Susan Willey LaMaster ‘88 has had a lifelong association with Champlain College and is now completing her 10 year tenure as a member of the Board of Trustees.

She was raised in Essex Junction, VT where she graduated from high school in 1986. She had a keen interest in a business curriculum and athletics. After enrolling at a Junior College in Massachusetts, she decided Champlain College was where she needed to be and transferred there in the fall of 1987.

At Champlain, with an interest in marketing along with her athletic roots, Susan followed two cousins and they all majored in Business and played field hockey. Susan’s team won the National Championship in her senior year, was named to the All-American Team, and received the MVP award. Additionally, her uncle, John Willey, was a computer programming professor at Champlain College for many years until his retirement. Susan’s stepdaughters, Kellie and Kristen LaMaster, also share Champlain affiliations. Kellie graduated with a Business Degree in 2009 and Kristen is currently finishing her degree in Secondary Education.

Susan’s flair for marketing was bolstered by her many opportunities to interact with Jay McKee, one of her favorite professors. These experiences allowed her talents to blossom and had a significant impact on her personal and professional life and aspirations. As a part of Mr. McKee’s ‘work-study approach’, she was sent out into the business world and actively designed a marketing plan for her future employer, Systems & Software, Inc. She found Jay’s classes challenging, yet fun, and graduated magna cum laude in 1988 with a degree in Marketing and Business Management.

Immediately following graduation, Susan joined her father and brother at Systems & Software where she worked in sales and marketing and expanded the marketing program, borne from her class studies at Champlain College. Systems & Software became a leader in customer service and the application software industry for municipal and private utilities throughout the United States as a result of these efforts. She wore many hats and worked in a variety of positions including client relations, software design, accounting, and corporate level positions. Over the years, many Champlain College students and graduates were hired through this vast network.

Susan is married to Tom LaMaster. In addition to being a Developer and traveling with Tom, Susan enjoys teaching therapy horseback riding and is very active in supporting local community organizations such as Vermont's Camp Ta Kum Ta, Special Olympics, Make A Wish, and the Vermont Children’s Trust.