

# The Fuzzy Cheesecake

FOP's Annual Report and Community Newsletter



Volume 6: December MMXI

www.harvardfop.com

## GREETINGS FROM STEERING COMMITTEE 2012

Greetings! Steering Committee 2012 is pleased to present this year's edition of the Fuzzy Cheesecake, FOP's annual report and newsletter. Inside, you'll find stories from FOP participants, FOP leaders, and parents of FOPpers, as well as a thought-provoking piece by Tom Dingman, Dean of Freshmen, on the ways in which FOP expresses the values that the university hopes to foster.

You will also find powerful reflections on the members of the FOP community who passed away this year. To conclude, we've included a summary of FOP's fundraising in the past year. We hope you'll read this year's issue cover-to-cover, or peruse it, or at least look at the pictures!

This year's Steering Committee (or, as we casually call ourselves, SC '12) formed in October, when we officially embarked on the traditional SC "Odyssey"—a weekend of camaraderie, reflection, and articulating collective goals.

This year's Odyssey was particularly outdoorsy: we spent the weekend backpacking on Mt. Cardigan in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

It was a chilly weekend, but Coz's delicious

backcountry cinnamon rolls kept us plenty warm (and very impressed). More importantly, the weekend allowed us to come together as an cohesive and effective group that will work together in the coming year to realize a shared vision for our program.

FOP is a program that really works. Our first and foremost goal as FOP's Steering Committee for 2012 is to make sure that next year's FOP trips are as successful as this year's were.

A lot of work goes into running FOP throughout the year—from updating our equipment to improving FOP's financial aid program to selecting and training a new class of FOP leaders.

That said, the men and women of SC '12 are dreamers: we want to take a fantastic program and make it even more effective. Among other things, SC '12 is intent on enriching FOP's Service curriculum—not only improving FOP's Service trips, but also finding ways to bring the ethic of service and the teambuilding experience of service work to every area of FOP's activities.

We're also interested in enriching the FOP experience for leaders by providing contin-

ued leadership development opportunities throughout the year for all FOP leaders, the old and grizzled as well as the young and fresh. All these projects will require a lot of work, but we couldn't be more excited to tackle them!

Finally, we want to offer a huge thank-you to all of you who have given such support and dedication to this program.

Whether you went on FOP, led FOP, entrusted us with your child for five days in the woods, or supported all our activities with your your kindness and generosity, we want you to know that the program could never be where it is today without your help.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and we trust that we speak for everyone to whom FOP has given such joy and opportunity.

You are a part of the FOP family, and we hope to continue sharing with you in love for the outdoors, personal growth, and always, adventure.

"For going out, I found, was really going in."

- John Muir



### SC '12:

Xanthia Tucker, Ammar Joudeh, Coz Teplitz, Devon Newhouse, Marjorie Gullick, Jono Rosenthal, Lizzie Thompson



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# About FOP

## THE HISTORY

FOP was developed in 1979 by the Dean to provide students with a stronger support network upon entrance to college. FOP is the oldest and largest pre-orientation program for freshmen at Harvard. Every year, FOP sends approximately 18% of the incoming first-years on six-day backpacking, canoeing, and camping trips at the beginning of the school year. Since 1979, over 6000 students have begun their Harvard experience by living with 8-10 peers in the backcountry, under the leadership of 2-3 trained upperclassmen leaders. FOP is one of only 46 AEE-Accredited Programs in North America, such as the National Outdoor Leadership School and Outward Bound.

## THE MISSION

To provide group adventure-based experiences that promote the development of social support and self-awareness for first-year students and leadership development for members of the Harvard community.

## THE VALUES

- Compassion
- Responsibility to community
- Care and responsibility to the environment
- The equality and intrinsic worth of all people regardless of gender, age, race, sexual orientation, religion, ethnic or socio-economic background

## THE RESEARCH

1. FOP is the most successful Harvard pre-orientation program in providing social support networks to first year students.<sup>1</sup>
2. The first six weeks of college are highly significant in adjusting to college life.<sup>2</sup>
3. Students indicate that involvement in a pre-orientation program significantly improved introductions to Harvard.<sup>3</sup>
4. College outdoor pre-orientation experiences are correlated with higher academic achievement throughout college.<sup>4</sup>

## WHY WE FUNDRAISE

The First-Year Outdoor Program endeavors to provide financial aid and gear to anyone who needs it in an effort to minimize and ultimately to eliminate any financial barriers that might prevent students from participating in the program. Your donation will help us reach this goal.



## THE WEEK:

3 States

5 Nights Under the Stars

35 Trips

80 Leaders, 1 Director

287 First Years

4187 Tortillas

Countless Memories

**GIVE TO FOP!  
DONATE  
TODAY!**

1. Bell, Brent J. (2006). "Wilderness Orientation: Exploring the Relationship Between College Preorientation Programs and Social Support." *Journal of Experiential Education*, 29(2), 145-167.
2. Baker, R. W., & Stryk, B. (1984). "Measuring adjustment to college." *Journal of Counseling Psychology*. 31, 179-189
3. Report of the Freshman Orientation Advisory Committee. (June 2005). P. 7 & Appendix C.
4. Gass, M.A. (1987). "The Effects of a Wilderness Orientation Program on College Students. *Journal of Experiential Education*, 10(2), 30-33.

## The Tradition of Fuzzy Cheesecake

Alexander Spencer, FOPper 2011

Some may find it hard to fathom that that I have difficulty thinking back to my pre-FOP self. Perhaps it is because I had never camped out before, or never been out of contact with close family or life long friends, or unable to technologically connect with the world for so long but FOP was a deeply transformational journey that can best be described, summarized and translated as Fuzzy Cheesecake.

The image that immediately brings to mind is somewhat revolting, but nothing could be farther from the truth.

But let me start at the beginning! FOP was a life-changer, far more so than I expected it to be. Who would have ever suspected (I for one wouldn't have), that trudging through the woods with fifty pounds of survival gear packed onto my back—and yes somehow I was assigned the largest pot to carry—would be the key to making college dorm living seem like 5-star hotel accommodations?

At FOP you get to know what really matters in life pretty darn fast. Cold is very cold, rain is very wet and colder than cold, rocky ground is also cold and uncomfortable, the darkness in the woods at night is like nothing you have ever experienced, trash barrels are without a doubt man's greatest invention, except for perhaps bathrooms, and "fopping" around in the woods of Vermont with eight complete strangers can be absolutely, overwhelmingly exhilarating.

I'm one of those people who believes

that Purell antiseptics to be a gift from God that can, and should, be liberally applied at each and every encounter with potential microbes. Well, FOP changes that deeply-held belief pretty quickly.

I learned, not as fast as my fellow FOPpers, that what doesn't kill you actually does make you stronger! At FOP you do what has to be done.

Our outdoor service mission was as back-breaking as it was fulfilling. Who would have realized that carrying wood up a mountain could be tortuously fun? You learn to rely on each other and the friendships and camaraderie that is formed is elemental.

So what exactly is FUZZY Cheesecake? It's a FOP tradition.

As a matter of fact everything that happens at FOP eventually becomes a tradition and a special memory. I'll be honest and simply say that FUZZY Cheesecake is a secret recipe, it is doubtful that anyone except seasoned FOPpers have any inkling as to the actual ingredients. Suffice it to say if cheesecake was in there somewhere, but it was unrec-

ognizable as such, having been made in a Nalgene bottle and served from someone's bowl!

Anyway, it's not the cheesecake that really matters, but the ceremony that accompanies it.

Foppers all get speak about every-

one else as they consume the communal cheesecake, relating what they saw change in a person during the FOP, what they liked about their fellow travelers and what the experience meant to them. The First-Year Outdoor Program cannot merely be explained, it must be experienced. So in another immortal FOP tradition I shall now end and LNT.

## A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Jennifer V. Edwards-Nixon & Jude V. Nixon

Our son Jeremy participated in the fall 2011 FOP. When he got word of the program, it was really a "no-brainer"—he quite simply knew he had to participate. Not only was Jeremy excited about arriving on campus early and getting a leg-up on other freshmen and on the adjustment process, but most of all he was dying to meet some of his Harvard 2015 classmates with whom he will be spending what we as parents see as the most important four years of one's life.

We recall the excitement of shopping for FOP. Who knew that Target carried bandanas (we had never purchased any, and did not quite know where such items might be found)—but there they were! And how would they be used? Why three? And then what light of lantern should we buy? We settled on an attractive headlamp. Armed with his gear, a broad smile, and uncontained excitement, Jeremy headed off to FOP.

The hardest thing for us as parents was not hearing from him during the entire time. We knew he would survive, but this did not diminish our nervousness—after all, even though the outdoors are familiar to him, this was a new experience with people he had never met and a place he had never visited. But Jeremy had a great experience, returned safely, and enjoyed the opportunity to check in, pick up his keys, and spend his first night on campus as a Harvard student. During move-in day we recovered his soiled clothes, found what we thought had been left in the wilderness hidden in odd places among his messy clothing, and did some laundering to help resuscitate them.

But by far the most important thing to us was watching Jeremy connect in the days following FOP with people whom to us were virtual strangers. It appeared to us as though everyone on campus knew him, and he was on campus for only a week. Walking around the Yard and around town on move-in day and even later, Jeremy would greet or be greeted by other students as though they had always known each other. So we would ask him, "Who is that?" And the answer was always, "She/he was an FOP mate."

From Jeremy's point of view, Harvard's outdoor program is foremost a powerful and intense bonding experience that turns strangers freshmen into deep friends, relationships that are otherwise difficult to form in everyday life. Its experiences are a physical and social test through which one emerges with a sense of personal empowerment and mutual camaraderie.





## THE MAGIC OF FOP

Andrew Seo '13, FOP Leader

It was a mix of nerves and excitement that I had not felt since the start of college one year ago—a sensation that did not abate until I pulled the last of FOP 15's packs from the bus. I took a look around, at my FOPers, my co-leader, the trail up ahead. I was waiting for this moment the entire summer; I was finally ready.

Our trip was immediately put to the test: nearly 2,000 feet up in 1.5 miles, next to a waterfall, on a trail fitted with wooden steps and handrails. But the challenge was brilliantly met by eight freshmen with infectious personalities and unbounded enthusiasm.

Even though one of the FOPer's boots ripped at the sole, we had conquered our first test with relative ease.

We were met with innumerable challenges over the next few days, but we never relented—just like that first day on Beaver Brook Trail.

*"Being able to lead is a privilege, building strong relationships is a rewarding challenge, and having fun comes naturally. This is the definition of community."*

The unquestionable highlight of the trip was when we all decided to emerge from our sleeping bags one evening, actually forgo sleep, and head down to Gordon Pond.

It was a view unlike any I have ever seen before—the stars, the silence, the splendor of it all. I will never forget that night out on Gordon Pond.

From laughing at our unique sense of humor to telling interesting life stories, we were able to establish our own tightknit community out there in the woods.

It made me feel comfortable with the group, leading, and the trip. While FOP teaches you to push your boundaries and challenge yourself, having that sense of closeness was special.

Leading FOP for the first time was an experience unlike any other. And I have my trip, my co-leader, and the greater FOP program to thank.

Being able to lead is a privilege, building strong relationships is a rewarding challenge, and having fun comes naturally. This is the definition of community.

## Eight Lessons from Being a FOP Leader that You Should Keep in the Real World.

Robert Long '11, Leader Alum

1. *Leading FOP is great practice for raising kids.*

Okay, so at this point I can't possibly know if this is true. But I imagine it is—both parenthood and FOP leadership entail bringing vulnerable human beings into a new environment.

You don't get too much time to yourself because you are always on duty; frequent check-ins and good communication with your co-leader are vital; First Aid training comes in handy.

Also, you teach people a new way of pooping—although in parenthood, you teach people how to poop in toilets, and in FOP you teach them how not to.

2. *Organize your stuff.*

I mean actually organize it. In a helpful way. Not like the Leader Handbook's table of contents and index.

3. *Duct tape solves any problem.*

It is not limited to just covering blisters and p-tarp holes. Sometimes I use it as underwear. Seriously.

4. *Try to live up to your FOPpers' expectations.*

Let's face it: sometimes it's really hard to hold it all together. At times like this, it's helpful to think: well, if I really screw up, I might disappoint a FOPper who sees me as a role model.

This may or may not be the case. Would it have affected any of my FOPpers if I didn't finish my thesis?

Probably not (does anyone's thesis affect anything, ever?).

But I told myself that I would let down my FOPpers if I quit, and that got me through a lot.

5. *Outside of FOP, it is considered rude to talk about/during your bowel movements.*

Just a heads up. We all wish the FOP world could be the real world.

6. *The world needs more Fuzzy*

*Cheesecake.*

For reasons unknown, it is socially unacceptable to straight-up tell people what you admire about them. (Former anthro concentrators, please take a break from your job at an interfaith environmental non-profit and let me know if this varies across cultures).

Have you ever told your roommate David Johnson '11, "David Robert Johnson, you're one of the most interesting people I've ever met—you combine an enormous amount of knowledge of philosophy and music with an incredible work ethic and a charming Minnesotan humility. You are sexy." I haven't. And I probably won't, unless we eat Fuzzy Cheesecake together.

Fuzzy Cheesecake is one of the few times I've openly told someone how much I like him, and why. The world needs more moments like that.

7. *The ladies love a man in FOP flannel.*

Just a heads up.

8. *You have a lot going for you.*

I trained to be a FOP leader at the end of my sophomore year, at a time when I had managed to forget a lot of good things about myself. FOP reminded me of them.

My training trip was an encouraging, restorative experience—a challenge that allowed me to prove myself to myself.

The second half of my college experience was much better than the first, and I don't think that's a coincidence. Harvard can stomp a lot of confidence out of you. FOP can give it back.

FOP is hands-down the most supportive, joyful community at Harvard.

Sure, sometimes FOP leaders are so indefatigably enthusiastic they make Pats fans in Foxborough look staid.

But I wouldn't trade it for the world.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear FOP Community,

While celebrating our community, we must also pause to remember two FOP leader alums that passed away in the last year. It is always painful to lose loved ones so young. Recounting stories helps us to remember the impact these individuals had on our lives.

Friends, family, and loved ones have sent in notes recalling these two wonderful people; here are some selected remembrances.

### Evan North '05

Our trip was one for the ages. Starting our first day of hiking several hours late, trying to make camp in the dark, poor Emily getting hiked out, having an old trail map that marked a trail that no longer existed, suffering through wasp stings, bivouacking and trespassing in a park the final night, dodging poison ivy by the road - and our FOPpers all being such amazing sports! I kept worrying about these mishaps and, even though we were in the midst of setting what seemed like a record for most mishaps in a FOP trip in recent memory, Evan just laughed and kept it cool. He talked me down like four times with that beautiful smile on his face! It still makes me laugh. He just embraced me and all the bumps along the way, always giving off good energy day or night.

There are many special people in the world, but few who are truly good to the core. Evan was good to the core of his being. He was also funny, light-hearted, serious about all the right things, responsible yet a little mischievous, a wonderful co-conspirator, and truly kind. For eight years now, Evan has been informing the way I carry myself during times of stress, responsibility, leadership, and adventure.

I am so grateful that he has been there helping me, and doubtlessly many who knew him, to be lighter, kinder, better. I'm betting he'll stay with us, so indelible is the mark that his beautiful nature made on people.

Thanks, Evan. You are so loved.

- Ellie Humphries '04, co-leader



### Erin Aylward '04

In college, we spent our days worrying about the next paper and the next final, writing and rewriting, proving and reproofing. Now we spent our days consumed by our careers and the next item on the never-ending to do list. But in the brief flash of light, of time, that we each experience as our life, there are only a few things in the end that truly matter. To have lived passionately. To have changed the world around us. To have expanded the ideas we hold in our consciousness. To have pursued knowledge, both personal and collective.

To have shaped the lives around our own, to have given back to our communities. To have loved and been loved.

In the time that Erin was with us, she managed to accomplish all of these things with grace. She lived passionately, hiking, running, biking, and swimming. She expanded the knowledge of her field each day at work, while also continually yearning to expand her own knowledge. She was loved and supported by her family. She met her husband and her partner, whom she loved and was loved by deeply. And she shared her life with all of us, making each of our lives richer for it.

- Whitney Harrington '04, roommate and fellow FOP leader

*In memorial to these lost leaders, friends provided two complete scholarships to FOP for incoming students this past August.*

The many remembrances that poured into FOP after the deaths of Erin and Evan reminded me that FOP is more than a fun experience; it can

be profoundly meaningful in the lives of both FOPpers and leaders. Over the last year, we have sought to better understand why this is - and how, if at all, we can bring meaningful experiences to more people more often.

Unsurprisingly, this search led to more questions than answers: How do we define "meaningful"? What are students' expectations about FOP? Would advocating for meaning-making be



seen as promoting a set of values? Yet among these questions, one theme emerged: meaningful experiences are often those that encourage consideration of identity and values. This is very much in line with the modern concept of college as a time of self-discovery. It is also consistent with FOP's mission statement, which states that our programming is designed to "promote social support and self awareness" for students.

Over the last year, therefore, we have begun experimenting with programming that engages students in larger questions of identity and values. In addition to the fun and friendships that are already part of FOP, we've been striving to include some opportunities for self-reflection. Rather than just describing *what* Harvard is like, we want FOP to be a place where first-years consider what they *want* their Harvard experience to be like.

The specific initiatives we are pursuing are ongoing. We've placed an increased focus on curriculum development in our leader training. We are developing our service program, using service as a way to encourage discussions about values. We are also working with the Freshman Dean's Office to find ways to bring elements of their excellent *Reflecting on Your Life* program to FOP. Most importantly, though, we are keeping our ears open - to students past and present, to parents, to leaders - about why FOP was significant in their lives and how we can continue to improve. To that end, we welcome your thoughts - just send us an email at [fop@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:fop@fas.harvard.edu). What can FOP do to help new students get the most from their Harvard experiences?

As we ponder this question, let's also take a moment to appreciate the others in our lives. Erin's and Evan's untimely passing can help remind us that, as we all search for meaning in our lives, the relationships around us fill that search with warmth, laughter, support, and friendship. And, in the FOP context, maybe a few smelly hugs.

Very sincerely,

Coz

## THE STAYING POWER OF FOP

*Thomas Dingman, Dean of Freshmen*

Those of you who are currently part of Harvard's First-Year Outdoor Program will, no doubt, recognize the renewed attention in the Freshman Dean's Office to the moral development of our students. At a retreat for the senior staff of the FDO in the summer of 2010, we concurred that graduating from Harvard should mean more than passing 32 half-courses and completing other academic requirements. It should also, we emphasized, mean learning to live in community and to treat others with civility and respect.

As we thought about what we do in this regard, we were reminded of the late Reverend Peter Gomes's essay "Affirmation and Adaptation: Values and the Elite Residential Colleges" that first appeared in the winter 1999 issue of *Daedalus*, with its conclusion:

"Contrary to certain libertarian views of the college as a value-free arboretum for private individual development, the liberal arts college must be prepared to reassume its responsibility for helping to shape values, recognizing that while moral education has as its objective the development of morally responsible citizens and individuals, moral education is too important an institutional and societal value to be left in its entirety to individual and private cultivation."

Our conversations in the past with freshmen centered, we felt, too exclusively on rules, like not submitting the same paper to two courses without prior permission, and less on institutional values. We wanted to elevate the conversation and broaden our approach.

Toward this end, we embarked on several initiatives. As Dean, I wrote to members of the class about their responsibilities as citizens and compassionate colleagues (one example: "Bad Officials are Elected by Good Citizens Who Do Not Vote"). We asked faculty guests at small luncheons in the dean's residence to talk about an ethical topic (e.g. Professor Howard Gardner asked the students: "Should we study intelligence by group [i.e. gender, race, ethnicity]? And, if so, what should we do with the findings?").

We established a committee to explore ways to make further headway; we gave new emphasis to the proctor-led exercises at the start of the year regarding community living scenarios; we supported the Leadership Working Group in offering the first-ever First-Year Leadership Initiative (FLI) during the inaugural Optional Winter Activities Week; and we again extended invita-

tions to the class to participate in the Reflecting on Your Life series.

Finally, the committee that was focused on this effort discussed ways to make the institution's values clearer. We decided to write a statement that would become the basis for early entryway discussions. In this first year of offering a "pledge" for students to sign, we did not manage to execute this idea perfectly; we recognized and addressed concerns around privacy and perceived but certainly unintended pressure to sign the document.

Ultimately, however, the pledge language was hung in each entryway as planned, serving, we hoped, as a reminder of the values we cherish and which, when honored, allow our community to flourish.

It is interesting to note that FOP all along has been explicit in stating what it stands for. The Leader Handbook contains the following language:

FOP maintains as central values: compassion, the equality and intrinsic worth of all people, responsibility to community, and care and responsibility for the environment.

For years, we have been impressed by FOP's interest in promoting the development of social support and self-awareness for first-year students. While the program has expected students to grow as individuals, it has properly focused as well on the group, and what individuals can do to ensure that their peers are able to thrive.

Our hope is that as refinements are made to the traditional backpacking trips, switch trips, and service trips (FOP is legendary for its self-scrutiny!), the values orientation will be preeminent and will remind the rest of the College of the opportunities that exist for moral education.

## FOP LEADERS IN THE FRONT COUNTRY

*Janie D'Ambrosia '12, FOP Leader*

I was sitting at Café Gato Rojo on a cold, November day, thawing out with a teapot of Jade Oolong, when I was engulfed in a green flannel hug. I shouldn't have been surprised. A survey of the Gato pre-hug had revealed Lizzie Thompson, lounging in a red loveseat a book and big cup of coffee, Noah Madoff, typing steadily away next to a mound of notes and dense-looking reading, and Coz, chatting happily with two friends.

My mystery greeter, however, was none of these three, but Jono Rosenthal, fellow Petsie Pie regular and member of the new Steering Committee. He asked me if I, a four time trip leader and fifth year senior, would write a piece

about what FOP meant to me. I hesitated. But before I could refuse, I looked around the Gato and realized that the answer, or the first part of it at least, was sitting right in the café with me.

Although there are only a handful of FOP leaders in each class, to me, they have come to represent the entire student body. I remember talking to a friend last year who admitted to feeling disconnected from students outside of her immediate friends. I couldn't have disagreed more. Having met so many vibrant, stimulating FOP leaders, I felt that rather than a lack of people at Harvard who captured my interest, there were far too many. How could I—already strapped for time—hope to get to know them all?

FOP, however, isn't simply a collection of cool, fun, interesting people, but a series of intense experiences that have made me feel some of the strongest emotions of my life. When I think of "exhilaration," the memory of plunging into an icy lake with a few daring FOPpers before breakfast immediately comes to mind.

Similarly, I associate "relief" with the feeling, not of handing in a term project or paper during reading period, but of reaching the shelter of an AMC hut after descending from Mount Washington, soaked to the bone, in rain, sleet, and pitch darkness. "Camaraderie" is inextricably linked to the image of two of my FOPpers helping a third, who had sprained his ankle in Maahoosuc Notch, not only find the easiest route through the boulders, but also keep his spirits up with stories and banter.

Together, the people I have met through FOP and the experiences I have had with them have helped me feel useful and appreciated, that I have in some way been able to give back to a place that had provided me with so much, and that this contribution—both to school and community—has not been overlooked.

While many leaders talk about the supportive aspect of FOP, it is mostly in the context of the leader community. That my fellow leaders are among the most caring, compassionate people on campus cannot be disputed; I would also, however, include my FOPpers in that group as well.

I have always felt that the love and support I gave my FOPpers was wholly reciprocated. While the most obvious manifestation of that appreciation was Fuzzy Cheesecake, it was also apparent in their desire to continue sharing with me back at school.

In other words, their affection and appreciation has helped me grow and flourish as much as, if not more than, mine has, them.

# FOP Fundraising 2011-2012

To everyone who donated last year:

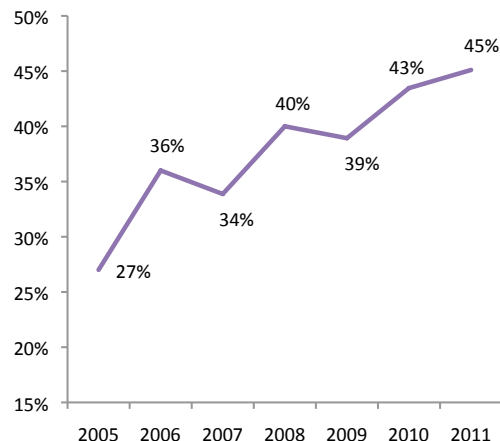
## THANK YOU!

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our donors - those who gave \$5 and those who gave much more. Together, you provided financial aid for **a record 129 FOPpers**.

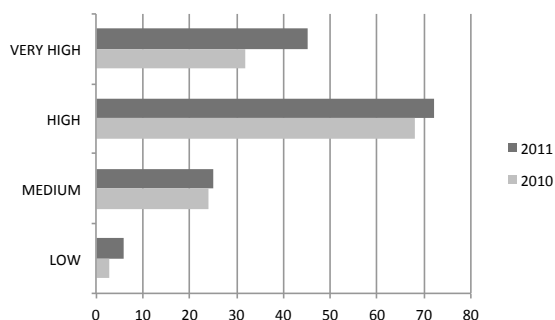
**If you gave last year, please consider giving again.** We rely on your support to provide a smooth transition to college for students who would not otherwise be able to afford FOP.

**If you have not given before, we invite you** to get more involved. The money we raise is used in two ways: (1) to provide direct financial aid for FOP, and (2) to buy more rental gear - which means less expensive equipment for incoming FOPpers and their families to buy. So you know that your gift will be appreciated - and will help make Harvard a more welcoming place.

% of FOPpers Receiving Financial Aid from FOP



## We use 100% of the money we raise to reduce the financial burden of FOP for incoming students.



# of FOPpers receiving FOP aid by assessed level of need, 2010 - 2011

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of parents, alumni, and other community members, we have been making steady progress toward **our goal of making FOP available to any interested student**. We are also aware that we have a long way to go. Before 2011, for example, the percentage of FOPpers requesting financial aid from FOP was chronically lower than the percentage of FOPpers receiving financial aid from the college. In the interest of encouraging students to apply for aid if they needed it, this year we changed the default in our application: now, if a FOPper is applying for aid from the College, she will *automatically* be considered for aid from FOP unless she selects otherwise\*.

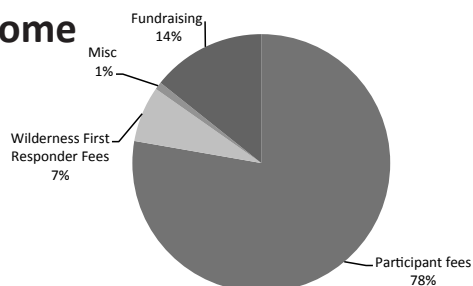
This simple change led to an expected increase in applications for aid from FOP. Interestingly, **most new aid applicants had "high" or "very high" levels of need** as assessed by the Financial Aid Office. The change seems to have encouraged aid applications from the students who would most benefit from receiving aid.

The change in our application appears to have been effective: now, FOPpers with need who had not been previously asking for help are receiving financial aid from FOP. However, we are now providing aid to more students, meaning that the average size of aid awards has decreased. **We need your help to continue making progress.** Your donation will allow us to meet the need of these students - to help us make FOP an option to any interested student!

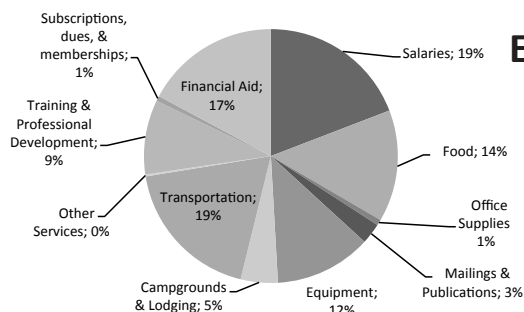
\*A wide body of research documents the power of default options. Curious? Read *Nudge* by Richard Thaler & Cass Sunstein!

## FOP Financials FY11

### Income



### Expenses



Fiscal year runs 7/01/2010 - 6/30/2011



# FOP Supporters FY11

Thank You to all of our Donors!

## FOP SUMMIT TEAM (\$500 AND UP)

JoAnn & Walter Beh  
Brown Foundation  
Drs. Karen & Rees Cosgrove  
Ginny & Sean Day  
Amy Justice  
Alex Livingstone  
Stan Marek  
Mary McCarthy  
John & Maria Psomiades  
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