Last year the State of the College was about Savoring the Moment. We talked about celebrating the radical transformation of our college over the past decade, and how important it is to smell all these beautiful flowers around us.

We have accomplished so much together over the past nine years, and it was important for us, then and now, to savor the moment as we prepare for what lies ahead.
Savoring the moment is important in the life of a college and, I have come to learn, in our own private life.

Merely savoring the moment is not enough. Today the focus is on securing our future.

In the future, how can we ensure that we will always remain student centered, as the small college with the big heart?

How can we best provide face to face, personalized, relationship-based education in the high quality of a New England private liberal arts tradition at a public college cost?

How can we guarantee that we will retain the pervasive pride and unmitigated joy that permeates the extended family that is this college, allowing all of us to feel so special and unique as we study or work here?

How can we be confident that our dedication to academic achievement, as well as our focus on learning to live as much as earning to live, will be the hallmark of our college?

How can we be certain that our investment in the arts, in athletics, in state of the art facilities, and in the best colleagues I know will continue in the future?

How can we preserve our unwavering commitment to service learning and civic engagement, confident that our students will continue to make a difference in their college and their community before they go out to make a difference in the world?

These are important questions to consider as we contemplate Castleton and our future together.

From a financial perspective, securing our future is critical. No doubt you are all aware that all public and private colleges are experiencing financial challenges in this economy. Castleton is not immune from those pressures. Over the past few years we have made strategic investments that have benefited our students and the college, and those efforts will continue, especially in the interest of maintaining our competitive edge in attracting and retaining high quality students.

These pressures have been caused by level or lower state appropriations over the last few years, such that the state share of supporting Castleton has plummeted to close to 11% of our overall budget. This is the lowest in the nation, and it is not likely to change in the near future with this economy. Furthermore, our Board has been united in restraining tuition increases. These are our two major revenue sources, and they have not even kept pace with inflation.

Our goal in setting budgets has been to provide the best possible educational experience for our students as we also take care of the people who work here. During the last few budget cycles we have made adjustments to our budget that do not affect current employees. Unlike most of our counterparts in higher education, we have not
contemplated laying off employees and there have been no salary or benefit rollbacks, which has been the case in many colleges and the public sector in this economy.

If state appropriations and tuition, our two major revenue sources, are no longer sufficient to fund the college, securing our future will require us to be creative and entrepreneurial in seeking new revenues.

Our talented and diligent Development Office has been successful in continuing to increase annual giving to the college every year. When other public colleges this past year suffered an average 16% decline in giving, Castleton experienced a 4% increase in financial support. The Castleton Classic Golf Tournament, held two weeks ago, brought in $46,000 in profit for a total of $166,000 in the four years the event has been held.

Keeping our eyes on the prize of securing our future, we need to strengthen other ventures that support the college. One is to continue to increase business for our highly successful Conference and Events office, opening our current and future facilities for the public benefit and the college’s reward. Another strategy is to continue our statewide expansion of the Castleton Center for Schools, growing our programs and institutes that serve Vermont and, coincidentally, bring in needed revenue for the college.

Securing our future is more than a series of strategic financial decisions.

The Master Plan that we developed in 2002, which we have revised twice since then, has provided a wonderful pathway for our success. This year we completed the Castleton
Student Initiative, including the Leavenworth addition, the new Spartan Athletic Complex, the new Campus Center, and Spartan Stadium, the most ambitious project by far in the history of our college.

This past year also saw the acquisition of and improvements to the Spartan Arena in Rutland, the home of Castleton hockey, academic internships, service learning and community connections. This year will provide even more new programming at the Arena for the benefit of the college and the community, contributing to the cultural and economic well-being of the region.

Our enrollment, including recruitment and retention, continues on its planned trajectory and remains under our targeted cap of 2000 on campus full time undergraduates. This year we have broken last year’s new student record for both Vermonters and out of state students. The gradual increase in our enrollment is consistent with our overall plan for improving the quality and number of our students, fueled in part last year by the addition of our new uniformed marching band and the expansion of our intercollegiate athletic programs with the addition of football. It would be an understatement to describe these additions as a success. They have exceeded my expectations, a dream come true. It is all part of the plan we have been carefully following throughout this decade.

The quality of the student experience continues to improve. Witness the impressive variety of on campus activities that are advertised every week. With a performing arts program that has never been better than it is today, with over 40 clubs, 20 varsity sports, a growing intramural program, and a myriad of non-athletic activities available to all,
Castleton is no longer a suitcase campus on weekends. I live here, quite happily, and I can attest to the increased weekday and weekend activity on campus.
This past year inaugurated our first college-wide emphasis on the diversification of our student body. We initiated a new office that houses a growing international student program and expanded study abroad opportunities designed to improve diversity and to gradually internationalize our campus. Our current international student population includes representation from 23 countries and Puerto Rico:

Brazil  
China  
Canada  
Costa Rica  
Egypt  
Ethiopia  
Germany  
India  
Korea  
Ireland  
Ivory Coast  
Liberia  
Nepal  
Nigeria  
Peru  
Philippines  
Puerto Rico  
Romania  
Somalia  
Spain  
Sudan  
Sweden  
Syria  
United Kingdom
The foyer of our brand new Campus Center now displays a multitude of flags from around the world, honoring the global community that we truly are and need to be.

Two recent initiatives have grown in support and popularity, with high expectations for continued success for the future. The CHANGE program (Creating, Honoring, Advocating and Nurturing Gender Equity) continues to educate and promote respect on and off campus, and we enhanced this program with a new coordinator and a new home in the Campus Center. We also continue the expansion of civic engagement and service learning programs, highlighted by a commitment to sustainability and the nationally recognized Green Campus Initiative, also with a new coordinator and a new home.
CHANGE and Sustainability are already important parts of the culture at Castleton, as if they had always been here, and our new International initiative enhances that culture in significant and meaningful ways.

All of these endeavors help to secure our future.

One of the very important activities we'll be engaged in this year is the writing of the self-study that needs to be submitted prior to our reaccreditation review next fall. The college is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, often called "NEE-ask." Our continued accreditation means that Castleton students are eligible for the federal government's Title IV financial aid programs, and we all know how important those are.

In order to maintain our accreditation, we have to first write and submit a 100-page reflective self-study. Then in the fall of 2011, an eight-person team of college faculty and administrators from across New England will visit us for three days to determine how successfully we meet NEASC’s standards for accreditation. Biology Professor Pete Kimmel and Academic Dean Joe Mark co-chair a 16-person Steering Committee that worked last year to prepare the first draft of the self-study. Before too long, that draft will be made available to the community, and I hope you and many others will take the time to read it and to share your thoughts on the report with members of the Steering Committee. We want the final document to speak for the whole Castleton community, so please pay attention to communications about this important process, read the drafts that
are distributed and made available on the Portal, and attend the meetings that will be scheduled so that you can contribute to the development of the self-study's themes.

Achieving accreditation certainly secures our future.

Finally, in the spirit of securing our future, we are proud to unveil Project 2012. It’s not the most creative name in the world, but it does guarantee that, as we have with all our prior projects, we will finish the project in 2012, on time and on budget.

The most recent revision of our Master Plan clearly indicated the need for more housing, and the crunch this fall is clear evidence that there is no more room at the inn. Last June the Board of Trustees approved this project, which includes a new, state of the art, energy efficient, 150 bed residence hall and open air pavilion that will provide a venue unlike anything in Vermont. This project will require the demolition and relocation of our tennis courts and physical plant building as we make way for the completion of our Master Plan, the culmination of a decade of progress.
We have followed our plan, the best way to ensure that we secure our future.
We are making history at Castleton every day. Let’s continue to make smart decisions and work together to improve Castleton, in the spirit of the loving extended family that we are, not only because we cherish our small college with the big heart, but also because we need to secure our future.
Fall 2010

Castleton Home > Academics > Santa Fe
Santa Fe Semester 2010 at 802-468-1244

Santa Fe Semester 2010

Fall in the Field:
Fall 2010 Semester in Santa Fe

Santa Fe, a city nestled in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico, is a Tri-Cultural Boundary Crossing, home to three distinct cultures - Anglo, Hispanic and Indian. This new cultural immersion program will bring Castleton students into contact with cultures foreign to them here in New England, as well as provide opportunities in the arts and anthropology that are not available locally. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the US and its many cultures, and ultimately a new comprehension of what it means to be an American.

Castleton

Fall 2010

Castleton Home > Academics > London
London Semester 2010 at 802-468-1244

London Semester 2010

London has always been one of the most exciting of destinations. As Samuel Johnson famously said: "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford." Not only is London home to millions and one of the great capitals of the world, it also stands out as a beacon of civilization.

This Fall Castleton Semester in London will allow you to spend a semester at Roehampton University in London, and to get to know the city as an insider, learning to appreciate and enjoy its great cultural and historical riches.

Roehampton has its own campus near Wimbledon, and hosts about 8,700 students each year, in four schools: Human and Life Sciences, Business and Social Sciences, Education and Arts.

During breaks and long weekends, students will also have the opportunity to travel in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and on the continent.

Castleton
Securing Our Future