

Final Written Report
Professional Development Grant

“Mujeres Rebeldes en ‘Contra Fortinelli’ y ‘La indiferencia de Eva’ de Soledad Puértolas”

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This final report addresses the results of a professional enhancement project funded in part by an ATU Professional Development Grant. This report follows the instructions provided in the Guidelines for Professional Development Grants.

- A. Title Page (see above)

- B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

Abstract of conference paper presented:

Mujeres Rebeldes en “Contra Fortinelli” y “La indiferencia de Eva” de Soledad Puértolas

Abstract: My research and presentation explore the barriers and stereotypical ideas that women in Spain had to confront and overcome as portrayed by the contemporary feminist author, Soledad Puértolas in two of her short stories. The author delves into the area of feminist literature that emerged in Spain during the post-Franco period when women were merging into the workforce and social areas from which they had been barred during the Franco dictatorship (1939-1975). The author illustrates how different women broke down barriers of discrimination as they combatted sexist attitudes and resistance to the feminist movement in Spanish society. Soledad Puértolas depicts the changing environment as women merged into the labor force and challenged the obstacles that kept them in their traditional roles. In those changing times in society, the protagonists in these short stories find themselves engaged in a battle of the sexes against the stereotypical ideas of the status quo. Paradoxically, the main characters fight against these unjust circumstances in different ways, and ironically, the protagonist with the traditional role in society triumphs over the preconceived notions of people in society who seek to expel her while

the protagonist who occupies a professional position relinquishes her newly-established role and succumbs to the overwhelming forces of male supremacy in the professional world. Thus, I examine how the two women in Puértolas' short stories react in different situations during Spain's fledgling democracy as women attempt to forge their new identities during a pivotal period in Spain as the nation transitions from a dictatorship to a new democracy.

C. Brief Review of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

I attended the 71st Annual South Central Modern Language Conference in Austin, Texas, from October 18 – 22, and I presented my paper entitled "Mujeres Rebeldes en 'Contra Fortinelli' y 'La indiferencia de Eva' de Soledad Puértolas" on October 20, 2014 in the Spanish Session of La Asociación Feminista de Mujeres Hispánicas . I also attended many literary sessions as well as the presentation by the keynote speaker of the conference where I gathered new material for my classes. In this very informative conference, I met many professors from different regions, and I discussed their research interests and plans for the upcoming SCMLA Conference which will take place in Nashville, Tennessee.

D. Summary of Experiences

At the conference, my paper was well received in the Spanish session and led to a panel discussion with many distinguished professors of Spanish from diverse universities such as Baylor, Louisiana Tech University, Louisiana State University, and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville to name a few. Also, I attended an author's presentation about the writing and

publishing process. All in all, I benefited greatly from the commentaries and observations from the other professors who attended the session, and I was able to glean new ideas from the presentations and sessions that I attended as well. This conference proved to be a very valuable experience in allowing me to develop my expertise in nineteenth and twentieth-century Spanish literature and culture. The knowledge that I gained at this conference will allow me to enhance the learning experiences of my students in these areas.

E. Conclusions and Recommendations

In addition to receiving positive feedback in regard to my paper and making valuable connections for future publication and scholarship at the South Central Modern Language Association, I was able to attend other literary sessions related to my fields of study. At the conference, I also served as secretary for the 2014 Spanish II Session of Spanish Literature after 1700, and I will be chair of that session at the upcoming SCMLA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Currently, I am in the process of pursuing my research and writing in my field of post-war Spanish literature. I am very grateful to the committee for awarding me the funds that helped to make my trip to the conference possible, and I will continue to use the material from my research not only for my future writing project but for background material for my classes of Spanish Short Stories, Spanish Literature, and Spanish Culture and Civilization.

Thank you for your support.

Copies to: Dr. Carl Brucker, Department Head, English and World Languages

Dr. Jeff Woods, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

Dr. A. J. Anglin, Vice-president, Academic Affairs

