

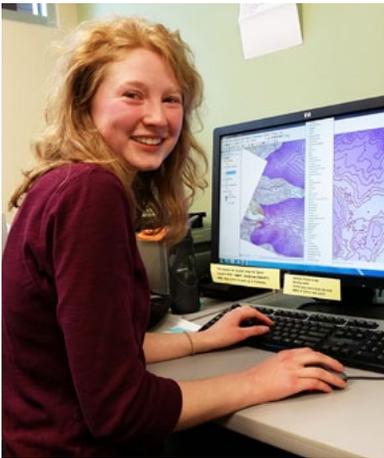


JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

to the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees

FEBRUARY 19, 2015



JSC community members were pleased to learn that the Vermont State College Board of Trustees has named Dr. Elaine Collins the next president of Johnson State College. The decision, announced Feb. 11th, was greeted with enthusiasm by faculty, staff and students. Dr. Collins will succeed President Murphy, who will retire on June 30 after 32 years in Vermont higher education, 14 as president of JSC.

We are grateful to the Presidential Search Committee members for their diligence and open communication throughout the search. It was a process that provided JSC faculty, staff and students with many opportunities to meet the top candidates, learn about their visions for Johnson State College, and express their views.

2015 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER: CAMILLE HOLMES

Our keynote speaker for Commencement on May 16 will be Camille Holmes, J.D., director of leadership and racial equity at the [National Legal Aid & Defender Association](#), which has pioneered access to justice at the national, state and local levels for more than 100 years. Prior to her current position, she served as senior staff attorney and co-director of the Project for the Future of Equal Justice at the Center for Law & Social Policy; executive director of the Southern Africa Legal Services & Legal Education Project; and an attorney in Washington, D.C. She is a board member of the [Poverty & Race Research Action Council](#), a founding member of the [Jamestown Project](#) and past board president of the Washington Council of Lawyers. Holmes was recognized in 2009 with the Equal Justice Society's "Race Consciousness in the Law Award."



UNION BANK GIFT LAUNCHES JSC INTERNSHIP FUND

We have received a \$3,000 gift from Union Bank to create a fund to support students engaged in internships at area businesses and organizations. The new Student Internship Support Fund will provide grants to students to defray costs associated with internships, such as transportation to work sites, wardrobe needs and mandatory background checks.

Initial interest in accessing the fund is strong, underscoring the importance of this particular support for experiential learning and the seriousness with which students approach their internships. The College is reaching out to other businesses and organizations for gifts to supplement the bank's donation and grow the fund.

JSC has a long and vibrant history placing student interns with businesses, nonprofit organizations and government agencies. Most JSC degree programs require an internship or field placement, preparing students for a strong start in their careers or further study.

NEW CONCENTRATION IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

In response to sustained interest from prospective students for a program in this field, this fall JSC will launch a [concentration in criminal justice](#) within both the Anthropology & Sociology and the Political Science majors. We are especially grateful to Assistant Professor **Kaja Tretjak**



for leading the way on the development of this program and to Associate Professor **David Plazek** for his support and assistance. The launch follows a meeting organized by Dean of Students and College Relations **Dave Bergh** at which representatives from the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department, the Department of Corrections, Restorative Justice programs and Immigration & Customs Enforcement contributed their insights and vision for the new academic program.

JSC STUDENTS & FACULTY TO PRESENT AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

In recent years, JSC has become increasingly known for exceptional academic programs and learning opportunities in the sciences, including faculty-mentored student research. As further evidence of our work in this area, several students and faculty members have been invited to present their research at the following professional meetings:

- The *Northeast Regional Meeting of the Geological Society of America* (March 23-25, Bretton Woods, NH): Professor **Les Kanat** and students **George Springsteen** and **Adam Sevi** will present their research into complex earth slide-flows over the past 100 years in Jeffersonville, Vermont; and Professor **Liz Dolci** and students **Heather Murphy**, **Shayna Bennett** and **Erika English** will present their research of bacterial adaption in an anthropogenically altered, serpentine-rich aquatic environment.
- The *Eastern Psychological Association's* annual meeting (March 5-7, Philadelphia): Professor **Gina Mireault** and student research assistants **Kassandra Cousineau**, **Brady Rainville**, **Zarin Bandelier** and **Sarah Mott** will present a poster documenting their research into humor development in infants.
- The *National Conference on Undergraduate Research* (April 16-18, Spokane, Wash.): Student **Eliza Chevalier** (**Liz Dolci** and **Heather Driscoll**, faculty sponsors) will present her research into transcriptional patterns of *saccharomyces cerevisiae* exposed to simulated mine-tailings runoff, and students **Heather Murphy** and **Shayna Bennett** (**Liz Dolci**, faculty sponsor) will present their research on bacterial adaptation to an anthropogenically altered environment.

ENHANCED HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICES

The exam room in the JSC Health Center has been updated with new furnishings made possible by outside funding, and the Counseling Center has joined the SHAPE in offering a biofeedback station. Staff have been trained to orient students

in how to use this tool to help manage stress and anxiety. In addition, Counseling staff continue to run two group programs for students: a drop-in alcohol and substance abuse support group, and another focused on meditation and Reiki.

'EDU@JSC' LAUNCHES CAMPUS-BASED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Envisioned and implemented by Coordinator of Career Development **Beth Walsh**, a day of workshops dubbed "EDU @ JSC" was held on campus in January for staff and faculty to focus on their own wellbeing before students returned for the spring semester. The event comprised 14 workshops conducted by faculty and staff for their peers, including sessions on the use of various technologies and best practices in working with students. Forty faculty and staff members took advantage of the opportunity to learn from each other and engage in personal and professional development while connecting with colleagues. Feedback confirmed the value of this experience, which we hope to continue as an annual offering.

DR. MIREAULT & 'LAUGHING BABIES' RESEARCH GAINS NATIONAL MEDIA EXPOSURE

Professor **Gina Mireault** and her research on infant humor were featured on the NBC Nightly News Jan. 17 in a segment titled



"Who's Laughing Now? Babies Understand Your Humor and Want to Joke Too." The segment evolved from a paper Gina co-authored in the Jan. 5 issue of *Current Biology*, which published a series on "The Biology of Fun and the Fun of

Biology" in celebration of the journal's 25th anniversary. Several other media also covered her work, including *Science Daily*, the *Huffington Post*, and *New York* magazine's "The Science of Us."

FACULTY SABBATICALS FOR 2015-16

The following faculty sabbaticals for the 2015-16 academic year have been approved:

- Fall semester: Professors **Susan Green** (Behavioral Sciences) and **Brad Moskowitz** (Environmental & Health Sciences).
- Spring semester: Professors **Les Kanat** (Environmental & Health Sciences), **Mary Martin** (Fine Arts) and **Karen Uhlendorf** (Environmental & Health Sciences).

