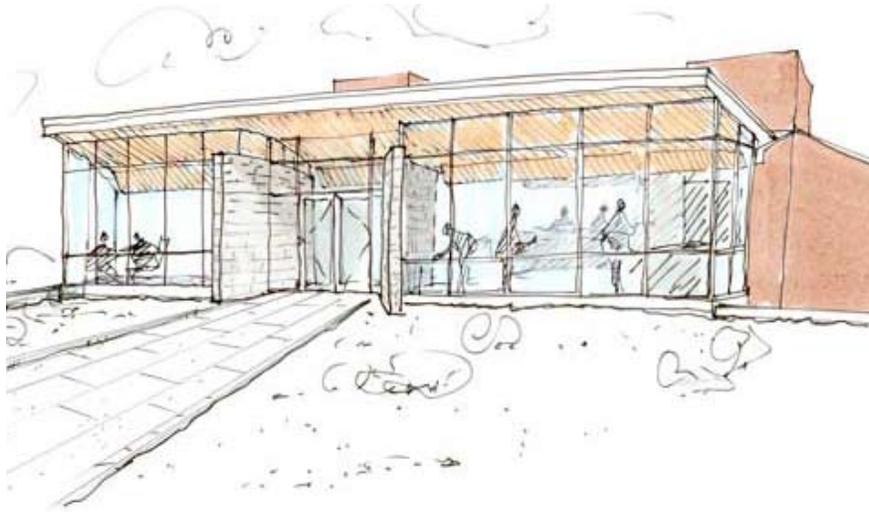


## **Board of Trustees Report Johnson State College March 13, 2008**



An artist's rendering of the new exterior of Stearns Hall

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As I described in my last report, spring (summer and fall, as well) is a time of physical transformation on the JSC campus. We have completed the substantive renovation on Dewey Hall, which has paved the way for beginning work on Stearns Hall itself. The bookstore is open for business in its new home in Dewey, and Public Safety has moved into temporary space in the facility. Further renovation and construction in Dewey Hall will continue in concert with work in Stearns.

The JSC Development Office has been busy identifying donors who might have an interest in partnering with the college on creating our new student center. Conversations are underway with a number of alumni and friends about their investment in the Student Center. As part of our fundraising strategy surrounding the transformation of Stearns Hall into a 24-hour student center, we have developed a list of naming opportunities for interested donors. Naming opportunities will span the range from purchase of a computer kiosk to the new student center building.

We have prepared a similar, less expansive list for investment and naming opportunities in Dewey Hall. This initiative is the priority for this early phase of JSC's comprehensive fundraising campaign. As work on the facility is completed we will begin to broaden our focus to include soliciting gifts more intensively for student and faculty support, endowment, and unrestricted giving.

While our campus is undergoing this transformation, I'm happy to report that our students, faculty, and staff are engaged in the process and handling the inconvenience of change with admirable humor. I look forward to leading you on a tour of our new facility later this fall.

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### Faculty and Staff Professional Activity

Linda Kramer (Library) continues to add library research instructional tutorials to the Johnson State College Web site. In conjunction with this work, the Library has launched its own YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/jsclibrary>) to disseminate these tools more widely. Linda has also created a "Library News" section for the Web site to highlight items of note for our user community.

The Library continues to expand research support for distance students. **Jo Anne Edwards** is enrolled as an "embedded librarian" in several Blackboard courses.

**Walt Reeve** (Library) is serving as Acting President of the VSC's Vermont State Employees Association chapter.

Faculty Librarian **Joe Farara** is involved in the creation of a new library organization, the Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries (VCAL). The aims of VCAL are to promote interlibrary cooperation; to support resource sharing among member institutions; and to facilitate shared access to online information resources. He's also been assisting the Framingham State College Library plan a campus event that will survey the variety of musical styles from New Orleans.

The Career Center is planning a Job Fair for March 26. In a recent survey of graduates 72 percent (112 of 155 respondents) reported that JSC had provided good or excellent preparation for jobs/activities. Eighty-one percent (122 of 151 respondents) said their major had provided good or excellent preparation for jobs/activities since graduation. Eighty-one percent (46 of 57 respondents) of those who report extracurricular or co-curricular activities say that their participation provided them with excellent or good preparation for life after JSC. Fifty-five percent (82 of 148 respon-

dents) reported participating in an internship or practicum while at JSC. Of these, 26 percent are currently employed at the internship/practicum site; 12 percent received an offer to continue, but declined; 42 percent reported that they were hired elsewhere because of the experience gained through their internship/practicum.

Besides her other community involvements, reported in a previous issue, **Ellen Hill** (Career Center) is also a member of Lamoille Valley Community Report Card Steering Committee.

Academic Support Services is pleased to welcome **Jennifer Chambers** as interim Learning Specialist, replacing **Dian Duranleau** who is on leave until August. Jennifer is a JSC graduate (2006), having earned her M.Ed. degree with endorsements in elementary and special education. She recently attended a conference, "Students With Disabilities in TRiO Programs," sponsored by the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) from January 31-February 2 in New Orleans.



**Clyde Stats** (Academic Support Services) recently played a series of performances of gypsy jazz, Brazilian, and original music in New York City

with the Vermont-based Will Patton Ensemble (WPE), which also includes **Steve Blair** (Fine and Performing Arts). The group was well-received at Barbes (Brooklyn's premier gypsy jazz venue), The Turning Point in Piermont, N.Y. (just outside the city), and The Garage, a fixture of the Greenwich Village jazz scene. The WPE is currently at work recording their fourth CD.

**Karen Madden** (Academic Support Services) is running for NEOA President-Elect for the 2008-2009 term beginning September, 2008. This position, if confirmed, will provide her with the opportunity to increase the visibility of JSC's Student Support Services program regionally in New England and nationally in Washington, and will allow her to have a voice in important national educational issues.

The PoJazz ensemble is made up of JSC faculty and friends. Poets include **Neil Shepard**, **Tony Whedon** (both Writing and Literature), and **Dave Cavanagh** (EDP), and there are always JSC students who participate. In the coming months PoJazz will appear at the Castleton Jazz Festival, the New England High School Drama Festival in Rutland, where members also plan to do some college recruiting, and Champlain College. These are in addition to gigs in the village of Johnson, at the college, and at the Black Door in Montpelier where PoJazz will do a recording in April.

**Leslie Kanat** (Environmental and Health Sciences) worked with 24 elementary school children (and five adults) from Wolcott Elementary School on January 28. The students used GPS devices in the field and then proceeded to locate themselves on topographic maps. Other activities included looking at rocks, using petrographic microscopes, and cutting rocks on the trim saw in the rock laboratory.

**Ken Brighton** (Education) has been asked to participate in a podcast sponsored by the National Middle School Association (NMSA). Ken recently published a book through NMSA entitled *Coming of Age: The Education and Development of Young Adolescents*. He was interviewed by an NMSA representative on February 13 concerning major concepts and issues addressed in the book. The recorded interview will be posted on the NMSA Web site, along with interviews from other NMSA authors, for middle-level educators to access and hear the authors speak about their work.

In early February **Russ Longtin** (Fine and Performing Arts) closed a successful run of *Barrymore* at Lost Nation Theatre in Montpelier. From January 31 to February 2, Lost Nation revived this one-man performance, which provides a very personal look at Hollywood legend John Barrymore's successes and failures in theatre, film and in life.

**Neil Shepard** (Writing and Literature) served in January as Visiting Writer and Visiting Editor at the Wilkes University low-residency MFA writing program in Pennsylvania. In January he also attended the annual Associated Writing Programs (AWP) convention, the umbrella organization for all BFA and MFA writing programs in America. This year's convention was held in New York City where Neil participated in a peer-reviewed panel called "Poetry and the Atom Bomb." He also had a booth at the Book Fair, where he displayed the JSC literary magazine, *Green Mountains Review*. Neil also had two poems recently accepted for publication in the jazz magazine, *Brilliant Corners*, and the *Crab Orchard Review*.

Vermont Campus Compact invited **John Miller** (Fine and Performing Arts) to present at the upcoming Statewide Gala on Tuesday, March 18 at UVM's Davis Center. He will do a 20-30 minute presentation on his service-learning initiative, part of his photography class.

### **Student and Alumni Activities and Achievements**

Governor Douglas issued a proclamation declaring the week of February 25th as Entrepreneurship Week. Two former students (both Business/Economics) were honored as successful entrepreneurs. **James Thompson** and **Jared Thomas** are co-owners of Acute Technology in Morrisville, VT.

At the 2008 Region 1 American College Theater Festival Awards, the cast of *Big Love*, directed by **Reed Brown** (Fine and Performing

Arts), received a merit award as Outstanding Cohesive Ensemble. Merit awards are given at the discretion of ACTF when jurors witness something extraordinary in the region. There were only three given: one for an original musical written by a student, one for work focusing on women's issues, and JSC's for ensemble work. The students who attended took full advantage of workshops, performances, and networking opportunities. **Jess Silva** advanced to the semifinal round of the Irene Ryan acting competition. Reed and all the JSC student actors took a three-day workshop with The Living Theatre, which was founded in the 1940s by Julian Beck and Judith Malina and is the forerunner to LaMama, the Open Theatre, and Café Cino.

The JSC college community participated in the 2% Solution Web cast on January 30. This was one of the Focus the Nation activities related to global climate change; related discussions in many classes occurred the next day. The Web cast represented the kickoff event to reinvigorate the JSC student environmental action club that will participate in the National Campus Energy Challenge, part of the Vermont Campus Compact. *An Inconvenient Truth* was shown on campus the following week.

**Bob Genter** (Environmental and Health Sciences) attended the Lake Champlain Research Consortium Conference in Burlington, VT on January 8 and 9. He attended the sessions on phosphorus runoff to rivers in the Lake Champlain drainage basin, and two JSC students are now applying for research support for this issue from VT EPSCoR. In November **Charlie Vaczy** and Bob Genter attended the Vermont Environmental Consortium's conference on "Education in the New Environmental Economy" at Norwich University.

Junior women's soccer player **Grace Albert-Gardner** earned North Atlantic Conference All-Academic honors for the fall 2007 semester. The North Atlantic Conference recognizes

student-athletes who have reached junior academic standing, and who have competed for a minimum of two years in their sport with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.50. Grace, a Creative Writing major, was one of only three players to start in all 16 games for Johnson State this season. She tied for fourth on the team in goals with three and was fifth on the team in points with six.

**Tatiana Klacsmann** was named a finalist in the student Fulbright Awards program. Her area of interest is art and architectural history, and her country of application is the U.K. JSC's other student applicant, **Daniel Owen**, has also been named a finalist in the student Fulbright Awards program. Dan's interest is in teaching English as a foreign language, and his country of application is Indonesia. Also, this spring faculty member **Tyrone Shaw** (Writing and Literature) is journeying to the University of Belgrade in Serbia on a Fulbright Senior Specialist grant.

JSC TRiO student **Ashleigh Smith** was awarded a substantial scholarship to participate in a unique "study-aboard" opportunity. He will spend the semester aboard the passenger ship The Scholar Ship taking college courses and exploring such ports-of-call as Shanghai, Cape Town, Barcelona, Istanbul, and the Cape Verde Islands.

TRiO student **Shannon Hill** also has some interesting plans. After graduating this spring with a B.A. in Art, he will attend the David A. Clark School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia on a \$14,000 scholarship as a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar.

## STUDENT SERVICES

### Student Government Association

A number of students went to the Statehouse on February 12 as part of the VSCSA's annual Legislative Day. Students advocated for the

VSC in sessions with the Governor and House and Senate leaders. They also attended the Democratic, Progressive, and Republican caucus meetings. Student Government Association President **Jon Harris** testified before the Senate Education Committee. Participating students were: **George Black** (Wolcott), **Arian Bates** (Anson, ME), **Meghan Kelly** (Marshfield, MA), **Jeremy Ayotte** (Wolcott), **Jonathan Harris** (Johnson), **Ashley Faverau** (Derby), **Brian Merrill** (Johnson), and **Kevin Paquet** (Randolph).

### **Upward Bound**

Upward Bound students **Anna Telensky** and **Andrew Bingham** were chosen by the Vermont Educational Opportunity Programs Board to represent Vermont at the Council for Opportunity in Education's Annual Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, March 11. They will accompany JSC staffers **Tony Blueter**, **Allison Laflamme**, and **Karen Madden** to meet with Senators Sanders and Leahy and Congressman Welch to discuss the importance of TRiO programs in their success.

### **Center for Service Learning**

The Bonner Leader retreat was held at the beginning of the semester, with six local partner agencies attending. Overall, the students completed 25 hours of training and orientation, including developing a personal vision and a workshop led by returning Bonners entitled "Defining Communities."

We sent our first Break Away trip of the year out over the February break. Eight JSC students volunteered in New Orleans, Louisiana, with Hands On New Orleans. Work projects included rebuilding homes and assisting at the only "no kill" animal shelter in New Orleans.

### **Athletics and Recreation**

The athletic training staff is committed to providing the best possible sports medicine services for JSC student-athletes. The staff works with each student athlete to promote

health and safety through education, injury prevention, management and rehabilitation. The department works closely with the campus health center, local physicians and medical specialists to provide a comprehensive health care network. The athletic training staff also assists the campus health center with evaluation and treatment of the general student population and club sports.

The athletic training department has recently made renovations to improve the health and safety of our student athletes. These included reconstruction of the hydro-therapy area, new tables, and additional strength and conditioning equipment to improve the overall experience of rehabilitation.

### **Residence Life**

Numbers in Residence Life continue to be positive. Topping last year's mark, we currently have the highest number of residential students beginning the spring semester in the past decade. At the same time, the number of judicial violations, including alcohol and drug violations, in the residence halls has declined from this point last year.

### **Health Center**

The Health Center received positive feedback as part of a recent site visit by Vermont Managed Care (VMC), which it passed with high marks. Its review letter from VMC stated, "We would like to commend your practice for meeting all of the site visit standards." It also noted that "it is clear that your practice is committed to providing quality health care for our community."

## **BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

### **Business Office**

Start-of-term activities consumed much of the month of January with the Business Office focusing attention on working with incoming first-year and transfer students as well as returning students. New clearance procedures were implemented this semester that encour-

age students to make payment arrangements within the first two weeks of the term. The results are encouraging with substantially fewer students who have not yet “cleared” with the Business Office.

**Toby Stewart** has been working closely with department heads to develop FY09 budgets. As of the end of January, the majority of budgets had been submitted. February begins the task of reconciling proposed budgets with revenue forecasts.

**Physical Plant**

Freeman French Freeman has submitted final drawings regarding the student center renovation project and DEW Corp. has issued an RFP for the work. Responses from contractors are expected on February 29, and selections will be made during the first week of March. We continue to plan for a mid-March launch of the project. During January, the college began work on the new Bookstore and Public Safety office. Both functions now occupy their new homes in Dewey.

Capital project planning for summer 2008 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.

The college began planning for projects that will begin during the summer of 2009. These projects include the Gateway to the Campus (paving and pedestrian paths near Dibden and Bentley Halls, and SHAPE renovations.

**Conference & Event Services (CES)**

CES continues to take a lead roll in planning for the relocation of events and functions dur-

ing the renovation of Stearns Hall. They have been working closely with department heads and the conference directors to plan for alternative space moves.

**Information Technology**

IT implemented a new back-up and retrieval system that has dramatically improved the safety and security of college documents by automating the process. This process is especially useful for disaster recovery, and has shown its worth by recovering deleted, modified or destroyed files for individuals on campus.

New wireless access points were added to the SHAPE facility during January. This change allows students, faculty and staff to access college network resources from key locations within the facility. Since this facility is used for educational activities as well as athletics, we expect that it will receive high traffic in the coming months.

**ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID**

**Admissions**

We have a new staff member in the Admissions office. **Julie Noyes** has joined the Admissions staff, and comes to us with two years of admissions experience from the New England Culinary Institute. Julie fills a position vacated by Drew Farrell.

Admissions held its annual Winterfest on February 18 for prospective students. One hundred and thirty-two students attended; 27 students submitted applications for admission. Students came from CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, and VT. Students visited classes, met with faculty, interviewed with admissions counsel-

| <b>Vermont Visitation Day Winterfest</b> | <b>Feb. 18, 2008</b> | <b>Feb. 19, 2007</b> | <b>Feb. 13, 2006</b> | <b>Feb. 14, 2005</b> |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| # of Students attending                  | 132                  | 106                  | 57                   | 62                   |
| # of parents and family members          | 119                  | 112                  | 43                   | 63                   |
| Total # students and parents             | 251                  | 218                  | 100                  | 125                  |
| Applications received                    | 27                   | 17                   | 29                   | 20                   |

ors, toured the campus, attended workshops, and some (31) enjoyed the afternoon skiing or snowboarding, compliments of Smugglers' Notch, Jay Peak and Stowe Mountain Resort. We are grateful to all faculty, staff and JSC student tour guides and panelists who helped make our event a success.

Overall, numbers of inquiries and applications as of 2/20/08 for fall '08 are slightly higher than last year's numbers at this time. Converting accepts to deposits is the next challenge.

The Financial Aid office has hired a new Financial Aid Officer to replace Allison LaFlamme who joined the Upward Bound staff. We are happy to welcome **Meaghan Cummings** to this role.

The decision of three preferred lenders (now required by the Department of Education) has been completed for the VSC. The lenders chosen are VSAC, Wachovia, and EdAmerica. Web Services has been updated to assist students with the process. A new JSC Financial Aid Brochure has been completed to explain changes in the 2008-2009 loan process and the first awarding to students is scheduled to go out Tuesday, February 26. We will also be awarding returning students earlier than in past years due to the cross-training that is occurring within the JSC Financial Aid office.

The Financial Aid office is busy coordinating 2008-09 scholarship applications, submitted by returning students, to be ready for committees to review.

A new scholarship fund to assist foster youth was brought to our attention at the College Board Conference and will have a link on the JSC Web site to help these very needy students.

## **DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS**

### **Annual Fund**

This year's Fund for JSC direct mail appeal,

reminding potential donors that it's "not where we've been, but where we will go," specifically sought unrestricted gifts for the annual fund. This deviation from past solicitations has provided a positive 38 percent increase in new gifts received and an overall 6 percent increase in the total number of gifts received as compared to the same time last year.

As we prepare for our annual alumni phonthon, to be held during the month of March, our concentration will be on non-donors, again seeking unrestricted gifts.

### **Comprehensive Campaign**

Planning for the Leadership Phase of the Comprehensive Campaign is well underway. The Campaign will focus on funding for the new student center (naming opportunities), increasing endowment (especially for scholarships and internships), and encouraging academic excellence (through increased funding for the President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching and Learning). During the Leadership Phase, we will focus on prospect identification and cultivation, solicitation of current major donors, and attentive stewardship. Materials are being developed to support the campaign.

### **President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching and Learning**

This past month a gift of \$10,000 came from a friend of the college for the President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. President Murphy has used the fund to encourage worthy individuals (students, faculty, and staff) in their quest for excellence. Over the last six years, approximately \$24,000 annually has been granted to faculty and students, with the focus on joint student/faculty learning experiences. In addition, an endowment fund (now totaling \$63,000) has been established, with interest going in perpetuity to support this fund.

Grants made in academic year 2008 include \$400 towards a fundraising effort headed by student **James Mabior** for clean water in the Sudanese community of Werkok; \$2,500 for Professor **Reed Brown's** students to

participate in the American Colleges Theater festival; \$4,000 towards an Integrative Healthcare Symposium put on by WAM; \$1,500 for Professor **David Hutchinson's** class to travel and study in Nicaragua over February break; a \$5,000 scholarship for international student **Kyoko Yokoyama**; \$1,500 for Professor **Tony Whedon** for recording a CD of PoJazz, a faculty/student group performing poetry/jazz; and \$2,000 for Professor **Norm McElvany** to attend a training conference on Capstone Simulation for use in his Strategic Decision Making class BUS 4040.



#### **Ellsworth Trust**

The Ellsworth Trust annual lecture will be delivered on March 27 by award-winning author Julia Alvarez, who is currently writer-in-residence at Middlebury College. Her books include *In the*

*Time of the Butterflies*, *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, and *Once Upon A Quinceañera: Coming of Age in the U.S.A.* At 4 p.m. in the Ellsworth Rooms, she will talk about her work in the Dominican Republic and her coffee farm/literacy center, *Alta Gracia*; and at 7 p.m., there is a lecture on how storytelling provides guidance in our lives in ways that are mysterious and important to recognize.