Final Report on the Faculty Development Grant
Dr. Alexander Mirkovic, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Political Science

World History and Racial Harmony: Goetze Murals in the British Foreign Office

August 27th, 2009
In January of 2009 I applied and was subsequently approved for the grant in the amount of $987.11. The purpose of this grant was to conclude my research of a group of historical mural painting in the United Kingdom’s Foreign Office, present the findings at a national scholarly conference, and subsequently disseminate the results by pursuing publication of the paper.

I can report to the Grant Committee, my department, College of Arts and Humanities, and Academic Affairs, that the goals of this grant have been reached. Hereby, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the people involved.

A. Restatement of the Problem

Goetze murals in United Kingdom’s Foreign Office are a unique statement of British and Imperial nationalist ideology that illustrate well the cultural pattern in early twentieth century Europe and the emergence of then widely popular theories of “scientific racism.”

B. Brief Review of Research Procedure

My findings were presented at the Annual Conference of World History Association held on June 25-27 in Salem, MA. Most of the funds from the grant went towards expenses occurred at this conference. The conference presentation was extremely successful, created a considerable discussion during and after the session. Furthermore, the paper was subsequently edited and enriched by peer comments and submitted for publication to a collection of articles to be published by Cambria Press, a peer reviewed publisher of academic research. The article is currently under peer review.

C. Summary of Findings

Using materials obtained from several UK’s archives and from the Foreign Office itself, I was able to place the murals in the wider current of so-called “scientific racism”, various theories that emanated from Social Darwinism and became popular during and after World War One. The findings help enhance my research in the area of 19th and 20th century nationalism that I am working on for several years now.

D. Summary and Conclusion

The goals of this grant have been achieved; there was a successful conference presentation and subsequent submission of the article for publication. My continuing interest in nationalism as a historical and cultural phenomenon has been greatly enhanced and thereby a contribution has been made toward raising the profile of Arkansas Tech as a teaching and a research institution.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alexander Mirkovic
Assistant Professor of History
Department of History and Political Science