

President's Report to the Board of Trustees

January 29, 2007



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite the end of the semester and the absence of faculty and students on campus, the past few weeks have been busy, filled with planning and taking actions that will lead to the launch this spring of our first ever comprehensive campaign.

In my last report, I outlined the process we intended to follow as we move toward the launch of the Campaign for Johnson State College. We now have completed a fundraising readiness assessment and preliminary campaign planning, and in the next three weeks our fundraising consultant will begin holding a series of meeting with approximately 30 alumni and friends of Johnson to discuss the campaign, its priorities, and its preliminary goal of raising \$9.5 million over a seven year period. After these meetings are complete—mid February—we will revise our case for support, refine our priorities if necessary, and adjust our total campaign goal. While it's difficult to identify at this point exactly where our campaign goal will settle, I suspect it will be in the \$6 million to \$8 million range. Those who follow the *Chronicle of Higher Education* will know that a number of colleges and universities are well into multi-million dollar campaigns. For us, the goal we land on will represent a significant stretch, a step into uncharted territory.

We continue on schedule to begin fundraising for the campaign in mid March.

Another very visible project on campus is the redesign of the JSC Web site. Our new Web editor, **Melissa Weinstein**, and her colleagues in communications are loading pages into our content management system, and we anticipate the launch of the new Web site within the next few weeks. The timing of the launch is scheduled to ensure that Johnson has a brand new Web presence when our first recruitment search letters reach prospective students for Fall 2008. We are very excited at the potential for the new Web site to enhance our student recruitment efforts.

To be sure, the campaign and Web redesign are important for the campus—and define new directions and ambitions—but they represent only two of many exciting initiatives at Johnson. In the following pages, I have included stories of faculty, staff, and student accomplishments. JSC continues to be a dynamic campus and the spring semester promises to offer exciting developments in academic programs, student experiences, and alumni programming. I'm excited to share these stories with trustees.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Faculty and Staff Professional Activity

An article on the sport of dog agility written by **Gina Mireault** (Behavioral Sciences) has received national attention. The article, which explores the parallels between training dogs for agility and training horses for equestrian events, has been named "Best Training Article" by the Dog Writers Association of America. Mireault will travel to New York City to receive the award in February. Many of her pieces explore the psychological aspects of dog training and the human-animal bond

Shellie Levine (Behavioral Sciences) has been invited to attend the Oxford University Roundtable as a visiting scholar in 2007. The dates are uncertain at this time but the topic will be Children and Adolescence. Levine's focus will be on children and adolescent spirituality. The interdisciplinary roundtable is attended by scholars from around the globe.

This Far from the Source, a new book of poems by **Neil Shepard** (Writing and Literature), was named one of the "picks of the month" in the November-December 2006 issue of *Small Press Review*.

At Dibden Center for the Performing Arts, jazz legends Chick Corea and Gary Burton performed on October 21. The performance, part of a 30-year reunion world tour, was one of only three U.S. appearances on this anniversary of the release of their ground breaking album *Crystal Silence*.

With support from the VSC professional development fund and the President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, **Jan Herder** (Dibden/Fine and Performing Arts) along with his top lighting students, will receive training in the new WYSIWYG Learn software. This real time lighting design software permits 3-D imaging and is state of the art. This process will add JSC to the select list of institutions world wide certified to teach this application.

Jan Herder also served on the Vt. Arts Council's Cultural Facilities Panel. The Cultural Facilities grant program is administered by the Vermont Arts Council in conjunction with the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance, and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Following the recommendations of the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Creative Economy report, grant funds were increased to \$200,000—a significant increase, and one that permits important investment in this growing economic sector.

The Constitution Brass Quintet, with **Jo Anne Edwards** (Library), has participated in the Vermont MIDI Project for the past seven years. Each fall, Vermont students have the opportunity to compose music for brass quintet for live performance. This past fall, thirteen compositions were selected, and The Constitution Brass Quintet and the student composers, mentors, and music teachers were brought together for a workshop and performance of the works on November 28. The JSC music education students in Music Technology for the Classroom, taught by **Steven Light** (Fine and Performing Arts), participated as online mentors and attended the workshop. The Quintet selected two of the compositions to perform at First Night Montpelier: Ben Appel's piece "One Last Return" and Nick Aja and Adam Reed's "The Big War."



At JSC's Career Center, the Connections Job Board posted 82 full-time and 14 part-time jobs in December, and received 189 views. By working as a system, the VSC Career Centers are able to provide VSC students and alumni with a larger and more diverse listing of jobs, while at the same time connecting employers and community partners to a larger pool of qualified job seekers.

Also at the Career Center, Peer Advisors, nominated by faculty, were on hand in the weeks leading up to, and during, pre-registration. Peer Advisors assisted students through the basics of registration, Web Advisor, general education requirements and course scheduling. Peer Advisors were able to assist roughly 40 first and second year students during that time. Feedback from both students and faculty has been very positive.

Sara Kinerson (Career Center) worked with faculty in Business/Economics and Outdoor Education this semester to provide group academic advising for first and second year students majoring in those areas. Both departments use the group sessions to cover basic degree planning and course scheduling. With the basic scheduling complete, individual advising appointments focus on more detailed degree and career planning discussions. Kinerson also held an informational session in November for the National Student Exchange, and student applications have started pouring in (numbers to be determined in January) for both national exchange and international study.

Pixita del Prado Hill (Education) and **Gina Mireault** (Behavioral Sciences) received awards from the 2006-2007 VSC Learning Communities Fund. Del Prado Hill's project seeks to improve communications with and support for EDP students as well as campus-based students seeking teacher licensure by developing an orientation for all first-year education students and by forming an ongoing pre-service teacher support group. Mireault seeks to enrich students' understanding of children's problem-solving approaches by partnering with Vermont Odyssey of the Mind to train Developmental Psychology students as volunteer judges for the Odyssey state tournament. She will share lessons learned at the upcoming VSC academic retreat in May.

Fred Wiseman (Humanities) gave a November lecture on "Against the Darkness: Vermont Abenaki History 1790-2005," at UVM's

Fleming Museum. He was a guest speaker, along with UVM President Dan Fogel, at the opening reception in October of the Museum's James B. Petersen Memorial Gallery of Native American Cultures.



Student and Alumni Activities and Achievements

Undergraduate psychology students in a Research Methods course taught by **Gina Mireault** (Behavioral Sciences) course recently completed a study of the role of stress in alcohol use among college students. The class undertook every stage of the research process from literature review and hypothesis formation, to data collection and analyses. The results will be shared with the college community as part of JSC's Showcase of Extended Classroom Experiences in April.

The Associate of Arts in Technical Theater program continues to show strong enrollment. Four students from this program went to Memorial Auditorium in Burlington to work for the Vt. Ballet Theater production of the *Nutcracker*—which sold out two performances in Dabden in December. This is the second year that JSC students have been asked to work for the *Nutcracker* in Burlington.

Through the end of October, students in the fall Market Research class, taught by **Norman McElvany** (Business/Economics), surveyed travelers at the Vermont Information Centers' North and South bound locations in Williston along Interstate 89. Ed von Turkovich, Vermont Information Center Division Director, and Professor McElvany agreed to involve Johnson State College students in the project. In addition to surveying visitors who stop

at the two Williston Information locations, students conducted a separate survey of Vermont businesses and organizations which exhibit their wares at the 19 Information and Welcome centers located throughout the state. The purpose of these two surveys is to begin to create a baseline economic impact study of the effectiveness of the centers. Von Turkovich and McElvany said they intend to conduct a series of traveler surveys with Market Research students from Johnson State at other times to help draw a comparison of travelers' needs and intentions at various "seasons" of the year.

Natalya Maybo (Health Sciences, 2002) has been promoted to dining room manager at the Green Mountain Inn in Stowe. Her promotion was highlighted in the "People" section of the December 26th *Burlington Free Press*.

Johnson State College students hosted a December event to raise money and awareness for the New Sudan Education Initiative, which intends to build 20 schools in the next 10 years in southern Sudan. The event received attention in the December 21st *Stowe Reporter*. The program, including a screening of *Home Is Sudan*, was organized by students who are studying the business workings of a nonprofit organization, such as the New Sudan Education Initiative.

Scott Monroe (Creative Writing, 2004) has been a full-time journalist for the *Stowe Reporter* since March 2004. He continues his writing career with a piece, "Cow crossing: Mulling a moo point," in the winter/spring 2006-2007 issue of *Stowe Guide & Magazine*.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology

The pre-registration period for Campus Manager, JSC's newly implemented network management system, ended on 29 January 2007. After that date, users will be required to register their computers with Campus Manager



before accessing the JSC network. The next phase of this project will include setting up Campus

Manager to scan computers for possible virus vulnerabilities, isolating any "at risk" devices to a quarantine area on the network, where users will then be directed to a site featuring links to Microsoft critical patches, as well as virus and spyware updates. After the successful installation or updating of missing software, users with a valid JSC login will gain network access.

Stearns Hall is the next building slated for wireless networking on the Johnson State College campus. Although Cisco products were used in our earlier wireless installations, IT has been investigating other wireless product lines with greater management capabilities, and the department has narrowed its focus on a company called Aruba.

Instructional Technology Specialist **Paul Bloomhardt** reports that Media Services has obtained competitive bids concerning the public address system in the college's SHAPE facility. He's also completed archiving JSC's Blackboard Summer 2006 course sites in preparation for their removal and the launch of the Spring 2006 course sites. In related Blackboard activity, Bloomhardt and Associate Professor **Reed Fisher** will be offering a series of Blackboard training workshops both before and during the first week of the Spring semester. While focused on different topics, these sessions will also offer an opportunity to answer questions or address specific problems faculty may have experienced. Guided self-help sessions will be offered on several of these days as well.

Library

After a decade of distinguished service,

Technical Services Librarian **Jane Marshall** is retiring. An always buoyant presence devoted to serving faculty and students, Jane has been a critical figure in improving the bibliographic quality and accuracy of the college's holdings. Given her great love of wild life and the arts, her impending retirement promises to be both lively and fulfilling. We wish her the best of luck as she embarks on this new adventure.

As part of the transition in technical services, the library has hired **Ray Brior** as a part-time, temporary cataloger and reference librarian. Brior, a JSC grad, holds a Master of Library Science degree from the State University of New York at Albany. Prior to his return to Vermont, Ray worked in technical services at the Troy (NY) Public Library.



STUDENT SERVICES

Residence Life

The Residence Life department conducted student satisfaction surveys at the end of the semester. 30% of all residential students filled out the survey. Respondents gave high marks in the categories of community respect, room and lounge condition and amenities, and residence life staff performance. 75% of respondents with roommates indicated that they felt their roommate assignment was a good match. Most impressively, 87% of respondents responded positively when asked about their overall residential experience.

Center for Service Learning

Online surveys have been sent to all students who participated in the "CSLocal" (Center for Service Learning weekly service projects within the Lamoille Valley) this past semester. Late semester projects included working with Salvation Farms to glean excess produce from local farms for distribution to local food

shelves, participating in the Committee on Temporary Shelter's Phone-a-Thon College Night (along with students from Champlain College, UVM, and St. Michael's College), and assisting children in making holiday cards and gifts as part of the Helen Day Art Center's Family Day. Nine JSC students are currently serving as reading mentors through the America Reads program; they volunteer a total of 40 hours per week with 83 children (collectively) at seven area reading sites. In an effort to ensure that volunteer programs remain sustainable the Center has begun to increase its fundraising efforts with the goal of establishing a Service Learning Endowment.

Bonner Leader Program

The Bonner Leader Program at JSC will kick off this spring with 5 students from the class of 2010 who will begin their training and leadership development with a three day retreat in mid-January. **Laura Megivern**, Coordinator of the Center for Service Learning is overseeing the Bonner Leader Program at JSC. She recently attended a National Bonner Program Coordinators and Directors meeting in New Mexico.

Athletics and Recreation

The JSC men's and women's basketball teams, in conjunction with the Center for Service Learning, have continued to build on the success of their "Shooting for Goals" program with the local Laraway School. The players use this weekly program to provide mentoring and skill development for, and help build relationships within, the Laraway student population through games and fun initiatives.

Senior cross-country runner **Jennifer Dickie** has been named one of six finalists for the Vermont Student-Citizen Award, presented annually by the Vermont Teddy Bear Company. Dickie plans to graduate in 2007. In her time at JSC she has been actively involved in the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, through which she coordinated coat drives and promoted girls' sports and fitness programs. She also has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and led an alternative spring break

trip.

New scoreboards in the Carter Gymnasium were dedicated to longtime Director of Athletics and former Women's Basketball Coach **Barbara Lougee** on December 5, 2006. Approximately 250 people filled the gym for the dedication, which took place between a pair of JSC wins over the College of Saint Joseph.

Fall 2006 saw high student usage levels in the SHAPE facility. New equipment and expanded hours are being implemented accordingly. A goal of the intramural programs this year has been working toward more student led events, and initial successes have been evident as residence hall floors have organized dodgeball competitions, certified students have offered spinning bike instruction with full classes, and many impromptu pickup events have occurred.

Student Association

President **Barbara Murphy** gave a presentation to the Senate on the College's Master Plan. The SA subsequently conducted a survey on students' recommendations, particularly regarding proposed renovations to the Base Lodge in Stearns, and summarized these findings in a report to the President.

The Student Association anticipates that it will begin using the College's new biodiesel bus for its "Badger Bullet" shuttle program this spring. This student-run program provides students with transportation to Burlington on weekends and to Morrisville during the week, as well as runs to Smugglers' Notch Resort.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Business Office

The Business office at Johnson State College has been busy reviewing current A/R policies. We have selected specific policies and procedures that are in need of review and amendment. In particular, we have looked at our collections process, and also our academic

trip receivables. We have identified areas for improvement, and have implemented some of these immediately. Others will be fine-tuned and implemented in the near future.

In addition, we have begun the FY08 budgeting process. Last fiscal year, we had developed a new strategy for a budgeting approach focused at the departmental level. We have made recent improvements in this process for the upcoming year, and will begin our meetings with individual department budget managers in January.



Physical Plant

Renovation of the Marketing and Public Information space was completed during December. This space, located on the first floor of Martinetti Hall incorporates offices for Marketing, Public Information, Electronic Communications and student interns. Its central location is ideal for campus residents and students.

At Dibden, work has begun on refurbishing the lobbies by sheet rocking the cement walls in order to brighten up the space and allow for additional exhibition space. Eventually the ceiling will also be renovated with new energy saving fixtures and sound absorption materials, much like the Julian Scott Gallery renovation of last year. Additional renovations in the main theater include an upgrade in the house lighting fixtures that will permit easier, safer replacement access and energy saving bulbs. We are also getting quotes on replacing the stage floor with a sprung floor to eliminate the problem with shin splints and splinters. This will include moving some electrical stage

circuits, currently located in the floor, to the walls to increase lighting options and maximize the resources on stage.

Planning has begun for several key summer 2007 projects including renovation of the third floor of Martinetti Hall into residential space, substantial modifications to the Bentley Hall parking lot, and renovation of the Financial Aid and Registrar offices.

Conference and Events

During the month of December, the Conference & Event Services Office scheduled 100 separate room and space reservations, providing logistical support for various meetings, seminars, visitations and events. Some of these included a reception for Professor Kit Cooke, a showing of the film "Life in Franklin County", a Scoreboard Dedication in honor of Coach **Barb Lougee**, the December Graduation Dinner and our annual Holiday Party. CES worked closely with several departments to host these events successfully.

Additionally, we had several community visitors to campus including, Lamoille County Mentor Training, local Cub Scouts, students attending Early Admissions Days, and audiences for the Vermont Youth Ballet's performance of the Nutcracker and Community Carol Sing, at Dibden Center for the Arts.

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

The fall semester ended with the usual flurry of activity with an emphasis on attracting students for the spring '07 semester. Our advertising



campaign and Transfer Day events, held on Dec.13 and Jan.9 and 15 attracted students for both spring '07 and fall '07. Spring applications for first year and transfer are up 11%, however EDP apps are down 30%. Since the spring semester is more than one week away, we still have time to recruit EDP students. The most popular majors among our incoming students for spring are Education, Business, Psychology and Fine and Performing Arts.

Fall inquiries are up 48% from last year at this time (8,350 vs. 5,626) and applications are up 30% (407 vs. 314). Vermont and out-of-state numbers are strong with increases (39% in VT and 24% in OS and NEBHE numbers). It's too early to predict the enrollment for fall 2007, but we're cautiously optimistic! To date, we have more apps from CT, ME, MD, NH, NY, PA, RI and VT compared with last year's stats. We attribute the increase to additional travel to high schools and college fairs, more mailings, and targeted marketing and advertising.

Phon-a-thons are scheduled for January and February to contact inquiries about visiting JSC. The spring calendar includes a host of on and off-campus events.

Rebecca Pastor and **Sally Laughlin** are organizing receptions in Boston, Hartford and Portland for late March/early April. These receptions for inquiries and applicants will also include alumni to help us recruit prospective students.

Also, the annual Consortium of Vermont Colleges' Bus Tour for guidance counselors will be touring colleges throughout the state April 23-28. JSC will host visiting counselors on Thursday, April 26 from 8:30-10:30 am. Please mark your calendars, and watch for details from the Admissions Office.

Scholarship applications are now available, for currently enrolled students, in the Financial Aid Office and on the website. The deadline for applying for JSC scholarships

is February 17:

Financial Aid

We are pleased to welcome **Lisa Cummings** to JSC in her new role as director of financial aid. Lisa brings 17+ years of experience to the position. She served as assistant director of financial at Champlain College; she has a B.S. degree from UVM and a M.S in Business Administration from St. Michael's College.

As the financial aid staff continues to work with currently enrolled students to process aid for the 2006-2007 year, it's also the time of



year when we start preparing for next year's financial aid awarding cycle. As financial aid plays an increasing role in students' decisions to enroll and to continue in college, the staff will encourage students at JSC to apply EARLY for financial aid. Students, incoming and currently enrolled will receive a letter from the FAO reminding them of deadlines and applications procedures for federal, state and institution aid. JSC scholarship applications will be posted on the website as well.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

New Endowment

A gift of \$12,500 is expected within a few days from Mark and Starleen Heinrich, Class of 1969. Both were education majors at JSC, and which they say "gave us a good basis for our careers, in whatever fields." They now they own and operate real estate and mortgage companies in the Kingwood, Texas,

area. This gift will be matched by the Title III *Strengthening Institutions Grant*, bringing the amount to \$25,000. The endowment is to support the *Mark and Star Heinrich Scholarship* for a female education major, holds at least junior year (60 credits +) standing, holds 3.0 or better academic average, and has financial need. Star attended college despite high financial need, and was grateful for scholarships during her college years. Their JSC education meant a great deal to them and they are pleased to be able to give back to their school.

Developing Endowments

Gifts before year-end have established two funds which will reach endowment status when matched by the Title III Fund (with the schedule of grant payments, this will be in 2008):

Alice Whiting Scholarship Endowment (now at \$5,575)

Honoring recently retired Professor Emeritus Alice Whiting, this endowment will support a scholarship for a student majoring in education.

Donald and Susan Collins Endowment (now at \$5,000)

This endowment will support a scholarship for a full-time (12 credits or more per semester) Johnson State College student during his/her student teaching semester. The recipient will be a student who shows much promise and dedication to teaching, and, while need may be considered, is not to be awarded strictly on the basis of need. In order of preference, the student should be a graduate of a Vermont high school (or have earned a GED from the Vermont Adult Literacy Program), and either be a graduate of Community College of Vermont or have earned 48 credits from CCV or in the absence of a candidate with the above qualifications, be a graduate of a high school in Orleans, Lamoille, Addison, Franklin, or Windham County. In addition, the three funds below have begun the process of reaching the \$5,000 level where they can be matched and reach endowment

level:

Martha DePecol Scholarship Endowment
(now at \$3,000)

Bill Doyle Endowment for Student Scholarships and Experiential Learning
(now at \$2,150)

EDP Endowment for Scholarships (now at \$1,200)

Life in Franklin County

The first showings for this new documentary were held on December 14 at JSC and on and December 15 in St. Albans, where over 100 people attended the program at the St. Albans Historical Society. The new documentary contains stories told by longtime residents of Franklin County, interviewed by students from Professor **Bill Doyle's** Vermont History and Government Class, and produced in collaboration with videographer Vince Franke of Peregrine Productions. This 40-minute film features longtime residents describing what life was like in the first half of the twentieth century, and brings history alive through interviews and local historical photographs. Professor Doyle says, "The students were enthusiastic about something that would provide a permanent history of the county, something that was bigger than themselves." Copies of the DVD will be given to all libraries and historical societies in the county.

Sponsors include JSC President's Office, Vermont Humanities Council, City of St. Albans, Rotary Club of St. Albans, JSC Student Association, and generous individual donors. The video has been selling briskly, with all funds raised over cost going to support future project. Professor Doyle says he would like to do all the counties in Vermont! DVD and VHS copies are for sale (\$15) at area bookstores, the JSC Bookstore (802 635-1233), and through the JSC Office of Development at 802.635.1251.

