

Board of Trustees Report Johnson State College

December 11, 2008



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the end of the semester quickly approaching, many of us at Johnson State College are looking back over our accomplishments, while looking forward to the opportunities the spring semester will bring.

The College's five-year planning is underway, with sustained attention to enrollment management, academic planning, development, facilities and infrastructure planning and, of course, early and sustained student success. After reviewing these priorities, we added a sixth: a goal specifically targeted toward JSC as a citizen of the county and state of Vermont. Our new student center is receiving rave reviews from students, and is fulfilling its promise of offering a hub for the JSC community.

To highlight just a few of the many accomplishments of members of the JSC community risks placing too much weight on one person's success and not enough on another. But, I think it's important to call attention to the range of work here at the College and the ways in which members of the community are recognized. In that spirit, I'll mention just a few:

- Fine Arts professor Susan Calza recently exhibited her art in Philadelphia, while professors David Kearns and John Miller are finalists for the Art of Action project.
- Several of our Wellness and Alternative Medicine students have been recognized by the Scripps Center for Integrative Medicine with scholarships to attend the Center's annual conference.
- In recognition of his work with Abenaki culture, Professor Fred Wiseman has been asked to take part in a number of Lake Champlain Quadricentennial activities.
- Our student athletes remain competitive and recognized for their accomplishments. This fall, Django Koenig and Kaleb Willis were awarded the NAC Rookie of the Week distinction in their respective sports, and Ziressa Hibbard was named NAC Player of the Week in tennis.
- Professor Gina Mireault is receiving recognition for her research on "Humor in Babies", a project that actively engages students in qualitative and quantitative research.
- Fundraising for Stearns is gaining momentum and, as mentioned later in the report, a number of alumni have chosen to name rooms in the facility. We expect this number to grow.

With the successful opening of the Stearns Student Center and the continued successes of members of our extended JSC community, this is a fulfilling time to serve Johnson State College. I'm pleased with our progress, excited at the challenges and opportunities ahead, and delighted to share with you the accomplishments detailed in this report.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Faculty and Staff Professional Activity



Amy May (Fine and Performing Arts) and JSC ceramic arts students are happy about the success of the 15th Annual Holiday Ceramic Sale to benefit Operation Smile, a project that performs free surgeries for children born with cleft palates. Enough money was raised through

the sale of student-made items to cover the cost of five surgeries. This is the fourth year of the partnership with Operation Smile. In that time the JSC community has provided 27 surgeries (over \$7,000) for children and families around the world.

Marc Awodey (Fine and Performing Arts) continues to serve as Vermont regional editor of *Art New England*, and as art critic for *Seven Days*. He was a featured poet for readings at Gallery in the Field, Brandon, VT, at Burlington College, and at Honey Space at Chelsea, NYC.

Victoria Patrick (Fine and Performing Arts) had a photographic work accepted in the Vermont Center for Photography show opening December 5.

David Kearns (Fine and Performing Arts) has been selected as a finalist for the Art of Action, an art project to help shape thinking and action about the future of Vermont. This is being directed by the Vermont Arts Council and the Orton Foundation.

John Miller (Fine and Performing Arts) has also been selected as a finalist for the Art of Action. He and other finalists will be presenting proposals in the end of January at the Pavilion. Finalists will be considered for one of ten commis-

sions to be awarded to artists who will use their chosen medium to create art that addresses the goal of greater sustainability for Vermont and for Vermonters.

Susan Calza (Fine and Performing Arts) had a mixed media and video show ("Last Born Last Chance This Born This Chance") November 10-24 at the Dowley Art Gallery, Chestnut Hill College, in Philadelphia, PA.

Steve Blair (Fine and Performing Arts) recently performed live on Vermont Public Radio with the Will Patton Ensemble. Among the band members was bassist **Clyde Stats** (Academic Support Services). The live radio performance was part of a tour to celebrate the release of the ensemble's fourth CD, **6th Street Runaround**. *Mandolin Magazine* says the ensemble has "a unique blend of musicality, passion and respect that sets this band apart as a special experience."

Richard Shanley (Education) was the Vermont Principals Association Monitor for the District Spelling Bee Championship held on November 1, with Peoples Academy, Harwood Union, Walden and Glover competing.

Gina Mireault (Behavioral Sciences) continues her research on *Humor in Babies* with behavioral science students. Students are learning how to combine qualitative and quantitative research methodologies to provide a unique data base for assessing the context and subjective quality of humor and the quantity and distribution of behavioral attributes of humor.

Susan Green (Behavioral Sciences) teamed up with senior Wellness & Alternative Medicine student **Karina Lepeley** to write and deliver testimony on "Alternative Medicine and Palliative End-of-Life Care" to the Vermont State Legislature on October 29, 2008.

Brad Moskowitz (Environmental and Health Sciences) obtained certification as a Single Pitch Instructor (in rock climbing) through the American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA). The process included a three-day training, extensive documentation of personal and professional climbing and guiding experience, and passing a two-day examination. The AMGA is the nation's only representative to the IFMGA (International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations), the international governing body responsible for guiding standards and education around the world. Brad also refreshed his medical and evacuation skills in a two-day training with the Mount Mansfield Ski Patrol. He will once again serve as a volunteer patrol for Stowe Mountain Resort and plans to log more than 25 volunteer days this season.

This fall, Brad worked with external organizations and students to coordinate and carry out two separate service projects designed to promote stewardship, conservation and the responsible use of our public lands. The "Prospect Rock Cleanup" occurred in October. Several students and two professional staff members from the Green Mountain Club worked with Brad to install improvements on sections of the Long Trail, to clean up trash, broken glass and illegal fire pits, and to improve conditions at the base of many of the popular climbing routes (easing access and mitigating further erosion). In November, Brad coordinated efforts with the Catamount Trail Association to clear the Jay section of the Catamount Trail and prepare it for winter use. **Doug Kensicki**, a senior in the Outdoor Education Program, provided leadership and coordination efforts for both of these events, while **Jesse Osmun**, from the Center for Service Learning, assisted with the Catamount Trail cleanup.

Fred Wiseman (Humanities) continues his busy schedule of Quadricentennial activities. During fall break he was in the field in Jamestown, VA conferring with the Historic Jamestown archaeologists regarding their sealed context

1610-era archaeological deposits. This was to get the best empirical data on European material culture from the Champlain QUAD era in North America. He also visited the Sultana Projects at Chestertown, MD regarding their replica shallop (a small 1600-period sailboat) that was equivalent to one used by Champlain. On October 29 Fred was on Vermont Public Radio's Vermont Edition talking about the Vermont Quadricentennial and native participation in it. On October 21, he was on the Mark Johnson Show (WDEV) doing the same. He was filmed by a professional photographer for inclusion in an exhibit on Abenaki leaders, has been working with *Vermont Life* on the magazine's portrayal of the Abenakis in their Quadricentennial issue, and was invited to the screening of "The Lake Between," a VPT production on Lake Champlain. Closer to campus, Fred was filmed at Johnson State College with his First Year Seminar students on October 23 for a movie—being produced by Muskeg Media for Canadian (APTN) television—that deals with the revitalization of the Abenaki language.

Paul Silver (Humanities) continues to be a principal clarinetist for the Vermont Philharmonic.

Heidi Wrighton (Advising and Career Center) is involving more and more students in the journey of career exploration. Student appointments for career-related topics rose to 80 in October, up from 23 the month before. Her Cookies and Careers weekly seminars and appearances in classes are also proving very popular. Heidi is seeking professional certification through a Global Career Development Facilitator Program.

The JSC Child Development Center received a small grant from the Child Development Division as reimbursement for the 2007 and 2008 annual reports for NAEYC (National Association of Education for the Young Child). The CDC also received \$500 from the President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for the purchase of new books to support literacy in

the early years. Two students under the direction of **Darlene Witte** (Education) are doing independent studies at the CDC, working with four of the children. A very well attended parent night, on November 20, gave parents the opportunity to socialize, visit the CDC classrooms, and meet with teachers and student workers.

Student and Alumni Activities and Achievements

Jeff Grogan and **Steve Buzzell** (both MA students in Education) have received recognition for significant contributions to the teaching profession. Their middle level team from Stowe Middle School received a national award for excellence at the National Middle School Association conference in Denver last month.

The Scripps Center for Integrative Medicine awarded six scholarships for JSC Wellness and Alternative Medicine students to attend a conference in San Diego in early 2009 on "Natural Supplements: An Evidence Based Update." The awards cover the conference tuition of JSC student attendees. Scripps is considered the top integrative medical care center on the west coast. In awarding these scholarships, the conference directors were impressed with the students' GPAs, passion, and volunteer service, as well as their commitment to their educations, to wellness lifestyles, and to future careers in alternative and integrative medicine.

Matt Hagen, Mike Clifford, Kevin Lynam, and **Todd Gevry**, members of the band Lendway, met almost a decade ago as students at JSC. They released their new album, "The Low Red End", and recently played at Nectar's in Burlington.

LIBRARY

Linda Kramer (Library) has been balancing the daily demands of her job with a number of college- and system-wide initiatives. In addition to her usual role as the library's lead information literacy instructor, where she has done sessions for many of the college's First Year

Seminars, Linda has continued to replenish the library's Flickr site with photographs of student research activity. Linda also revised the assessment section of TILT, our online information literacy tutorial, for inclusion in the JSC Graduation Standards Blackboard site. As a member of the E-Resources Working Group of the VSC Libraries, Linda prepared comparative studies of subscription databases, including their scope and costs.

Joe Farara (Library) continues his work as an executive board member of the Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries. In his role as Director of VSC Library Planning, he has arranged a number of upcoming vendor presentations concerning open source integrated library systems, as well as ones pertaining to e-resources. He also has been involved with the rollout of WJSC, the campus radio station. He's currently serving as a member of the search committee to identify a successor to Chancellor Clarke.

STUDENT SERVICES

Alcohol Awareness Initiatives



The College's Annual Alcohol Awareness Week took place in October. Staff from the counseling center, residence life, student government, and athletics collaborated to plan a week plus of events that included panel and film discussions. The most popular events were a performance by the theater group Equality that focused on alcohol use and date rape issues, and the Save a Life DWI driver simulator.

The College also delivered the CORE Survey in October. This national survey of college alcohol and drug use (and related perceptions) was conducted in classes and garnered nearly 500 responses. The surveys have been sent in for tabulation. We expect the results will inform our practices and programs related to alcohol and drug use education and prevention.

Residence Life

JSC residence life staff participated in the 1st annual VSC Resident Assistant (RA) leadership conference held at Lyndon State. This event served as a morale booster for the staff, who came away from the conference feeling good about the quality and importance of the work they do.

Athletics

JSC Athletics continue to have a visible and active presence in the local community. In October the men's and women's basketball teams hosted the 14th annual Small Fry Clinic, teaching fundamental skills and drills to 120 area elementary school students.

Green Mountain Access Television (Comcast Channel 15) has begun broadcasting select varsity athletic contests with the hope of expanding these offerings in the coming year. Men's basketball coach **Mike Osborne** and seniors **Bobby Shedd** and **Michael Bosch** appeared on the Jeff Fuller Show on Vermont radio WDEV to discuss campus renovations, the Small Fry Clinic, the student-athlete experience at JSC and the upcoming basketball season.

Since the last report several Badgers have received North Atlantic Conference (NAC) honors. **Django Koenig** was awarded NAC Rookie of the Week in men's cross country for a second time. **Kaleb Willis** received NAC Rookie of the Week honors in men's soccer and **Ziressa Hibbard** was named NAC Player of the Week in women's tennis.

Center for Service Learning

In late October JSC hosted its most successful blood drive in 10 years, collecting a total of 124 productive units of blood from the 126 individuals who donated. These numbers were bolstered by the 35 first-time donors who participated. Graduate Assistant **Courtney Close** coordinated the drive and partnered with the Vermont Electric Co-Op in recruiting donors.

A group of JSC volunteers assisted with Norwich University's annual "Drop and Swap" textile recycling program in order to learn more about the program, as JSC will be hosting a similar event in the spring.

In October the biannual collaborative (with CCV and Burlington College) Alternative Weekend took students to Hartford, CT to work with organizations assisting individuals experiencing hunger and homelessness.

Upward Bound

Seven Upward Bound students attended the New England Student Leadership Conference in September. This conference included a high ropes team building exercise and sessions on budget management and group communication and planning.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Business Office

JSC has begun the transition to outsource its Perkins Loan administration 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 move to ECSI and is targeting December to complete the transition.

The VSC wide e-commerce project is progressing well. Communication began in November to notify parents and students of the change. Access to the e-commerce web site through Touchnet begins in December and the project's goal is full implementation and utilization of e-billing for the Fall '09 semester.

The Q1FY09 quarterly financial package has been submitted to central office.

Physical Plant

Physical Plant has been heavily involved in the Stearns Renovation including overseeing construction and commissioning of the building as well as trying to troubleshoot problems that arise from the new construction.

The installation of the new TMA work order system has been completed and is being utilized by staff and faculty.

New boilers have been installed at the College Apartments and are up and running for the winter heating season.

New phone dialers have been installed on all Fire Alarm Systems. The dialers will be monitored by the Lamoille County Sheriff's office.

Additional projects over the past two months have included the installation of new stairs on the North side of Stearns, an upgrade to the elevator in the Bentley building, an upgrade to the emergency lighting in Dibden and installation of a new weather station.

A burst pipe one night meant an unscheduled major repair. Students were extremely cooperative as bathrooms were shut down for the night and next day with SHAPE opened through the night. The problem was solved and all facilities reopened by 5:00 p.m. the following day.

Finally, we have begun the planning process for renovations at the SHAPE facility which include a new gym floor and bleachers and general improvements to the building.

CES

The fall 2008 semester has been very busy for the Conference and Events Services Office. Activities and events have included Admissions Open Houses and the successful grand opening of the Stearns Student Center. Upcoming events for the next two months include the Board of Trustees meeting, reception for December graduates and a holiday party for staff and faculty.

The Conference & Events Office has been working closely with Aramark on restructuring how CES serves as the liaison between

Aramark and both on and off campus clients. A closer collaboration between Aramark and CES will benefit both the JSC community and external clients.

Information Technology

Installation of the College's new Multi Functional Devices (copier/scanners), 23 devices in all, has been completed.

The Microsoft Office 2007 upgrade project is underway. Staff PCs will be completed by mid-December; faculty and student PCs will be completed over the semester break. Several sessions of Office 2007 orientation was provided to faculty and staff prior to the startup of the project.

Staff members attended the annual IT Summit, held at the Office of the Chancellor on October 23. **Sally Searles** served on the planning committee. **Stewart Ressler** recently attended the 3-day Shavlick training seminar, also held at OC; **Dotty Spoerl** attended the Ad Astra training at VTC.

During the final weeks leading up to the completion of Stearns, IT and Media Services performed an array of work that included performing switch installations to connect the building and its users, installation and training for the new messaging board system, the installation of the electronics for the movie theater, and the installation of new PCs for student use throughout the building. Currently IT is working with members of the College's radio station, WJSC, in getting the station connected to the network.

NEW STAFF

New staff in Public Safety are **Jim Mount**, Security Officer II, and **Kelly Ford**, Switchboard/Public Safety Assistant. Jim worked with the VT Department of Corrections for the past four years. He is a volunteer firefighter. Kelly

has worked in a variety of positions in public schools in Vermont, and has a M. Ed. from Bridgewater State College.

A recent graduate of JSC, **Elizabeth (Lizi) Johnson** is the new Staff Assistant for Advising and Career Center. Lizi earned a BA in Business & Marketing from JSC. She previously worked with a number of retail and service businesses.

Joyce Maher and **Candace Olcott** are our newest custodians. Joyce has over 15 years of residential and commercial cleaning experience. Candace comes to JSC from Castleton State College where she worked in housekeeping for over 3 years.

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

Admissions

Spring 2009 While inquiries are down slightly, our applications are up 29 percent, with an increase in both Vermont and out-of-state apps. To date, we have 34 deposits for spring versus 33 for last year at this time. In addition to print and radio advertising, three on-campus "Transfer Days" have been scheduled in December and January. Transfer Days provide prospective students an opportunity to bring their applications to campus for an on-the-spot decision. Counselors will also provide transfer students with tentative credit evaluations. A phon-a-thon was held Nov. 24-26, contacting all spring inquiries. A total of 151 new students enrolled for Spring 2008 (22 first year, 38 transfers, 17 returning JSC students, and 74 EDP) and we hope to bring in at least 70 first year and transfer students for Spring 2009.

Recruitment is also underway for the JumpStart Program for the Spring '09 semester. JumpStart is a program available to juniors and seniors in high school who demonstrate the ability and commitment to undertake college work. Currently, we have 24 students enrolled in a variety of JSC courses ranging from College Writing to Introduction to Psychology to Keyboard Harmony. These students come

to JSC from BFA-Fairfax, Craftsbury Academy, Green Mountain Tech, Hazen Union, Lamoille Union, Peoples Academy and one student is homeschooled.

Fall 2009 Admissions staff **Pat Rogers, Elga Gruner, Julie Noyes** and **Hope Dooley** (**Rebecca Pastor** is on maternity leave) have returned to the office after two months of attending college fairs and visiting targeted high schools. To date, more than 7,000 high school seniors and 1,700 juniors have requested information about JSC. Counselors report that it was more difficult to get prospective students to fill out an inquiry card at the college fairs; most prefer to visit college web sites and request information online. The challenge, now, is to convert inquiries to applications. Our Fall Open House programs brought 187 students to campus. Saturday information sessions and tours continue to bring students and families to campus, and our Early Admission Day program/on-the-spot decision days have helped our application numbers.

The annual VSC Breakfast programs, hosted in Brattleboro, Essex, Montpelier, Rutland, and St. Johnsbury, brought Vermont guidance counselors together to get updates about JSC and the other VSC institutions.

Financial Aid

The Direct Lending Task Force has been speaking with other institutions that are involved in Direct Lending as well as researching information provided on the web. Discussions include the process of implementing Direct Lending, staffing needs, customer service and default rate issues. The amount of time it takes to annually survey lenders involved with the FFEL program has become a major factor for financial aid offices. A final phone conference is scheduled for December 12, after which the report will be presented to college presidents.

The current economy is already impacting our students. In October VSAC announced it is no longer doing loan consolidations with students.

Private lenders are requiring higher credit ratings before loans are approved and interest rates have skyrocketed. This impacts our independent students as well as dependent students whose parents will not or cannot borrow the PLUS loan. Many lenders are no longer offering these private educational loans due to lack of capital. PLUS loans have a fixed interest rate, but more parents are being denied due to credit issues. We were informed on November 18 that the Rhode Island State Grant Agency is cutting their spring awards by 25 percent.

The Higher Education Opportunity Act was signed into law on August 14, 2008. Unfortunately, the reauthorization legislation is enormous (totaling more than 1,100 pages) and includes nothing about additional aid for students, but does include new reporting requirements that colleges must put in place that will be time consuming.

The awarding of aid for the 2009-2010 incoming class is beginning. Spring '09 students have been awarded and Next Generation Scholarships continue to be part of our aid packages.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS



The Emma K. Thompson and George E. Desmarais Scholarship Endowment is the College's newest endowment, established to fund a scholarship for a student who is a graduate of a Lamoille County high school, demonstrates financial need, is in good academic standing,

and has a commitment to community service. This generous gift comes from **Emma Thompson** and her partner **George Desmarais**. Emma is retiring this month after 40 years of service to JSC in the Dean of Students Office. She was hired as the first assistant to the Dean of Students, and is the only person to hold that position here. Emma received the Freda Hebb Award, the College's highest honor for staff members, in 1989. The College paid tribute to Emma with a celebration party on December 5.

The JSC Endowment continues to grow, reaching \$1,915,163 as of October 31, 2008. Still pending is the last installment of the Title III Endowment match (\$90,000), which will bring us over the \$2 million mark.

Stearns/Dewey Fundraising

Alumni and friends have been very supportive of the transformation of Stearns into a true student center. To date we have received more than \$50,000 toward the project, including the following gifts and pledges for naming spaces within Stearns and Dewey:

- **Stella Sargent** named the North Dining Room the Walter and Stella Sargent Room (\$7,500)
- **Michael Luck '70** named the TV/Video Lounge in memory of his parents (\$5,000)
- **Don Vickers '70** named the Women's Center (\$5,000)
- **Geof Wolfe '72** and his wife Joan named the Stearns Conference Room (\$5,000)
- **Sandy Buck Howard '75** named the Dewey South Lawn Lounge (\$3,000)
- **John and Barbara Duffy** and family named the Basement Medicine Office in memory of Barbara's father, journalist William J. Kelly (\$3,000)
- **Deborah Prescott '80** named the computer station next to the fireplace (\$1,000)
- **Gifts from several sources** will assist in naming a new seminar room in Dewey Campus Center in honor of Emma Thompson. (\$10,000)

Annual Fund

Our year-end annual fund solicitation has been sent to nearly 8,600 current and potential do-

nors—50 percent of the constituents listed in our database. It will be interesting to track the responses, given the tenor of the economy.

Many view these days as challenging for development offices, but it is a great time to cultivate College friends by inviting them to campus to take advantage of various activities, participate in a campus tour, or by dropping them a note to keep them abreast of goings on. Times like these also provide an opportunity to encourage friends to remember JSC in their estate plans or as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or annuity.