President’s Report to the Board of Trustees: April 2014

**Academic Affairs**

**ALL JOURNALISM PROGRAMS NOW UNDER ELECTRONIC JOURNALISM ARTS** | The Faculty Assembly and President Bertolino approved the elimination of the English Creative Writing & Journalism degree, putting all journalism programs at Lyndon squarely under the Vermont Center for Community Journalism umbrella in Electronic Journalism Arts. This eliminates redundancy between the two programs and reflects the convergence in the industry over the last five years. The move was prompted in part by recommendations of the College’s Journalism Task Force.

**Administrative Affairs**

**STUDENT AFFAIRS RESTRUCTURING** | Admissions, Financial Aid, and First-Year Experience now report to the Division of Student Affairs, led by Jonathan Davis. These three areas are interconnected and are critical to the recruitment and retention of our first-year and new students. Specifically, this allows our new students to experience a seamless transition from the moment of first contact through matriculation and into the first year. It also allows for the peer leaders, resident assistants, and other student leaders to work collaboratively in supporting our students.

**COLLEGEWIDE RETREAT** | Tricia Nolfi of Nolfi Consulting served as the facilitator at the March 3 collegewide retreat at Q Burke Mountain Resort. The focus of the morning retreat was “eliminating the bounce effect.” A mix of 139 administrators, faculty, staff, and students explored ways to better serve students, improve customer service, and eliminate or reduce unnecessary “bouncing” from one office or person to another.

**Alumni Affairs**

**WINTER ALUMNI OUTREACH** | Two alumni socials were held March 8 on opposite sides of the country. A meteorology alumni/student social was held as part of the 39th annual Storm Conference in Rutland, VT. Attendees included eight alumni, 26 students, five faculty members, and one prospective student.

While in San Diego for a conference, President Joe and Darcie Miles ’91 hosted an alumni social. Two alumni, one guest, and EarthRisk Technologies owner David Margolin and his wife attended. Lyndon State, through its Vermont Institute of Applied Meteorology, has collaborated with EarthRisk over the last three years.

Dean of Institutional Advancement Bob Whittaker and Chief Technology Officer Mike Dente spent several days in Park City, Utah, where they visited with a number of alumni from Atmospheric Sciences and Mountain Recreation Management who are working at the many winter resorts there.

**11 Summer Camps Offered in 2014**

**FUN, EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR AGES 6–18**

A good summer camp improves skills and nurtures a young person’s growth and maturity. The 11 camps offered this summer at LSC will foster self-confidence, self-esteem, independence, fitness, and making friends—while introducing youngsters to a college community at an early age.

This summer’s roster includes a rock and roll recording camp, two basketball camps, two baseball camps, a meteorology camp, and five camps focused on leadership, entrepreneurship, and STEM.

**Ian Muller Rail Jam**

**FUNDRAISER FOR VETERAN STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**

In conjunction with the NEK Veterans Summit, the first annual Ian Muller Rail Jam was held March 14 at Q Burke Mountain Resort. The fun and well-attended event raised $3,000 for the Ian Muller Memorial Scholarship—an annual $1,000 scholarship for an LSC student veteran. Muller, a Danville, VT, native, attended LSC prior to enlisting in the Marine Corps. Muller was killed during combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in March 2011.

**Honorary Degree for Joseph D’Aleo**

**DOCTORATE FOR WEATHER CHANNEL CO-FOUNDER**

Joseph D’Aleo will be awarded an honorary doctoral degree for his accomplishments as an educator and a pioneer in the field of broadcast meteorology at this year’s commencement ceremony. D’Aleo was among the first professors recruited to LSC to teach meteorology in 1974. While here, he helped establish an Air Force ROTC program, a campus weather service, a co-op internship program, and the Northeast Storm Conference. D’Aleo and John Coleman turned Coleman’s vision for a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week television station dedicated to forecasting the weather into The Weather Channel.

**LSC Now 3rd Largest School in Vermont**

**FOR FACEBOOK FRIENDS, THAT IS!**

Lyndon State College’s active and lively Facebook page now has the third largest number of friends of any...
Community

KINGDOM CAREER CONNECT, a career event for 8th graders, will be held at LSC on April 10. Students will explore careers in advanced manufacturing, agriculture, entrepreneurship, and healthcare through interactive workshops facilitated by local business representatives. More than 400 area students will learn about emerging jobs in the NEK and the importance of math, science, communication, and technology classes. The event is sponsored by LSC’s Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, VSAC, and Navicate.

Enrollment Management

THE LEAHY CENTER FOR RURAL STUDENTS is sponsoring “Embracing the Potential of At-Risk Students in Higher Education” with Dr. Paul Hernandez, a nationally recognized leader in helping FFMI students attend and succeed in college, from April 23–25 at LSC. Currently director of the Michigan High School Turnaround Initiative, Hernandez will be giving a keynote address on his own story as an at-risk youth. He will also offer a workshop for students and staff on “college positive volunteering” and lead a professional development event for faculty.

LYNDON LAUNCH “2.0” | The Lyndon Launch Program enters its second year in 2014 and will double in size to 36 participants. The intensive two-week program provides instruction and support to help participants make a successful transition from high school to college. During the program, students take a college-level course and participate in math and writing workshops. They will also attend workshops and presentations that introduce them to Lyndon’s many resources. Upon successful completion, students earn three academic credit hours and they enter the fall semester equipped with the tools to continue their academic success.

Student Life

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES | Fall 2014 will mark the first time that Lyndon formally makes use of restorative practices in its student conduct system. The College has contracted with UVM to provide support and training as we add this popular and inclusive conflict resolution method. Depending on the alleged act of harm in the community, students will be able to choose restorative practices as a method to resolve that harm. “The fundamental premise of restorative practices is that people are happier, more cooperative and productive, and more likely to make positive changes when those in authority do things with them, rather than to them or for them.” – International Institute of Restorative Practices

ATHLETICS EXTERNAL REVIEW | President Bertolino called for an external review of three key areas in 2013-2014, one of which was the Athletics program. His primary purpose in calling for the review was to provide the program and the administration with a forthright assessment of where investments could be made. Additionally, the review addresses areas of the program that need improvement to ensure we are meeting the standards of best practice. An executive summary of the report will be shared with the community in the coming weeks.

2nd Annual Vets Summit Held March 15

ATTENDANCE, EXHIBITS, AND SPONSORS UP FROM 2013

This year’s NEK Veterans Summit built on last year’s success with 258 attendees, 54 exhibitors, and triple the number of sponsors. The keynote speaker was D. Wayne Robinson, president and chief executive officer of Student Veterans of America. Deborah Amdur, director of the White River Junction VA Medical Center, delivered the summit address. There were a variety of breakout sessions offered throughout the day including “PTSD and TBI,” “women veterans,” and “veterans employment benefits and opportunities.” Veteran service organizations had information booths providing a one-stop-shop for veterans services, clubs, and resources. The event was hosted by the LSC Student Veterans Club in partnership with the LSC Veterans Student Support Committee and other veteran service organizations.

Expanded Options for Study Abroad

LSC WORKING FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Employers are increasingly searching for people with international experience and cross-cultural competency. To support student learning along these lines, LSC has expanded opportunities for study abroad in 2014 through a new partnership with EF (Education First). EF’s International Language Centers give students a chance to learn a second language in a faster and more effective way during the College’s academic and summer breaks. Destinations include Spain, France, Germany, Costa Rica, Japan, Singapore, and China.

A Night Out to Support the Homeless

PART OF COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

Fifteen LSC students—10 of whom spent the entire night—braved the cold to participate in the annual Night in the Park Vigil on March 7 in downtown Lyndonville’s Bandstand Park. LSC’s service learning program, in partnership with Rural Edge—a regional housing nonprofit organization—holds the event to raise funds and awareness of the homelessness epidemic hidden in the rural community.