



# CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

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September 3, 2009

Mr. James Sardonis  
412 Howard Hill Road  
Randolph, VT 05060

Dear Jim:

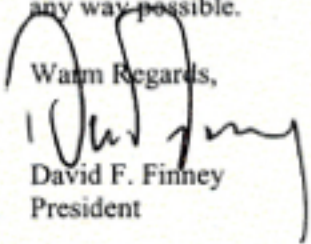
This long overdue letter is written with a tremendous sense of gratitude to you. The statue of Samuel de Champlain that you created for the Champlain College campus has become an instant icon – students have already established the tradition of touching “Sami” for good luck. I expect shiny spots to appear around mid-terms and finals each semester!

More importantly for me, the professionalism and collegiality that you brought to this project made it a joy for us to collaborate with you. Our donor, Dr. Heisse, is thrilled with the whole project – from our first viewing of conceptual clay models to the final unveiling in July. It was a wonderful process and unprecedented in my experience. Your rational and calm approach to the entire project was remarkable. Thank you!

Since the unveiling there has been nothing but praise for the statue. Everyone I have talked to appreciates that fact that it is not traditional yet makes a very strong artistic statement. The many doubters of the wisdom of this project – and there were many – all now claim to have supported it from the beginning! You may not know this but if a piece of public art can win over an entire campus community, where our stock-in-trade is opinion and argument, it is a remarkable achievement. Congratulations!

Should you ever need a reference or letter of support, please contact me. I would be very happy to help in any way possible.

Warm Regards,



David F. Finney  
President