

# *The President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching & Learning*



JSC President  
Barbara E. Murphy

The President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching & Learning is a donor-supported resource that gives the President the means to strengthen academic initiatives by funding emerging academic opportunities. President Murphy established the fund in 2001, shortly after her arrival at Johnson State College, recognizing that a modest investment can make a real difference in the depth and breadth of teaching and learning at a small college such as ours. The President's role as lead voice for the College's academic and overall goals assures that these funds go to projects with the potential to have the greatest impact.

Since its inception, the fund has granted more than \$206,000 to support the participation of students, faculty and staff in interesting and unique opportunities that may otherwise have been missed. In addition, an endowment (valued at \$511,447 as of Sept. 30, 2014) has been established, with interest going in perpetuity to support this fund.

The President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching & Learning makes possible worthy projects large and small, including technology enhancements in classrooms and labs, student/faculty inquiry, scholarships for deserving students, distinguished guest scholars, faculty enrichment, and student travel and seminars. Since its establishment, teaching and learning at JSC has been greatly enhanced by projects and activities supported by the Fund, including those summarized below.



JSC art students in Athens

## **SELECTED AWARDS: OCTOBER 2013 - OCTOBER 2014**

### **Student & Faculty Professional Meetings and Travel**

To **Professors Julie Theoret and Kathleen Brinegar (Mathematics and Education)** and **six JSC students**: to attend the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England conference (\$1,200) • To **Professor Hans Haverkamp (Health Sciences)** and **nine JSC students**: to attend the American College of Sports Medicine Conference and enable the students to compete in the College Bowl, a Jeopardy-style competition (\$2,050) • To **Professor Steven Light (Music)** and **JSC music education majors**: to fund students' collegiate memberships of the National Association for Music Education and participate in the annual Vermont Music Educators Association's fall conference (\$1,414) • To **Associate Professor David Plazek (Political Science)** and **seven JSC students**: to support their attendance at the Model United Nations Conference in Boston (\$660) • To **Associate Professor Lisa Cline (History)** and **two JSC students**: to attend the Holocaust Museum in Montreal (\$170) • To **Professors Mary Martin**

and **Susan Calza (Art)** and **12 JSC students**: to fund art supplies and subsidize the cost of their study trip to Istanbul and Athens (\$3,550) • To **Professor Patrick Houle (Theater)** and **seven JSC students**: to enable them to perform their production of "Pippin" at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (\$1,538) • To **Professor Brad Moskowitz (Outdoor Education)** and **students**: to support his class expedition to Peru, a location chosen for the opportunity to provide cultural immersion in addition to the outdoor-education curriculum (\$3,500)



Associate Professor Hans Haverkamp and students in his research lab

## Faculty & Staff Development

To **Academic Dean Dan Regan** and **JSC Faculty Members**: to present and attend a workshop on how to redesign introductory “gateway” courses to enhance positive student outcomes (\$5,500)

- To **Director of Academic Support Services Karen Madden**: to present a workshop for **JSC staff and faculty** on “Understanding and Engaging Under-Resourced Students” (\$1,000)
- To **Professor Amy Welch (Health Sciences)** and the **JSC Counseling Center**: to collaborate in a project aimed at reducing student anxiety and enhancing academic performance through the use of biofeedback at three campus locations (\$2,165)
- To the **Office of First-Year Experience**: to purchase copies of the book *Completing College* by Vince Tinto, the book chosen for this year’s faculty/staff Common Reading Program (\$400)

## In the Classroom

To **Assistant Professor Liz Powell (Writing & Literature)**: to present the 2014 JSC Authors Series, which brings visiting poets, writers and editors to campus to present and work with students (\$4,500)

- To **Professor John Miller (Fine Arts)**: to bring a guest speaker to his Advanced Digital Documentary course (\$247)
- To **Associate Professor Hans Haverkamp and his student research assistants**: to support the students in their submission of a professional paper on the effects of altered airways on exercise (\$550)

## Student Support

To **Lucas Peduzzi (Outdoor Education)**: to support his attendance at an Instructor Certification Program with the International Mountain Bike Association, where he gained certification to help launch his career (\$300)

- To support the attendance of **six Writing & Literature students** at the Association of Writers & Writing Professionals Conference (\$2,436)
- To **Elizabeth Conard** and **Victoria Greenia**: to support their participation in the Cuba trip sponsored by the **Writing & Literature** and **Fine Arts** departments (\$1,350)
- To **Melissa Rixon (Wellness & Alternative Medicine)**: to support her attendance at the Integrative Healthcare Symposium in New York City, allowing her to take advantage of networking opportunities in her final semester at JSC (\$500)
- To the **JSC Chamber Singers**: to support their spring 2014 recruiting tour, which included ten performances in five New England states (\$3,450)
- To **three student research assistants working with Professor Gina Mireault (Psychology)**: to support their attendance at the Eastern Psychological Association conference in Boston (\$1,500)
- To **Samantha Gorton, Marina Turco, Amy Farnham, Rachele Funk** and **Liz Beatty-Owens**: to support their attendance at the U.S. Student Association’s National Grassroots Legislative Conference & National Student Congress (\$400)
- To **Eliza Doncaster (Environmental Sciences)**: to support her attendance at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (\$250)
- To **Corey Chase (Health Sciences)**: to support his study-abroad semester in Australia (\$2,000)
- To **Sarah Mott (Fine Arts)**: to support her participation in the art department’s trip to France (\$750)
- To **Jacob Fournier (Performing Arts)**: to support his attendance at the U.S. Institute of Theater Technology Conference (\$1,000)



The JSC Chamber Singers



## Gifts to the President’s Fund for Excellence in Teaching & Learning

Support for this fund comes from friends, faculty, staff and alumni of Johnson State College. Gifts of any size are gratefully received and wisely used under the direct supervision of the President. Annual gifts and contributions to the endowment supporting this fund are especially appreciated. For information, contact the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 802-635-1241 or email Lauren Philie, director, at lauren.philie@jsc.edu.