Jesse Benjamin abstract

In 1998, I organized an historic international conference on the life and work of Walter Rodney, whose research and activism were cut short by assassination in his native Guyana in 1980. The three day gathering and symposium brought together for the first time members of his immediate family, leadership of the WPA [the party he was leading and running for president with at the time of his assassination], political leaders from the Caribbean and Africa, senior and leading scholars from Africa, Europe, North America and the Caribbean. He is a figure whose stature should place him in the company of W.E.B. DuBois, C.L.R. James, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. However, his corpus of scholarship and his ground-breaking perspectives in the fields of history, sociology and Pan-Africanism are still little known outside of academia, and even there, little beyond his most famous work *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* is known. At the conclusion of the conference, the delegates from around the world elected Asha Rodney, his daughter, and I as the editors of a collection that was to grow out of the conference. We have worked on the book ever since, and made steady progress, but the final results have been delayed by a crisis in the Rodney family, and limited time for the vast scope of our editorial responsibilities. This grant proposal aims to provide me with the necessary time and resources to complete this urgent and historic book, something that is well within reach at this time. The process of completing this book will also lead to a later collection of Rodney’s major writing in a volume to reintroduce his varied thought to the world.

Laura Dabundo abstract

William Wordsworth and Jane Austen, premier poet and novelist, respectively, of the English Romantic period, were baptized, confirmed, and buried (and for Wordsworth, married) in conformity with the Church of England with which they were both lifelong and unflagging communicants. But critics for the most part have sought to read and interpret their works apart from Christian realities. My project seeks to reveal the ways in which their faith and the established church inform and guide their writings. At its heart, English Romanticism acknowledges and celebrates a kind of community, I would like to argue, which is not just a secular collation of which its writers deal but something that also derives meaning from a religious association and, in fact, a particularly defined religion. For, significantly, this community in the poetry is presented as consecrated, as holy, enabling Wordsworth, for instance, to employ the community of faith as a prevailing metaphor in his grand and vigorous autobiographical project, *The Prelude*. Jane Austen, within five years of being the poet’s exact contemporary, undertakes a similar project in her fiction, I would like to argue. “The small band of true friends” with which *Emma* closes, as some critics have remarked, might well signal the
end of all of her works for, as I see, working securely within a Romantic tradition, she nonetheless also finally embraces a social, communal, and external vision, religiously sanctified but also operationally national in much the same fashion as Wordsworth undertakes. Thus, I propose to consider in tandem the works of these two great writers toward this common earned project of a community of faith. This project builds upon essays, reviews, and presentations on the subject that have been my life’s work.

**Roxanne Donovan abstract**

Although there is a paucity of research on the prevalence and severity of anxiety in Black women, the findings from the studies that have been conducted are inconclusive. Some studies suggest that Black women are more susceptible to anxiety than men and White women because of a variety of risk factors, including increased likelihood of low socioeconomic status. Other studies suggest that Black women experience anxiety at rates similar to or less than those of men and White women. Clearly, additional research on Black women’s susceptibility and/or resiliency to anxiety-related symptoms needs to be conducted to better understand these findings. The purpose of the present study is to examine how several variables previously linked theoretically or empirically to well-being influence Black women’s anxiety, including help-seeking behavior, coping style, ethnic identity, internalized racism, and experiences of racism and sexism. My goal is to recruit 120 female, non-Hispanic Kennesaw State University students who identify as Black or African American. The participants will be given empirically validated questionnaires that measure the constructs of interest. To address specific aims, correlational and multiple regression analyses (examining zero-order, combined, and unique relationships between predictors and outcomes) will be conducted.

**Catherine Lewis and Sabine Smith abstract**

We are applying for a faculty scholarship to support the preliminary research for a collaborative book project, *A Documentary History of the Third Reich*, with an anticipated publication date of 2011. Several presses, including Routledge, Pearson, and the University of Nebraska Press have expressed keen interest in the project, and this grant would fund the development of the book proposal and selection of documents. Drs. Lewis and Smith have been collaborating together on a study abroad program for the past three years, have published an article with Dr. Hugh Hunt in an international journal which is part of a successful publishing record for both scholars, and are seeking a publisher with national reach. The volume offers readers an opportunity to examine the rise and fall of the Third Reich and would support Jackson J. Spielvogel’s *Hitler and Nazi Germany*, the most popular and widely used introduction to the subject in print. There are numerous monographs and memoirs focused on the Third Reich, but not a concise, affordable collection that include primary documents for classroom use. We propose a volume that has several special features (such as sample assignments, a timeline, and an annotated bibliography)
that make it easier for faculty members to expand their pedagogical approaches in the classroom. We are requesting travel and research support for fall 2008 and spring 2009.

**Barbara Gainey abstract**

A recently completed pilot study of Metro Atlanta’s school districts has laid the groundwork for a national study examining how traditional and new media strategies are used to engage stakeholders and communicate crisis-related information. The proposed study will help develop a better understanding of the role of traditional and new media communication strategies in constructing effective crisis management through public engagement. The challenges of crisis management/crisis communication in the public educational sector will be examined on a national scale to expand the knowledge of communication scholars and suggest real-world solutions that can be applied. Through a national random study of public school districts and universities, this research will propose additional ways to improve the crisis-ready status of educational institutions, with implications for other organizations.

**Mario Giraldo abstract**

Soil moisture is a critical process in the water cycle and its assessment is of paramount importance to forecast changes in the water balance of a region. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) is cutting age technology to sample soil moisture generating digital images of the water infiltration process in the soil profile. Recent researches have stressed the need to validate GPR technology by comparing GPR readings with soil moisture readings from standard techniques under different landscapes. I will collect GPR and traditional soil moisture probe data at the Little River watershed (LRW) near Tifton GA, comparing and validating GPR data under different landuse/land covers (LULC). This seed project will establish collaboration between the KSU department of Geography and Anthropology, the Geography department at UGA and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA-ARS). The project will generate a presentation for a conference, data for undergraduate research and teaching, and potentially a joint scientific publication with USDA and UGA scientists.

**Tony Grooms abstract**

I am applying for a grant to support travel to Stockholm, Sweden for the purpose of evaluating the papers of expatriate black American poet and painter Allen Polite, with an eye toward seeking the publication and the archiving of these writings. Articles and presentations about this project are planned for the major African-American-focused literary journals and the major literature and American studies conferences. The travel is planned for 30 days in May and June 2009, and the presentations are planned for fall 2009 and spring 2010. This project will serve as a re-introduction of a poet who had early influence on the writers of the New York and beat poetry schools, in particular on the major poet Amiri Barka; but, it will also serve as a discovery
for many scholars of American culture of the small, but vibrant community of expatriate black-
American artists and activists who exiled themselves in Stockholm. During the 1960s and 70s. Polite was an undisputed leader of this community.

Heeman Kim abstract

This proposed research, “Cultural Motives for Utilizing Social Networking Sites,” attempts to clarify communication motives for emerging information technology (Web 2.0) uses by examining social networking sites in cross-cultural domains. After being launched to the public as a peer to peer networking site on February 4th, 2004, facebook.com has a growing population of six million users at 2,100 colleges and universities and over 15,000 accounts are created daily. Also, in South Korea, cyworld.com has already been a popular social networking site specially designed for Koreans around the world since the beginning of 2000. Even though the social phenomenon looks similar in different cultural environments, users’ motives and preferences for the medium have been different because members of different cultures have different communication needs and gratifications through that communication technology. This research therefore examines (1) whether there is a relationship between motives for utilizing social networking sites and contextual age (Rubin & Rubin’s measurement is considered as the predictors of contextual age with media motives, such as physical health, interpersonal interaction, mobility, life satisfaction, social activity, and economic security) & (2) how cultural motives for utilizing personal weblogs differ between the U.S. and South Korea. With these findings, I will suggest an appropriate cultural design and content features on SNSs that enhances intercultural communication between the U.S. and Korea. A survey method is considered both in South Korea and in the U.S. Four hundred college students in the U.S. are recruited from a variety of undergraduate classes at a medium-size southeastern university, and four hundred in South Korea are employed at a medium-size Korean university in South Korea. I firmly believe that this research will contribute to a better understanding of the cultural uses of new communication technology at an intercultural level. Support for the research proposed here is an investment that will help the study and practice of public media and journalism at College of Humanities and Social Science at Kennesaw State and beyond. The results of the proposed research speak to the practical application of designing cross-cultural communication online that considers cultural differences in the use of new communication technology. In an increasingly global environment, the understanding of cultural differences can contribute greatly to the success of mutual cultural exchanges.

LeeAnn Lands abstract

This proposal is in request for financial support for the hiring and travel expenses for two undergraduate researchers to work with the P.I. in the collection, research and analysis of manuscripts related to post-1965 housing issues in the city of Atlanta and Cobb County,
particularly as they pertain to “white flight” and “black flight” to the suburbs. The project, proposed for Fall 2008 and Spring 2009, will continue the P.I.’s recent work investigating residential landscapes and the constructions of “landscapes of power” in the Sunbelt South. The study is one component of a larger initiative examining the construction and popular understanding of “neighborhood” and housing landscapes in the era of desegregation and “white flight” in the 1960s and 1970s, and the subsequent period of black and Latino migration to the suburbs in the Sunbelt South. The larger project will result in peer-reviewed articles in 2008 and 2009 and a monograph by 2010. Additionally, the project involves undergraduates in research, and assesses the outcomes of participation of undergraduates in research in the humanities. This latter component will also generate peer-reviewed publications and conference papers.

Darina Lepadatu abstract

The main purpose of this project is the publication of a book. Entitled The Japanese “Miracle” Revisited: Diversity and Teamwork in a Japanese Transplant, the book is a unique and fascinating description of the lives of teams on the assembly line in a top Japanese transplant, named Kaizen Motors for confidentiality purposes. The great merit of the book is the sociological analysis of the consequences of Japanese managerial practices on American workers twenty years after the Japanese auto makers opened their factories in the US. This is the first study on a Japanese auto factory in the US in the last fifteen years. Since Toyota has become the top one auto-maker of the world in March 2007, this study received a lot of interest from the scientific community. Several publishing houses already expressed their interest in publishing the study in a book format, including Cornell Press, one of the top press in the field of industrial and labor relations. Project Term: The course release includes Fall 2008, the editorial and travel expenses includes Fall 2008, and possibly Spring 2009.

Dorothy Marsil and Corrine McNamara abstract

The purpose of this research is twofold as explored in two complimentary studies. The goal of Study 1 is to determine reasons preventing students from reporting interpersonal violence (IV). In Study 2, we have three goals: (1) to assess students’ attitudes and knowledge of campus services related to preventing and reporting IV; (2) to conduct a campaign to raise awareness of campus resources, to increase IV prevention knowledge, and to change attitudes toward IV; and (3) to evaluate effectiveness of this campaign following implementation.

Linda Niemann abstract

Memoirs, folklore, and nonfiction stories by a longtime brakeman and conductor delve into the dark side of railroad life. Author Linda Grant Niemann spent 20 years working on the railroad. Her stories chronicle the nitty-gritty of working life as she travels the American West going from terminal to terminal as a freight brakeman on the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific. Her two
previous books, *Boomer: Railroad Memoirs and Railroad Voices*, covered the first part of her career when she hired on in 1979. *Railroad Noir* is about what she left behind when she left the railroad in 1999. Photographer Joel Jensen has been making color images of trains and Western icons for 11 years. Niemann and Jensen have collaborated on stories in *Trains Magazine* for the last three years. The two authors share an edgy, dark vision of railroad life and the American West.

**Andrew Pieper abstract**

This project looks for the origins of a popular myth at the heart of the culture wars. That myth, which I call the “irreverent Left thesis,” asserts that the American Left became increasingly hostile to religion during the last 30 years. This hostility, according to proponents of the irreverent Left thesis, was one impetus for the Republican Party’s electoral successes beginning in the 1990s. However, preliminary research indicates that hostility toward religion was an effect, rather than a cause, of the electoral success of the Republican Party. If the irreverent Left thesis is based on faulty assumptions, then how did it develop, and for what purposes? This study aims to explore whether conservative writers and political leaders developed and propagated the irreverent Left thesis. If so, was it from ideological stereotypes or for political gain? This project analyzes conservative media outlets from 1977-2000 to search for variations on the irreverent Left thesis. Were there changes in how conservative media covered religious issues? How did their coverage of the American Left evolve during that time? The answers impact virtually all field of American politics, from political culture to electoral politics, and will contribute significantly to the literature and debate surrounding the culture wars in the United States.

**Vanessa Slinger-Friedman abstract**

This proposal requests funds to support research on an emerging type of tourism, referred to a travelers’ philanthropy, considered to be a significant source of international development assistance. This study will specifically address the selection criteria for chosen philanthropic travel sites. Since this is a newly developing form of tourism there is almost no formal literature available on this topic, therefore this study will be seminal and contribute much to the knowledge and understanding of travelers’ philanthropy and the impact of travelers’ philanthropy on international development assistance.