

Final Written Report  
Professional Development Grant

“Terry Brooks Relating to YAL Audience with Magic”

for the

Thirty-Eighth International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA)  
Orlando, FL  
22-26 March 2017

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## **B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity**

This project looked at the significance of the type of real-life situations author Terry Brooks includes in his “Word & Void” series (*Running with the Demon*, *A Knight of the Word*, and *Angel Fire East*). Specifically, Terry Brooks uses situations where his main protagonists wrestle with the idea of using their magic to (potentially) cause harm to others and those characters have to carefully choose when/how they employ their magic. Youth have to grapple with violence or violent behaviors and the relatability of Brooks’ work is what makes his work so meaningful and timely.

## **C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity**

The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts (IAFA) conference – the Thirty-Eighth International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA) brings in scholars from across the USA and around the globe to Orlando, FL, (for the past several years) to discuss myriad subjects dealing with the ‘fantastic’ in the arts. My particular area of interest was in Activism & Identity in Children’s and Young Adult Literature (YAL) because I have a minor in YAL. Further, as a “professional enhancement” opportunity, this allowed me to build gain some professional development in an area of literature and make some connections – like an offer to rewrite my work for potential inclusion as a chapter in a book (I’m still exploring this).

## **D. Summary of experiences had**

This was my second time to attend this particular conference. My session was somewhat well-attended with a dozen in the audience and a panel that included presenters from the University of Illinois, Kansas State University, and Saint Leo University. This panel had a very good moderator and there were plenty of

questions/answers for each panel member and a lengthy discussion after all of the papers were read.

I hope the sessions I attended (including my own presentation) will have a positive impact for students I teach at TECH. I hope to explore the possibility of teaching a Young Adult Literature course and/or a Fantasy Literature course focusing on Terry Brooks' works in the future.

Overall, the experience was extremely positive and I look forward to applying to the 2018 conference.

### **E. Conclusions and recommendations**

This conference was good for my professional development. I was able to speak with other researchers and writers in the fantasy lit world and I came away with a possibility for rewriting my paper (recasting it, really) to turn it into a book chapter – but the turnaround is very quick. I will just have to see. Overall, I think this can (and hopefully will) impact what I do in the classroom here at TECH.

My goals for this trip were met. I made a successful, academic presentation to a diverse, academic audience. Further, I was able to pick up on some other current areas of young adult fantasy literature that are being explored. Also, I wrote down some new titles to pick up and read.

Thank you for your support.

Copies to: Dr. Carl Brucker, Department Head, English & World Languages  
Dr. Jeff Woods, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities  
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