

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ALUMNI TRUSTEE

Presented at Keene State College Alumni Reunion

June 2009

As I conclude my sixth year as your alumni trustee to the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) Board of Trustees, I am pleased to provide this annual report to my fellow alumni.

This past year, more than any previous year during my tenure as a trustee, the Board has had to address some of the most difficult financial challenges in the history of USNH. These challenges reach into every aspect of the operation of the USNH office as well as every campus of the System. Fortunately, we have been the beneficiaries of the outstanding financial leadership of Dr. Edward McKay, Vice Chancellor (and former KSC staff member), who has been named the next Chancellor of USNH, effective July 1, 2009. Dr. McKay's understanding of the complexities of financial investment, long-range planning, and budget development and management has significantly mitigated our challenges. Despite the outstanding efforts of Dr. McKay and his staff, the impact of the economic downturn has had, and will continue to have, a dramatic and negative impact on each campus.

While the financial impact on programs and services differs from campus-to-campus, it has been necessary for each of the presidents and their staffs to be effective managers of reduced campus resources. To that end, each of the presidents has created a financial management plan designed to minimize the impact of reduced revenue on student programs and services. The Trustees will continue to work with the System office to monitor our financial situation and take those steps necessary to maintain the high quality of educational programs and services currently available at all campuses.

Additional sacrifices may need to be made if the state of the economy does not improve over the next year. In the interim, you can be assured that the USNH Board of Trustees will continue to provide leadership and work with all USNH campuses to identify solutions to these difficult issues. I am confident that we will find our way out of the current difficulties and will emerge as stronger institutions because of our ability to maintain our financial integrity and creativity in a crisis.

In this time of intense financial difficulty, it will be helpful if KSC alumni find ways to actively support the College in raising the funds necessary to support student financial aid in the form of scholarships, either through direct gifts to scholarship funds or in increased giving to other fund-raising initiatives in collaboration with the KSC Development Office.

Many of you are mindful of the negative impact of necessary increases in student tuition because of reduced revenue. This year, the need to support student scholarships is critical. Many of our seniors may not be able to return because of the additional tuition required, and a number of incoming freshmen may not be able to come to campus in the fall for the same reason. I encourage each of our alumni to carefully consider a special gift in support of President Giles-Gee's request for scholarship funds to support both seniors and freshman. It is not often that such requests are made, and Dr. Giles-Gee carefully considered this decision before asking us to help. Judy and I made our own personal contribution to this effort because we believe in supporting *A World of Possibilities* for all students, who, without such support, would be unable to begin or complete their education at Keene State College. Please consider a gift, no matter how small, to support KSC students in this time of significant need.

My involvement in the activities of the Board of Trustees has continued to be significant. I serve as chair of the Programs and Services Committee, trustee representative to the New Hampshire Public Broadcasting Board (formerly NHPTV), and on the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. In addition, I have served as a member of the special committee to study the University of New Hampshire Board of Trustees and the USNH Office. This task, which was designed to take a couple of months to complete, has evolved into an almost year-long effort to study all aspects of the System Office as well as key governance issues of the Board of Trustees. After many meetings, a mini-retreat with the Board, review of many documents, and extensive conversations with our presidents and members of their staffs, we have concluded our task and will present our report and recommendations at the Annual Meeting of the Board in late June.

I am proud to represent my fellow alumni and the rest of the Keene State College community as your elected representative to the Board. My term expires in two years and a new trustee will be elected to serve an initial four-year term. I urge anyone interested in becoming a trustee to understand that it takes a significant commitment of time, energy, enthusiasm, and

dedication to be an active trustee. Regardless of the workload, however, working on behalf of USNH and KSC is an exciting and rewarding experience.

Most significant to the future of USNH is the impending departure of our current Chancellor, Dr. Stephen Reno. Steve has been a wonderful steward of the goals of USNH and has advanced our goal of bring the System to the attention to the New Hampshire legislature and the citizens of New Hampshire. He is an able leader, a trusted and valued friend, and a confident and competent representative of New Hampshire public higher education. I have known Steve for the past six years and wish him the best as he takes on new challenges.

Dr. Ed McKay will assume the position of Chancellor on July 1. His election to this post is indicative of the confidence the Board of Trustees have in his leadership, particularly in this time of intense financial crisis. Ed is a great choice to lead us and I look forward to supporting him as he assumes his new position.

Finally, I am always grateful for the opportunity to work with Dr. Helen Giles-Gee, president of KSC. Helen continues to receive the accolades of her fellow trustees because of her ability to understand complex issues and to offer realistic and viable solutions. She is a wonderful friend and I am most honored to help her achieve the mission of KSC.

Serving as a USNH trustee requires that each member, elected or appointed, represent the best interest of the University System. While I am always mindful of this responsibility, I am clearly focused on my responsibilities to our alma mater. Balancing those sometimes conflicting interests has never been an issue for me. Dr. Giles-Gee, Dr. Mel Netzhammer, and Dr. Jay Kahn keep me well informed about the needs of KSC as well as the impact of Board decisions on our College, providing me with the information I need to make decisions that not only benefit USNH, but KSC as well.

We are fortunate to have such a talented, visionary, and dedicated staff leading our campus and I am deeply indebted for their continued support of my role as a trustee. As I continue my service for the next two years, I will keep in mind the love each of us has for Keene State College and the important role it has played in our lives.

Respectfully,

John H. Moody, PhD, B'71 M'76

Keene State College Alumni Trustee