



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

PRESIDENT

JEREMY TRAVIS

January 27, 2010

To members of the John Jay College community:

As we gather together to launch the Spring Semester, we are mindful of the horrific tragedy that has occurred in Haiti. The death and destruction we have witnessed defy comprehension. The challenges of providing the essentials of life to the living and rebuilding the country to a position of viability seem insurmountable. As a College, we are committed to supporting members of our community who suffered personal loss, providing assistance to the aid efforts now underway, and making a long term commitment to bringing our talents, resources and unique expertise to the task of rebuilding Haiti.

I am writing today to share some of the steps already taken by the College community, and to announce some future plans. In a wonderful John Jay spirit, a number of our students – representing the Haitian Student Association, and other student organizations – came to the College soon after the earthquake struck to organize a campus-wide effort to support Haiti. They joined with representatives of other units of the College, under the leadership of Vice President Eanes, to create a sustained campaign. At the suggestion of our Haitian students, this group chose as their theme “Help Rebuild Haiti,” a title which signals our commitment to the long term rebuilding effort. I encourage you to visit the College website under this title which lists ways that you can provide assistance.

I also invite you to attend a special ceremony of remembrance and commitment to be held on Tuesday, March 16 at 3:30 p.m. in the Gerald W. Lynch Theater. This will provide our community an opportunity to reflect on the tragedy in Haiti, offer support for those who lost friends and loved ones, and reaffirm our commitment to helping the people of Haiti during the difficult times that lie ahead. At times such as these, the John Jay community is strengthened when we come together to share our personal reflections and our common purpose.

As we look forward, we should ask how our unique community of scholars and students committed to justice can help the rebuilding efforts in Haiti. We have public-service oriented students who are eager to help, either by working on rebuilding projects here or by traveling to Haiti as members of assistance teams. We have faculty with expertise in emergency management, policing, human rights, public administration and other disciplines that could be put to the rebuilding task. These resources can augment the financial resources our College can also provide. If you have ideas about the role John Jay can play in the rebuilding effort, please contact Vice President Eanes.

I close this letter by quoting from an email sent to a faculty member by Reina Batrony, a John Jay psychology graduate student who was home in Haiti when the earthquake struck. Her response is so typical of John Jay students – resourceful, professional, and committed:

“I have been using this experience as learning and strategizing one. Since many hospitals have been saturated with victims of different ages, I have been volunteering ... providing psychological assistance pre and post operation. Many of those victims that have been amputated were not prepared for the operation. Therefore, I work with them to help them understand and cope with this new way of being. I use a here and now perspective to reassure them of any concerns or difficulties that they have.... I have also volunteered as a translator for the doctors from around the world (Americans, Europeans, and Koreans). I have joined a group that collects funds to buy supplies such as medical, food, water, and primary utensils to distribute to the ones in great need. I am trying to help as much as I can. I feel that it is my duty to do so not only as a survivor of this earthquake, but as a professional in my field.”

We can all follow Reina’s example and “help as much as we can.” I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Travis
President