EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This fall, the Johnson State College campus has been an active center for information on Vermont politics. Professor Bill Doyle’s political science class has been home to a series of political forums attracting candidates for both state and national offices. Participants in the forums have included Susan Bartlett, Jim Black, Martha Rainville, and Richard Tarrant. Governor Jim Douglas and Scudder Parker are scheduled for later in the month.

While engaged in helping educate our students and the community on Vermont political issues, the College has been engaged in launching several long-range initiatives:

- We are in the final phase of articulating priorities for JSC’s first comprehensive fundraising campaign. Within a month we will begin a market study—what many describe as a “feasibility study”—to assess potential donor interest in the campaign and alignment of campaign priorities with donor interest.

- We also have formed our workgroup, whose charge is to develop a comprehensive Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan for implementation at Johnson State College.

- The College’s completely redesigned Web site is on schedule for launch in mid-January. We anticipate that the site will enhance greatly our student recruitment and alumni relations activities.

- The College took the first step toward implementing the campus master plan with the beginning of construction of a pedestrian walkway to the college apartments.
shelters, Laraway School, and sports teams that present coaching opportunities. In the spring semester, I hope to involve students with a local Historic Preservation Board that needs assistance conducting an oral history project in nearby Waterville. My delivery of this course is “packaged” in a social problems framework in which we connect their experiences with dominant themes in sociology (e.g., inequality, aging, education, poverty, hunger). All of this is done with an element of what is called “visual sociology.” Students are asked to document their experiences using digital cameras and voice recorders. They are then asked to construct a poster for presentation at an academic conference. Last year’s students presented at a sociology conference at Buffalo State.

In addition to this course, I have also been investigating ways for students to earn an additional credit in my Introduction to Sociology course, by engaging in SL activities. This semester, for instance, one student will volunteer for the Green Mountain Club and prepare a paper or a poster on the development of parks in this country and humans’ access to nature. Another student will be working with a 3rd and 4th grade girls’ soccer team. She will prepare a paper/poster on the sociology of sport and the socialization process. [Dr. Krieg, by the way, is now the Waterville/Belvidere/Johnson 3-4th grade girls’ soccer coach.]

In a poll of 90 Intro students and 14 theory students, nearly half expressed interest in earning an additional credit through service-learning. The challenge appears to be in setting up opportunities after the add/drop period for the semester has ended.

Jean Haigh (Education): In the Spring 2006 semester, the Exceptional Populations class had an optional opportunity to participate in a 20 hour field experience, working with individuals with developmental disabilities through the Developmental Services Division of Lamoille County Mental. The field experience was open to students in the class.
in lieu of the final research paper. They were required to maintain a reflective journal, give a presentation to the class, and write a paper on their experiences, indicating how their lives had been affected and how they will use this knowledge in the future.

The experience of the eight students who successfully participated in the project served to reinforce my belief in the value of extended classroom experiences, especially with a community service-learning component. For the first time, students were actually interacting with individuals with disabilities, giving real meaning to the issues discussed in our class. For one student, it was a life changing experience; she has revised career plans to include work in the field of Special Education. Sixteen students in my fall Exceptional Populations class have made a commitment to participate in the field experience and have already completed their contract proposal.

**John Miller** (Fine and Performing Arts): Students in Advanced Photography partnered with the Craftsbury Community Care Center, a senior living environment whose residents range from independent to minimally assisted. Students interacted weekly with elders. Their new relationships helped our students understand the nature of aging and, if only for a semester, bring companionship and joy to what turned out to be a very appreciative group of people. Class members visited a number of times every week, told stories, listened to stories, joined seniors in art projects, scrabble games and gathered in Craftsbury for an evening of dancing and entertainment during Mardi Gras week.

During the time students were at the Center, they photographed residents individually, in groups, and documented various aspects of their lives. This led to the final and most well-developed component of the service learning endeavor: a framed, traveling exhibition, accompanied by reflective statements written by the students as the project progressed. The exhibit opened at the end of the spring semester at the Craftsbury Center to the delight of all the residents, the staff, and particularly the students who participated. The exhibit truly was a gift to the residents from the students. As the exhibit continued at the Center for the next three months, many people visited and commented positively upon not only the beautiful photographs but the positive impact that the photographs had upon their loved ones in terms of pride, identity and a sense of belonging.

Introducing a service-learning component to this course made the course far more challenging in terms of teaching. It also challenged students who, until they had begun to develop entrée and a connection with a senior, found the project quite daunting. Over time, students began to enjoy small successes and then the pleasure of seeing their work framed in an exhibit at which they celebrated with the senior participants. They came to appreciate how very hard work coupled with even uncomfortable challenges can create something that is meaningful for themselves and others.

**Gina Mireault** (Behavioral Sciences): I recreated two courses with service-learning components, and am planning a third. The first, Introduction to Psychology, asked students to apply operant conditioning to teach shelter dogs basic manners at the North Country Animal League. In doing so participants gained a deeper appreciation for operant conditioning theory, and its usefulness. They also learned the nuances between theory and practice. NCAL (and their dogs, specifically) benefited from basic obedience work to improve their successful adoption. In Advanced Seminar in Human Development students provided cognitively stimulating materials for infants and toddlers.
at the Lamoille Family Center. Students had to consider the theory of infant cognitive development from an applied perspective by designing safe toys that could supply infants with many perceptual affordances and opportunities. LFC benefited from bringing their infant-toddler program more in line with the Reggio Emilia method which had been a long-time goal for the center.

I am planning a service-learning component for Developmental Psychology through which course participants will support cognitive development through creativity in elementary school children. Students will work as judges for the Vermont Odyssey of the Mind state tournament. In this role they will directly work with and observe elementary school children as they solve highly novel, short-term problems. This will enhance their understanding of peer interactions and cognitive processes in middle childhood. The VT Odyssey program will benefit from the support of volunteers which are in short supply.

**Faculty And Staff Professional Activity**

Pixita del Prado Hill (Education), in collaboration with Drs. Friedland and Phelps of Buffalo State College, has written a paper, “Pre-service educator’s perceptions of teaching in an urban middle school setting: Lessons from the *Amistad,*” that will be published in *Multicultural Education* this year. With the same collaborators, she has also written “How different media affect adolescents’ view of the hero: Lessons from the *Amistad,*” which will be published in the *Middle School Journal* this fall.

Ken Brighton (Education) serves on the Vermont Middle Level Task Force, a group of middle school advocates and experts who meet quarterly in Montpelier to make recommendations to the Commissioner of Education concerning state policy for middle level education.

Seven students joined Bob Genter (Environmental and Health Sciences) in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks this summer for the field course “Natural History of the Yellowstone Plateau.” Students gained a greater appreciation of these natural areas by learning to understand the ecological and geological processes “behind the scenes” of these extraordinary places of natural beauty.

Leslie Kanat (Environmental and Health Sciences) brought two students on a summer field trip organized by the Vermont Geological Society (VGS). He was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the VGS during the business meeting associated with the summer field trip. He also participated in a June workshop funded by the National Science Foundation and held at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota. The workshop addressed “Infusing quantitative literacy into introductory geoscience courses.” In addition to adding more quantitative themes to the courses he teaches, Professor Kanat shared many of the ideas from the conference with fellow members of the JSC Quantitative Literacy Committee.

Further activities included co-authoring a successful grant proposal to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Department of Health and Human Services. The Agency awarded the National Fragile X Foundation a $25,000 grant in support of the 10th International Fragile X Conference. Specifically, the funds will be used to support the travel of international researchers, the printing of conference-related materials, and the provision...
of audiovisual services at the conference. And for several weeks last spring, Dr. Kanat responded to questions from students in Ms. Elaine Gendron’s third and fourth grade class at Hardwick Elementary School. Their project was to interview a geologist by email. This year, the class will visit the JSC Rock Laboratory.

Dain LaRoche (Environmental and Health Sciences) presented his work on “Aging, Physical Activity and Muscle Function” at the Vermont Genetics Network 5th annual retreat in South Burlington.

Extensive activities at JSC for International Peace Day (September 21) received front page coverage in the Vermont Journal. Planned and coordinated by Cynthia West (Humanities), the day’s events included a performance by the Bread and Puppet Theater, a screening of Why We Fight, a new film by Eugene Jarecki that won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, a rededication ceremony for the College peace garden, and appearances by filmmaker Jarecki in a class and at a lively evening discussion with students and community members.

Fred Wiseman (Humanities) was awarded highest tribal honors, Abenaki Nation, last May for his work on state recognition. His “Against the Darkness” video has received a grant to make 1,000 CD/DVD “combo packs,” with teachers’ guides and auxiliary materials, for distribution to all schools in Vermont. The video will debut at the state-wide teacher’s conference in October and, as a follow up, Professor Wiseman has been asked to develop graduate-level teacher training for its use. In addition, two educational movies on which he has consulted, “Wabanaki, people from where the sun rises” and “Valsequillo” (an ancient Mesoamerican site), will appear soon.

The forthcoming video documentary of Franklin County, by Bill Doyle and his students, has already received media attention in the County Courier and St. Albans Messenger.

John Duffy (Humanities, Emeritus) was a featured speaker, on “Canadian/American/Vermont Relationships,” at the St. Albans Lecture Series on September 27.

Johnson State College is hosting a Career and Experiential Opportunities Fair on October 16, coordinated by Jim Black (Business/Economics) and Ellen Hill (Career Center). Since last year’s successful fair, the focus has broadened beyond employment opportunities, to include internship and volunteer positions as well. Besides meeting with prospective employers and supervisors, students can also meet with Career Center staff to learn about career development and planning, socially responsible careers, the National Student Exchange, and the Nonprofit Management certificate program. Invited speakers include Linda P. McIntire, Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources, and Allan Rodgers, Director of Vermont State College’s Workforce and Business Development Network.

In September Karen Madden (Academic Support Services) attended the annual TRIO conference of the Council on Education in New York City. She participated in a panel discussing the use of standards developed by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) as way to evaluate TRIO programs.

Clyde Stats (Academic Support Services) created a site at http://blackboard.vsc.edu to share with the JSC community his visit to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival last April. The site includes photos of the city and the festival, a video of festival performances, links to additional information, and his own thoughts on the city and its music.

Several members of the JSC community took part in segments of the five-day walk August 31-September 4 from Ripton to Burlington, organized by Bill McKibben and John Elder, in
hopes of focusing public attention on global warming. Participants included Cynthia West (Humanities), Liz Dolci (Environmental and Health Sciences), Dave Cavanagh (EDP), and Dan Regan (Academic Dean).

The Waterville Broadband Committee, including Jean Reynolds (Academic Dean’s office) and Eric Krieg (Behavioral Sciences), convened this summer to kick off an effort to bring high speed internet access to Waterville residents and businesses. Their efforts are supported by the Lamoille County Planning Commission.

Russ Longtin (Fine and Performing Arts) has just been appointed state chair for the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF).

Joe Salerno (Fine and Performing Arts) exhibited his landscape paintings at the Cooler Gallery in White River Junction from August 2-26.

Grammy nominated pianist and part-time faculty member Anthony Geraci (Fine and Performing Arts) plays every Friday evening at the Stowehof Inn in Stowe. Meanwhile, in Burlington, Clyde Stats (Academic Support Services) plays his bass with guitarist Paul Asbell at Leunig’s Bistro, among other venues. The Burlington Free Press (June 1, 2006) described Stats and Asbell as “for years... among Burlington’s premier players.”

Part-time faculty member Cam Cross (Fine and Performing Arts) received front page coverage in the Bellefontaine (OH) Examiner for his summer work directing young rock musicians at a Garage Band Camp in Ohio.

A poem from a new book by Neil Shepard (Writing and Literature), This Far from the Source, was featured on POETRY DAILY in late August. Poetry Daily is the most widely read online site for poetry. Another poem from the book, “Night Feeding,” appeared in Seven Days (June 14-21, 2006); and the July 26-August 2, 2006 issue included a lengthy, highly laudatory review of the new book, plus another selection of poetry from it.

Student And Alumni Activities And Achievements
Nine students are participating in Study Abroad, representing a 350% increase over 2005-2006. Thirteen students are participating in the National Student Exchange, representing a 63% increase over last year.

Daphne Larkin (Journalism, ’06) is the new police/court beat reporter for the Barre/Montpelier Times Argus, a local, independent newspaper in the state capitol.

Becky Aksdal, a 2006 graduate of the External Degree Program, wrote a “My Turn” column (“Education is the key to a successful Vermont”) that appeared in the September 4 Burlington Free Press.

Retired Mount Mansfield Union High School principal and Johnson alumnus Robert Stevens (1969, Education) was recently named the new executive director of the Vermont Principals’ Association.

Emmanuel Riby-Williams, originally from Ghana, who will be completing requirements for his bachelor’s degree in Education and then continuing in the master’s program, has been selected as one of the two recipients this year of a Vermont Teacher Diversity Scholarship.

Sarah Ditkoff, a creating writing major, published her reflections on a trip to Ireland.
in a lengthy piece for the June 1, 2006 Stowe Reporter.

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.

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, albeit from a fairly low level previously. 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: http://www.johnsonstatecollege.edu/library/1553.htm.

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

New Student Orientation and First-Year Experience
New Student Orientation was well received by our incoming students, as indicated by high attendance at events and positive feedback from attendees. Twenty-nine upper-class students served as orientation leaders and were instrumental in setting the tone for the weekend and facilitating connections among the new students.
Building off of this momentum, the newly created First-Year Experience office has worked with first-year seminar instructors to offer in-class presentations on campus support services and student life opportunities. The Director of the First-Year Experience has created a “tickets for talk” program in which free tickets for on-campus events are given to first-year students in exchange for having a twenty minute conversation with the Director regarding the students’ experience at the College to date.

Residence Life
This fall finds the highest number of students living in the residence halls in the past decade. In fact, the current occupancy is higher than what was considered capacity based on last year’s room configuration. Refitting a handful of rooms that had originally been triples and reclaiming them as triples, has helped to enable the College to house approximately 30 more students than last year. While part of this increase resulted from a larger incoming class, it is significant to note that it is also a result of a trend we have seen developing over the last few years in which a steadily increasing number of returning students are choosing to live on campus.

Student Association and Student Activities
The first month of the school year has seen a number of well attended co-curricular events, from concerts to game nights, sponsored by the Student Association. In response to student requests for more public transportation, the SA operated shuttle service (the “Badger Bullet”) has expanded beyond its weekend trips to Burlington to include twice a week trips to Morrisville. The SA has been very active to date, working on a range of projects that include voter registration, on-campus water and electricity conversation initiatives, and exploring late night student transportation options.

Center for Service Learning
As part of a push toward a renewed emphasis of local service and partnerships, the Center for Service Learning has launched “CSLocal,” a program which offers one local service project per week. One of the early projects, a Lamoille River cleanup, garnered significant local press attention. There has also been a strengthening (and, in some cases, establishment) of community partnerships with organizations such as:

- 4-H (UVM Extension, Morrisville)
- Friends of Lamoille Youth
- Lamoille Valley Tobacco Task Force
- Lamoille Area Hunger Coalition
- Laraway Youth and Family Services
- North Country Animal League
- People in Partnership (Morrisville)
- River Arts (Morrisville)
- United Way of Lamoille County
- Vermont Food Bank
- Volunteer Center of Lamoille Valley

Athletics and Recreation
A number of JSC student-athletes received North Atlantic Conference honors in the first few weeks of the semester. Anthony Yantz of South Burlington was Men’s Soccer Rookie of the Week, Chelsie O’Connell of Lewiston, ME was Women’s Tennis Player of the Week, and Michael Stearns of Hinesburg was Men’s Cross Country Rookie of the Week.

A wide range of activities promoting healthy lifestyles are being offered at our SHAPE facility, including hip-hop water aerobics and total body conditioning. Additionally, the popular intramural program has seen high participation rates and a recent Full Moon Disc Golf Tournament, sponsored by the intramural and recreation department, had 35 participants.
Building on an Integrated Approach to Student Services
Student services departments are increasingly collaborating with each other and with areas outside of the division, to maximize the effectiveness of their offerings. Counseling Center staff, and the Alcohol and Drug Education Coordinator in particular, has worked with the residence life staff to provide education floor programs. Center for Service Learning staff, working through the First-Year Experience office, have made class presentations. The Director of Counseling Services has already attended 40 different class sessions to talk about available campus counseling—a remarkable number of presentations to have occurred at this early date. The Health Center staff has continued to strengthen the nature and extent of their collaborative work with the Counseling Center and athletic training staffs. Most importantly, student services efforts continue to be driven by stated institutional priorities, and, in so doing, are integrated with the work of academic affairs and other college divisions.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Business Office
Johnson State College Business Office personnel have recently completed the FY2006 audit. Due to staff turnover in FY2006, this was a challenging time for the department; however, we are pleased to report a favorable outcome.

Start-up activities associated with the opening of school have gone very smoothly this year. The college continues to reap the benefits of the reorganization of business processes in the department. During the next year, we anticipate spending time documenting our policies and procedures and making them readily available via the internet so that students may have quick and easy access.

We continue to place special emphasis on grant administration as we respond to the state grant audit. New procedures have been implemented that allow us to better track and document expenditures as required by our recent state audit.

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. Installation of a walkway on the southwest side of campus to the College Apartments, a long awaited project from our Master Plan, is expected to start in early October.

Conference and Events
This past month, Conference and Event Services coordinated a number of activities, including Opening Convocation, Orientation, Registration, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra’s appearance at Dibden, JSC’s Homecoming and Alumni Weekend activities, and is completing negotiations for the groups that will be with us during the summer of 2007.

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

Admissions
During the fall semester, admissions counselors travel to college fairs and high schools throughout the Northeast. Travel is underway, but there is a lot of “behind the scenes” work that goes on in the office – hiring and training JSC twenty-one students to work as tour guides and office assistants; sending our beautiful new materials (many thanks to Julie Ruth ‘04 and Diana Gonsalves’05)
to prospective students and counselors; organizing on and off campus events; overseeing special projects and new initiatives.

- **New Faces.** Elga Gruner ‘04, HTM major joined the admissions staff full-time in July; she will travel visit high schools and represent JSC at college fairs in New York and New Jersey this fall. WAM major, **Melanie Lussier ’06** has been hired as the part-time recruiter for nine weeks this fall. Some alumni will also assist the admissions staff this year. Counselor **Rebecca Pastor** is coordinating the alumni admissions program, and has identified several alumni to attend college fairs.

- **Mailings and Publications.** Approximately 6,500 student inquiries have received the new viewbook, application and open house invitation; last year we mailed to about 4,000 inquiries. The staff is working on the high school mailing to approximately 2200 schools and counselors. Updated departmental brochures will be mailed, along with a letter from the dept. chair to all inquiries in November.

- **Events.** In addition to our weekend tour and information session schedule, the on-campus events for the fall semester include two open houses on **Saturday, October 21 and November 11** and three **Early Admission Day programs on December 1, 4 and 8.** Off-campus events include the VSC VT Guidance Counselor Breakfasts Program scheduled in Bennington, Essex and the following:

  Thursday, November 9 in Montpelier
  Tuesday, November 14 in Rutland
  Thursday, November 16 in Essex Jct.
  Tuesday, November 28 in St. Johnsbury
  Wednesday, December 6 in Brattleboro.

**Student Admissions Staff**
On Sept. 15, the admissions staff hosted a training for our students office assistants and tour guides. Training is on-going so if anyone would like to meet with our students, let us know.

**Financial Aid**

**Allison LaFlamme** joined the financial aid staff in May. Her responsibilities include overseeing the student employment program and coordinating the scholarship program. Allison replaces eight-year financial aid veteran, Doug Eastman, who moved into the registrar’s position.

**DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS**

September this year has been a month of preparation. Our Homecoming and Reunion Weekend this year was held October 13 and 14. Alumni Awards were presented at Homecoming and the Athletic Hall of Fame inducted new members. The Annual Magazine Johnson Views is in the final stages of preparation. The Alumni Council, the Athletic Hall of Fame Board and the Fund for JSC all will meet in October.

The Ellsworth Trust held their annual meeting in the Ellsworth Rooms of the LLC on September 16. The Trust is private foundation set up by the late Professor Robert A. Ellsworth, whose trustees are JSC alumni and former associates of Professor Ellsworth.
The Trust exists to support political science and history programs at JSC, and is now in its 22nd year. This past year the Trust granted about $12,500 to the College for scholarships and programs. In addition, the Trust maintains cultural exhibits in the Ellsworth Room. The current exhibit is of Professor Ellsworth's Latin American travels, featuring poster-size versions of his slides. In addition, there is a permanent exhibit on “Treasures of the Ellsworth Collection” and a temporary exhibit on World Peace Day. The hall case currently has an exhibit on the student breakaway trip to Vietnam. During the past year, an exhibit of Modovan photojournalist Nicolae Pojoga's work was featured.

The Trust’s major project this past year was the archiving of over 3,000 of Professor Ellsworth's slides of his world travels, used in his political science and history lectures. The collection compromises a valuable historical resource. The project was accomplished thanks to the cooperation of JSC, the use of the digital photography lab, and the efforts of JSC alumna Jennifer Kulawas, a professional photographer. Over the last academic year, Jen undertook the manual scanning of the slides and their transfer to high-resolution master digital images. Now the slides are permanently preserved in digital form, and accessible for JSC faculty and students, and the general public, to use in educational programs. President Murphy supported the work with a generous grant.

View of the Library and Learning Center with student sculpture in front