

Final Report  
Professional Development Grant

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## RESTATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY AND OF PROBLEM RESEARCHED.

I had submitted a paper for the Children's Literature Association conference in Columbus, Ohio, June 9-12, and the paper had been accepted. Since my department does not have any travel funds and the college funds had been used up, I applied for a Faculty Development Grant to fund the trip.

## BRIEF REVIEW OF PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY AND OF PROBLEM RESEARCHED.

I regularly attend the Children's Literature Association conference, and I am a long-time and very active member of that association. For the past three years, I have been a member of the Best Edited Book Award Committee, which gives its award at the conference banquet, so I needed to be present. My paper, "Posthumanism in *The House of the Scorpion* and *The Lord of Opium*," had been accepted for the conference. I have also been co-editing a collection of essays on posthumanism in young adult literature, and I had an appointment with an editor to discuss the book. Although Routledge has expressed interest, an editor at the University of Mississippi Press actively solicited this meeting and a copy of the book proposal. The conference took place in Columbus, Ohio, June 9-12. Besides presenting the paper, representing my committee, and meeting with an editor, I had two additional goals: to meet with several of the contributors to the posthumanism collection and encourage them to complete their revisions, and to meet with a mentee assigned to me by the Membership Committee.

## SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

I attended the annual Children's Literature Association conference in Columbus, Ohio, June 9-12 and successfully met the goals listed above. My paper was well received, and writing it gave me a rough draft for the essay I am contributing to the posthumanism collection. In fact, immediately after the conference, I revised it and expanded it into a 27-page article, and after two revisions, it is finished. I met with several contributors to the edited collection and encouraged them to complete their own essays. I also met with my committee, and I spent several hours with my mentee, discussing her job search options. Katie Keen, the editor from the University of Mississippi Press, is extremely interested in the essay collection and has sent the book proposal to her editorial board. I was also able to promote the collection to my professional colleagues, most of whom are unaware of posthumanism, which is a fairly recent philosophy and theory that is just beginning to find its way into literary studies.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Attending the conference was a fruitful experience. Not only was I able to beta test my ideas by reading a version of my article, but I also found a publisher for the essay collection and provided service to the organization through my committee work and mentorship. I hope the Faculty Development Grant committee continues to fund scholarly activities like this one, especially for junior faculty members who need to build their professional reputations. Mine is already established, but it is beneficial to keep it burnished through attendance at conferences in my field of study.