



JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

to the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees

APRIL 28, 2011



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Spring spruce-up is under way as we start the final countdown toward Commencement 2011 on Saturday, May 14. As noted last month, our commencement speaker this year will be Marie Kennedy, professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts-Boston and currently visiting professor of urban planning at UCLA's School of Public Affairs. All trustees are cordially invited to join us.



You'll note in this report many examples of excellent work being done by JSC faculty, students and staff. They include growing recognition for faculty-mentored student research at Johnson State impressive community service and outreach to the local community, and a College-wide commitment to student success and the betterment of Johnson State College.

I presented my annual [State of the College address](#) to faculty, staff and students Wednesday, March 30. In addition to reviewing the progress we have made toward the goals laid out in our five-year plan, *JSC 2010-2015: A Plan for Access, Engagement & Success*, I reviewed the budget challenges that lie ahead and the steps we are taking to meet them. Taking into account anticipated expenses and revenue (including the VSC state appropriation that accounts for 14.5 percent of our \$30 million budget), we have a gap of approximately \$750,000 to make up in the next fiscal year. We will meet most of this shortfall through reductions in part-time faculty wages and full-time faculty overload; reducing College-funded, non-work-study wages; holding the line on supplies and services; borrowing from our contingency fund; and reducing our marketing and public-relations budget. The questions and discussions that followed were thoughtful and largely supportive of the steps we are taking reduce our costs.



Onward to Commencement 2011 — a short two weeks away!



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

A profile of **Sean Clute** (Fine Arts) and his wife, **Pauline Jennings**, appeared in the March 2 issue of *Seven Days* (“A multitasking couple create dance and digital-art performance in Vermont”). Pauline, a choreographer, is a researcher for a lab at the University of California-Berkeley that studies the locomotion of many-legged animals. From their home in Johnson, as the article details, “she illustrates and records the movement of insects and lizards — from photographs and animal replicas.... Discoveries in the lab have provided inspiration for the design of poly-pedal robots, artificial muscles and animated movies such as *A Bug’s Life*.” The couple recently led a JSC-student trip to Italy and Greece, and they will collaborate on a new first-year seminar in the fall. They both continue to direct Double Vision, a dance company based in San Francisco, from Johnson; Pauline sets choreography with her San Francisco dancers over iChat. She has also been working with local dancers in an interactive installation piece called “Veritable Vicissitudes,” which premiered at Montpelier’s Contemporary Dance & Fitness Studio in March; in May, Double Vision will become the studio’s first company-in-residence. And this summer Sean and Pauline will join two of the Vermont dancers for six weeks of performances throughout Europe in what they’re calling the “Recession Special Tour.”

Gina Mireault (Behavioral Sciences) has been awarded a renewal project grant from the Vermont Genetics Network, which will allow her to continue her research on humor development in infants. She recently traveled to New York University to study with Dr. Harriet Oster, the world’s leading expert in infant facial expression. Gina will apply Dr. Oster’s methodology to her research.

An Abenaki honoring ceremony was held for **Fred Wiseman** (Humanities) in Swanton in March, during which he received a blanket for his work on Abenaki recognition and a plaque for his years teaching Abenaki children. Fred has been active in the quest



The Dance Club’s journey to Italy begins!

for Abenaki recognition in Montpelier and has served on the scholars panel of the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs. He also serves on an Indigenous Expressions committee for Burlington’s ECHO Center and is working on an “Indigenous Summit” that will bring native leaders from across the region to ECHO in September. Fred also has been asked to head a committee for the Newbury/Haverhill 250th anniversary celebration. He serves on a panel deciding the status of a series of stone structures in the Green Mountain National Forest and will be meeting with other regional tribes and the federal government.

Linda Kramer (Library) has begun loading collection guides from the library website to LibGuides, a commercial resource that allows the library to disseminate these materials through social media, such as Twitter, Facebook, instant messaging and web chat, and through mobile and smart phone applications. Many of the library’s periodical subscriptions include access to their electronic versions. **Pam Gelineau** (Library) is working with her VSC counterparts to improve patron access to digital titles that are commonly held within the system.

The library’s ongoing “de-accessioning” project continues under the oversight of **Ray Brior**. (Library) The purpose of this undertaking is to cap the growth of our hard copy collections, as well as to ensure that the collection itself is current and relevant to the College’s curricular needs.

Meanwhile, **Joe Farara** (Library) continues to research the post-war gospel communities in Louisiana and Mississippi for an upcoming CD release of live church performances by the Rev. Charlie Jackson, a guitar evangelist active from the 1960s until his death in 2006.

Karen Madden (Academic Support Services) attended the Council on Opportunity in Education’s (COE) policy seminar in Washington, D.C., March 6-8. This is an annual event sponsored by COE that gives TRiO professionals and selected program participants an opportunity to meet with members of Congress to promote the interests of low-income, first-generation students as well as students with disabilities. Karen met with Sens. Bernie Sanders and Patrick Leahy and Rep. Peter Welch to discuss the importance of continued support for TRiO funding. She also participated in Sen. Sanders’ press conference at his Burlington office March 14, at which the proposals to cut TRiO and Pell grant funding were discussed. Karen arranged to have a TRiO staff member on the panel at each of Sanders’ statewide town meetings. Ultimately the federal budget passed by Congress this month included \$26.6 million in TRiO cuts, which will affect nearly 100,000 students nationwide and the 12,000 students in Vermont who currently receive services. TRiO programs have been level-funded for several years, making these cuts even more devastating.

Karen presented a workshop entitled “Exploring Resources for Students with Disabilities” at VSAC’s “Pathways to College” informational session at St. Michael’s College on March 15, and she represented JSC at South Burlington High School’s “Post-Secondary Planning for IEP/504 Students” presentation on April 3.

Clyde Stats (Academic Support Services) attended the New England Educational Opportunity Association’s (NEOA) Leadership Institute, a series of workshops held around New England November 10-12, January 19-21 and March 2-4. The workshops focused on honing participants’ leadership skills, promoting personal development, and motivating participants to take on increased leadership roles within TRiO and in the larger community.

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

The JSC Chamber Singers led by **Bethany Plissey** (Performing Arts) wrapped up their five-day concert tour of New England on April 5 with an evening concert at the Second Congregational UCC Church in Jeffersonville. The talented group of 20 students held eight performances at six schools, including several in the Boston area, during spring break. The tour was very well-received. Members of the group are: **Kiley Barber, Bridget Conway, Lindsay Hack, Alaria Lanpher, Emily Searles** and **Annalise Shelmandine,**



soprano; **Carmen Darling, Tracy Ferrell, Maddy Gibbons, Jennel Molleur, Deidre Montague** and **Brittany Wieland**, alto; **Josh Clinger, Christopher Scott Currier, Andrew Daubenspeck, Aaron Doane** and **Jon Howard**, tenor; and **Christopher Chabot, Andrew Cross, Jacob Lane**, accompanist **Marcus Provost** and **Josh Puopolo**, bass.

JSC science students joined **Liz Dolci** (Environmental and Health Sciences) at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research conference at Ithaca College March 31-April 2. The NCUR conference, a professional meeting geared to undergraduates,

provided an outstanding forum for our students to present their work at a well-attended poster presentation. **Ben Chaucer**, **Danielle Gregoire** and **Autumn Santor** presented findings from their study of microorganisms at the Eden asbestos mine site.

Our students also heard Branford Marsalis talk about his life as a professional musician instead of the history teacher he originally planned to become. The presentations crossed many disciplines. While the majority of posters were in the sciences, Liz and the students saw several in political science, sociology, psychology, computers and music, which fit nicely with JSC's goal of expanding our emerging "culture of research" across the various disciplines. This JSC research team also presented at the annual "Posters on the Hill" event sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) in Washington, D.C., April 13 during which they met for about an hour each with Sens. Sanders and Leahy and Rep. Welch. "CUR received more than 700 applications nationwide and accepted only 74 of them," Professor Dolci reports. "Of the nine applications from Vermont — including ones from UVM, Middlebury, Norwich and St. Michael's College — ours was the only one accepted."

On March 24, **Martha Lance** (Academic Support Services) led a group of TRiO students to Montpelier to participate in Vermont TRiO Day at the State House. JSC TRiO students **Angelica Caterino**, **Anna Liccione**, **Brett Hess** and **Dominique Couture** had lunch with legislators and met with Gov. Peter Shumlin and House Speaker Shap Smith to promote the interests of Vermont college students in general and TRiO students in particular. Martha also organized a workshop entitled "Living and Leading Locally," presented at JSC on March 26. This included a panel discussion with Hal Colston (founder of both Good News Garage and Neighborkeepers), James Ehlers (executive director of Lake Champlain International), **Margo Warden** (director of JSC's First-Year Experience program), and **Deb Nevil** (JSC TRiO alumna and current M.Ed. candidate) examining various paths to leadership in Vermont. Finally, Martha also led a March 18 trip to Burlington-area graduate schools in which TRiO students **Elizabeth Moul** and

Dan Hill participated, and she attended a National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) conference in Burlington March 9-11.

Business students at JSC are involved in a number of projects benefiting the local community. Students in the quantitative-analysis course are conducting a study of the economic impact of second-home owners in Lamoille County in conjunction with the Lamoille County Planning Commission and the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation; they have sent a survey to 1,250 owners of second homes in the county as a first step. Students in **Professor Black's** (Business and Economics) senior-seminar class are working with Manufacturing Solutions Inc. (MSI) of Morrisville to create a business plan for a cardboard-recycling facility. Students in the senior-seminar and microcomputer-applications courses are creating a comprehensive list of Lamoille County businesses that will be placed on LamoilleVT.com. Finally, business students are working with the Center for an Agricultural Economy in Hardwick on a number of projects and training workshops, while faculty and staff members in the department serve as board members on the Lamoille Economic Development Corp., the Lamoille Area Workforce Investment Board, and the Lamoille Economic Connection.



Business students display their community projects at the April 15 ECE Fair with Assistant Prof. Henrique Cezar (right).

Four JSC journalism majors covered four town meetings for the *Hardwick Gazette*: **Davis Koier** covered Greensboro; **Phil O'Neil** covered Woodbury; **Jessica McCoy** covered Wolcott; and **Tom Benton** covered Marshfield. It went very smoothly, as indicated by a letter of appreciation received from the *Gazette's* Ross Connelly.

Two Fine Arts students, **Mariah Jackson** and **Florence Darling**, have won eight-week residencies at the Vermont Studio Center. Both will enjoy 24-hour access to private studios and the chance to meet with artists from around the world. According to *Basement Medicine*, both Jackson and Darling are considering continuing studying at the graduate level — Darling in North Carolina and Jackson possibly in Chicago — although the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps or travel might be part of the latter's immediate future.

Ashley McCauliff and **Dayton Shafer**, seniors in the B.F.A. creative writing program, have each received a two-week fellowship at the Vermont Studio Center that will begin at semester's end. This sought-after award is offered annually to two senior students in creative writing and includes housing and meals during their stay. The time to focus on their writing is intended as a vehicle toward publication and/or a graduate program.

STUDENT SERVICES

By all accounts it has been a very good year on campus. Over the course of the year, students have been asked to complete more than a half-dozen surveys on various aspects of their lives on campus. Their responses indicate that they feel we have a caring, supportive and accessible staff and quality services.

This year has seen extensive outreach and collaboration with community-partner agencies to help us support students on campus. A number of campaigns with the Lamoille Prevention Task Force have been aimed at reducing binge and underage

drinking — and they appear to be having an impact. Student Services staff also have worked closely with Court Diversion, Lamoille Community Connections, and the Lamoille County Sherriff's Department. As a result, our partner agencies have made note of our efforts, and our standing in the community is stronger.

The national CORE survey and other surveys we've conducted this year confirm a reduction in the use of alcohol and drugs and in problematic behaviors associated with such use. Particularly gratifying is a significant reduction in self-reported binge drinking. We have seen a steep drop in the number of students needing to be transported from campus for health and safety reasons. We believe that stepped-up efforts in this area, both in terms of education and enforcement, have contributed to this improvement. The data also reveal a gap between the perception of alcohol and drug use on campus and the use as actually reported. We will be exploring ways of using this information for "social norms" efforts in the near future. In addition to garnering notice in the local community, these efforts (and results) have drawn attention on campus — most recently highlighted as the lead story in *Basement Medicine*.

RESIDENCE LIFE & CAMPUS SAFETY

Our recently completed student-life survey indicates that a substantial majority of residential students feel that living on campus has positively impacted their college experience. They feel comfortable approaching their building staff with questions or concerns and agree that their building supervisor is present and approachable. Students also report feeling safe on campus. They feel valued as students and believe that the staff cares about their well-being. Approximately three-quarters of students feel that the College enforces policy fairly and consistently (most of the other respondents responded neutrally). This fact, along with the highly favorable ratings of the Residence Life and Public Safety departments, indicates that the College has found a good balance in its educational and enforcement efforts related to student conduct.

ATHLETICS AND RECREATION



Men's Basketball Team Receives NAC Sportsmanship Award

The Johnson State College men's basketball team has received the 2011 North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Team Sportsmanship Award. The award is voted on by the head coaches in the league and is given to the program that best exemplifies the sportsmanship goals of the NAC.

"We are very proud of the quality of the young men we currently have in our program," said **Michael Osborne**, head coach. "It is a testament to our seniors — **Victor Abass, Rob Key** and **Ian Passino** — and the examples they have set for this program over their respective basketball careers here at JSC. We will continue to try to promote sportsmanship and the highest level of conduct among our team, all the while being more and more competitive on the court."

Eckman Replaces Tatro at Women's Basketball Helm

Greg Eckman has been hired as the new head coach of the women's basketball team. He will replace former **Dale Tatro**, who announced his resignation in early March. Tatro was hired prior to the 2007-08 season and led JSC to the NAC quarterfinal round in his first three seasons. He also coached a pair of all-NAC student-athletes.

Eckman has served as Assistant Coach for the JSC men's basketball team for the past five seasons and worked double-duty during the 2010-11 season, also serving as the assistant to Coach Tatro with the women's team.

"I am extremely excited about the opportunity to serve as Johnson State's head women's basketball coach," stated Eckman. "I look forward to working with the returning student-athletes as well as to getting out and recruiting other fine student-athletes to join our program and institution."

Early Spring Honors

Despite weather conditions that often felt more like mid-winter, spring sports are off to a successful early start. Sophomore **Caitlin Mackey** was tabbed North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Player of the Week in softball, while in men's tennis, first-year student athlete **Chance Swafford** received NAC Rookie of the Week honors. Kudos to Acting Director of Athletics **Mike Osborne** and Staff Assistant **Sally Reynolds** for scheduling duties above and beyond in this heavily snowy and rainy season of spring sports.

SERVE

The SERVE office has logged nearly 1,200 hours of student community service so far this semester, with the bulk of those hours coming through the weekly SERVE Fri program of weekly service projects on Fridays. Projects this semester have included helping the Morrisville Rotary prepare for their annual Polar Splash fundraiser, getting volunteers trained and assisting at the North Country Animal League, traveling to the Green Mountain Club headquarters in Waterbury to help the organization prepare for its spring season, sorting vegetables at the Vermont Foodbank for distribution to local food shelves, and helping to paint and insulate a barn at the Center for America's First Horse.

This March saw our biannual American Red Cross blood drive, held March 25. The past six drives have been co-sponsored by the Vermont Electric Cooperative. This semester's drive brought in 131 units (pints) of blood, well above our set goal.

Student **Brian Raulinaitis** received a "Commitment to Service and Engagement Award" from the Vermont Campus Compact. Brian was recognized for his leadership with the SERVE Fri program and his stewardship efforts at the College's Babcock Nature Preserve.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The annual Casino Night to benefit the United Way of Lamoille County was held March 18. The event drew close to 200 participants and raised about \$1,000. Local businesses donated auction prizes.

SGA elections were held March 23 and 24. The following students were elected to leadership



James Dempsey

positions for the 2011-12 school year: **James Dempsey**, president; **Sara-Ann Wolf**, vice president; and **Khrystyne Bartoswicz, Shane Bouthillette, Molly Brown, Ashley Carrington, Kevin Kirk, Jessica Pafumi, Natasha Thomas** and **Veronika Waibel**, senators.

HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICES

Nurse Practitioner **Jeanie Cass** recently attended a course on psychopharmacology. She continues to work with a University of Vermont naturopathic student at the Health Center on a weekly basis. Jeanie also taught a section on sexually transmitted infections in a Wellness & Alternative Medicine class since our last report.

Counseling Center interns are offering two group opportunities to students: **Caroline O'Conner** and **Tracy Lamphere** are co-leading a support group in Arthur Hall for college students who experiencing a wide range of typical college-age concerns, and **Linda Henderson** is leading an SOS (Seek Out Solutions) group, which seeks to reduce and manage stress and anxiety among college students.

Counseling Center Director **Cynthia Hennard** recently attended the New England College Counseling Center Directors Conference in Worcester, Mass.

The results from JSC's recent student-life survey indicate that students give the Health & Counseling Center high marks for the quality of services and the ease with which they can make appointments.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

BUSINESS OFFICE

Testing continues for the web-based version of Datatel. Staff continue to use the application daily in order to familiarize themselves with the new techniques. While movement from screen to screen and the look-up processes appear to be slower than in the client-based version of the software, we are finding several new features helpful to ongoing operations. We are hopeful that as staff become more familiar with the new version, they will learn the shortcuts necessary to maintain the department's level of efficiency.

FY 2012 budgets are under development, and department heads are searching for operational savings to balance the budget. The College is working diligently to present a balanced budget to the Trustees.

PHYSICAL PLANT

Architectural and engineering work continues in preparation for the renovations of Bentley Hall and the Visual Arts Center (VAC). Bids were received for the Bentley project, and we are pleased to report that the project is on-budget with a guaranteed maximum price on par with the project's expected budget. Bidding materials have been sent out for the VAC project in late April.

The Physical Plant, Fine Arts and Environmental & Health Sciences departments have been preparing for summer relocation. Fit-up of the new space in



Artist's rendering of the renovated Visual Arts Center

McClelland Hall is well under way at this time and should be complete prior to Commencement in May. We look forward to relocating the Fine Arts Department this summer.

CONFERENCE & EVENT SERVICES

The spring semester has been an extremely busy one for Conference and Event Services (CES). Since the last Trustees report, JSC has hosted the Board of Trustees meeting, a bus tour of students brought to campus by MinorityRecruitOnline.com, "Accepted Students Day" and "Athletes Overnight" for the Admissions Department, a blood drive for the American Red Cross, President Murphy's "State of the College" address, a presentation by Lilly Ledbetter, The SGA's 34th annual Casino Night, a dinner hosted for supporters of the SERVE Endowment, speakers series for the Teachers Learning Community, weekly Writing & Literature readings, several Creative Audience events, and a number of other SGA, Break Away and club events.

CES is busy planning the remainder of the spring semester events and laying the groundwork for upcoming summer groups and events.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Planning and preparation are in process for three major projects: the Aruba wireless network upgrade, a Network Access Control system upgrade, and renovation of both our server room and wiring closet. We recently conducted surveys to gauge the feasibility

of "going wireless" in Bentley Hall and the Governors South and North residence halls. Bentley will be added to the wireless network as part of the final stage of its renovation this summer; dates for making the two residential buildings wireless are pending budget approval.

Moodle-conversion efforts continue in Media Services. Paul Bloomhardt reports that two blanket emails have been sent to faculty and staff with instructions and web links for requesting course conversion, with favorable responses received thus far. All fall 2010 courses have been archived.

ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID

April is "yield month," with deposits for fall 2011 on part with deposits at this same time last year. We are seeing a lag in transfer applications, but working hard to engage with community college students to help affect this number.

At this time of year, the Admissions staff focuses on yield events and spring travel. To help encourage accepted students to visit campus, the Student Ambassador Club, led by senior **Dominique Couture**, placed more than 680 phone calls to accepted students March 22-24.

Recent events include our Accepted Students Day on March 28, planned by **Rebecca Pastor**. We welcomed 57 accepted students and a total of 110 visitors to campus for the event, which included attending two classes, touring campus, and meeting with admissions and financial aid counselors. We are grateful to the many faculty who invited accepted students to attend their classes.

JSC 101, our spring open house, took place Friday, April 15. Accepted high school seniors as well as juniors, sophomores and transfer students, turned out in force. We had 266 visitors, of which 170 were students – up from last year's total of 189 visitors and 118 students. Groups came from



Admissions counselors Julie Noyes (left) and Joye Lyon (middle, back) gather with Admissions tour guides before the start of the JSC 101 Open House.

Winooski and Lamoille high schools as well as the King Street Youth Center in Burlington. Following the welcome by **Penny Howrigan** and **President Murphy, Margo Warden**, director of the First-Year Experience Program, gave an overview of the fall 2011 Orientation and announced our common book, *Greasy Rider* for the incoming class. The JSC Chamber Singers, led by Assistant Professor of Music **Bethany Plissey**, performed to a standing ovation, after which visitors attended the annual "Extended Classroom Experience Showcase" in the SHAPE Center. JSC faculty and their students played a major role in this event by showcasing students' work beyond the classroom. Kudos to **Joye Lyon, Patrick Rogers** and Director of Experiential Learning **Ellen Hill** for organizing the event.

While the formal Admissions events are coming to a close, recruitment for the fall class of 2012 is well under way. Replies from our special mailing campaign (junior search) are coming in, group visits arranged by VSAC outreach counselors are taking place, and Saturday tours and information sessions through May are filling up. A thorough review of marketing strategies materials is planned for early summer, and the push for transfer students begins with a series of on-the-spot Transfer Days starting in June.

Other Admissions highlights:

- **Penny Howrigan** co-presented "The College Admissions Process" at the annual VSAC Pathways program at Castleton State College on Saturday, April 2. The VSAC Pathways program is an outreach program for high school juniors and sophomore; events are held at St. Michael's College, Castleton State and Lyndon State each March and April.
- The JSC Chamber Singers, led by Assistant Professor **Bethany Plissey**, toured and performed at high schools in Vermont and Massachusetts over five days during spring break. Admissions counselor **Julie Noyes** traveled with the group and spoke to prospective students about JSC and returned with more than 100 inquiry cards.
- Julie Noyes and Assistant Business Professor **Henrique Cezar** visited the Stafford Technical Center (STC) in Rutland to present to several business classes. The purpose of the visit was to promote the business program at JSC and to build toward an articulation agreement with STC. (JSC already has an agreement with STC's music program.)
- The Consortium of Vermont Colleges (CVC) hosted its annual counselor bus tour April 17-22. Following a kick-off dinner on Sunday, April 17, at the Marriott



Counselors at Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge, CT, wore JSC shirts one day as part of their initiative to educate students about their college options.

Hotel in Burlington, 40 counselors and independent consultants from across the country toured 18 colleges in Vermont. The group was scheduled to visit JSC on Thursday, April 21. Our own **Patrick Rogers** is the president-elect of CVC.

- Tour guide **Dominique Couture** spoke to several classes at Peoples Academy (PA) about her college experiences at JSC. Dominique, a graduate of PA and a senior at JSC, was invited by teachers at the school.
- **Rebecca Pastor** represented JSC at the South Burlington High School's "Big Picture Program" dinner and presentation April 12. This program allows SBHS students to choose learning experiences that include interdisciplinary, real-world courses, internships, independent studies, college courses and travel that provide high school credits. Students demonstrate what they have learned through a variety of assessments, including exhibition, special projects, portfolios, and research papers.
- **Joye Lyon** wrapped up her last monthly training for our Admissions tour guides prior to JSC 101. Throughout the year, Joye has brought guest speakers to the monthly meetings. This year's speakers have included Environmental & Health Sciences Professors **Les Kanat** and **Liz Dolci**; Dean of Administration **Sharron Scott**; Academic Support Services Director **Karen Madden** and Director of Experiential Learning **Ellen Hill**.

- Admissions hosted a "Student Appreciation Ice Cream Social" April 20 to recognize the extraordinary work of students who have assisted with our admissions efforts this year. We benefit so much from our wonderful student tour guides, office assistants, "student ambassadors" and others who serve on panels, host prospective students, perform at Admissions events and more. They have played a huge role in helping us recruit the fall class of 2011, and we are tremendously grateful for their support.
- Thanks to funds from the JSC Professional Development Committee, transfer counselor **Elga Gruner** will attend the New England Transfer Association conference April 20-22 in Woodstock. Keynote speakers include Holly Zanville from the Lumina Foundation; John Gardner, professor and student-retention specialist; and Brian Sponsler, a research analyst at the Institute for Higher Education Policy.

FINANCIAL AID

Pell grants survived the federal budget cuts and will remain at the same level (\$5,550 maximum benefit) for the upcoming academic year, which is certainly good news for college students and families. At this time, we expect cuts in other financial-aid programs to have little to no impact on this year's funding allocations.

In the Financial Aid Office, staff are focusing on making calls to accepted students to answer questions about their status in the financial-aid process.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS

Scholarship committees have been working with Financial Aid staff to review applications and award \$125,875 in scholarships through 202 named scholarships and prizes. Funds for these scholarships come from endowment interest and private donations. In years hence, as promised endowments are realized, we expect this amount to grow tenfold. The applications give a strong picture of how hard our students work and how motivated they are to obtain an education. This year, the largest scholarship endowment — the Carrie Hubbard Stewart Endowment — is providing \$20,000 for women who are working their way through college.

Here are the highlights of the scholarship grants, which will be announced at Honors Convocation May 5:

- The Alumni Association Scholarship Committee will award 76 scholarships totaling \$38,800 from endowed named scholarships and private donations.
- The Ellsworth Trust will award 8 scholarships totalling \$9,560 from interest earned on this endowment.
- The Endowed Scholarships for Education/Spencer Trust Committee, chaired by Professor Emeritus Alice Whiting, will award

\$13,500 in scholarships from the Spencer Trust; the Star and Mark Heinrich, Graves-Story, and Donald and Susan Collins endowments; plus the scholarship fund established in memory of Professor Bob Digiulio.

- The Fund for JSC/Endowed/Faculty Staff Scholarship Committee, in conjunction with the Financial Aid Office, will grant 56 scholarships representing named endowments and private philanthropy, scholarships totaling \$46,250. These scholarships include Stowe Rotary, Union Bank, Harold Sylvester, Thompson-Desmarais, Dr. Richard Daum, Jane Stearns, ARAMARK, Follett College Stores, Helen Braley Stearns, Carrie Hubbard Stewart, John Lord, and Martha DePecol Memorial scholarships.
- Four scholarships will be awarded from the Union Bank endowment — two each to External Degree Program (EDP) students and to traditional students in the bank's service area.
- Alumni Association EDP scholarships will go to 11 students, representing \$1,900 donated by EDP alumni.
- A total of \$12,865 in department prizes and scholarships given from endowment interest or specific gifts will be granted to 27 students.



PHONATHON

The annual JSC phonathon held in March netted more than \$14,000 in pledges and connected JSC student callers with countless alumni, parents and friends. Nearly 11,000 calls were logged over 16 nights, averaging \$685 per night.

An untold number of records have been updated, information about upcoming events has been shared, and news for publication in *Johnson Views* and on the alumni website will be posted. This year soccer coach **Ray Campanile** directed the phonathon.



JSC ALUMNI PROFILE



Joel Krasnove, Class of '76, Sets the Stage for Showstoppers — Worldwide!

Joel Krasnove, class of '76 and chief operating officer of Adirondack Studios (ADK) in upstate New York, has a job that is part magic, part theater, and very high-tech.

ADK is a creative force in the entertainment industry that designs and creates environments for nearly every venue imaginable — from museums to casinos to shopping malls; from theater sets such as the Boston Opera's production of *La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein* (pictured on this issue's cover) and the Broadway production of *Mary Poppins* to holiday exhibits and interactive displays; from Manhattan to Los Angeles and even Dubai and Singapore.

It's a job that keeps Krasnove constantly on the go — literally. In late March, while the winter of 2011 refused to end in Vermont, Krasnove was spending a week in Hawaii before continuing on to Singapore and Malaysia. He makes the trek to Singapore three or four times a year to check on operations at his company's Far East branch, Adirondack Asia, which he and a partner created in order to work on Universal Studios' new theme park in Singapore based on the "Transformers" movie. Malaysia is on the itinerary as well; it is there that ADK is helping to create the country's first Legoland theme park.

Does he ever get bored? "I do, actually," he replies. "It happens when I come to work and everything's laid out and there's no crisis. It drives me crazy. I love the challenge of solving a problem, of taking a risk."

Taking a risk — several of them, in fact — is what got Krasnove, a political science major at JSC, where he is today. That and a little bit of luck, he adds.

Krasnove returned to Manhattan after earning his degree at JSC and soon met up again with Emerson, who also had returned to work in the city. His former professor gave him some job leads, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Krasnove got his start in the entertainment industry through the experience he gained and the connections he made at JSC. He modestly attributes his career success to "being lucky — being in the right place at the right time. I've been fortunate to be offered opportunities, and I've been smart enough or foolish enough to take them," he laughs, failing to mention that business smarts, hard work and long days likely played a role as well.

But the key — and the advice he gives to others — is that he hasn't been afraid to take risks. "If I'd been afraid to take risks, I wouldn't have had the experiences I've had," he says. "I wasn't afraid to take a job I knew nothing about, and to learn it. And now it's evolved into management, which I find very exciting."

He applies this philosophy to his hiring decisions as well. "I look for people who are enthusiastic about what they want to do and a good attitude about doing it," he says. "I'll take a person like that over someone with a bad attitude and great skills any day."

Krasnove will be profiled in the upcoming issue of Johnson Views, which is now at press. Watch for it to arrive in the mail in May.