

Final Written Report
Professional Development Grant

“Does Eros Plus Rhetorica Equal Erotica? Not Exactly”
10 November 2012

Ernest J. Enchelmayer, Ph.D.

B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity

This project looked at the Western tradition of visualizing and personifying the Liberal Arts, particularly as the Seven Liberal Arts are depicted as females and specifically the personification of rhetoric as Lady Rhetoric or Rhetorica. This paper concerned itself with cause-and-effect roles where the Lady of the art represents a kind of truth about it. The final product of the image also reflects the circumstances under which it was created.

C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity

The South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) conference is one of several regional MLA meetings that takes place around the United States, but also attracts international academics as well as local participants. My particular area of interest in this year's conference was with the history of rhetoric because that is my major area of expertise and I often teach rhetoric courses, particularly on the graduate level, at Arkansas Tech University. As a "professional enhancement" opportunity, this allowed me to practice some professional development and share research in an area of rhetoric.

D. Summary of experiences had

My particular session was, truthfully, not very well-attended with only about 5 attendees. This panel had a very good moderator but was hindered somewhat by the time/date of the panel (late on the last half-day of the conference when fewer attendees remained). Those of us there read our papers and had discussions over each one amongst ourselves and with our few members of the audience.

I hope the sessions I attended (including my own presentation) will have a positive impact for students I teach at TECH. Overall, the experience was positive and I look forward to attending conferences like this again.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

This conference was good for my professional development in allowing me to make a professional presentation in an area where I enjoy doing my primary research, reading, and teaching. I think this effort will directly impact what I do in the classroom here at TECH and what I share with my students, particularly graduate students, about professional opportunities.

Ultimately, my goals for this trip were met. I made a successful, academic presentation to an academic audience comprising peers in the field. Further, I was able to attend some other sessions on composition/rhetoric and other areas of interest to me as a teacher/scholar.

Thank you for your support.

Copies to: Dr. Carl Brucker, Department Head, English
Dr. Micheal Tarver, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities
✓ Dr. John Watson, Vice-president, Academic Affairs