

Please find a brief description of each proposal below:

Fall 2024

Eric Williams

Biology/Chemistry

Pre-approved Deferral

Sam Tobin

Communications Media

Dr. Tobin's sabbatical is a plan for a study of tabletop miniature wargame culture and practices. It will use ethnographic online methods combined with textual analysis to develop a critical understanding of this culture to put it into a larger context by addressing issues of militarism, simulation, craft, and commodities. If this sabbatical is approved, he would spend the semester developing a new scholarly book project. The book would focus primarily on the UK-based Games Workshop's games (*Warhammer* and related properties) as they are the market leader. Despite this popularity, these games and analog games in general remain understudied. This book would be the first of its kind. Dr. Tobin's proposed program of study would be evenly divided between research, analysis, and writing. Research would take the form of a discourse analysis drawn from online player and hobbyist communities and his output would take the form of a book prospectus, literature review, and several chapters of a new manuscript. Dr. Tobin's hope is that by the end of his sabbatical, he is in a good position to secure a new book contract.

Brady Chen

Computer Science

Dr. Chen plans to work on several projects in MS CS program: create online course materials for CSC 8025 Computer and Network Security; and create a Cybersecurity Concentration for MS CS program. The concentration will include the following courses: CSC 8025 Computer and Networking Security; Ethical Hacking (new course proposal will be submitted in Fall 2023); Digital Forensic (new course proposal will be submitted in Fall 2024); Cyber Security Management (new course proposal will be submitted in Fall 2024). Dr. Chen will submit the following new course proposals for MS CS Program: Digital Forensic and Cyber Security Management.

Robert Shapiro

Education

Dr. Shapiro will develop a comprehensive Open Education Resource (OER) video library and training aid to allow students looking to become Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) to acquire the requisite knowledge and fluency to be able to sit for and pass the 5th Edition Task List BCBA exam offered by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). By offering these materials in an OER format, more of our students will be able to access them, and gain the benefit of this exam preparation. This will improve the average student's career trajectory. It will also likely improve our university pass rates, which will improve the already-solid reputation of our ABA programs. Finally, because students outside of Fitchburg State will also be able to access these materials, it will help establish Fitchburg State as a national leader in exam preparation, as well as in equity of access to learning materials.

Nirajan Mani

Engineering Technology

In the fall of 2024, Dr. Mani plans to attend guest lectures at various universities in Nepal, India, and Germany. Research collaboration with colleagues in Nepal on projects related to "Resilient Infrastructure and Urban Planning" and "smart city." Dr. Mani plans to establish connections with multiple universities in Nepal, India, and Germany, and promote our graduate and undergraduate programs, including M.S. in Construction Management program.

Timothy Hilliard

Exercise and Sports Science

The purpose of Dr. Hilliard's sabbatical research is threefold: 1) to assess body composition across the lifespan in Massachusetts and other states; 2) to compare the body composition measurements of two simultaneous methods (Body Mass Index & Body Fat Percentage); and 3) to compare self-reported Body Mass Index with actual measured Body Mass Index. There are several direct benefits to the university in undertaking this research. As the primary instructor for the "Introduction to Research in Exercise Science" class, it is important for Dr. Hilliard to stay abreast of current research content and techniques via direct involvement. This includes the entire research process from start to finish, as he intends eventually to submit the data for publication and enlist students via research assistantships with subsequent follow-up research.

SPRING 2025

Megan Krell

Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Krell serves as the fieldwork coordinator for the undergraduate Human Services Program and graduate Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling Programs. Currently, logging of internship hours by students is done by hand or using a simple spreadsheet. This can negatively impact data integrity, accountability, and transparency among the student, internship site, and university. The Human Services Program and Counseling Programs have expressed interest in evaluating online fieldwork documentation management systems to mitigate these concerns. Therefore, Dr. Krell proposes a one-semester sabbatical project to prepare and present a recommendation of software solutions for the Human Services Program and Counseling Programs. To arrive at this recommendation, she will: define program, licensure, and accreditation requirements that need to be met by internship hour-logging software; conduct focus groups to assess student and supervisor fieldwork documentation barriers, needs, and desires; identify potential internship tracking management systems based on the results of this assessment; conduct interviews with current online internship tracking management system users; evaluate internship tracking management system options based on available features, ability to address identified requirements, ease of implementation, user feedback, and costs; and create a workplan for implementation.

John Ludlam

Biology/Chemistry

Widespread application of winter road salt has led to elevated salinity levels in many urban freshwaters. However, little is known about how salinization (increasing salinity) affects freshwater stream health, especially on the microbial community that dominates stream ecosystem functioning. Dr. Ludlam proposes to experimentally manipulate salinity levels in recirculating stream mesocosm chambers to determine the effect of salinization on two components of microbial stream metabolism, primary productivity and respiration. Experiments will be conducted in both urban and rural streams to see if stream metabolism responds differently between habitats exposed to salinization and habitats not experiencing salinization. This project will contribute to scientific understanding of influences of salinization on critically important stream ecosystem functions like energy flow and nutrient cycling.

Kay Kim

Business Administration

Dr. Kim's plan for his sabbatical will start with the research title: "A Research of Global Supply Chain Management" (Draft). This research will aim to enable global supply chain companies (MNCs) interested in global logistics and transportation, generally "Fortune 500 Global companies," but lacking the experience, to make more-informed decisions related to global transportation channel outsourcing. This research will contribute to help Fitchburg State community, including scholars and students, to understand transportation and logistics approaches further enhancing curriculum development and providing benefits to the Business students who are interested in the area of international Supply Chain Management course development and the best business practices applications.

Kelly Morgan

Communications Media

Professor Morgan will engage in detailed research, pre-production interviews, and editing of undiscovered original reel-to-reel tape recordings that he secured of the Acting Technique of Mikhail Aleksandrovich Chekhov, known as Michael Chekhov—famed Russian-American actor, director, author, theatre practitioner and teacher—and nephew of the renowned playwright Anton Chekhov and a student of Konstantin Stanislavski, known as the Father of Modern Acting referred to as "The Method." Dr. Morgan will conduct research at the National Michael Chekov Association in Fort Worth, TX, The Chekov Studio International in Los Angeles, and the Leddy Library Special Collections at the University of Windsor in Windsor, Ontario, to research the official archives for specifics that will inform the development of a series of educational/training recordings carefully edited from these originals, supported by interviews with current-established union artists who advocate this technique for eventual production and publication.

Elyse Clark

Earth, Geographic, and Public Health Sciences

During Dr. Clark's leave, she will develop new laboratory activities for the new course *Soils and the Environment*, which will be designed as high-impact practice lab exercises that provide opportunities for students to gain field- and lab-based experience that will make them more marketable for careers in the environmental field. Secondly, Dr. Clark will use this leave time to write a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. This manuscript will be the result of three projects completed by FSU undergraduates related to the impacts of road salt applications on water, soil, aquatic organisms, and plants. This manuscript will enhance the reputation of the university and may provide opportunities for collaborations with other universities and/or opportunities for obtaining external grants to continue the research.

Eric Budd**Economics, History, and Political Science**

A sabbatical in Spring 2025 would enable Dr. Budd to accomplish a number of tasks that will greatly benefit the university. First, a sabbatical will provide Dr. Budd with the time to finalize his current manuscript and get it published. Second, he will be able to develop an OER textbook that can be used at the university and elsewhere for courses in Peace Studies. If possible, he'd also like to incorporate some of the experiential learning activities he uses in both Dilemmas of Peace and War and Intro to Peace Studies into the textbook, so that other educators, or whoever inherits those classes after he retires, can use them with their students. An OER is a natural fit with our Strategic Plan's commitment to educational justice, so this textbook would help Fitchburg State further that commitment. Finally, a Harrod Lecture as part of our mission to promote intellectual discourse on campus and throughout the community.

Hong Yu**Engineering Technology**

During this leave time, Dr. Yu will develop the lectures with laboratory activities for the new course Robotic & Automation, which will be designed as high-impact practice lab exercises that provide opportunities for students to gain lab-based experience that will make them more marketable for careers in the industry field. Secondly, Dr. Yu will use this leave time to write a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal or IEEE Xplore. FSU undergraduates will complete this manuscript as co-authors and help their career paths. This manuscript will enhance the reputation of the university and may provide opportunities for collaborations with other universities and/or opportunities for obtaining external funds to continue the research. Lastly, Dr. Yu will use this leave time to write a chapter of textbook for publication. This chapter will focus on the vector analysis and fundamentals of Electromagnetic field theory, which is a vector field, distributed in three-dimensional space.

Steven Edwards**English Studies**

Dr. Edwards plans on using sabbatical leave to work on his next book, a memoir-in-essays built around his experiences of nature, fatherhood, and neurodivergence. These essays push the boundaries of creative nonfiction by blending the modes of memoir, personal and lyrical essays, and literary and art criticism. They search for and draw forward encounters--with images and scenes. Dr. Edward's creative process is quite simple: it involves wide reading across his discipline, note taking, personal reflection, and hours of sitting, thinking, and writing. Dr. Edward's aim is to complete three to five 20-page essays that will serve as the basis for a book proposal he can then send to literary agents and/or publishers.

Michael Hoberman**English Studies**

Dr. Hoberman wishes to conduct on-site research in the vicinity of North America's oldest Jewish congregations, each of which was formed during the colonial era. While the stories of these communities have been thoroughly documented, casual visitors and history enthusiasts who travel to these cities have comparatively little information to go on if they wish to follow in the literal footsteps of America's earliest Jewish settlers. Dr. Hoberman's project is intended as a first step toward developing walking tours. The work he intends to complete during the sabbatical period will include visiting and photographing the synagogues and their environs, as well as other sites of colonial era Jewish interest, including cemeteries, houses (and house sites), and public spaces where Jews conducted business and socialized, both with one another and the wider community. Dr. Hoberman plans to view sites in New York, Newport, Montreal, Savannah, and Charleston.

Wafa Unus**English Studies**

Dr. Unus's sabbatical will be used for a book manuscript focusing on her research on college newspapers and how they can and are filling news gaps for local newspapers, as well as the evolution of collaborative journalism projects to alleviate local news deserts. Research on the history of minority-run local newspapers and their impact on securing the histories of people often left out of mainstream narratives to be submitted for publication in *American Journalism*, the journal of the American Journalism Historians Association.

Karen Keenan**Exercise and Sports Science**

Dr. Keenan will analyze the data from three research projects (data collection through December 2024), prepare abstracts for submission to regional and national conferences, and begin writing manuscripts for submission for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Across all three studies, Dr. Keenan will have data from more than 250 participants. In Study #3, she also will have data at multiple timepoints (pre-season, in-season, post-season). The sabbatical will provide her the time to analyze and explore these large datasets, and to determine which results potentially have the greatest impact in the exercise and sports science field so that she can prioritize dissemination of the findings. All three studies have Fitchburg State students involved in the research, and two (Study #1, Study #2) also have students and faculty from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Keenan anticipates that the students will want to continue to be involved with the research projects for data

analyses and dissemination. This would be a great experience for them and help build their resumes as they begin their careers in fields related to exercise and sports science.

Jonathan Harvey

Humanities

Dr. Harvey will work on the creation of performing sheet music editions of eight pieces of music by 16th century Venetian composer Adrian Willaert for distribution via global public domain sheet music repositories. Five of these pieces are within the genre of “civic motets,” which are works written specifically for important military or political functions. The central output of this project will be to post these performing editions on two highly-trafficked public domain sheet music repositories. The repositories are high-impact sources. Dr. Harvey’s potential secondary sabbatical project would be to expand and reshape his Harrod Lecture on the civic motets into a publishable article. This article will by necessity include extensive musical examples, which will be drawn largely from the performance edition, which are his primary sabbatical project.

Andrea Olmstead

Humanities

Dr. Olmstead’s sabbatical leave will give her the opportunity to focus her efforts fully and uninterrupted on her art and craft as a ceramic sculptor. Dr. Olmstead plans to create three to four sculptures that embody the knowledge she gained from her travels to Italy. Dr. Olmstead wants to incorporate some of the dynamic elements such as movement, expression, and emotion, while experimenting with different clay bodies. She plans to apply to several art shows and/or competitions with the new work. Dr. Olmstead also hopes to continue the education and inspiration she receives from the master sculptors of the past, by visiting more important museums in the Eastern US, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., where she will study Auguste Rodin, Jean Antoine Houdon, and Bernini.

Yasser Derwiche Djazaerly

Humanities

Dr. Derwiche Djazaerly’s sabbatical will be used to continue a book project with the title *Art and Populism: On American and European Gothic*. This work uses the literature about populism that has been appearing since 2016 to reinterpret the nineteenth-century literary and artistic movement known as the Gothic Revival. Dr. Derwiche Djazaerly argues that populism originated in the late Enlightenment and was manifested in the literary and artistic movement of the Gothic Revival. This revival led to a reevaluation of artistic standards and brought about an opposition aesthetics, a system that opposed not only classicism, but also the culture of the elite. After examining Romanticism in light of the current research on populism, the book situates Grant Wood’s *American Gothic* within the modern European discourse on Gothic architecture.

Karina Bautista

Humanities

The purpose of Dr. Bautista’s sabbatical request is to continue her research on the politics and legacy of colonialism and the approaches of decolonial theories. Dr. Bautista is currently examining the contributions and limitations of Critical Race Theory on Latino/a/x Studies and culture by analyzing the discourse and practices of colonial legacy on Latinidad, especially on Latino hybrid identity and education. During Dr. Bautista’s sabbatical, her objectives are to: conduct a comprehensive search for new reference materials; read and thoroughly analyze the collected literature; create an annotated bibliography to organize sources for a book proposal on Latino hybrid culture and its effect on the humanities; participate in seminars and other informative events; and prepare a paper to present at a local or international conference. Research, reading, and analysis are the core activities of Dr. Bautista’s work as a literary investigator and humanist; they require time and attention to evaluate thoroughly the sources that informed and transformed her field of study. The research and the reading process in her sabbatical will give Dr. Bautista the time and opportunity to access the latest information and debates in her area. The knowledge acquired will also help best support and guide the Latino/a/x Major curriculum we are creating at Fitchburg State University through the Academic Innovation Fund (AIF) grant she and two of her colleagues received in the Spring of 2023.

Amy McGlothlin

Humanities

Dr. McGlothlin will use her sabbatical for travel for guest-conducting opportunities throughout the United States; scheduling of chamber performances, which increases her own profile as a conductor as well as the profile of Fitchburg State amongst secondary school and higher education music directors and works to improve the school’s recruiting efforts; recordings, and masterclasses. Recording projects serve as a permanent record of these efforts and will improve her skills as a recording engineer. She will also be seeking additional certification opportunities in music technology software applications. Staying up to date in current technologies is important to be able to offer our students coursework that takes advantage of the current industry standard software. It is vitally important for artists in music to remain active and serve as artist mentors for our students through example.

Sarah Wright

Mathematics

Dr. Wright will update the textbook and related course materials for MATH-1100—Mathematics and Society. The text needs predictable updating to reflect changes in societal issues and new data sets. Additionally, Dr. Wright will make some edits to reflect the needs of the students taking the course: more user-friendly formatting, clearer review of foundational math topics, options for practice problems with hints and solutions, updates to content to reflect the programs students are enrolled in, and full rewrites of some content to focus on students' interests and needs.

FULL 2024/2025

N/A