April 29, 2008

Dr. Paola Gemme  
Arkansas Tech University  
Russellville, AR 72801

Dear Dr. Gemme:

Congratulations! Academic Affairs is pleased to announce that your application for the Faculty Professional Development Grant has been recommended by the Professional Development Committee. Based on this recommendation, Academic Affairs has approved the $1058.00 for your proposal. Requisitions regarding the grant will be processed through your departmental budget and should be expended by June 30, 2008.

We wish you success with this endeavor.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Jack R. Hamm  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

JRH: sr

cc: Duncan  
Brucker  
File
APPLICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

**All questions must be completed to be considered for grant award.**

Choose one:  
[ ] Creative Activity  
[ ] Research Activity  
[ ] Professional Enhancement Activity

Application Deadline Date: **APRIL 15** (i.e. October 1, February 1, or April 15)

Date of Last PDG Award (Semester and Year awarded): **FALL 2007**

Date of ATU Faculty Appointment (Semester and Year): **FALL 2001**

1. Project Title: **THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES IN ITALY**

2. Name of Principal Investigator/Project Director: **PAOLA GEMME**

3. School (abbrev): **LIB ARTS**  
4. Department: **ENGLISH**  
5. Campus Mail Address: **141 WITHERSPOON**

6. PI/PD Campus Phone: **968.0256**  
7. Amount Requested: **$1,058.00**  
8. Total Cost of Project: **$1,058.00**

9. Will total funds awarded be expended by June 30th of the current fiscal year: **Yes** [ ] **No** [ ]

10. If not, what is the total to be expended this fiscal year: **$**

11. What is the total to be carried over to the next fiscal year: **$** (if approved by the VPAA)

12. Project Completion Date: **FALL 2008**  
13. Travel Dates: **05/23/08 - 05/28/08**

14. Does this project involve: **Yes** [ ] **No** [ ]
   [ ] [ ] human subjects?  
   [ ] [ ] animals/animal care facility?  
   [ ] [ ] radioactive materials?  
   [ ] [ ] hazardous materials?  
   [ ] [ ] biological agents or toxins restricted by the USA Patriot Act?  
   [ ] [ ] copyright or patent potential?  
   [ ] [ ] utilization of space not currently available to the PI/PD?  
   [ ] [ ] the purchase of equipment/instrumentation/software currently available to the PI/PD?

NOTE: If the answer is "yes" to any of the above questions, the investigator must attach appropriate documentation of approval or justification for use/purchase.

SIGNATURES

Department Contribution (if applicable): **$**

Account Number: ____________________________

Chairperson: **Cindy Brecken**  
Date: **9-14-08**

School Contribution (if applicable): **$**

Account Number: ____________________________

Dean: **G. D. Austin**  
Date: **9-14-08**

This Section to be completed by the Office of Academic Affairs

Previous PDG Award final report received: **Yes** [ ] **No** [ ]

PDC Committee Award Recommendation: **Yes** [ ] **No** [ ]

PDC Committee Proposal Rank: _____ of _____ Total Proposals.

Recommendation of VPAA: **Yes** [ ] **No** [ ]  
Recommendation of President: **Yes** [ ] **No** [ ]

Award Date: ____________________________
THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES IN ITALY
PAOLA GEMME, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

ABSTRACT

My project focuses on the emergence of an academic interest in American culture in Italy in the 1940s and the development of the discipline from then onward. I started working on the subject in Fall 2007, when, while attending the biannual conference of the Italian Association of American Studies (AISNA), I visited the Centro di Studi Americani di Roma, the most comprehensive collection of Italian scholarship on the United States. During that brief stay, I consulted all of AISNA's conference proceedings since the founding of the association in 1973 and several Italian journals of American Studies, namely, Studi Americani (1955-1980), RSA. Rivista di Studi Americani (1990-), and Letterature d'America (1980-). The investigation of the table of contents and selected articles from proceedings and journals is intended to give me an understanding of the interests and methodologies of American Studies as it developed in Italy. I am now requesting a grant to be able to return to Centro di Studi Americani and continue my research. Specifically, I need to consult the two remaining major Italian journals devoted to American culture, Acoma (1994-) and Storia nordamericana (1984-1990), as well as the extensive list of relevant titles I compiled upon reading the material I gathered during my first research trip.

My visit at Centro di Studi Americani will take place from May 23 to May 28, 2008, during my yearly trip to Italy to visit my family. Instead of landing in my home-town of Genoa, I have opted to arrive in Rome and take advantage of my vacation in Italy to do research I could not conduct easily or speedily from the United States. Since I would be traveling to Italy anyway for personal reasons, I am only requesting funding to cover lodging and meals in Rome, admission to Centro di Studi Americani, and the cost of photocopies.
PURPOSE

The purpose of my research trip at Centro di Studi Americani in Rome is to:

1. Inspect the table of contents and representative articles from the two journals, Acoma and Storia nordamericana, that I did not have time to investigate during my first research trip in October 2007.

2. Consult the following titles (preliminary list):

   Pavese, Cesare. La letteratura americana e altri saggi. Torino: Einaudi, 1951.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Recently, Italian Americanists have shown interest in the metacritical study of the character of American Studies in Italy, evinced in several presentations at the 2005 AISNA international conference. However, there is no book length subject on the topic, nor anything on a major American journal such as *American Quarterly*. The best, most recent scholarship on the subject explores only specific moment or figures of the study of the United States in Italy, and some of it is available only in Italian. There is a definite need for a study that would be both more comprehensive and more easily available to an American audience.

**PROCESS FOR ATTAINING THE OBJECTIVES**

I am currently in the research stage on a potential book-length project on the development of American Studies in Italy. I will use the month of May to finish reading the material I collected at Centro di Studi Americani in Rome in October 2007. By the date of my departure for Italy at the end of May 2008, I will have added new titles to the preliminary list of texts to be consulted included in this proposal. Knowing what I am looking for will allow me to maximize the limited time I will be able to spend at Centro di Studi Americani. I will then use the rest of the summer and Fall semester to read the material I will have gathered. Finally, I will be applying for a sabbatical for Spring semester 2009 to complete the research portion of the project and move towards the writing phase.
DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

My research on the development of American Studies in Italy is still at the level of an interest to be pursued and very far from the publication stage. Still, since American Studies in the United States is going through a so-called “transnational turn,” a disciplinary transformation which includes, among others, an interest in the study of American culture outside the United States, major American studies journal in the U.S. would be interested in the subject, including American Quarterly, the official organ of the American Studies Association, American Studies International, issued by George Washington University, or Comparative American Studies, published by Sage.
PROPOSED BUDGET
FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT

SUPPLIES

• Admission to Centro di Studi Americani: $40.00
• Photocopies at Centro di Studi Americani: $100.00

LODGING

• Hotel in Rome from 5/23/08 to 5/27/08 included (5 nights): $750.00

MEALS

• $28.00 a day from 5/23/08 to 5/28/08 (6 days): $168.00

TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET $1,058.00
PAOLA GEMME

Department of English
141 Witherspoon
Arkansas Tech University
Russellville, AR 72801
Phone:(479) 229-2095
E-mail: paola.gemme@mail.atu.edu

EDUCATION

Director: Susan K. Harris

Minor in American Studies.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

• Associate Professor of English and American Studies, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, AR, fall 2001-
• Visiting Assistant Professor of American Studies, University of Genoa, Italy, spring 1999-spring 2001.
• Graduate Student Lecturer, The Pennsylvania State University, fall 1990-spring 1998.

ATU GRANTS

“Amercians in Italy. Italians in America” (Fall 2007). Resulted in a conference presentation and two forthcoming articles, one in English for on-line publication and one in Italian for inclusion in a volume on the relationship between the United States and Italy in the 1870s.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

Articles in Journals and Books


Encyclopedia and Biographical Essays


**Book Reviews**


**SELECTED PAPERS DELIVERED**

“Drawing the Revolution: Thomas Nast’s Sketches of Garibaldi’s Expedition to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.” Italian Association of American Studies International Conference, Macerata, Italy, October 2008

