



Williams College Fund for Mount Greylock Fall 2014-Summer 2015

Office of the Principal – Mary MacDonald

In its fourth year, the Williams College Fund enabled Mount Greylock to solidify recent initiatives, launch new ones, expand outside-the-classroom experiences, take the first steps toward launching a school-wide tech center, and in general innovate in ways that will affect students for a long time to come.

As in previous years, the fund supported in 2014-15 the consultant-guided self-assessment of two departments. Social studies built on previous work, which resulted this year in a new mission statement, expanded collaboration, and a changed sequence of courses. Investments were also made in texts and other materials to implement redesigned and new courses. Spanish became the fourth department (including math and science) to begin this process of self-scrutiny, which will continue in 2015-16. This department-by-department process has greatly helped advance among our teachers a mutually supportive community of learning.

Toward the goal of helping all faculty and students more fully and effectively integrate technology into their teaching and learning, we researched model programs at other schools, and took the first steps to train teachers and provide each a laptop.

The fund received an additional gift in 2014-15 of \$20,000 to support the search for a new superintendent. That brought the fund's total to \$777,000.

To spread the effects of fund-supported initiatives, we have begun a program by which teachers report at faculty meetings on their experiences of professional development and curricular innovation. Last year's report referred to an assessment project related to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. That has been postponed to concentrate school energy on the fast-moving, and important, school building project.

The Mount Greylock community is deeply moved by the generosity of the fund's donors. We work hard to honor their commitment by carefully investing these funds in ways that benefit all of our students and that advance the overall goal of reclaiming for Mount Greylock its historic legacy as a model school. With the help of the fund, we are now well on our way.

Curricular Development

- Introduced Eureka Math for eighth grade and online AP environmental science

- Acquired new or updated course materials for algebra, anatomy and physiology, biology, chemistry, geometry, history, Mandarin, pre-calculus
- Supported a technology/woodworking course that aligned with Science 8 standards
- Acquired gallery panels to better showcase student art
- Mounted the following in-residence programs:
 - Artists Robin Brickman and Julia Morgan-Leamon
 - Yoga instructor Tasha Judson with Yoga for Athletes
 - Author Ali Benjamin
- Supported the following off-campus experiences:
 - Concert Band performing “A Concert in the Trees” at a local adventure park
 - 9th-graders seeing *Hamlet* at Shakespeare and Company
 - Tolkien class seeing *The Hobbit* movie.

Association with Williams College has benefitted and continues to benefit the Mount Greylock community in general, the classroom experience for my students in particular, and my professional life as an educator in a myriad of ways. It was through the generosity of the Williams Fund that my colleagues and I in the Social Studies department were able to work with a consultant to examine, evaluate, and align the scope and sequence of our course offerings, the second phase of which will be to evaluate how we teach what we teach, with the aim of addressing the needs of 21st century learners. Additionally, I had the pleasure of working with Williams faculty, staff, and students through the Art Museum Partnership for Education program this past summer, to develop arts and local community-centered curricula, using not only human but material resources to which I would not otherwise have had access.

*Jeffrey Welch, Social Studies Teacher, Curriculum Leader,
and Mount Greylock Parent*

Professional Development

- After focusing particular attention in the fund’s first years on professional and curricular development in the math and science departments, we expanded to include social studies, with the result of an overhaul of its course offerings to be implemented over the next two years. A similar process has begun with Spanish, with the support of Charter Oak Consulting Group.

- A group of teachers received off-site training, which they used to begin training their colleagues in more fully and effectively integrating technology into their instruction.
- Teachers attended the following off-site programs:

Summer Advanced Placement seminars in calculus, chemistry, English language, and English literature

How to transition libraries into 21st-Century learning centers

How to enhance literacy across the curriculum

How to incorporate the new eighth-grade program Eureka Math

A poetry writing workshop

A photography workshop

A Spanish immersion program in Mexico (paid registration only)

A summer seminar for social studies teachers at the American Institute for Economic Research

A STEM symposium

A conference of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

A conference of the International Society of Technology Educators.

Technology

- Acquired laptops for all faculty members and correlative software

Superintendent Search

- Retained New England School Development Council to conduct the successful search for a new superintendent for Mount Greylock, Lanesborough Elementary School, and Williamstown Elementary School

Williams College Fund for Mount Greylock Expenditures in 2014-15

Curriculum Development – \$23,342

This spending supported, among other initiatives, the offering of a regular course in technology/woodworking, short courses in wellness and in personal finance, an online course in AP environmental science, and artist/author residencies.

Professional Development - \$28,328

In addition to continuing assessment and development of the social studies department, the fund this year supported a variety of other professional development experiences, including participation in the annual conference of the International Society for Technology in Education, in AP summer institutes, a Spanish immersion program, and a writing program.

Academic Materials – \$23,244

The fund purchased texts and supplies for courses in anatomy, math, science, and social science.

Off-Campus Student Experiences - \$993

This spending enabled the Concert Band to perform “A Concert in the Trees” at a local adventure park, 9th-graders to see *Hamlet* at Shakespeare and Company, and the Tolkien class to see *The Hobbit* movie.

Technology – \$56,357

We acquired laptops for all faculty members, along with correlative software, as the first step toward developing a tech/learning center designed to support the teaching and learning of all faculty and students. We also purchased equipment for photography students.

Superintendent Search - \$19,860

To support community outreach and retention of the search firm New England School Development Council.

Total Expended in 2014-15 - \$152,124