

Final Written Report
Professional Development Grant

“Representations of Rhetoric in a Visual World”
06 November 2009

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B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity

This professional enhancement opportunity was to visually showcase the research I have been working on recently with regard to how the concept of rhetoric is portrayed visually in the very "visual" Renaissance world. This opportunity, as a poster session, allowed me the chance to display much of my research (the visual images) and spend time talking one-on-one with conference participants

C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity

The South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLMA) is one of the regional groups of the Modern Language Association (MLA). The goal of the SAMLMA conference is to promote opportunities for researchers to share their interests/findings across a wide-ranging field of languages and associated subjects. SAMLMA hosts an academic conference each year. I submitted a proposal for a poster session, which was a new presentation style for me, at SAMLMA 2009 hosted in Atlanta, GA

D. Summary of experiences had

I have attended several of the MLA regional conferences before. SAMLMA was very much like my previous experiences. The exception was the session (poster session). I was very impressed with the overall professionalism of the conference and enjoyed attending other sessions throughout the days I was there.

The poster session was slightly different than the "standard" conference presentation session. Normally, I'm accustomed to being assigned to something like a 75-minute block of time where I am on a panel with 2-3 other presenters and we each deliver a paper for 15-20 minutes and then field questions. At this poster session, I was assigned to a 2-hour block in the evening. The other presenters and I set up our projects on tables in a designated area and throughout the evening conference attendees would

mingle through the presentations. I was able to carry on many one-on-one conversations about my work with other scholars...some of whom were working on similar items and some of whom just enjoyed the potential for this research.

Overall, it was an enjoyable conference and one I hope to attend again sometime.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

The overall conclusion is that attending this conference was good on several levels. It was good for my own professional development to hear presentations on current research in areas of professional interest to me and that can impact what I do in the classroom here at TECH. It was good for me to present my work to other scholars and have them comment on my research. Making a presentation at SAMLA was also good for Arkansas Tech University.

Thank you for your support.

Copies to: Dr. Carl Brucker, Department Head, English
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