



Sabbatical Activity and Accomplishment Report 2016-2017

Office of the Provost | State University of New York at Fredonia

Message from the Provost

I am pleased to present this report of faculty sabbatical activity during the 2016-2017 academic year. The breadth of faculty research, scholarship, and creative activity across the disciplines is impressive. Fredonia recognizes the importance of providing faculty with opportunities to take time away from teaching and service for focused and concentrated work in the field, work that benefits not only the academic community but the students who study with these faculty. The work presented here will have a lasting impact beyond what may be easily measured. I am grateful to these faculty for their hard work and their willingness to share their accomplishments in these pages.

Terry Brown, Ph.D.

*Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs*



Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Moroccan Woman in France

Dr. Najia Aarim's work covers the evolving status of Muslim minorities in France in the past 60 years. However, because many of the early North African immigrants are getting old and dying by the day, she has spent much time lately recording the story of one of these early immigrants—Rabha El Khalssi. During Dr. Aarim's sabbatical, she worked to complete the scholarly edition of Mrs. El Khalssi's memoir. This memoir will contribute to the historiography of 20th century international migration by inflecting ways of understanding immigration, ethnicity and transnationalism and capture, in one personal story, new ways of understanding how individuals have imagined, constructed and lived em/immigration. This memoir will offer a full statement of Mrs. El Khalssi's life from her childhood in Morocco in the 1940s and 1950s to her present circumstances as a grandmother with dual nationality (French and Moroccan), who is involved in a series of transnational activities. Her narrative is at once singular and representative of all who have lived in circumstances similar to hers, but whose stories will go unrecorded and lost to history. Once fully edited, this memoir will be more than the life story of a pioneer Moroccan woman who immigrated to France in the early 1960s. It will be a unique contribution to the study of post-World War II immigration in France.

The fact that the subject of the memoir is a woman will also serve to question some of the gendered assumptions of migration studies. The significance of this project lies in the fact that very few book-length autobiographies or biographies of first-generation Arab/North African immigrants, especially women, have been published.

Completion of this project will advance the scholarly mission and vision of the State University of New York at Fredonia. At a time when international conflicts have had damaging impacts on the images and living conditions of Muslim populations at home and in the diaspora, there is great need for improving knowledge and understanding of the complexities of the experiences of diasporic Muslims.

Dr. Aarim's work will expand her teaching as well, as she plans to offer a seminar course in comparative immigration in the United States and France and develop a study-abroad course, "Multicultural Paris: Blanc, Black, Beur (White, Black, Arab)."

As part of her research, Dr. Aarim closely read the 110-page transcript of Mrs. El Khalssi's interviews. Dr. Aarim identified areas in need of clarification from Mrs. El Khalssi, additional research, as well as editing for increased accessibility. Over the course of several weeks, Dr. Aarim visited with Ms. El Khalssi. This resulted in approximately 10 hours of interviews. During these

Najia Aarim, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, History



Rabha El Khalssi and Jelloul Aarim, Meknes, Morocco, 1961.

interviews, she solicited further autobiographical information concerning specific facts and events. Dr. Aarim transcribed the interviews that contained new information.

She then spent the next months working on augmenting annotations and a comprehensive introduction in an attempt to increase the readability for a non-French and non-Moroccan audience. Throughout this process, Dr. Aarim acquainted herself with vast amounts of literature regarding the craft of creative nonfiction, as well as of women's autobiographies.

At this point, Dr. Aarim has completed a thorough editing of the text. However, she has yet to have the opportunity to apply the theoretical and methodological frameworks that she has garnered from her research.

The sabbatical also afforded her time to develop a course titled "Islam, Immigration, and Integration in Modern France." The course was first taught in Fall 2017 as a History Department capstone seminar. She also discovered foundational sources needed to develop a more comprehensive course, entitled "Multicultural France: Blanc, Black, Beur (White, Black, Arab)."

*Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Moroccan
Woman in France*

Fall 2016

Teaching and Ecological Research in South India

Dr. William Brown received a Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award to engage in teaching and research at the Centre for Ecological Studies, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru, India. His research addressed the reproductive ecology of paleotropical tree crickets, and was carried out in collaboration with Dr. Rohini Balakrishnan at the Centre of Ecological Studies, IISc. They performed two experiments addressing the relationships between mate choice, acoustic communication, and nutritional status in the South Indian tree cricket where males provide a nuptial food gift to their mates. Dr. Balakrishnan and Dr. Brown are arguably the two leading experts on this study system, so this was a natural collaboration. Dr. Brown also collaborated particularly extensively with a doctoral student, Sambita Modak. Together, they collected relevant and publishable data from both experiments. These experiments will become chapters in Ms. Modak's Ph.D. dissertation which should lead to publications in their field. As she continues working on her doctorate, Ms. Modak will continue to collect data across future field seasons. Dr. Brown accomplished his object for the grant and together with Ms. Modak, they generated some very interesting results which they expect will be well received by their academic peers in a journal such as *Animal Behaviour*.

In addition to his research, Dr. Brown's teaching included a third-year undergraduate course entitled *Experiments in Ecology*, which he believed was a fantastic experience. He found that the undergraduates at IISc were extremely well prepared, very ambitious, and generally easy to teach. He had approximately the same class size as he was accustomed to for a course of similar nature in the United States. He was pleasantly surprised at how similar the format of instruction was to the system in the United States. The students were well prepared to engage in critical thinking exercises and inquiry-based learning. They were quick to engage in discussion of the material and quick to ask clarifying questions. He would also like to acknowledge that the support staff of TAs and lab technicians was far beyond anything he has experienced in the United States, and made teaching much easier. He also participated in designing and revising laboratory exercises that made use of the facilities and study systems available at IISc. In addition, he helped mentor graduate students at IISc, both formally as a collaborator, and informally as a regular participant in laboratory meetings and student research discussions.

In terms of the local customs and language, Dr. Brown learned a few pleasantries in the local language, Kannada, as well as a few words of Hindi. On a class field trip to Bhadra National Park, the cook volunteered to give him lessons in Kannada. However, because students at IISc come from across India, English is the common language of communication and it is easy to communicate in English in most places in Bangalore.

William Brown, Ph.D.

Professor, Biology



Dr. Brown (top row, third from the right) with ecology students at the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary in the Western Ghats mountains of southern India.

In addition to IISc, Dr. Brown was invited to speak at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS). He also gave a keynote talk at the meeting of the Bangalore Insect Group, which attracts scientists from institutions throughout Bangalore, including the National Centre for Biological Sciences and the Indian University of Agricultural Sciences. He also participated in the 2016 Student Conference on Conservation Science, which attracted students from Asia and Africa to Bangalore.

Publications and Presentations:

The Behavioural Ecology of Sexual Cannibalism in Praying Mantids. Brown, W.D., Bangalore Entomologists and Indian Institute of Science. 2016.

Nutrition-dependent Female Mating Strategies in the Tree Cricket, *Oecanthus henryi*. Modak S., Brown, W. D., Balakrishnan, R., 55th Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society, Milwaukee, WI, 2018.

Empowering Students in College Mathematics Courses via Blending Inquiry-Based Learning and the JUMP Math Approach

While on sabbatical, Dr. Jonathan Cox revised his course notes for Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) Geometry and prepared it for submission for publication in the Journal of Inquiry-Based Learning in Mathematics (JIBLM). He made tremendous progress on this project assessing it as successfully accomplished, and is both pleased with and excited about the resulting manuscript, titled "A Geometry Adventure in the Spirit of Euclid." Dr. Cox's approach is distinctive from those of the sets of geometry notes already available in its level, promoting the spirit of rigor exemplified in the axiomatic approach of Euclid's "Elements" while at the same time allowing some limited reasoning from diagrams as Euclid did. As part of his sabbatical, Dr. Cox prepared student and instructor versions, as well as a supplement with possible classroom activities and software assignments.

Dr. Cox also converted his University Calculus I course to a hybrid JUMP Math and IBL format as the second major project of his sabbatical. As part of this project, Dr. Cox felt he needed experience using the method in its existing context. To obtain this hands-on experience, Dr. Cox served as a mathematics tutor for Chautauqua Striders, a well-established provider of tutoring throughout the county. He tutored academically at-risk students at Dunkirk Middle School; this allowed him to work on the JUMP Math curriculum with the students and obtain a sense of how it is implemented and how effective it is in practice. Dr. Cox also developed other activities and strategies, and tutoring yielded a number of insights applicable to teaching at the college level. Dr. Cox determined what was most effective was having the students work on a carefully constructed sequence of problems and then present their solutions to an audience of their peers. The fact that even these struggling eighth graders were most engaged and made the most progress via this IBL format of explaining problem solutions to peers was a revelation, and Dr. Cox's conviction in the fundamental importance of student presentations was reinforced. In order to continue this style of effective tutoring for the students after his sabbatical ended, Dr. Cox created a tutoring internship through Striders for the spring semester. As a result, a Fredonia undergraduate student was placed in the internship at Dunkirk Middle School, continuing the work that Dr. Cox had started.

As a result of his success with student presentations as a pedagogical tool, Dr. Cox began to rework the Calculus I course to more prominently and pervasively feature presentations. Dr. Cox implemented IBL in Calculus I, continuing to modify and develop materials as he taught, using

Jonathan Cox, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Mathematical Sciences



them during the semester. Significantly, over 90 percent of course time was spent on student presentations and other student-driven activity. Modifying this course was important as one of the major goals of the Fredonia Department of Mathematical Sciences during 2016-2017 was to develop and implement measures to address the high failure/withdrawal rates in the University Calculus sequence. Dr. Cox will be able to compare the failure/withdrawal rates for the modified University Calculus I course against historical rates to determine if the new pedagogy is having an impact.

As a result of his sabbatical work, Dr. Cox arranged for two colleagues from Nazareth College to visit Fredonia in February 2018 to facilitate a presentation and discussion on IBL with Fredonia faculty members. Following this workshop, two of Dr. Cox's Fredonia colleagues have begun to incorporate IBL into Calculus classes. Dr. Cox reports that he has "become more comfortable with the tension between the IBL priorities and traditional expectations of teaching, with his new role in the classroom, with silence among the participants for contemplation, and with allowing students to struggle and come to their own conclusions."

Also during his sabbatical, Dr. Cox prepared an initial draft of IBL notes for the History of Mathematics course containing 179 problems in 58 pages. With extensive enhancement and revision, he used this set for teaching MATH 381 in Fall 2017.

*Empowering Students in College
Mathematics Courses via Blending
Inquiry-Based Learning and the JUMP
Math Approach*

Fall 2016

The Intersection of Theory and Practice

Dr. Teodora Cox's sabbatical focused on research, publications and revising her university course work. Dr. Cox used her sabbatical to familiarize herself with newer research and publications in mathematics education journals, especially the four National Council of Mathematics Teachers (NCTM) journals.

Her sabbatical resulted in five submissions to journals: "The Name Game," submitted to the Postscript Department of Teaching Children Mathematics (NCTM), focused on an activity that Dr. Cox uses in her Reading and Writing Mathematics course to help students find creative ways to teach and review mathematics vocabulary; and two submissions were made to the Palette of Problems Department of NCTM; and Dr. Cox worked closely with one of Fredonia's pre-service teachers to develop thematic problems for student in grades K-2, 3-4, and 5-6, which they submitted to the Math By The Month Department of NCTM. Other manuscripts in progress include "Child Sacrifice: A Closer Look at Mathematics Education" and "Spiraling Into Math: Exploring Arithmetic and Algebraic Patterns."

While on sabbatical, Dr. Cox also attended an on-campus workshop on Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL). Dr. Cox implemented materials learned at this workshop into her MATH 122: University Calculus I course and plans to revise other courses in the IBL format in the near future

In April 2016, Dr. Cox was named editor of the New York State Mathematics Journal (NYSMTJ), which has been in publication for 67 years.

Teodora Cox, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Mathematical Sciences



Genetic Analysis of *gurken* Translational Control in *Drosophila*

Dr. Scott Ferguson's sabbatical was spent concentrating on research in his laboratory. Dr. Ferguson's research is focused on the regulation of a growth factor involved in fruit fly development called Gurken. The human homologue of this gene is produced at high levels in many types of cancer. Dr. Ferguson has found that Gurken can be produced using an atypical mechanism called internal ribosome entry site (IRES) translation. During his sabbatical, Dr. Ferguson generated a panel of 15 tiled 25 base deletions of the *gurken* 5' untranslated region (UTR; a regulatory portion of the gene). These mutations were made to test whether they affect the *gurken* IRES activity. To do this, he fused the UTR to the luciferase reporter gene from fireflies. This hybrid gene has the benefit of being subject to the physiological conditions in the fly, yet retaining the quantitative features of an *in vitro* assay that they developed in Dr. Ferguson's lab. In collaboration with Fredonia student Josh Blundon, they generated a fly that contains a normalization reporter (positive control) integrated into the fly genome. A second site called *attP40* has been recombined with the normalization reporter to facilitate targeted integration of firefly reporters without fear of position effects confounding the results. The mutant *grk* UTR-luciferase fusions were cloned by Gibson assembly into a version of the *pattB* vector that was developed in the lab which drives expression of the reporter with the *grk* promoter when integrated at the *attP40* site in the genome. These mutants have been cloned and sequenced. Dr. Ferguson and Mr. Blundon are currently injecting these constructs into fly embryos in order to develop stable transgenics that can be tested for IRES activity when fed diets containing normal yeast (control) or yeast containing 5 mM rapamycin (IRES activity only). By identifying mutants that can no longer support IRES translation, they will be able to identify which structures are important for this function.

Dr. Ferguson and his lab also made significant progress on identifying novel mutations that affect *gurken* translation. These mutations were generated by random chemical mutagenesis. Each chromosome contains one mutation that affects translation, but an average of ~400 bystander mutations that confound the analysis. To solve this challenge and identify the causative mutation, Dr. Ferguson generated several recombinant chromosomes by outcrossing the mutants to a wild type line. These recombinants were then sequenced at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center to determine which of the original mutations remained. These data were combined with analysis of the effect on *gurken* translation. Using this approach, Dr. Ferguson and his students have narrowed the list of potentially involved genes to alpha-Est6, *ird1*, and CG33110 for the

Scott Ferguson, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Biology



CA121 mutant line and Lerp, Gr97a, or RYa-R for the CA231 mutant line. This is the culmination of approximately five years of research. Future research plans include identifying the mechanism by which these genes may affect translation control of *gurken*.

Dr. Ferguson also attended the Annual Drosophila Research Conference in San Diego, Calif., where he and 5 Fredonia students presented two platform talks and two poster presentations. Dr. Ferguson also presented one of five talks in the “Integrating Research and Teaching at PUIs using *Drosophila melanogaster* as a model organism” workshop. The talks were followed by breakout group discussions designed to help new faculty adapt their research programs to the courses that they teach.

Publications and Presentations:

Ferguson, S.B. (2017) “Integrating research and teaching at PUIs using *Drosophila* as a model system.” Selected for a platform presentation at the 58th Annual Drosophila Research Conference in San Diego, CA.

Blundon, J., Guy, B., Tardibuono, A., Rodriguez, R., Emborski, C., Fountain, M. and Ferguson, S.B., (2017) “Structure-Function Analysis of *gurken* IRES Activity.” Selected for a platform presentation at the 58th Annual Drosophila Research Conference in San Diego, CA.

Jacobs, E.P., Mandriota, A.M., Hasper, J.W., and Ferguson, S.B. (2017) “Classic Meiotic Mapping Meets Illumina Sequencing to Identify New Regulators of *gurken* Translation.” Runner up for undergraduate poster award at the 58th Annual Drosophila Research Conference in San Diego, CA. First place poster award at Beta Beta Beta regional conference, Fredonia, NY.

Genetic Analysis of gurken Translational Control in Drosophila

Spring 2017

Chemical Signaling in Roundworms

Dr. Matthew Gronquist completed research and writing pertaining to the identification of novel chemical signals involved in the ecological interactions between the roundworm *Caenorhabditis elegans* and the predatory fungus *Arthrobotrys oligospora*. This work, carried out in collaboration with colleagues at Cornell University and the California Institute of Technology, has since been accepted and published in the journal *eLife*.

Dr. Gronquist also made continued progress towards the characterization of recently identified volatile chemicals which appear to be involved with mate attraction in at least two species of roundworm: *C. elegans* and *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*. Both species are ecologically and economically important, and understanding the chemical ecology of these, and related species, is of widespread interest. This work involved detailed chemical analysis in addition to chemical synthesis of candidate compounds, which he and his research students worked on during this time.

Also, an unexpected opportunity to attend a training course for the use of one of the mass-spectrometers, which was recently purchased, arose. For this he travelled to Ithaca and completed the three-day course from Nov. 15-17, 2016.

Publications:

"Nematophagous fungus *Arthrobotrys oligospora* mimics olfactory cues of sex and food to lure its nematode prey." (2017) Hsueh, Y. P., Gronquist, M. R., Schwarz, E. M., Nath, R. D., Lee, C. H., Gharib, S., Schroeder, F. C., and Sternberg, P. W. *eLife*, 6.

Matthew Gronquist,
Ph.D.

*Associate Professor, Chemistry and
Biochemistry*



The Economic and Social Impact of Investment in Small NGOs

Dr. Linda Hall's spring sabbatical revolved around a visit to India to meet with the leaders and experience first-hand the culture of the two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that she and some research colleagues have been working with—Nishtha and Sabuj Sangha. Dr. Hall also attended the WASH conference, an international forum of researchers focused on advancing women's empowerment and better water, sanitation, health for all. While these two NGOs take very different approaches to achieving women's empowerment, both stress education, first and foremost. Dr. Hall met with the directors of both NGOs together, to explore ways they can help each other by partnering in fundraising and training. Her research goal is to help each organization better measure the impact of their programs and to work closely with the details of the micro-lending co-operative to develop a case study that will help them and other similar organizations.

At the first NGO, Nishtha, Dr. Hall met with the director and toured the facilities. Through the U.S. foundation American Service to India, Dr. Hall spoke with teachers and discussed how to set up crowdfunding sites for donors. Dr. Hall viewed first-hand the trainings and programming that this NGO utilizes in larger cities and villages where language and illiteracy rates are hurdles. These tools included leadership and training skills programs, plays on topics such as disadvantages of early marriage and discussions on child marriage. In turn, Dr. Hall was able to participate in discussions about turning education into careers, and how the tools used by Nishtha could be effective in teaching basic financial literacy and to promoting education. Dr. Hall also visited a more remote village.

The second organization, Sabuj Sangha, was located in a very rural area in India. Dr. Hall also met with the director of that NGO and toured the facilities, including the micro-lending and savings facility (the subject of her case study). She learned about their information systems and operations, their infrastructure and capital, and plans for sustainability. Dr. Hall shared ideas about how to generate external impact investment, and discussed the possibilities of eventual government capital backing. She had the opportunity to review women-owned business ventures and met co-op members, teachers and school children to discuss their progress, issues, and needs. She spoke with young girls about what they wanted to do with their education and had the opportunity to tour women-run businesses including a bakery, farm, and hospital—all employing women who had participated in Sabuj Sangha's programs. This organization shared information with Dr. Hall on the before- and after- school programs for girls in public school, the

Linda Hall, Ph.D.

Professor, Business Administration



organization-run school where girls train to become teachers, the residence school for street boys, and a tourism venture for visitors. Dr. Hall's case study will focus on Sabuj Sangha' micro-lending co-op.

On a personal note, in honor of their own daughters, Dr. Hall and her husband sponsored the education of three young girls in India through the Nayantara Girl Child Sponsorship Program (<https://www.globalgiving.org>).

Publications and Presentations:

Hall, L., Bandyopadhyay, J., Bandyopadhyay, G., and Arun D. (January 4, 2017) Tenth Annual Global Water Alliance Conference, "Exploring the Impact of Investment in WASH and Women's Empowerment NGOs in West Bengal, India," Global Water Alliance and Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Kolkata, India.

Bandyopadhyay, J., Hall, L., and Bandyopadhyay, G. (2017) Measuring the Economic and Social Impact of Investment in Small NGOs in West Bengal, India. *Journal of Business, Economics and Technology*, 10-18. <http://www.nabet.us>

*The Economic and Social Impact of
Investment in Small NGOs*

Spring 2017

Never Was a Knight...

Joe Dan Harper's overarching goal for sabbatical was to rekindle his skill and profile as a performing artist, making him a better teacher, bringing positive attention to the university, and enhancing recruiting efforts within the School of Music. The artistic work and study undertaken during this time increased his confidence in skill as an artist and teacher. His profile as a performer has grown immensely, particularly in the world of contemporary music. Perhaps most importantly, he indicates that he has renewed enthusiasm for his craft and his work.

While on sabbatical Mr. Harper had formal lesson time and completed a peer-teaching observation with a renowned singer and voice faculty at the Juilliard School, who provided valuable perspective.

Mr. Harper performed a new recital program with Dr. Anne Kissel, the first as a guest artist at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, and then in Midland, Texas, presented by the Midland Opera Theater. Drawing on his vast experience in this realm, he and Dr. Kissel developed an innovative program of masterworks by an eclectic mix of composers; this same program will be performed at Fredonia.

Mr. Harper also worked with colleagues from the Fredonia School of Music to give the world premiere of composer Kurt Rohde's "Never was a knight...", a singspiel told in vignettes from Cervantes' "Don Quixote" for tenor and small ensemble. Commissioned with generous support from the Carnahan-Jackson foundation, the piece was repeated recently to sold-out audiences and critical acclaim in San Francisco. The preparation of this virtuosic and large-scale piece required intense focus, as well as many hours of uninterrupted practice time. Mr. Harper credits his sabbatical for preparing him for this, both technically and artistically.

During his sabbatical, Mr. Harper also spent time revising the graduate Diction course, and exploring other curricula—specifically that of College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. Mr. Harper is considering engaging in formal research to examine an emerging philosophical question around lyric diction for singers. That is, what is the practical necessity of young singers learning the details of creating phonetic transcriptions? Might they be better served by learning more quickly, and earlier in their development, to pronounce the sounds—to read and interpret—from published transcriptions. Mr. Harper spent time reading books, visiting a variety of New York City art galleries, attending operas at the Metropolitan Opera, and composing. He spent considerable time listening to new repertoire and attended the third annual New Music Gathering at Bowling Green State University. He currently has seven new music projects in various stages of

Joe Dan Harper, M.A.

Associate Professor, Music



development, and has laid the groundwork for the recording of numerous premiers he's given over the past 20 years.

Presentations:

Guest Artist Recital, Jan. 27, 2017

Dr. Anne Kissel and Mr. Joe Dan Harper performed a [full recital of songs](#).

Presented by Midland Opera Theater in the Wagner & Brown Auditorium at Midland College.
Midland, Texas

Guest Artist Recital, Jan. 29, 2017

Dr. Anne Kissel and Mr. Joe Dan Harper performed [a full recital of songs](#).

Presented by Texas Tech University School of Music in Hemmle Recital Hall.

Constellation Concert, Feb. 3, 2017

Dr. Anne Kissel and Mr. Joe Dan Harper performed songs by Wolf, Britten, Rachmaninoff, and Vaughan Williams as part of a [Faculty Constellation Concert](#).

Presented by the State University of New York at Fredonia School of Music in Rosch Recital Hall.
Fredonia, N.Y.

Kurt Rohde's "Death and a Knight" (*World Premiere*), April 28, 2017

Role of Don Quixote in Kurt Rohde's "Never Was A Knight...", a monodramatic adaptation of Miguel de Cervantes *El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha* (English translation by Edith Grossman). Commission of "[Never Was a Knight...](#)" was made possible by a grant from the Carnahan Jackson Humanities Fund at the State University of New York at Fredonia.

Presented by the State University of New York at Fredonia School of Music in Rosch Recital Hall.
Fredonia, N.Y.

Never Was a Knight.....

Spring 2017

Living the Victorian Life: Using Role-Immersion Pedagogy to Teach Victorian Literature and Culture

Dr. David Kaplin used his fall sabbatical to develop an original role-immersion game for his courses in British literature. The game requires students to engage with historical events and texts as if they themselves were living in those cultural moments. In preparation for his sabbatical, he attended two conferences offered by Barnard College's Reacting to the Past Consortium. During the first conference he participated in intensive workshops for game and assignment/assessment design, panels of current and past successful game creators, and small group discussions for new game planners. At the annual Game Development Conference, he participated in test runs of immersion games currently under development. This was to both experience potential game dynamics and to provide feedback. There, he presented an idea for a Victorian publishing game to more than 50 veteran and new game designers, and gathered substantive feedback. During his presentation, he received six offers from professors at other universities to test the game in their classes.

Since that time, he has researched the mechanics and politics of Victorian publishing, the lives and careers of canonical and less familiar authors of the 1840s to 1860s, and the influence wielded (and attempted) by various religious, domestic, economic, and political critics of that period. From this research, he has written more than 120 pages of player role sheets, which contain biographical information and "victory objectives" for each role inhabited by the students immersed in the game. He has also drafted the 26-page Game Book as well as Instructor Notes to share with other professors who consider incorporating this game into their courses.

In the fall of 2017, Dr. Kaplin incorporated the game into his course on Victorian Literature. Participation was highly active and, as the game progressed, students conducted independent research to further understand and develop not only their roles, but the roles of other participants. The written and performed assignments illustrated a connection to the material and the business of Victorian publishing that has not been seen in previous years.

He is excited to share this new game and the assessment of its initial success with the Reacting to the Past Consortium, and for his colleagues across the country to employ it in their classrooms and provide feedback. As others test it, and he revises it, the game will be included in the free library of role-immersion games at the Reacting to the Past web site. After revisions, the game will be reviewed by the scholars and game experts of the consortium (headquartered at Barnard

David Kaplin, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, English



College), and will move toward publication and sale through either W.W. Norton & Co., or the
Reacting Press, a division of the University of North Carolina Press.

*Living the Victorian Life: Using
Role-Immersion*

Fall 2016

Leaving/Cardiff: A Choreographic Exploration of Time, Place, and Change

Certain aspects of Associate Professor Samantha Kenney's original plan took a slightly different shape than was originally detailed. However, she is pleased to say that she has met or exceeded all of her goals for her sabbatical leave.

The largest part of her leave was spent as an Artist-In-Residence with Rubicon Dance of Cardiff, Wales. In the eight weeks that she spent with Rubicon, she had the privilege of working daily with a small group of pre-professional dancers who were preparing for their auditions for a variety of university programs. Their classes centered both on classical and contemporary technique, on developing individual perspective on movement, and drawing out the artistic voice unique to each student. Such intensive work resulted in astounding growth on the part of the students, and she is thrilled to say that all of those students were accepted to the University programs of their choice. In addition to teaching two or three classes per day at Rubicon, she also had the opportunity to give a series of master classes for the dance majors at Cardiff Metropolitan university, and for graduate students in Musical Theatre at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. All three are relationships that she hopes to continue and to develop in the coming years, as she believes there is great potential for both guest artist residencies and future study-abroad programs.

Part of Professor Kenney's seven-week residency at Rubicon Dance was dedicated to the creation of "Leaving," a 24-minute contemporary work staged for Rubicon dancers. While this was initially supposed to be a collaborative work undertaken with her creative partner, Terry Beck, he was unable to join her in Wales due to his commitment to the Hillman Opera. She, instead, made a stand-alone work that may serve as research for their proposed duet while their process continues. The work was premiered on Oct. 31, 2016, at the Penarth Pier in Penarth, Wales, and will remain in Rubicon's repertory for possible future performances. The work was presented alongside that of world-renowned choreographer Akram Khan. This was an enormous honor and one that Professor Kenney will not soon forget. Upon her return to Fredonia in January, "Leaving" was restaged for members of the Fredonia Dance Ensemble. This revision was pared down to 17 minutes, and reorganized to better suit the needs of a proscenium stage, rather than the more unconventional space used in Wales. This incarnation of the work was premiered during the Department of Theatre and Dance's annual Fredonia Dance Ensemble concert, April 28-30, 2017.

Lastly, in preparation for her new role as Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance, Professor Kenney attended the American Council on Education's Leadership Academy for Department Chairs

Samantha Kenney, M.F.A.

Associate Professor, Theatre and Dance



in Washington, D.C., and the National Association of Schools of Dance Workshop for New Dance Executives in Richmond, Va. She also attended several of Fredonia's Chair Development workshops. Her leadership development will continue in the 2017-2018 academic year with attendance at the National Association of Schools of Dance and the National Association of Schools of Theatre Workshops for New Executives (September 2017 and March 2018, respectively).

Performance:

World Premiere, October 31, 2016

"Leaving/Cardiff"

Presented by Rubicon Dance at Penarth Pier, Penarth Wales.

U.S. Premiere, April 28-30, 2017

"Leaving/Fredonia"

Presented by the Fredonia Dance Ensemble, State University of New York at Fredonia in Marvel Theatre. Fredonia, N.Y.



*Leaving/Cardiff: A Choreographic
Exploration of Time, Place, and Change*

Fall 2016

Manufactured Mythologies

Dr. Shannon McRae and her writing collaborator completed an introduction and fully-fleshed out proposal for “Fallen Angel.” She completed the chapter entitled “Barchair Tourism: Cocktail Culture and the Impassioned Object of Ideology,” which explores the American cocktail as a discursive intersection of religion, magic, racial fixation, desire, and consumption. For this, she traced the symbolic associations accreted around the 20th century cocktail back through a set of specific historical moments. Those include 17th century rum production in the West Indies, the 19th century medicine industry in the U.S., Prohibition during the 1920s, and the period before and after World War II. These moments suggest the sustained presence in American culture of a set of attitudes that preserve into modernity a mood and form of religious expression typically designated as primitive, atavistic, or outside the mainstream. While the racial fantasies that accreted around 20th century cocktail culture at first glance exemplify the primitivism Western thought typically projects onto non-Western peoples, she shows the extent to which an entwined set of attitudes preserve and continue into modernity a demonstrably pre-Enlightenment, European world view.

The chapter was successfully presented in February 2017 at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference in Albuquerque, N.M., and after some revisions, she plans to submit it for publication as a stand-alone article.

In early spring, she shifted her focus to “Manufactured Mythologies,” and began writing the chapter entitled “Out of the Woods and Into the Parks: White/Native Collaboration, Modern Spirituality, and Constructions of Authenticity.” This piece focuses on the collaborative relationship between Marion Gridley, daughter of a white, middle-class Chicago couple, who became a prolific author of children’s books about Indians as well as an Indian ally. It also focuses on Robinson Johnson, a Ho Chunk (Historically Winnebago) from Tomah, Wis., who “played Indian” for a living in various Chicago city parks and summer camps that catered to middle-class urban children. The couple’s most significant mutual accomplishment was establishing the Indian Hall of Honor at the 1934 Century of Progress Fair in Chicago. This was an exhibit of contemporary Indians and their accomplishments as professionals, athletes, artists and scholars; its intended purpose was to provide a sharp corrective to widespread representations of Indians as belonging to primitive, prehistoric America past. She presented a version of this chapter in February 2018 at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference in Albuquerque.

Exploring the educational collaborations and individual ventures of this lesser-known couple reveals fruitful tensions between Indian representation and self-representation, played out in

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popular culture at a historical moment of rapid modernization. A version of this chapter was presented to the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association conference in February 2018.

Dr. McRae's greatest achievement was receiving an offer of employment as an archivist from the Israelite House of David—one of the most important sites of her book research. Founded in Benton Harbor, Mich., in 1903, the House of David was notable for its many entertainment and business enterprises, including an amusement park, traveling bands, a famous baseball team, and various farming and industrial enterprises, which became the economic mainstay of Berrien County. In an article entitled "Eros and its Discontents: The Israelite House of David and Their Almost Eden" Dr. McRae published in the *American Communal Societies Quarterly* in 2008, she described the colony as noteworthy in its use of specifically modernist modes: mass media, jazz, and notions of glamour—as a method of religious recruitment, but also possibly as a core component of the religion itself. As this article is based on one of the chapters in "Manufactured Mythologies," the offer of employment was most opportune. She had access not only to publications but also to first-hand oral accounts, which, up until this point, were not entirely accessible by scholars. Access to this information opened up entirely new avenues of inquiry. Examining the editing history of the colony's foundational text, she discerned a pattern of collaboration turned into rivalry then finally enmity between the husband and wife team who founded the religious colony. Dr. McRae also discovered how the colony used their publications as a mode of social control and membership recruitment, and how various devices such as signature typefaces and uniquely symbolic iconography convey meaning. She published the results of this research in a special issue of *American Communal Societies Quarterly*, and presented related work at the annual meeting of the Communal Studies Association at Bishop Hill in October 2018.

Publications and Presentations:

"Barchair Tourism: Cocktail Culture and the Impassioned Object of Ideology. February 2017, Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference in Albuquerque, N.M.

"Out of the Woods and Into the Parks: White/Native Collaboration, Modern Spirituality, and Constructions of Authenticity." February 2018 , Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference in Albuquerque, N.M.

"Wandering Star: How the Israelite House of David Received their Sacred Text at the Side of the Road." October 2018, Communal Studies Association, Bishop Hill, IL.

"Descriptive Bibliography of Imprints in the House of David Collection" with Brian Ziebart. *American Communal Societies Quarterly*, 12: 3-4. Couper Press, Clinton NY.

The Bagmati River Art Project

During SUNY Distinguished Professor Mr. Alberto Rey's sabbatical, "The Bagmati River Art Project" exhibition, documentary and book were completed and presented at the Siddhartha Gallery in Kathmandu, Nepal. Each element of the project is available for viewing on the [project website](#). The presentation was successful, receiving significant attention from the residents and government. He was also able to work with local artists and faculty and students from Kathmandu University whose work was also included in the two-story gallery.

Professor Rey has continued to work closely with the Burchfield Penney Art Center at SUNY Buffalo State as they toured Professor Rey's exhibition, book, and documentary. Professor Rey wishes to acknowledge his close collaboration with colleague Jason Dilworth, who he indicates "brought new insight and energy to the project" and was also responsible for the design of the project's publication which was written in English and Nepali. Mr. Dilworth also designed Professor Rey's next book, "[Extinct Birds Project](#)" which was published in summer 2018. (www.extinctbirdsproject.com).

Professor Rey's experiences while working on these projects impact him, and he has used them to reflect on how these experiences could benefit his students and their perspectives on professional development and social justice. As a result, he revised his drawing and painting curricula to incorporate more readings on art activism and added a required volunteer element in all of his drawing and painting classes. Professor Rey is also working closely with Dr. Mike Jabot to involve both science education and art students to discuss the integration of art and science.

Apart from the project articulated in Professor Rey's sabbatical request, he authored and illustrated two articles about Nepal for Buffalo Spree magazine and participated in exhibitions and conferences at the Benjamin Art Gallery, The Martin Art Gallery, the International Trout Congress, and the Associate of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers Annual Conference.

Reviews:

Online Khabar, Kathmandu Post, Nepali Times, The Buffalo News, and Fly Rod and Reel.

Alberto Rey, M.F.A.

*Distinguished Professor, Visual Arts
and New Media*



In Pursuit of Stephen Girard's Atlantic Trade

The year-long sabbatical was a major step in the production and write-up of Dr. A. Jacqueline Swansinger's project on Stephen Girard and the early American economy. Girard's story has been documented by numerous writers, mainly from the 19th century, and has focused on his great wealth and social isolation. The highlights of Girard's story usually include his marriage to Polly Lund, who became mentally ill within five years of the ceremony; his incredible work ethic, his careful – some would say obsessive – attention to detail and cost, funding the War of 1812, founding the Second Bank of the United States, and his philanthropy in founding Girard College and funding city lighting through his will.

Dr. Swansinger's book project focuses on the knowledge and customs Girard brings from his native Bordeaux to the emerging economy of Philadelphia. The first chapter of her book examines the parallels between Bordeaux and Philadelphia, both cities born of the 18th century commercial bursts in the Atlantic. Each succeeding chapter looks at the instruments (insurance, contracts, law, business practices) and institutions (banking, finance, ship building, technology) that are affected by Girard as he grows into the richest man in the United States.

Presently the first two chapters are written, and Dr. Swansinger is finishing an insurance database consisting of 2,500 ships and contracts between 1782–1800 that detail commercial activity in Philadelphia for that era. The database creates a good entry for mercantile activity in that port as well as a data based analysis of the first 20 years of commercial activity in Philadelphia, as well as the consequences of America's Quasi War on those same merchants. It also raises some very nice questions about the role of insurance as an instrument for capital accumulation in the young national economy.

While on sabbatical leave, Dr. Swansinger travelled to Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Penn State, Barcelona, and Seville, Spain, pursuing archives regarding trade, immigration, maritime law, insurance practices and legal interpretations related to Girard.

The second part of Dr. Swansinger's sabbatical project focused on an article on Morocco, its language and education policy. Currently under revision, Dr. Swansinger plans to publish it in the near future.

A. Jacqueline Swansinger,
Ph.D.

Professor, History