

Sabbatical Panorama 2016-2017

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Provost's Introduction

The 19th-century magician Robert-Houdin boasted in his memoirs of the lengths to which he would go to protect the time he needed for practice and development of illusions from those he called “Thieves of Time.” This included an electrical system, installed well before Edison’s heyday, by which he could silently signal his butler to interrupt his meetings and report that Robert-Houdin was needed for a spurious emergency. And who can forget the scene in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* when Professor Jones climbs out a window to escape his students and return to his archaeology.

Fortunately, sabbaticals allow the modern academic to preserve the time for discovery without such antisocial lengths. This volume collects reports from our colleagues who served sabbaticals during the 2016-17 academic year and demonstrates that the time was well spent. Scholarly topics ranged from bankruptcy in cities to a celebrated medieval poem on the hunting of a bison, from legal implications of religious exemptions and of bankruptcies, to the consequences of smart phone use to the maternalist movement. Sabbaticals represent a substantial financial investment by the University; these sabbaticals represent a salary investment of over \$1.3 million. At least four books now in print, as well as numerous articles and other scholarly works benefited from the time and focus our faculty were able to dedicate during their sabbaticals. Analogous to the great magician, the change of pace represented by the sabbatical only served to enhance the art upon the return.

Please enjoy this latest inspiring installment,

Karen Boroff, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President

Henry Amoroso

Department of Economics and Legal Studies

Sabbatical Objective

To provide a policy-based accounting of a variety of federal, state, and local mechanisms for addressing severe municipal distress, as well an exploration of the implications of ever more “fiscal emergencies” in American cities, which are almost necessarily accompanied by material changes in the structure of governance and popular representation.

Project

As the majority of government services people use on a daily basis come from cities and states, I found the need for the project to be driven by the growing prominence of municipal financial distress and its rather tangible consequences on communities around the United States (e.g., school closures, police layoffs, and pension cuts); and, despite the growing prevalence of measures to alleviate municipal financial distress, the literature on the topic has remained relatively limited and mostly focused on discrete cases or a given state’s statute. Moreover, given the development of theories of sovereignty in the United States, it is often within the state and the federal government’s powers to suspend local democratic institutions in the case of acute fiscal distress. The lode star of the superior government’s actions during such a municipal restructuring is almost entirely utilitarian or, more specifically, aimed at sharply reducing costs, raising revenues through extraordinary measures, and repaying creditors. As the project developed, I observed the need to place the actions of municipal restructuring in different ethical systems to try to provide the opportunity for the officials and professionals involved in a restructuring to look beyond purely financial metrics. Given my own experience, interest, and research, I focused on how Catholic Social Teaching might be applied to municipal restructurings and how similar applications in the business world might be applied as well.

Anticipated Results

The goals of the broader project were meant to be expressed in a peer-reviewed journal article, a rough draft of a book, a syllabus for a municipal restructuring course, and a plan for a municipal restructuring conference at Seton Hall.

Actual Results

At the conclusion of the sabbatical, two manuscripts for submission to academic journals have been presented at conferences and are being prepared for final submission. The topic of the first is a survey of non-federal bankruptcy state interventions into municipal financial distress and the second is a case study of the financial recovery of Scranton, Pennsylvania with a focus on the role of partnerships with the private sector (both for- and non-profit). The required amount of primary research exceeded expectations of the sabbatical given the dearth of secondary sources. However, the research performed to draft the two journal articles has been incorporated into the master Zotero bibliography for the book. Primary source research, such as interviews and court documents, is also being compiled and added to the bibliography. I plan to conclude primary and secondary source research for the book by the start of the 2018-19 academic year. I was also an invited panelist at a major financial sector conference to discuss both my work and my research on the sale of the Scranton Sewer Authority, which was presented at the conference as a national model for public private partnerships.

In addition, as stated above, it became apparent that the ethical component of municipal distress had to be considered carefully and deeply. I participated in a number of conferences on Catholic Social Teaching (see attached schedule) and am finalizing an article on the legal doctrine of unconscionability in conversation with Catholic Social Teaching; I will be submitting it to the Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion. Moreover, I have related some of the research from my municipal distress study and applied it to this article, which had previously focused entirely on the private sector.

Abstracts

“Governing the Extraordinary: Municipal Bankruptcy and Emergency Manager Laws in Perspective”

As a combination of rising legacy obligations, declining demographics, and struggling regional economies confront more and more American cities, governments are increasingly turning to extraordinary means to rehabilitate their distressed cities. While large municipal bankruptcies have shined a spotlight on Chapter Nine federal bankruptcy protection as a key instrument for relieving municipal distress, several more common alternative mechanisms exist that are meant to forestall bankruptcy, which have existed in several states for decades. Like bankruptcy, such alternative mechanisms—namely, the installation of an “Emergency Manager” or “Receiver”—begin with the premise that varying degrees

of local control must be taken away in order to create an environment in which a genuine solution can be achieved—a premise that has definite and profound implications for the structure of governance and popular representation. By examining several notable case studies of extraordinary intervention—Detroit, Michigan, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Scranton, Pennsylvania, Central Falls, Rhode Island, and Atlantic City, New Jersey—we shall ask how a municipality can be saved from deep fiscal distress without irreparably damaging the lives of its residents, its broader reputation, and its ability to move beyond distress and into stability.

“A Social Contract: the Doctrine of Unconscionability and its Relation to Social Progress”

The current structure of American contract law may limit the availability of adequate remedies for citizens within certain socioeconomic strata who, in the formation of a contract, often experience an asymmetry of information, financial resources, and lack what is broadly termed social capital. This paper further argues that this population might be better served by expanding how the court interprets and applies the doctrine of unconscionability through a reexamination of the foundational principles that led to its codification in the 1950s in the Uniform Commercial Code. Throughout this paper, I will also consider how several foundational principles of Catholic Social Teaching closely align with the foundational principles of American law and unconscionability, namely: solidarity, subsidiarity, a clarified accounting of freedom and equality, and, most importantly, the absolute dignity of the human person. By coming to a better understanding of these foundational principles shared across the American legal and Catholic intellectual traditions, we will be better suited to judge the appropriate application of the doctrine of unconscionability itself.

“Business and Government Partnerships and the Recovery and Reinvention of Scranton, Pennsylvania”

This paper will discuss how a series of major public-private partnerships will likely allow Scranton, Pennsylvania, a classic example of a distressed legacy city, to emerge from extreme financial distress, and a near bankruptcy in 2012, after almost 25 years. While many efforts to move Scranton out of financial distress were unsuccessful in the past, a new approach that emphasized public-private partnerships in areas outside of the City government's core competency allowed the City to once and for all emerge from distress and stabilize its finances. Specifically, this paper will discuss the roots of the City's financial distress, due to a declining economy and a growing public sector, initial efforts and roadblocks towards recovery, and address,

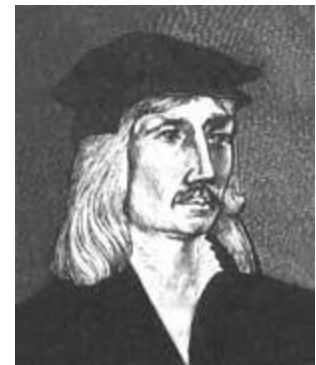
in detail, two major public-private partnerships: the concession-lease of the parking authority and the sale of the sewer authority.

Frederick J. Booth

Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Latin written during the Renaissance has been a focus of European scholarship for many years and has become increasingly important to classicists in the United States and Canada. Neo-Latin literature from Eastern Europe has been particularly overlooked in the West, largely due to the volatile history of the region, most recently the Cold War.

Before my sabbatical, I had completed the first English translation of Nicolaus Hussovianus's *Carmen de Statura, Feritate Ac Venatione Bisontis* (*A Poem about the Size, Ferocity and the Hunting of the Bison*), which was written in Italy and printed in Krakow in 1523. This 1,072 line poem is a learned, didactic work unlike anything else in Latin. It contains a realistic account based on the author's personal experience and includes both a natural history of the European bison and its habitat, as well as the earliest ethnography of the region and its rugged people. The poem, which had been commissioned to accompany a bison pelt that Pope Leo X had requested, has been translated into Polish, Lithuanian, Belarusian, and Russian, but only several passages have been translated into English. My manuscript, which included the annotated Latin and English texts and an introduction, had been reviewed by Ohio State University Press for its Text and Context series, and the editor had sent me suggestions for changes.



In order to be able to satisfy the publisher's requests, I started my sabbatical by translating all of Hussovianus' other works: *Nova et Miranda Victoria De Turcis Mense Iulio* (New and Famous Victory Over Turks in the Month Of July), describing the Polish defeat of a Turkish army on July 2, 1524, *De Vita Et Gestis Divi Hyacinthi* (Life And Deeds Of St. Hyacinth), and *Carmina Minora* (Minor Poems). This amounted to an additional 1,432 lines of Latin. As suggested by the publisher, I also translated a 32-line poem by Conrad Celtis, one of the founders of Polish humanism, who briefly addressed bison hunting in his "*Ad Vistulum Fluvium Ortum et Exitum Eius Describens De Bisontibus et Eorum Venationibus*" (On The Vistula River Describing Its Source And Its Outflow And The Bison And The Hunting Of Them). Although rewarding, reading and translating Renaissance Latin is difficult and time-

consuming. There is no comprehensive dictionary of Renaissance Latin, and hours can be spent tracking down a single word.

I then wrote summaries of each Hussovianus poem and selected passages from each to quote and discuss in the introduction. I substantially expanded the footnotes and commentary on the bison poem. As part of this work, I incorporated some of the current scholarship on politics and literature during the Golden Age of Poland, which I had a chance to read and consider during my sabbatical. For example, a 2014 conference on *Latinitas* in the Polish Crown and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania resulted in a book of papers published by Firenze University Press, and Oxford University Press has recently issued volume I of its *History of Poland-Lithuania: The Making of the Polish-Lithuanian Union 1385-1569*, the only study of its kind in English.

In Spring, 2017, I submitted the revised manuscript to Ohio State, but the editor told me that the Press had decided to discontinue the Text and Context series, and that he could not accept my manuscript.

I then inquired of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Arizona State University whether its Press might be interested in my manuscript for its Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies series. I got an encouraging answer, so I submitted my manuscript to Arizona. The editor sent it out for peer review, and, just two weeks ago, I received a very positive review from the first reader, which I attach. I am eagerly awaiting the report of the second reader, and I am looking forward to making whatever revisions the editor decides are needed to get this book published.

In addition to that scholarly work, I have been active in professional organizations. I am a member of the Program Committee of the Classical Association of the Atlantic States, and at the CAAS October, 2016 annual meeting in New Brunswick, I presided over two panels, one on Greek philosophy and the Second Sophistic, and the other on Classical reception. I serve on the Executive Committee of the New Jersey Classical Association, and attended its meetings. Further, I am on the Executive Committee of the American Association for Neo-Latin Studies, and attended the annual meetings of the AANLS and the Society for Classical Studies in Toronto in January, 2017. I am now the President-elect of AANLS, and will be starting my three-year term in January, 2018.

The situation in the Classical Studies program, where Raymond Capra was denied tenure and had to leave Seton Hall in May, 2017, has forced me to remain active in departmental affairs to some extent, even while on sabbatical. In

conjunction with LLC Chair Dongdong Chen, I prepared the hiring request for Dr. Capra's replacement, as well as for a lectureship position for Dr. Michael Mascio, which has been approved. I also reviewed and revised the catalogue entries for Classical Studies. To assist in recruiting, I wrote to all accepted students who indicated an interest in studying Classics at Seton Hall. In addition, I served on the LLC Merit Pay Committee, reviewing all of the department's merit pay applications.

Through the year, I continued to manage the testing for Latin teachers in New Jersey and to run the Latin and Greek reading group that has been meeting around my dining room table on Friday afternoons for 25 years. As I have for many years, I also served as a judge for the Latin portion of William Paterson University's annual Foreign Poetry Reading Contest for high school students.

I have had a productive and enjoyable sabbatical, and I thank the Dean, Provost, and my LLC colleagues for this opportunity for reflection and scholarship.

Angela Carmella

Seton Hall School of Law

I am submitting a report of my activities and a description of tangible outcomes in order to demonstrate the achievement of the objectives presented in my sabbatical application. In January, I sent a mid-year progress report indicating that I had a draft of a law review article. I have completed that article, and it has been accepted for publication. I have also substantially completed a second article, which I plan to submit to law reviews in the August 2017 window.

I. Catholic Institutions in Court: The Religion Clauses and Political-Legal Compromise

My sabbatical application set out the following plan: "to study the evolution of the American Catholic Church's religious liberty doctrine (through a representative sample of its official pronouncements, amicus briefs, litigation positions and lobbying for/against legislation) over the last 50 years. The study would address four main areas: Establishment Clause restrictions on aid to a variety of church-related institutions (schools, social services, hospitals); autonomy for church-related institutions (based on both the Free Exercise and Establishment

Clauses), as limited by tort and bankruptcy law; Free Exercise conscience claims of church-related nonprofit institutions vis-à-vis sexual morality (most recently, the challenges to the contraception mandate under the Affordable Care Act); and the use of conscientious objection (particularly toward immigration laws). I may also consider other areas (for example, the way in which the Church has focused its pro-life efforts primarily on changes in law, as opposed to institution-building in civil society or internal church efforts). My goal is to analyze the Church's positions on these topics for consistency with the principles set out in the *DIGNITATIS HUMANAЕ*.”

The article, *Catholic Institutions in Court: The Religion Clauses and Political-Legal Compromise*, forthcoming 120 WEST VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW (2017), follows the sabbatical plan closely. It explores Catholic Church litigation strategies (as plaintiff, defendant, and amicus) since the nineteenth century in connection with disputes regarding education, employment, and public ministries in health care and social services. I provide a comprehensive picture of the relevant state and federal case law and amicus participation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; I also describe the Church's political activity in these categories.

The article describes the position that Catholic institutions consistently take—aggressive claims to free exercise exemptions and to access for funding—and notes both a remarkable degree of legal protection but also the inevitability of restrictions for public order. The piece focuses on the political-legal compromises that have been worked out in three contexts: parochial school funding, autonomy in employment decisions in parishes and schools, and exemptions on culture war matters in the operation of hospitals, service agencies and colleges. We end up with school choice (and not direct funding); with autonomy in employment matters but not on sexual abuse cases; and with broad conscience exemptions but some limitations when third parties are affected. I argue that the limits to funding, autonomy, and exemptions are part of the socio-political arrangements (which inevitably involve adjustment and compromise) that the Church itself has agreed to in its own church-state teaching, *DIGNITATIS HUMANAЕ*. At bottom, the Church's litigation strategies have helped shape the interpretation of the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the First Amendment—providing broad protections for religious institutions but also marking the boundaries of that protection.

In connection with this project, I spent much of last summer reading materials on the Second Vatican Council, with a particular focus on the change in language from previous papal and episcopal pronouncements (in order to see whether American lobbying and litigation strategies reflected those changes). In addition to

helping orient my sabbatical project, this project was time well spent: it will help inform my scholarly work over the next few years.

II. For-Profit Refusals to Serve: Protected Conscience or Illegal Discrimination?

In March, I spoke at a conference on “Business and Religious Accommodations: Legal and Ethical Issues,” co-sponsored by the Wharton Business School-Zicklin (CUNY) Business School and held at Baruch College. The topic focused on the cases of wedding vendors who refuse to provide goods and services to same-sex couples. Since I had written on for-profit entities and religious claims of complicity in *After Hobby Lobby: The “Religious For-Profit” and the Limits of the Autonomy Doctrine*, 80 MO.



L. REV. 382 (2015), I wanted to extend my scholarship into the discrimination/public accommodations area. The conference inspired me to write a second article, ***For-Profit Refusals to Serve: Protected Conscience or Illegal Discrimination?*** This article attempts to locate refusals by businesses (physicians and other for-profit entities) to participate in “edge-of-life” matters

(abortion, death penalty, and the like) within a conscience paradigm while locating refusals to endorse or approve someone else’s conduct within a discrimination paradigm. The topic could not be more timely: the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this week agreed to hear the free exercise and free speech claims of a baker who refuses to bake cakes for same-sex weddings.

III. Other Scholarship and Activities

I have also spent some time preparing for my next article, which will focus attention on the Establishment Clause in Catholic thought. This clause is completely under-theorized, as is easily seen in the Church’s litigation strategy. (I became interested in this problem while working on the section on funding and school choice

in *Catholic Institutions in Court*.) The American Church's position on the Religion Clauses is to treat the Free Exercise Clause as primary, and the Establishment Clause as secondary (in service to free exercise). But in practice, this means that the Establishment Clause as a restraint is redundant and, indeed, virtually non-existent. The question is: What does the Establishment Clause mean in Catholic thought? I have collected the relevant case law and am ready to begin reading and reflecting on this topic in the coming academic year.

An additional short piece, entitled *Free Exercise, Conscience, and Compromise*, will be coming out in the JOURNAL OF LAW AND RELIGION (by the fall of 2017). I wrote this as part of a roundtable at Notre Dame Law School that occurred prior to my sabbatical, but I finalized it this year. In addition to scholarly pursuits and the Wharton/Baruch conference, I attended meetings of the Committee on Religious Liberty, Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute, Washington, D.C.; met with former Utah Governor and Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mike Leavitt, at the newly-built Mormon Temple in Philadelphia (arranged by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty); served as a peer reviewer of manuscripts for JOURNAL OF LAW AND RELIGION; provided a review of scholarship for the Catholic Univ. Law School's Rank and Tenure Committee; and provided a book jacket endorsement for Robert F. Cochran, Jr. and Zachary R. Calo, *AGAPE, JUSTICE, AND LAW: HOW MIGHT CHRISTIAN LOVE SHAPE LAW?* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2017).

Thank you for the opportunity to spend time on intellectual pursuits that challenge and inspire me.

Linda Fisher

Seton Hall School of Law

My primary accomplishment during my sabbatical was to draft approximately forty percent of the text for my book Foreclosure Echo (with Judith Fox) (Cambridge Press, forthcoming 2018). The book concerns the lingering effects of the foreclosure crisis on low-to-moderate communities devastated by foreclosure. My co-author's and my clinic clients are members of this demographic group and the text is interspersed with many of our clients' stories (with their permission, of course). The book emphasizes that the crisis is far from over in these neighborhoods, which continue to suffer from the ongoing ripple effects of home loss. We also aim to humanize the crisis, presenting its legacy from the point of view of ordinary people who were frequently victims of prior predatory lending practices.

Thus far, I have virtually completed two chapters and am working on a third. I have thoroughly edited my co-author's introduction, which is basically complete as well. I am in the process of editing the two additional chapters that my co-author has partially drafted. Our manuscript completion deadline is March 1, 2018, and we both intend to meet it. That should be possible as we have finished almost all of the necessary research and are now focusing just on writing (as well as editing).

During the last year, I also reviewed a book proposal for Cambridge Press, was interviewed by NPR's Marketplace Morning Report on ongoing foreclosure issues, became a member of the board of NJ Appleseed Public Interest Law Center, and helped the Center for Social Justice (CSJ) with grant reports for the sizeable grants we are receiving from bank settlements of lawsuits charging them with unlawful foreclosure practices. I continued participating in a foreclosure-related case in the New Jersey Supreme Court, and argued it in March. A unanimous opinion in our favor came down last summer. I participated in three academic conferences, presenting sections of our book each time and gathering helpful feedback. During this time, the CSJ also received a number of small *cy pres* gifts from class action settlements that help fund my clinic work.

In addition, I advised the Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois (Chicago) on acceptable foreclosure eviction practices. I consulted with some New Jersey lawyers concerning complex foreclosure issues they encountered and provided advice on foreclosure litigation to Prof. Kevin Kelly, who took over my cases while I was away. Finally, I was named to the New Jersey Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Residential Foreclosures, and am Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Legislation, as well as a member of the Subcommittee on the Judiciary. We are recommending rule changes and currently writing reports to submit to the Court before the end of October.

I truly appreciate having had the opportunity this sabbatical provided to work on my book. Without substantial down time, I would not have been able to pay sustained attention to a book project.

Paige Fisher

Department of Psychology

My sabbatical was a valuable experience that allowed me to initiate a number of new projects that will strengthen my teaching and scholarship in both the near and

long term. These projects included submission of a brief grant proposal, enhancing my pedagogical scholarship related to critical thinking, development of a new course for the Psychology Department, and designing two new protocols related to my research on college adjustment.

Grant Pre-proposal to HHMI Inclusive Excellence Grant: One sabbatical goal was a grant submission related to STEM education, as a line of my research investigates the relationship between academic ability and interest (particularly math) in preschool children. An opportunity arose to collaborate with Janine Buckner and Cecilia Marzabadi on a pre-proposal for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Inclusive Excellence grant. This institutional grant focuses on improving success in STEM education for traditionally underrepresented students. The proposal required applicants to describe the relevant SHU student population, identify barriers to STEM at SHU and determine structural changes that SHU could implement. With my colleagues, I researched successful STEM-related programs at other universities, and met with relevant campus entities such as the Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Plus program (PMPDPP), Student Support Services and Institutional Research. We created, administered and analyzed a survey of PMPDPP students to understand their perceptions of SHU's strengths and weaknesses related to STEM inclusion. In our application, we proposed the creation of an Office of Inclusive Excellence in STEM to oversee STEM-related assessment and coordination between departments throughout the university, a faculty development series, an increase in courses designed to foster STEM-related skills, and collaboration with local STEM business to provide mentorship and career-development. Unfortunately, we learned in May that we were not invited to submit a full proposal (15% of applicants were invited). If possible, we will revise the proposal for another grant that focuses on STEM education in higher education.

Pedagogy related to Critical Thinking: Throughout my sabbatical, I expanded my understanding of fostering critical thinking skills in the classroom. I was invited (along with several Psychology Department colleagues) to present at CUNY Pedagogy Day in October 2017. This in-house conference provides professional development to CUNY psychology graduate students to promote their understanding of and ability to enact effective pedagogy. My colleagues and I presented a number of approaches for best practices related to critical thinking, as well as several specific activities that could be used in the classroom to enhance psychological literacy and critical thinking. The conference organizers also invited us to contribute a chapter on critical thinking to an ebook published by the Society for Teaching of Psychology. Our chapter reviews best-practices for a critical-thinking classroom and provides several applied activities. This scholarship has

directly impacted my teaching, as I made several modifications to the courses I taught this summer, as well as my fall classes, to further incorporate critical thinking.

Fisher, P. H. Hunter, A. S., Nolan, S. A., & Buckner, J. P. (2017). In R. Obeid, A. Schartz, C. Shane-Simpson, & P. J. Brooks (Eds.) *How We Teach Now: The GSTA Guide to Student-Centered Teaching*. Retrieved from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology web site:

<http://teachpsych.org/ebooks/>

Developmental Psychopathology Course: Critical thinking is also a guiding principle in my creation of a new Developmental Psychopathology class. In addition to critical thinking skills, the course objectives are: 1) understanding scientific methodology and how it relates to diagnosis and treatment, 2) evaluating the impact of a developmental perspective in understanding psychopathology (i.e. change over time vs. stability, importance of socio-cultural context, increasing recognition of genetics), 3) comparing and contrasting “seminal” empirical articles in the field with more current research that identifies new trends and approaches, and 4) evaluating the translation of psychological concepts in the popular media (information literacy). The text for the course, Introduction to Abnormal Child and Adolescent Psychology, 3rd edition by Robert Weis supports the above goals with a strong focus on the interplay between genetics and environmental contexts, small case studies throughout to apply psychological concepts, research to clinical practice focus-boxes, and evaluation of empirical support for existing therapies. There are also critical thinking exercises at the end of each chapter that I have incorporated into in-class activities and homework assignments. Assessment includes exams, case study assignments and evaluation of empirical articles related to diagnosis or treatment of the disorder.

Smart Phone Use, College Adjustment, and Mental Health. During my sabbatical, I have pursued two new directions with my scholarship. The first is an overhaul of my research investigating relationships between college adjustment and mental health. It is somewhat obvious that smart phone use, particularly related to social media, is fundamental to most college students’ experiences. I have become increasingly interested in how smart phone use interacts with college adjustment and mental health, and there seems to be little empirical work done related to these variables in conjunction with one another. My sabbatical allowed for significant exploration of the literature with my research team (several undergraduates and one graduate student) to understand current findings and determine the measures most utilized in this area. The research assistants also provided invaluable perspective and ideas based on their personal experiences with highly influential (yet

understudied) mediums such as Snapchat. Through this work, I created a new protocol that includes college adjustment and mental health measures, and adds two pre-existing measures (1) Questionnaire About Experiences Related to the Internet (Beranuy, Chamarro, Graner, & Carbonell, 2009), and 2) the Questionnaire About Experiences Related to the Cell Phone (Beranuy, Chamarro, et al., 2009; Beranuy, Oberst, et al., 2009). I have also designed a Smart Phone Usage survey that incorporates questions from a measure of technology and social interactions (Biden & Arnavut, 2015), and a number of questions I developed about usage and impact of highly utilized apps, particularly Snapchat.

Reviewing the literature also suggested an additional area of inquiry related to how individuals cope with stress. Findings using the CERI and CERM indicate that for some individuals, technology usage provides escapism and entertainment, while others engage with their phones to avoid and/or regulate emotions. Further studies have demonstrated that individuals who utilize technology to avoid emotions are more likely to experience depression, anxiety and other mental health problems (Panova & Lleras, 2015). Similarly, forms of avoidance coping unrelated to technology (such as overeating) are also associated with negative outcomes. I am interested in comparing patterns of coping related to smart phone use with other methods of coping. Therefore, I have added a broad measure of coping approaches (COPE: Carver, Scheier, & Weintraub, 1989) to investigate whether individuals employ similar coping mechanisms with technology use as with other areas of experience, and then assess connections to college adjustment and mental health.

Preliminary work with the protocol in the spring indicated that it was too long and some of the questions were vague, so I have revised accordingly. I have two research assistants for this fall that will assist in finalizing the protocol and initiating data collection. Additionally, after the new protocol has been validated, I will develop an intervention study to investigate whether educating students about the potential negative impacts of smart phone use impacts their perceptions and behavior. I became interested in investigating this question based on feedback from my research assistants, who noted that the team's investigations of social media had made them more reflective regarding their own phone use.

Student Experiences Survey (SES): For several years, I have wished to expand the applied aspect of my research on college adjustment and mental health, with particular interest in identifying predictors of outcomes such as GPA and retention. More specifically, I am interested in examining these factors in longitudinal research with students throughout the University. In collaboration with Monica Burnette (Director of Special Projects and Planning) and Priti Shah (Assistant Director of CAPS), I have initiated the multi-year Student Experiences

Survey (SES) project to investigate variables that relate to adjustment, mental health and retention. My sabbatical year has supported the following steps in developing this project: 1) designing the SES survey, 2) administering the survey to our first cohort and conducting broad analyses, 3) developing a structured coding system for the qualitative data, and 4) revising the survey for the 2nd wave of data collection in Fall 2017 as well as a follow-up survey for the initial cohort. The SES assesses college expectations, academic engagement, adjustment to college, community connection, resiliency, mental health, and overall satisfaction, as well as involvement in campus services (e.g. ARC) and extra-curricular activities.

The survey was administered through Campus Labs in October 2016, and 676 students responded (though not all of them completed the entire measure). We sampled all first year students as well as a representative subset of upper-level students. Some of our initial findings indicate that students are generally satisfied with their experience at SHU (88%) and have positive views of their academic experiences (90%). While the vast majority are pleased they are attending SHU (88%), a moderate number have considered dropping out/transferring (21%). However, 89% say they feel comfortable at SHU, and belonging has been identified as a key indicator to retention. While the majority of students are satisfied with their social life at SHU (75%), only half feel there enough weekend activities and 42% find it difficult to get involved in extra-curricular and social activities. Additionally, our data is consistent with SHU Institutional Research findings that pre-majors are particularly vulnerable to leaving SHU prematurely. Lastly, mental health responses suggest that symptoms were predictive of student attrition for the 2017 spring semester, and that Asian students in this sample reported less resilience and higher levels of mental health symptoms than their SHU peers.

One unexpected aspect of the survey was the rich detail with which many students answered the two open-ended questions (What do you like best about being a student at Seton Hall? and If you could change one thing about Seton Hall, what would it be?). Because a majority of students provided substantive responses, we created a formal coding protocol to enable sophisticated analysis of the qualitative data. After several revisions to our initial coding scheme, we will soon be ready to analyze this data with the rest of the survey and with Pirate Adventure data. The qualitative data has also informed our revisions of the overall survey to include additional topics and questions. We intend to increase our understanding of retention and success predictors at SHU by continuing this project for a number of years, both with new cohorts and by following each cohort to graduation.

Patrick Fisher

Department of Political Science

My sabbatical for the 2016-2017 academic year allowed me to work on a number of successful research endeavors. I signed a contract with Lexington Press for the manuscript *Not Enough Representation: The Disconnect between Congress and Its Citizens* at the beginning of my sabbatical and was able to complete the first draft of the manuscript by the end of my sabbatical. The sabbatical also aided my ability to publish four journal articles as well as allowing me to present a conference paper on generational divides in American politics that symbolizes my next research undertaking.

Book Project:
Not Enough Representation: The Disconnect between Congress and Its Citizens



The bulk of my sabbatical was spent completing the manuscript

Not Enough Representation: The Disconnect between Congress and Its Citizens. I received a book contract with Lexington Press (Lanham, MD) for the manuscript in June 2016 and completed the manuscript in August 2017. The purpose of the work is to amalgamate research that I've done on the political demographics of the American public (the primary focus of my book *Demographic Gaps in American Political Behavior*) with that I've done on congressional representation (an important component of my first book, *Congressional Budgeting: A Representational Perspective*).

Summary: The book examines how representative the United States Congress is among different demographic groups and how representational issues affect Americans' perception of Congress and potentially threaten its legitimacy. The opening chapters analyze political representation from the perspective of the nature of the relationship between voters and legislators, addressing why Congress is so demographically unrepresentative. The book then focuses on outcome—the representativeness of the legislature in terms of its members' demographic backgrounds. Congress, simply put, is not demographically representative of the American public. There are significant gaps between Congress and the American

public on the basis of gender, race, religion, generation, and wealth. Since members of Congress do not adequately represent the diversity in their electorate, this suggests that Congress in turn does not make policies that advocate for the citizenry as a whole.

Purpose and Scope: Are all citizens well represented by their elected officials? My book analyzes the demographic disconnect between the American public and congressional representation. This link is critical to understanding the disillusionment most Americans hold toward the contemporary Congress.

The book first examines the nature of the relationship between citizens and legislators before analyzing demographic groups in the general population and comparing their preferences to how Congressional members of that demographic group legislate. In the process, he ties representation to many of the hot-button issues that polarize both the American public and Congress: gender, race, religion, generational differences, and wealth. Congress is not descriptively representative of the U.S. population. Many groups of Americans have historically been, and continue to be, underrepresented in Congress. More than ever before, this underrepresentation is troublesome to a substantial number of Americans—and problematic for American democracy.

Three aspects of this book are distinct from other scholarship on this subject. First, books on representation tend to focus either on its nature (the relationship between voters and legislators) or on outcome (the representativeness of the legislature in terms of its members' backgrounds or votes). This book analyzes and contrast both aspects of representation. Second, the book compares how demographic gaps in American political behavior are related to demographic gaps in congressional representation, an analysis that has not previously been done comprehensively. Third, these aspects of the book are tied together through the central premise that the unpopularity of the contemporary Congress is a result of its representational manner.

Though there is a considerable amount of literature on Congress, relatively little of it focuses on Congress from a representational perspective, and the literature that has analyzed Congress from a representational perspective has concentrated on the relationship of voters and legislatures. No political science research on congressional representation has ever analyzed Congress from a comprehensive demographic perspective before, and I am excited to add to the political science literature on this fascinating topic.

Chapter 1: The Dilemma of Congressional Representation

Chapter 2: The Wealth Disconnect

Chapter 3: The Gender Disconnect

Chapter 4: The Race Disconnect

Chapter 5: The Religion Disconnect

Chapter 6: The Generation Disconnect

Chapter 7: The Consequences of Underrepresentation

Journal Articles:

- “Definitely Not Moralistic: State Political Culture and Support for Donald Trump in the Race for the 2016 Republican Presidential Nomination.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 49 (4): 743-747, 2016.
- “The Political Culture Gap: Daniel Elazar’s Subcultures in Contemporary American Politics.” *Journal of Political Science* 44 (1): 87-108, 2016.
- “Demographic Dynamics of the Wealth Gap in Congress.” *Society* 53 (5): 503-509, 2016.
- “Economic Conditions and Presidential Vote for Obama: The Underappreciated Influence of Race.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 4 (1): 30-46, 2016.

Conference Papers:

- “Donald Trump’s Lack of Appeal to the Millennial Generation in the 2016 Election: Causes and Consequences”
Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, April 2017.

Ömer Gokcekus

School of Diplomacy and International Relations

I was on sabbatical leave during the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. My host institutions were the Office of the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in Nicosia, Cyprus and the Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

The following is the list of some of the activities I engaged in while I was on sabbatical leave:

Scholarship

- Gokcekus, O. and Sonan, S. (forthcoming) Political contributions and corruption in the United States. *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*
- Gokcekus, O. and Finnegan, C. (forthcoming) Price Effects of Establishing a New Sub-AVA within Oregon's Willamette Valley AVA. *Journal of Wine Economics*

Conference Participation

- Expert Mission on EU Fiscal Acquis and Governance, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium, July 26-28, 2016
- Cyprus Peace Conference I, UN, Geneva, Switzerland, January 10 - 14, 2017
- Property Financing Meeting, EBRD, London, UK, February 3, 2017
- 13th ECO Summit Meeting, Islamabad, Pakistan, February 28 - March 2, 2017
- 20th Eurasia Economic Summit, Istanbul, Turkey, April 4 - 6, 2017
- Cyprus Peace Conference II, Crans Montana, Switzerland, June 28 – July 7, 2017

Teaching

- One course, International Finance, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University

Service and Affiliations

- **Special Advisor of Economic Affairs**, TRNC President
- **Chair**, TRNC President's Economic Advisory Council
- **Member**, Economics Working Group, Cyprus Negotiations
- **Member**, Turkish Cypriot Delegation, Cyprus Peace Conference
- **Visiting Professor**, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University

I believe that I had a very productive sabbatical leave. I managed to accomplish more than what I had envisioned and planned in my sabbatical application form. Participating in the Cyprus peace negotiations as a member of the bi-communal (Greek and Turkish Cypriot) Economics Working Group allowed me to engage in rounds of negotiations of drafting the sections of the peace agreement on economics. Attending the high level Peace Conferences in Switzerland, as a member of the Turkish Cypriot Delegation at the capacity of Turkish Cypriot President Akinci's economic advisor, were unique experiences.

In addition to serving as the economic advisor to a president and participating in peace negotiations and attending peace conference, I succeeded in starting and completing a number of new research projects, submitting new manuscripts for possible publication in refereed journals, engaging in collaborative research activities with Cypriot and Thai colleagues, and teaching a course to Thai students and getting excellent teaching evaluations. These were just a few of the highlights of my sabbatical leave.

In my opinion, these accomplishments qualify my sabbatical as a successful one; for which I am grateful to Seton Hall for granting me a sabbatical leave. I am confident that the University, the School and our students will be benefiting a great deal from my one year sabbatical leave.

Rev. Thomas Guarino

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology

During the sabbatical, I completed a book entitled, **Vatican II: Development or Corruption? An Examination.** The volume will be published in 2018 by Eerdmans Press (Grand Rapids).

The Second Vatican Council was opened by Pope John XXIII on October 11, 1962. In a few days we will be celebrating the fifty-fifth anniversary of that momentous event.



Most Catholics have now lived their entire adult lives within the horizon of the teachings and reforms enacted by this great council. Yet, even half a century later, Vatican II remains controversial. Some think the council was illegitimate. Many others, while not challenging its validity, believe Vatican II promulgated teachings which were deeply misguided. Those teachings, it is claimed, induced vertigo in the Catholic world, causing a precipitous decline in Catholic religious practice and commitment to the faith: Vocations to the priesthood and religious life have been massively reduced; attendance at weekly Mass has become entirely

optional for many; and the young barely practice their faith at all, having reduced the Catholic faith to a general “charity” towards all.

What did Vatican II teach that—at least seemingly—caused these deleterious and rancid effects? Perhaps the best response is to cite the French minister of education, Christian Fouchet. Toward the end of 1964, he said to Bishop Elchinger of Strasbourg: “*You are doing a bad job at the Council. You are calling everything into question. What was true yesterday is no longer true today....*”

It is precisely this sentiment that dominates the thought of many. There is often uneasiness with Vatican II—at least in certain quarters—because of the sense that the council “changed” Catholicism in significant ways. Identifying precisely *what* changed is often difficult. An obvious variation, of course, is the liturgy which is now celebrated in the vernacular and *versus populum* whereas it was once offered in Latin and *ad orientem*. But there is also a deeper sense, vaguely articulated, that Vatican II somehow altered Catholicism itself—that it went from being the “one true Church” to simply one Christian denomination among many. And that it now holds positions—about religious freedom, ecumenism, inter-religious dialogue and church-state relations—that it formerly abhorred.

The customary self-understanding of Catholics was thrown into confusion by a council allegedly willing to modify fundamental teachings: Is explicit belief in Jesus Christ and the church still vital to salvation? Is evangelization still important? Is access to the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, integral to a vibrant Christian life? Rather than the self-confident institution that it once was, the Catholic Church is now anxious and unsure about its identity, about its place in society and about its future in general. Isn’t this uncertainty the sad harvest of Vatican II?

It is precisely these kinds of questions that gave rise to this book. I have been teaching Vatican II for a lifetime. However, it was now time to investigate with the greatest care the extent to which the ecumenical council altered the prior teachings of the Catholic Church. Was the council a significant rupture with the antecedent doctrinal tradition?

One might argue that material continuity over time is engraved within the souls of Catholics. Indeed, such continuity is the article on which the Church itself stands or falls. Why is continuity so important? Because if divine revelation is truly God’s self-manifestation—his personal unveiledness to humanity—then God’s own truthfulness demands that revelation be identical and continuous, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. If the Church’s teachings are *not* universally valid

and materially identical over time, then one is driven to conclude that Christian doctrines are themselves fallible and changeable, able to be remade with time and tide, possessing little intrinsic stability. In that case, Christian teachings would be nothing more than historically conditioned attempts at self-transcendence, offering little insight into the life of God. Historical mutability and provisionality—not bedrock truth—would be the horizons within which all Christian teaching should be understood. It is precisely for this reason that the debate over continuity and discontinuity in Catholicism is so crucial and vigorous today. If the council simply “re-made” the church in the image of the contemporary world—ecclesio-genesis in the proper sense of the term—then the church can ever and always be remade in order to correspond to the whims and tastes of the day.

I argue in this book that, for the greatest part, Vatican II is clearly congruent with the prior Catholic tradition—even while homogeneously developing it on certain points. (And the precise meaning of the “development” is carefully examined in the volume.) At the same time, certain earlier, low-level teachings were reversed by the council. This, I believe, has been the source of much confusion and consternation, giving rise to the claim that Vatican II constituted a significant and substantial rupture with the prior tradition. I will argue, on the contrary, that the moments of discontinuity found at Vatican II undermine neither the stability of Catholic doctrine nor the solidity of the truth of divine revelation.

In sum, this book argues that Vatican II is in massive doctrinal continuity with the prior Catholic tradition. The few reversals at the council were of low-level, reformable teachings for which the Church never made any claim of irreflexibility or irreversibility.

I conducted most of the research for this book at Seton Hall, extensively using Walsh Library and Turro Seminary Library. I also spent time at the Speer Library of Princeton Theological Seminary and the Firestone Library of Princeton University. I also spent one month researching and writing in New York City, while in residence with the Dominican Friars of St. Vincent’s Priory on Lexington Avenue.

Besides thanking my own dean, Msgr. Joseph Reilly, for his generous support, I also thank Dr. John Buschman for kindly providing space in Walsh Library for undisturbed research and writing. I express gratitude, as well, to the faculty and staffs of both Seton Hall libraries for their generous assistance in obtaining the necessary research materials.

During the sabbatical I also co-chaired two sessions of the bi-lateral ecumenical initiative, “Evangelicals and Catholics Together” (ECT) in New York City. During this time, ECT composed a statement entitled “The Christian Way” which will be published in the journal *First Things* in November, 2017.

Thomas Healy

Seton Hall University School of Law

I spent the fall semester of my sabbatical at Harvard University as the Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research. I spent the second semester as a visiting fellow at the Center for Law and Culture at Columbia Law School.

During both semesters, I spent most of my time working on my latest book, *Soul City: Race, Equality, and the Lost Dream of an American Utopia*. The book examines an attempt by civil rights activists to build a predominantly black city in rural North Carolina from 1969 to 1979. Named Soul City, the project was intended to ease overcrowding in the ghettos of the north and stem the outmigration of poor blacks from the south. It was supported by the Nixon Administration and funded by a loan guarantee from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. But it was opposed by many conservatives who viewed it as a form of liberal welfarism and by many liberals who viewed it as a step toward separatism. It also came under intense scrutiny from the media, which accused its developers of corruption and mismanagement – accusations that were later largely disproved. As a result of these and other factors (such as the dismal economy of the 1970s), Soul City struggled to attract industry and residents, and in 1979 it was shuttered by the federal government. Today, Soul City is a modern ghost town. Most of the original residents have left, the buildings are vacant, the streets are cracked and crumbling, and the industrial plant that was supposed to pave the way to black economic freedom has been converted into a prison.

My book will tell the story of Soul City’s rise and fall. It will also explore a number of themes and subplots, including: 1) the rise of the black power movement and the focus on black capitalism; 2) the awkward relationship between black capitalists and Nixonian republicans; 3) the decline of the inner cities and the rise of the new urbanism; 4) the emergence of HUD and its attempts to deal with the urban crisis; and 5) the history of other black cities and separatist movements, including the many towns started by freed slaves in the 1860s and Marcus Garvey’s back-to-Africa movement in the 1920s.

I made excellent progress during my sabbatical and am very excited about the project. As with my previous book, *The Great Dissent*, I am trying to tell a story that combines intellectual history, biography, and human drama. Although I want the book to stand up to scholarly scrutiny, I also want it to appeal to a broader audience. For that reason, much of my sabbatical was dedicated to the laborious research necessary to make the story come alive. I made several trips to the library at the University of North Carolina, which houses the Soul City archives. I also visited Soul City on multiple occasions and interviewed many of the people involved in the project. And because much of the subject of the book is beyond my areas of expertise, I read widely in various fields, such as black history, urban planning, and 1970s politics.

I began writing while on sabbatical and have since finished about three-quarters of the book. I am hoping to complete the remainder of the book before the fall 2019 semester, which means it will likely be published in the fall of 2020 or the spring of 2021. My publisher is Metropolitan Books, which also published my previous book. While on sabbatical, I gave presentations on Soul City at both Harvard and Columbia.

In addition to working on Soul City, I also wrote an article about the current debates over free speech on college campuses. The article, entitled “Who’s Afraid of Free Speech,” was commissioned by the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University. A shorter version appeared in the *The Atlantic*.

Héctor Lozada

Department of Marketing

This report is in compliance with article 6.1.b. of the SHU Faculty Guide. The purpose of my sabbatical was to focus on the following projects:

1. The article “The Pope will Travel Now (By Plane): The Pastoral Visits of Paul VI and the influence of television and telecommunications satellites” was presented at the Eighteenth Annual Conference of the National Business and Economics Society in March 2017.
2. The article “Back to the Future: Corporate Environmental Responsibility, Climate Change and the Protection of Our Common Home” was reconceptualized as “Let’s (Not) Talk About Climate Change: American

Consumers and Global Warming” and was presented at the 2017 Marketing Management Association Spring Conference in Chicago also in March.

In addition to the projects above, please note the following:

1. The article “A Reprise of Compensatory and General Damages With a Focus on Punitive Damages in Products Liability Cases,” with my Stillman School colleagues Richard J. Hunter, Jr., John H. Shannon, and Henry Amoroso was published in January. Full citation: Hunter, R. J., J. Shannon, H. Amoroso, and H. Lozada (2017), “A Reprise of Compensatory and General Damages With a Focus on Punitive Damages in Products Liability Cases,” *International Journal of Business Management and Commerce*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 24-37 (January).
2. The article “Will U.S. Consumers Pay a Price for Net Neutrality? Legal Win vs. Reality” with my Stillman colleague Gary H. Kritz was presented at the Eighteenth Annual Conference of the National Business and Economics Society in March 2017.
3. As part of my sabbatical, I worked on the revised MBA Curriculum, and am currently working with TLTC to mount BMBA9457 Market Decision Making as an online course in Spring 2018. I will be teaching a hybrid version of this course in Fall 2017.
4. I have been revising the course BMBA 7633 Cases in Strategic Marketing to offer it experimentally as an online course during summer 2017.
5. I assisted Mr. Robert Manthey, adjunct professor, in preparing the course BMKT 4634 Marketing Metrics for Spring 2017.
6. I was invited by the University of Puerto Rico’s Graduate School of Business Administration to deliver a one week seminar on Marketing Management during summer 2016.
7. I started preliminary work with Market Research Center director Adam Warner to offer an online Certificate in Market Research for the Division of Continuing Education and Professional Studies.
8. I served as reviewer for the Spring 2017 Conference of the Marketing Management Association.
9. I reviewed articles for a special issue of Journal of Marketing Theory and Practice.

10. I was asked by Jeff Tanner, editor of Marketing Educations Review, to co-guest-edit with my colleague and friend Dr. Alma Mintu-Wimsatt (Texas A&M-Commerce) a Special Issue of the journal on Business Analytics in the Marketing Curriculum. We collected and reviewed papers and will be working over Summer 2017 and early Fall 2017 to select and revise the papers that will be included in the Special Issue slated to be out online and in print in early 2018.
11. I have been assisting the Theatre Development Fund, a not-for-profit organization of which I am a Trustee, as chair of the Marketing and Branding Committee that lead into a major rebranding project for the organization. The project was started in November 2016 and is ongoing.
12. I am assisting the Theatre Development Fund in exploring the possibility of an enhanced membership program. I moderated a focus group in NYC on December 20, 2016.

I thank Seton Hall University for the opportunity to take the time off the classroom to work on my research and engagement activities.

Stephen Lubben

Seton Hall University School of Law

Dear Dr. Boroff: I write to update you on the status of my recently completed sabbatical. As outlined in my application, the sabbatical was designed to allow me to focus my time on writing a book, entitled *The Law of Failure*. The book aims to provide a concise, readable overview of American business insolvency law. At present, I have completed a rough draft of just over 275 double-spaced pages. I am soliciting feedback on the manuscript, and revising the same. I have signed a contract with Cambridge University Press to publish the book, with my completed manuscript due at the end of this year. I fully intend to meet that deadline. If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Vanessa May

Department of History

My sabbatical project, which will eventually result in a book-length manuscript, examines the activities of maternalist Progressives in the 1950s and

1960s. Maternalists were a group of women reformers who came of age in the early twentieth century and presented themselves as mothers to the state. These women pioneered social programs for women and children through women's voluntary organizations, social settlements, and government institutions like the Children's Bureau. My work extends this well-known story by looking at the fate of this generation of women reformers and policymakers after World War II. Using age, sexuality, and gender as central categories of analysis, the book will argue for Progressive women's persistence in shaping policy, especially with regard to child welfare, into the 1960s. The book will also, however, take seriously the ways in which liberal public welfare experts marginalized older Progressive women's political influence and broke up Progressive institutions. I argue for the persistence of this generation of reformers in social welfare policy and challenge historians to rethink how they chart the shift from Progressivism to liberalism in the Cold War era. This project will assess not only women's gendered political action but also reveals how the narrowing possibilities for traditional maternalist politics shaped the welfare state after World War II.



Over the course of my sabbatical I have gone on two long-range research trips, one to the Schlesinger Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts and one to the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland. I have also gathered archival material from seven libraries and done hours of primary and secondary research. I have used this research to write two and a half chapters of a planned six-chapter manuscript. I have also submitted this work to two conferences and will present my work to the Social Science History Association in Montreal in November and to the Organization of American Historians in Sacramento in April. I plan to submit a journal article sometime this fall as well as submitting a proposal to another conference. In addition to completing this original research, I have also written a lengthy, peer-reviewed encyclopedia article that was published in the Oxford Research Encyclopedia and a book review. I also peer-reviewed a book manuscript for the University of Illinois Press and two article manuscripts, one for the *Journal of Women's History* and one for *LABOR*. Finally, I gave a scholarly presentation on my work to an audience at the Center for Civic Leadership and Responsibility at Camden County College. None of this work would have been

possible without the benefit of the time granted by the sabbatical leave, for which I am profoundly grateful.

Athar Murtuza

Department of Accounting and Taxation

While I was on my sabbatical during the fall semester, 2016, advocates for international education came together for their yearly [Generation Study Abroad](#) summit. The meeting was devoted to finding ways to increase the number of students who study abroad. The Institute for International Education wants to double the number of students who study in other countries by the end of this decade. Right now about 10 percent of American undergraduates study abroad, according to the Institute for International Education. Clearly study abroad is inaccessible for a large number of students at the very time the need for such an experience is increasing in the global village.

I would like to start the report on my sabbatical by citing something covered by NPR news program Marketplace (<https://www.marketplace.org/2016/11/17/education/campaign-aims-diversify-study-abroad>) since it serves as an independent confirmation of the useful role my sabbatical project can perform. Given the small number of students who are ready, willing, and able to study abroad, it is well warranted to provide an alternate to actually going abroad. Instead of going overseas for a week, semester, or a year, my suggestion for the alternative approach can use the vast resources of the New York city, its museums, cultural life, and ethnic neighborhoods combined with books, the internet and the media for semester/ summer long courses that improve students awareness of the global village we inhabit

Initially I wanted to develop three summer courses aimed at students throughout the United States—to take either on line or by visiting the SHU campus and taking in New York on the side. The three courses I wanted to develop aimed at teaching business and accounting history by setting them in international contexts to help impress students about our inter-connected world. The courses were to be:

- “Doing Business in Pacioli’s Neighborhood” to focus on the development of double-entry book-keeping and its role in the evolution of accounting, finance, and business as we know.

- “Doing Business alongside the British East India Company” to deal with the rise of modern Capitalism by focusing on the working of the East India Company and its way of doing business.
- “Bollywood as a Global Business” will show the rise of the former colonies and their entry into global commerce and their inhabitants as capitalists.

In the process of working on the project, I felt it would be well worth it to develop two additional courses:

- Travelling the Silk Road, Then and Now
- Enlightenment of the 7th century and its impact on global commerce

The first seems opportune for three reasons.

1. A great deal of trade occurred before Pacioli, whose day job was teaching algebra, found a way to make double entry accounting (I call it algebraic approach) a commonplace. Much of the global trade directly impacted what came about later. One’s awareness of global trade is incomplete without knowing about the trade which took place on the Silk Road.
2. China’s “One Belt, One Road” is actually nothing more than an attempt to revive the ancient Silk Road.
(<http://www.heritage.org/asia/commentary/chinas-huge-one-belt-one-road-initiative-sweeping-central-asia>). It is bound to be of importance to global trade in the years to come.
3. The opioid crisis <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/21/opinion/opioid-addiction.html> that has spread across the land (deaths and costs of opioid epidemic exponentially outpace death and monetary damage done to US by the “Islamic Radicals.”) can well be studied alongside the opium plague that was visited upon China by the European colonials in an earlier era to keep the errors of the past from being repeated.

It would be a ‘travel’ course like the other three I proposed.

The second additional course I have in mind is well suited to serve as the Third Signature Course for SHU core curriculum. The other courses I am

proposing in large measure shows the impact the Islamic civilization starting in the 7th century, which ought to be called an enlightenment, had on global commerce and governance. There was global trade and even a civil society before Islam, but the birth of Islamic enlightenment in the 7th century had a crucial impact on it (one only needs to know about the Cairo Geniza to realize how important it was). A good deal of business practices that are considered part and parcel of the present day market economy originated in an earlier era. History can help illuminate the present, particularly as it concerns social justice.

I am happy to report that my sabbatical did allow me the opportunity to research and collect the resources that would be needed to bring these courses on-line. Getting together the resources to teach such courses in place is certainly a major step to what may be called the gestation of the courses themselves. Other factors are also of concern such as their inclusion in the schedule as well. Those are the details I hope to work out with my department and the school in weeks to come. I believe one or more of these courses could be ready for the summer session of 2018.

I would like to teach “The Enlightenment of 7th century and its impact on Global Trade” in spring 2018 as an independent study course for interested students. Bringing it online as an independent study rather than a regular course would not have budgetary implications although if students sign up for it, it would gestate FTE’s.

I am also aware of the need to convert the study into publications and presentations. I am in the process of submitting papers based on the importance of global experience and how my proposed courses could help such need.

I do want to express my gratitude for the award of the sabbatical.

John T. Saccoman

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

I am very grateful indeed to have been afforded the opportunity for the third sabbatical of my career at Seton Hall University.

My primary project was to chip away at a long-standing unsolved problem in network reliability theory, the proof that a specific network topology (as represented by a graph) will serve as the lower bound on the All-Terminal Reliability (ATR)

among all networks having the same number of stations and links. There are numerous references to this conjecture in the literature. This is, I believe, the template for solving the larger problem:

- the computation of ATR for a general network has been demonstrated to be intractable;
- the next best thing is to be able to find a network topology that provides a lower bound for the ATR of all networks having the same number of links and stations;
- there exists a network whose topology is conjectured to provide that bound;
- it needs to be demonstrated that any general network can be transformed to this lower bound via surgeries.

In the past, I discovered several graph “surgeries” (or transformations) that lowered the number of spanning trees for threshold graphs (which is a part of the ATR computation). On this sabbatical, I discovered another, new spanning tree-reducing surgery for threshold graphs not covered by the other two. The proof of this new surgery uses a method that I contend will be useful for answering the larger question. I will give a talk about my work at our department seminar and continue to refine the result for a future article.

My coauthors and I have a contract for a second edition of our first baseball statistics book, *Understanding Sabermetrics* [editor’s note: this book is now published]. Among the topics for this revision, I am working on “democratizing” a statistic called W.A.R. (Wins Above Replacement). This popular statistic has no agreed upon formula, and is computed using proprietary data not freely available to the public. It is the subject of one of my talks [4] below.

I have taken advantage of the time afforded me to involve myself in the New York Seminar on Combinatorics, held at the CUNY Grad Center on 5th Ave., across from the Empire State Building. It has been rewarding to interact with other mathematicians in my field from a host of institutions, and in fact, they invited me to give a talk there as well, which I did on March 3. The announcement is at [1]. Although it will be difficult, given the nature of my duties at SHU, I would very much like to continue as a participant in the NY Seminar.

In addition to the NY Seminar on Combinatorics, I delivered 4 other research presentations:

- Contributed talk at the 48th Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory and Computing on March 7, 2017. The abstract

is at [3], and a paper was submitted consideration in the conference proceeding. In addition, I was co-author on two other presentations at the conference.

- Talk at a special session on recreational mathematics at the Spring meeting of the Mathematical Association of America of New Jersey, held at TCNJ, on March 26. The abstract is at [4].
- Invited talk at the Eastern Sectional Meeting of the American Mathematical Society (AMS), held at Hunter College in New York, May 7, 2017. My abstract is at [2].
- Presentation at the Society for American Baseball Research national conference in NYC, July 1, 2017. An abstract is at [5].

In addition, an alum and supporter of our department invited me to speak at St. John Vianney High School in Holmdel, New Jersey, for its Pi Day festivities on March 14. Unfortunately, it was canceled because of the blizzard.

Besides the three invitations to speak, and the three contributed presentations, I performed the following professional activities:

- Attended Graph Theory Day on April 22 at City Tech in Brooklyn (and produced the technical slides for one of the keynote speakers' (Dr. Charlie Suffel's) talk);
- Was interviewed for a sports podcast about 19th century Baseball Hall of Famer Ed Delahanty: <https://player.fm/series/sports-forgotten-heroes/05-ed-delahanty>
- Wrote two book reviews for the MAA ;
- Prepared three additional articles for publication and several of the chapters for the 2nd edition of Understanding Sabermetrics;
- Attended the SHU Pi Mu Epsilon induction (and saw the first awarding of the Dr. John J. Saccoman graduation awards);
- Assisted in preparing an article for publication written by a colleague at Middlesex County College, Dr. Michael Miniere, which was accepted by the Pi Mu Epsilon journal. It is Dr. Miniere's first mathematical publication. He is 72 years old;
- Refereed several articles and inserted more than 100 hyperlinks into an existing Willie Mays biographical piece for future posting: <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/64f5dfa2>
- Wrote 18 letters of recommendation for current and former students for graduate schools, summer programs, and permanent employment.

References

[1] New York Combinatorics Seminar

Fridays at 11:45 am at CUNY Grad Center (365 Fifth Avenue) Room 4419 (Please note the later time slot.)

Date: Mar 3, 2017

Speaker: John T. Saccoman (Seton Hall University)

Title: On a Class of Signless Laplacian Integral Multigraphs

Abstract: Of increasing interest in spectral Graph Theory has been the study of the signless Laplacian matrix. In Laplacian Integral Multigraphs [Heinig and Saccoman, *Congressus Numerantium*, Vol. 212, (2012), pp. 131-143] and Laplacian Integral Multigraphs II [O'Connor and Saccoman, *Congressus Numerantium*, Vol. 223, (2015), pp. 175-185], multigraphs that are underlying threshold and have integral Laplacian spectra were presented. We discuss these results and present a formula for the spectra of certain multigraphs of this type. In addition, we show that a subset of these graphs are also signless Laplacian integral, and discuss avenues for further research.

More details are available on the seminar webpage

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fuserhome.brooklyn.cuny.edu%2Fsigning%2FCombinatoricsSeminar&data=01%7C01%7CJohn.Saccoman2%40shu.edu%7C9fd28fc6fb64d44c2f708d461b1f0f3%7C51f07c2253b744dfb97ca13261d71075%7C1&sdata=a2LpSh%2FT3yud7sabXoaUxs3M96RLhxEjIhWSLML6%2Bus%3D&reserved=0>

[2] **Abstract: The Contributions of the Seton Hall/Stevens Graph Theory Group to the Spanning Tree Problem** - John T. Saccoman, Seton Hall University

The Stevens Tech Group Theory group, originated by Charlie Suffel and the late Frank Boesch, was a hub of research throughout the 1980s and early 90s. The group produced scores of papers and mentored dozens of Ph.D. theses. Of particular interest in the early years was the spanning tree problem, as the number of spanning trees of a graph is a measure of vulnerability of the related network to disconnection by edge failure. We present some of the results from the group as well as more recent results from its current incarnation as the Seton Hall/Stevens Graph Theory Group.

Keywords: spanning trees, eigenvalues, multigraphs, spectral graph theory

[3] **Abstract: On a Class of Signless Laplacian Integral Multigraphs** – Erin Lott and John T. Saccoman, Seton Hall University

The Stevens Tech Group Theory group, originated by Charlie Suffel and the late Frank Boesch, was a hub of research throughout the 1980s and early 90s. The group produced scores of papers and mentored dozens of Ph.D. theses. Of particular interest in the early years was the spanning tree problem, as the number of spanning trees of a graph is a measure of vulnerability of the related network to disconnection by edge failure. We present some of the results from the group as well as more recent results from its current incarnation as the Seton Hall/Stevens Graph Theory Group.

[4] **W.A.R. What is it good for? Player evaluation** - John T. Saccoman, Seton Hall University

Wins Above Replacement (WAR) is one of the more popular baseball player evaluation measures. However, there is currently no agreed upon formula for WAR, and, unlike most baseball statistics, its computation relies on proprietary data out of the reach of the average baseball enthusiast. We discuss some ways that player contributions can be quantified as wins, and indicate some future possible directions for this computation.

[5] **Gil Hodges and the Hall of Fame** - John T. Saccoman, Seton Hall University

In 2020, the Hall of Fame Golden Days Committee “considers retired Major League Baseball players no longer eligible for election by the Baseball Writers' Association of America (BBWAA), along with managers, umpires and executives, whose greatest contributions to the game were realized between 1950 and 1969.” As more and more people from the era who were eyewitness to his career pass away, the likelihood of Gil Hodges being tapped for election continues to wane. In fact, Hodges has received more votes for the Hall than any other person, elected or not, and yet remains on the outside looking in. At various times, he received more votes from the BBWAA than 12 who were ultimately elected by the writers, and 17 others who were subsequently let in by the various Veterans Committees.

Among other arguments for the inclusion of Gil Hodges, I would mention

1. Gil Hodges was the best first baseman of his era. (e.g., 8 All-Star selections)
2. Gil Hodges was a key contributor on pennant winning and championship teams. (e.g., in his first 10 years as a starter (1948-1957), the Dodgers finished in first place or tied for first place 6 times, including one World Series victory.)
3. Gil Hodges had better statistics than half of the first basemen currently enshrined. (e.g., George Kelly, Jim Bottomley).
4. Gil Hodges is an important figure in baseball history. (Gil Hodges is a part of baseball folklore for his role in the 1955 Dodgers, the 1962 Mets, the 1969 Mets and “Praying for Gil Hodges.”)



Mark Senvold

Department of English

Abstract

Orpheus, Incorporated is a narrative in poetry that re-imagines the character of Eurydice--the myth from which she springs, and the role of creativity, music, and art--in a future-world surveillance state into which Eurydice has been sent by the gods as a rescuing agent. Eurydice “ascends” from Hades into the consciousness of an aging rock n’ roll singer, Monika Robinson, who is on an exploratory tour with her band, The Heroes. What follows, in a road trip through Montana, is a story that breaks new ground for American poetry, addressing cognitive neuro-science, for instance, and the pharmacology of nootropic drugs (drugs that enhance creativity) in a parable--a cautionary tale that asks questions about authenticity, the role of art in a democracy, the nature of creativity, and the extent to which corporate culture has monetized consciousness.

Orpheus, Incorporated: Project Description

The gods, as Roberto Calasso reminds us in *The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony*, don’t live in the clouds. In my manuscript, *Orpheus, Incorporated*, they lounge on the yachts of Russian oligarchs, or, like the character of Nicholas Messina, the CEO of the venture capital company, they dwell within the corporate innovation hives that find—and finance--the products that promise to tip the scales of fate in an Olympian direction. Or they write screenplays. In an early “Intermezzo” section of *Orpheus, Incorporated*, for instance, two Hollywood writers (who have dosed themselves with psilocybin) are working on a pre-apocalyptic storyboard session. In their screenplay, global disasters have knocked the plaster off the halls of The Underworld itself, which is where their scenario starts, in Hades, with Eurydice and a companion—Hermes, the god of messages. One of the storyboard writers describes Hermes handing Eurydice a message. The dialogue between the two writers continues:

“A message?”

“Well, a mission, really. The gods have chosen Eurydice for a mission.”

“A mission?”

“To ascend. Into the world of the living.”

“Why?”

“To see if she can sort things out—*up there*.”

“Wait a minute: Eurydice ascends as a kind of rescuing agent?”

“Yup.”

“Okay, two questions. First, why do the gods even care? Why should the inhabitants of Hades care about what happens to the living? I mean, if everybody dies aboveground, doesn’t that mean more business, as it were, for the Underworld?”

“More than two questions! But—first of all, if mankind comes to an end, what will become of the gods?”

“Okay, good point. Without people, the gods are out of business.”

“Totally—to borrow your business analogy--if everyone aboveground gets wiped out, then—sure—that’s an uptick, quarter-to-quarter, in business, but it also puts an ultimate and finite limit on growth.”

“And the gods don’t like ‘finite’ anything.”

“Right.”

“And the Hades business model?”

“It’s pro-growth, FOREVER—

This *Intermezzo* scenario foreshadows the very drama enacted subsequently in the pages of *Orpheus, Incorporated*: a narrative in poetry of ten chapters alternating between the Olympian depths of Hades, (if Hades resembled industrialized Elizabeth, New Jersey); a rock ‘n’ roll road trip encounter with utopian bicycle nomads; and a Faustian tale of stealth corporate marketing--all set in a time not too far from now, in which democracy has been shoved to the fringes of culture by an authoritarian surveillance state. In Hades, we meet Eurydice in the Underworld, who ascends (forgetting all that she is, per the amnesia-inducing properties of Lethe). She enters into the consciousness of rock n’ roll singer Monika Robinson, who is traveling out west with her band on a “below-the-radar” tour, a “Pure Tour” of camping under stars and listening for a new sound. This “Eurydice/Robinson” road-trip narrative is intercut (and, we sense, headed toward a collision) with a “corporate narrative” set in New York City, in the office of Nick Messina’s venture capital firm, Orpheus, Inc.

The corporate narrative involves the rollout of a nootropic drug—Inspiration Plus™-- which improves creativity and cognition. Nick Messina hires a writer, Jordon Odegaard, to find someone willing to become an influencer in a “no-sell” authenticity campaign for the drug on social media. Odegaard targets Monika Robinson and inveigles his way onto “The Pure Tour,” where the band has begun to discover its new sound and a new method of making music.

Back in Montana, Robinson and The Heroes, now embarked on their tour, attract an unusual group of bicycle nomads--“post-petroleum, post-oppositional” eco-activists, who follow the band *en masse* for week-long encampments of “society-building” (like a moveable, bicycle-borne Burning Man). Reporting back to Messina at Orpheus, Inc., Odegaard suggests that Robinson has the potential to

become much more than a product influencer: if Messina plays his cards right, the creativity drug--as a product--could quietly ride a populist political movement. What follows is a Faustian tale in which Robinson betrays the cause that embraces her, in exchange for entering into the realm of the gods—or what passes for gods in an era of oligarchs.

Project Significance

As a parable, *Orpheus, Incorporated* anticipates societal collapse, but, parable-like, sets the problem elsewhere, at least initially, in Hades—an underworld which seems bracingly like our own. Indeed, “hell,” as an orienting lecturer for new arrivals to Hades puts it, “is not a place, but a method” (“Immigration Algorithm”). And that method, of course, springs from the world we inhabit—one in which commerce, in the words of 19th Century American historian George Bancroft, “defies every wind, out-rides every tempest, and invades every zone.” With *Orpheus, Incorporated* I will explore the extent to which commerce has targeted “zones” that have seemed, until now, inviolable: the provinces of individual selfhood and the orphic realms of creativity, for instance. In so doing—in telling this parable of our time as a long narrative poetic sequence--I forge a link between the obligations of story-telling, as it were, and the late post-modern stance of skepticism regarding representations of subjective experience. My poetry joins a new American lyric that has something to say, even while acknowledging the unstable nature of the self who is speaking.

Sabbatical Year 2016

I started my sabbatical year with the plan of completing my poetry manuscript, *Orpheus, Incorporated* and writing a proposal for a nonfiction book entitled *Now, a (Brief) History*. I spent the first month of my sabbatical doing something I’d never really had the time to do before: taking a hard look at the poetry manuscript—and I came to the conclusion that at least half of that manuscript belonged in a different, i.e., a fourth book of poems. This fourth manuscript now has the working title *No Time We Know But Probably Very Like Now*, and it includes, among other things, poems that have been widely published, including in *The New Yorker*, and the poems about infrastructure that I’ve been working on for the past few years.

I spent the first part of my sabbatical thinking deeply about how to complete what remained of the *Orpheus, Incorporated* manuscript. I thought about the structure of the story I was trying to tell. I made maps and diagrams of different possible structures and put them up on my wall. I read extensively about Orpheus and Eurydice, about Hades, about how other artists had addressed the myth in

question. I read about music and musicianship. I made use of the extensive notes I took while on my URC fellowship two summers ago through Montana and other parts of the west. For the “corporate narrative” that I was developing, I spoke to venture capitalists and did research on the pharmacology of drugs that help enhance cognition and creativity—a key narrative element of my book. Then I sat down and started fleshing out the main characters of the narrative: who they were and what their hopes and dreams were. New story angles began to emerge and call for attention. I started writing a journey poem, (“Eurydice Interval.”) focusing on Eurydice and Hermes in Hades—both of them headed upward, toward the world of the living. By the time I finished “Eurydice, Interval,” an 18 page poem in twenty-one sections, I realized I was on the cusp of a parable that spoke to our present crisis but that set the crises elsewhere, at least at first, in Hades, and that would continue in the world of the living.

During my sabbatical year I completed the first seven of a now projected ten chapter manuscript. The narrative is currently 130 pages in length (or about 5,000 lines of poetry) and will likely approach 200 pages by the time the manuscript is completed. For comparison, the minimum requirement for manuscripts of poetry ranges between 48 and 60 pages. I’m currently working on chapter 8 and hope to have a manuscript ready to submit to publishers by the end of next summer, 2018. I’ve included a draft copy of the manuscript, chapters 1 to 7, with the opening of chapter 8, as a separate attachment.

My nonfiction project has been put on hold until the completion of *Orpheus, Incorporated*.

Hongfei Frank Tang

Department of Finance

I highly appreciate the opportunity to have this fruitful sabbatical year. It allowed me to develop my research projects, to experience policy maker’s rule making process, and to better serve our students, colleagues and community. In particular, I have developed two main research projects: First, the impact of real estate as a new equity market sector (with my colleagues, Ken Xie and Eleanor Xu). Second, the optimal dynamic portfolio strategy with financial derivatives.

Here is an introduction to the project of the impact of real estate as a new equity market sector: Equity REITs and other real estate companies have been reclassified by S&P and MSCI from the financial sector into a standalone real estate

sector since September 1, 2016. The establishment of this new real estate sector reflects the increasing popularity and growing importance of real estate. We examined the impact of this reclassification on the market behaviors of real estate firms, including the changes in stock price, volatility, and liquidity, and used this event as a natural experiment to test market efficiency as well as changes in comovements between real estate and financial firms based on the style investing framework. This study holds the promise of guiding investors, portfolio managers, real estate practitioners, and policy makers toward a better understanding of the impact of real estate as a new equity market sector.

In the project of optimal dynamic trading strategy with financial derivatives, I build upon the dynamic portfolio theory in the literature and expand the optimizations over the space of financial derivatives. Different from stocks, commodities, or other underlying assets, financial derivatives, such as options, can have asymmetric payoff structure. This payoff structure is determined by the strike price, the price of the underlying assets, the time to maturity, volatility, and interest rate. Therefore, to construct an optimal dynamic portfolio, there are more parameters to optimize over. In particular, this asymmetry has the potential to benefit portfolio performance. In addition, transaction costs prohibits an optimal strategy from frequent rebalancing. The dynamic trading strategy optimizes over these factors. During this year, I have also worked with my colleague, Penina Orenstein, on the project of Leveraging data to understand the structure, performance and vulnerabilities of modern supply networks.

In addition to these projects, I have acquired some hands-on experience of policy work by working with colleagues at Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). In particular, I was exposed to policy work through various activities, such as SEC trainings, rule making, enforcement actions, market oversight and monitoring, as well as other regulatory initiatives. I have also provided various services to our students and community. For example, I have written various recommendation letters for our students, reviewed papers for journals and conferences, and served as the chair of elections committee for Livingston Huaxia Chinese School.

Viswa Viswanathan

Department of Computing and Decision Sciences

I set out to study the new evolutions in database technologies beyond relational databases – for example, NoSQL databases. The backdrop for the study is the fact that after more than a decade of domination by hierarchical and network database technologies starting in the early to mid-1960's, E. F. Codd invented

relational database technology. Although very elegant it, initially seemed that relational database technology was only good on paper and would never be practical because of the vastly enlarged computing requirements.

However, software and hardware improvements not only made the technology useful in practice, but the main benefit of the technology – data independence – was so important that relational database technology soon wiped other database technologies off the map and has powered the growth of business information systems for four decades, and continues to do so.

The emergence of web-based technologies -- specifically Web 2.0 technologies -- has created a scenario where the amount of data to be managed has exploded and has seen the emergence of the need to look beyond relational database technology. Non-relational technologies like NoSQL (No SQL or Not only SQL) have emerged to address this issue and my sabbatical project was to understand the pros and cons of these technologies.

During the sabbatical semester itself, I was unable to make as much progress as I would have liked, because I had to teach a course to enable students to complete a newly established Certificate in Business Analytics.

During the sabbatical semester, I was able to read up on NoSQL databases and understand some of the compromises that these systems make to handle the new challenges that data in the scale of Web 2.0 present. For example, prior database systems have operated under the assumption that databases needed to be consistent at all times. However, with very large, distributed databases this would not be practical and we might have to settle for “eventual consistency”.

During my sabbatical, my researches showed me that while my initial hunch that NoSQL databases do sacrifice “data independence”, this is not a net loss and is instead a compromise to achieve greater performance in the face of unprecedented data volumes. This was something that I did not realize at the start.

In my readings, I also came across a new non-relational technology. This is the technology based on logic programming, and implemented concretely in the form of the Datomic database. Datomic supports extremely powerful query capabilities that make it possible to write more expressive queries than SQL and relational technologies can support.

In addition to being fully transactional and consistent, Datomic is also a historical database – in the sense that nothing is ever forgotten. It allows us to travel back in time and see the state of the database at any point in the past. It also becomes

possible to perform what-if analyses and study the effect of proposed actions without actually cementing those actions in the database. These capabilities push the boundaries of databases in completely new directions. Furthermore, Datomic is based on principles of functional programming, which is fast replacing object-oriented programming as the preferred way of developing large software systems.

I aimed to go deeper into these areas in the semesters following my sabbatical semester, but have not found the time to do so yet because Stillman's Certificate Program in Business Analytics materialized and I had to play a leading role in the design, development and delivery of that program, in addition to my normal full teaching load. The second cohort of the program is currently under way and my role in it is ongoing, but will come to an end in Fall 2019. I am currently continuing work on my sabbatical project and will be doing so for the foreseeable future.

I have developed a deep research interest in improving online learning environments and have found that my research into NoSQL databases dovetails very nicely into this new area. I am in the process of building a prototype system incorporating some of my ideas for making online learning systems (Learning Management Systems) more effective, and am planning to use Datomic as the database for this system. This is a direct outcome of my researches during the sabbatical semester.

Overall, despite not being able to devote as much time and energy to my sabbatical project as I would have liked to, the university's support of my research has been very useful and is helping me solidly in my scholarly pursuits. I am thankful for the opportunity.

Angela Weisl

Department of English

The book manuscript, *Medieval Literature: The Basics*, that I requested the sabbatical to complete has been submitted. The publisher has requested that my co-author and I develop chapter abstracts which will be useful for the e-book addition; those will be submitted by September 15, 2017. The book is expected to be available by Spring 2018 (it is already listed on Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Medieval-Literature-Angela-Jane-Weisl/dp/1138669059/ref=asap_bc?ie=UTF8). Here is a link to the series, although *Medieval Literature* is not yet listed on their website: <https://www.routledge.com/The-Basics/book-series/B/>

On receipt of the manuscript, Polly Dodgson, the editor, commented: “I have started reading through your manuscript this morning and it is fantastic – really clear, engaging and interesting. Your enthusiasm for the subject is infectious!”