



JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

to the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees

SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

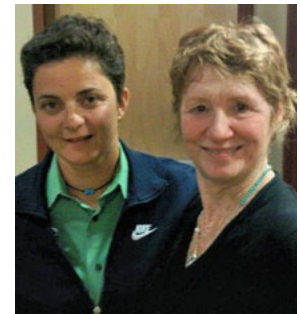


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We began the 2010-11 academic year with orientation for new students. Over the past few years, we've seen the number of student orientation leaders grow to about 50. While much of this is our design — we've worked to create a deeper, more extended orientation program — it's also the result of growing interest among returning students to share their JSC experiences with new members of the JSC community and help them launch a terrific first year. We are gratified to see the growing numbers of sophomores, juniors and seniors who choose to participate in this program.



A key part of the first-week experience focused on small group discussions of our 2010-2011 common book, *Outcasts United*, by Warren St. John. The book follows the development and progress of a group of refugee youth outside of Atlanta as they become a soccer team comprised of members from war-torn countries across the globe. The pivotal figure in the book is Luma Mufleh, their coach, a young woman from Jordan who saw the possibilities of soccer and teamwork in building a sense of camaraderie among lonely new citizens. The book and its themes of newness, belonging and shifting boundaries resonated with new students and stayed with us throughout the year.



Coach Luma Mufleh and President Murphy



Our convocation speaker, Professor **Tyrone Shaw**, launched our academic year by sharing his experiences visiting and writing about Eastern European countries in parts of the world rarely seen by tourists.

With the inspirations of our new beginnings in mind, we began the work of the academic year.



Fresh from a successful completion of our five-year Title III "Strengthening Institutions" grant (we completed the work in September 2010), we transitioned to our five-year College plan, *JSC 2010-2015: A Plan for Access, Engagement & Success*. Work began in earnest last fall, when we identified five ambitious and broad priorities focused on teaching and learning and on the resources and conditions required to foster their full development.

1. Increase academic challenge and student achievement.
2. Foster early and ongoing student success.
3. Identify and enroll students most likely to thrive and succeed at JSC.

4. Strengthen JSC's contributions to and relationship with Lamoille County and Vermont.
5. Align campus and technology upgrades with academic priorities.
6. Strengthen JSC's future through gifts, grants and investments.



The heart of the plan resides in the first two goals, as it is essentially an academic plan. The central two priorities speak to inclusion and access and also are at the core of our mission. The final priorities are our “enabling goals” that commit us to assign resources in order to reach our goals. I look forward to speaking further with Trustees at our fall 2011 retreat about our progress.

Our work during Year 1 of *JSC 2010-2015: A Plan for Access, Engagement & Success* provides an excellent context for summarizing the highlights of our recently completed year:

- We were most fortunate to have **five extraordinary new faculty members** join our full-time ranks last fall. Our new members spread riches across our Fine & Performing Arts Department (one each in studio arts and music), Education (one with special strengths in middle-school teaching and literacy; the other with expertise in special education), and Writing & Literature (a professor with a specialty in fiction).
- Together with their more senior colleagues, they have **strengthened our reading series, launched our new digital media lab and its curriculum, organized and toured both a College Chorale and a more selective Chamber Singers group, initiated a mentoring and “Think College” program** on campus for intellectually disabled youth, and participated in our **Common Reading Initiative**.
- Other accomplishments in the most academic areas of our plan involved **continued attention on building a culture of research**, including expanding opportunities for students to work alongside faculty and present their findings publicly. They have done so on campus, at meetings with donors, to the Board of Trustees, at regional professional meetings, to legislators and fellow students, and to members of Congress in our nation’s capitol. Our commitment to this area has only deepened, and we intend to extend this focus beyond sciences and the social sciences as part of our plan.

**BY THE NUMBERS
THE CLASS OF 2011**

JSC conferred 419 degrees on Commencement 2011, broken down as follows:

AA	10
AS.....	1
BA	290
BF.....	15
BS.....	35
Certificates.....	7
MA	60
MFA	1

Among undergraduates, 174 earned their degrees through JSC’s External Degree Program.

- We now have a **full slate of first-year seminars** from which our new students can choose. To accompany this work and create a modest “learning communities” model, we have designed a co-registration mechanism so that first-year students will be in classes together for at least two courses. The intent is to help students get to know more people early on and to “pair” students with faculty members through these courses.
- We made good progress on our enrollment goals in 2010-11. We began a more diverse set of recruiting activities in service of our commitment to identify and enroll students most likely to thrive and succeed at JSC (Priority 2). We introduced an “**Accepted Student Day**,” hosted an **overnight for aspiring student-athletes**, introduced the “**Badger Blog**,” **hosted a group of minority students** from Ohio and participated in other diverse recruitment efforts. Our work seems to have reaped rewards, as faculty in all departments are reporting a high level of enthusiasm and engagement among our newly arrived students.



- Among our achievements in service to Priority 4, to engage more fully with the greater community, we reorganized our SERVE activities to focus on regular, weekly service in Lamoille County. With our food-service directors, we **hosted a job-training program this summer** that resulted in employment for all seven participants. Students in our Business Department conducted several **projects designed to support local economic development**, and our student-athletes served as **mentors to local at-risk youth**. These are just a few examples of the many contributions JSC students, faculty and staff made beyond the borders of campus this year.
- We made wonderful progress in improving campus facilities (Priority 5), with the two-phase **renovation of Bentley Hall**, our science building,

the centerpiece of our work. We remade every teaching lab, added two new laboratories and a seminar room, created informal spaces where students can gather, and vastly improved faculty offices and study spaces. All spaces were outfitted with new teaching and learning technologies as well.

- We have made great strides toward our final priority — strengthening JSC’s future through gifts, grants and investments — as well. Last year saw an **increase in faculty-authored grants**, with very good results. All include **opportunities for students to conduct research, present their findings and/or mentor their peers**, which is extremely important to us. We also realized **our first \$1 million gift**, in the form of a deferred bequest. At the time of this writing, we are putting the finishing touches on our ceremony to acknowledge this gift and name our Library & Learning Center in their honor at a ceremony on Sept. 12 — a splendid way to begin the new academic year and start work on Year 2 of our plan.

Looking back on our accomplishments during the 2011-12 academic year, I am struck by the breadth and depth of all that comprises the JSC experience, and I am proud to share our achievements in the pages that follow.

ACADEMIC PLANNING

JSC made strong progress on the first year of an ambitious academic master plan contained in *JSC 2010-2015: A Plan for Access, Engagement & Success*:

CURRICULAR ENHANCEMENTS:

- A working group comprised largely of faculty endorsed a mission statement and a draft framework for a new general-education program and is preparing to present its work to colleagues at Faculty Assembly.

- Faculty are exploring an honors direction for the College.

STUDENT-SUCCESS INITIATIVES:

- We developed and piloted an advising-evaluation tool.
- We designed a co-registration project for incoming first-year students.
- We implemented a non-credit workshop series for undeclared students.
- We completed a study of 125 students over the



past 10 years who had applied for graduation but had not yet completed their degrees. The immediate benefit of this “completer project” is that we will be contacting those closest to completing their degrees to invite

and encourage them to resume progress; the long-term benefit is that it should help identify recurring themes and opportunities to help get JSC students to the finish line.

CULTURE OF RESEARCH:

- Progress continued in the natural and behavioral sciences as more students became involved in a greater variety of research experiences.
- JSC student work was chosen for the selective “Posters on the Hill” event in April (the only Vermont work chosen from nine applications), and six students had summer research experiences with faculty members.
- On the faculty side, Professor **Gina Mireault** served as VSC Faculty Fellow, following in the footsteps of Professor **Liz Dolci**, who received this honor the previous year. Both were chosen for their contributions to an emerging culture of undergraduate research at JSC.
- Faculty grant submissions increased, and a team of faculty members attended a conference sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research.

EXTERNAL DEGREE PROGRAM

The External Degree Program (EDP) had an especially good year in 2010-2011. The program had record enrollment, topping 600 students for the first time. It also had a record number of graduates, accounting for half of the undergraduate degrees conferred by JSC.

Following approval by our regional accreditation body, NEASC, in 2010, EDP implemented two fully online degree programs: the B.A. in Professional

Studies and the B.A. in Business Management. Two other programs, Psychology and Liberal Arts, received NEASC approval and are mostly available online. All four programs are also available in the classroom.

With nearly 50 online courses per semester in EDP, the transition to a new learning-management system (from Blackboard to Moodle), was a major effort during spring and summer. Faculty needed to learn the system and reconfigure courses, and students needed to become oriented. Thanks to the efforts of **Amy Beattie**, EDP’s coordinator of online learning, the transition has proceeded smoothly.

As EDP grows, it is important to ensure that quality is maintained. We took several steps this year to ensure continued quality:

- A faculty/course-evaluation system was developed and will be fully implemented this year.
- The EDP Academic Review Board (ARB) and its role were expanded. The ARB now includes a full-time faculty member, a part-time faculty member, the



online coordinator and two advisors, as well as program directors. The ARB has been making progress on program assessment and curriculum changes to the Professional Studies degree.

- A senior seminar for the Liberal Arts degree (which is offered campus-wide but primarily serves EDP students), was added as a culminating experience and a key component of program assessment for the major.
- EDP directors also are working regularly with full-time Education and Business faculty, as well as a general education working group, to better integrate campus and off-campus programming.

LIFE AFTER TITLE III

Our five-year Title III grant ended Sept. 30, 2010. Under Title III, a variety of programs and activities — all devoted to transforming the first-year experience and improving first- to second-year persistence — had been initiated. Careful long-term planning allowed these programs to continue despite the end of funding. In concert with our five-year College plan, our goal is to maintain and refine our first-year initiatives while applying the lessons learned to other student cohorts, starting first with sophomores and transfer students and eventually encompassing the entire student body.

ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

As we begin the 2011-12 academic year, we welcome a new full-time faculty member and two academic-support professionals:

- **Greg Petrics**, assistant professor of mathematics, recently earned his Ph.D. in mathematics from Dartmouth College. From a family of Vermont educators, he is keenly interested in revamping mathematics instruction for all levels of students.
- As coordinator of the Learning Resource Center within Academic Support Services, **Martha Lance** oversees tutoring services at JSC. Martha has a Ph.D. in American civilization from the University of Pennsylvania and recently completed intensive training for certification in adult education and literacy.
- **Sue Ordinetz** is our new learning specialist in Academic Support Services, where she provides support for students with documented disabilities. With a Ph.D. in post-secondary and adult education, Sue comes to us from American International College in Springfield, Mass., where she was associate professor in the Division of Occupational Therapy.

LOOKING AHEAD

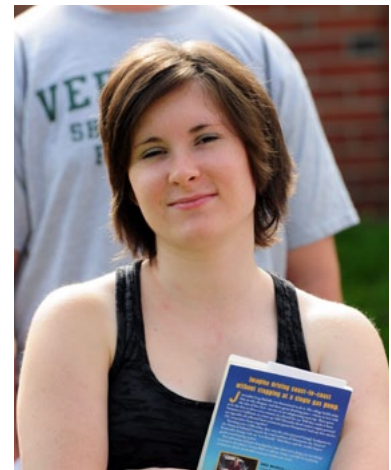
Among other projects this year — Year 2 of our five-year College plan — we will strive to expand research opportunities to other academic areas, especially

those in the arts and humanities. In addition, 2011-2012 promises to be the “year of general education,” as faculty work with other College constituencies to refine and plan the full implementation of a new general education core curriculum.

Academic departments will continue to develop their program-assessment strategies and student-learning outcomes, as well as their capacity to translate assessment evidence into teaching, learning and curricular improvements. And JSC will join with other VSC colleges in implementing the first cycle of the new continuous-program-improvement process.

STUDENT LIFE

For the past several years, the Student Life division has focused on strengthening the quality and range of our services to students to better support their academic and overall success. We increased our use of assessment tools and, in response to what we learned, pursued new initiatives and made significant physical campus improvements. And we emphasized interdivisional collaboration as a means of delivering our offerings and programs.



Having made great strides in enhancing opportunities for student growth and development, we look to build on this foundation, using our five-year College plan as a guide. We focus on anticipating student needs and understanding trends in order to deliver services in a means consistent with our mission.

As we look to the future we take time to honor our past. On Sept. 24, Homecoming Weekend will include a reunion celebration for students who have

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AT JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE THINKING LOCALLY — AND ACTING LOCALLY — AT JSC

One of the six priorities outlined in JSC's five-year plan calls for Johnson State College to "strengthen its contributions to and relationship with Lamoille County and Vermont." The College did that in spades during the 2010-11 year.

In addition to ongoing community-service projects through SERVE and other locally focused, environmental-research projects, here are some of the many ways JSC students connected with the community.

- Business students in quantitative analysis studied the economic impact of second-home owners in Lamoille County in conjunction with the Lamoille County Planning Commission and the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation.
- Students in Jim Black's senior-seminar worked with Manufacturing Solutions Inc. (MSI) of Morrisville to create a business plan for a cardboard-recycling facility.
- Artwork by JSC seniors graced the walls of the new lobby of the Hardwick Health Center this fall. "Many people have commented on the artwork — everyone notices," reported JSC instructor Cynthia West.
- Students in the senior-seminar and microcomputer-applications courses created a comprehensive list of Lamoille County businesses that will be placed on LamoilleVT.com.
- Business students developed projects and workshops for the Center for an Agricultural Economy in Hardwick, while faculty and staff members in the department served as board members on the Lamoille Economic Development Corp., the Lamoille Area Workforce Investment Board, and the Lamoille Economic Connection.
- Fourteen students majoring in business and technical theater or active in the College's Eco-Reps & Green Solutions Club served as ambassadors at the Green Mountain Business Expo in Stowe in November 2010. The students displayed an online video of the many ways businesses can use new media to market their wares and they also assisted event managers with setup and hospitality.
- Six fearless JSC students participated in the annual Polar Splash at Lake Elmore in January, raising \$800 for Laraway Youth and Family Services, the beneficiary of this year's event sponsored by the Morrisville Rotary, BY jumping into the frigid lake. The group's donation was matched two-to-one by an anonymous donor, for a total of \$2,400 raised by the JSC crew.
- The 34th annual Casino Night sponsored by the Student Government Association in March drew close to 200 participants and raised about \$1,000 for the United Way of Lamoille County.

volunteered with SERVE in the 25 years since the program was established at JSC. SERVE has long had a prominent place at JSC and received national recognition in the 1990s for its work with Break Away, the alternative break program, and our "SERVE Fri" weekly local service program is now part of our institutional fabric. JSC is on the national radar with Break Away, partnering with schools including NYU and Gettysburg College as a founding member of the Nicaragua Compact, a program that will provide regular international service opportunities for our students.

Athletics also fits the profile of a department building on its past. In this case the desire is to maintain

the attributes for which the program has become known — primarily sportsmanship, scholarship and community service — while realizing more competitive success by our varsity teams. This will be achieved in part through increased and targeted student-athlete recruitment and programming focused on student-athlete support and development. These goals are the focus of a staffing model and long-range plan being implemented by **Jamey Ventura**, our new director of athletics and recreation.

The programs and facilities of our SHAPE Center continue to attract greater numbers of students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the greater

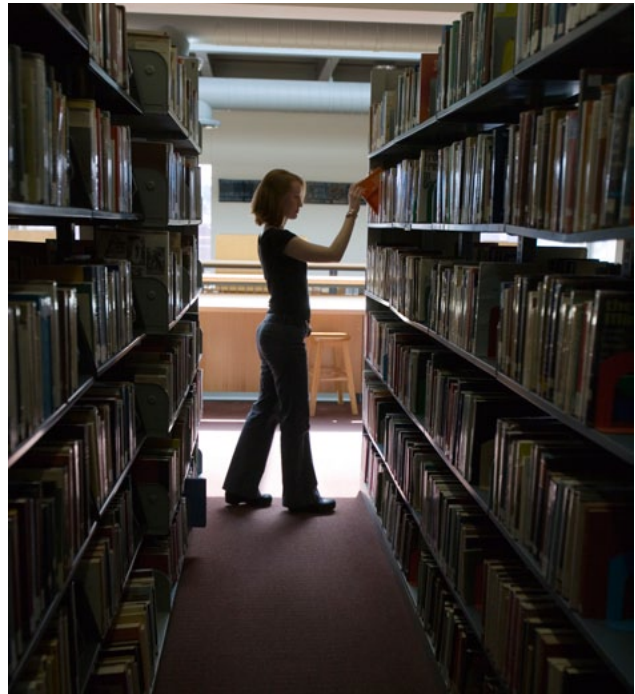
community. Participation in group fitness classes reached its highest level last year.

Thanks to the efforts of our Office of First-Year Experience, we have seen an improvement in first- to second-year retention. We are now applying what we have learned from this program to inform student-success initiatives aimed at sophomores and transfer students, with the ultimate goal of establishing programs that will increase student success across the board.

Upward Bound, the college-preparatory program for under-served high school students at JSC, continues to attract students to the College after they participate in the program. In addition, once here, these students have a high success rate and are frequently recognized for their undergraduate accomplishments.

Data from the national CORE survey confirm that our students increasingly are less likely to abuse alcohol and engage in associated problematic behaviors. We attribute part of this change to our marketing campaigns targeting underage and binge drinking — campaigns in which our students took the lead. Residence Life and other staff continue to work with students to hone this message and increase the effectiveness of prevention and reduction efforts. In addition, our Health & Counseling Center staff work with students on these and other issues of concern, as does our Public Safety staff. The goal is to stay attuned to best practices in the field and to take proactive measures to enhance student health, safety and well-being.

Our efforts to empower students and solicit their input have led to several improvements in our programs as well as the initiation of new ones. One of the most noticeable outcomes in this area has been a stronger Student Government Association (SGA) presence on campus and its involvement in and support of projects of student interest. Surveys of SGA members as well as the greater student population indicate that students feel the College is responsive to their concerns and that programming is responsive to their needs. We will continue to build on this success in the coming year.



LIBRARY

The focus in the JSC Library has been on the delivery and assessment of information literacy. Using an approach known as curriculum mapping, faculty in a number of disciplines (primarily business, economics, writing and literature) worked last year with Public Services Librarian Linda Kramer to develop sequential information-literacy competencies for their respective programs. By conducting standards-based research that is directly tied to the curriculum, students immediately learn the importance of information literacy while mastering those skills. For a better understanding of this process, see the information-literacy sequence for business and economics at www.jsc.edu/images/Library/PDFs/ILSequenceBus.pdf.

We have made great strides in creating a coherent information-literacy framework over the past few years, particularly for our First-Year Seminars. This early work in librarian-faculty collaboration promises to vastly improve the research abilities of our undergraduates.

Supporting this initiative are the typical library tools of collections, collaboration, communications and access. We added substantially to our digital monographic and periodical collections last year, including nearly 3,000 e-books and three full-text databases. We also

subscribed to a streaming audio collection to support our music curriculum. We were able to slightly reduce the cost of our existing databases by participating in the Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries, and we used the savings to purchase other research materials. In terms of our print collections, we continue to withdraw outdated book titles and have cancelled subscriptions to journals whose contents are available in two or more aggregated databases.

We continue to offer research assistance through social media (Facebook, Twitter, chat) as well as via email, telephone and in person. We provide embedded librarian services for online courses and happily provide information-literacy instruction in any format requested by faculty.

A major project in the coming year involves the implementation of QR codes (two-dimensional barcodes that accommodate significantly more data than traditional barcodes) for a variety of library services and functions. QR codes have enormous potential, and we intend to make the most of them. For example, they can be placed at the end of a stack range, taking patrons to user guides for that particular classification area. They also can be used to market library collections to users, provide library audio tours and more.

For all of our enthusiasm for technology and the promise of the web, we recognize the importance of ensuring that our physical space continues to

meet the study needs of our students. The effective use of space is an evolutionary process and requires frequent review, and we continue to do that regularly.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

FINANCES

Johnson State College continues to maintain a solid financial position and anticipates ending FY 2011 with modest excess revenue over expenses, the result of good budget management by departmental heads as well as slightly better-than-budgeted revenues.

During the 2010-2011 year, the Business Office expanded its use of “ImageNow” and boosted productivity by increasing its use of online communications to inform students of their financial status. These improvements reduced outstanding student accounts-receivable balances — quite an achievement at a time when many families are struggling to pay their bills.

We continue to maintain a strong relationship with our auditors and anticipate ending the year-end audit cycle with few comments. During 2011-2012, we look forward to sharing what we have learned with our sister institutions.

FACILITIES

The 2010-2011 fiscal year saw the completion of the \$2 million Bentley Hall renovation as well as the start

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AT JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE THE JOHNSON COMMUNITY LUNCH PROGRAM

One of the more visible and regular collaborations between JSC and the Johnson community is the bi-weekly Johnson CommUNITY Lunch, held the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the Johnson United Church. Launched in 2008 and open to all, the lunch is a great community-builder as well as a nutritious hot meal for our neighbors.

In late 2010, the program was in danger of ending due to a lack of

resources available from the coordinating organization, Lamoille County Court Diversion. JSC staff, community members and director and associate director of the College’s food service — Tadd Stone and James Consentino — stepped in to keep the program going. ARAMARK generously donated full lunches — including two main courses (meat and vegetarian option), starch, vegetable and dessert — twice a month. Staff also

transport the food to the meal site and arrange for it to be served. After just four months, they had prepared and donated 349 meals, including 73 take-out lunches for homebound neighbors.

After the meal, guests are invited to a gathering where they can meet their neighbors, share news and create informal supports.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AT JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE THE FOOD-SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AT JSC

Prompted by their involvement with the CommUNITY Lunch program, Tadd Stone and James Consentino of ARAMARK, the dining-service provider at JSC, created a program that trained seven unemployed Lamoille County residents in food service over the summer — and found each of them a job after the program wrapped up in August.

Stone and Consentino created the training curriculum and presented it to JSC, which enthusiastically signed on. The College provided the kitchen and covered related expenses, while Aramark provided the training, the food and uniforms for each of the participants — as well as a set of professional kitchen tools and knives for each to keep.

The program started June 20. Under Consentino's direction, participants learned food preparation, basic knife skills, kitchen safety, professional presentation and demeanor, and related topics. Each participant completed a four-day internship with a local

restaurant the first week of August. By graduation on Aug. 12, all had received job offers — some from ARAMARK at JSC — and were ready to start their new jobs.

Aramark received a Workforce Education and Training Fund (WETF) grant from the state that covered the cost of liability insurance and a stipend for participants. "We initially planned to cover all the costs, because it's something that we believe in," Stone says. "But the state was very excited about the prospects of the program and wanted to help." Creative Workforce Solutions, a program of the Vermont Agency of Human Services, is supporting the initiative as well.

Stone and Consentino hope to continue and even expand the initiative next summer. At this point all four of the Vermont state colleges — Lyndon,



Castleton and Vermont Tech in addition to JSC — are planning to host a similar program, with Consentino as overall coordinator. "If you figure 10 to 20 students in each class, we'll be helping 40 to 80 Vermont residents find employment," Stone notes.

JSC is fully committed to the program. "What we witnessed this summer was amazing," says JSC Dean of Administration Sharron Scott. "We saw participants really blossom from their very first day here. The program is a wonderful opportunity for individuals who are currently unemployed, and it's a great opportunity for the College to give back as well."

of the Visual Arts Center renovation, a \$3 million project slated for completion in December 2011. Our newly renovated Bentley Hall science and math facility opened just in time for the fall 2011 semester.

The top-to-bottom redesign of this facility, started in 2009, created new research labs, added new seminar rooms and student gathering spaces, and completely renovated teaching labs. Returning students have been wowed by changes, many remarking that it looks like a brand new building — an effect achieved by removing two redundant staircases that resulted in more square footage, more natural light, and the addition of a beautiful new seminar room framed in Plexiglas that is visible to all who pass by.

With four teaching labs, six classrooms, a seminar room, two meeting rooms, four research labs and several common areas, Bentley is our most heavily used teaching facility. We look forward to great things resulting from the net increase of three labs made possible by this renovation.

Renovation of our Visual Arts Center (VAC) began as Commencement 2011 wrapped up. This project will add 6,000 square feet of space and fully renovate all existing facilities. Additions will include an independent drawing studio (previously shared with the painting studio), a classroom for art history, a "black box" studio, studios for senior B.F.A. candidates, and common spaces for art viewing and

critiques. The renovation also includes combined studio space for painting and printmaking, separate spaces for sculpture and woodworking, and an expanded ceramics studio.

During construction, fine-arts classes have been relocated to two facilities on our lower campus: McClelland Hall (painting, printmaking, and photography); and a facility adjacent to Johnson Elementary School previously owned by the Laraway Family Center (sculpture and ceramics). Students, faculty and staff taking the renovation in stride and are enthusiastically looking forward to the final result. In addition to the major work at VAC and Bentley Hall, the College completed numerous other upgrades. These include:

- the creation of a new digital media arts lab containing 20+ fully equipped Mac computers;
- the renovation of our Financial Aid offices in Martinetti Hall;
- the re-routing of the walkway between our upper and lower campus to mitigate the steep grade;
- the installation of a back-up generator for Dewey Hall; and
- the posting of new signage throughout campus.

These projects dramatically improve the physical infrastructure of the campus and have transformed the way the College works and operates.

During the 2012 fiscal year, we plan to complete the VAC renovation, upgrade Arthur Hall (our “wellness” residence hall) and renovate the dam supporting the Lower Pond.

HUMAN RESOURCES

We had many personnel changes in FY 2011. We said good-bye to full-time faculty members **Reed Fisher**, **Ken Burrill** and **Glenn Sproul**, as well as longtime staff members **Barbara Lougee** (director of athletics and recreation), **Sally Reynolds** (athletics staff assistant) and **Evan Smith** (associate director of development). We also bid a sad farewell to **Mary**

Parizo, longtime administrative assistant for Fine & Performing Arts, who passed away this year.

We are delighted to welcome **Greg Petrics** Ph.D. assistant professor of mathematics faculty; **Jamey Ventura**, director of athletics and recreation; **Sue Ordinitz**, learning specialist; **Martha Lance**, tutor coordinator; and **Lauren Philie**, associate director of development and alumni relations. Other new members of the JSC community are noted elsewhere in this report as well as in the organizational chart appended at the end.

The College continues its emphasis on student, faculty and staff wellness through the excellent efforts of its Wellness Committee, led by **Wendy Velandier**. Offerings this year included weight-loss programming, a pedometer challenge, lunch-and-learn events, and several workshops for faculty and staff. The group continues to serve as a vital link to wellness programming.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

FY 2011 was an extraordinarily busy year for Information Technology Services. We installed close to 90 new computers throughout campus over the summer, including replacement computers in faculty offices and student labs.

Changes to the staffing model in our student labs helped us reduce the amount of staff time devoted to these areas. Staff monitors now are provided only in labs with specialized equipment, such as our MIDI lab (devoted to music) and our digital imaging lab (Media Arts Research Studio, or MARS Lab). Other labs are open on an “honor system” basis. Students are very happy with their increased access to equipment and services.

Information Technology Services moved into the sub-floor of the Senators North residence hall this year. Overall, the move has been positive one, enabling staff to work in a single location while providing a “front door” to IT services for our students. The move also facilitated an improved “help desk” function,

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AT JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE JSC BRINGS CULTURAL & ATHLETIC EVENTS TO THE REGION

Dibden Center for the Arts continues to provide public service in the way of employment, inspiration, culture



and diversity—and to serve as a vehicle for the creative industries and activities in the Lamoille region and beyond. Students from the associate degree program in Technical Theater are working in many Vermont

venues, including the new Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center in Stowe, River Arts in Morrisville, Quarry Works Theater in Marshfield, the Paramount Theater in Rutland, for Local 919 in Burlington, WCAX Channel 3, GMATV in Morrisville and at the Verizon Center in New Hampshire.

In addition to hosting 25 to 30 events each semester—many free to the community—this past academic year Dibden hosted more than 7,000 audience members. Evidence of a thriving creative economy is found in many of the events hosted by the Center, which is especially noticeable in the growth of dance at the College. Some 3,700 people attended dance events at JSC this summer.

In an average year, Dibden and other campus performance venues host approximately 100 events across the spectrum of discussions, theatre,

music, readings and lectures, virtually all of which are open to the public. As well, we respond to every request for campus tours by middle school and visiting groups to do our part in orienting students as early as possible to the idea of college for them and their families.

Dibden is not the only venue that draws people to campus and strengthens reinforces our community connections, of course. Our athletic contests consistently bring audiences to campus, and our student-athletes work with area youth to develop skills and “demystify” JSC for younger local citizens. Our SHAPE Center, too, is a popular destination for Lamoille residents. Last year approximately 800 community members purchased memberships or “10-pass cards” to SHAPE, and an additional 350+ youth participated in summer camps hosted at the facility.

which the College has needed for quite some time. JSC made significant technology enhancements in classrooms this year. We added three new technology-enhanced classrooms as well as wireless connections to two additional buildings. The upgrades increase opportunities for individual and group study and have been enthusiastically received.

DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

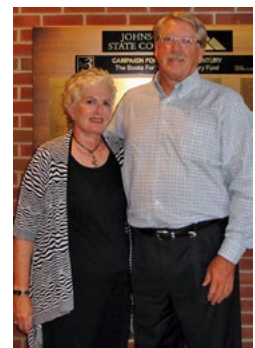
FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

JSC’s First Million-Dollar Gift

We were thrilled to receive our first \$1 million gift, in the form of an irrevocable bequest, which will

be divided between two endowments at the College: the JSC Library Endowment and the Julia V. and Ervin L Willey Scholarship Endowment.

The gift is from longtime donors Richard E. Willey, JSC class of 1971, and his wife, Rosalind S. Weiss, of Harrisburg, Pa. The Development Office has worked with these generous donors over the past 15 years. In 2000, when the “Books for the Third Century” drive ended with a reception for donors, Dick Willey told Director of Development Sally Laughlin that someday he hoped to name the building — which he now has done: In recognition of this contribution, we named



Rosalind Weiss & Richard Willey

the Willey Library & Learning Center at a dedication ceremony on Monday, Sept. 12.

In establishing the Julia V. and Ervin L Willey Scholarship Endowment in honor of his parents 15 years ago, Dick noted that they were born into an early 1900s farming community in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. "Being from families of modest means, they were not privileged to have been able to finish high school, let alone to have the opportunity to pursue higher education," he wrote. "As a result, they worked hard and sacrificed to make available to their children educational opportunities that had not been available to them. This endowment continues that spirit of hard work and sacrifice on behalf of future generations."

Dick earned his undergraduate degree in history, political science and economics from JSC and a master's degree in public administration from Penn State University. He has worked on budget policy in Pennsylvania in the office of the governor and for the general assembly, served as president and CEO of American Education Services and Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (retiring in 2007), and served on the boards of a number of economic-development and other organizations.

He received JSC's "Distinguished Alumni Award" in 2000 and wrote at the time, "I owe everything that I have been able to do to the solid educational foundation that I received at Johnson State. The quality of the faculty and the intimacy of size gave me the confidence to know I could compete with people who come from the so-called 'best schools' in the country."

Alumni Clock Tower/Chesamore Bell

In a campaign spearheaded by the Fund for JSC, alumni have raised funds for a distinctive way to acknowledge donors: a clock tower will be dedicated at Homecoming 2011 in the center of campus that will house our historic 1878 Chesamore Bell.

A "silent drive" led by Mark Heinrich '69 with the assistance of Michael Luck '70 raised donations

from 20 alumni, longtime donors, and current and retired faculty and staff. Donors of \$5,000 or more ("Founders") and \$2,500 to \$4,999 ("Benefactors") will be recognized by a plaque at the base of the tower. This project ties the old with the new, using the common symbol of the Chesamore Bell, a part of the College throughout our history, as a unifying theme for our community. Over the next several years, the Fund for JSC will work with the Development Office to expand the "Donors Plaza" at the base of the bell. This will become the focus of a campaign to expand our donor base and reach our philanthropy goals.

Visual Arts Campaign

We launched a campaign in May to increase support for the visual arts at the College. With our Visual Arts Center (VAC) undergoing a major renovation and



expansion, we felt it was the perfect time to solicit gifts to equip the building (through naming opportunities), support scholarships for Fine Arts students and otherwise strengthen the arts on campus. Noted sculptor Won Lee (MFA 2007), whose sculpture *The Meditators* overlooks College Hill from the South

Lawn, is serving as honorary campaign chair and has pledged to name the sculpture studio.

The campaign kicked off with a mailing to all MFA alumni and is being followed with mailings to BFA and BA alums and friends as well as personal visits to potential donors. We are optimistic about the potential of this campaign, which will continue through Homecoming 2012.



relations in August. Before coming to Johnson, Lauren was director of development for River Arts in Morrisville. She brings significant development experience and great enthusiasm to the position.

LOOKING AHEAD

We began Academic Year 2011-2012 with a full and expanded orientation schedule that saw new students through the first week of classes. Each year, this program includes more returning students and a wider group of faculty and students. All full-time faculty — with the exception of one presenting her

research at an international meeting — met with their new advisees simultaneously on Convocation Day, Monday, Aug. 22. In our tradition of hearing from a faculty member returning from a sabbatical or study project, we heard from Professor **Andrea Perham**, who had spent her sabbatical visiting Vermont high schools, studying models in place to best assist new English-language learners as they make the transition to college—especially to Johnson State College. Professor Perham reminded us that we are *all* new learners, and our country and the world need us to be skilled and wise and welcoming as we redefine our communities.

We already have rolled up our sleeves to begin work on Year 2 of our five-year College plan, *JSC 2010-2015 Plan for Access, Engagement, and Success*.

Among our Year 2 projects (available here) are:

- **An expanded and invigorated commitment to athletics:** Amid the climate of bad press about college sports, it's important to remember how different our student-athletes and athletic programs are. Athletics has shown itself to be a vehicle for retention, student development and citizenship. We are adding a “coordinator of student-athlete development” position to support these outcomes.

SCHOLARSHIPS FROM ENDOWMENTS & PRIVATE PHILANTHROPY

At our Honors Convocation in May, we presented a total of \$125,875 in scholarships and prizes to JSC students, all made possible by scholarship endowment interest and private donations. This year, our largest scholarship endowment, the Carrie Hubbard Stewart Endowment, provided \$20,000 for women working their way through college. The event provides great opportunity for donor stewardship, as many donors attend the tea beforehand to meet “their” students as well as the President’s Dinner that follows. Donors also receive personal thank-you letters from scholarship recipients.

JSC ALUMNI COUNCIL

The Alumni Council elected Michele Boomhower '93 president Mark Huff '95 vice president at its July meeting. Professor Emeritus **Alice Whiting** stepped down after five years as president, to universal thanks and acclaim. She will continue as a Council member.

STAFF CHANGES

We are happy to welcome **Lauren Philie** as our new associate director of development and alumni



- Recruitment for our new major in Communications & Community Media:** This interdisciplinary major begins in fall 2012 and will attract students pursuing careers in strategic writing, photojournalism, public relations and writing for the media. The new direction represents a deepened commitment to journalism and news writing at a time of significant change in the field.
- Identifying the strengths of on-campus and External Degree Program teaching and learning, and spreading these good practices across the different venues in which our students learn:** We will give specific attention to students in our teacher-education programs across the campus and the state.
- Tinkering to ensure that our facilities and equipment all work in service to our teaching and research:** In addition to refining the upgrades to our new and vastly improved Bentley Hall, we will enthusiastically open the new Visual Arts Center in time for the spring 2012 semester and realize, for the first time, all programs under one roof and the first-ever student studio space.
- Redesigning our general-education program:** A deeply important, if less glamorous, project will be our redesign of the core of all our undergraduate students' education. Faculty members made excellent progress this summer in drafting the plan and outcomes. Still to be refined and approved by the full Faculty Assembly, the draft mission statement follows from a commitment to "strengthen the foundations of written and oral communication, mathematics and quantitative reasoning, and [the] understanding of the scientific method." Further, general education at Johnson State College will aim to "complement the depth of the major with a breadth of experiences that cross disciplinary boundaries and emphasize connections between the student and the community."

On this promising note, we resume our important and gratifying work to help a new generation of educated citizens assume their place in the state of Vermont and the world at large.

