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SUBMISSIONS

Goddard College
Clockworks
123 Pitkin Road
Plainfield, VT 05667
p 866.614.ALUM
f 802.454.1174

CLASS/PROGRAM NOTES

clockworks@goddard.edu

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| from the president |

Dear friends,

As you may know, I began my appointment as president of Goddard College on July 1 of this year. I came to Goddard from a long career at Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass., most recently as the director of the School of Education's doctoral programs. Like many of you, I pursued

my education while juggling the demands of work and family. My own experience of engaged learning in academic programs that were inspired by Goddard's philosophy awakened a deep and enduring interest in education that strives to balance the individual with community and the learner with curricular content. I am excited to be at Goddard at this point in my career, and I am grateful for the support of my family, including my husband and two grown children, who were crucial in my decision to come to Goddard.

My first few months as president have provided me with the opportunity to meet with students, alumni, faculty and friends who, like you, are part of Goddard's rich history. I share in your desire for Goddard to continue to thrive and undertake new experiments in learning. I am enthused about the promise of Goddard's future as we enter into an integrated planning process that will help us to align our academic, financial and campus

planning. This planning process will include broad representation across college constituencies to affirm our core purpose and mission and to more accurately restate and articulate that mission. The task and opportunity before us is to refocus our vision so that we may solidify, integrate, embody and implement Goddard's identity and purpose to position the college for sustainable growth. Once our mission statement is rewritten, we will continue the planning process by conducting an

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internal and external analysis to better understand and match Goddard's identity, culture and strengths with external opportunities for engagement and growth. I am confident that the commitment and passion of the Goddard community of alumni, students and friends will serve the college well through this process.

Goddard will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2013. Plans for commemorating this incredible milestone include collecting 150 stories that tell Goddard's distinguished history. The stories you will read in the following pages are part of the rich tapestry of experience that lives at Goddard. My journey here is just beginning, and I feel honored to share this space with the passionate individuals who inspire me to undertake the important work of weaving together the colorful and rich threads of Goddard College's past, present and future.

I look forward to sharing with you the results of our work around Goddard's mission in the next issue. In the meantime, I encourage you to continue telling others how Goddard has made a difference to you.

All the best,



Barbara Vacarr, Ph.D.

