

**Final Written Report
Professional Development Grant**

**"The Rhetoric of Solidarity in John Flanagan's "Ranger's Apprentice" Series"
01 April 2011**

Ernest J. Enchelmayer, Ph.D.

B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity

This project looked at the significance of persuasion in YA lit – how or what is needed to persuade a young person (or character) to make a decision or series of decisions. For instance, with Will’s apprenticeship there are some physical attributes necessary to do the required work, but as importantly are the mental gymnastics required. In particular, the successful Ranger cannot only move about unseen or fight with superior skills, but the most successful Rangers can persuade – either persuade others or their leaders.

C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity

The International Association on the Fantastic in the Arts (IAFA) conference brings in scholars from across the USA and around the globe to Orlando, FL, (for the past several years) to discuss myriad subjects dealing with the ‘fantastic’ in the arts. My particular area of interest was Children’s and Young Adult Literature because I have a minor in that area. Further, as a “professional enhancement” opportunity, this allowed me to build gain some professional development in an area of literature while still “blending” in my main area of rhetoric/composition (because of the ‘track’ I took on the paper).

D. Summary of experiences had

This was my first time to attend this particular conference. My particular session was somewhat well-attended with eleven in the audience and a panel that included presenters from the University of Florida and Texas Tech University. This panel had a very good moderator and there were plenty of questions/answers for each panel member and a lengthy discussion after all of the papers were read.

I hope the sessions I attended (including my own presentation) will have a positive impact for students I teach at TECH. I hope to explore the possibility of

teaching a Young Adult Literature course and/or a Fantasy Literature course in the future in the English Department.

Overall, the experience was extremely positive and I look forward to attending another such conference.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

This conference was good for my professional development in allowing me to make a presentation in an area somewhat outside of my main focus (as my doctoral major) but in an area of minor interest (as one of my doctoral minors). I think this can (and hopefully will) impact what I do in the classroom here at TECH.

My goals for this trip were met. I made a successful, academic presentation to a diverse, academic audience. Further, I was able to pick up on some other current areas of young adult fantasy literature that are being explored. Also, I wrote down some new titles to pick up and read.

Thank you for your support.

Copies to: Dr. Carl Brucker, Department Head, English
Dr. Micheal Tarver, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities
Dr. John Watson, Vice-president, Academic Affairs