

While the proposals in their entirety are attached, please find a brief description of each proposal below:

### **Fall 2023**

#### **Zachary Miner**

#### **Behavioral Sciences**

The objective of this proposal is to formalize and refine a scale created by Dr. Miner to rate music videos based on the extent to which they are similar to, or differ from, the description of Jhally's "Dreamworlds: Desire, Sex and Power in Music Video." Dr. Miner will infuse the scale with Jhally's language and re-evaluate music video data gathered since 2014 (N-234) using the reused scale. Additionally, Dr. Miner will design a lesson plan for using the scale in a classroom setting within one class period and will design a supplementary writing assignment for an Introduction to Sociology class. He aims to formalize his work by submitting it for peer review to the TRAILS database.

#### **Mark Williams**

#### **Behavioral Sciences**

Professor William's proposed sabbatical program of study would be to complete a new and novel analysis of research data exploring the relationships between outness, perceptions of the community as LGBTQ-friendly, and health outcomes for LGBTQ older adults. In addition to supporting the advancement of scholarship, the proposal would also provide a potential deliverable to area elder-serving agencies to consider implications for their work and future directions. The program of study would also include strengthening existing relationships with elder-serving community partner agencies, and to establish a cohort of 15-20 potential practicum sites that would be suitable to meet the 90-hour practicum requirements for a new old age social welfare policy course, currently under development. This would help to advance the preparation of Fitchburg State University graduates to meet the quickly growing demands for trained professionals, advocates, and scholars to support old age health and well-being.

#### **Ronald Krieser**

#### **Biology/Chemistry**

The purpose of Professor Krieser's sabbatical is to examine the evolution of the Deoxyribonuclease II gene family during vertebrate evolution and provide more preliminary results that he hopes to use in the submission of a research paper or a Harrod Lecture in the future. In addition, this work will add to a collaborative project that has provided research opportunities for many students here at Fitchburg State University.

#### **Eric Williams**

#### **Biology/Chemistry**

Professor William's sabbatical has two objectives for this program of study. The first is to develop an assay that models a rare form of muscular dystrophy. This assay could ultimately be used to identify drugs to treat the disease. The second is to apply for two grants to fund student research on this project. The two granting agencies are the Jain Foundation (which only funds projects related to this rare form of muscular dystrophy), and the National Science Foundation.

#### **Mary Baker**

#### **Communications Media**

Professor Baker plans to undertake three projects during her sabbatical. First, she would like to develop a study-away course to Los Angeles. This course would enable Film and Video students to learn more about film, television, and media industries first hand and to network with our alumni who are based in the greater Los Angeles area. Second, she would like to identify and develop Open Educational Resource (OER) materials for two courses that have recently become part of her teaching load, COMM 2405 History of Film I and COMM 2415 History of Film II. Finally, she has an unfinished screenplay that she would like to spend time developing. At the conclusion of her sabbatical, she hopes to have a completed screenplay that would be ready to submit to juried screenwriting competitions.

#### **Jessica Alsup**

#### **Exercise and Sports Science**

Over the course of the semester, Professor Alsup will complete work on two separate research projects, both in the area of tactical physiology, including any final data collection, data analysis, manuscript submission, and both regional and national presentation submissions. This work would allow her to continue to progress through her research agenda. Finally, she would also develop a specific Health and Fitness course (EXSS 1000) for students in the Police Academy program. The development of this course would be a service to FSU students in the Police Program.

**Cheryl Armstrong**  
Pre-Approved Deferral

**Psychological Science**

**Sara Levine**  
Pre-Approved Deferral

**Psychological Science**

**SPRING 2024**

**Aisling O'Connor** **Biology/Chemistry**  
During Professor O'Connor's proposed sabbatical, she would like to take three graduate classes at Framingham State toward the following degree program: *M.S. Concentration in Food and Nutrition Specialization in Nutrition Science* (10 courses in total). She would use the knowledge gained in these graduate courses to offer courses in Nutrition to FSU Biology & Chemistry majors to improve the non-majors Nutrition course she currently teaches and would also hope to undertake research in this area with undergraduate students.

**Jon Krasner** **Communications Media**  
Professor Krasner's sabbatical request is informed by recent developments in his artistic practice, scholarship, and teaching, allowing him to continue the research that he conducted for his Harrod Lecture, "Pure Perception" (September, 2021) and for his upcoming exhibitions at the Jean McDonough Center for The Arts (Worcester, MA) and at Muhlenberg College's Baker Center for The Arts (Allentown, PA) in 2023. "Symbiosis: Phase II" will be developed during his sabbatical leave, combining conventional and time-based artwork into an immersive, live performance to be showcased in future exhibitions/recitals throughout the United States. Additionally, student-based outcomes of teaching assignments based on non-representational abstraction as a non-narrative, storytelling device will be archived to be presented in future Undergraduate Research Conferences and in *Visions* (the Communications Media Department's annual student exhibition) at FSU.

**John (J.J.) Sylvia** **Communications Media**  
Professor Sylvia's sabbatical goal is to develop a book proposal for a new manuscript, which contains an overview of the project, chapter summaries, two sample chapters, and research on marketing for the book. The project, tentatively titled "In Search of Joyful Passions: Counteracting Social Media's Microfascisms" will offer a vivid look at how the very design of social media platforms can be linked to the rise in microfascism (desire for uniformity and control) and how these platforms as currently designed perform better at spreading anger and loneliness than joy. Professor Sylvia will show readers that re-designing social platforms to better enable more joyful connections that focus on storytelling opportunities decoupled from the stranglehold of platform analytics can be used to help reverse the rising microfascist and fascist movements around the globe. Finally, as part of the research process of creating this proposal, Professor Sylvia will spend several weeks traveling in Europe to conduct research at archives related to fascist history, resistance movements, communication, and propaganda, in order to more deeply understand the connections between microfascism and more overtly fascist political movements. These may include the Museum of the Liberation of Rome, Hellenic Parliament Archives in Greece featuring a collection about dictator Ioannis Metaxas, the National Museum of Resistance and Freedom in Portugal, and the Lapua Cartridge Factory Museum and Lapuan Movement Museum in Finland.

**Karen DeAngelis** **Education**  
The goal of Professor DeAngelis' project is to identify practices that are used globally to support individuals with disabilities in inclusive settings. Specific focus would be on exploring practices that are grounded in the Universal Design for Learning framework. The methodological framework for this project would be a qualitative meta-analysis of currently available scholarly research on the topic.

**Joshua Spero** **Economics, History, and Political Science**  
This sabbatical would advance Professor Spero's study and research on European security and transatlantic relations, particularly focusing on the "The Fate of Transatlantic Relations and North Atlantic Treaty Organization-European Union (NATO-EU) Joint Missions and Operations," and especially integral to the impact of Russia's 8-year war against Ukraine. Professor Spero's research, analysis, and publications build from his March 2022 research trip to Poland (just after Russia expanded its 8-year war across Ukraine) and related op-eds published: "Ukraine's Integration and Euro-Atlantic Security's Transformation"/ 1945 (April 25, 2022);

Republished as: "Faculty Perspective" Fitchburg State University (April 26, 2022); "Transatlantic Ties That Bind Europe"/ The Hill (August 28, 2021); "Bridging the Transatlantic Divide Strengthens the US"/ The Hill (January 12, 2021).

### **Daniel Sarefield**

### **Economics, History, and Political Science**

As a historian of ancient Roman religion and culture, Professor Sarefield intends to carry on further research into the history of a new religious movement that emerged in the Roman Empire during the second century of the Common Era. This new religious movement, the cult of Glykon Neas Asklepios ("the new Asklepios"), and the activities of its founder, Alexander of Abonouteichos, represent an exciting opportunity to explore little-known, but important aspects of the religious world of ancient Rome during the period of the Roman Empire. Professor Sarefield plans to systematically and critically examine the ancient sources, modern scholarly literature, and published archaeological evidence for the cult of Glykon with the aim of moving this project forward to additional publications. This work would involve the careful, systematic examination of newly published books and articles, some already in his possession for the project, as well as additional materials that Professor Sarefield would obtain during research excursions. By accomplishing these goals, Professor Sarefield would be able to advance this scholarly project in conference presentations and future publications, including a scholarly monograph, tentatively titled *The Other Alexander: Alexander of Abonouteichos and the Cult of Glykon Neas Asklepios in the Roman World*. When completed, this would be the first book-length scholarly study of the cult of Glykon and its founder, Alexander. This work would allow Professor Sarefield to make additional, substantial contributions to the study of this particular new religious movement in the Roman Empire and the study of ancient Roman religion more generally.

### **Sean Goodlett**

### **Economics, History, and Political Science**

Professor Goodlett's sabbatical would be devoted to the continuation of multiple research projects that revolve around the Pedagogy of Real Talk (PRT). The first order of business would be to conduct further analysis on the original (2021-present) dataset of student responses to a survey on the efficacy of the pedagogy. Work with this dataset has thus far been limited to the question of "belonging." Other possible topics include student retention and persistence, student participation and engagement, and the effects of Covid on the delivery of the pedagogy. Depending on the status of the change in research protocol, the second part of the work would include either conducting one-on-one and/or group interviews or analyzing the results of such interviews; the second dataset would assist with the study of the notion of "faculty collective efficacy." Both research projects are intended to yield peer-reviewed articles and (especially in the latter project) popular-press pieces. Last, if the group and Dr. Hernandez are at the right point, Professor Goodlett intends to begin work on an edited volume concerning PRT.

### **Renee Fratantonio**

### **Gallucci-Cirio Library**

During Ms. Fratantonio's sabbatical, she would research online information literacy instruction strategies in order to revise an intensive four-part tutorial series she previously developed for online and first year students. Additionally, she would deepen her understanding of media and information literacy to enhance her teaching and the Library's information literacy instruction program.

### **Mary Ann Barbato**

### **Mathematics**

Professor Barbato's project would focus on mathematics collaboration with staff, faculty and administrators from local high schools to align math curriculum with first-year university mathematics courses to ensure that incoming students get placed into appropriate mathematics courses and are ready for them. Secondary project (time permitting): Edit OER text for math 1600 Informal Math Modeling.

### **FULL 2023/2024**

### **Benjamin Levy**

### **Mathematics**

Professor Levy's approach to his project would be to first build statistical models that relate historic presence data for a given marine species to spatial climate data from the same locations in order to determine which environmental drivers are most important to movement preferences. With this information, Professor Levy could then test different functional responses for spatial movement that incorporate all relevant climate drivers. Professor Levy's working idea for identifying the correct functional form is to measure error between model output with the NOAA bottom trawl data from the same location. Dr. Levy can partition the dataset into training and validation sets to help with the process. The project would provide valuable insight into how environmental change influences marine species and can help to both predict future spatial population trends based on different climate scenarios. Dr. Levy plans to publish his findings in peer-reviewed journals.