

Board of Trustees Report Johnson State College January 29, 2009



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Excitement is high on the JSC campus as faculty and staff reconnect with our returning students. With break behind us and a full semester before us, we are looking forward to an active calendar of classes, lectures, performances, and exhibits. The past few weeks have seen a number of transitions, enhancements, and accomplishments for the College and the members of our JSC community, some of which I'd like to highlight:

- WCAX recently aired a spot on their 6 pm news, highlighting the research of Professor Gina Mireault, whose research into infant humor is one of only a handful of studies on the subject.
- Two of Professor Norman McElvany's classes worked with two Lamoille County businesses last Fall. His Advertising class worked with the Vermont Soy Milk Company, based in Hardwick, to develop advertising campaigns for the company. His marketing research class conducted several survey research projects for the Vermont Natural Coatings Company, also based in Hardwick.
- JSC alum Lou Jarvis has been named the new Head Men's Golf Coach. Johnson State discontinued the men's golf program in early 1990s but will be adding the sport, along with women's volleyball, in the fall of 2009 to give JSC 12 varsity offerings. We're delighted at Lou's return.
- Eight recent JSC graduates have been accepted into the Peace Corps and have received invitations to serve in countries around the globe.
- Former three-term Vermont Governor and Ambassador to Switzerland Madeleine M. Kunin will visit the JSC campus this spring as part of our speakers series to offer her perspective on the impact Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin have had on today's women in leadership.
- As of December 31, 2008, the Johnson State College endowment has received over \$2 million in gifts, a longtime goal which was greatly boosted by the Title III challenge grant.

The following pages offer a more complete glimpse 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

Bill Doyle (Humanities) has been elected by his Republican colleagues in the Vermont Senate as minority leader for this session. He has served in the Senate since 1969. His latest historical documentary, "Life in Chittenden County," produced by students in the Vermont History and Government class in conjunction with filmmaker Vince Franke, premiered at JSC's Stearns Cinema on December 9 and at the Essex Outlets Cinema the following evening. A new version of his book, *The Vermont Political Tradition*, has been published by Leahy Press Inc. in Montpelier. The new edition incorporates important aspects of the 2008 election.



Research conducted by **Gina Mireault** (Behavioral Sciences) and her students on infant humor aired Christmas Eve on WCAX's 6:00 pm

news hour. The story and WCAX coverage can be found on the JSC Website at <http://www.jsc.edu/NewsAndEvents/JSCInTheNews.aspx>.

Valerie Edwards (External Degree Program) and her daughter, Jesse Williams, completed the 3-day, 60-mile Breast Cancer walk in Philadelphia. The two raised over \$5,000 for the Susan Komen Foundation and completed all 60 miles of the October walk. They joined 4,000 other walkers who together raised over \$8 million.

Falling Body, the second book of poems by **Dave Cavanagh** (External Degree Program), is being published by Salmon Poetry of Ireland in January. Dave will be doing readings at Saint Michael's College, UVM, Planet Earth Poetry in British Columbia, and elsewhere in Vermont, Canada, and Ireland. He recently read in Sharon, Vermont in an annual reading series at the Baxter Memorial Library. He also just had two poems and an essay appear in a special edition

of the British journal, *Agenda*, that focused on the work of Irish American (and Vermont) poet, Greg Delanty.

Ken Leslie (Fine and Performing Arts) is spending five weeks in northern Finland to continue work on a series of paintings during deep winter in the far northern Hemisphere.

Susan Calza and **Mary Martin** (Fine and Performing Arts) led a group of JSC Fine Arts majors to London and Paris for three weeks of art study during the semester break.

David Kearns and **John Miller** (Fine and Performing Arts) are busy preparing their proposals for presentation to a jury and to the public at the end of January in Montpelier. They are among 20 finalists under consideration for commissions with the Art of Action. Three hundred hopefuls applied to the Art of Action—a project, funded by the Orton Foundation and coordinated by the Vermont Arts Council, that will award ten commissions to artists who create pieces about the future of Vermont.

Amy May (Fine and Performing Arts) reports great news about fundraising efforts on behalf of Operation Smile, discussed in last month's report to the Trustees. Operation Smile has received a very generous grant from The Lincy Foundation, matching, dollar for dollar up to \$1 million, every donation received by December 31.

With the cooperation of public schools and educators throughout Vermont, the JSC Department of Education has secured placements for 48 student teachers for the spring 2009 semester. The placements range from Bennington to Derby and numerous schools in between. JSC places approximately 100 student teachers in public schools each academic year.

Karen Madden (Academic Support Services), who is president-elect of the New England Educational Opportunity Association (NEOA), attended her first national Council for Oppor-

tunity in Education (COE) meeting December 8-14 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She had dinner with COE President Arnold Mitchum and Vice-President Maureen Hoyler, who recently met with President-Elect Obama's Education Transition Team to discuss the importance of TRIO programs, particularly in connection with the increased Pell Grants, in providing support for low-income and first-generation college students. Karen also attended a VSAC-sponsored luncheon with Nicholas C. Donohue, President and CEO of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation on December 15, at which the Foundation's new direction to help stimulate dramatic improvements in underserved learners' outcomes was discussed.

Clyde Stats, Jeanette Damato, and Dian Duranleau (Academic Support Services) attended VSAC's Financial Aid Training workshop at VSAC's main campus in Winooski. They sought to upgrade their knowledge and skills in helping students find their way through the financial aid maze. The recently reauthorized Higher Education Opportunity Act requires that all TRIO Student Support Services programs provide financial aid information to their participants.

Staff at the Advising & Career Center logged more than 180 scheduled appointments during the fall. Over 60 students (and some alumni) received career services, 104 student appointments related to academic advising and registration, and 22 student appointments revolved around the National Student Exchange and study abroad. Staff members made many classroom visits and the Center hosted recruiters from graduate schools and the hospitality industry. **Sara Kinerson** and staff members have been busy administering the graduate survey, and hosted winter New Student Registration on January 19.

Student and Alumni Activities and Achievements

Graduating senior **Katie Crown** was offered a place in a summer art program offered by Marist College, Columbia College Chicago,

and Scuola Lorenzo de'Medici. The program, directed by Guggenheim Fellow Ed Smith and Adam Brooks, is focused on the history and experience of the 53rd International Venice Biennale, where the newest international art will be exhibited. The program includes intense art making and art history components.

Norman McElvany (Business/Economics) supervised student teams working for two local businesses in Lamoille County this semester. His Advertising class worked with the Vermont Soy Milk Company, based in Hardwick, to develop advertising campaigns for the company. One of their projects included demonstrating the product through sample tastings at retailers in Montpelier, Morristown Corners, Burlington and South Burlington. Students in his Marketing Research course conducted several survey research projects for the Vermont Natural Coatings Company, also based in Hardwick. Paint and coatings resellers in Vermont and Florida were surveyed to identify their preferred methods of hearing about new products and purchasing patterns for new products. Both companies were pleased with the results from the classes. Continuing discussions aim to determine the best way to use JSC students on project-based assignments and internships at the two companies, thus continuing the relationship.

Several recent grads have applied to or been accepted by the Peace Corps. **Danny Balentine** and **Heidi Tchida** have been invited for service in Turkmenistan where Danny will be a health educator and Heidi an English teacher. **Tess Gauthier** will serve in Uganda, and **Tara Duffy** and **Brittany Haworth** have also been accepted for Peace Corps service. In February **Jonathan Thompson** will begin forestry service with the Peace Corps in Madagascar. **Ryan Anderson** has been accepted for service in China, and **Anthony Kaseoru** for service in sub-saharan Africa. Meanwhile, **Emily Reed** is awaiting word on her application.

Library

Over the course of fall semester, **Linda Kramer, Ray Brior, and Joe Farara** concentrated their collection development efforts on meeting the research needs of current and proposed first-year seminars. As a result, a sizable number of titles, both in hard copy and digital formats, have been added to the general circulating and reference collections. The library has also purchased all titles under consideration for next year's Common Reading Initiative.

Jo Anne Edwards surveyed business students about the features they'd like to see added to the library's Facebook site. What's considered most desirable by students is already available on the library's website, which lacks the social dimension that Facebook offers. While many of these features would require customized applications, Jo Anne will be adding stand-alone functions over the next few months.

STUDENT SERVICES

Athletics and Recreation

Fall Honors



At the completion of the fall season, a number of JSC athletes received North Atlantic Conference (NAC) honors. In men's cross country, **Jon Preuss** was named to the NAC Second Team, while **Colleen McNamara** was named to the NAC Second Team in women's

cross country. In men's soccer, **Zach Lees** was named to the NAC First Team and in women's soccer, **Grace Albert-Gardner** received NAC Honorable Mention honors. Both the men's and women's soccer teams received the NAC Team Sportsmanship Awards.

In the first few weeks of the winter season, the Badgers captured some early season NAC honors. **Leandro Martinez** and **John Foley** received back-to-back NAC Player of the Week honors in men's basketball, while **Nate Dodge** was named NAC Rookie of the Week. In women's basketball, **Andrea Deuell** was named NAC Rookie of the Week. **Jenna Lewis** scored her 1000th career point during a home game against Vermont Tech.

Community Outreach

For the fourth year, members of the men's and women's basketball teams are participating in the "Shooting for Goals" program in conjunction with Laraway School. This program, coordinated by men's basketball coach **Mike Osborne**, provides individuals attending the Laraway School in Johnson with the opportunity to participate in skill development exercises, drills, and games at the College once a week.

The basketball teams also host a series of Gym Games Days and Fun Fitness Clinics throughout the winter months for local elementary school children.

Lou Jarvis to Lead JSC Men's Golf Revival

Johnson State College Athletics has hired **Lou Jarvis** as the new Head Men's Golf Coach. Johnson State discontinued the men's golf program in the early 1990s but will be adding the sport, along with women's volleyball, in the fall of 2009 to give JSC 12 varsity offerings. Jarvis, an alum and a former standout golfer for JSC, will assume control of the new program immediately and will begin building the program. "It feels great and I am excited to be back (at Johnson State). I played at JSC for Doc Min-

aert, enjoyed the campus and my experience there," said Jarvis. "I am excited to get golf going again at my alma mater."

Jarvis is currently the Head Golf Professional at Catamount Golf Course in Williston and has been in that role at The Practice Tee Training Center in Manchester, Vermont as well as at Mount Anthony Country Club in Bennington and Stratton Mountain Country Club where he was also the Assistant General Manager. Jarvis has also been the Director of Instruction at Essex Country Club and instructed at the Howie Barrow Golf School and Mount Snow Golf School.

SHAPE Facility and Intramurals

JSC's intramural recreation program had a very busy semester with enthusiastic participation in many activities initiated by students. These included weekly dodgeball games, bouldering competitions, and student-led recreation trips. At the same time, there has been a spike in SHAPE facility usage by both students and community members, both in self-directed use of the weight room and cardio area and in participation in fitness classes.

Upward Bound

Upward Bound staff are actively planning for a High School Leadership Greening Summit to be held at the College in early April. As part of this event, teams of high school students are competing to write the best proposal on how to make their school more "green" with the winning school receiving \$500 to implement its ideas.

Residence Life

The residence life department had a successful semester of programming, with 64 total programs being offered and overall attendance of 972 students. The Badger Challenge, a program which seeks to get residential students to attend athletic contests, has grown in popularity and participation. Community service programs, including a blood drive, toys for tots drive, and Christmas caroling, provided an enjoyable way for residents

from each hall to compete against each other for highest participation levels.

Service Learning

Students and staff have recently returned from the Dominican Republic where they spent two weeks over semester break doing orphanage outreach work. On the local level, ten students are participating in the America Reads program by reading to children at the Child Development Center and at Johnson, Cambridge, Hyde Park, and Morrisville elementary schools.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Business Office

Perkins Loan administration has transitioned to Educational Computer Systems, Inc. (ECSI). ECSI was selected to be the VSC-wide Perkins Loan administrator in October. JSC is the first VSC campus to transition to ECSI.

Another milestone was reached in the VSC-wide e-commerce project in December. The e-commerce site, through TouchNet, became available for students to view and pay their bills, schedule payments or choose automatic payments for future bills, and sign-up for e-refunds.

Physical Plant

New fire alarm dialers have been installed in all of the buildings on campus. Final completion of the Governors dorm fire alarm was completed before students returned. Since 2003, all residence halls have been updated from 1970 vintage fire alarms to state of the art microprocessor-based systems.

Physical Plant has been busy with repairs and renovations during the last few months. Modest renovations and repairs to several College Apartments and the Child Development Center were carried out. Staff members have also been busy keeping the college's system of boilers in good working order.

Several Life Safety projects have been completed including an emergency battery replacement for the Dibden Theatre, repair of a failed College Apartment fire hydrant, and replacement of non-rated fire doors where required.

In staffing news, three custodians retired and one resigned in the last few months. We have been very fortunate and have already filled 3 of the positions. The new hires are **Candice Olcott** (transfer from Castleton), **Joyce Maher**, and **Joan Langlois**.

Current campus update projects continue in various stages including SHAPE renovations, replacement of stage flooring in Dibden and a lighting project for one of the Visual Arts Center studios.

As always, we take great pride in keeping our campus clean and safe during the winter season. Even a small storm requires up to five employees to clear the snow, drifts, walkways, roads, emergency exits and fire hydrants. This is a busy time!

CES

The month of December was a very busy one for the Conference and Events Services Office. We hosted the Lamoille Valley Chamber of Commerce Mixer, Board of Trustees Meeting, four retirement parties, a reception for December graduates, and the Staff and Faculty Holiday Party.

The Conference & Events staff has been updating web site information, including pictures of classrooms and event spaces. We have also been updating our scheduling software, Ad Astra, to reflect the many changes in the various classrooms on campus.

Information Technology

The Office 2007 upgrade project was completed before students returned to campus.

Additionally, computers in all of the computing facilities are being re-imaged and a new display calibration program is being installed in the Digital Media Lab. Equipment checks and inventory is being conducted in all tech-enhanced classrooms as well.

During the week of January 5, we worked with OC IT to implement the new document imaging system. In preparation for the implementation, necessary and required hardware and software upgrades have been completed.

Sally Searles, is a member of the newly formed VSC Information Technology Council (VITAC), attended the first meeting held on Monday, December 8, 2008.

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

Admissions

Our spring '09 applications were up 16 percent on last report (January 13th) with a significant increase in Vermont applications. Deposits were up 27 percent with increases in Vermont and out-of-state students. The largest increase is in EDP students and applications are still being processed.

Fall '09 numbers are up 11 percent for first-year Vermont students, but overall we're even with last year's numbers (504 vs. 504). Aggregate, out-of-state applications are even with last year with NEBHE applications up and non-NEBHE down. It's too early to predict final fall numbers, but we know that the economy is a factor as families consider sending their students to colleges closer to home. JSC will have a lot of work to do to convert out-of-state accepts to deposits. Our financial aid packages will need to be more competitive to attract out-of-state students.

In addition to reading files, the admissions staff is busy planning spring events for pro-

spective students. New this year is an overnight program targeting student-athletes. **Hope Dooley** is working with the Athletic Department to host an overnight program for invited athletes who have been admitted for Fall '09. The event will be held on February 6-7. **Pat Rogers** is taking the lead to organize the annual Winterfest program to be held on Monday, February 16. This event gives prospective students and families an opportunity to attend classes, meet with faculty and take advantage of a complimentary half day of skiing or riding at Smugglers' Notch, Stowe or Jay Peak.

Julie Noyes has been busy recruiting Jump-Start students for spring '09. We have 17 students from local high schools (Lamoille, People's Academy and Enosburg) enrolling in a variety of courses including photography, drawing, English, math, history, and psychology. **Elga Gruner** continues to work closely with EDP to promote the program and attract transfer students. Recently, she and **Dave Cavanagh** sent a mailing to public libraries in the State with information about EDP and spring '09 courses. **Penny Howrigan** and **Valerie Edwards**, along with **Natalie Searles** from CCV are preparing for a College Board workshop at the annual New England Forum in Boston on February 2-3. The workshop entitled "Transitioning from the Community College to a Four-Year Program" will be a great opportunity to promote the transfer options available at JSC.

Also, recruitment of high school juniors is underway with the upcoming "search" mailing project. More than 100,000 prospective students will receive their first letter from us and once they respond, they are included in our direct mail/communications campaign. The Financial Aid Office is set up to start the new scanning process and we will start with new and returning students for 2009-2010. We are hoping to have our first award letters out in February and we will be awarding both incoming and returning students as their applications come in.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

Development

Endowment passes the \$2 million mark
As of December 31, 2008, the Johnson State College endowment for the first time has received over \$2 million in gifts, a longtime goal which was greatly boosted by the Title III challenge grant. Gifts of \$10,425 in December raised the cash amount put into true endowment to \$2,008,263.22. It took from June 1994 to June 2006 to move from \$99,000 to \$1 million, and now just 2 ½ years, from July 2006 to December 2008, to reach \$2 million. Many alumni and friends have named the College as a beneficiary in their estate plans, so continued growth is assured.

Annual Direct Mail Appeal

The annual direct mail appeal for the Fund for JSC was mailed in early November. Given the tenor of the economy, we have been pleased to see results showing ongoing and increased support as well as many new donors. Current returns indicate a 50 percent increase in dollars received through direct mail gifts to date as compared to last year's general fund appeal.

Alumni Relations

Ellsworth Trust lecture will be March 26

Liselotte Ivry, Holocaust Survivor, will give the 25th Ellsworth Lecture on Thursday March 26, 2009, at 7 pm. The lecture is sponsored by the Robert A. Ellsworth Trust, which supports history and political science programs and students at JSC.



Ms. Ivry, now in her 80s, speaks articulately and movingly about her experience. "Every year there are fewer and fewer of us left," she says and believes it is her work to speak for the 6,000,000 whose voices were stilled.

Alumni Online Community

The Johnson State College Alumni Office has launched a new interactive Web site that allows JSC alums to contact former classmates, faculty, and staff; post photos; participate in online chats; read news and post classnotes and messages; and make online gifts all in a password-protected environment. The site, officially launched on January 5, has been well received, with nearly 300 logins, and with inquiries received daily by the Alumni Office. Additional ways to market the site to alumni are being considered.