

## REQUIRED COVER PAGE

### APPLICATION FOR FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT

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

Choose one: <input type="checkbox"/> Creative P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research	Date of Last FRG Award (Semester and Year awarded): _____ Date of ATU Faculty Appointment (Semester and Year): <u>Fall 1993</u>
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1. Project Title: "And They Went on Their Way Rejoicing"; Stella Gibbons' and Muriel Spark's Comic Female Artists"

2. Name of Principal Investigator/Project Director: Susan Poznar

3. School (abbrev): LFA 4. Department: English

5. Campus Mail Address: 156 Witherspoon 6. PI/PD Campus Phone: 964-0808

7. Amount Requested: \$ 1750 8. Total Cost of Project: \$ 1750

9. Does this project involve:

10. Duration of Project: July 15-19, 2006

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

*See attached letter*

Department Contribution (if applicable): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson

Date

School Contribution (if applicable): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dean

Date

#### This Section to be completed by the Office of Academic Affairs

FSBA Committee Award Recommendation: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
FSBA Committee Proposal Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Total Proposals.  
Recommendation of VPAA: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Recommendation of President: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Award Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# PROPOSED BUDGET FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT

(include budget categories as appropriate)

1. Graduate assistant stipend \$           —            
Fringe benefits @ .4% (4/10 percent) of graduate assistant stipend           —          

2. Non-work study stipend           —            
Fringe benefits @ .4% (4/10 percent) of non-work study stipend           —          

3. \*Supplies (please list items to be purchased and estimated price per item including taxes and shipping, if appropriate):

Item No. 1 (e.g., software)	Estimated Price	<u>          —          </u>
Item No. 2 (e.g., copying costs)	Estimated Price	<u>          —          </u>
Item No. 3	Estimated Price	<u>          —          </u>
(additional lines as needed)		

Total estimated supplies           —          

4. Travel (please list travel expenditures by date and estimated costs):

Travel No. 1	round-trip airfare	Estimated Price	\$1,071.00
Travel No. 2	Britrail ticket	Estimated Price	249.00
Travel No. 3	parking	Estimated Price	30.00
(additional lines as needed)			
		(over)	300.00
			100.00
Total estimated travel			\$ 1,750.00

5. \*Capital Outlay (please list items to be purchased and estimated price per item including taxes and shipping, if appropriate):

Item No. 1	Estimated Price	<u>                          </u>
Item No. 2	Estimated Price	<u>                          </u>
Item No. 3	Estimated Price	<u>                          </u>
(additional lines as needed)		

Total estimated capital outlay                           

TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET \$ 1,750.00

\*Items purchased under \$2,500 (including taxes and shipping) are considered supply items. Capital Outlay items are those which cost \$2,500 or more (including taxes and shipping). Please contact the Purchasing Office for questionable items.

Hotel Accomodations \$300.00  
(four nights)

Conference Registration \$100.00

## **SIGNIFICANCE/NEED**

This paper represents a somewhat new avenue of research for me. There are few studies of twentieth-century English novels about female artists (that is, female *Kunstlerromane*) outside of studies of major writers such as Virginia Woolf and Gertrude Stein. Most of my previous publications, as the attached CV will indicate, have focused on female artists in the Canadian writer Margaret Atwood's *Kunstlerroman Cat's Eye* and female creativity in English writer A. S. Byatt's *Angels and Insects*. I hope that the present paper represents the first stage in a book-length study of twentieth-century novelistic representations of female writers in England, particularly focusing on the period between 1930 and 1970, and building on my work on Byatt, Spark, and Gibbons.

## **DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS**

See above comments on the projected future of this work.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

I provide no bibliography because this is a work in progress. Instead, I attach the accepted conference proposal, and would be happy to send the committee a copy of the paper when completed.

SUSAN POZNAR  
Associate Professor, Department of English  
Request for Funding

## **ABSTRACT**

I am asking for funds to cover the expenses of presenting a conference paper.

I am delivering this paper at an international conference on *Comedy and Identity*, sponsored by Liverpool Hope University and the Liverpool Comedy Trust, in Liverpool, England. The title is "'And They Went on Their Way Rejoicing': Stella Gibbons' and Muriel Spark's Comic Female Heroines." The dates of the conference are July 17-18, 2006. I anticipate that this paper will become, at the least, the basis for a journal article on these authors. I hope that it will be published in the *Proceedings* of this conference. If not, I will submit an expanded version of it to a journal such as *Texas Studies in Language and Literature*.

Given the nature of this project, I will not expatiate on my research goals or processes, since funding is necessary for the trip only; I will not be conducting research in England. I also did not obtain the signatures of the Chair or Dean on the Cover Sheet since my department will not be funding this project.

I have made no previous requests of this committee for funding.

## **PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES**

The purpose is to deliver a paper at an international conference.

“AND THEY WENT ON THEIR WAY REJOICING”: STELLA GIBBONS’ AND  
MURIEL SPARK’S COMIC FEMALE ARTISTS

Rarely are novels of the development of female artistic identity comedies of self-assured creativity with exuberantly happy endings. Aspiring female artists usually fulfill their promise by the novel’s end only after prolonged struggle, conflict, and loss.

Thus I was startled, in a recent course I taught in British comic fiction, to find not one, but two twentieth-century English heroines whose triumphantly creative careers are remarkable for their lack of angst: Stella Gibbons’ *Cold Comfort Farm* (1932) and Muriel Spark’s *Loitering With Intent* (1981). Confident of their values and priorities, Flora Poste and Fleur Talbot are untroubled by the limitations of their sex in the essentially patriarchal communities they inhabit. Both embark on aesthetic missions, circumventing all difficulties with their unfailing common sense and sense of humor. Simply by blithely downplaying or ignoring the problems that their femininity might pose, they seem to transcend those problems. But is this merely magical thinking? Is it possible for female artists truly thus to transcend their social limitations? In this paper, I will stress how Gibbons and Spark subsume satire, parody and wit within genial comedies of creative affirmation, transformation, and liberation, wherein both the fictional heroines and their authors use humor both to allay others’ misunderstanding of their goals and to enable their achievement.

## Curriculum Vita

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**Dr. Susan Poznar**

917 Chaucer Circle  
Russellville, AR

## Education:

Ph.D. Duke University, Department of English (1989)  
M.A. Duke University, Department of English (1982)  
B. A. Brandeis University, Department of English (1980)

**Dissertation:** Perseus Meets Medusa: Retroactive Writing in Andre Gide and John Barth. Director: Marianna Torgovnick.

## Teaching Experience:

Arkansas Tech University (Associate Professor; 1993-06)  
University of New Hampshire in Durham (Visiting Professor; 1991-93)  
Boston University --College of Basic Studies (Assistant Professor; 1990-91)  
North Carolina State University in Raleigh (Lecturer; 1988-90)  
Duke University (Instructor; 1984-88)

## Scholarship:

"Atwood's Ironic Little (Work)Shop of Horrors: Remembering and Dis-membering Gothic Bodies in *Cat's Eye*," Northeast Modern Languages Association, Pittsburgh, March 2004.

"Scientific Theory in Gothic Garb: Transfigured Tropes in Margaret Atwood's *Cat's Eye*" "International Symposium: Margaret Atwood, the Open Eye," Ottawa, April 2004.

John Fowles' *Islands*: The Guidebook Writer as Vagrant, Weaver, Mystagogue and Siren," "Home Tour Conference," July 2002, University of Aberdeen.

"Judith Hawkes' *Julian's House* and the Possibilities of the Postmodern Ghost Story," *Paradoxa* 17, *Horror* Issue, ed. Steffen Handtke, 2002.

"Tradition and Experiment in Byatt's 'The Conjugal Angel,'" *Critique*, 2002.

"Judith Hawkes' *Julian's House* and the Possibilities of the Postmodern Ghost Story," International Gothic Association Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia, August 1999.

"Totemic Images and the 'Bodies' of the Gothic in Margaret Atwood's *Cat's Eye*" Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature 47.

"Uncanny Mediums and Privileged Communications in Margaret Atwood and A. S. Byatt." Twentieth-Century Literature Conference, Louisville, KY, February 25-27, 1999.

"Alias Who? Myth-Making and the Uncanny in the Hypnotic Dialogue," British Comparative Literature Association, Eighth International Conference ("Legenda: Reading and Writing Myth"), University of Lancaster, England, July 15-18, 1998.

"'Such are my pictures of the dead': Totemic Images in Margaret Atwood's Cat's Eye." MMLA, Chicago, November 6-8, 1997.

"Uncanny Presences, Uncanny Absences, and the Embodiment of the Gothic Heroine in Margaret Atwood's Cat's Eye." Constructions of the Human: Conflicts in Culture, Identity, Technology, California State University- Stanislaus, October 17-19, 1997.

"New Rooms in the Gothic Mansion: The Exertion, Subversion and Reinterpretation of Gothic Power in The Magus." Love--Loss--Landscape: A Symposium on the Writings of John Fowles, Lyme Regis, England, July 10-12, 1996.

"Creating through the Cat's Eye: Margaret Atwood and the **Kunstlerroman**," The International Narrative Literature Conference, Nashville, TN, Fall 1992.

"Barth's 'Compulsion to Repeat: Its Hazards and Possibilities,'" Review of Contemporary Fiction, Summer 1990.

"'Replenishing' the Epistolary Novel: Barth Rewrites Clarissa," The Twentieth-Century Literature Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, January 1990.

"Alice at Eighty and Dreamchild: What Alice Discovered," The Florida State University Conference on Literature and Film, Tallahassee, Florida, January 1988.

"John Fowles and the Pursuit of 'Whole Sight,'" The Carolina Symposium on British Studies, Raleigh, North Carolina, September 1987.

#### **Academic Honors:**

Mellon Foundation Grant	1987-1988
Duke University Graduate Tutorships	1982-1986
Duke University Departmental Fellowship	1981-1982
Four-Year Brandeis University Scholarship	1976-1980
Regents Scholar	1976