

Sabbatical Leave Report
Curriculum Development and Enhancement Project for Spring 2012
Maria Teresa (Gigi) Fiumerodo Ph.D.
Ventura College Anthropology Department

This report summarizes the sabbatical project I completed during the spring 2012 semester. I thank the Board of Trustees for approving my sabbatical and making it possible for me to pursue these projects in curriculum development and professional development in my field of Anthropology.

Background of Sabbatical Project

The discipline of anthropology can be simply described as the study of humans. However, a closer look reveals a broad based approach that spans from the biological and scientific understanding of humans to the interpretations of culture and the humanities. Specifically, the field is divided into four sub fields: Biological Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, Archaeology and Linguistics. While my specialization is in cultural anthropology, I have had training in all four fields. Both as undergraduate and graduate anthropology majors, students are required to take the four fields in their curriculum.

At the lower division level, many four year institutions require major prep in Biological Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology and Archaeology. However, several, local four year institutions require a linguistics course for their lower division major preparation requirements. These institutions include: CSU Long Beach; CSU Sacramento; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Irvine and University of California, Riverside. A review of the top 10 schools for Anthropology majors in California revealed Pitzer College- a Liberal Arts College (ranked #3) and UCLA (ranked #4) both require the lower division linguistics course as major prep (see <http://colleges.collegetoolkit.com>).

A linguistics course is listed in the Moorpark College and Oxnard College catalogues and is currently offered at several local community colleges, including: Santa Barbara City College (ANTH 104), Pierce College (ANTH 161) and Moorpark College (ANTH M08). Enrollment in the course at Santa Barbara City College is steady, averaging 32 students a semester (since spring 2008- see www.sbccc.edu). Currently, there is not linguistic anthropology course being offered at Ventura College.

While I may be able to teach biological anthropology and archaeology (and have in the past), my exposure to linguistics has been limited. I am specifically trained in cultural anthropology and have conducted my graduate research and fieldwork in various cultural topics. Cultural anthropology emphasizes ethnographic fieldwork-the first hand collection of information about culture using participant observation techniques. I have conducted fieldwork in Italy on various aspects of community life since 1995.

My sabbatical leave gave me the chance to advance my own proficiency in the four fields in order to provide a well rounded experience in anthropology for Ventura College students. Furthermore, it provided the possibility for improving my skills in curriculum development and teaching methodologies.

Purpose of Sabbatical Project

The purpose of this sabbatical project was twofold: (1) to build curriculum for the anthropology program, in particular, develop an Introduction to Linguistics course and (2) to create classroom materials from my dissertation research study. **I was able to achieve both those goals during my sabbatical semester.**

Completed Components of Sabbatical Project

- **Curriculum Development: ANTHV05 Linguistic Anthropology**

The first phase of my sabbatical leave project included research for new course development for the Anthropology Department, namely a linguistics course. I met with the curriculum committee to find the guidelines and requirements for building a new course. I reviewed articulation guidelines, textbooks and related articles and teaching strategies. I formulated PowerPoint presentations for class lectures and reviewed appropriate videos and films for classroom use. I compiled a course outline for ANTH V05 Linguistic Anthropology-Culture and Communication and it is currently in the curriculum review process. The goal is to offer the course in the fall of 2013

- **Creation of Classroom Materials: DVDs and videos of original research in Italy and India**

The second phase of my sabbatical project included creation of teaching aids and classroom materials for my culture based courses. In 2008, I completed my Ph.D. at UCLA. My dissertation, titled "Celebrating Community and Cuisine: Tradition and Change in the *Sagre* Festival in Italy" focused on a variety of socio-cultural topics including: festival, ritual, food traditions, globalization and tourism. During my sabbatical, I was able to review and update my previous research and consult current literature. I transferred some of my video recordings of interviews and cultural events to current technology that I now may utilize for classroom instruction.

This scholarship will be utilized in my Cultural Anthropology course (ANTH V02) my Anthropology of Magic, Witchcraft and Religion course (ANTH V07). Both these courses are identified as core and have strong enrollment numbers. I will also be able to use these materials in the Anthropology of Women course (ANTH V06). I can implement this material in my classes as examples of ethnographic fieldwork, ritual, festival, gender, expression of ethnic/regional/national cultural identity and globalization. I was able to revise my current lecture notes, PowerPoint presentations and video documentation I have collected over years to provide my students with greater understanding of the fieldwork experience. I was also able to formulate a website for student to consult during the academic year for additional notes, handouts and general information about Anthropology

- **Submitted Article for Publication to Food Studies; An Interdisciplinary Journal**

I submitted the article to a peer reviewed academic journal, The Food Studies Interdisciplinary Journal (see attached). I also participated in peer-reviewing other articles submitted in the journal. My article, titled, "Celebrating Community and Cuisine- Bringing the Past Alive in Festival" has been accepted and it is in the typesetting stage. I will also be credited as a contributing editor to the journal as I was able to peer review three articles during this time.

- **Attended and Presented Research Material at Academic Conference**

I presented my revised article, "Celebrating Community and Cuisine- Bringing the Past Alive in Festival" based on my original research at the Food Studies: An Interdisciplinary Conference.

Value of Sabbatical Project to VCCCD and Ventura College

My project is of value both the Ventura County Community College District and Ventura College. Submitting an article for publication in a scholarly journal will provide recognition to the district and the college. Presenting a paper based on original research also provide recognition to the college. In addition, the development of the linguistics course will overall benefit the anthropology program and supplement the college's course catalog.

Value of Sabbatical Project to Ventura College Students

Overall, I believe my project(s) enhanced my teaching skills benefitting the students at Ventura College. First, the linguistics course will provide for majors the preparation for transfer to many California universities and be better prepared for upper division studies in all four fields of anthropology. The course will make our program complete and will eliminate the need to redirect students to Moorpark College or Santa Barbara City College to fulfill the requirement.

The course will also serve non majors interested in linguistic studies. The course will provide students an introduction linguistic anthropology but also to the fields of sociolinguistics. Some consideration will include the ways in which language is implicated in the social construction of gender, race, class, and cultural identity. The course will develop students' skills in the analysis of communication.

Secondly, the review of my own research materials will enrich the classroom experience for students. While I have 15 years worth of valuable data including videos, photographs, field notes along with my master's thesis and dissertation, I have not had the time and opportunity to evaluate, update and include these various materials in all my courses. With an evaluation of my research and the production of an article, I can now bring this additional layer of experience and knowledge to my students.

Value of Sabbatical Project to the Instructor

Completion of this project during my sabbatical leave has improved my teaching repertoire. My sabbatical has broadened my contribution to the college and the discipline of anthropology. I believe this experience has enhanced my service to Ventura College.

Thank you again for this opportunity.
Respectfully yours,

Maria Teresa Fiumerodo

Maria Teresa (Gigi) Fiumerodo Ph.D.
Ventura College
Professor of Anthropology