

Final Report
Professional Development Grant

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RESTATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY AND OF PROBLEM RESEARCHED.

The organizers of the second annual Science Fiction/Popular Cultures Academic Conference sent me a personal email invitation to submit a paper for their September 2018 conference. I proposed a paper titled “Nietzsche Tells the Time: Creating the Superman in *Watchmen*.” My abstract was accepted, so I applied for and received funding from my college and from the Professional Development Fund.

BRIEF REVIEW OF PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY AND OF PROBLEM RESEARCHED.

The Science Fiction/Popular Cultures conference was held on the Big Island of Hawaii from September 13-16. In preparation for the conference, I spent July writing two versions of my essay: an eight-page conference paper and an expanded article-length paper to submit to the conference proceedings. The topic was one I had been wanting to work on for about ten years. I regularly teach *Watchmen* in my graphic novel class, and I had been thinking about Nietzsche’s influence on it for some time. I did extensive research because there is a lot of scholarly work on *Watchmen* and on Nietzsche as well.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

I presented my conference paper on Friday, September 14, at 8:00 a.m. Surprisingly, people did attend that early session. My paper was well received, even by the philosophy professors in the room. The conference itself was cross disciplinary and included faculty from the arts, humanities, and sciences. It was held in conjunction with an educators’ conference, so a number of public school teachers also attended the session. I also participated in the Comics and Graphic Novels Professors’ Panel at 5:00 on Saturday, which was aimed at a general audience.

While I was at the conference, I met several people from the Hawaii Department of Education, who informed me of the difficulties Hawaii has in attracting and retaining good public school teachers. When I returned home, I sent information to our education department and to Norman Career Services, hoping to make connections for our education majors, who seem well-suited to Hawaii's needs.

After the conference, I submitted the long version of my paper to the conference proceedings, which are currently being edited.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

My essay will be published in the conference proceedings sometime in 2019, and I have been invited to return to the conference this coming year.

I recommend that Norman Career Services invite a recruiter from the Hawaii Department of Education to speak to our education majors and explain the teaching opportunities in Hawaii. I understand that ATU has an exchange agreement with one of the Hawaiian universities; it would be good to strengthen that relationship.