

Sabbatical Abstracts 2010-2011

Julian Bonder, Associate Professor of Architecture

Spring 2011-Fall 2011

Centered on cross-disciplinary and collaborative work on memory, trauma, architecture, art and public space, the sabbatical leave will comprise various concurrent and parallel endeavors. These include continuing design work and research about sites of memory, commemorative practices, and strategies for the “re-presentation” of the past. Specifically, during the sabbatical the professor will: work on various design projects, work on a book draft (memory/works), prepare and present a comprehensive exhibition of design work at the Museo de Arquitectura in Buenos Aires, supervise the construction of the project for the Memorial to the Abolition of Slavery in Nantes, create a temporary installation for Museo de Arte Tigre, and participate on the Advisory Board for Museo de la Memoria in Lima, Peru.

Jennifer Campbell, Associate Professor of Writing

Spring 2011

This sabbatical involves the creation of a week-long faculty seminar that will nurture ideas for transdisciplinary teaching and scholarship, benefiting the university faculty and students who seek enriched contexts for learning and working. Tentatively titled “Civil Rights and Civil Discourse,” the seminar would integrate conversation and writing in order to model possibilities for using writing-to-learn in any classroom, particularly those engaging in multiple disciplines. The project would involve: seeking funding for stipends for faculty colleagues who wished to participate in the seminar (summer 2011); researching an appropriate set of readings that would be of particular interest to RWU faculty; training at the Bard Institute for Writing and Thinking; and investigating best practices for offering faculty development opportunities to colleagues, possibly through continued contact with the Aspen Institute. The proposer anticipates a significant effect on both the General Education curriculum and on writing across all university programs, since faculty members will support opportunities for discussion of intellectual issues with each other in ways that will have immediate implications for students’ experiences in the classroom.

Benjamin Carr, Professor of Marketing

Fall 2010

This sabbatical will involve curriculum development that was initiated as a result of a 2003 leave and which led to the creation of a special topics course entitled “Galactic Marketing.” In addition, the 2003 sabbatical leave gave rise to the conceptualization of a marketing theory paper which advanced a galactic perspective and has since been published in a first tier marketing journal. The outcome of the sabbatical research will be to establish truly innovative interdisciplinary curriculum and possibly a major in galactic studies by the name of “The Galactic Enterprises Marketing and Management Program” (GEMM).

Andrew Cohen, Professor of Architecture

Spring 2011

This sabbatical project will focus on the pursuit of LEED certification through advanced coursework. The advanced study and certification will enable the faculty member to develop an advanced expertise in sustainable planning and building, which in turn will be beneficial to the

development of courses, coursework and teaching skills in the School of Architecture, Art and, Historic Preservation.

Ernest Greco, Associate Professor of Political Science

AY 2010-2011

This sabbatical will involve research and writing on the Christian Democratic parties in Italy and Mexico. The sabbatical will also involve the completion of a political biography on the topic of Don Luigi Sturzo, the Sicilian priest who founded the Italian People's Party in 1919. The party was the forerunner of the Italian Christian Democrats, which dominated most Italian governments from World War II until the collapse of the Italian party system and the emergence of what has been called the "Second Republic" in the 1990s. The biography will also compare the role of Sturzo's ideas and party-building work with those of Manuel Gomez Morin, the founder of Mexico's Christian Democratic party, the National Action Party (PAN).

France Hunter, Assistant Professor of Dance

Fall 2010

The sabbatical will focus on the creation of a three-credit "Study Abroad" intersession course for Dance and Performance Studies majors, minors and core concentrators designed around a multicultural experience of dance and culture in New York City. An integral part of this sabbatical would also be the creation of an inter-media creative project that would be choreographed during the sabbatical period and which would subsequently utilize the participating students in videotaping the media portion while in NY and rehearsing coordinated stage movements the following semester at RWU. The integrated inter-media project would be presented in the Dance Theatre concert series the following May.

Barbara Kenney, Associate Professor of Library Services

Fall or Spring 2010-2011

This sabbatical will focus on the research and development of programs and professional development opportunities for leadership preparation and training for librarians and library paraprofessionals. This training could be implemented by local and regional professional organizations as a part of their primary mission. Through findings obtained by interviews and surveys of library directors, library school faculty members, and the leadership of library professional organizations, the proposer will develop a series of low-cost workshops and programs that could be delivered through our professional organizations. Looking at a literature review, the faculty member found that strong leadership is needed in order to effectively meet these challenges. In fact, only 10% of library schools provide coursework in leadership, and many current leadership programs are cost-prohibitive. The faculty member would like to develop a model program that professional organizations can use to provide local, ongoing, and structured opportunities in leadership skills and development.

Marcia Marston, Professor of Biology

AY 2010-2011

This research project will examine the population genetics and genome evolution of marine bacteriophages. The proposer will test the hypothesis that much of the genetic diversity within bacteriophage populations and communities can be attributed to recent horizontal genetic exchange events among bacteriophages and bacteria. Full-length genome sequences from six Rhode Island cyanophages will be analyzed and then used to assess the extent of genetic exchange among RI cyanophages. Results from this study will provide new insights into the role of horizontal gene transfer in the evolution of aquatic bacteriophages and will elucidate the extent to which environmental bacteriophage communities can serve as reservoirs for bacterial

genes. A paper describing these research results will be prepared for submission to a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Michael Melton, Associate Professor of Finance

Fall 2010

The purpose of the sabbatical is to study the current impact of Shariah-compliant finance on global financial markets. Islamic, or Shariah, law forbids the charging or receiving of interest (riba in Arabic), making conventional mortgages, overdrafts, and many other investment funds off limits. While shares and dividends are acceptable, speculation is forbidden. As financial markets develop in the United Arab Emirates (Dubai and Bahrain) as well as in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, it will become increasingly important to Westerners to redesign their financial products to comply with Shariah law. Through discussion and visitation with industry professionals and financial firms that deal in Islamic financial products, this proposer intends to provide insight into the changing financial marketplace and into the impact that Middle Eastern markets have on the global financial community. A major goal of this research is determining whether or not the global financial markets are willing to accept such conditions and alter their current products in order to open their services to an entirely new market.

Roxanne O'Connell, Associate Professor of Communications

Spring 2011

This proposer plans to continue her research on the cultural impact of early 78rpm recordings during the golden age of Irish Music (1890-1950). This research was the basis for the proposer's dissertation and will be revised for publication. The proposer also plans to begin an online visual discography of the record sides that have been collected over the last three years. She will incorporate the information and cross-reference discographic data from other sources as a resource for students and scholars.

Eleftherios Pavlides, Professor of Architecture

Fall 2010

The purpose of the sabbatical is to write a textbook on environmental design research to be used for teaching social science courses to architecture students. The textbook will be based on the proposer's 20 years' experience of teaching the course "Social Aspect of Architecture" at RWU and collaborator Galen Cranz's 30 years' experience teaching similar courses at Princeton University and UC Berkeley. Courses taught using this textbook would fulfill the National Architectural Accreditation Board social science requirement for architectural education. Field research conducted by students taking this course will generate useful information for community sponsors and for practicing architects.

John Schlinke, Associate Professor of Library Services

AY 2010-2011

This sabbatical will focus on the preparation of a substantial portion of a book-length manuscript on the practices of prefabricated homes manufacturing in the early 1960s by the Alside Homes Corporation. The homes are an important but largely unknown legacy of the Case Study House Program sponsored by *Arts & Architecture* magazine in Southern California from 1945-1965. Although they produced less than 200 houses, the manufacturers of Alside homes made the only significant attempt to realize the factory production of modern houses. The proposed manuscript will be intended for publication by an academic or specialty architecture press.

Yolanda Scott, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

Fall 2010

The title of the proposer's research is "Disentangling Police Coping Strategies: A Factorial Analysis." Using a sample of 192 sworn officers from 11 departments, the proposer will study adaptive and maladaptive coping strategies used by police officers to deal with stress. A factor analysis and reliability testing will distinguish conceptual dimensions of coping from the consequences of stress. This distinction will advance the scientific analysis of the policy stress process.

June Speakman, Professor of Political Science

Spring 2010

Many political scientists and communication scholars have noted the deep impact of the internet on politics. Few, however, have studied that impact at the local level. This project will provide that analysis. Local newspapers play an essential role in local political processes by providing citizens with information about their communities, local issues, and local politics. As the existence of these newspapers has become endangered, and the presence of the internet has increased, local politicians and policymakers are operating in an altered information environment. The proposer's research will explore the following questions: How have these changes influenced citizens' access to government and citizens' impact on policy-making? How have policy-makers changed their decision process and style in reaction to this new world? How have local newspapers adjusted to the rise of the internet? And finally, what does the introduction of the internet into the local policy-making environment mean for civic engagement and sound policy-making?

Becky Spritz, Associate Professor of Psychology

Spring 2011

Within the past 50 years, there have been studies of the dramatic changes in work and family roles in middle-class families, but few studies of such changes as role strain in low-income households. The proposed study will examine the realities and expectations of work and family life in low-income families with preschool-age children. The proposed study consists of two parts: 1) a survey of 200 low-income families, and 2) qualitative interviews comparing 20 low-income and 20 middle-class families. It is anticipated that low-income families will experience qualitatively different role-strain, which significantly influences parental stress and well-being.

Evgenia Tsankova, Associate Professor of Education

Spring 2011

Since 2000, the proposer has served as a consultant in elementary public schools on the issues of curriculum adoption, evaluation of curriculum materials, and the professional development of teachers who adopt various mathematics textbooks. During the sabbatical, the proposer intends to write a first grade mathematics textbook that will provide a complete curriculum for grades 1 through 5. The proposer will also contact potential publishers. It is important to note that the national standards for K-8 mathematics education are expected to be formalized within a year, which means that the new textbook will answer the new national standards. The proposer plans to gather information through journal articles, books, and communications with colleagues who have authored similar programs.

Randall Van Schepen, Associate Professor of Art and Architectural History ***Fall 2010***

The proposer will complete three essays for publication. The proposer has already begun work on three scholarly essay projects: 1) an intellectual comparison of the Puritan preacher

Jonathan Edwards to contemporary critic Michael Fried; 2) an explication of Clement Greenberg's late criticism in relation to Friedrich Schiller's aesthetic theory; and 3) an analysis of contemporary German painter Gerhard Richter's mnemonic devices. These projects are related to a larger scholarly goal of the reevaluation of the intellectual sources of modernism and postmodernism. The proposer will complete the first two essays and submit them for publication to peer reviewed journals or anthologies. The Edwards/Fried essay will be submitted to a journal such as *Critical Inquiry*, and the Greenberg/Schiller essay will be submitted to a proposed anthology on Schiller's aesthetic philosophy. The third project, on Richter, has already been accepted for publication by *Memory Studies* journal for 2010, pending suggested revisions.

Yajni Warnapala, Associate Professor of Mathematics

Spring 2011

The proposer will conduct an investigation of the numerical solutions for the Exterior Neumann problem for the Radiosity equation. The "Radiosity equation" describes the amount of energy which can be emitted from a surface, as the sum of the energy inherent in the surface (a light source, for example) and the energy which strikes the surface, being emitted from some other surface. The Numerical method the proposer will be using is the global Galerkin Method in 3 dimensions, where the Galerkin coefficients would first be calculated and stored separately for further use in calculating the kernel. Testing would begin with simple shapes such as the sphere and then move to a more complicated shape such as the perturbation of sphere and the ellipsoid. Work will also be conducted on a statistical analysis of the Advanced Level examination results and its implications for university admissions in Sri Lanka. Currently in Sri Lanka, the Advanced Level Examination results show a gap between the rural and urban schools. The country has an obligation to improve the quality of education in less developed districts. The introduction of the "z score results" in determining whether a student enters the university might be a further ploy to ignore the rights of the poor students to have adequate academic facilities. The proposer will analyze and compare whether using the z distribution scores for university admissions is a fair method of solving this immense problem. Results of this study will be given to the Sri Lanka Education Ministry for review.

Michael Wright, Professor of Philosophy

Fall or Spring 2010-2011

The proposer will research and examine the conceptual connections between the ideas of conscience and violence. Conscience is widely believed to be a reliable guide to morally good conduct; violence is generally thought to be bad. Acts of violence require explanation and justification more often than acts of compassion or goodness. Considerations of conscience are one of the justifications proffered for some acts of violence. The violent act is, under certain circumstances, said to be a matter of conscience. The proposer will consider the answer to the following questions: Under which accounts of conscience and violence is this possible? Indeed, does it make sense at all? What does this phenomenon reveal to us about both conscience and violence and about who we are? The result of this research is to prepare a Special Topics in Philosophy course on conscience and violence and an article.

Miao Zhao, Associate Professor of Marketing

Spring 2010

The purpose of the project is to examine how brand and time influence the use of advertising appeals, symbols, languages, gender, and ethnicity in Chinese print advertisements. The project will systematically and semiotically analyze the texts and images of the print advertisements collected in the *IAI China's Advertising Works Yearbooks*. Implications of the

interplay between the global and the local Chinese print advertisements will be studied. The results of the project will be incorporated into the proposer's teaching as well as a presentation at an academic conference. This may also lead to a published article in a peer-reviewed journal.