

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** President Sabah Randhawa by Provost Brent Carbajal

**DATE:** April 13, 2018

**SUBJECT:** **Professional Leave Report**

**PURPOSE:** Information Item

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

This report lists the faculty professional leave proposals that have been approved for AY 2018-19 and provides a brief summary of the exceptional research projects and scholarly activities engaged in by some of Western's faculty members. The report also outlines the process established to review applications and make award determinations.

The Professional Leave Advisory Committee is an all-university body comprised of six faculty members who have taken professional leaves within the past few years. Professional leave applications are examined first at the department level, then by the dean (and, in some colleges, the college's professional leave committee), before being forwarded to the Provost's Office and the university-wide Professional Leave Advisory Committee. The Professional Leave Advisory Committee recommendations receive final review and approval by the Provost.

Per Section 10.6.1 of the faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Committee relies upon the following criteria in making its recommendations:

*Academic or scholarly significance; soundness of design, procedure, or operational plan, including clear objectives and timeline; relationship of planned activity to individual's area of study and professional development; expected outcomes and benefits, including dissemination of results; evaluation of applicant's ability to achieve the proposed goals; and value of the project in terms of academic benefits to the institution upon the applicant's return from the leave.*

For AY 2018-19, fifty-three faculty members requested 101 quarters of leave. In the end, all fifty-three applicants received at least one quarter of leave, for a total of 99 awarded quarters. Each application was afforded a careful and thorough evaluation based upon the merits of the application and the expected benefits to the individual, department, and the University per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

## **Supporting Information: Summary of Professional Leave Awards for AY 2018-19**

### **Paula Airth, Design**

Three quarters to plan, prepare, and implement a one-day youth symposium modeled to share knowledge and opportunities for co-designing with young people and to pilot a co-lab workshop experience with middle school students enrolled in the Future Problem Solvers program to teach principles of participatory design.

### **Gigi Allaway, Environmental Studies**

Two quarters to study phenomenological approaches to botanical description and categorization and the analysis of plant communities, with application to understanding habitat needs and problems for bees and other pollinators.

### **Colin Amos, Geology**

Three quarters to study how well landscapes record earthquake deformation and to attempt to resolve the discrepancy between shallow slip deficit and variability in earthquake displacement for historical and ancient fault ruptures.

### **Roger Anderson, Biology**

One quarter to study the consequences that a recent drought had on the productivity of one or more of the three numerically dominant perennial plant species in the Sonoran desert and the resulting effect it had on the larger Sonoran Desert scrub community.

### **John Bower, Fairhaven College**

One quarter to explore non-fiction writing, poetry, public presentations, and podcasts as a means for making lessons of science more accessible to a wider spectrum of people, including the science-phobic, science-reluctant, and science-curious.

### **Jacqueline Caplan-Auerbach, Geology**

Three quarters to work with a variety of experts in Kermadec Arc submarine volcanism to study existing geophysical data collected in the region, identify the outstanding questions about volcanism in the Kermadec arc, and design a research proposal for the NSF.

### **Gordon Chalmers, Health and Human Development**

One quarter to conduct a study and publish a peer-reviewed research paper on how humans utilize their leg sensory motor system to carry out motor tasks such as walking and balancing.

**Gail Coulter, Special Education**

Three quarters to internationalize the special education program at WWU by developing resources that attract applicants from across the world into a program where international students learn side-by-side with their American counterparts and by writing a manual centering upon collaboration, mutual benefit, and partnerships.

**Mick Cunningham, Sociology**

One quarter to conduct research on the association between family structure and exposure to violence by intimate partners.

**Deborah Currier, Theatre and Dance**

One quarter to finalize and publish research into neuroscience and creativity, looking specifically at how the human brain functions to facilitate positive, creative, and resilient behavior in young learners, especially those traditionally labeled “at risk.”

**Cristina de Almeida, Design**

One quarter to produce an interactive digital component of an ongoing project focused on the branding of apples in Central Washington State during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Susan DeBari, Geology**

Three quarters to produce instructor resources that would accompany publication of a student-centered, undergraduate-level Geology curriculum called Geology and Everyday Thinking (GET) and to become a master user of two pieces of thermodynamic software packages, MELTS and Magma Chamber Simulator, that provide the foundation for modeling magma melting and differentiation processes in both open and closed magma systems.

**Nolan Dennett, Theatre and Dance**

One quarter to pursue a creative research project inspired by the movement traditions of the immigrant populations and the dance artists of Western and Eastern Europe and Israel with the ultimate goal of producing a suite of dances that constitute a full-length or evening length work.

**Dawn Dietrich, English**

Three quarters to work on a book titled, *Post-Millennial Films: Theories of Affect and Studies in New Materialism*.

**Todd Donovan, Political Science**

One quarter to investigate how people reason about campaign finance by measuring and modeling public attitudes and assembling cross-national data on campaign finance regulations in established (primarily European) democracies.

**Susan Eurich, History**

One quarter to finish writing an historical role-playing game titled, *The Crucible of Religious War: The Journey toward Peaceful Coexistence, France 1570-1598*.

**Seth Feinberg, Sociology**

Three quarters to produce research from a grant-funded data collection project that measured Rwanda's advancement towards national development goals, specifically higher rates of modern contraceptive use via the successful family planning program.

**Michael Fraas, Communication Sciences and Disorders**

Two quarters to study cognitive and motor speech performance in post-concussed athletes and to develop and implement a concussion management program to support student athletes participating in WWU's sport clubs.

**Allison Giffen, English**

Three quarters to develop a new book project titled, *Afflicted Girls: Religion, Girlhood, and the Representation of Disability in Nineteenth-Century Popular Literature*.

**Andrea Gogrof, Liberal Studies**

One quarter to author a scholarly article on surveillance studies within the academic field of visual studies and to edit a special theme issue of *Pacific Coast Philology* on visuality.

**Gaye Green, Art and Art History**

Three quarters to complete three chapters of a book titled, *The Art of Compassion*; to develop a compendium of art projects titled, *Teach Compassion*; and to complete an illustrated children's book titled, *If You Are Feeling Awful, Have a Falafel*.

**David Hartenstine, Mathematics**

Two quarters to study how best to involve undergraduates at WWU in Mathematics research and to create a sustainable program for a team of them to engage in meaningful guided projects in cryptography.

**Todd Haskell, Psychology**

Two quarters to expand personal capacity to engage in STEM education research and to explore how differences in epistemology often present significant obstacles to interdisciplinary collaborations.

**David Hooper, Biology**

Three quarters to assess the effects of best management practices on nutrient fluxes in Whatcom County using the Agricultural Policy/Environmental eXtender (APEX) model.

**Cara Jaye, Art and Art History**

Two quarters to develop a mono-print stencil technique; to build upon a series of work titled *Insect Collection*; and to cultivate relationships with international artists and curators through participation in a number of creative residency programs.

**Linda Keeler, Health and Human Development**

One quarter to expand and coordinate intervention and research efforts across a multi-site, peer-led, physical activity program for college students with depression.

**John Krieg, Economics**

One quarter to work as a co-Principal Investigator on the Teacher Education Learning Collaborative (TELC).

**Mark Kuntz, Theatre and Dance**

Three quarters to find musical collaborators for a musical titled, *Alone*; to perform in a play in Mexico City where actors meet their cast mates for the first time while performing on stage; and to continue to write a musical titled *Me Maw* and a play titled *Office Hours*.

**Ee Lin Lee, Communication Studies**

Two quarters to write two manuscripts titled, *The Segregation of Foreigners through Whitespeak in Classroom Discourse*, and *Helping the East through Western Social Privilege in International Volunteerism*.

**Ying Li, Health and Human Development**

Two quarters to work on a research project titled, *Food Insecurity on WWU Campus*.

**James Loucky, Anthropology**

One quarter to complete and publish a participatory ethnography about a Maya community in highland Guatemala.

**Baozhen Luo, Sociology**

One quarter to work on a research project titled, *Aging Network Administered Public Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) System: The Washington State Model*.

**Jean Melious, Environmental Studies**

One quarter to research and write a law review article providing an examination of the assessment of the environmental impacts of localized projects with global impacts, including the Gateway Pacific Terminal.

**Barbara Miller, Art and Art History**

Two quarters to develop an exhibition in Western Gallery on Nancy Holt's earthwork and to work on a manuscript proposal titled, *Naked-Eye Earthworks and the Socio-Ecological Importance of Place*.

**Benjamin Miner, Biology**

One quarter to complete and submit five or more manuscripts for publication and to develop interactive web-based programs for courses in Biology.

**Craig Moyer, Biology**

Two quarters to study the construction and use of electrochemical-based bioreactors for the cultivation and growth of microbes.

**Amanda Murphy, Chemistry**

Three quarters to research next-generation silk biomaterials and the synthesis and characterization of melanin-inspired conjugated polymers.

**Sean Murphy, Liberal Studies**

Three quarters to complete a book-length project on William of Auvergne's *De legibus*; to commence formal studies in Old Irish language and literature; and to begin research on the appropriation of traditionally Irish saints by Anglo-Norman authors.

**Adam Nyman, Mathematics**

One quarter to work on two projects studying two new classes of examples of geometric objects with points in coherent number systems and the inter-relation between coherent noncommutative projective lines and coherent elliptic curves.

**Arunas Oslapas, Engineering and Design**

One quarter to work with the local craftspeople and artisans in San Pancho, Mexico, in converting discarded, recycled materials into profitable products; to provide workshops

or classes in processing these materials; and to create business opportunities for local families while contributing to the sustainable, artistically diverse community.

**Charles Patterson, Modern and Classical Languages**

Three quarters to work on a book which examines different adaptations of Cervantes' theatrical work, *El retablo de las maravillas*, and how they reflect on a spectrum of periods in Spain's recent history.

**Geraldine Prody, Chemistry**

One quarter to characterize the changes that take place in *Petunia axillaris* pistil cell walls to facilitate pollen tube growth to the ovary for fertilization.

**David Sattler, Psychology**

Three quarters to pursue ongoing research into the psychology of disaster preparedness and recovery.

**Hilary Schwandt, Fairhaven College**

Three quarters to produce research from a grant-funded data collection project that measured Rwanda's advancement towards national development goals, specifically higher rates of modern contraceptive use via the successful family planning program.

**Rae Lynn Schwartz-DuPre, Communication Studies**

One quarter to study ways in which current forms of colonialism work insidiously to sanction racist and sexist discourses related to disaster relief and news coverage.

**Yunqiu Shen, Mathematics**

Two quarters to write a research monograph on *Separable Nonlinear Equations: Numerical Solutions, Optimization, and Bifurcation*.

**Mart Stewart, History**

One quarter to work on a book manuscript titled, *Creatures at the Crossroads and the Making of the Natural South*.

**Stanley Tag, Fairhaven College**

Three quarters to complete the research and writing of a book-length manuscript, *Fresh New Lives: Nineteenth-Century Women and Men on Katahdin*; to complete the research and first draft of a novel, *The Katahdin Party*; and to prepare for and participate as a Thoreau and Maine Woods scholar in the proposed May 2019 Thoreau-Wabanaki

Canoe Journey, a 325-mile route retracing the trip that Henry Thoreau and his Penobscot guide Joe Polis took in 1857.

**Kathryn Trueblood, English**

Three quarters to conduct research, field test, and complete a book intended to serve as a workshop guide for women veterans' writing groups.

**Dennis Whitcomb, Philosophy**

One quarter to develop a research-level competence in the philosophy of oppression and write a paper about the connections between oppression and humility.

**Michiko Yusa, Modern and Classical Languages**

One quarter to write and publish an article tentatively titled, *D. T. Suzuki and Four British in September 1946*, which will eventually serve as the basis for writing a biography of D.T. Suzuki, an eminent, World War II-era, Japanese Buddhist-thinker.

**Nicholas Zaferatos, Environmental Studies**

One quarter to conduct applied research into Native American Reservation Planning with an emphasis in intergovernmental coordination between tribes and local governments.

**Jianying Zhang, Mathematics**

One quarter to study the meshless methods for nonlinear partial differential equations and to follow-up work on numerical methods for a biological model in pattern formation.