

# CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

## 2013 Alumni Leadership Awards

### John H. Crabbe, Jr., '75

#### Vermont Alumni Award



**John H. Crabbe, Jr.** studied Business at Champlain College and has brought national acclaim to Vermont and his company as a direct result of the education he received here.

John founded Vermont Tent Company in 1976 with a starting inventory of just one tent. With John's 37 years of visionary leadership, Vermont Tent grew to have the largest inventory of Anchor Module tents in the country. In addition, the company owns and provides the liners, chandeliers, interior furniture, linens, silverware, glassware, dishes, and flatware for each event. Their work is known far and wide and was displayed with 55,000 square feet of tents for Bill Clinton's pre-inauguration parties in 1992.

Vermont Tent is known for great customer service and satisfaction. All told, Vermont Tent Company has earned countless honors and awards. In addition to awards from local organizations such as the Green Mountain Chew Chew and the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, his company won the National Small Business of the Year Award in 1997 in Washington, DC, putting a small Vermont company on the map!

John takes great pride in the fact that his 110 full- and part-time VT Tent employees are now 20% owners of the company; they will assume full ownership by the end of 2014.

His professional peers sought John out as a national leader, as well. He was served for three years as President and Chairman of the Board for the American Rental Association, traveling nationally and internationally to represent the industry. He is also a founding member of both the Vermont Rental Association and the Vermont Association of Wedding Professionals, where he still serves as Treasurer.

John is much more than a savvy businessman - he is a deeply loyal community citizen and philanthropist. John was a founding member of the Dismas House in Burlington and served on their board for five years; he has assisted with the Boys and Girls Club Derby since its inception, serves on an advisory committee for Spectrum Youth and Family Services, and has served on the Vermont Chamber of Commerce Travel and Tourism Board. He is currently on the Board for Mercy Connections.



LET US DARE

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John is a committed golfer and an excellent cribbage player, but his real passion is fine food and wine. Someday we hope to benefit from his gourmet food experiences when he becomes a food writer in his second career!

John lives in Shelburne Vermont with his wife (and Champlain alum!) Manon O'Connor. He has a son John, and a step-daughter, Alison.