

Final Written Report
Professional Development Grant

“The Reception Palette of A Painted House”
09 November 2013

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B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity

This professional enhancement opportunity was to discuss the reception of teaching John Grisham's "A Painted House" to a cohort of Asian students studying in Arkansas. This paper was specifically accepted by and written for the Reception Study Society session of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMPLA) meeting in Atlanta, GA, and was also a new area of research for me.

C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity

The South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMPLA) is one of the regional groups of the Modern Language Association (MLA). The goal of the SAMPLA conference is to promote opportunities for researchers to share their interests/findings across a wide-ranging field of languages and associated subjects. SAMPLA hosts an academic conference each year. I submitted a proposal for a session that was new to me and broadened my scope of research at SAMPLA 85 (year 2014) hosted in Atlanta, GA.

D. Summary of experiences had

I have attended several of the MLA regional conferences before. SAMPLA 85 was very much like my previous experience. The session in which I presented was very impressive with the overall professionalism of the conference quite enjoyable and well-attended throughout the days I was there.

The 90-minute block of time was shared with three other presenters and we each delivered a paper for 15-20 minutes and then fielded questions. I spoke first, which is something I try to do even if I'm not listed first, but in this case I was listed first and was able to go first. The other presenters and I took turns reading our papers from a lectern at the front of the room. Perhaps 20-25 people attended. Afterward, I was able to

answer several questions and then carry on some one-on-one conversations about my work with other scholars.

Overall, it was an enjoyable conference and one I hope to attend again sometime.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

The overall conclusion is that attending this conference was good on several levels. It was good for my own professional development to do some research and write a paper in a newer area of professional interest to me and that directly reflects (and impacts) what I do in the classroom at Arkansas Tech. It was good for me to present my work to other scholars and have them comment on my research. Making a presentation at SAMLA 85 was also good for Arkansas Tech University.

Thank you for your support.

Copies to: Department Head, English
Dean, College of Arts & Humanities
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