

CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

2013 Alumni Leadership Awards

Manon L. O'Connor '86

Vermont Alumni Award



Manon O'Connor graduated from Champlain College's Dental Assisting program in 1986. Since then, she has taken accounting and business courses and has put those skills to good work. She also has a writing background from the University of Missouri.

Manon and her late husband co-founded and co-owned Bourbon Street Grill and Mona's, two popular Burlington restaurants. Despite the competitive dining industry in the area, they averaged annual gross revenues of over \$2.5 million while managing an average staff of 100 employees, over 6,000 square feet and 300 seats. In their "free time" they also manufactured and distributed a specialty product line under the Bourbon Street label, and sold products at high profile food shows.

After losing her husband to cancer, Manon became passionate about healthcare. In 2002, she became Director of the Children's Miracle Network and worked as a well-respected and successful Major Gift Fundraiser for Fletcher Allen Health Care and the UVM College of Medicine. In these roles, Manon secured transformational gifts which launched the UVM Center for Aging and the construction of a Clinical Simulation Laboratory. Most recently, Manon was promoted to Senior Director of Development for the Vermont Cancer Center, a jointly administered collaboration between Fletcher Allen Health Care and UVM.

In addition to her many professional accolades, Manon also serves her community widely. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce, the Burlington Business Association, First Night Burlington, the American Cancer Society, Burlington College and even the Chittenden Country Transportation Authority. She is currently on the board of the YMCA and her service to the Cancer Patient Support Program is unparalleled—she has spent nine years (and counting!) on the board, including three as president, and has helped to launch and run their fabulously successful Evening Song event for the past four years.



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(Continued on next page)

So where does she get all that energy? Well, maybe her secret is her passion for running. Upon the advice of her late husband, Manon began running at age 34 and she credits the sport for pulling her through the tough times. “Running has been my friend, my companion, my outlet, and my redemption in many ways”, she says. On May 26th she is poised to run her 11th KeyBank Vermont City Marathon.

Originally from Quebec, Canada, people would be surprised to know that Manon only became a US Citizen in 1995. She has a daughter, Alison, and a step-son, John, and lives in Shelburne with her husband, John Crabbe, '75.

“Champlain College was a wonderful place to learn and grow. I am equally grateful for the dental office of Associates in Comprehensive Dental Care and the remarkable staff that put up with me through two internships. Dr. Albert St. Amand (and his wife Marie) and Dr. Bruce Latelle were patient, kind and wonderful mentors. The staff, including Mary and Patty, made me feel like a part of their family”, says Manon.