

Explanation of Conference Activities for Dr. William Schumann, Asst.
Professor of Anthropology (Behavioral Science Dept.):

American Anthropological Association meetings in Washington, D.C., Nov.
28-Dec. 2, 2007

Summary: This was a wonderful professional development opportunity and I thank ATU for this chance to get my career moving forward at this early stage of career development. All in all, I consider the travel experience a complete success both for me and for the prospects of developing a strong anthropology minor at ATU.

The following list of objectives is reprinted verbatim from the successful faculty development grant proposal submitted for conference travel. An explanation of outcomes is presented after the reiteration of each objective.

ATTAINMENT OF OBJECTIVES

I. Objective: "Attend conference sessions specific to my specializations in anthropology (political anthropology; economic anthropology; environmental anthropology; European anthropology)."

Outcome: SUCCESSFUL. Attended four sessions from Friday through Sunday on topics of: democracy and identity, transformation of European economies, migration and culture change in Europe, and ethnographic research among elite politicians.

II. Objective: "Attend conference sessions promoting innovations in anthropological education (including multi-media teaching resources, etc.)."

Outcome: SUCCESSFUL. Attempted to attend special workshop session on teaching introduction courses in anthropology in large college classrooms; unfortunately, this event was surprisingly overbooked (unable to attend/not enough slots in the meeting space). However, I followed up by asking colleagues (from U. of Georgia, U. of Arizona, Harvard U., U. of Chicago, U. of Florida) to email syllabi for introductory courses taught in large classroom sections. Also able to ask them personally about successful and unsuccessful teaching strategies they have encountered in these contexts. I will continue this dialogue (and follow up by studying the structure of the minor in anthropology programs at each institution) over the coming months.

III. Objective: "Meet with publishers in book exhibit area."

Outcome: SUCCESSFUL. Met with editors of Palgrave Publishers and Duke University Press, both of which asked that I submit book proposals upon learning of my research (Palgrave proposal already submitted.)

IV. Objective: "Review books for inclusion in classes making up a future anthropology curriculum at ATU."

Outcome: SUCCESSFUL. Spent several hours reviewing titles on display from approximately two dozen publishers, particularly those offering introduction texts in ethnography and/or specialized texts in my particular area of study. Also sought good, affordable ethnographic films to complement curricular

design/development. Photocopies of publication guides for some of the displays I visited are included with this correspondence.

V. Objective: "Network with peers to learn about other anthropology programs and future research opportunities. "

Outcome: SUCCESSFUL. Meetings provided an outstanding opportunity to meet new colleagues and develop projects with ones I already knew. I have been asked to write a book review for a scholarly journal, participate on two conference panels in 2008, and had the privilege of having leaders in my field ask to review my work (including sections of my book manuscript) upon learning of my scholarly interests and background.