful and well-received Alcohol Awareness Week

from October 16-21. Events included a film and panel discussion with local agency and law enforcement representatives, and a series of educational and fun activities that were informative and that presented alternatives to alcohol based events. All the week's events were well attended and survey results from the week indicated that students understand the College's alcohol and drug policy and feel that the policy is enforced fairly.

### Center for Service Learning

The "CSLocal" program continued to attract student participation in its weekly local service offerings. Recent projects include participation in an AIDS walk in Burlington, a Catamount Trail maintenance and clean-up day, and volunteering with the North Country Animal League. The Center also sponsored site visits to the United Way of Lamoille County and the Morrisville based People in Partnership for students in the non-profit management program. Other recent programs included a successful Red Cross blood drive and participation in "Wheels to End Hunger" and the Vermont Food Bank Sort-A-Thon.

### Upward Bound

Upward Bound was delighted with the announcement that their instructor **Russ Weis** was named Vermont Educational Opportunity Programs (VEOP) Educator of the Year. Weis, who, in addition to serving as an Academy Instructor, is Upward Bounds' SAT Coordinator and leader of their Break Away service initiative, was selected for the award out of seventeen programs in the state. This marks the second time in three years this award has gone to a JSC Upward Bound staffer.

### Athletics and Recreation

The SHAPE facility has continued to make upgrades to its equipment and its offerings, with more aerobic classes and intramural activities. The new Spinning program, which involves the use of stationary spinning bikes, has been especially popular.

On October 27 the Student Athletic Advisory

Committee (SAAC) hosted their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Girls in Sport Day for 30 area girl scouts. SAAC is also in the midst of its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Winter Apparel Drive, collecting winter coats for worthy organizations in northern Vermont. 145 area children are participating in Small Fry Basketball clinics, run by JSC staff and athletes, on November 4 and 11.

JSC athletes were well represented on the Fall North Atlantic Conference honor roll. Topping the list of honors was **Mike Grieco** of Andover, MA, who was named Player of the Year in Men's Soccer. **Gabe McConkey** of Afton, VA was conference first-team in Men's Cross Country and **Patty Quick** of Norfolk, MA was conference first-team for singles in Women's Tennis. Quick and **Chelsie O'Connell** of Lewiston, ME were conference first-team in doubles. **Joe Radano** of Warren, CT was conference second-team in Men's Soccer and **Dyan Schmidt** of Columbus, NJ and **Casey Rusin** of Wilmington, VT were both named conference honorable mention in Women's Soccer.



SHAPE Facility

New scoreboards in the varsity gym will be dedicated to **Barb Lougee**, long-time athletic director and 14-year coach of the Women's Basketball team, between the women's and men's basketball games on December 5.

### Student Association

The Student Association sponsored candidate

rallies and voting registration drives in the lead-up to Election Day. Their efforts, combined with the candidate debate series coordinated by Professor **Bill Doyle** (Humanities), resulted in a lively and spirited political campaign season on campus.

## **BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

### **Business Office**

The business office has been discussing the need for updating policy and procedure manuals for each of our functions. This has been an initiative for many of the system-wide teams. Additionally, JSC feels it is important to document our internal processes in order to facilitate cross-training and back-up support for any function when necessary. The documentation for accounts payable policies and procedures is complete, and was shared with the AP team in November to obtain feedback.

In response to the state grant audit conducted last summer, the business office reviewed and modified grant administration policies and procedures. All necessary changes were implemented earlier this semester and the college feels confident it is meeting its grant management obligations.

### **Physical Plant**

In October, the College broke ground on a new sidewalk between the main campus and the College Apartments. This was one of the college's top three master planning priorities as identified by students. The excavation, electrical conduit, and paving have been completed. New poles and lighting will go up in the spring.

This semester the College encountered a water main break outside the Stearns building. With expert assistance from the Village of Johnson, the repairs were completed in about fifteen hours. During this time, students living in Governor's Hall and Senator's Hall were required to use the SHAPE for showering and toilet facilities. While an inconvenience, this brief episode gave us some practice in coping

successfully with unplanned interruptions of service.

### **Conference and Events**

During the month of October, the conference & event services office scheduled 137 separate room and space reservations and provided logistical support for 33 events including Open House, Alumni & Parents Weekend, Career & Experiential Fair, the Annual Fund for JSC meeting, Red Cross Blood Drive, Lamoille County Mentoring Training, Legislative Series Lecture, Democratic Party Rally, and Costume Ball.

Once again, we had the pleasure of hosting UVM's *Municipal Officer's Management Seminar* with over 125 in attendance. Our guest apartment accommodated 23 overnight guests ranging from musicians, artists, performers and alumni guests.

We have added four new students to work with our program assistant and our experienced students to handle daily tasks, learning about campus protocol, phone etiquette and general hospitality field.

Proposals for next summer's programs are well underway with target dates set for finalizing contracts.

## **ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID**

### **Admissions**

An advertising campaign, in the Burlington Free Press and other local papers is underway for promote JSC for spring admissions. We have added another "Transfer Day" to our schedule of events. These "on-the-spot" admission days will be held on Wednesday, December 13 and Tuesday, January 9 and Monday, January 15. We're visiting every CCV site in the state to promote transferring to JSC, and to recruit high school seniors who are enrolled in the Introduction to College Studies course.

Fall 2007 inquiries are impressive with a 63% increase (7,659 vs. 4,708).

It's too early to predict our conversion of inquiries to applicants, but currently applications are up significantly in all categories (VT, Out-of-State and NEBHE) for an overall increase of 73% (83 vs. 48).

The admissions staff has traveled to hundreds of college fairs, high schools and community colleges from Presque Isle, Maine to King of Prussia, PA. and the travel season isn't over yet! Our annual fall phon-a-thon was successful with thirteen JSC students calling, on three



Saturdays and several evenings. 5,340 prospective students were called. We've held on-campus information sessions on Saturdays, hosted two open house programs with record attendance, and brought several groups visits from Burlington Technical Center, Upward Bound programs and VSAC Outreach programs (including 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders) to campus. The annual VSC Breakfast Program for Vermont guidance counselors is underway and we expect to meet with approximately 150 counselors throughout the state. The Early Admission Day program is scheduled for three days in December; we've had requests from one VT high school to arrange a special "on-the-day" for their students. We also plan to encourage our currently enrolled students to return to their high schools as part of the JSC Ambassador Program.

Recruitment is a demanding job. JSC is fortunate to have a dedicated admissions staff, and the support of the entire community. We could not host the on-campus event without tremendous support from faculty, staff, and student tour guides. We appreciate everyone's involvement this semester as we work together

to bring in the fall class of 2007.

### **Financial Aid**

**Ruth Chase**, associate director of financial aid, who has been on medical leave since last December, officially retired in October after a twenty-three career at JSC. A retirement gathering will be held at a later date when Ruth, undergoing medical treatment, is able to come to campus. We are conducting a search for a new financial aid director.

### **DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS**

#### **Endowment**

Endowment gifts and pledges continue to come in towards the Title III match. As of November 10, gifts or pledges of **\$312,229** towards the \$365,000 Title III challenge have been raised. Several new funds are in the process of building towards the endowment level, including one in memory of Martha DePecol (1952-2002), Class of 1977, who was a well-known educator who was on the cutting edge of incorporating technology into the curriculum. This fund will be established over several years through gifts from Martha's classmates and former students, beginning with a leadership gift from Claudia A. King, Class of 1983. The first gifts have been received towards a fund that will eventually be EDP Scholarship Endowment. We expect a number of year-end gifts to be directed to new and existing endowments; the one to one match has great appeal.

#### **Fund for JSC**

The President's advisory group on fundraising and development met on October 27. Members are soliciting increased endowment funds, working on building the proposed "BILL DOYLE ENDOWMENT for Student Scholarship and Experiential Learning" to the endowment threshold level, and are making solicitations for the annual fund.