

A. Title Page

Final Report for Professional Development Grant-Funded Professional Enhancement

Activity in October 2018

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B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Activity The requested funding was used to attend the Communal Studies Association (CSA) annual meeting in Bishop Hill, Illinois on October 3rd to October 7th, 2018. The CSA is an interdisciplinary, national-level scholarly society committed to the study of American utopian communities past and present. This conference provided a forum in which to make a presentation on and receive feedback on my research on experienced quality of life at Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage in Missouri. Attending the annual meetings of the CSA is one the best opportunities to enhance my professional development by networking with other scholars who share my research focus, receiving feedback on my research, and refining my research for future publication. My attendance at the CSA conference also allows me to continue to provide high level service to one of my main scholarly communities by serving on the CSA Board and being present at the conference for Board meetings.

C. Review of the Professional Enhancement Activity The primary purpose of attending this conference was to share the outcomes of data analysis from one of my ongoing research projects with colleagues from multiple disciplines and to use the feedback on my presentation to develop a publication based on the research. At the conference, I presented a paper entitled “Quality of Life at Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage: An Analysis of Ethnographic Interviews” as part of a panel that included other scholars doing research on ecovillages. I am currently using feedback from the conference to develop the presentation into a book chapter for a book on ‘eco-communities’ for which I have received an invitation to contribute. My participation in this book project will take place via a summer 2019 Writing Residency in Berlin, Germany funded by a grant from the Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF) secured by my colleague Jenny Pickerill who is a Professor of Geography at the University of Sheffield in the UK. Serving as a member of the Board of Directors and attending the Board meeting at the annual meeting of the Association

also allows me to stay on top of developments in this field of scholarship. Serving as a moderator for a conference session also helped me network with other scholars in my field.

D. Summary of Findings and Experience As a particular type of utopian community (Miller 2015, Pitzer 1997), ecovillages are relatively new and their focus on living in more environmentally sustainable manners has only come to the attention of scholars in the last two decades. My leadership in the study of these communities is reflected in my publications and my being invited to serve as one of the younger members on the Board of Directors of the Communal Studies Association. A number of my publications (Lockyer 2007, Lockyer 2010, Lockyer and Veteto 2013, Veteto and Lockyer 2008) have helped to establish a descriptive understanding of ecovillages (see also Litfin 2014, Sanford 2017). My work has also contributed to recent developments in the theoretical analysis and quantitative evaluation of ecovillages (Lockyer 2009, Lockyer 2017). One of my most recent publications (Lockyer 2017) demonstrated that the members of Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage have significantly reduced their consumption of natural resources in a number of key areas. Based on existing descriptions and analyses of ecovillages, recent scholarship has turned to the question of whether ecovillagers, while consuming fewer resources, are able to maintain a desirable quality of life. A recent quantitative study by Grinde et al (2017) based on a survey of a broad sample of intentional communities suggests that quality of life in ecovillages is relatively high compared to other demographics. The current study, funded in part by this Professional Development Grant as well as by the external ISRF grant, provides an in-depth, qualitative counterpart to this recent study through an analysis of quality of life interviews conducted with twenty-five members of Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage from 2013 to 2015. The results of the research indicate that the members of

Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage experience a quality of life on par with the average American citizen despite consuming far fewer resources compared with the average American citizen.

E. Summary and Conclusions. This conference presentation was an essential step toward publishing the results of my research in a prominent scholarly venue. As mentioned above, I recently received an invitation to contribute a chapter to an edited volume on ‘eco-communities’ that is being organized by Dr. Jenny Pickerill who is a Professor of Geography at the University of Sheffield in the UK. My contribution to this volume will be facilitated by funding Dr. Pickerill obtained from the ISRF which will allow me to attend a Writing Residency in Berlin, Germany during August 2019. This and other contributions I have made to the scholarly literature in the fields of environmental anthropology and communal studies have been greatly facilitated by Professional Development Grants made available by ATU. I am greatly appreciative of the opportunities these grants afford and I strongly encourage ATU to continue to make them available to ATU faculty.

I. Bibliography

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**Communal Studies Conference
Bishop Hill, Illinois
October 4-6, 2018**

Tuesday, October 2

Registered attendees arrive for pre-conference tour

Wednesday, October 3

8 a.m. – Pre-conference tour by van to Nauvoo, Illinois Mormon sites – meet at Kewanee AmericInn

Dinner after on own (or we may have dinner on the way back to Bishop Hill, depending on schedule)

Thursday, October 4

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – CSA Board Meeting – Business Room, AmericInn, Kewanee

8 a.m. – Second pre-conference tour to Maharishi University, Fairfield, Iowa – meet at Kewanee AmericInn

3 p.m. – Registration at AmericInn, Kewanee, Illinois

6 p.m. – Opening Banquet – Kewanee Dunes Golf Course Banquet Room

9 p.m. – Hospitality Room – Business Room, AmericInn

Friday, October 5

8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. – Registration (Colony School)

8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. – Session A (Colony School)

Plenary Session: Brian “Fox” Ellis, “Jonas Olson – Creating Utopia on the Prairie: A Swedish Immigrant’s Story”

9:15 to 9:30 a.m. –Break (Colony School)

9:30 to 11:00 a.m. -- Session B (Colony School)

Plenary Session: Migration in Intentional Communities

William Eaton, Swedish Migration in Northern Illinois, 1830-1889

Thomas Guiler, Getting on the Bus: Material Culture, Field Study, and Teaching Intentional Community

Sean "Purl" Samoheyl, Material Culture in the Federation of Egalitarian Communities

Moderator: Ashley Rattner

D-2 (Colony School) Ecovillages

Joshua Lockyer, Quality of Life at Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage: An Analysis of Ethnographic Interviews

Lisa Mychajluk, Framing research on "learning sustainability" in ecovillages

Moderator: Jonathan Andelson

D-3 (Dairy) Individuals in Multiple Communities

Peter Hoehnle, The Erratic Course of Luther N. Ransom: Abolitionist, Spiritualist, Communitarian, and Friend of Abraham Lincoln

John Norton, Anders Blomberg, From Swedish Janssonist to Shaker Elder

Moderator: Don Pitzer

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Dinner and CSA Auction at Kewanee Dunes Banquet Center

9:00 p.m. (or after Auction) – Hospitality Room – Business Room, AmericInn

Saturday, October 6

8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. – Registration (Colony School)

8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. – Sessions E

E-1 (Dairy) Issues of Gender

Catherine Abbott, The Women of Peoples Temple

Brita Butler-Wall, From Sweden to Bishop Hill: Gender Roles and 19th Century Communalism

Moderator: Evelyn Sterne

E-2 (Colony School) Conversations between Communities

G-1 (Colony School) Intentional Communities in Literature

Richard Marshall, The Exodus from Shaker Villages: Enduring Misconceptions about the Shakers.

Charles Nuckolls, Spiritualism and Mormonism: The Strange Case of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Ashley Rattner, "A little bit of reverence done at a neglected shrine": Echoes of Fanny Wright's America in *Leaves of Grass*

Moderator: Steven Olsen

G-2 (Dairy) Dissolution of 19th Century Communities

Kathy Fernandez, "Vanish Like a Light Morning Mist": Levi Bimeler, the Nugitna, and the Dissolution of the Zoar Society

Diana Garno, "Humanity-City" and Icarians' Migration to California

Greg Hall, Home Colony and the Limits of "Pure and Simple" Anarchism

Moderator: Erik Freeman

G-3 (Steeple Bldg.) House of David

Kevin Clutter, The House of David and Its Impact on Michigan and the Great Lakes Region of the U.S.

Shannon McRae, Wandering Star: How the Israelite House of David Received Their Sacred Text at the Side of the Road

Timothy Miller, Before the House of David: the Southcottians in Britain and America

Moderator: Josh Lockyer

3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Break (Colony School and Dairy)

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Sessions H

H-1 Tours of Bishop Hill (2 concurrent)

H-2 (Dairy) Other Issues in Intentional Communities