

Sabbatical Proposal for Spring 2016

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Statement of Purpose

In 1899, an Angeleno poet, Frank D. Bullard, A.A. M.D., published a remarkable book-length poem, *The Apistophilon: A Nemesis of Faith*. This work has, to date, received no scholarly attention. I aim to produce an edited version of this poem, with a biographical headnote and a scholarly analysis of the text. The text will be prepared for publication.

Dr. Bullard was a member of the first graduating class of the medical school of the University of Southern California, along with his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, in 1888. His family was prominent in the cultural development of turn-of-the-century Los Angeles.

The Apistophilon is a verse triologue about the nature of religious faith, among a devotee, a doubter, and a disbeliever, in the words of the poem itself. What is unique about the poem is that every stanza has a corresponding scriptural or literary reference on the facing page. In addition to the biographical essay, my edition would include a literary analysis of the stanzas addressed to each of the three perspectives and of the nature of the corresponding references.

Rationale

This professional growth opportunity will address *Agreement* section 8.6.A. and “will focus primarily on the growth of the individual in order to maintain a dynamic faculty, one equipped with the mental and emotional tools to provide exceptional service to the students and the District in an era of constant change.” (*Agreement* 43 8.6.A)

Moreover, the proposal addresses the criteria in *Agreement* section 8.6.B.(2) (a). My participation in the scholarly work of my discipline will enhance my competence as a professor both of writing and of literature, bringing value to students. When the text finds a publisher, adding another published author to the ranks of the faculty will be of value to the college and to the district in terms of reflecting well upon the professional scholarly capacity of the English faculty, especially as this project would represent the first scholarly research on this author.

Implementation

The proposal includes both biographical research on the author as well as study of the book-length poem and its sources for the purpose of writing a scholarly analysis. In addition, researching potential publication in either scholarly or commercial presses would occur simultaneously.

While these activities would continue as simultaneous activities, the general sequence of activities would be as follows:

- Multiple readings of the book, *The Apistophilon: A Nemesis of Faith*, to develop expertise in the content
- Begin investigating potential publishers
- Compile research for biographical introduction of the author, Frank D. Bullard, which will help to inform analysis of the text
- Develop tables of types of sacred and secular sources cited in the work, with correspondences to each of the three speakers in the book-length poem
- Write biographical and analytical essays based on findings
- Identify publishers for submission
- Prepare manuscript per guidelines of selected publishers

necessary to earn an Associate in Arts degree in Spanish from Oxnard College. This involved not only completing the necessary Spanish courses but also completing coursework in health and demonstrating math competency, thus giving me a glimpse of the broader student experience at Oxnard College. My sabbatical achievement was made clear to the college community when I walked the line at graduation and took the opportunity to thank the colleagues from five different disciplines who had contributed to my earning the associate's degree. The ongoing benefit of that sabbatical was that from Fall 1995 through Fall 2011 when the college's ESL program was curtailed at the lower levels, I was able to offer ESL R040, the entry-level listening and speaking course, in a bilingual English/Spanish mode. The Spanish-language fluency and knowledge of Latin American cultures gained during that previous sabbatical continue to support my competency as an instructor.