

The Ellsworth Trust: Celebrating a Quarter Century of Humanities Enrichment at JSC

by Bryan Scanlon, '92

Over the past 25 years, scores of JSC students have received direct financial and travel aid through the generosity of a trust established by the late Professor Emeritus Robert A. Ellsworth. One of the most popular professors in JSC history, Professor Ellsworth enlivened his lectures with slideshows of his travels abroad, bringing the world to students situated on a remote hillside campus in Vermont — and later expanding their world view through trips to Mexico, the Yucatan and other regions.

The trust he established has continued delivering rich learning experiences that combine academics with travel, bring noted speakers to campus, and host ever-changing displays of historical and cultural items from around the world in the popular Ellsworth Seminar Rooms in JSC's Library & Learning Center. Fifteen years ago, the Trust expanded to provide undergraduate scholarships directly to students in history, the humanities and political science.

"The Trust significantly enhances the college experience at Johnson State," says President Barbara E. Murphy. "We are indeed fortunate to be able to share Professor Ellsworth's

vision through the generosity of the Trust, which opens the world and enriches our lives in so many ways."

"Through the Trust, Bob's legacy and spirit continue to influence and shape Johnson State College," adds Barbara D. Fiddler, president of the 12-member board that oversees the Ellsworth Trust. "It demonstrates what an impact one life can have, and it continues in perpetuity." ■

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THE ELLSWORTH SCHOLARS

In 1995, the Ellsworth Trust began awarding undergraduate scholarships to students majoring in history, the humanities and political science. Since then, more than 40 "Ellsworth Scholars" have received more than \$68,000 in aid, allowing outstanding students to stay in school and graduate despite financial hardship. Shown above are the 2008-2009 Ellsworth Scholars (from left): Zachary Johnston '11, Deborah Nevil '10, Angelica Caterino '11 and Scott McDowell '10.



The Ellsworth Trust

Standing from left: Thomas M. Carney '71, John Anderson '64, Professor Paul L. Silver, Camille Vickers (curator), David Crossman '04 and Donald Vickers '70. Seated from left: Francis E. Coyle (treasurer), Everett Dickinson '62 (secretary), Barbara D. Fiddler (president) and Bryan K. Scanlon '92 (vice president). Missing from the photo are James McWilliam '67 and Carolyn M. Arey '69.

Born and raised in Morrisville, Vermont Robert Ellsworth graduated from City College of New York and Columbia University. He served in the Navy during World War II in the Caribbean and Latin America, subsequently working with the U.S. Embassy in Japan and the State Department in Colombia.

He traveled around the world four times and spent 17 years as a full-time JSC professor (1957-1973), including several years as chair of JSC's humanities department, then called the "social sciences division." His teachings focused on American foreign policy, international relations, Latin American and Russian history, and the impact of history on current cultures.

"He wanted students to travel more, because he felt that if you traveled — went out and met the Russians on their

own street and looked into their eyes — you would learn that history is about people, and how it influences their day-to-day lives," recalls Camille Vickers, a close friend and now curator of the Ellsworth Trust.

In 1990, the Vermont State Colleges awarded Professor Ellsworth an honorary doctorate and the status of Professor Emeritus of Latin American history.

After his retirement, Professor Ellsworth established the Trust to perpetuate his educational vision for JSC students and graduates. Now, 15 years after his passing, the professor's impact and presence at JSC — through the Trust, the Ellsworth Rooms and their exhibits, the annual Ellsworth Lectures, and the scholarships bearing his name — continue to perpetuate his love of history, teaching and travel.

