



JOHN JAY COLLEGE
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

PRESIDENT

JEREMY TRAVIS

August 26, 2010

To the John Jay College Community:

As summer turns to fall, we are reminded of the importance of the mission of our college. Our campus is re-energized by the presence of more than 15,000 students. Faculty return from a summer working on research projects around the world. The John Jay professional staff begin another academic year, recommitted to the College's mission of "educating for justice."

This year marks an important milestone in the history of John Jay: we have completed the College's four-year plan to phase out admissions to our associate degree programs. This year we welcome an estimated 2000 freshmen, and for the first time in the College's history - - all of them are baccalaureate students. Last week we held our freshman orientation and 1,737 of our entering class (and 433 of their parents!) attended. This 85% attendance rate set a new record for the College and underscores the high level of enthusiasm and eager anticipation among our newest students. Our transfer orientation - with 376 students - and our graduate orientation - with 217 students - also set new records. We should recognize the hard work of the staff in admissions, registrar, financial aid, student development and academic advisement who have recruited and welcomed such an impressive group of students.

At the same time, we created joint degree programs in criminal justice, forensic science, and forensic financial analysis in the six community colleges of the City University of New York that registered 4,241 students this fall. We should be proud of this accomplishment. We have significantly raised the standards for admission to John Jay, while expanding access to criminal justice programs for thousands of new students.

We have other reasons to celebrate the launch of this academic year. Even in these times of financial constraints, we have placed a priority on faculty hiring. This year we welcome 20 stellar new full-time faculty to our College. They have been credentialed at some of the leading institutions around the world. Some have left tenured positions at other universities to join the John Jay enterprise. We celebrate their commitments to excellence in teaching and scholarship, and their interest in engaging our students. Their biographies are included in the appendix.

We are also nearing the completion of a new Master Plan that will guide John Jay's evolution over the next five years. The final draft of the Master Plan, including a Vision Statement, can be found on the College's website; comments are welcome through September 23. The Master Plan, called *John Jay @50*, has been developed under the auspices of an advisory committee consisting of faculty, administrators, students, alumni, representatives of city agencies, and community leaders. The Plan establishes five domains of excellence – student success; teaching; research and scholarship; strategic partnerships; institutional effectiveness – and enumerates specific goals under each domain. Following this final period of comment and consultation, we expect to bring the Master Plan to the October 14 meeting of the College Council for approval.

With the Master Plan in place, the College is well-positioned to launch the process of Middle States accreditation this fall. Six Working Groups have been established by Provost Bowers to carry out the self-study which is the first step in the accreditation process. The newly appointed Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. James Llana, will lead the College through the accreditation process over the next three years. Associate Provost Llana, Provost Bowers, and Faculty Senate President Karen Kaplowitz will chair the Middle States Steering Committee, which will be comprised of the co-chairs of the six working groups and which will ensure that the College's self-study is completed on time and according to the highest standards of the accrediting body.

We begin this year with strong momentum from last year. At our commencement in May, we awarded 2,652 degrees, to the largest graduating class in the history of the College. We set a new record for external funding in Fiscal Year 2010: our faculty and center directors secured \$20,725,371 million in external funding, a 315% increase over the \$6,583,688 raised in Fiscal Year 2006. Our new liberal arts majors have attracted impressive numbers of students. We now have 200 English majors and 174 Economics majors. Our newest majors, Gender Studies and Global History, have registered 10 and 27 students, respectively. As other new majors are approved, we expect to see strong student interest. Our faculty are developing new courses, revising existing majors and minors, and proposing new majors and minors at an impressive rate. Last year, the College Council approved 28 new undergraduate courses. We are indebted to the faculty who have worked so hard on these curricular reforms.

This year also marks the launch of the new Honors Program at John Jay. Twenty-five students have joined this inaugural class. They will participate in a program that has been designed to nurture their academic excellence and leadership potential in order to prepare them to meet the global challenges of the future. Honors students will work closely with faculty and peers to explore the idea of the *Common Good* through a series of enriched interdisciplinary courses that use New York City as a laboratory.

The news is not all positive this year. Under the final state budget approved in Albany earlier in August, the University's budget unfortunately has been reduced, once again. And, because the legislature did not approve the tuition increase proposed by the Governor, the budget reduction will be even more severe than originally anticipated. Fortunately, because of steps taken last year to reduce expenditures and raise revenues, the College ended the year with a modest surplus that will help cushion this next round of reductions. But we must still implement another round of budget reductions to absorb a \$3 million allocation reduction. We will also focus squarely on opportunities to raise revenue through increased winter and summer enrollment and development of on-line programs. These plans will be discussed in greater detail in the near future, following consultation with the College's governance bodies and the University.

Finally, the most exciting development of all is the progress on our new building, rising majestically off Eleventh Avenue. The building is nearly completely enclosed. Sheetrock is being installed to create classrooms, offices, labs and theaters. The workers have broken through walls to connect Haaren Hall to the new building. The Commons between the two buildings is taking shape. We are on schedule to move into the new building next year. This new building will transform the College, and provide a fitting venue for John Jay as we begin our second half century.

Welcome to the 2010-11 Academic Year!

Sincerely,

Jeremy Travis
President