

## **Board of Trustees Report Johnson State College February 1, 2008**



### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Students have returned to the Johnson State College campus and excitement is high as faculty, staff, and students engage in the teaching, study, and experiential learning that is the hallmark of a JSC education. This spring semester, however, excitement is being generated from another front, as well. Construction has begun on the renovation that will transform Stearns Hall into a true 24-hour student center.

In January, workers began demolition in Dewey Hall. This work will provide new space for the campus bookstore and set the stage for relocating most of the functions currently housed in Stearns Hall so that construction in the new student center can begin in March. The 26-week timeline for completion of the renovation promises to be a challenging, as well as invigorating, time here on the Johnson campus.

We anticipate that the new student center will be fully open by Thanksgiving, this coming fall 2008. Our development staff has identified a slate of naming opportunities for the renovated facility—these range from \$1 million to name the building to \$1,000 to name a computer kiosk. Our development officers and selected alumni volunteers will be travelling over the next few months to solicit support for the project from alumni, parents, and friends of the college. As we explore alumni interest in the Stearns renovation, we'll continue testing and refining the priorities for our comprehensive fundraising campaign.

Also this spring, Dean Dan Regan will be convening a group to discuss various elements of academic planning, and will prepare a report to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) as part of our reaccreditation agreement. Dean Ken Schexnayder will lead a similar effort in Strategic Enrollment Management. In both cases, this process provides an opportunity to articulate for NEASC the results of extensive planning over the past two years. I look forward to making these reports available to the board this coming fall.

The pages that follow offer a window into the Johnson State College community—our ambitions and our achievements. I am pleased to share these with the Board of Trustees.

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### Faculty and Staff Professional Activity

**Dave Cavanagh** (External Degree Program) was one of the featured poets in a reading at Saint Michael's College that celebrated the recent publication of *The Book of Irish American Poetry*, an anthology from the University of Notre Dame Press. Five poets from Boston, New York, and Vermont read poems of their own and by others in the anthology to an audience of more than 100. Earlier in the fall, Dave was a featured poet in the Yellow Door reading series in Montreal and in a new reading series in Sharon, Vermont. In December, he had three poems appear in *Salmon: A Journey in Poetry*, a new anthology from Salmon Poetry of Ireland.

As part of a series of continuing conversations with the Vermont State Department of Libraries and various academic library directors as to the qualities people would like to see in Sybil McShane's successor as State Librarian, **Joe Farara** (Library) identified a commitment to expanding the offerings of the Vermont Online Library, as well as a vigorous participation in additional collaborative efforts with academic libraries, as VSC priorities.



**Gina Mireault** (Behavioral Sciences) and **Dia Taylor**, a graduate student in psychology, have just had a paper accepted for publication in the *Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*. The paper was a product of Dia's research during her independent study with Gina and examines the rela-

tionship between meditation and emotional and behavioral self-regulation.

In November **Ken Brighton** (Education) presented a session at the National Middle School Conference in Houston. The session highlighted the concepts from his recently published book, *Coming of Age: The Education and Development of Young Adolescents*. About 70 middle-level educators attended the session. Ken's book was also promoted and distributed to all administrators who attended the Principals Luncheon at the conference.

In November **Norman McElvany** (Business and Economics) attended a Capsim® User's Seminar at DePaul University sponsored by Management Simulations, Inc., the creator of Capstone Business Simulation,® and Comp-XM,® The Business Competency Exam. He incorporates both Capstone® and Comp-XM® into his capstone course, required of all seniors pursuing a degree in Business Management. Norm reports that this seminar provided him with significant tools to enhance his teaching. His department has incorporated Comp-XM® as one of its assessment tools in measuring student outcomes.

**Ellen Hill** (Career Center) has taken a seat on the People in Partnership (PIP) standing Steering Committee. She and her colleagues are charged with providing clarity about the vision, mission and organization of PIP, reviewing its budget, and assisting the PIP coordinator in prioritizing needed tasks. Ellen has also been asked to join the local Workforce Investment Board (WIB). Funded by a grant from the VSC, Ellen and colleagues at the college and in the community have created and delivered a series of trainings intended for entry-level professionals in area nonprofit agencies. Two nonprofit trainings have been held, two more are planned for early 2008, and a Workforce Development Web site now appears on the JSC site: [www.jsc.edu/wdi.aspx](http://www.jsc.edu/wdi.aspx)

Later this month **Leila Bandar** (Fine and Performing Arts) will make use of a large barn for research, development, and crafting large-

scale sculptures. Her objective is to restore the earlier social function of large-scale sculpture and to use common materials that transcend their usual function. In March, Leila will be part of a two-person exhibition at Emma Willard School in Troy, New York, exhibiting sculptures with paintings by Arista Alanis. Last January, she was a visiting sculptor in residence at Chapel Hill Chauncy Hall School in Watertown, Massachusetts. Last June, Leila installed a large outdoor sculpture at the entrance of the Helen Spynner Theater, University of Louisiana in Monroe, for a one-year exhibition in the university's outdoor sculpture park.

**Bethany Bond** (Fine and Performing Arts) will be featured in the group exhibit "Women to Watch: Four Vermont Photographers," January 21–February 9 in the Julian Scott Memorial Gallery at JSC. On February 7, Bethany will lecture about her work in the Gallery.

**John Miller** (Fine and Performing Arts) has a series of color landscape/text photographs in a multi-media group exhibit at the Maple Ridge Gallery in Newark, Vermont until February 18. Recently he was asked to be on the Multi-Media Advisory Board at the Green Mountain Technical Center (GMTC) in Morrisville. This will involve developing connections between high school students at the Tech Center and upper-level Fine Arts majors in the photography and digital media programs at Johnson through artist residencies and internships at GMTC. John has also recently become an advisor for the Vision & Voice Documentary Workspace at the Vermont Folklife Center in Middlebury. The Workspace extends the Folklife Center's educational mission by providing a site for the planning, development, and exhibition of new documentary work.

Currently **Joe Salerno** (Fine and Performing Arts) has a series of his landscape paintings in a group show at the Ober Gallery in Kent, Connecticut. The group show will continue until March.

In early December, **Les Kanat** (Environmental and Health Sciences) was asked to present his views—a geologist's perspective on nuclear power—to an energy study group in Montpelier.

Favorable reviews of the 20th-anniversary double issue of *Green Mountains Review*, on "American Apocalypse," appeared in the November 21 *Seven Days* and in the November 1 *Stowe Reporter*. **Neil Shepard** (Writing and Literature) has been editor of *GMR* since it first appeared in 1987.

### Student and Alumni Activities and Achievements



*Life in Orleans County*, a new video documentary produced by students at Johnson State, premiered at the college's Bentley Hall on December 13. The film was also shown the following evening in Barton, Vermont. *Life in Orleans County* is the third documentary produced by students in **Bill Doyle's** Vermont History and Government course, in collaboration with videographer Vince Franke.

This year the American College Theater Festival named JSC's *Big Love*, directed by **F. Reed Brown** (Fine and Performing Arts), as an alternate production. This is considered a significant honor in the prestigious competition. Besides the director, nine cast and tech members were invited to Fitchburg State as part of the festival competition. This included students nominated for lighting, projection, and stage managing as well as three actors and their alternates.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **Counseling Center**

The Counseling Center continued to provide outreach and educational programming on key topics. A support group was formed to assist students with stress management and to help them make healthy connections. A campus-wide forum addressing opiate use and treatment, entitled "Pills that Kill," was sponsored late in the semester. Additionally, presentations in classes and at residence hall floor meetings, on topics ranging from suicide to alcohol and drug use, were facilitated by counseling center staff.

### **Athletics and Recreation**

The athletics and SHAPE staff has been active with community outreach activities. Nine JSC staff, faculty, and students participated in the 4th Annual Jingle Nail 10K run in support of Laraway Youth Services, a local Johnson agency. The staff is also preparing for the annual "Shooting for Goals" program, in which the JSC basketball teams work with Laraway students on developing life (and basketball) skills.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) has kicked off its third annual winter apparel drive, collecting winter clothing to benefit various local organizations in Lamoille County.

### **Upward Bound**

Eight high school students participated in an Eco-Break-Away trip to Maine, the culminating experience of a college-level course entitled "Writing to Right the Earth," that had been delivered in the summer. Among other projects, the students helped reconstruct and install a working 30-foot-high wind turbine.

### **Student Government Association (SGA) and Residence Life**

The SGA collaborated with the Residence Life Office to implement and tabulate a comprehensive student services survey. The survey touched on programs and services from across the many departments in student services,

and its results will inform divisional improvement efforts.

### **Transition Committee – New Student Center**

A student and staff committee has been formed to help see the Stearns renovation project from its construction stage into its program implementation stage. The group is meeting to identify needs and issues that will need to be addressed before the new center is opened and to help keep the community abreast of developments related to the space.

## **BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

### **Business Office**

**Toby Stewart** began his assignment as Controller for Johnson State College. Toby received training from his predecessor during the months of November and December and is becoming comfortable with VSC financial processes. Fiscal year 2009 budgeting is underway with all departments at this time. Toby has introduced new processes that are improving the college's budget efforts.

### **Physical Plant**

The Stearns renovation project continues successfully with the hiring of DEW Corporation to serve as construction management firm. DEW won the bid based on experience, price and timing. We are fortunate to have them on board for this project. At this time, we continue to plan for a mid-March launch of the construction phase of the project. Precursor projects, including the creation of a new bookstore are planned for January and February.

Capital project planning for summer 2009 is fully underway. Major projects this summer include replacement of the elevator in Bentley Hall, and renovations to the restroom facilities in the residential sections of Martinetti Hall.

### **Conference and Events Services**

End-of-term college events occurred successfully, including a reception for December/Summer graduates, college holiday party, and many other events.

Planning for events during a renovation of Stearns Hall has been challenging—especially for summer conferences and events. Conference directors and groups have been notified that meals will be served from an alternate location, and that several key functions will be housed in alternate locations. So far, conference directors have been very accommodating of and flexible with the changes as they are well aware that the end result will be very favorable.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **New Staff**

**Jennifer Chambers**, interim Learning Specialist, will be providing academic counseling for JSC students with disabilities and other difficulties. She has a M.A. in Special Education and Elementary Education from JSC. Her experience includes working in JSC Academic Support Services with JSC students and three years of experience consulting with special needs students in the public school systems.

**Andrew Crews** has joined the Physical Plant team as a Maintenance Technician II. He has extensive experience in carpentry and other technical skills. He is a graduate of Landing School of Boatbuilding and Design in Kennebunk, ME.

**Scott Ouellette** is the newest JSC Custodian II. He brings a wide variety of work skills to this position, and has an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration.

As Coordinator of First Year Events, **Sherlock Terry's** primary focus will be supporting and advancing student persistence and success by connecting public events at JSC with student classroom learning. Sherlock has earned a

MFA in Studio Art, and brings teaching and curatorial experience to this work as well as his own artistic talents.

#### **Staff Changes**

**Peter Haselbacher**, who has been with JSC for over 18 years working in the Physical Plant Department, is JSC's new Badger Bullet driver.

**Allison Laflamme** is the new Assistant Director of Upward Bound. Allison joined the JSC team in May 2006 as a Financial Aid Officer.

**Tim Russo** has been promoted to Financial Aid Officer. Tim has over four years of financial aid experience with LSC and JSC.

### **ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID**

#### **Admissions**

JSC held three Transfer Days—one in December and two in January—and **Pat Dasaro**, **Patrick Rogers** and **Elga Gruner** are heavily engaged in Winterfest planning. This event will be held on Monday February 18, 2008, and almost 12,000 invitations have been mailed to students and another 2,000 to high school guidance counselors. With an opportunity to highlight JSC's wonderful location and winter fun, we offer students who attend Winterfest a free half-day of skiing or boarding at Smuggler's Notch ski area. Last year 27 prospective students took advantage of this great opportunity, out of 106 students who attended Winterfest.

**Pat Dasaro** and **Katelyn Bevins**, admissions intern, are planning to host a series of phone-a-thons during the month of February to call prospective students who have inquired about Winterfest. Spring travel, organized by **Patrick Rogers**, will also start in February and continue until end of May. Admissions counselors will continue to attend college fairs and visit high schools and talk with guidance counselors. We will also continue to visit the CCV sites around the state to keep students informed about transferring to JSC either as an on-campus

student or through the External Degree Program. We will host another Burlington event, a reception at Echo at Leahy Center on Monday March 31st. This is an upscale event, with all departments represented by faculty, and a chance to showcase our JSC Jazz Ensemble and JSC Choir. In the past this has been a high-yield event: last year we had 24 prospective students attend. Fourteen of those attended the 2007 fall semester, and three of them have been accepted for fall 2008. That is a 71 percent yield, a very successful event. **Pat Dasaro** and **Rebecca Pastor** have already begun planning.

The staff is very busy interviewing prospective students, reading files for fall 2008, planning on-campus and off-campus events, and planning travel and individual accommodations.

Fall applications are up eight percent for Vermonters and 12 percent for out-of-state applicants. The staff will continue to stay in contact with inquires and accepted students through mailings and phone calls. **Rebecca Pastor** and **Pat Dasaro** are planning two out-of-state receptions for early April in Massachusetts and Connecticut, our two highest-yield states. Rebecca continues to recruit students for the spring 2008 semester for the high school Jump Start program. Currently there are 16 high school students enrolled, and we anticipate a few more before the program begins. Of these 16 students, two have already been accepted for the fall 2008 semester as fulltime undergraduates. Two others plan to apply and continue their post secondary studies at JSC in the fall of 2008.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

The VSC Financial Aid team is in the final stages of choosing its third preferred lender. Testing is in progress to instruct students to use Web Services to see the lender comparisons and to notify the Financial Aid Office of its choice. Web Services will have a link to the lenders Web site. This process should be complete by the end of January and unfortunately has taken more time than expected.

Upon completion of the new loan process the JSC Financial Aid Office is prepared to send out its first award letters for 2008-2009. This will be a month earlier than last year.

Currently, the JSC Financial Aid Office is in search of a new Financial Aid Officer. **Allison Laflamme** has taken another position on campus and will be missed. **Tim Russo** has been hired to fill her position. The review of resumes and applications is beginning now.

### **DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS**

#### **Development and Alumni Relations**

Preliminary results for the Annual Fund personal visits and mailings are strong. The phon-a-thon in March will be the second step in reaching alumni, parents, and friends to ask for this year's contribution. Associate Director **Evan Smith** has designed the drive to increase unrestricted gifts to be allocated at the President's discretion.

In December, we submitted the college's yearly report to the Freeman Foundation on their Grant for Scholarships and Experiential Learning for HTM students. This is the final academic year of the grant.

The Alumni Office collaborated with Admissions in developing an alumni panel at a reception for prospective students and their parents in Manchester, NH. Alumni speakers included **Julie Parry Baron, '82**, who is CEO of the New Hampshire Make-A-Wish Foundation, a position she has held for four years. Prior to this position, she was Senior Vice President for the New England Division of the American Cancer Foundation for 14 years. **Michael J. Lascelles '01**, spoke about his work with GeoVisions, an international cultural exchange program. Students and parents were interested in the alumni perspective on the College, and good questions and discussion ensued.