

FACULTY GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Name: Dr. Robert D. Vaillancourt

Department: Earth Sciences

Title of Grant: *Photosynthetic rate measurements using stable isotopes of carbon (^{13}C) as a safe alternative to radioactive tracers.*

Date of Award: April 13, 2013

Category of Reward: Research

Amount of Award: \$500

Amount Encumbered: \$339

REPORT

To date, the awarded funds have been used to purchase supplies for sampling and analysis of marine phytoplankton. The supplies purchased are Whatman GF/F filters that are used for the concentration step whereby the phytoplankton cells in suspension in seawater are concentrated by filtration onto the filter pad. This step is required in order to measure biomass or isotope activity incorporated in cell during incubation period. I also purchased a set of 2-liter sampling bottles that are used to sub-sample seawater prior to pouring it into the filter flask. These supplies are used in on-going phytoplankton experiments and field observations. I anticipate spending the remaining unencumbered funds (ca. \$161) by the end of spring 2014 semester on additional supplies in preparation for the spring sampling season and further laboratory experiments.