

2008 Professional Development Grant Report

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September 5, 2008

B. Restatement of Creative Work / Professional Enhancement Activity

I was awarded approximately \$1200 to attend the following conference:

Central States Communication Association Convention. Madison, WI.
April 9-13, 2008.

At this conference, I presented on three separate panels for the Performance Studies Division, acting in three separate capacities---as researcher, performer, and playwright/director. I presented a paper entitled, "Writing Chandra Levy: Real Life, Ritual, Revision;" a one-act play entitled, "Why Wild West;" and a solo performance entitled, "Our Lady of Madison."

C. Brief Review of Creative Work / Professional Enhancement Activity

I believe that all three of my endeavors at this conference contributed to Communication Studies---especially to the fields of Theatre and Performance Studies. In my paper, "Writing Chandra Levy: Real Life, Ritual, and Revision," I describe the insights gained from writing a play about missing intern Chandra Levy, borrowing the Christian liturgical service for the play's structure. I also explore how the piece underwent changes with the events of September 11, 2001. "Why Wild West" represents the first complete play that I have written as an assistant professor at Arkansas Tech. It is written in the Readers Theatre style, but challenges the supremacy of the narrator. Additionally, I was invited to perform, "Our Lady of Madison," for a panel on performance and activism. This performance uses religious motifs---a Marian apparition---to comment on current political events.

D. Summary of Outcomes / Experiences

All three of my presentations emerge from my work as scholar and dramatic writer. I am grateful to have been able to attend this conference, because it allowed me to share my more experimental, complex work. This process of sharing helps me as a scholar and a teacher---especially as a teacher of Oral Interpretation and Writing for Performance. I came back, inspired by the performances that I saw and the writing that I heard, better able to keep students abreast of trends in performance studies.

E. Conclusions and Recommendations

I have submitted two of my papers, "Writing Chandra Levy" and "Why Wild West," to the editors at *Text and Performance Quarterly*, the leading publication in the field of Performance Studies.

"Why Wild West" is intended for use by the Arkansas Tech Debate Team as an entry in Readers Theatre competitions. Students have already received copies of the script and initial rehearsals have begun. In addition to having this play performed at forensics tournaments, I also intend to have a public showing for the Arkansas Tech campus.

I am extremely grateful for the Professional Development Grant.

Copies to: Dr. Donna R. Vocate, Department Head, Speech, Theatre, & Journalism
 Dr. Georgena Duncan, Dean, Liberal and Fine Arts
 Dr. John Watson, Vice President, Academic Affairs

F. Appendix

Appendix A --- Pages from the CSCA 2008 Convention Bulletin
 <<http://209.235.228.125/pdf/csa2008program15final.pdf>>

APPENDIX A:

**Pages from the Central States Communication Association (CSCA)
2008 Conference Program**

<<http://209.235.228.125/pdf/csca2008program15final.pdf>>

1613

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Senate Room A

"WHY WILD WEST"

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Theatre
Chair: Brock Fisher, Georgia College and State University



Participants:
"Why Wild West: A play reading." David J. Eshelman, Arkansas Tech University

Respondent: Sadie Chandler, Central Michigan University

1614

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Chairman's Parlor

**THE PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF NORMS IN FORENSICS:
A ROUNDTABLE DISUCSSION**

Sponsor: Argumentation and Forensics

Participants:

Chad Kuyper, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Michael Chouinard, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Sarah Jones, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Susan Collie, University of Wisconsin, Stout

Forensics exists in a state of tension between competition and education. The competitive dimensions of the activity encourage a sometimes uncritical acceptance of norms while the pedagogical basis of forensics demands critical reflection on normative constraints on discourse. This panel, comprised of coaches and scholars, considers the efforts of the forensics community to negotiate these tensions, focusing primarily on "black books" and "slicks" that are an unspoken requirement for interpretation events.

"Examining the relationship between perceived solidarity in gay male friendships and engagement in risky health practices." Richard G. Jones, Jr., University of Denver

Respondent: Donna Pawlowski, Creighton University

3304

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

University Room D

**EFFECTIVE RHETORICAL LEADERSHIP IN ACTIVISM: OFFERING AND
PROBLEMATIZING FOUR RHETORICAL TOOLS FOR ACTIVISTS**

Sponsor: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism

Facilitator: Kathryn M. Olson, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Participants:

John W. Jordan, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
William Keith, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Robert Kraig, Communications and Program Director, Citizen
Action of Wisconsin
Kathryn M. Olson, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

This roundtable examines four rhetorical tools of potential use to activists, tools such as the use of amateur video of offenses by police against activists, reframing, public discourse to create government accountability, and paradiastolic strategies to defuse or even benefit from opponents' public accusations that one is an "extremist." The panelists are three faculty members who teach in UW - Milwaukee's Rhetorical Leadership Graduate Certificate/Concentration Program and a full-time activist with a Ph.D. in Rhetoric.

3305

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Conference Room 1

**FINDING SPACE AND VOICE: CREATING AND PERFORMING SOCIAL ACTIVIST
THEATRE**

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Theatre

Chair: Sadie Chandler, Central Michigan University

Participants:

"Out of the theatre and into the night: Seattle's SITE specific theater festival playwrights challenge the notion of space or do playwrights really need a home?" Andrea J. Onstad, University of Missouri, Columbia
"Writing Chandra Levy: Real life, ritual, revision." David J. Eshelman, Arkansas Tech University



- "Performing passivity: Death as an activist performance in early twentieth-century Paris." Erin Clair, Arkansas Tech University
"Understanding difference through performance: The 'Chana Project' at the University of Lodz, Poland." Lauren McConnell, Central Michigan University

Respondent: Amy Darnell, Columbia College

3306

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Conference Room 2

MEDIA FORMS AND FUNCTIONS

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group
Chair: Elizabeth Crisp Crawford, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

Participants:

- "Webcams: Re-viewing travel and tourism." Tony E. Adams, University of South Florida
"Key technological innovations in educational television: 1980-present." Will Anderson, Central Michigan University
"Zap! Pow! Wam! The electrifying motivations for reading comic books." J.J. De Simone, University of Kansas and W. Joe Watson, Baker University
"Inverted crosses, black apparel, and headless birds: A semiotic look into Black Sabbath's *Paranoid*." David Steinweg, Missouri State University (Debut Paper)
"Bridging the online communication gap: *World of Warcraft* and online community." Megan H.L. Tucker, George Mason University (Debut Paper)

Respondent: Jamel Bell, Boston College

3307

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Conference Room 3

ACTIVISM: INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Sponsor: Undergraduate Programs
Chair: Jori Paschedag, Bethel University

Participants:

- "Learning from subjects not objects: Service learning with the Lakota." Deborah Wooldridge, Coe College
"Using film in the classroom to activate attitude change." Jackie Schmidt, John Carroll University

3805

4:30 PM - 5:45 PM

Conference Room 2

REFLECTING ACTIVISM: PERFORMANCES OF THE SELF, OTHER AND ADAPTED

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Theatre
Chair: Sadie Chandler, Central Michigan University

Participants:

★ "Title Pending Copyright Permission." Adapted by Jill Taft-Kauffman,
Central Michigan University
"Our Lady of Madison." David J. Eshelman, Arkansas Tech University
"As I Drindle Fondly, Hey Waitress and My Roommate Steals my Food."
Jody Price, Central Michigan University
"Between the Gaze and the Lens." Sara Kianmehr, Columbia College
"Living 'Little House' - A performance project." Lauren McConnell,
Central Michigan University

Respondent: Amy Darnell, Columbia College
Brock Fisher, Georgia College & State University

3806

4:30 PM - 5:45 PM

University Room D

RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES: FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN THE NEWS

Sponsor: Freedom and Responsibilities of Speech
Facilitator: Julie Woodbury, St. Cloud State University

Participants:

Gretchen Arthur, International Academy of Design and
Technology
Shannon Lee Denney, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Alison Aurelia Fisher, Southern Illinois University
Ryan S. Kozey, State University of New York, Buffalo
Kathaleen Reed, University of the Pacific
Julie Woodbury, St. Cloud State University

In this free-wheeling roundtable discussion, participants will examine the freedom of speech implications posed by controversial cases reported on in the news, including "Bong Hits 4 Jesus," "The Jena 6: When Isn't a Noose Hate Speech?" "Taser This: F**k Bush," and "Ahmadinejad and Free Speech at Columbia." Audience participation is encouraged.