Sabbatical Panorama
2017-2018
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Provost’s Introduction

This document represents the latest in a long tradition at Seton Hall of collecting and celebrating the accomplishments of our colleagues who have recently returned from sabbatical. There is usually a time lag; the reports in these pages describe projects that were undertaken in the 2017-18 academic year, but editing was completed and it is shared with you in the midst of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. In these days of stress and isolation, nearly all travel is restricted and conferences are virtual, we are obliged to meet with only a fraction of the students in each class in person while much of the teaching takes place online, and everyone knows someone who has been lost to this illness. We can be forgiven for enjoying vicariously the freedom of movement of our colleagues in 2017-18, who were able to travel from Belgium to Beijing to Baltimore to pursue their research topics in the outside world. Our colleagues who are on sabbatical this semester have adapted brilliantly to the changed conditions, but we all look forward fondly to the end of the danger and regaining our scholarly “wings”.

It can be inspiring to think about some of our intellectual predecessors who managed to make the best of a difficult and dangerous situation. Perhaps no one can top Isaac Newton, who had just finished his BA at Trinity in August 1665 and earned a scholarship that would allow him to pursue his Masters’ degree and no longer have to work as a valet to pay his tuition. Then London was struck with the worst outbreak of bubonic plague since the Black Death, and he returned to his family estate in Woolsthorpe-by-Colsterworth until he could return to Trinity in 1667.

All Newton did while isolated during the plague, at the same age as some of our students, is discover his version of calculus, use the prism to reveal and explain the compound nature of white light, develop the laws of physical motion, and deduce the relationship of gravity to inertia. He even created two colors, in the sense that the spectrum before his prism research was thought to have five colors and since 1666 it is commonly considered to have seven. Newton packed so much into his quarantine that it is known to his biographers as his annus mirabilis, year of miracles.

Other scholars have thought of Newton during the current pandemic, and some have pointed out that Newton didn’t have to deal with zoom calls! Not all sabbaticals might be as long as years, but whether it is a sabbatical that is currently ongoing, or that is reported in this volume, or your own next sabbatical, may we also encounter miracles during the times we have for research, and may the future continue to bless us with happier reasons for these opportunities.

Please enjoy these reports turned in by your colleagues,

Katia Passerini, Ph.D.

Provost and Executive Vice President
I was very pleased with my sabbatical year, both on professional and personal levels. Having moved with my family to Belgium in mid-June 2017, the transition took some time before I could have the dependable work schedule to which I am accustomed. However, my research was not horribly impeded by this rather massive transition. My integration back into the Institute of Philosophy of K.U. Leuven (Louvain) was greatly assisted by the university. As such, I could very quickly take advantage of renewed contacts and the world-renowned library resources in Leuven.

Conferences

I had the unique opportunity of attending between four and five academic conferences, mostly in the first half of my sabbatical year. Few research centers in the world can match the quality of these conferences, or their participants.

Book/ Writing Projects

During the early months of my sabbatical, I submitted a scholarly monograph for publication. While the process of review took longer than the acquisitions editor anticipated, I am happy to report that at the end of October 2018 I signed a contract for Cambridge University Press to publish my book. It is entitled *Virtue and Grace in the Theology of Thomas Aquinas* and is anticipated to appear in print, if all continues to go well, by the end of 2019/early 2020.

Just as my official sabbatical ended (early July 2018), I signed another book contract with Lexington Books, a subsidiary of Rowman & Littlefield, for a co-authored book in military ethics. For this project, I teamed up with a professor at the United States Military Academy (West Point), Kenneth W. McDonald. The book is entitled *Pursuing the Honorable: Reawakening Honor in the Modern
Military. It is already in production and is due to appear in print during this coming summer.

Research/ Other Scholarly Work

In addition to these writing projects, I took time to creatively explore areas of research that normal duties of university life preclude. The fruit of that exploration was more than I could have imagined. First, I was able to produce an important scholarly article on conscience and authority in the writings of Thomas Aquinas. This article is still under review, but it has garnished much attention by several scholars around the world who have read and praised it.

Additionally, this single article opens up an entirely new vista. In the approximately 750 years between Thomas Aquinas’s day and our own, very little research has been done on the connection between Aquinas’s work and Church law (a.k.a. canon law). Realizing this, I approached a Belgian colleague, Jörgen Vijgen, and together we have founded the “Thomas Aquinas and Canon Law: International Research Group.”

In short, we have started to seize the market on a completely ignored area of research, simply by being the place people come to connect on the meeting of these oceans of knowledge. We have received nothing but praise from both scholars of Aquinas and scholars of medieval ecclesial law, including the head of the prestigious Leonine Commission in Paris who quickly agreed to be a consultant on the project. We have several immediate and more distant goals for this budding group, including conference sessions and an edited volume. However, because it is an entirely unexplored terrain, much remains to be determined regarding the wider potentiality of the project.

Having submitted both monographs by March, I immediately turned my attention to my next project on participatory ethics. My colleagues at the Institute of Philosophy in Leuven were particularly helpful in this regard. Both in informal conversations and in my formal paper presentation – “Participatory Ethics, Participatory Lives: A Recasting of Thomistic Ethics” – given to the DeWulf-Mansion Centre during their Annual Research Day in May 2018, the project was well received. My work during those spring months produced two chapters of the seven currently planned.
I have put that book project on hold to pursue another article and book first. This pertains to the theology of scandal in Catholic theology and the issue of truth-telling. While my decision to first pursue this article and book project is related to the recent scandals in the Church, the content of the book came from that creative time I allowed myself during my sabbatical. It is, in fact, a story of the ancient and medieval Church, but one that can do some real good in how Catholics are taught to think about potential scandalous behavior. I hope to continue this work during the summer, as much of my more limited research time during this academic year has been spent in revisions of the monographs going to publication.

**Continued Learning**

Desiring to improve my ability to communicate in French, I was able to follow a 6-8 week course in that language. This ability will certainly help me expand the ease with which I can engage and communicate with scholars in a more international community.

**Conclusion**

On a more personal note, both my entire family and I find ourselves refreshed in body, mind, and spirit by our time in Belgium. In the end, we arrived home with hearts full of gratitude to God, refreshed spirits, and renewed way of life. I wish to thank Seton Hall and all who helped us grow so much.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D.
Venu Balasubramanian

School of Health and Medical Sciences

Introduction

The School of Health and Medical Sciences and the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at Seton Hall University came forward to recommend me for a six-month sabbatical that was subsequently approved by our interim provost. I was fortunate to receive an invitation to spend my sabbatical as a visiting scientist at the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. I spent six months at Hopkins from 01/16/18 to 07/16/18. This report furnishes information about the objectives of my sabbatical plan, plan-related activities during my stay at Hopkins, an interim summary of the outcome of the sabbatical, and the projected future professional goals for furthering my interests, and that of the department at the levels of both graduate and doctoral studies.

Sabbatical Plan

My sabbatical plan was to start a new line of translational research on the topic of recovery from Broca’s aphasia. The larger objective of the project is to follow the same set of individuals diagnosed with Broca’s aphasia for a period of 3-4 years from acute, sub-acute phases and into the chronic phase. At each phase, aphasics will receive language treatment with and without (sham condition) direct current stimulation (tDCS).

In all three phases, a variety of behavioral/neurolinguistic and neuroimaging (fMRI) measures will be obtained from each individual with Broca’s aphasia. The results obtained may aid in predicting who will become chronic Broca’s aphasic, and the efficacy of the behavioral and neural stimulation methods of treatment. After collecting pilot data at a well-known research laboratory, I wanted to submit a grant proposal to NIDCD/NIH for funding to continue my research on a larger scale at my lab (Communication Neuroscience and Aphasia Research Laboratory) at SHU.

To achieve these goals, I needed

- Consultation with a well-established researcher in a neurorehabilitation research laboratory
- Accessibility of the clinical population
- Getting trained in tDCS and fMRI techniques
• Collaboration with a team of researches associated with a research lab

As previously mentioned, I was affiliated with the Department of Neurology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and I worked with Dr. Rajani Sebastian and Dr. Argye Hillis. Dr. Hillis’ Lab, the Stroke Cognition Recovery (SCORE) laboratory, offered an opportunity to work with adults with acquired chronic aphasia. Dr. Sebastian, a primary investigator (PI) on an NIH funded research project was running subjects (chronic aphasics) for her study “Cerebellar Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation to Augment Chronic Aphasia Treatment”. I was invited to join the protocol as a co-investigator on the study and promptly did so after meeting several IRB requirements.

This participation gave me an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in treating aphasic clients with tDCS. Simultaneously, I have read the literature related to tDCS treatment for aphasics. I was able to understand the ‘state of the art’ in treating aphasics with variations in the application of tDCS. More importantly, I was able to gather data from ten aphasic clients who had received tDCS treatment. I completed analyses of behavioral data and entered the data for electronic storage.

In the weekly lab meetings, researchers presented their work and discussed the ways to respond to the reviewers’ comments on their manuscript. These meetings were extremely relevant to my research interests.

Other Sabbatical Projects

In addition to the activities mentioned above, I was able to complete a manuscript that I was committed to complete for a publisher. I have also submitted an abstract to the 10th annual conference of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL). I also reviewed ten abstracts for the 10th annual conference of the SNL. As a co-author of a research article submitted to Brain and Language, I needed to respond to the reviewers’ questions, comments and suggestions, and that work was completed as well.

In addition to my own accomplishments, one of my doctoral students successfully defended her dissertation in March 2018. As her mentor and dissertation advisor, I had to make sure that her work was complete for her defense. In addition, I needed to move my office from South Orange to Nutley campus. These two responsibilities took a big bite out of my sabbatical time.

Accomplishments
I am happy to report the following positive results from my sabbatical; results directly related to the sabbatical plan and those that were achieved during the tenure of the sabbatical, but not directly related to the sabbatical plan:

- **Balasubramanian, V.**, a co-investigator of an ongoing research project at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Project Title: Cerebellar transcranial direct current stimulation to augment chronic aphasia treatment. PI for this project is Dr. Rajani Sebastian, JHU School of Medicine. (NIH funded project)

- **Balasubramanian, V.,** Sebastian, R., et al. (pilot study in progress) The Combined Effect of Lexical-Semantic Therapy, Cerebellar Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS), or sham tDCS in the recovery of Fluent and Non-fluent Aphasics.

- **Balasubramanian, V.** ‘Treatment-induced recovery from Broca’s aphasia’, a research proposal that was originally presented to the Hopkins research group in June 2017, was refined and expanded with the benefit of my exposure to the research of Dr. Sebastian (NIH grantee).

Results not directly related to the sabbatical plan:


• Costello-Yacano, M., Balasubramanian, V. (2018). Accepted for a poster presentation at the upcoming Academy of Aphasia annual meeting, Montreal (October 2018).

• Koebli, J., Balasubramanian, V. (2018). An Exploration of Higher-Level Language Deficits Following Blast Exposure in Afghanistan & Iraq War Veterans. Accepted for an oral platform presentation at the upcoming ASHA convention, in November, Boston, MA, USA.

• Balasubramanian, V. ‘Treatment-induced recovery from Broca’s aphasia’, a research proposal that was originally presented to the Hopkins research group in June 2017, was refined and expanded with the benefit of my exposure to the research of Dr. Sebastian (NIH grantee).

• Balasubramanian, V. (2018). Is the Supra Marginal Gyrus a Hub for Orthographic Processing? (abstract accepted for the annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society)

Future Research Trajectory related to the sabbatical plan:

My exposure and hands-on training in the use of transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) technique at Johns Hopkins, and subsequently the training workshop I attended in NYC will enable me to start using this technique for research and clinical purposes. I intend to use this neurostimulation technique in a large number of patients/subjects with brain lesions to achieve enhanced language communication and cognitive function. This technique is still at an experimental stage. Using this technique in combination with behavioral/linguistic treatment might provide better results for patients with language and/or cognitive impairment.

I intend to undertake a randomized, double blind, sham controlled study, within subject cross-over trial design study. Large-scale application of tDCS technique will provide reliable results which can be used to set clinical standards. This scale of study would require funding from the National Institute of Health or its member agencies. Therefore, developing and submitting a grant proposal in the early months of 2019 is going to be my next research goal.
Grant Proposal

I intend to submit a grant proposal to NIH/ NIDCD in early 2019; Title: ‘Treatment-induced recovery from aphasias: A longitudinal case-series analyses’. This study will combine tDCS and behavioral treatment to facilitate recovery from aphasia. Instrumentation needed for this study will be procured, as per the commitment from the Department of Speech-Language Pathology. In addition, the functional Near InfraRed Spectroscopic (fNIRS) imaging technique (currently available at the department), could be used to explore the neural markers of functional changes in the brain of the patients who were treated with tDCS.

Xue-Ming Bao
Seton Hall University Libraries

Introduction
I took my sabbatical leave from May to December 2017. For my field studies, I visited ten libraries and schools of information management in five cities in China from May 21 to July 11. I proceeded to work on two projects based on the results of my field studies from August to December: (1) create photo galleries of my field studies in China; and (2) write a field study report on the state of the digital humanities in Chinese libraries and schools of information management.

Photo Galleries and Presentations

I have displayed my photo galleries on my Seton Hall Blog for (1) Peking University (北大), Beijing; (2) Tsinghua University (清华), Beijing; (3) Chinese Academy of Sciences (中科院), Beijing; (4) National Library of China (国家图书馆), Beijing, (5) Wuhan University (武大), Hubei Province; (6) Zhejiang University (浙大), Zhejiang Province; (7) Fudan University (复旦), Shanghai; (8) Shanghai Library (上海图书馆), (9) Pudong Public Library (浦东图书馆), Shanghai; and (10) Nanjing Agricultural University (南农), Jiangsu Province.

I was invited to make presentations of “Improve Reader Service through Digital Humanities: Distant Reading via Text Mining Tools” in five of the above
libraries and schools of information management and reached out to more than 200 Chinese librarians, faculty and students.

Field Study

I completed my field study report “Digital Humanities in Chinese Libraries: Research, Innovation, and Collaboration” in November 2017 and it was accepted for a poster session at VALE/NJ ACRL/NJLA CUS, The 19th Annual Users’ Conference. My field study report is under review by a peer-reviewed journal. I have included the abstract.

Abstract

This paper reports on a field study of Chinese libraries undertaken during the summer of 2017. The findings describe Chinese digital libraries (DL) and digital humanities (DH) projects and articulate their similarities and differences. The report concludes that Chinese libraries bring new approaches to the practices in DH through technical innovations such as (1) the delivery of new digital tools for preserving ancient Chinese books and special collections, (2) interactive visualization projects, and (3) scholarly communication opportunities through conferences, seminars, and WeChat groups. The Chinese perspective interchanges DL and DH in that not only is DH developed based on DL but contributes to the continuing development of DL.
Sabbatical Objective

To make significant progress on the primary project, the development and writing of a book, as well as investment in several other scholarly and professional projects described below that both individually and together, contribute to my scholarship and teaching and, as such to my Department, College, and University as a whole.

Primary Project

My primary sabbatical project was the development and writing of a book tentatively titled *Beyond expectations: At-risk college students graduating at higher rates than their more advantaged peers*. In order to best prepare for this endeavor, I read widely and deeply on relevant topics, developed competency in reference management software, and compiled extensive references, peer-reviewed articles, published data, and other resources. I am currently engaged in writing the literature synthesis that will provide the necessary context for the empirical component of the book. This project, which is still in progress, remains a high priority.

Additional Projects

In addition to the book project described above, I invested time in a number of manuscripts, all of which I fully expect to submit for publication as journal articles in the next few months. I also made the following peer-reviewed presentations during the 2017-2018 sabbatical year. For both presentations and journal articles, student co-authors are indicated with an asterisk. During my sabbatical year, I continued and extended my professional services, as well as continued service as a dissertation committee member.

Book(s)
Beyond expectations is my second book project. The first is Careers in psychology: A practical guide, with Marie S. Hammond, PhD. During my sabbatical, we compiled additional materials, refined the proposal, responded to editors’ and reviewers’ comments, and prior to and during consideration of multiple publishing contract offers, learned a great deal about academic book publishing. The manuscript for this book is scheduled for completion in Summer 2020.

Journal articles


Brady-Amoon, P., & Farrelly, M. J. (final write up in progress). Knowledge and perceptions of academic honesty among counselor education students and faculty. First draft manuscript near completion.


Peer-reviewed presentations


Brady-Amoon, P. (2018, August). Infusing social justice in graduate education: Inspiring action in M. Scheel (Chair), Preparing psychology students for

Teaching/Service

I continued service as a committee member for Kevin R. Majewski’s dissertation in Education, Management, Policy and Leadership (ELMP) titled Does college experience matter? A national study understanding graduates’ job satisfaction and participated in his successful defense on April 25, 2018.

Service

San Miguel Academy of Newburgh (NY).
I continued my service as volunteer consulting psychologist and was elected to the Board of Trustees in Spring 2018 for this independent, faith-based, middle school with graduate support (high school through college/career preparation) for boys in one of the most materially impoverished and violent cities in the U.S.
http://newburghsanmiguel.org/

Alliance for Professional Counselors (APC)
I continued my service as Advocacy Chair and was elected President, Summer 2018 for this relatively new professional association (founded 2014) that works to promote education and advocacy for inclusive approaches to counselor preparation, licensure, and employment. During 2017-2018, I mobilized two successful letter writing/public comment campaigns to oppose
proposals that would have restricted initial counselor licensure in Virginia to graduates of counseling graduate programs accredited by one specific accrediting body. https://apccounseloralliance.org/

**Professional Memberships**

*American Psychological Association (APA), International Psychology (Division 52)*

*American Psychological Association (APA), Society for Counseling Psychology (SCP; Division 17),*

- Special Task Group on Master’s Training and Practice
  - liaison with another division to protect psychologists’ long-standing investment in counselor preparation and the field itself
  - Wrote, obtained endorsement from allied organizations, and sent a letter regarding options for the accreditation of master’s programs in counseling to licensing boards/committees in all US jurisdictions (50 states plus the District of Columbia). The task force also worked within APA to educate and promote APA’s positive contributions to master’s level training and practice. (Invited by SCP President)

- Invited presentation to the University of Denver faculty and administration on Master’s issues in counseling and psychology, February 20, 2017.
  Although not specifically related to my roles with APC or APA, this invitation was prompted by my noted expertise in this area and was well-received.

*Greater NY Behavioral Research Conference, Member, Conference and Awards Committees*

Overall, this was a wonderfully productive sabbatical year. In addition to the progress shown above, I learned a great deal and returned with renewed energy and enthusiasm. I thank the Seton Hall community for this important and worthwhile opportunity.
Anca M. Cotet-Grecu

Department of Economics and Legal Studies

Project Goals

I investigated the impact of regulations of prescriptions of controlled substances. The output of my research is described below.

I. NEW PAPERS

- Nurse Practitioners’ Scope of Practice and Prescription Drug Abuse. (with Andrew Friedson)

  Status – completed and presented at the American Society of Health Economists Conference June 12, 2018. I have finished incorporating the suggestions I received at the conference and the paper is currently circulated among other economists for some final feed-back before submission.

  Short description: A wide array of policies have attempted to curb the opioid epidemic, with varying degrees of success. In this study we explore the effects of a policy that is not directly aimed at the opioid epidemic (the earliest versions of the policy predate the opioid crisis), but that may serve as an additional tool to help curb opioid overdose: nurse practitioner (NP) scope of practice laws – in particular the authority to prescribe schedule II drugs, which includes most opioid painkillers.

  Using variation across states and over time in NP prescriptive authority, linked with data on opioid prescription volume, admissions into treatment facilities, and overdose deaths, we demonstrate that expanding scope of practice for NPs yielded significant changes in outcomes highly relevant to combating the current opioid epidemic.

  We find evidence that these laws are associated with a decrease in treatment admissions for opioid abuse. We also find evidence that early laws are associated with a decrease in mortality; however, this effect tapered over time. We also provide one explanation for this effect. We find evidence that the more recent reforms are associated with an increase in the likelihood of multiple substance abuse.

- Prenatal Opioid Abuse and Infant health: Effects of Mandatory Access Prescription Monitoring Programs (PDMP) (with Dhaval Dave, Monica

Short Description: While prescribed for pain management in the general population, opioid medications are also typically prescribed during pregnancy to treat common conditions such as lower-back, pelvic, and joint pain, and myalgia and migraine. Almost 15% of privately insured pregnant women have filled an opioid prescription. Opioids are known to cross the placenta, and prenatal use has been linked to various complications, most notably Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS), preterm delivery, low birthweight, and neural tube and congenital heart defects in observational and retrospective studies. Opioid use during pregnancy has escalated dramatically over the past two decades; among pregnant women entering substance abuse treatment facilities, those reporting any opioid abuse increased from 2% to 28% while NOWS cases have increased more than five-fold.

A significant amount of opioids for non-medical use is obtained either directly or indirectly through “doctor shopping”, some of which also sources street supply. The latter refers to patients obtaining (and filling) prescriptions from multiple providers without the prescribers and dispensers being aware of the other prescriptions. To address this issue, many states have implemented prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP), an electronic database that tracks prescribers and patients. Currently all states except MO have an operational PDMP, though few states have mandatory access provisions that actually require practitioners to access the PDMP prior to prescribing and dispensing a controlled substance. Where voluntary, utilization rates by providers are quite low, on the order of 14-25%.

In this study, we provide the first evidence on how these policies have impacted pregnant women and their infants. We exploit variation in the timing of mandatory PDMP adoption, conditional on having an operational PDMP, in a difference-in-differences framework to estimate effects on objective measures of Rx drug abuse among pregnant women (opioid-related admissions to substance abuse treatment facilities) and on birth outcomes. Preliminary estimates indicate that mandatory access provisions have significantly reduce opioid abuse among pregnant women, and improved infant health (higher fetal growth by 0.2%; reduced low birthweight and preterm delivery by 1-2%; % is relative to the baseline mean). Effect magnitudes appear small as these are reduced-form intention-to-treat parameters. Under reasonable assumptions, we also derive treatment-on-the-treated effects, in the process providing plausibly causal effects of prenatal opioid abuse on infant health.
II. NEW WORK ADDED TO PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED PAPERS

- Nurse Practitioner’s Prescriptive Independence and Opioids Abuse (with Lee C. Spector)

Explanation: Some of the results I obtained during my Sabbatical work were more easily incorporated in a paper that I was already working on before the Sabbatical and that I presented at the Eastern Economic Association Meetings in 2017.

Status: The paper is currently submitted to *Health Economics*

Short Description: Laws enabling NP independent prescribing effectively expand the number of providers and could exacerbate the ill effects of doctor shopping. The more providers, the more prescriptions an individual could obtain, but an increase in the number of providers might also induce physicians to reduce their work hours, limiting the impact of more providers on doctor shopping (Garthwaite 2012). Additionally, when high workload affects the quality of care (Krupinski et al. 2010), increasing the number of providers could reduce the patient load per physician and lead to fewer prescription issued to fraudulent patients.

These laws could operate through other channels as well. These laws could impact providers’ compensation. Greater professional independence for advance practice nurses (APNs) is associated with lower earnings, because physicians respond by hiring fewer APNs and more physicians’ assistants (Dueker et al 2005). More closely related to this study Kleiner et al. (2016) reports that when NPs are allowed to do more tasks their wages increased. If the more favorable practice environment and/or the higher wages makes the field of nursing more appealing, there may be entry in the field of nursing (Sekscenski et al. 1994, Kalist and Spurr 2004) affecting the likelihood of detection and treatment of substance abuse.

These laws not only change the number of providers but also the characteristics of the labor supply. The nursing model stresses prevention; thus, a stronger NP presence could lead to increased screening and improved patient education, and through it the initiation of non-medical use of prescription drugs.

This study finds evidence that allowing NPs to practice independently did not impact treatment admissions or mortality due to prescription drug abuse. On the other hand, states that allowed NP independent practice and adopted must-access
PDMPs experienced an increase in treatment admissions and a decrease in opioid related mortality.

III. REVISIONS OF PREVIOUSLY STARTED PAPERS

- Mandatory Access Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs and Prescription Drug Abuse (with Dhaval Dave and Henry Saffer)

  Status: the paper was recently accepted by the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, which is an A level journal with a 5 year impact factor of 2.903 according to the 2015 SSCI.

  Abstract: This study estimates the effects of prescription drug monitoring (PDMP) programs which is a key policy targeting access to non-medical use of Rx drugs. Based on objective indicators of abuse as measured by substance abuse treatment admissions and mortality related to Rx drugs, estimates do not suggest any substantial effects of instituting an operational PDMP. We find, however, that mandatory-access provisions, which raised PDMP utilization rates by actually requiring providers to query the PDMP prior to prescribing a controlled drug, are significantly associated with a reduction in Rx drug abuse.

  The effects are driven primarily by a reduction in opioid abuse, generally strongest among young adults (ages 18-24), and underscore important dynamics in the policy response. We also assess potential spillovers of mandatory PDMPs on the use of other illicit drugs and find a complementary reduction in admissions related to cocaine and marijuana abuse.

  • The Effect of Telehealth Insurance Mandates on Healthcare Utilization and Outcomes (with Ghanshyam Sharma)

  Status: submitted to Contemporary Economic Policy

  Abstract: This paper uses panel data techniques to investigate the impact of state mandates to cover telehealth services on private insurance premiums and enrollment, healthcare utilization, and health outcomes. There is evidence that telehealth insurance mandates are associated with an increase in primary care, but no significant changes in overall health outcomes. However, there is evidence of a reduction of secondary care and improvement in health outcomes in non-metropolitan areas. The results provide useful information regarding the potential of telehealth to reduce healthcare costs as well as to reduce disparities in access to health care and in health outcomes.
Abraham N. Fried
Department of Accounting and Taxation

Introduction

I am most indebted to Seton Hall University for granting me a sabbatical leave for the Fall 2017 semester. The sabbatical allowed me to focus on two pedagogical issues that will help me better serve my Department, the Stillman School of Business, and the University community in the near term as well as in the years to come. My first area of focus was online education, as preparing to teach an online course for the first time in the Spring 2018 semester was my most immediate concern. My second area of focus was on teaching the latest revenue recognition reporting standard, ASC 606, regarding Revenue from Contracts With Customers.

Sabbatical Activities

During the first part of my sabbatical leave, I was actively engaged in the completion and development of the online version of our BACC 7100 Financial Reporting course. I had spent a lot of time over the summer working with TLTC on the course, but there were still recordings to be made and content to prepare at the beginning of the Fall. The magnitude of preparing a six-credit class for online delivery was challenging and invigorating. I was grateful to have the leave time so that I could focus on completing the task.

To gain further insight into the best practices of delivering content to students in this new learning environment, I reached out to colleagues with experience in online learning. I was lucky enough to meet with two of my colleagues with extensive experience who were happy to share their insights based on their familiarity with the subject. We discussed ways to maximize student engagement, both between students and faculty members as well as amongst students themselves. This last piece was eye opening to me, as I had initially approached the issue of engagement as one between the professor teaching the course and the student. We further discussed best practices as far as assessment and testing in an online environment. We talked about the need to balance leveraging the latest technology to our advantage while maintaining student privacy. I am confident that my students
will gain by my implementing some of these ideas and insights in my own online courses, beginning with BACC 7100 in the Spring semester.

The second pedagogical issue that I focused on pertained to the best practice for teaching the latest revenue recognition standard, ASC 606. I had questioned the approach taken in commonly used accounting textbooks to present the materials. I believed that most books got lost in the minutiae of applying the new guidance to particular scenarios, thereby losing focus on the big picture. After spending time meeting with industry professionals and further reviewing the standard, I am more convinced that that is indeed the case.

The best approach, in my opinion, is to start with the most common application of the new standard to a traditional retail transaction and then slowly work through more complex transactions with multiple deliverables and bundled products. I also believe that the professor must incorporate the concept of revenue recognition of long-term contracts early on in the discussion, rather than as an appendix to the topic as it is currently presented in popular texts. Many applications of the new standard only apply when there are multiple periods involved. I hope to develop a case study based on this approach in the future.

My sabbatical also gave me the opportunity to focus on advancing other research projects that were already underway. One paper in particular that I focused on relates to a firm’s choice of asset capitalization thresholds. Presently, there is no requirement for firms to disclose what their threshold is. We argue that this information would be useful to investors and as such, should be a required disclosure. This study would be of particular interest to industry professionals and is consistent with the Stillman School mission of transforming concepts into practice. I also continued to work on my line of research related to firm’s IT investment and accounting reporting quality.

**Conclusion**

I am thankful for the opportunity to pursue and engage in these activities, something that would not have been possible while maintaining a full teaching schedule. I am confident that my students will reap the benefits of my having focused on these issues and that I have emerged a better teacher from my sabbatical leave. I also look forward to continuing the process of moving my research along towards publication.
Research Objectives/ Goals

The goals of my sabbatical, as outlined in the application, were to complete the manuscript of the book *Brothers in Hope: Judaism in Catholic Perspective* and to commence and develop the textbook *Introducing Israel’s Literature of Wisdom and Praise* contracted with Fortress Press for submission in December 2019. Almost all of my time was devoted to the latter project, with some work devoted to the former and several others. The main reason for this is that I intend to use my textbook *Introduction to Israel’s Literature of Wisdom and Praise* in my Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology (ICSST) core class entitled “Introduction to Wisdom Literature and the Psalms”, taught in the Spring term.

Project Developments

As I envisioned making substantial revisions to the scope and structure of this course, and intend to compose thirty chapters in the textbook to support thirty lessons, to be tried and tested on students in the Spring terms of 2018 and 2019, and as time was short, I gave this project my priority. Thanks to this work, I managed to revise and develop the syllabus (and hence the plan for the structure and scope of the textbook) as desired.

Another reason for not completing the *Brothers in Hope* manuscript was that at the time of submitting my sabbatical application, I accepted an invitation to contribute a chapter on “Revelation after the Holocaust” to a forthcoming OUP Manual on Revelation, due in the summer of 2018. Since the Holocaust has impacted greatly on recent Jewish-Christian relations, the chapter I hope to write will, in time, be integrated into the work that remains to be done on *Brothers in Hope*. Below I describe my work schedule and accomplishments.

Accomplishments

I spent July of 2017 researching in the Princeton Theological Seminary Library, reading and scanning introductions and entries pertaining to biblical wisdom literature and the psalms in all the principal reference works (Biblical Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, multi- volume introductions) in the library’s reference room. In the end, I also formulated a schedule for further reading and research in
the areas of: a) Proverbs and the interrelationship of Wisdom literature and the Court-histories; b) biblical poetry and parallelism; c) the canonical shape of the Wisdom writings and their relationship to the Pentateuch; and d) the latest German scholarship on the shape of the Psalter.

I also spent time organizing the schedule of the Catholic Biblical Association’s Task Force on the Use of the Old Testament in the Gospel of John, of which I am one of the coordinators. In line with this, I reviewed the contents of the volume of proceedings in anticipation of securing their publication and corresponded about these matters with the Task Force’s members.

I devoted most of August 2017 on researching issues pertaining to the nature of biblical poetry, the phenomenon of parallelism, and its Semitic Babylonian and Ugaritic antecedents. This work resulted in a draft outline for a chapter and lessons on this subject.

The first week of study was devoted to reading and scanning articles on proverbs (introductions to leading proverb dictionaries and anthologies of various nations [British, Irish, Spanish, Italian, Jamaican, Russian, etc.], linguistic studies of what constitutes proverbs and how they work, their use in classic literature [Shakespeare, Cervantes, Tolstoy, Tolkien]). I was eager to find here appropriate illustrations of how proverbs reflect national and cultural values and to apply these illustrations to reflection on how biblical proverbs do the same.

The second week was devoted to the “Revelation after the Holocaust” project. My goal was to flesh out and find responses to Theodore Adorno’s statement that “to write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric” and integrate these debates into my study on the assumption that an analogy may be drawn between “poetry” (as expressive of spiritual values) and “revelation.” One important response to understand was the Holocaust poetry of the Jewish German poet, Paul Celan. Noting that Paul Celan is sometimes described as the German Jewish analogue to Osip Mandel’shtam, who died in the Gulags, I decided to widen my reading to my own native Russian poets, writers and thinkers who survived the Russian Gulags, particularly Mandelshtam, Solzhenitsyn and Shalamov; my mother and sister specialize in this literature.

My hope is to match the debate between Shalamov and Solzhenitsyn about what is to be said about perennial religious values with similar debates among western Jewish and Christian survivors of the Holocaust, and to locate points where these debates interface with biblical scholarship on the Scriptures, especially those
pertaining to the Exile, such as Lamentations, Deutero-Isaiah and the Psalms of Lament. I appreciated this foray into Holocaust literature later in my sabbatical when, in turning to the latest monographs on the structure of the book of Psalms, I noted how the prominent German biblical scholar, B. Janowski, alluded extensively to the poetry of Paul Celan in commenting on the “Holocaust Psalm”, Ps. 88, and its current relevance.

The third week was devoted to generating bibliographies on the early songs, hymns and poems of the Pentateuch and the Historical Books, as well as to the sapiential content of the Court Histories, especially in the so called “Succession-Narrative” (2 Sam 9-20; 1 Kings 1-2), and the portrayal of the figures of David and Solomon in the books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles. During this week, I also presented a lecture “On the Problem of Pain and the Book of Job” to the Aquinas society of King’s College (Sept. 21, 2008). In week four, I wrote a draft introductory chapter to the Textbook, supplementing and developing past ideas with what I had learned in the previous month.

In October, I resumed work at Princeton Theological Seminary library. I continued to read studies on the earliest songs and hymns of the Bible, and on the relationship of Court Histories and the figures of David and Solomon to the Wisdom corpus. I began to intuit that: a) the “Writings,” i.e. the third and last section of the Hebrew Bible (which includes the Wisdom texts contained in the third [of 4 sections] of the Christian Old Testament) is probably chiastically structured, with Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles serving as bookends to the Psalms, Proverbs and Job, thereby sandwiching the five remaining Megillot (the festival scrolls known as Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther. Consequently, centrality belongs either to Lamentations (if the Megillot are arranged chronologically, by festival), or Ecclesiastes (assuming the Masoretic canonical arrangement); and that b) the portraits of David and Solomon in Chronicles resonate in significant ways with key motifs in the Psalms. Both insights indicate that Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles are vital to the study of the Psalms and Proverbs.

This points to a major conceptual weakness in the Christian relegation of these books out of the sapiential corpus into the so-called “historical books” division of the Old Testament canon. This conceptual weakness produces a practical, pedagogical weakness, evident in our Seminary program of biblical study inasmuch as we set aside three semesters to the study of core OT literature, coordinate the three semesters with three of the four divisions of the our Old Testament and, thereby, leave all the historical books to the status of an “elective,” with the consequence that students rarely study these books, so crucial to understanding the sapiential books,
the Psalms, and the structure of the OT. Consequently, I decided to restore coverage of the Jewish understanding of the OT as consisting of three divisions and to expand the scope of my textbook and course to covering in some way all the books comprising the Writings of the Hebrew Bible.

In November 2017, I focused on the groundbreaking achievements in understanding the book of Psalms in the last twenty years, principally by the German scholars Hossfeld and Janowski, and especially the late Erik Zenger, little of whose work has been translated into English. Thanks to the time I had to work through this literature, and a dozen other major monographs and conference volumes on the Psalter and the Wisdom corpus, my understanding of the Psalter has been renewed dramatically and I am eager to incorporate these insights into my textbook and the classroom.

On November 11th, I presented a lecture on the “Problem of Pain and the Book of Job” for the Sister Maureen Campbell O.P. series at Caldwell College. I also spent a few days writing to members of the Taskforce on the Use of the Old Testament in the Gospel of John which I co-direct in the Catholic Biblical Association and setting up a proposal to the current editor of CBQMS to publish the proceedings.

My research in December was devoted to monographs and articles on the Megilloth (esp. to debates for judging Song, Lamentations and Esther sapiential), and to the canonical arrangement of the Megilloth, especially to the argument that their earliest Jewish arrangement pairs a sequence or arc of sapiential texts moving from sorrow to joy, to a sequence or arc of historical texts moving from exile to the restoration of the Temple, with the last verse (2 Chr 36:23) charging all who hear to engage in rebuilding it.

In early January of 2018, I was able to drastically revise and improve the scope, depth and material resources available for teaching the course “Introduction to Wisdom Literature and the Psalms” at ICSST, with 28 planned lectures and units, anticipating as many chapters in the textbook. As the textbook is due in December of 2019, and as I teach the course in the Spring, I will have two spring semesters to flesh out, develop and test the presentation of each topic.
Travel

My sabbatical leave allowed me to travel to Austria, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United States. I visited archives, museums, cultural institutions and universities to conduct conversations and interviews with colleagues. This flexibility to travel, read, write, and engage in scholarly exchanges presented the most valuable and rejuvenating aspect of my sabbatical. For that, I am grateful as I already see how the fruits of this year’s labor transformed my research agenda and benefit my teaching practice.

Network Building

I cultivated new contacts with colleagues near and far with some of the most interesting connections presenting themselves right here at Seton Hall or nearby Montclair State University. I plan to resume and intensify these conversations over the coming months. I also engaged in conversations with colleagues beyond the traditional parameters of academic research. I thus had eye-opening exchanges with representatives of advertising and marketing agencies as well as with former and current engineers at both Volkswagen and Daimler corporations.

I should note that the expanded field of my research owes much to my dedication to our students in teaching the history of art and culture in “practical and applicable” ways. Such efforts to deliver an academically and conceptually rigorous, yet socially and economically relevant humanities curriculum ultimately prompted me to design new paths of inquiry that chart the circulation of visual representations in today’s image-driven environment.

Overall Work

My work follows three paths of scholarly investigation with their associated working titles as follows: (1) “Synaesthesia in Black Berlin: German Art Practice and African American Jazz,” (2) “From Fahvergnügen to Dieselgate:
Representations of the Automotive Industry Between Art, Advertising and Public Relations,” and (3) “Migrant Landscapes: The European Refugee Crisis through the Prism of Creative Expression and Political Commentary.” As outlined in detailed my mid-point report, I ask how innovative methods in neuroaesthetics offer new ways of understanding the processes that govern the perception and reception of artworks.

Project #1: “Synaesthesia in Black Berlin: German Art Practice and African American Jazz”

I utilize the interdisciplinary methodology of neuroaesthetics to reappraise the successful encounters between Black American jazz music and dances and German art and visual culture during the interwar years of Weimar Germany (1918-1933). Over the past couple of months, I acquainted myself with the literature of this burgeoning field, which helps me to devise new readings of some of the artworks I had uncovered in my original research. I am pleased to count on the advice and guidance of fellow scholars. Tellingly, I connected with inspiring colleagues and their work at an overseas conference. As is perhaps fitting for a sabbatical, it sometimes necessitates a long journey to discover one’s affinities with colleagues in one’s own backyard. I plan to present preliminary results of my work at a conference in Orlando in 2019 along with my ongoing efforts of preparing chapters for publication in journals that straddle humanities and social sciences. Despite these inroads, I also encountered roadblocks in that primary materials in the form of clipping files (photographs, letters, diaries, stage reviews, contracts, passports and audio records) at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library have become inaccessible due to preservation efforts. I remain hopeful that these ephemera will become accessible again in the near future. Fortunately, New York City is within reach for return visits.

Project #2: “From Fahrvergnügen to Dieselgate: Representations of the Automotive Industry Between Art, Advertising and Public Relations”

I made good progress on my research on the evolution of historical and contemporary representations of the automotive industry within the context of Volkswagen Corporation’s “Dieselgate” scandal. Highlights included conversations with advertising executives who provided fresh insights into the history and
particularities of automobile advertising according to brands and cultures. Here, too, I was simultaneously excited and disappointed to learn from a company archivist that a trove of historical documents and visual representations indeed exists, but that access is not yet possible since there are neither inventories nor finding guides to allow meaningful access to these materials. I am awaiting word to schedule a return visit to the archives at Volkswagen company headquarters in the coming months.

During my deliberations, the company archivist even inquired whether the University might consider dispatching a student interested in internship or work-study opportunities to assist in generating a collection inventory. I appreciated the invitation but felt that supervision, travel, logistics and costs may prohibit such an overseas student placement at this time. I am currently working to identify suitable venues to present and publish this work, for it aligns with art historical scholarly trajectories as much as it ventures into the professional spheres of advertising, marketing and public relations. I trust that my conversations with colleagues from these areas will yield opportunities to share my work in new conference and publication venues, even if I may have to prepare and gear my research outcomes in different formats for such respective publications.

Project #3: “Migrant Landscapes: The European Refugee Crisis through the Prism of Creative Expression and Political Commentary”

Research on my third project, “Migrant Landscapes,” allowed me profound insights into the European response to the current migrant crisis. I thus felt fortunate to conduct this work in the midst of a changing social, cultural and political European setting. In addition to my library and museum work, I attended deeply moving theater productions by a Syrian director and a cast of characters made up of fellow refugees. Rarely did a performance get under one’s skin as much as this play for it left audiences with a palpable sense of the physical and psychological trauma that these actors endured in their country of origin. I was equally fascinated to attend county-level meetings in which representatives from a state historical commission, local heritage associations and social workers with non-profit organizations recounted their efforts to utilize museum collections for events that brought locals and refugees into dialogue with one another. A particularly successful example employed historical habits and related forms of cultural heritage as a bridge between
Germans and migrants. Food preparation, communal meals and sporting events marked similarly successful endeavors to bring locals and refugees to speak to one another.

Along these lines, I was further intrigued to conduct an interview about the “Multaka” project in at Berlin’s State Museums. Arabic for “meeting point,” the term denotes a widely publicized project at the German Historical Museum and the Museum of the Ancient Near East, in which trained, Arabic-speaking refugees from Iraq, Syria and elsewhere provide newly arrived migrants with guided tours. Covering ancient artefacts formerly located in Babylon (present-day Iraq) from the era of King Nebuchadnezzar II around 575 BCE, these guided tours amounted to nothing less than a rendezvous of a displaced people with some of their ancient Mesopotamian heritage. Conversations with curators and educators emphasized the potential of cultural heritage as a powerful integration vehicle. For instance, refugee tour guides repeatedly took to documentary footage of German cities following Allied bombing raids relative to their own experiences of war-induced trauma. They described their view of Germany’s historical rise from ruins following Allied bombings and devastation of the Nazi era as a powerful symbol that there may be hope for a future recovery of their countries of origin as well. Such conversations not only provided powerful symbols of hope and healing for a traumatized generation of refugees but also prompted German participants to appreciate anew their own historical and social accomplishments toward a more peaceful, prosperous world as well. Another series of conversations stemmed from interactions with employers detailing their successful integration efforts of refugees in the workplace and in skilled-labor training programs. Such nuanced insights held much meaning to me at a time when polarized political discussions of the refugee crisis frequently ignore the complexities of migration. I gained a renewed sense of timeliness and urgency of my work in view of these events. It also encouraged me to pursue a two-fold approach in presenting and publishing this work in humanities-oriented forums and journals, on the one hand, and in local venues and social science publications, on the other hand.

Conclusion
I am delighted to conclude that my sabbatical activities also included regularly returns to campus to serve thesis advisees and to assist in the search for a director of the graduate program in Museum Professions. I am further grateful for the opportunity to reinvent and revise all my courses (face- 2-face, hybrid and online) by updating course materials, adding current literature and rendering all course materials compliant with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DCMA).

Yanzhong Huang
School of Diplomacy and International Relations

Sabbatical Goals/Objectives
I applied for sabbatical leave in Fall of 2017 to work on my book project The Toxic Politics: How an environmental health crisis is undercutting China’s rise.

Looking back, I found my sabbatical leave productive and intellectually rewarding. I used the time to form a study group on China’s environmental health. The group, chaired by Columbia professor Jeffrey Sachs, consisted of academics and global health professionals from a diverse set of organizations including Columbia University, Tsinghua University, Pfizer Inc., The United Nations Development Programme, The Paulson Institute, The National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, and The New School. I finished three chapters during the fall and convened two meetings of the study group (December 20, 2017, and January 5, 2018) at the Council on Foreign Relations to discuss my book chapters.

Publications
Presentations and Conferences

During the leave, I also participated and presented at the following events:
- In December 2017, I was a featured speaker at the China Healthcare Workshop hosted by the Royal Danish Embassy in Beijing.
- In November 2017, I presented at the “China and Global Norms” workshop at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, where I spoke about China’s role in the development of global health norms.
- On October 11, 2017, I was invited by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, chair of the food safety caucus, to Capitol Hill to brief her and congressional staff members on the food safety risks posed by imported Chinese poultry products.

Concluding Remarks

I benefited tremendously from my sabbatical leave. I thank the University for providing this wonderful opportunity.

Sharon Ince
Seton Hall University Libraries

Introduction

During my semester long sabbatical, I was a Visiting Scholar at NYU, Steinhardt College of Education, in the Department of Educational Technology and Communications. The research conducted throughout my sabbatical helped me build upon my existing research and work to prepare me for this academic year. As a Visiting Scholar at NYU, I was able to take Data Services qualitative, quantitative, and data reproducibility classes offered by NYU Libraries. The classes helped me to
enhance my skills through further learning about the processing and management of data.

Additionally, I was able to schedule time to meet with some of the Data Services faculty and staff to learn about the NYU Data Services Department. Both classes and meeting with NYU librarians has assisted me with planning services for the SHU University Libraries to support Data Management and Data Services. This has led to an invitation from the NYU Libraries Data Services Department to do a consultation with our Data Services Team, as well as NYU Data Services Librarians presenting at SHU Libraries’ Love Data week. This allowed me to build upon a relationship where we (SHU Libraries) are to consult with NYU to help build out our services. Additionally, my Visiting Scholar status was renewed for the next fiscal year.

Research

My sabbatical research project focused on research skills and library services for graduate students. I conducted a study of peer, aspirant, and ARL libraries’ services for graduate students through a review of existing literature and collecting data from library websites. The importance of the findings includes the creation of a Graduate Services webpage with a suite of services tailored for to meet their needs.

Based on this research, Prof. Gerry Shea and I have created a webpage for SHU Libraries services for Graduate students as well as incorporating Graduate Student library service initiatives into SHU Libraries strategic plans. Additionally, this has helped inform a newly formed service within the library data services, geared at training students and faculty in finding data, managing and processing data, and dissemination of data. This resulted in an article in the Journal of Academic Librarianship.

Upon completion of my original project, I began another project focused on how doctoral students are conducting research. My co-authors and I conducted a study of how doctoral students at R1 institutions are searching and keep up-to-date on literature. The study results included the use of free tools for searching over the library due to the lack of training. This paper resulted in a poster presentation ACM SIGIR CHIIR 2018 (Conference on Human Information Interaction & Retrieval http://sigir.org/chiir2018/) at Rutgers University and a publication of our conference paper in the ACM proceeding for Conference on Human Information Interaction & Retrieval 2018.
Finally, I was able to have the time to revise an article regarding the types of research skills and training for doctoral students, which resulted in a publication in Information and Learning Sciences.

Visiting Scholar


Publications


https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?doid=3176349.3176877


Poster

Introduction

I am thankful for the opportunity to take a sabbatical leave for the 2017-2018 academic year. Looking back, the sabbatical provided me with a number of ways to explore new academic and pedagogical interests - creating a strong foundation for improvement in years to come. My sabbatical was also fruitful in an immediate manner as well as I was able to shepherd some work to completion and to make further progress in my current research stream. While many of the benefits of a sabbatical are somewhat intangible (avoiding mental switching costs, focus time, no student concerns), I believe that several specific accomplishments highlight how I used the sabbatical to further develop myself professionally.

Sabbatical Activities

I received acceptance of another paper in my behavioral finance stream. I also served as a Visiting Scholar in the finance department at NYU, providing me with new professional connections and ideas from their research seminars. Additionally, I increased my service to my field by participating more heavily as a reviewer for several journals. Finally, I used the time to explore new opportunities connecting with industry and developing a new course.

Most importantly, I used my sabbatical time to explore and learn more about behavioral finance. Behavioral finance is a relatively new area of financial study in academia. Likewise, until recently, it was relatively new to me as well. Over the course of this year, I have performed a deeper study of the existing behavioral finance literature.

My increased subject matter knowledge was critical in the completion and acceptance of "'A' look at Alphabeticity Bias in 401(k) Investing". This research examines how the confluence of two behavioral biases, status quo bias and satisficing, contribute to irrational investment in 401(k) plans by individual investors. I used my sabbatical year to complete three labor-intensive rounds of the refereeing process relatively quickly. I am pleased to report that the paper is now “conditionally accepted” for publication in The Financial Review. My improved knowledge of the existing literature also allowed me to develop a number of new streams of research in this area. One of these projects incorporates psychological ideas of willpower to...
explore how changes in our sleep schedules affect our propensity to trade rationally. I expect that these projects will yield future presentations and publications.

Research and Other Work

In addition to working on specific projects, I used the year to improve myself as a researcher. As a “Visiting Scholar” at NYU, I was able to become an active member of a larger active research community. I was able to work at NYU’s office, which placed me in a collaborative environment where I could discuss new ideas and methods. I also participated in their research seminar series. As part of my exploration of new topics and to stay abreast of current research, I attended a number of excellent presentations from outside researchers including: James Choi (Yale and NBER), Haoxiang Zhu (MIT, NBER, CFTC), Dong Lou (London School of Economics and CEPR), Barney Hartman-Glaser (UCLA), Tobias Moskowitz (Yale University and NBER), Tyler Muir (UCLA Anderson School of Management), Manuel Adelino (Duke Fuqua School of Business), Francesca Cornelli (London Business School). I left on excellent terms with the department and an open invitation to attend future research presentations.

Leave from teaching also provided me with the opportunity to provide more service to my field. I did this through increased journal activity, conference work, and friendly reviews. Peer review is the cornerstone of academia. However, it takes time. I’ve learned that reading others work, and thoughtfully providing comments is not only a key duty, but also helps me think more critically about my own work. This year, I wrote 7 referee reports for highly reputable journals. I also increased my presence at conferences where I served as a discussant and providing comments on the research articles, “Suppliers as Liquidity Insurers” and “Trust and Local Bias of Individual Investors” at the Financial Management Association Annual Meeting, which is one of the premier finance conferences. Additionally, I offered both solicited and unsolicited written comments to fellow researchers and colleagues on their works-in-progress. The process helped me to grow and will help me to be a stronger researcher in the future.

As the sabbatical was partly an exploratory experience, it is not surprising that there were some unexpected outcomes as well. I accepted an invitation to be a guest speaker at the Suffolk University / Merrill Lynch Wealth Management Symposium Series, which focused on behavioral finance. My talk contrasted System 1 versus System 2 thought processes and highlighted applications of these in an investment setting. Speaking with this group allowed me to consider new ways to apply research to real life business challenges.
I find behavioral finance fascinating. The more I read and learned about current research and its applications, the more I came to believe that this is something that we should be teaching to our students. In addition to my spending time on my own research, I used my sabbatical to develop a new Behavioral Finance course. To that end, I have already created a syllabus, course outline, and course content based on in-class experiments combined with finance journal articles. I am excited to teach this course as an experimental elective this coming year.

Conclusion

In short, my sabbatical provided me with highly valuable time to explore, learn, and research. I believe that the year was critical in my development as a professor and as a scholar. I return to Seton Hall refreshed.

Margaret K. Lewis

School of Law

Sabbatical Activities- Taiwan

My year as a Fulbright Senior Scholar at Taiwan’s premiere law school, National Taiwan University School of Law (NTU Law), provided me with the opportunity to revisit how legal reforms were playing out over a decade after my initial work in Taiwan. I arrived in Taipei in August 2017 as the National Affairs Conference on Judicial Reform called by President Tsai Ing-wen was concluding.

A major focus of the reform debate is the introduction of lay participation in criminal trials. A draft law that is heavily influenced by the Japanese system of a mixed-bench of professional and lay judges is expected to be voted on by the legislature as early as this year. My initial research has already resulted in a book chapter titled *Who Shall Judge? Taiwan’s Exploration of Lay Participation in Criminal Trials*, TAIWAN AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS: A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION (William P. Alford, Jerome A. Cohen & Chang-fa Lo eds., Springer, forthcoming 2018).

During the spring term of my sabbatical, I was invited to observe several mock trials at district courts in Taiwan using the proposed lay participation system. I was honored to be a commentator at the Penghu District Court’s mock trial. I also spent the spring talking with critics of the proposed system—many of whom prefer an
American-style jury—and even watched street protests criticizing “dinosaur judges,” referring to a view that judges are out of touch with current concerns and thus, like dinosaurs, are from another era. It was invigorating to combine my legal research with first-hand observations. I continue to follow the reform debate with the intent to write an article next year after legislative action. The article will situate Taiwan’s experience within trends seen in other East Asian jurisdictions to incorporate direct citizen input into the outcome of criminal cases.

My initial focus on lay participation led me to undertake a more expansive project that addresses the significance of the overall legal reform debate in Taiwan. The resulting article *Forging Taiwan’s Legal Identity*, 44 BROOK. J. INT’L L. (forthcoming 2019), argues that transparency, clarity, and participation are animating principles of the current reform debate and are beginning to emerge as characteristics of Taiwan’s inchoate legal identity. Embedding these values into Taiwan’s legal identity could, in turn, help foster a shared sense of identity among the populace regarding what it means to be Taiwanese. Furthermore, domestic legal developments are tied to considerations that extend beyond Taiwan’s borders, with the potential both to boost Taiwan’s international standing and also to further chafe tensions between Beijing and Taipei.

This summer, I further wrote the piece *Creative Contacts: Taiwan’s Quest for International Law Enforcement Cooperation*, CHINESE (TAIWAN) YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND AFFAIRS (forthcoming 2019). The Yearbook is edited by former President Ma Ying-Jeou. My chapter addresses Taiwan’s efforts to find innovative bilateral and multilateral arrangements for law enforcement cooperation because of its lack of formal diplomatic ties with the vast majority of countries coupled with pressure from the Chinese leadership that countries limit contacts with authorities in Taiwan.

With respect to China, during my sabbatical I completed a book chapter addressing the Chinese government’s efforts to comply with international norms against torture: *Freedom from Torture*, HANDBOOK ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA (Sarah Biddulph & Joshua Rosenzweig eds., Edward Elgar, forthcoming 2018). In these and other works addressing human rights in China, I aim to bring a thoughtful, measured, and analytically rigorous voice to the debate. I also seek for my scholarship to connect with conversations in the government and media in order to reach a diverse audience.

As I explained in an opinion piece published by Fox News in February 2018, it is crucial to distinguish government actions from the views of the broader citizenry.
who may, or may not support those actions, because “we have entered a period when disagreements between the governments of China and the United States threaten to breed hostility between their citizens.”¹ Especially during this tense period, I believe that a critical role for academics who study Chinese law is to defuse the politically charged rhetoric and instead encourage dialogue.


My belief that political and legal developments in China should be addressed in a forthright and reasoned manner led to my piece Seeking Truthful Names: The External Implications of China’s Internal Ideology on Governance, which I presented at workshops in Australia and Japan during my sabbatical and which is a draft chapter for a proposed book project growing out of the meeting hosted by the Australian Centre for China in the World. The piece argues that the current internal discourse on ideology has significant reverberations beyond China: external audiences should cut through the PRC leadership’s rhetoric to scrutinize what is occurring within China and find language that conveys what that inquiry unveils.

My sabbatical further allowed me time to complete a comment titled Safeguarding the Boundaries of Right: Jerome A. Cohen’s Experience with Law in the People’s Republic of China, 65 AM. J. COMP. L. 745 (2018), at the invitation of the American Journal of Comparative Law.

Presentations

I kept up a busy travel schedule in the spring and summer to present my research at a number of universities and other venues in Taiwan and far beyond:

- Ethics and Censorship: Compliance or Complicity – Singapore Management University School of Law (March)
- Criminal Justice Across the Taiwan Strait: Taiwan’s Human Rights Revolution and China’s Devolution – National University of Singapore (March)
- The Widening Gulf Across the Taiwan Strait: Law, Criminal Justice, and Human Rights – Chinese University of Hong Kong (March) – featured in this Fulbright press release
- Obstruction of Justice and the American President – National Chiao Tung University, School of Law, Taiwan (March)
- Recent Changes in Governance and the Law in the PRC and Taiwan (Panelist) – Australian National University, Canberra (April)
- The Widening Gulf Across the Taiwan Strait: Law, Criminal Justice, and Human Rights – Melbourne Law School (April) – featured in this Fulbright press release
- From Separation to Concentration of Powers: China’s New-Type Political Party System – Ideology and Organisation in Communist Chinese Law, hosted by the Australian Centre for China in the World, Australian National University & Griffith University, Melbourne (April)
- Forging Taiwan’s Legal Identity – Institutum Iurisprudentiae, Academia Sinica, Taipei (April)
Mock Trial Using Citizen Participation in Criminal Trials (commentator) – Penghu District Court, Taiwan (April)

The Uncertain Trajectory of Legal Reforms in Taiwan – National Taiwan University, College of Law, Taipei (May)

Forging Taiwan’s Legal Identity – Workshop on Works-in-Progress on Chinese Law, Yale Law School (May) (via Skype)

Judicial Reform in Taiwan: A Perspective from the United States – Ministry of Justice, Taiwan (May)

Seeking Truthful Names: The External Implications of China’s Internal Ideology on Governance – Younger Scholars Forum in Comparative Law, International Academy of Comparative Law, Fukuoka, Japan (by invitation through competitive selection) (July)

Media Involvement/ Influence

In addition, I continued to reach out to diverse audiences through the media, including quotes in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and Washington Post. I also began tweeting about my work and, over the course of my sabbatical, went from zero to 1,800 Twitter followers, a pleasant surprise that so many people are interested in legal developments in Taiwan and China.

Interviewed via phone and quoted by CNN following an earthquake in Taiwan (and I hope never to be contacted by the media for this reason ever again) (February)

Opinion piece titled “China and the US Should Build Relationships, Not a Rivalry” published by Fox News (February)

Legal analysis piece titled “Policing Beyond China’s Borders” published by Asia Dialogue, online magazine of the University of Nottingham Asia Research Institute (February)

Tweets quoted in a Medium piece addressing issues of academic integrity raised in connection with books on the status of women in China (February)

Contributed to a ChinaFile conversation titled “Xi Won’t Go” (February)

Quoted by CNN in an article titled “President, or Emperor? Xi Jinping Pushes China Back to One-Man Rule” (February)

Quoted by the Hong Kong Free Press in an article titled “Explainer: Xi Jinping for life—how China will scrap presidential term limits this Sunday” (March)

Quoted by the Washington Post in an article titled “Tensions Rise over Taiwan Strait as U.S. and China harden positions” (April)

Quoted by the Los Angeles Times in an article titled “An L.A. triple-murder suspect was tried in China, and his case could open the door for similar prosecutions” that was reprinted in the South China Morning Post (May)

Quoted by AFP News in an article titled “Rape victim takes on Chinese police over stalled probe” (May)

Quoted by The New York Times in an article titled “Island or Rock? Taiwan Defends Its Claim in South China Sea” (May)

Recorded a podcast on legal reforms in Taiwan with German podcast Fernostwärts (May)

Fulbright

I also continued to support the Fulbright Program’s mission of fostering people-to-people ties. For example, I participated in the March Regional Fulbright Meeting with Fulbrighters from Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, and Macau; was invited to speak to The Lincoln Society in Taipei; and arranged for my former supervisor at a law firm in Beijing to give a talk at NTU Law. I further served as a scholar escort in June
for a delegation of National Committee on United States-China Relations’ Public Intellectuals Program fellows. Moreover, I was delighted when I was asked to help arrange the visit of an American defense attorney at the invitation of the Taipei Bar Association and Judicial Reform Foundation for a conference on evidence discovery in criminal cases. They even asked me to give the opening remarks.

Finally, an unexpected surprise of my time in Taiwan was a chance to connect with other members of the Seton Hall community, with the three Seton Hall Fulbrighters profiled on the university website in July.

Conclusion

Thank you again for this opportunity to spend a year immersed in my core scholarly interests of Chinese and Taiwanese law. I have already been invited back to China and Taiwan to give talks and collaborate with local scholars, and I hope to be on a plane this December for a short visit. I look forward to further developing my work to create bridges between Seton Hall and East Asia.

Laurence McCarthy

Department of Management

Introduction

If it is appropriate to use the term “refreshing”, that is how I would describe my sabbatical experience in fall of 2017. I was lucky to be able to spend the time in Cork, Ireland, and it was somewhat of a reconnection, as I had not lived in Ireland for a significant period of time since I moved, for post graduate studies, to the USA in 1985. My mother recently passed away and the family home is scheduled to be sold, so the sabbatical gave me an opportunity to spend time in my home, probably for the last time.

During the sabbatical I was able to complete a paper termed “Indoor Sport Facility Feasibility Study: Assessment, Value, and Demand”. This was an analysis of a proposal to construct a sport facility close to a major metropolitan area in the US and built on work completed with my co-author Prof. Mark Lyberger (Kent State University). It involved a detailed review of the marker demographics, sports trends and potential growth opportunities, which led to a positive investment recommendation. The paper was presented by our co-author Prof. Brian Yim (Kent State University) at the Association of Marketing Theory and Practice Conference.

With Prof. Richard Hunter and Alanna D’Alessandro, a former student at Stillman, I co-authored a paper termed “Penetrating the Malaysian Market: The Automotive Industry Context Highlights Barriers to Entry and Opportunities for Success” which was published in the Journal of International Business and Economics, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 1-10. The article came from initial work by Alanna in her international business class and was written from the standpoint of an American automobile parts manufacturer intellectual property are among the issues discussed. The paper is available at [http://jibe-net.com/journals/jibe/Vol_5_No_2_December_2017/1.pdf](http://jibe-net.com/journals/jibe/Vol_5_No_2_December_2017/1.pdf).

In addition I made two conference presentations during the sabbatical one at the 25th European Association for Sport Management Conference (EASM) which was held in Bern, Switzerland, from September 5-8, 2017, and the second at the Sport Marketing Association Conference (SMA) held in Boston from November 1-3, 2017. The European presentation was titled “Mission Statements in Professional Sport: An Assessment of Orientation, Communication, and Benefits: An NBA Analysis” and was made with Profs. Mark Lyberger and Brain Yim, as well as Eric Abowd, a student at Kent State University. The EASM book of abstracts is available here: [https://www.easm2017.com/bookofabstracts.html](https://www.easm2017.com/bookofabstracts.html). The presentation made at the Sport Marketing Association Conference was titled “Fan Identification with Professional Teams in a Multi-Team Market” and was made with Prof. Lyberger and Prof. Yim.

I took the opportunity to attend the Third International Conference on Learning Cities which was held in Cork, Ireland from September 18-20, 2017. This was a UNESCO conference which drew attendees from across the globe, people as diverse as the Mayor of Medellin, Colombia, the Leader of the Irish Senate, and the Director of the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education. It was an eclectic gathering of individuals’ involved life-long learning and the conference took the form of discussions and presentations on the efforts of municipal authorities to promote life-long learning in all its guises in their cities.

I was given permission by the Provost to spend a week teaching at MCI Management Center in Innsbruck, Austria. MCI is a university with whom Seton Hall has quite a vibrant student exchange program. I taught a week-long sport marketing course for international students who were either Erasmus students, or
exchange students at MCI. It was an extremely diverse group representing a dozen countries. The class ran for four days for eight hours a day, and while the topic was sport marketing, the focus was much more on international sport than American sport, which assisted with the updating of my classes, one of my intentions during the sabbatical. Eight hours a day for four consecutive days was tough going on teacher and student, but it was, none the less, an enjoyable experience.

While I was based in Cork for the sabbatical, I spent 4-5 days at the Stillman School in late October, before, and after, I attended the Sport Marketing Association Conference in Boston. During the few days I was on campus I held a number of student meetings regarding internships, which I have responsibility for in the sport management program, and regarding study abroad, another area for which I am responsible. I also met with the incoming exchange students from the University of Westminster, Dublin Institute of Technology, and MCI, whom I had assisted in enrolling in classes prior to departing on the sabbatical.

I suggested at the outset of my report that refreshing was a term I would use to describe the sabbatical. While being away from campus certainly was refreshing, there were professional home comforts which were missed. Most noticeably was quality internet access, and ease of access to academic resources. As this was my first sabbatical after 19 years at Seton Hall, I did not realize how much an office space, with support services, and quality access to web services, impacts one’s professional life.

I wish to thank Prof. Jason Yin, Dean Joyce Strawser, and Provost Karen Boroff for giving me the opportunity to take the sabbatical and Prof. Charlie Grantham for his support.

**Philip Moremen**

*School of Diplomacy and International Relations*

**Compliance Interview Project**

The main purpose of this project is to identify and assess the views of policy-making elites in the State Department regarding whether, why, and under what conditions States comply or do not comply with international law. The question is a significant one in international law and international relations because international
law differs from domestic law: the content is more ambiguous, there is a limited judiciary to interpret and apply the rules, and there is no overarching State to compel compliance by States. International law consists of treaties and norms created through State practice (customary law), or through other means. Treaties may be the most certain source of international law rules because they are in writing, but the language of treaties is not always clear and can be purposefully vague, giving states discretion in interpreting and applying them. Non-treaty norms are more uncertain, giving States even greater discretion. Why, indeed, should States ever comply? Yet they do, much of the time. How do we explain this behavior?

One way to assess the motivation for State action is to examine the motivation of policymaking elites who participate in decision-making. To that end, I ask policymakers a series of open-ended and close-ended questions, focusing on why, and the extent to which, States comply or do not comply with international law. I ask them to identify the various factors States may take into account and the mechanism or process through which they operate. I also ask them explicitly about the extent to which they think that moral or normative considerations play a role.

To analyze my results, I am employing a mixed-methods approach appropriate for analyzing interviews involving open-ended questions. I primarily employ qualitative analysis, but will employ appropriate quantitative analysis as well, including frequency counts and cross-tabulations. Qualitative analysis will allow me to identify common themes in the interviews and to identify and locate relevant quotes. I am using a qualitative and mixed-method coding software called MAXQDA, which allows for organized and rigorous qualitative comparison and analysis of the subjects’ views and performs some quantitative analysis; I may also use SPSS.

In keeping with a primarily qualitative approach overall, I am also developing a rich, detailed understanding of my subjects and their perceptions and views about compliance. For example, I have asked subjects whether foreign States have different reasons for complying or not complying than the United States. I have also been asking about the role of U.S. State Department lawyers in making recommendations regarding compliance, compared to the role of policy makers, to investigate whether legal or policy concerns drive decision-making. With the help of cross-tabs, I can explore whether and how political ideology, age, or Presidential administration affect how policy-makers view compliance with international law.

Project Progress
I have made substantial progress on my primary sabbatical project on attitudes of former high-level State Department officials regarding compliance by countries with international law.

Over the course of the sabbatical:

- I qualitatively and quantitatively coded 58 interviews of former officials, for a total of 68 overall. Three other interviews conducted for context will not need coding.
- I thoroughly reviewed and, where necessary, re-coded 60 interviews to enhance consistency in coding.
- I conducted eleven new interviews in addition to the interviews completed before the sabbatical. I also conducted four follow-up interviews. I focused on very senior officials and the interview subjects included two former Deputy Secretaries of State (the number two position) and three Under Secretaries (the number three position). I also received brief email comments from former Secretary of State Colin Powell. I sought out additional senior subjects, who unfortunately declined my interview requests.
- I have conducted a good portion of the analytical work for the project, assessing my coding results using a qualitative/statistical software package. To do so, I familiarized myself in depth with the software and refreshed my basic understanding of statistics.
- I am close to the goal stated in my midterm progress report of completing two chapters and preparing a book proposal. I have almost completed first drafts of the two chapters. I will turn to the book proposal shortly, with the goal of submitting it and the two chapters to my potential publisher by the middle of this semester. The two chapters consist of an introduction/overview of main conclusions and a substantive chapter. Together, they represent an important, substantive portion of the final book.
- I investigated potential book publishers and contacted a representative from Cambridge University Press (CUP). He was encouraging, suggesting not only that the main topic could be valuable in and of itself, but also that the book could be particularly relevant to the next presidential election, as it addresses long-standing State Department attitudes about international law that may be at odds with those in the current administration. He suggested that the book would be most timely if published before the 2020 election, which would mean submitting the final manuscript in fall of 2019. Accordingly, I have a hard deadline to finish the manuscript.

Other Sabbatical Projects
I had also originally intended to work during my sabbatical on an article on customary law. Colleagues advised me, instead, to focus on completing as much as possible of my book project, rather than to divide my energies. Nevertheless, I plan to pursue this topic once I have completed the book; the topic is likely to remain fresh.

I have developed the following ideas for additional projects to follow my book project:

- I plan to explore the topic of bureaucracies in international organizations and their status as independent actors in international relations, as opposed to thinking of them solely as agents of States. This and related topics have been the subject of both international relations and international law scholarship in recent years. I understand that much of the work on the international relations side focuses either on principal-agent analysis or on a constructivist approach, the focus of which is on the ways that international organizations use their expertise, their capacity for organized behavior, and other mechanisms to influence States. A great deal has been written on the law side, too, regarding the roles of bureaucracies in international organizations, especially by analogy to administrative law governing domestic bureaucracies. I believe there could be fruitful ground for interaction between these two literatures. I hope to focus on bodies that issue rules and guidelines.

- Another topic I plan to explore is the law-making effect of treaty bodies on treaty interpretation and modification, and on development of customary law. A number of treaty regimes, especially in the human rights area, have created specialist bodies that provide treaty interpretation. To what extent do decisions by these bodies create binding interpretation on States? To what extent can they modify treaty obligations of States? To what extent can their decisions create customary law that might affect State obligations? There has been some scholarship in this area in the last five years, but I have the impression that the views expressed are contested, providing room for further contribution.

**Ongoing Tasks**
I will focus on preparing the book proposal package to send mid-semester and then on continuing to draft the manuscript. I have grouped my classes over two days this fall semester to allow longer uninterrupted periods for writing. I have been assigned a Research Assistant, who, I hope, will be able to conduct some basic research on outstanding small topics and help with formatting tables, etc.

A handful of interviews remains to be conducted. I will conduct them while continuing to draft the manuscript, filling in relevant information as I go. In order to apply the book’s conclusions to the Trump administration, the CUP representative suggested asking my interview subjects about their assessment of attitudes toward international law in the new administration’s State Department. Accordingly, I have interviewed eight subjects on this issue so far, including interviews of new subjects and follow-up interviews of original subjects. I estimate that I will need to conduct a handful of follow-up interviews to get a reasonable selection of subjects. If I can, I will try to include interviews with one or two of the few former officials who have left the State Department after a reasonable amount of experience with the Trump administration. I am conducting follow-up interviews by phone, which will make logistics simpler than interviewing in person.

I also still hope to interview one or more former Secretaries of State; I have three left to contact, not including Secretary Tillerson. Perhaps not surprisingly, I have found it exceedingly difficult to prevail upon the staffs of former Secretaries to grant an interview, but I plan to keep trying. I did manage to obtain brief email comments from Secretary Powell. I have also interviewed three former officials in the State Department Legal Adviser’s office to provide more information and context regarding the role of the Legal Adviser and to check policy makers’ understanding about the nature of that role. I plan to interview two more people in this category for a total of five, as indicated in my midterm sabbatical report.

Lawrence Porter

School of Theology

Introduction/ Sabbatical Objective

In spring of 2017, I submitted a sabbatical proposal stating that if given a sabbatical leave from teaching, I would spend that time turning the lectures and notes which I used when teaching this seminary/school of theology’s course offering, Christian Anthropology, into a book. This is a course required for all seminarians.
For more than thirty years, even back to Darlington days, the teaching of that course in the seminary/school of theology was the responsibility of Carmelite Father John Russell. However, when Father Russell was elected provincial superior of his order, he took a four-year leave of absence (2005-2008) from his teaching duties. During his leave of absence, I took over the teaching of Christian Anthropology at the university.

During the past six months, I have used the notes and lectures which I created when teaching that course in order to prepare a book-length treatment which I hope to have published. During my time teaching at SHU, I have published two books and more than thirty articles in scholarly journals. I have entitled this book *Christian Anthropology: A Biblical Perspective on Human Being, Its Origin, Its Nature, Its Destiny*. This book will consist of an introduction, four chapters and a conclusion. While I have completed only the introduction and first two chapters, I have sketched the remaining chapters and conclusion. I have titled these parts of my book as follows:

**Introduction:** The Academic Discipline of Anthropology and its Varieties: Philosophical, Theological, Biological and Sociological

**Chapter 1:** Protology or the Doctrine of the Origin of the Cosmos and of Human Being

**Chapter 2:** The Doctrine of the Fall: The Person of Satan and the Origin of Evil

**Chapter 3:** The Doctrine of Grace or of God’s Mercy toward Fallen Human Being

**Chapter 4:** Eschatology or the Doctrine of Human Destiny: Death, judgment (heaven, hell, and purgatory)

**Conclusion:** The Importance of the biblical teachings on these themes as a corrective to the triumph of liberalism in contemporary Catholic theology.

Because of the rather conservative, traditionalist, arguments I make, I will most likely submit the manuscript to a conservative Protestant press, as I did when I
published my book *The Assault on Priesthood* with Wipf and Stock, the manuscript of which had been rejected by CUA Press and Notre Dame University Press.

**Health Concerns**

In late November 2017, I began to experience periodic dizziness. On Friday December 1st, the dizziness got so bad I collapsed and could not get up. That day, I was sent by ambulance to Saint Barnabas Hospital in Livingston, NJ where I spent the next five days there undergoing various tests.

I was diagnosed as suffering from high blood pressure which had caused me to experience a minor stroke. I was given four prescriptions for medicines to prevent another stroke. But even after I was released from the hospital the following Wednesday, work on my sabbatical project has been interrupted by the requirements that I visit several medical specialists in cardiology and pulmonary problems. I was also mandated to wear a heart monitor that required recharging and spatial limitations (so as not to interrupt the electronic transmission of the monitor’s tracking) for three weeks following. Despite these health problems, I still expect to complete my sabbatical projection within the allotted time.

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**Joseph Rice**

*Department of Philosophical Theology*

My sabbatical project has substantially met the goals that I set for it, in spite of circumstantial difficulties. After reading and researching for the first three months, I began to write in October, and I completed three conference presentations, researched three chapters, drafted one chapter, and published one related article in a conference proceedings. I also received an invitation to submit a completed book manuscript to a university press.

I had originally contemplated a one-year sabbatical, ending in the submission
of a book manuscript. Circumstances dictated adjusting that schedule to a half-year sabbatical, and, adjusting expectations, and applying intelligent improvisation to achieve more in less time, and to accomplish more than one aspect of the project at once.

Achievement of Project Goals

I presented at three academic conferences during or shortly after my sabbatical: The Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture fall conference, November 9-11, 2017; the 7th Annual Symposium on Advancing the New Evangelization, March 23-24, 2018, at Benedictine College; and the Dietrich von Hildebrand Schülerkreis at Franciscan University of Steubenville, May 18-19, 2018. These were all peer-reviewed presentations, with a relatively high standard of acceptance. At Notre Dame, I presented a summary overview of the theme of my project, and my research to date, especially with respect to the first chapter. At Benedictine College and Franciscan University, I presented papers related to my research, but not specific sections of the book. As a result of the Notre Dame conference, I was invited to submit the presentation to a major journal, by an editor who was in the audience. I am deferring that submission until the manuscript is ready.

These conferences were particularly helpful, as they enabled me to discuss my project with established scholars, here and abroad, with expertise relevant to my project. The relationships gained or furthered in these conferences have contributed to my work since then in various ways.

The major result of the sabbatical was a completed draft of a first chapter of the book, which will form the backbone of a contract proposal. I presented this first chapter to a closed meeting of the Princeton Religious Ethics Study Group (composed of professors from Princeton, as well as invited academics from other institutions) in January 2018, from which I received many very helpful comments and suggestions.

Visiting Scholar Position

As a visiting scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary, I enjoyed full privileges in the Princeton University library system. I was the only American in the visiting scholar program during the fall semester (others were from Europe, China, and Brazil), and I was the only Catholic scholar in this non-Catholic milieu. The opportunity to dialogue from a Catholic perspective in this complex intellectual environment, and to establish continuing professional relationships, has offered an
occasion to refine my arguments so as more effectively to defend the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church. This opportunity has been invaluable, given the ecumenical implications of my sabbatical theme.

**Time Limitations**

The following activities competed for my time during my sabbatical leave, and objectively limited my effectiveness.

Deaths in the Family. My parents died in February 2015 and December 2016. There were still a number of details pending to be resolved during the summer and fall of 2017, and we still needed some time to grieve. The sabbatical was useful for providing room for that, but also limited by it.

Program review. As chair of the Department of Philosophical Theology, my sabbatical was frequently interrupted with queries about the regularly scheduled program review of the BA in Catholic Theology, conducted with our sister department, the Department of Undergraduate Theology, and even with requests to perform actual work on our draft report. The program review visits were originally projected to have been completed during the time I was on sabbatical; the two departments voted to put much of the work on hold until my return, which ended up further limiting the time I had to consolidate the gains of the sabbatical period after it formally ended. These interruptions significantly affected my ability to focus on my sabbatical project.

Department Chair Turnover. In the complex environment of our program review, the turnover of my responsibilities to an interim department chair was not fully accomplished until mid-July because the interim chair was not available until then. Time lost was a little over two weeks out of a six month sabbatical.

Promotion Committee. I gladly spent about two days total contributing to the promotion committees of two members of my department.

Pregnancy Complications. My wife was hospitalized in August and September, and then confined to bed for much of the time until our son’s birth in April 2018. To care for her and our teenage daughter, I canceled an important research trip to Poland, and also had to limit the time spent in the libraries at Princeton and Seton Hall.

Home Repairs. During the sabbatical, we had to make permanent repairs on account of damage to our home dating back to Hurricane Sandy, which had been only temporarily addressed; we also had to rebuild a laundry room and replace a
floor after a sudden washing machine failure in the fall. It was challenging to make
the necessary arrangements with the contractors and supervise the work to be done
while remaining faithful to an academic schedule and caring for my wife and
dughter.

   Hispanic Ministry. As an apostolate, I taught a course in Spanish on Church
History as part of the Diocese of Trenton’s Escuela Bíblica. This service activity
took about three to four hours per week until the end of November. As a Catholic,
regular apostolic work is a normal part of my life, not something I would suspend
just because of a sabbatical leave.

   Post-Sabbatical Work

   Since the end of the sabbatical, I have worked to establish a consistent
trajectory toward finishing this manuscript. My duties as a department chair, various
other academic projects, and the course overloads that are somewhat routine in my
discipline have affected that trajectory, as has the considerable time I have invested
in leading my department, eventually, through a successful program review. Neverthelesss, I have continued to publish and present on the theme of my sabbatical,
and to make progress on my draft.

   I have recently obtained funding from the University Research Council so that
I can dedicate the coming summer to working on the manuscript, toward eventual
submission in Spring 2021.

Lisa Rose-Wiles

           Seton Hall University Libraries

Overview

During my sabbatical I completed two major works of scholarship:

   Advanced Seminar on Mission's third Annual Summer Workshop, Trieste,
   Italy, July 24-27, 2017.
http://scholarship.shu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&amp;context=praxis-proceedings

This work included considerable correspondence with the ten authors (excluding myself) and the conference organizers in regard to corrections and clarifications, editing and incorporating the faculty biographies, writing the preface, preparing and posting the proceedings to the Institutional Repository and disseminating the work to our Praxis colleagues and friends.

   https://doi.org/10.1080/0194262X.2018.1481488

This peer-reviewed article is based on the research supported by a URC summer grant to Dr. Marzabadi and me in 2017. The URC grant enabled us to provide stipends for two SHU graduate students to help us with the (very complex and time-consuming) citation analyses. I began a draft of the first of two planned papers. Continuing the analyses and writing the paper lapsed during the fall semester due to the pressure of work, so my sabbatical was critical in permitting me to complete this work. The paper was accepted for publication with minor revisions in May 2018 and has subsequently been published. I am attaching a copy as the library does not have a subscription to this journal (something soon to be remedied).

As a result of correspondence with the editor, Tony Stankus, I have been invited to join the editorial board of *Science & Technology Libraries* and to submit a “Science for Science Librarians” article when time permits.

**Main Sabbatical Project**

The project is “a Praxis-based sabbatical with inter-connected modules that could also be used to supplement the Seminars on Mission, or for any interested faculty member”. My goal was to create an annotated bibliography to:

1. better connect faculty across campus with the Core Curriculum
2. assist faculty in understanding the history and aims of Catholic Education
3. better connect faculty in different disciplines across campus and beyond
4. facilitate awareness and discussion of current challenges in Catholic Education
I began by creating a list of potential books to read and review from our library catalog, which expanded as I browsed our collection in the relevant areas and expanded my search to the WorldCat worldwide database. I spent a month or so browsing and reading selections from about 85 books (including a dozen or so that I requested via interlibrary loan), eventually narrowing my selection for close reading and annotation to around 50. My criteria for selection were fairly simple: I focused on books that were relatively short (ideally less than 300 pages, with a few exceptions), were accessible and engaging for the non-specialist, and provided valuable historical background and/or discussed critical issues from a new perspective. This sometimes meant discarding early choices for later publications that covered the same ground and added to it, although I retained some foundational books that gave a “flavor” of their time. I was particularly interested in books that incorporated Lonergan’s work.

My readings led me to additional texts, and I also received some recommendations from colleagues (I am particularly grateful to visiting scholar Paul Robin for discussion and suggestions). The next three months were spent reading, reflecting making notes, finding more reading – and becoming rather overwhelmed by the sheer volume of the material I had amassed and how to organize it.

After some false starts, I revised my original categories to five: (1) challenges in higher education (a new category in which to situate my work), (2) Catholic higher education, (3) the Core curriculum, (4) connecting the disciplines, and (5) ecology and environment (the latter reflecting my particular interest and Pope Francis’s encyclical Laudato Si. In early May, TLTC maestro Thomas McGee (to whom I am eternally grateful) helped me design a SHU-affiliated blog http://blogs.shu.edu/cheb/ with pages for each category so that I could begin posting my annotations. Then came the difficult part – deciding which books to include and editing my (often rather lengthy) annotations and discussion questions to 2-3 pages each.

Ultimately, I included ten books under “Challenges in Higher Education” and fourteen under “Catholic Higher Education”. They are all posted to the blog. I am currently working on the “Core” section (in consultation with faculty who teach in the Core) and the “Ecology and Environment” section with retired biology professor Dr. Marian Glenn¹. I have a substantial list of readings for the “connecting the disciplines” section, and the challenge there will be to select the best for ultimate inclusion.
I have received very good feedback on the project so far, including correspondence with a graduate student at Cambridge University. I presented a summary of the project and the blog at the recent Praxis Back to School Workshop, and invited my Praxis colleagues to offer comments and additional suggested readings. This is a work in progress – a living document - and I plan to continue and expand the blog and its content well into the future. I will be publicizing the blog when additional sections are completed.

General Comments

The most valuable part of the sabbatical is having the time and freedom from work-related stress to undertake significant scholarship, deep reading, and reflection. This has been very rewarding and restorative for me. A serious drawback of today’s increasingly corporatized model of higher education is the ease (perhaps inevitability) with which one becomes a “doer” rather than a “scholar”, especially in areas such as the library where we work year-round. Another significant benefit has been remediating many years of sleep deprivation and getting regular therapy for my chronic sciatica, greatly improving my quality of life and energy going forward. I sincerely appreciate the opportunities to both recuperate and to reconnect with sustained scholarly activity.

Closely related to the “Environment and Ecology” section, Dr. Glenn and I began a project to elicit and ultimately publish a collection of student essays that describe and reflect on a critical experience related to growing up in an ecologically damaged and fragile world, similar to the essays in the first year summer reading Coming of Age at the End of Nature. We are working with First Year writing instructors in the English Department, several Core Teaching Fellows and members of the Environmental Studies faculty, who are very enthusiastic about the project.

David Sabatino

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Sabbatical Objectives

1) strengthen and develop our collaborative research program with Hackensack University Medical Center (UMC) and
2) help develop the course curriculum for our incumbent School of Medicine

The first objective related to the advancement of our on-going research collaboration with Hackensack UMC involved teaming-up with our students and collaborators at the John Theurer Cancer Center (JTCC) located in Hackensack, NJ. We have joined efforts and developed innovative and cutting-edge research projects in pre-clinical cancer immunotherapy and gene therapy. Our research progress in the precision medicine field of cancer immunotherapy has resulted in a R03 small research grant award from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Funding from this award is currently being used to partly support graduate students and faculty research while providing some critical funding for research materials. In this application, we have developed a series of peptide and protein-based immunotherapeutics that have been designed to target cancer cells and stimulate immune responses towards their eradication. The immunotherapeutics have been made by semi-synthesis and are currently being tested in cell-based as well as in tumor-bearing mice models to examine their potential clinical utility. Data accumulated from this project will serve as the basis for a manuscript expected to be published later this year in a top-tier bio-medical research journal.

A second project related to cancer gene therapy has also flourished during my sabbatical. In collaboration with the JTCC and our students, we have developed short synthetic RNAs that can target and silence oncogenes resulting in potent anti-cancer effects. Our oncogene targets are related to the expression of GRP78 and N-cadherin, which are two important biological markers found in a wide range of cancer types, including multiple myeloma (MM) and prostate (PC) cancer. Interestingly, short synthetic RNAs mitigated the function of GRP78 and N-cadherin in MM and PC cells which are intimately related to the adhesive and invasive capabilities of these tumors during metastatic events. Therefore, the short synthetic RNAs may prove to be important diagnostic agents in the detection of important biological markers that may be associated with tumor progression while also serving as potential therapeutics in silencing the expression of malignant oncogene products. A related project that is currently in development in our research labs aims to explore the correlation between genetic variations and expression profiles of important biological markers such as
GRP78 in an effort to identify the prognostic genetic indicators related to their tumorigenic capabilities. The latter has important implications in the development of preventative treatment strategies that target selected oncogenes. The culmination of these important studies have already led to the submission of an exploratory/developmental R21 grant application in November 2017 to the NCI and a manuscript which is currently in preparation and expected to be submitted later this Spring. Taken together, my sabbatical served to efficiently guide and develop these promising anti-cancer approaches while working alongside our students, faculty and collaborators at the JTCC in sharing the unifying goal of working towards translating our pre-clinical anti-cancer research program into clinical utility.

The second objective involved participating and developing the new curriculum for our prospective medical students at the incumbent School of Medicine. Towards this goal, I’ve worked closely with the newly appointed Deans and faculty members of the Department of Medical Sciences to develop a new teaching curriculum for the incoming and inaugural class of medical students, expected this Summer 2018. Together, and working alongside additional faculty, physicians and administrators at Hackensack UMC and SHU we developed a didactic teaching and learning curriculum related to Molecular and Cellular Principles. The latter encompasses the first seven sessions/weeks that focuses on aspects of cell based and molecular biology, physiology, genetics, immunology and biochemistry. As a biochemist, I’ve participated in designing the teaching/learning objectives for the biochemistry topics which were then translated into team-based teaching/learning sessions. This form of pedagogy relies heavily on the students to work closely in teams to answer assigned problem sets that are based on selected textbook topics. This so-called team-based learning strategy is currently in use in many medical school programs and recommended by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). I attended a faculty development program at the JTCC lecture hall in September 2017 entitled “Activity Learning Strategies: Moving Beyond Lectures” which provided considerable insight into this alternative teaching regimen. Interestingly, this teaching style places emphasis on student self-learning and team-based discussion to address questions related to the subject matter rather than the conventional lecture-style session dictated by the instructor. I’m very
much looking forward to potentially adopting this team-based learning strategy in my own classes.

In sum, I’m very grateful that my sabbatical period has provided a unique opportunity to advance my professional development.

Donovan Sherman

Department of English

My sabbatical in academic year 2017-2018 afforded time for significant advancement on my second book project, *The Philosopher’s Toothache: Embodied Stoicism in Early Modern English Drama*. Following the work of philosophers like Pierre Hadot, Martha Nussbaum, Michel Foucault, and Alasdair MacIntyre, my book examines Stoicism as a form of lived, experiential action, rather than as a stable set of intellectual doctrines. My intuition, heading into the sabbatical, was that evidence of this more radical mode of performed Stoicism (one that runs counter to the popular understanding as unfeeling and overly cerebral) could be found if one read carefully Renaissance adaptations and translations of classical thinkers like Seneca, Marcus Aurelius, and Epictetus.

That intuition was borne out. I had completed one chapter on the playwright John Marston and submitted a version of it for publication in *English Literary Renaissance*, where it was accepted and published in fall 2018. I completed another chapter on Shakespeare’s comedy *Much Ado about Nothing*; it, too, was accepted for publication, this time with a new journal published by Cambridge University Press titled *Shakespeare and Performance*. I conducted research into the late-17th-century playwright John Ford, but ultimately decided not to include it in the book; however, I was invited to contribute to the collection *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Death* and used the Ford material in that capacity. I published a brief essay (adapted from the book intro) in another *Routledge Companion*, this one on Shakespeare and Philosophy; it was published in winter 2019.

The goal of the sabbatical was to send out a book proposal; I targeted an ideal home for the project, a series titled “Rethinking the Early Modern,” published by
Northwestern University Press, and recently received a request for sample chapters from them. I have sent the chapters and await their response.

My research expanded in other ways, as well. I was accepted in a seminar at the Folger Shakespeare Library in fall 2017, where I could share my research and engage in fruitful dialogue with peers in my field. The seminar’s topic was “Shakespeare and Virtue,” and I was honored, afterward, to be invited to co-edit a collection of that name with the seminar leader, Dr. Julia Reinhard Lupton (University of California, Irvine). We spent much of the year gathering prospective contributors and writing a proposal, and received encouraging feedback from Cambridge University Press, where it remains under consideration.

Another editorial project bore fruit: Dr. Ineke Murakami (SUNY Albany) and I, having co-chaired a seminar at the Shakespeare Association of America in 2017, proposed editing a special issue of *The Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies (JMEMS)* with many of the same participants, along with some new prestigious names attached. *JMEMS* accepted the proposal and it is slated for publication in September 2021.

Finally, the sabbatical allowed for time in writing and revising the latest (12th) edition of the textbook *Theatre*, published by McGraw-Hill, for which I have served as co-author since its previous edition. I took on more responsibilities this time and significantly rewrote several chapters, added new sections on historical and theoretical trends in theatre studies, and interviewed two luminaries in the field: Oskar Eustis, the artistic director of the Public Theater, in New York City, and Young Jean Lee, a playwright whose work *Straight White Men* debuted on Broadway this last season.

I am deeply grateful for my sabbatical and look forward to working on the many new avenues of research that have emerged.
Amy Silvestri Hunter

*Department of Psychology*

Introduction

For my sabbatical, I proposed three projects: two were part of my program of laboratory research and one was an evaluation of departmental assessment data. In addition to these projects, I submitted a manuscript based on recently collected data to a peer-reviewed journal (described under laboratory research project 3 below).

Projects

*Laboratory research*

**Project 1: Effects of short-term REM sleep deprivation on perseverative behavior in rats**

I study the effects of short-term rapid eye movement sleep (REM) deprivation on learning and memory in rodents. Specifically, I have found that REM deprivation produces a particular memory impairment that is also observed in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in humans. I have published several studies investigating factors that affect this REM deprivation-induced deficit in memory (e.g. Hunter, 2015; Hunter, 2014).

The next phase of my research program is to validate the use of REM deprivation as a model for PTSD by investigating the effect of REM deprivation on other types of tasks that are known to be affected in individuals with PTSD. The tasks I selected are assessments of perseveration of behavior; that is, continuation of a response even though that response is no longer adaptive. As part of my sabbatical, I read extensively on the variety of tasks used to assess perseveration in rats and selected the two tasks that were most commonly used and most feasible given my laboratory resources. I began collecting pilot data on the first of the two tasks in April.

Contrary to many published reports, I found it incredibly difficult to get rats to engage in the first task. I spent three months attempting to collect data, constantly changing aspects of the study design to increase the likelihood of obtaining data. In July, a study was published stating that some strains of rats are less willing to engage in this task than others, and the strain of rats used in my lab falls in this category. With that information, I stopped that task and moved onto the second task. I have
been collecting data on the second task for the past month, and my rats are much more willing to engage in it.

With student assistance, I plan to complete data collection on this task by the end of the fall semester. These data will first be submitted for presentation at the annual conference of the Eastern Psychological Association and then as a journal article. Additionally, I will continue to investigate other factors that are likely to increase my success in the first task and make another attempt at data collection. Data from even one of these two tasks will help determine the effects of REM deprivation on perseverative behavior and, more broadly, validate the use of short-term REM deprivation as a model of PTSD in rats.

**Project 2: Short-Term REM Deprivation does not Affect Acquisition or Reversal of a Spatial Learning Task**

The second laboratory study was to revisit my work on the effects of REM deprivation on spatial memory; that is, learning the location of objects in the environment. For many years, it was widely believed that REM deprivation impaired such performance. Despite repeated attempts, I was unable to replicate this finding. I presented these data at a conference but did not publish them in a peer-reviewed journal due to their inconsistency with the commonly accepted view and the bias against publication of negative results. However, in recent years, published studies have demonstrated a lack of effect of REM deprivation on spatial memory performance. In addition, there is a current emphasis in the field on the importance of replication and studies with negative results are more likely to be accepted for publication. These two factors made this an ideal time to revisit these data and submit them to a peer-reviewed journal. I submitted this paper and received encouraging reviews; although the paper was rejected, I was encouraged to address reviewer concerns and resubmit the article. I am working on the revision and will submit it within the next month. This project will contribute to our evolving perspective on the role of REM sleep in spatial memory.

**Project 3: REM deprivation but not sleep fragmentation produces a sex-specific impairment in extinction**

Although not part of my sabbatical proposal, at the start of my sabbatical I found myself in a position to submit a paper based on recently collected data. This study answered two important questions about the effects of REM sleep deprivation on memory. First, is the observed memory impairment specific to REM deprivation, or is it related to the sleep fragmentation that is an inevitable consequence of the
procedure? Second, do male and female rats respond similarly to REM sleep deprivation or sleep fragmentation? I found that the memory impairment is specific to REM deprivation and that female rats are resilient to the memory impairment seen in male rats after REM deprivation. This paper has been accepted for publication in *Physiology & Behavior*.

**Assessment**

My final project was in the area of departmental assessment. Our department obtains information about student experiences in our program through an annual survey completed by all graduating seniors. While this data is evaluated on a yearly basis, a comprehensive analysis across multiple years had never been performed. In Fall 2011, we made substantial changes to our undergraduate major requirements. The first cohort of students with the new requirements graduated in 2015 and at the time of my sabbatical application, we had three years’ worth of data from seniors who had followed the new requirements. These data provide us with the opportunity to compare various aspects of student satisfaction before and after the changes to our degree requirements. In addition, it allows us to more broadly determine factors related to student satisfaction.

This data set has proven to be far richer and more complex than I anticipated, and to date I have only completed a preliminary analysis. However, highlights of my findings include:

- Of the psychology majors who graduated from 2010-2017, 76% indicated they were satisfied, 19% were somewhat satisfied, and only 5% were not satisfied. It is noteworthy that coding was done conservatively such that even if a participant initially responded that they were satisfied, if they qualified that in any way (e.g. “Yes, my experience was good but I feel that there are not many jobs for psychology majors with just BA degrees”) the response was coded as somewhat satisfied.
- Students who completed the new major requirements were significantly more satisfied with their experience as a Psychology major than students who completed the previous set of requirements.
- Satisfied students more strongly endorsed statements regarding interactions with their professors. More specifically, when compared with students who were somewhat satisfied or not satisfied, satisfied students agreed more strongly with the following statements: “Faculty members in the psychology department are effective teachers;” “Interacting with my psychology professors was valuable to me;” and “I had opportunities to interact with my psychology professors outside the classroom.”
• The most common reasons for majoring in Psychology were interests/personality characteristics (e.g. “I have always been interested in the mind and how humans work”) or a specific career goal (e.g. “I had an interest in being a counselor or therapist”).

• The most commonly reported valuable experience was assisting with research, doing an internship, or other experiential learning.

• The most commonly reported area for improvement was curricular, which included factors such as a lack of course variety/course options/open seats in courses and the emphasis on the scientific versus applied areas of the discipline.

I was able to provide feedback based on these data to the department at our annual assessment retreat in June. I have also used some of these data to inform our conversations with the Admissions office to create targeted marketing for potential students, as we now have almost 10 years’ worth of data on why students choose to major in Psychology. Based on my current pace of data analysis, I anticipate submitting two conference presentations (one to the Eastern Psychological Association and another to the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology) and at least one journal article on different aspects of this data set. In addition,

Conclusion

Taken together, the work I accomplished during my sabbatical has furthered my program of laboratory research and resulted in one article accepted for publication, another under revision, and a third in the data collection phase with the anticipated outcome of one conference presentation and one peer-reviewed journal article. The results of my assessment project have already proven valuable in my department’s work with Admissions and will provide the basis for multiple conference presentations and a peer-reviewed journal article.

In addition to my own professional development, I have had student assistance with the laboratory and assessment studies and at least one student will be a co-author on conference presentations of this work. Data collection occurring this fall will provide additional research opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students. This sabbatical was an invaluable opportunity that enabled me to advance my own program of research and provide information that will assist my department in enhancing the experiences of our students.
Introduction

In writing this report I was reminded of the well-known aphorism attributed to the physicist Nils Bohr: “Prediction is very difficult, especially if it’s about the future.”

My sabbatical plans were drastically changed by circumstances arising during my sabbatical year. We had been in discussions with Verizon (VZ) to begin a second cohort of Business Analytics Certificate students, but planning fell by the wayside as a result of a lengthy VZ strike. When this was resolved, it turned out to be critical from VZ’s perspective that the program begin as soon as possible, but certainly no longer than a few months. This meant creating a new, asynchronous online certificate program, getting the requisite approvals from SHU, working with VZ to configure the program to their needs, promoting it within the organization, registering students, and readying the courses. Significant work in getting things off the ground was undertaken by Dean Strawser, Dean Passaro and the CDS department chair, Dave Rosenthal, but the heavy lifting in terms of program specific design and course delivery was undertaken by my colleague Prof. Viswanathan and me.

Program Design

Our initial expectation was that we’d get some 20 – 30 students. At the end of our formal presentation at VZ in January 2018, several hundred employees expressed interest. (This led to some interesting discussions, given our limited resources, about how we were going to manage if all or even most of these individuals actually enrolled). Ultimately, we had 77 students in the first course, which began in early April. As the instructor, I had a few short months to create the course – a particularly nontrivial task given that I hadn’t taught about 1/3 of the course content previously, and most of the remaining content I had never taught asynchronously. It was a more than full-time job to get everything ready for the first week of classes, and I was constantly scrambling to stay on top of things during the entire course, which ran until the end of July.

I continued participating in the program (principally assisting other faculty), and will, along with Prof. Viswanathan serve as an advisor to the students on their final projects in later summer – fall 2019. I took this on because it was the right thing
to do for the department, the School and the University, both in terms of a significant immediate revenue stream and an important strategic direction. Regarding the latter, in addition to being valuable in itself, the Certificate program was meant to serve as a springboard for our (now implemented) M.S. degree in Business Analytics. During my sabbatical I, along with Prof. Viswanathan, worked hard to lay the groundwork for this program.

The following are some of Dean Strawser’s comments from my Faculty Annual Review and Plan.

- We greatly appreciate Dr. Weitz’s significant investment of time and effort in revising and delivering the first course in the Verizon Business Analytics Certificate Program, particularly in light of the very short turnaround that was required. We view Dr. Weitz’s participation as an important sacrifice (especially during his sabbatical leave), made in the best interests of the School, as we know that delivering this program would have been practically impossible without his help. We also understand that his participation consumed time that otherwise could have been dedicated to advancing his sabbatical research plan. We are very grateful for his work on this important initiative.
- We thank Dr. Weitz for his engagement with the Analytics Advisory Board and his work with Dr. Viswanathan to develop learning goals for a master’s program in business analytics. His contributions have been valuable, and we look forward to his continued input.

**Research**

In terms of research, actually in line with my sabbatical plan, I continued a stream of work with Professors Rosenthal and Henry concerning non-GAAP reporting. Companies may use alternative accounting measures in addition to those based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, or GAAP. Our initial work focused on social media companies. Our follow-up research extends our analysis to S&P 100 companies. During my sabbatical year, this work resulted in the following presentation, which was subsequently submitted as a full paper to the *Journal of Applied Accounting*:

Sabbatical Projects

For my first major project, I completed the first draft of my paper “Real Estate as a New Equity Market Sector: A Natural Experiment of Style Investing?” (with Hongfei Tang and Kangzhen Xie). This study uses the creation of the new GICS real estate sector in 2015 as a natural experiment to test the style-investing view of Barberis and Shleifer (2003) and Peng and Xiong (2006). We find that real estate stocks experience positive abnormal returns upon the announcement of the new sector creation and attract more analyst attention and institutional ownership after the announcement and execution of the new sector creation. More importantly, the co-movement between real estate and financial stocks decreases dramatically after the new sector creation. Our study substantially contributes to the literature on style investing and limited investor attention, and offers practical implications for investors, portfolio managers, and policymakers. Upon completion of the paper at the end of March 2018, it was submitted to the 2019 Annual Conference of ASSA-AREUEA, the most prestigious academic conference in the field of real estate finance and economics and was accepted for presentation at ASSA-AREUEA. This paper is currently under review for publication.

I also completed the second-round revision of my paper “Dissecting the Tracking Performance of Regular and Leveraged VIX ETPs” (with Hongfei Tang) for publication at the Review of Derivatives Research. VIX Exchange-traded Products (ETPs) provide tracking on the return of a constant-maturity VIX futures index, instead of the uninvestable VIX spot index. In recent years, the massive value destruction of VIX ETPs have resulted in highly negative publicity in the financial industry and drawn considerable attention from academic researchers. Our paper develops a comprehensive framework that dissects the tracking performance of regular and leveraged VIX ETPs, which can be further generalized to their ETPs tracking indices that are either uninvestable or unrealistic to replicate. This revised paper was later accepted for publication by the Review of Derivatives Research in 2018.

In my sole-authored China Repo working paper titled "A Tale of Two Cities: Interbank and Exchange Repo Markets in China” (Xu, 2017), I use ten years of monthly closing and highest rate data from October 2006 to October 2016 to examine the behaviors and key drivers of China’s interbank and exchange repo rates.
I document a positive monthly closing rate spread between the interbank and exchange repo markets, and much larger and more frequent rate spikes in exchange repo market. My paper conjectures that the extremely high volatility in exchange repo rates is driven by nonbank financial institutions’ shadow banking activities, and the absence of participation by banks and PBOC in the exchange repo market. However, such conjecture has not been explicitly tested in the paper due to data limitation.

Fellowship

I visited the Hong Kong Institute of Monetary Research (HKIMR) as a research fellow during my sabbatical as well. This was to execute my research project titled “Dissecting the Segmentation of China’s Interbank and Exchange Repo Markets.”

My visiting fellowship to HKIMR was intended to dissect the segmentation raised in my 2017 working paper. To examine the behaviors and causes of the continued segmentation between China’s interbank and exchange repo markets, I seek data on daily China repo rates at high frequency (instead of the monthly closing and highest rate data used in Xu (2017)) and with more details (interbank repo rates and volumes by banks and nonbanks separately, as well as exchange repo rates) and more rigor (value-weighted rates rather than closing or highest rates). I also seek daily data on monetary policy indicators and margin trading activities to see if they exert impacts on the repo rates in the interbank and exchange repo markets, and the cross-market arbitrage activities.

During my research visiting at HKIMR:

- I discussed my project with researchers from HKIMR, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), People’s Bank of China (PBOC), Bank for International Settlements (BIS), International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as hedge fund managers in Hong Kong. Their comments and suggestions are extremely helpful.
- I presented my sole-authored paper "A Tale of Two Cities: Interbank and Exchange Repo Markets in China" at the HKIMR research seminar on July 19. The seminar, which was well participated by academics, practitioners as well as policy researchers, provided me with an excellent opportunity to increase the global visibility of Seton Hall University, and to obtain highly valuable comments to further advance my research in China’s repo markets.
- I obtained detailed and longest-history daily data on China’s interbank repo markets, exchange repo markets, as well as margin trading and monetary policy indicators, from the WINDS and CEIC databases available in HKIMR. While my 2017 paper on China’s repo markets was based on Bloomberg’s daily closings and highest repo rates (both interbank and exchange repos), the WINDS and CEIC data allow me to access much more rigorous value-weighted repo rates, and separate measures of repo rates for depository institutions and non-depository institutions. This new data source enables me to execute an in-depth study to further dissect the segmentation between interbank and exchange repo markets in China.

My China Repo working paper is under second-round revision for publication at the Pacific-Basin Finance Journal, and my new paper “Dissecting the Segmentation of China’s Interbank and Exchange Repo Markets” is being developed based on the new dataset compiled from my HKIMR visit.

- I started the data collection for a new project on factor investing and fundamental indexing in Global Government Bonds. I worked with the Bloomberg Barclays Indices for two months to obtain the full daily historical data on the return, yield, duration, market cap, number of issues for the Government Bond Indices of 38 different countries. Additional data needed on the international financial statistics (IFS) and Credit Derivatives Swaps (CDS) of the 38 countries in the data sample, however, are still on hold due to lack of data access.

The Spring 2018 sabbatical provided me with an excellent opportunity to execute my research projects and further advance my research agenda.