

CozMcNooz

Johnston Center

Letter from the director

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*Director Julie Townsend
Photo by Blair Newman*

Hello Friends,

I know many of you, but for those I haven't yet met, I'm Julie Townsend, the incoming director of the Johnston Center (AKA Johnston College). In my short time as director, I've had the good fortune to meet with alumni, help organize our annual Vintage Johnston Fundraiser, and greet our incoming class of students, who will be seniors in 2019 – the year of Johnston's 50th Renewal. Yes, the 50th is fast approaching from my vantage point, and I look forward to working with many of you to throw the mother of all parties in February of 2019!

In the meantime, you should know about some of the exciting things that are happening in Johnston right now: Tim Seiber, PhD and Johnston alumnus has joined the full time Johnston faculty. A group of students are producing video and photography for our new Johnston web pages. Students and Assistant Director/ Alumna MG Maloney are organizing the Johnston archives for a potential book project. Residence Hall Director and Alumnus Adam Ghovayzi spearheaded our successful negotiations with Student Life on the "Johnston Event Policy," a response to national concerns about student safety – but one that we created based on existing community practices rather than arbitrary rules from outside Johnston. Sophomore Maddie Tschauner has taken on the task of re-vamping the CozMcNooz. And, former director Kelly Hankin is taking a much deserved year-long sabbatical to work on a book project (though she might be drinking wine in France this month!).

We hope to hear from you about exciting alumni activities. In the coming months, we hope that alums will write feature articles in the Coz, make contact through Buffalo Grazes, and consider helping us with contributions to the Johnston archive.

Cheers!

vintage johnston

senior Jonathan Garcia

On Saturday, October 10th, the Johnston Center for Integrative Studies hosted its 9th annual Vintage Johnston event. Held in the Orton Center on campus--the original birthplace of the Johnston College-- Vintage Johnston is an annual wine-tasting fundraiser put together by Bill McDonald and John Slater. All proceeds raised go toward the Student Project Fund--a resource that has helped fund films, art shows, science projects, and entrepreneurial opportunities. For students, while the evening's intention is to fundraise, the grandiosity of the night sometimes took precedent and provided for a wonderful experience. There was an excitement inside the room that seemed to catch like wildfire, spreading from table to table to create a constant buzz of talking and laughing and exclaiming and dinging of wine glasses being toasted together. Who knew there were so many different ways to describe wine? Gentle, harsh, apple-like, moving, dark, rich, vanilla-esque, amorous, pungent, sweet like maple syrup, and most commonly used, good. The night seemed to swirl around and by, and will forever live in my memory as the time me and my friends were all dressed nice and got to play the role of, 'pretend wine-lovers at dinner.'



*PICTURED TOP TO BOTTOM:
1. Maggie Ruopp, MG Maloney, Jennifer Nelson, Tom Cahraman / Photo by Elana Rapp*

2. Senior Mikyle Gray, Judy Bowman, Thomas McClung / Photo by Elana Rapp

3. Founders Doug Bowman and Yash Owada / Photo by Coco Mckown '04 '10

4. Michelle Rogers, Cory Nomura, Laura Nomura, Kathy Ogren / Photo by Coco Mckown '04 '10



After graduating from the Un. of Maryland and spending several years as an important Republican political staffer in DC, John came west in the 1990s and fell in love with wine as an art form and commercial venture. He's now one of—and often the—leading sales rep for the Henry Wine Group, one of the largest wine wholesalers in the country; he moves a lot of wine,

and collects nearly as much himself (2800 bottles to date). Following his parents' example, John decided nine years ago that he was ready to "give back" and put some of his collection to public use. His first dinner, in downtown Redlands, raised \$5,000 for a well-known national charity, but they were casual, at best, in acknowledging his efforts. So, with a little friendly nudging from me, he decided to mount a benefit for the UofR, specifically the Johnston Center's Student Project Fund, which supports student research/creative/community projects, and related good things (not a dime skimmed for "administrative costs"). John had no history with the UofR before this, which may make him the school's most generous donor who's not an alum or Trustee. We just hosted "Vintage Johnston #9," what has become, as President emeritus Jim Appleton says, the classiest event held on campus. Every year John donates some sixteen (yes, 16) cases of high quality vintage wine—the champagne alone is worth the price of admission—and Bon Appetit puts on a four course dinner to match. We're raising about \$20,000 a year now, through sales, a raffle and especially a silent auction of wines, travel opportunities, paintings, and other bounty. John's still a conservative policy wonk and terrific election analyst—had he taken that path, he would have been a fine government professor—who loves Johnston's entrepreneurial design and winks at the irony of his support of (mostly) lefty students. We've become good friends across party lines, an example certain institutions Back East might learn from. He's a Johnstonian in the best sense: self-made, smart, generous, community-minded, serious but no ideologue, and, thankfully, a little zany. We're already making plans for Vintage Johnston's 10th anniversary.

November 18, 2015

Dear Johnston Community,

Over the last few weeks and last night at the forum on race and inclusion, I have heard powerful, heartbreaking, and enraging testimony from students of color who carry the burden of interpersonal and institutional racism day in and day out. As a member of this community, a faculty member, and in my administrative role as Johnston Director, I am both compelled to act and inspired to collaborate with students and colleagues to address this situation. This email will be long, but I hope that all members of the Johnston Community will read it carefully and find a way to work together. As a community we can listen to critique, take responsibility, offer reparation, and build a stronger, more inclusive place.

I want to assure the students of color who have taken a great risk by speaking of their experiences that I have heard you and wish to support your efforts. In my experience, cultural shifts require work in the immediate, the constant, and the long-term; these shifts also require thoughtful interaction between individuals, small groups, and at larger community gatherings. Race, cultural identity, gender, economic class, and institutional power are present in all interactions – we must not ignore this reality.

Based on conversations with students, faculty members, and the Johnston Academic Policy Committee, I propose the following:

In the immediate:

- Faculty and students who are facilitating Johnston classes in the spring: please revise your course flyers to make explicit the extent to which your course does or could include in-depth work in the areas of cultural appropriation, constructions of inequality, institutional critique, activism, and structural change. Similarly, please signal the role of work produced by under-represented artists, writers, and scholars in your planned course.
- On Monday, November 30 at 4 pm, Sara Schoonmaker will host a screening and discussion of the film "White Like Me."
- APC will dedicate several weeks of our discussion in the spring semester to this topic. If you would like to facilitate or co-facilitate an APC discussion based on a short reading or film, please let me know. These will be open to the larger community. If the group gets too large, we'll break into smaller groups. I intend for these discussions to bring students, faculty, and administration together in small enough groups to support meaningful interpersonal exchange.
- I would like to hear from Johnston students and CAS students about interest level in a May term course that will look at the state of multiculturalism, diversity, inclusion, activism, and institutional critique on college campuses here in southern California and nationwide. If there is interest, I will do my utmost to make this class happen in May 2016.

- Johnston will purchase 3-5 documentaries and hold screenings and discussions. Current suggestions include "White like Me" and "The Color of Fear."
- The GYST class, Internal Transfer Seminar, and Community Study class will incorporate issues of inclusion.
- At APC yesterday, faculty and students made a variety of additional short and longer-term suggestions, including: a trip to see a Cornerstone Theater production, a long term project with one or more off-campus communities, involvement with the Johnston Community Service day, etc.

On-going Projects:

- I would like to revitalize the curriculum-building process in Johnston so that we can more effectively collaborate to create the curriculum that students want and need.
- We are currently updating and redesigning our webpages and admissions-recruitment materials. I would like to engage with students on how to do this effectively and ethically. We need to reach out to under-represented students but also to ensure that if we are successful, we guarantee these students full citizenship in their educational environment.
- We will continue to build effective collaboration with programs across campus who are working on these issues, including CDI, academic programs, Student Life, and others.

Longer-term Projects:

- Next year, Johnston will craft a position request in collaboration with other interdisciplinary programs for a tenure-track line in a relevant area of study. Similarly, we will support other departments' requests for similar positions.
- Johnston will work with our new Director of Admissions and our Johnston Admissions team to develop meaningful outreach to under-represented students, especially in the local region.
- I am currently crafting a joint project with the School of Education in which Johnston students would collaborate with graduate students on projects related to educational justice, students' well-being, and academic and personal support for students in need.
- I will continue to work with the Johnston Development committee to raise funds for an Endowed Chair, a scholarship fund for student travel, and resources that make Johnston spaces useful and engaging for all members of our community.

I welcome your participation and ideas in these areas and more. And again, I thank the students who have courageously spoken out, and I intend to respond in collaborative, meaningful, and sustained ways.

Sincerely,

Julie Townsend

kathryn green

Bill McDonald



It's the fall of 1975, and I've negotiated with Ms. Kathryn Green and some fifteen other students a Johnston lit course entitled the "The American Dream". It was my best class with Kathryn, and what I remember now—and misunderstood then—was how her self-abnegating style could work wonders. That style was simple: She asked questions, questions that helped everyone along. She'd ask "naive" questions that more egoistic people would avoid. Even if she was put off by a writer—in 1975 it was Norman Mailer, whom she could barely tolerate—she would ask about her objections in such a way that somehow everyone else felt included—even Norman, I fancy, had he been in the room.

Yes, everyone's included: That's what I didn't get at first about Kathryn. She always thought about the whole: the whole person, the whole seminar, the whole College, whatever full communities in Redlands or Rhode Island or the Bay area she pledged herself to. Her vision was always quietly broad and integrative, and she enacted this vision in a myriad of ways through her deepest values—love, and loyalty. She loved Johnston because, as she famously said in her graduation review, it was the first place where she'd been treated as an adult. Writing, theatre, the environment: whatever human endeavors and institutions she supported she saw as part of that ongoing drive for inclusiveness and wholeness. And she supported her vision with a fierce loyalty. Here's how she affected just our community, and many more in the Bay area: theatre, writing, the environment, start-up companies whose values aligned with hers.

She founded, then endowed, our Speakers Series that, for more than thirty years now, has brought scores of Johnston alumni back to the campus to speak with the current community.

An introverted person, she nonetheless took on demanding public roles—co-chairing one of our hugely complicated five year Reunions, for example, or serving on the University's Alumni Board because she could serve Johnston in doing so.

She came to virtually every alumni event: our annual fund-raising wine dinners, many graduations, dozens of planning meetings. After a time no one would ask if she was coming; it was a given. I bet she came south more than fifty times just for Johnston.

She's attended every Johnston alumni seminar since they began in 2005: on the campus, at Pacific Palisades, at Asilomar twice, she was always there. I last spoke with her on a small conference call in April, planning our alumni trip to Italy in 2016.

Beyond her Speakers' series she funded many other things. Every time that I called her with a story about a student in need she would ask about their story, their whole person, before mailing a check.

Just a year ago she agreed to make a major donation to Johnston's current capital campaign.

And all that's just for Johnston College, just one part of her multifaceted generosity: at every opportunity she made human education and many human communities stronger, better, more whole. These aren't just accomplishments, items on a resume; they were, and are, fundamentally her gifts, enacting her love and loyalty.

Finally, Kathryn and I were friends, close friends, real friends, for more than 40 years. Our manner together was mainly fun: banter, laughter, teasing, jokes. Today I'm giving thanks that Kathryn has been a part of all our communities, that she has been among us all, with us and for us, loving and loyal, making us whole.

lecture series

senior Jonathan Garcia

On October 9th, 2015, the Johnston community welcomed Mary-Beth Brown to the Kathryn Green Guest Speaker Series. Brown, class of 2010, graduated with an emphasis in 'Arts Administration: Sustaining the Arts in the 21st Century' and currently works as a Communications & Operations Manager at ARTable in New York City. As a Johnston student, Brown pushed herself to break new ground and hosted a Johnston art show at the Mitten Building in downtown Redlands. This has become a tradition in the community, as students continue to host a yearly art show at this venue today. Many current students were fascinated with this and had questions regarding curation, creative process, and the art world as a whole. When Mary-Beth was asked to reflect on her time at Johnston, she focused on her frame of thinking in work and in life now, "Just thinking outside of the box--like, what box? That's Johnston. Looking for those connections and sensitivities in relationships."

On October 22nd, Cole Cohen returned home to speak to the current Johnston community as part of the Kathryn Green Guest Speaker series. This was not the first time Cole has been a guest speaker--as she served as such in 2012--however, this occasion came draped in adoration and decoration. Her newly published book, *Head Case: My Brain and Other Wonders*, is currently on a wave of critical acclaim and success. In her talk with students concerning writing, Cole stressed the importance of patience and balance, "There are days where I think, 'I'm a fucking genius!' and then there are days where I think, 'I should not be doing this.' And, ultimately, it's about committing time to the process."



Right: MG Maloney, Peter Ryan, Cole Cohen, Bill McDonald, Denise Davis after Cohen's reading in Holt Lobby
Photo by Blair Newman

Queer Buffalo,

On a Saturday afternoon, June 20, I hosted a Buffalo Graze at my Los Angeles apartment, on the topic of Queer Comfort and Ease. Rick Daily, member of the University's Alumni Board, arranged the event, and Karen Yin, Mark Carlson, Nina Fernando, MG Maloney, Addy Davidove, and Iyan Sandri attended as well. So alums across all four decades of Johnston were present. I made several different vegetarian quiches, acknowledging gay cuisine in bygone days, when the proverb was that "real men don't eat quiche."

I chose the topic to emphasize how queer culture has changed over the years with its admission into mainstream culture. If the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled same-sex marriage to be legal across the country, and if Caitlyn Jenner transposes Kardashian fame to the cover of Vanity Fair, what have we left to gain? Certainly Johnston students have become more and more accepting of sexual diversities, even demanding that the binaries between male and female, gay and straight, be merged or overcome. So I wanted to ask if we still need queer activism.

The replies were as varied as the experiences of those present. Compelling stories emerged of coming out in different ways at different times, identifying sexually in ways that needed explanation, and establishing a social position that's individual as well as recognized. The stories involved telling parents and family members, with little assurance about their reactions. But they also involved finding like-minded friends, associates, and lovers who would accept us as we are. Those experiences have led to social and political action of different kinds, and there was much discussion of what kind of action is called for now. Bisexuality still seems suspect to gays and lesbians on the one hand and to straight folks on the other, even though it's a common self-recognition. Queers of color, especially those who are working class or indigent, still suffer greater discrimination and abhorrence than well-established white folks of any sexual stripe. What we might call micro-aggressions based on prejudice or misunderstanding still prevail in the workplace, for instance, and even in the university.

Altogether it was an adventurous, respectful discussion, with plenty of disagreement. What I enjoyed most was the pleasure Johnstonians always feel in each other's company. Karen asked about making up a queer table at Vintage Johnston, so that we could reconvene soon; and such a table was set. After three hours no one wanted to leave, because there was so much shared experience and perception among us all. It's the same kind of heartening affection that pours out of the Johnston Renewals every five years. Let's have another Buffalo Graze again soon at my place, on any topic, on any Saturday afternoon.



Daniel Kiefer

Above: MG Maloney, Daniel Kiefer, Addy Davidove, Iyan Sandri, Mark Carlson, Rick Daily, Nina Fernando, Karen Yin

In July twenty-four Johnston and UofR alums, with spouses and friends, assembled in Santa Fe for an openly hedonistic seminar, “Wine and Opera.” We took the title and content from the course Dave Bragg and Bill McDonald taught in the 1970s: another layer of Johnston history brought to life. Our opera extravaganza—three performances in four days—opened with the world premiere of composer Jennifer Higdon’s *Cold Mountain*, based on the Civil War novel by Charles Frazier. Next came *Salome*, Richard Strauss’s 95 minute riveting operatic translation of the salacious Anglo-Irish play by Oscar Wilde. We ended with Gaetano Donizetti’s *The Daughter of the Regiment*, a lively comedy that served as our satyr play after the darkness of the first two productions. We gathered for two hour seminars before each performance, watching clips of the two canonic pieces and interviews with the principals of *Cold Mountain*. No production pleased everyone, but overall the inventive staging of *Cold Mountain* was the most favored and the pseudo-Freudian take on *Salome* the least. And of course there was the spectacular open-air Santa Fe opera house itself, with its sunset vistas across the New Mexico landscape framing the sight and sound of each production.

This was also the first of our five Alumni Seminars to date in which alums themselves took the lead in organizing the events. David Buchmann was our Main Man. He, along with sidekick Pat Harrigan, negotiated our tickets with the Santa Fe Opera; our contract with the Inn at the Alameda; our luxurious wine tasting venues in the city and at the beautiful home of alum Heather Wood; plus the finale, a catered dinner with Tablas Creek wines at the home of David’s in-law, Mary Ann Amos. Bill McDonald



supplied most of the five cases of wine we sampled at our official tastings—chardonnay and pinot noir—and our after-opera conversations. He wisely turned most of the sommelier duties over to alum winemaker and ambassador Wes Hagen; you always feel that Bacchus is in the room when Wes enthuses you through a flight of wines. In addition to all the events in the city, Yasuyuki and Judy Owada led us north on a field trip to Ghost Ranch, the famous retreat center where they met, and where they celebrated their 50th anniversary a few years ago. Our tour guide, used mainly to Georgia O’Keefe fans, wisely let Judy take the lead in storytelling. It was a wonderful counterpart to our indulgent time in the city. And a final note: Bill, Yash and Judy put together a “geezer road trip,” driving straight through to Santa Fe from Redlands in the Owadas’ wine-packed SUV; Judy and Bill handled the steering, while Yash magisterially navigated with his GPS. No wrecks, no tickets, and a lot of fun.

We hope this alumni-shaped structure becomes the pattern for all our future seminars: Pat Harrigan and others have already put together our next adventure for next July: Italy! Just go to the UofR website and click on “Alumni Events” for the full plan.

commencement address

Tim Seiber

You all have chosen a different path, sort of like the cheerleaders in *Bring it On*, the Bellas in *Pitch Perfect*, or the Jamaican bobsled team. There were all kinds of choices along the way, and you had no idea what their consequences would be. The only promise we could really make to you was that you would have the space and support to put all your experiences, of life and in community and in seminars, together. This is the promise of “integration” . . .

If you look up the word in a dictionary, “integrative” means simply “tending to integrate.” The very first use of the word “integrate,” which means, “to render entire or complete, to make up, compose, constitute (a whole)” was in 1638. At first glance, the Oxford English Dictionary’s definition of “integrative,” shimmers with all the luminosity of mud. “Tending . . . to integrate.” Well, great. But I think this phrase is evocative for our purposes today, in that by understanding “integrative” as a “tendency,” one hears echoes of another of Johnston’s great values, intentionality. Today, we honor students who tended toward thinking across and through ways of knowing and doing. Collectively their tendency is that they intend . . .

There’s some recent interdisciplinary research I’d like to share with you, that suggests new ways to understand the relationship between nature and culture . . . So, you take African killer bees and you put them in tranquil but active Mexican hives, and those killer bees become more and more like their flower smelling, honey-making hippie counterparts, so that within six months the genes that control their day-to-day behavior have changed . . . To quote some of this research, . . . “encompassing studies of multiple organisms, from bees and birds to monkeys and humans [this new research] suggests something exciting: that our social lives can change our gene expression with a rapidity, breadth, and depth previously overlooked” . . .

In the breadth and depth of the learning we celebrate today, we must recognize that the students who stand for their degrees are quite literally not the same people that entered Johnston. Transformative education is our genetic gambit, a risk we collectively take to pass the world through the membranes of our selves and our community. Johnston is a collective genetic experiment, and our lab game is on point. The genetics of this place have

changed as well, as your special work in media, in science, in government, in food and culture and art, in negotiation and collaboration, in events planning and commitment and compassion, has slowly turned some of our genes on, tempered others, and mutated some. It has been a wondrous process, one that you leave here as much as you take with you. That is something very special about your educations . . .



*Right: Seniors celebrate after graduating in front of Bekins' lawn
Photo by*

HELP US FIND THE NEXT GENERATIONS OF JOHNSTON STUDENTS!



Who better to identify potential Johnston students than Alums? We want to find more students who seek an individualized and integrated college experience, who value community and collaboration as well as academics, and who are passionate about their interests... in short, people like YOU. If you know of high school students who might be interested in a Johnston-style education, please encourage them to visit Johnston.

Our ambassador in Admissions is Ashley Morris:
ashley_morris@redlands.edu

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