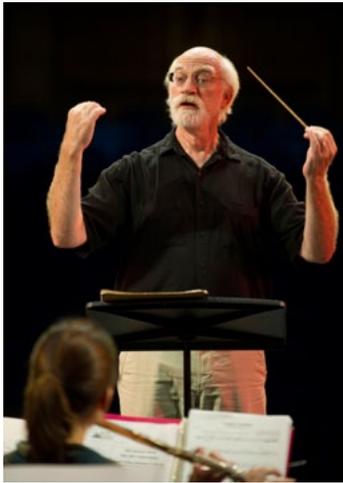




# JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

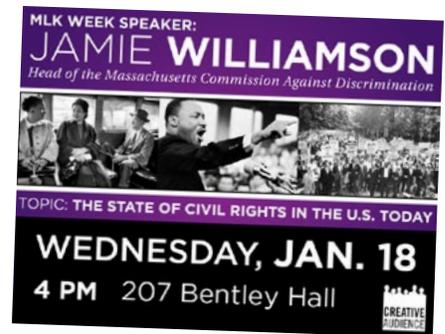
to the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees

FEBRUARY 2, 2012



We kicked off the spring 2012 semester on Sunday, Jan. 15, with our annual “Winter Welcome” orientation program for students starting in the spring. We greeted 45 new students on campus and welcomed another 91 into our External Degree Program.

The following day — the first day of classes and Martin Luther King Jr. Day — we celebrated with a free community lunch in Stearns and provided an opportunity for all to sign up for community service and other projects to be carried out during the semester. Two days later, we hosted our featured MLK Day speaker: Jamie Williamson, head of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. A full house was on hand for this first “Creative Audience” event of the semester.



We were pleased to welcome our Fine Arts students and faculty back to our beautiful new Visual Arts Center, which was fully remodeled and expanded over the past nine months. This project represents a major endorsement of the visual arts program — and the role of arts courses for non-majors — at Johnson State, especially when coupled with the addition last year of a full-time faculty member to our roster and the new Mac Lab for digital arts built last year. Later this semester, after the final finishing touches are in place, we will host a grand reopening celebration. In the meantime, we are working with Admissions, Development and the Fine Arts faculty to spread the word about our thriving arts program.



We have much work ahead this semester. In addition to finalizing the budget for the next fiscal year and continuing progress on our five-year plan, *JSC 2010-2015: A Plan for Access, Engagement & Success*, we will be exploring systems to increase efficiencies and streamline the inquiry-to-enrolled student process in our Admissions Office, developing opportunities to promote our External Degree Program to potential degree-completers beyond the CCV network we largely rely on now, and laying the groundwork for a new and improved website down the road.

And of course we will be gearing up for Commencement 2012, which will be here before we know it. I am pleased to announce that the newest member of the Vermont Supreme Court, Justice Beth Robinson, has accepted our invitation to be our keynote speaker.

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

In recent months, poems by **Dave Cavanagh** (External Degree Program) have been published in several publications, including *Rattle*, a prominent poetry journal based in California; *Green Mountains Review*; and an anthology of nature writing from Wood Thrush Books called *The Wildness Beyond*. His moving poem “Fugue,” in *Rattle*, was part of the journal’s special tribute to Canadian poets and was also online in December, where it was the featured “poem of the day” on Dec. 19, with an audio link to its reading by Dave. Dave also had an hour-long interview and reading on UVM’s radio station and will be one of the Vermont writers featured in *The WRUV Reader*, an anthology to be published by UVM.

**Elizabeth Powell** (Writing & Literature) has learned that one of the poems in JSC’s most recent *Green Mountains Review*, which Liz co-edits with **Jacob White** (also Writing & Literature), has been selected for inclusion in *The Best American Poetry 2012*. The poem is Sherman Alexie’s “Terminal Nostalgia.” Liz received word of the selection from series editor David Lehman, who also communicated his admiration for Liz’s poetry in *New Ohio Review*.

**Tyrone Shaw** (Writing & Literature) has accepted an invitation to Riga, Latvia, to deliver two seminars — one on media ethics, the other on civic journalism — to working journalists, editors and publishers. His trip is sponsored by the U.S. State Department and will take place Feb. 17-26.

Landscape paintings and drawings by **Marie LaPre Grabon** (Fine & Performing Arts) have been on display at the Governor’s Gallery on the fifth floor of the Pavilion Office Building in Montpelier. The exhibit, named a “Best Bet” last month by the *Burlington Free Press*, runs through Jan. 27.

In its 2012 reference supplement, *Library Journal* compiled a peer-reviewed list of best databases. JSC’s Willey Library subscribes to many of them, including

Credo Reference (“Best Overall”), Biography in Context (“Best Overall Runner-Up”), Ulrich’s Web (“Best Usability Revamp Runner Up”), Access Science (“Best in Media”); Encyclopedia Britannica (“Most Elegant”), Literary Reference Center (“Most Elegant Runner-Up”), CQ Researcher (“Best Original Content Runner-Up”), JSTOR (“Patrons’ Favorite Runner-Up”), and Naxos Music Library (“Patrons’ Favorite Runner-Up”). In an era of ever-more-abundant sources of information, it is good news that library staff members are deploying modest resources wisely.

### STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Amid the rigors of end-of-semester work, JSC dance students carved out time for a laudable fundraiser, “Dances for the Deluge,” which raised funds to support Vermonters hard hit by Tropical Storm Irene. The dance concert took place Dec. 8 at Lamoille Union High School and featured dance students from the high school as well as JSC, all under the direction of **Maris Wolff** (Fine & Performing Arts) and Nicki Lefavre of LUHS. All proceeds went to the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund, the program was an eclectic mix of styles and included two pieces by modern dance icon Isadora Duncan and a work created especially for this event, titled “Flood.”

JSC’s new Finance and Investment Club won the “Vermont Showdown” virtual market competition in December, which pitted JSC against St. Michael’s College and UVM. President **Nik Holm** and his student colleagues finished with the highest net returns of 27.6 percent. St. Mike’s was next with 18.1 percent, followed by UVM with 14.1 percent. The



Some Investment Club members pose with Henrique Cezar (center) before a December event.

teams started with \$100,000 in virtual cash and were able to trade on margin, with a minimum stock price of \$2 and commissions at \$9.95 per trade. The club also took a field trip to National Life Group/Sentinel Investments in mid-December. The club started this fall under the guidance of **Henrique Cezar** (Business & Economics), with weekly meetings on such topics as retirement, personal finance, investing techniques and mortgages.

JSC journalism graduate **Ethan Dezotelle**, '02, has joined the *St. Albans Messenger* as its director of new media. Dezotelle, former editor-in-chief of *The County Courier*, is now one of three JSC journalism graduates working at Vermont's oldest daily. **Melissa Betty**, '08, works in the design/layout department and also writes features, and **Jessie Forand**, '09, is one of two general-assignment reporters covering Franklin County.

**Jean Lorenzen** ('05, Theater & Drama) reports he has opened his first professional show as a stage manager.

**Adam Knowlton-Young**, a graduate student in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program at Salem State University, has begun his second internship/practicum in JSC's Advising & Career Center. Working primarily with advisor **Kate Wilson**, he is analyzing our academic-probation program and will compare our policies to those of other colleges and universities.

**Corbett Torrence** (Behavioral Sciences) reports that this fall, students from his summer 2011 Archaeological Field School enrolled in a newly created independent study, Archaeological Report Production, through which they contributed to a report for the Vermont Department of Historic Preservation. The students are looking forward to presenting their findings at the Vermont Archaeological Society's annual meeting and to local historical societies and other local groups this spring. The students are gaining "cultural resource management" (CRM) skills as well authorship and public-presentation experience. Corbett reports that 80 percent of the students who completed

his six-credit summer course have been hired as archaeological field technicians starting at \$14/hour by CRM companies. Over the past three years, 30 percent of the students completing the course moved into CRM positions, and three current JSC students worked part-time doing field work during the fall. Another two students are applying to graduate school in anthropology.

Twenty-two JSC students, faculty and staff will travel to Cuba March 29-April 6 on a trip sponsored by the Fine & Performing Arts Department as part of a special-topics course called "The Art and Culture of Cuba."

## STUDENT SERVICES

### ATHLETICS & RECREATION

Athletics is planning a spring workshop series for student-athletes that will be delivered in collaboration with other offices on campus. Topics will include academic skill-building, financial literacy, prevention of overuse injuries, diet and nutrition, career development and conflict resolution.

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) continues to be involved on campus and in the community. Late in the fall semester members served lunch at one of the bi-weekly Johnson community meals. Before the holidays SAAC hosted a "kids' night out" during which parents in the community could drop their children at SHAPE for four hours of fun in the gym, pool and climbing room. Our student-athletes had a great time with the roughly 20 children who attended, and their parents appreciated the chance to do some holiday shopping on their own. SAAC plans to continue this event once a month.

Three SAAC officers — **Chad Koenig**, **Morgan Rogerson** and **Matt Dekens** — attended the North Atlantic Conference (NAC) meeting in York Harbor, Maine. The officers joined student-athletes from other NAC institutions to discuss NCAA legislative proposals, attend a workshop on social media, and host a team of Special Olympians. A highlight of the



### JSC'S AMBER MCCULLOCK IS NATIONAL LEADER IN SAVE PERCENTAGE

Sophomore soccer goalkeeper **Amber McCullock** is the 2011 NCAA Division III statistical champion in save percentage, finishing her season at .918, topping second-place finisher Stephanie Vega of SUNY New Paltz (.914). Over 13 games for the Badgers, McCullock made 89 saves and allowed just eight goals.

McCullock's stellar season included a four-game stretch to end the season. She recorded two shutouts, three double-digit save efforts, and a high of 18 saves on the road against eventual NAC champion Castleton State College, which beat JSC 1-0. McCullock made 12 saves through regulation and two overtimes in the Badgers' playoff matchup at Colby-Sawyer College, forcing penalty kicks that led to an eventual loss.

McCullock, an Anthropology/Sociology major and also a member of the JSC women's basketball and softball teams, was humble about her accomplishments. "I would not have been able to accomplish this without my teammates, the people in front of me," she said. "I was a bit surprised [by the NCAA national honor] but also very happy. It is a nice accomplishment."

meetings was the election of sophomore lacrosse player Dekens as the next NAC SAAC president. His term begins in August.

#### *Early Season Basketball Awards*

As of early January, freshman **Brittany Robertson** had been named NAC Rookie of the Week three times this year. The team's leading scorer, she posted a career high 33 points and connected on the winning basket with 0:02.7 left in a 63-62 victory over Green Mountain College.

On the men's side, **Cory Chase** also earned NAC Rookie of the Week honors. Chase was a key contributor in a week that saw the team defeat Green Mountain College and Maine Maritime Academy.

#### *SHAPE & Intramurals*

With the shorter days and colder weather we are seeing the predictable increase in usage of all parts of the SHAPE Center. Students are the primary users, with peak usage occurring in the early evenings. As

in previous years, we have extended winter hours to accommodate the demand.

#### *Counseling & Health Centers*

Staff members continue to conduct outreach, collaborate with colleagues on classroom presentations, distribute information, and pursue grant-funding opportunities. They also have been working to get more extensive and informative feedback regarding the quality of their services, which has always been ranked high by students. Results will be tabulated later this semester.

#### *Residence Life*

We had a strong fall semester in the residence halls, evidenced by the high marks residents gave for the quality of their experience. This year's Resident Assistant cohort is an impressive one, with staffers doubling as student-athletes, Dance Club leaders, Admissions ambassadors, tutors, band members and service volunteers. As a group they achieved a collective 3.2 GPA for the fall semester.

IN MEMORIAM: LOUIS JARVIS

# A 7-iron approach to life

By Bill Boldwin

The Vermont golfing community lost an avid golfer, teacher, coach and all-around nice guy Sept. 30 when Louis H. Jarvis died at age 62 after a year-long battle with esophageal cancer. Many of Lou's friends, colleagues and students were stunned to learn of his death since Lou had been seen on the golf course only weeks earlier with the same enthusiasm and focus that made him a Class A Professional in the PGA.

An alumnus of Johnson State in Vermont, Lou returned there in 2009 to become the head men's golf coach, a role he truly loved. He taught his players to think about the game – to think less about how far the ball was traveling and more about how they were finishing their swing; to spend less time aiming a putt and more time reading the line.

The desired results will come as long as you stay true to your swing, he would tell them. It's all about muscle memory – it's about putting in the time, committing to the game and enjoying the people you play with, Lou would say.

He began his instructional career at Mount Snow Golf School in West Dover, Vt., and continued on to Stratton Golf School. In the ensuing years he worked with hundreds of novice, intermediate and advanced golfers, improving their skills and appreciation for the game.

Every first lesson with Lou consisted of him asking the student to take out a club to hit a few balls. Almost without fail, students of all abilities would select the driver. Lou would then tell them that if their goal was to be able to hit the longest drive, then they probably shouldn't waste their time with lessons from him. He didn't care how far someone could hit the ball. After all, he would point out, the most you'll use your driver in a round of golf is 14 or 15 times.

Considering the average golfer hits the ball close to 100 times, Lou was more



JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE PHOTO

**Johnson State men's golf coach Lou Jarvis taught his players to think about the game.**

interested in teaching success on the other 85 shots. "OK," he would say. "Let's put those drivers away and take out a 7-iron." It was then the lesson would begin.

Lou considered himself an ambassador of the game. He always presented himself in a professional manner and insisted those he golfed with do the same out of respect for others on the course and the game itself.

Win, lose or draw, Coach Jarvis would leave the Johnson State athletics building after each visit with the same remark. He would look you straight in the eye and say, "Go Badgers!" Every time.

Lou's last year was a tough one. With the support of wife and best friend, Joan, and his dog Scout at his side, Lou was able to keep active until the very end. He never complained, never asked for help. He lived his life the way he played the game, with intensity, integrity and focus. It's a legacy he leaves with Johnson State and the Badgers golf team.

Just days before his passing, and with Lou very weak, yet still fighting the cancer with the tenacity of his school's mascot, he provided two final words:

"Go Badgers!" he said.

You can bet that we will, coach.

*Bill Boldwin succeeded Jarvis as men's golf coach at Johnson State. Men's basketball coach and Sports Information Director Michael Osborne also contributed to this article.*

The Winter 2012 issue of *NCAA Champion* magazine included this moving tribute to the late Lou Jarvis, former coach of the men's golf team and JSC alum. It was written by Bill Boldwin, who succeeded Jarvis as golf coach at JSC.

## BUSINESS AFFAIRS

### BUSINESS OFFICE

Orientation for new students enrolling at JSC this semester was held on Sunday, Jan. 15. Working with staff from Financial Aid and the Registrar's office, Business Office personnel gave a presentation called "Money Matters" to our new students.

### PHYSICAL PLANT

While some elements of our new Visual Arts Center remain to be completed, we were able to open the building in time for the start of the spring semester. It's an understatement to say that new facility is a big hit with students, faculty and staff. We will be scheduling a "grand reopening" in the near future.

In addition to prepping the new VAC building, Physical Plant staff have been busy making sure our walkways, roads and emergency exits are clear and safe for travel. The staff takes great pride in keeping our campus clean and safe during the winter season.

Meetings with the faculty of McClelland Hall have begun to discuss the renovation of the building. Other planning projects in the works include the dam-remediation project in the Lower Pond, repairs to the Stearns Hall retaining wall, and the renovation of bathrooms, RA/HA space and office space in Arthur Hall.

### CONFERENCE & EVENT SERVICES (CES)

The end of the fall semester and start of the spring semester is an especially busy time of year for CES. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our CES staff, but always more so at this time of year.

Since our last report, we hosted a number of Admissions events, Athlete Overnights, a SERVE Celebration, VSAC information sessions, many Writing Department readings and Teacher's Learning Community presentations, luncheons for donors, several Creative Audience events, our annual reception for December graduates, our faculty and staff holiday party, a smattering of retirement parties

and, most recently, a Visual Arts Center "sneak peek" event for donors and arts faculty. During break, the office focused on planning for spring events and laying the groundwork for summer conferences and camps.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & MEDIA SERVICES

Completing the Visual Arts Center renovation project was the primary focus of Information Technology & Media Services during the final weeks of the fall semester through the startup of spring.

The VAC is back online, and the entire building has been added to the College's secure wireless network. New classroom technology has been installed in three art studios and in the new art-history classroom. The drawing and photography studios have been upgraded to "mid-level tech enhanced" status, with 70-inch, flat-panel TVs installed in each of these rooms. A similar setup has been installed in the small VAC seminar room. The art-history classroom received a full tech enhancement, with an Internet-connected PC, DVD and document camera for presentations. A full audio system and push-button controls are part of this installation. We also outfitted a new computer lab with five new Epson Perfection color photo scanners and five iMacs loaded with Adobe CS5 Premium software.

Lastly, and importantly, we've deployed nine virtualized servers using VMware and plan to virtualize the five remaining servers over the next





several weeks. This enables each physical machine to run multiple “virtual” machines, thereby reducing costs, increasing efficiency and providing for improved disaster recovery.

## ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID

### ADMISSIONS

The Admissions staff attended the annual Consortium of Vermont Colleges (CVC) meeting Jan. 4 at Norwich University. Associate Director of Admissions and newly inducted CVC President **Patrick Rogers** welcomed the group of Vermont admissions and high school guidance counselors, and Associate Director of Admissions **Rebecca Pastor** and counselor **Julie Noyes** presented workshops — Rebecca on statewide dual-enrollment options for high school students; Julie on the admissions decision-making process.

We hosted another two Transfer Days, on Jan. 6 and 12. These popular events allow incoming transfer students to receive an admission decision on the spot and also to register for classes, learn about on-campus housing options, work with the Financial Aid and Business offices, get their photo ID and take

care of other matters. These “taking care of business” activities make for a smoother transition when transfer students arrive for “Winter Welcome,” our official kick-off to the spring semester.

It is too early to predict Fall 2012 final numbers, but we know that the economy is a factor as families consider sending their students to colleges closer to home. We have a lot of work to do to convert out-of-state “accepts” to “deposits,” but we’re already making headway. We’ve mailed scholarship letters to many students already, and we’ll begin awarding financial aid in the coming weeks. We also are focusing more intently on the campus visit and its strong role in helping students make their final decisions.

### FINANCIAL AID

The Financial Aid Office is in the process of implementing the new federal verification requirements now in effect for the 2012-2013 awarding year. This year the requirements will vary based on the timing of the federal aid application and the family’s completion of their tax returns. The goal of the Department of Education is to reduce the number of applicants required to complete the verification process.

VSAC has informed us that it anticipates a reduction in grant money for 2012-2013, which of course will impact the amount awarded to JSC. Currently the maximum VSAC grant available to our full-time students is \$7,850 a year. We will either need to reduce the maximum grant amount or award fewer students.

We have streamlined the scholarship-application process for returning students this year. Applicants now submit their application and materials all online.

## DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

We wished long-time Director of Development & Alumni Relations **Sally Laughlin** a fond farewell early this month with an afternoon tea celebrating her many accomplishments during her 18-year



Sally Laughlin with Lauren Philie at the retirement tea in honor of Sally's 18 years with JSC

tenure at JSC. A number of donors and staff turned out for the event and spoke fondly of their work with Sally over the years. With the recent birth of her first grandchild, she is very much looking forward to her retirement. Sally leaves big shoes to fill, but we found the person to do just that:

**Lauren Philie**, who joined JSC in August as associate director of the office, has been appointed the new director. Lauren brings lots of energy and new ideas for building on Sally's legacy.

## VISUAL ARTS CAMPAIGN

As part of the fundraising campaign launched last May to increase support for the visual arts on campus, we held a "sneak peek preview party" of our renovated Visual Arts Center on Jan. 10. This invitation-only event for potential donors attracted 50 guests, including artists, community members,

faculty, representatives from the construction and architect firms involved in the renovation, Chancellor Donovan and key College staff. During the event, a new donor made a gift of \$7,500 to name the Photography Classroom and Darkroom in honor of Professor **John Miller**. Several other gifts were made to the campaign at the event and more are in the works. A "grand re-opening" celebration will be held in early spring.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

A new scholarship was launched this fall by Assistant Professor **Bethany Plissey** in honor of Dr. Thomas Fisher, who in the 1960s composed the College's Alma Mater and served as director of the Johnson State College Men's Ensemble. The new *Dr. Thomas Fisher Scholarship for Choral Singing* will provide financial assistance to promising choral students who are beginning their own journeys as singers. One award recipient will be selected annually from the entering freshman class of the Music and Musical Theater programs. The scholarship is a talent-based award that requires the recipient to participate in two of the JSC choral ensembles the year of the award. Other scholarship opportunities exist to support students who play instruments, but this is the first to support students talented in singing.

## CHESAMORE BELL TOWER

We officially launched the "Increase Our Base" campaign to double the number of donors and amount of gifts in five years with the mailing of our annual appeal last month. Only those who had previously donated to the College received the appeal. Recipients were asked to make a gift of \$500 or more over five years, which entitles them to an inscribed brick in the donors' plaza surrounding our new Chesamore Bell Tower. We plan to do another mailing to potential new alumni donors in the spring.

To date, we have received 27 gifts of \$500 or more, and 12 of those have already chosen their inscription. A committee of staff, former faculty and alums are working on the design for the plaza, with work expected to begin in the spring.

