

**Final Written Report
Professional Development Grant**

**“The Case for the Caduceus as a Symbol for both Rhetoric and Medicine”
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B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity

This project looked at the historical significance of the caduceus and its relationship to the history and study of rhetoric in academe. The paper discussed a few of the pieces of evidence that support the caduceus as a symbol of rhetorical study and prowess prior to the adoption of the caduceus by the U.S. Army for purposes of identifying medical personnel. My paper points out the (probable) mistake made in adopting this symbol instead of the staff with the single snake wrapped around it (often seen on ambulances and in European communities). However, my intention was not to promote one over the other, necessarily, but to attempt to carve out room for the symbol to identify both – physicians and rhetoricians.

C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity

The International Journal of Arts and Sciences (IJAS) conference brings in scholars from around the globe to international settings as both a way to provide opportunities for cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural sharing of academic research and a way to broaden the horizons of faculty in terms of opportunities for international teaching and research via the IJAS cultural component. The conference I attended for 2011 was in Gottenheim, Germany. As a “professional enhancement” opportunity, this allowed me to hear presentations on cross-disciplinary issues like the relationship of folk dancing to a community of people in eastern Europe and how that symbol of their community identifies who they are and tells their story through artistic expression – not entirely unlike my focus on artistic renderings of Lady Rhetoric. It was a great opportunity and it potentially impacted the way I view my research. I look forward to attending another of these conferences in the future (if possible).

D. Summary of experiences had

My particular session was very well-attended. I think this was because of the cross-disciplinary element of the conference. So, while I know not everyone in the room was necessarily there to hear me, I was able to deliver my paper to a packed house. And, as mentioned above, I think this helped me because I sat through presentations I might not otherwise have come into contact with in a 'strict' discipline-specific conference or session.

I am always mindful that my experiences as both presenter and attendee will positively impact my teaching at ATU. I take great care in making sure that the things I experience can hopefully find the way into my lectures or just the everyday interactions I have with students.

Overall, the experience was extremely enjoyable and informative and I look forward to participating in these types of conferences in the future.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

This conference was good for my professional development in allowing me to make a presentation in an international venue and to colleagues with other research interests, but at the same time, somewhat similar. This element of closely related research was helpful in that I had people I didn't even know coming up to me and asking me more about my work and also suggesting possible avenues for future research.

My goals for this trip were met. I made a successful, academic presentation to a diverse, academic audience.

Thank you for your support.