

Alumni Trustee Report

Alumni Reunion 2011

It has been both an honor and a privilege to have served as the Keene State College Alumni Trustee for the past eight years. As the elected KSC alumni representative to the twenty-seven member University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees, I have had many opportunities to work with my fellow trustees from UNH, Plymouth State University, Granite State College, and UNH Manchester, in shaping policies that will ensure a high quality education at each of our institutions. During my tenure I have served on several standing committees, special committees, and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board. These assignments have allowed me to represent the best interest of KSC, as well as the other components of our large public higher education institutions, across the state of New Hampshire. I have detailed many of my specific activities in my seven previously presented annual reports to our Alumni Association. Consequently, I will not restate those experiences in this my final report, with one notable exception; the election of Helen Giles-Gee, President of Keene State College.

Of all of my many truly memorable moments during the past eight years was the selection of Dr. Giles-Gee as President. When asked if I would chair the search committee for a new president I had no idea of how challenging that assignment would be for all of us on the Presidential Search Committee. After months of reviewing and interviewing potential candidates the Committee recommended Helen Giles-Gee to the Board of Trustees, who voted unanimously in to offer her the Presidency of Keene State College, and as the saying goes: The Rest is History!

President Giles-Gee's commitment to Keene State College, her ability to lead in difficult times, her willingness to be a team player at the college, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees, her vibrant, energetic, and intellectual approach to problem solving, and her innate sense of doing what is right have advanced the college in many ways. I have valued her as a colleague on the Board, respected her position as President of KSC, but most of all, have treasured her friendship. Her many kindnesses to me as we have worked together for the past six years will long be remembered and appreciated.

One of the most important contributions Helen has made to KSC is the development of a Leadership Team that is clearly one of the best I have ever seen as a member of the Board of Trustees, or in my over 35 years in public education. Members of the KSC Leadership Team exemplify what is necessary to forward the mission of KSC.

Dr. Jay Kahn is one of those people whose impact is frequently felt, but often unnoticed on the KSC campus. His vision of how to create a pleasant, functional, and environmentally friendly campus can be clearly seen on any tour of the campus. Jay's ability to manage the college's finances, his acute sense of the right project at the right time has resulted in a beautiful and functional campus. Jay is one of those unsung heroes whose work truly makes a difference.

Dr. Mel Netzhammer, Vice-President and Chief Academic Officer, has been a strong voice for the development, articulation, implementation, and evaluation of academic programs and policies that have strengthened the core mission of the college as it relates to programs and services for students. Mel's ability to assimilate complex information, his willingness to actively participate at the Programs and Services Committee, which I have chaired for the past several years, has resulted in many positive and challenging discussions about the role of Chief Academic Officers at each of the campuses. Most of all, however, I have appreciated Mel's constant drive for excellence at KSC, as well as his wry wit and wonderfully refreshing sense of humor.

Maryann Lindberg, Vice President for Advancement, has elevated the level of institutional giving through her tireless efforts to identify those individuals, groups, associations, businesses, etc. whose commitment to KSC allows them to provide financial support in a variety of ways. Maryann plays a pivotal role in securing funding for important college initiatives, and the most recent economic downturn has made her and her staffs' job even more difficult.

The support of the Alumni Association Board of Directors has been invaluable to me in my successful tenure as Trustee. Sue Fortier, Mike Maher, Dave Gagne, and Patty Farmer, among others, should be recognized for their efforts, particularly in the completion of the new Barry Alumni Center. Because of their commitment to our college, this project might

well have remained on the drawing board. Its reality is due in no small respect for the advocacy of all alumni and a place to call home when on campus. Their collective and individual advocacy for KSC alumni is unparalleled and we owe them a great deal of thanks.

Kay MacLean, Sara Telfer and Pauline Dionne are deserving of special recognition for their behind the scenes support of many alumni activities. Their appearance at countless events, their superb organizational skills, and their willingness to go beyond what is required on our behalf are indicative of their unwavering support of Keene State College.

I would also like to recognize my wife, Judy H'71 whose encouragement and support of my tenure as a member of the USNH Board of Trustees allowed me become very active in that role. Without her support and understanding of the requirements of Trusteeship, I would not have been able to serve KSC as well as I was able to over the past eight years. She has been and remains a loyal supporter of KSC and what it stands for.

Becoming an active Trustee requires a great deal of time and energy. To my successor, Bob Baines, I offer my full support. Bob has the experience and talent to become an excellent representative of KSC on the USNH Board of Trustees, I wish him well and know that he will do a great job.

I leave the position of Keene State College Alumni Trustee with nothing but fond memories, no regrets, and a renewed sense of what Keene State has made in my life and the lives of countless others. Thank you for your confidence in my leadership, I will always be grateful for having had the opportunity to serve our alma mater.

John H. Moody, Ph. D

Alumni Trustee