



# Save Goddard College Newsletter #1

**This is our first newsletter in 2025. We are creating the newsletter to let the Goddard community know that we are still around and working to revive Goddard College in a meaningful way. We are looking at various ways for Goddard College to exist. In this newsletter we are sharing what Goddard means to us. We invite you to contribute your feelings, your memories, your visions, and your dreams about Goddard. Please feel free to share writing, photos, art work, and your heart! See newsletter submission info below.**

## Why I support Save Goddard College

By Catherine Weiss Boucher

Many Goddard people may wonder why Save Goddard College still exists as the College has lost its accreditation and also is in the process of closing on the sale of the campus? Sometimes our attempts at saving Goddard College have been met with derision. So the question arises why do I participate in trying to save Goddard College?

I became involved with Save Goddard College when the Board of Trustees summarily announced the closure of the college last April. I must admit that I had rarely been a financial supporter of Goddard College, assuming naively that it would be around for ever (despite many close calls in the past). It was only with the arrival of President Bernard Bull that I had paid enough attention to the tenuous financial state of the College. Then, like a slap in the face, the announcement by the Board of Trustees last Spring made me reconsider what was at stake and I joined with other alums

(one of whom I had know back in the late 1960's) to try to save the College. I was inspired by the camaraderie and spirit of non-violence which permeated our meetings. I felt uplifted by the successful petitions on the [change.org](https://www.change.org) website and defeated when the march towards the sale of the campus and loss of accreditation seemed inevitable. However, I still feel there is more to saving Goddard College than stopping these events and believe that saving the College now may have more to do with reviving it.

I still hope for a continued Goddard College which would provide a different path to being educated in the future. Even though the campus appears to be sold, there are opportunities to revive Goddard College in new and innovative ways, keeping the spirit of Goddard alive and growing. I guess it is because I love the time I spent at Goddard College and wish for it to go forward, being tied to the past but springing forth in new ways like a phoenix, that I still support Save Goddard College now.

## What Goddard College has Meant to Me

By Mary Guzzy

I am a professional theatre practitioner and a college professor of theatre and humanities for the past 20 years at a small two-year college in the State University of New York system. At a point when I was really questioning the value of what I was doing with my work, a member of Atlantic Theatre Company, where I was doing some professional development recommended Goddard to me. During my first residency at Goddard's magical campus, I knew that I had found something very special in education and art. Through my graduate studies in Psychology at Goddard, beginning in 2016, I was exploring the possibility of becoming a Registered Drama Therapist, and through a course on working with immigrant and refugee populations, I got the opportunity to work for three weeks on the Greek island of Samos, where there were large camps of refugees from the Middle East and Africa at that time. I held some creative social-emotional relief workshops with children and some with other volunteer workers. I met people from all over the world there, and had mind-altering experiences I will never forget. I met a family there who had fled violence, and we are still friends to this day. Two summers ago I visited them where they have found asylum in Europe. These experiences changed my life, and gave me the inspiration to keep going forward as an artist and educator. The Goddard philosophy of education is priceless, and that is why I am involved in trying to save it. Whether it exists as a full on-campus college, a residency program for those who cannot attend college full-time, or in a combination of online and residency options, it is the open, innovative, cross-disciplinary approach to lifelong learning Goddard represents that is so rare and so vital to a nation like ours. With the historic campus as our anchor, we must preserve Goddard College.

## Information on the Goddard Archives

By David Hale`

After the BOT announced closing the college and selling off the property, a plan was hatched to make certain that the most important archival holdings found new homes with 6-8 different institutions. These were identified with the help of the former Library Director and with input from the Vermont State Archives, The Vermont Historical Society, University of Vermont Special Collections, and also from friends, alums and colleagues across the region.



The plan was to keep as much material here in the Winooski River valley as possible, but some specific parts of the collection were destined to find new best home in major collections further afield.

When the first buyer pulled out and the Greatwood Project was announced, and because of their expressed interest, the sending off of archival treasures was put on hold while some of the requested but not yet picked up final products were returned. Most of the collection remains intact and in a certain way, has been improved as material from various administrative offices and from obscure corners of the campus was swept towards the Pratt Center.

Like so many other "Goddardites" wait to hear what the plan is for the campus and what possibilities there might be to continue to maintain archival operations and progressive education here in Plainfield. As a neighbor living across the street, I will welcome our new neighbors as I would welcome anyone. I'll continue to visit the Forest K. Davis Room on Tuesday mornings and will continue to field archival inquiries that come to my inbox.

I would be very pleased to hear from any individual members of the group and hope we can all sing and dance together in the Haybarn once again.

[davidhalemf@yahoo.com](mailto:davidhalemf@yahoo.com)

**Save Goddard College is committed to keeping the Goddard Archive at Goddard College as much as possible.**

## **SAVE GODDARD COLLEGE: OUR VISION AND MISSION**

Save Goddard College seeks to restore the founding principles and build upon the legacy of Goddard College. We would like to partner with people who can help us revive Goddard College and its lasting impact on education. Save Goddard College is committed to saving Goddard College for the students of today and tomorrow. It is our goal for Goddard folks (alums, students, faculty, and staff) to continue to be connected as a community online and in-person through meetings, newsletters, social media, and conferences. Considering the state of education in the United States and the world as it veers toward authoritarianism, Goddard alums and others feel the need for the College's existence and continuation.

We are actively working to revive Goddard College. Our mission is to provide an educational environment that is supportive and where learning occurs in the classroom, the community, and the world. We are actively working with the developer who is purchasing the campus to create programs based there. It is our mission to raise funds to accomplish the continuation of Goddard programs founded on the principles of progressive, transformative, experiential, self-directed, creative, and socially just education. Save Goddard College, Inc is currently a Vermont domestic, non-profit corporation. We invite you to join us in these endeavors: obtaining federal non-profit status, contributing to our newsletter, helping to create programs, volunteering to teach, and raising funds (legal fees, creating programs, and 501c3 costs).

### **Newsletter Submissions**

We invite your submissions to the Save Goddard College newsletter by February 12, 2025. Submissions can include Goddard related photos, artwork, poems, and writing. Feel free to share your Goddard memories, stories, poems, and feelings. Possible topics include funny experiences, memorable faculty, what Goddard means to me, why Goddard is important, and Goddard's impact on my life. Please submit writing in Word doc and photos in a jpeg or gif. We are looking for writing limited to 2-3 paragraphs in length. Submissions should be emailed to [cathywb108@gmail.com](mailto:cathywb108@gmail.com).



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