

FACULTY GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Name: Dr. Robert D. Vaillancourt

Department: Earth Sciences

Title of Grant: *Phytoplankton productivity measurements in support of the Western Atlantic Climate Study II, WACS II*

Date of Award: April 15, 2014

Category of Reward: Research

Amount of Award: \$800

Amount Encumbered: \$800

REPORT

The awarded funds were used to support our science cruise aboard the research vessel *R/V Knorr* during May, 2014 in the western north Atlantic ocean as participants in the WACS II research project. The funds were used to purchase various consumable supplies and pieces of equipment needed for the sampling and analysis of marine phytoplankton production (e.g., Whatman GF/F filters, methanol, pipets, etc). Funds were also for expended for travel to and from the port of Woods Hole, MA.). I participated in this cruise along with two Millersville University students, Jeremiah Stone and Evan Ntonados. The list of measurements my group made is:

- Chlorophyll *a* concentration of filtered samples of seawater made by methanol extraction and fluorometry.
- Phytoplankton enumeration and species identification by microscopic analysis of preserved seawater samples.

One objective of this program was to give undergraduate marine science students experience in sea-going research aboard a large research vessel where they learn about sampling and analysis techniques and data collection at sea. Mr. Stone is currently working on the samples he collected on the *RV Knorr* cruise as part of his senior thesis project. He and Mr. Ntonados also

presented a seminar at the Earth Sciences seminar series during the fall 2014 semester describing their experiences aboard the RV Knorr cruise.