2010-2011 SAIF GRANT
FINAL REPORT

MOTHERING: A MEMOIR
(creative endeavor)

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Abstract

My 2010-2011 SAIF grant was used to fund my work on a book entitled *Mothering: A Memoir*, which tells the story of my traumatic journey to parenthood, beginning with some of the shocking “lessons” about mothering I was taught as a child and then dealing with many of the stigmas and stereotypes associated with female sexuality, infertility and childbearing, but also with the wonder of adoption, narrating my husband’s and my process of adopting our son from Ethiopia. I have received very positive responses from those in the national publishing community who have reviewed parts of the book.

Objectives

My objectives for the period for which I received funding were:

- for one week to travel to Georgia to interview my mother and my former doctor;
- to write new chapters of my memoir;
- to prepare and submit for publication previously written self-contained chapters of my memoir to such literary journals as *The Southern Review*, *The Georgia Review*, and *The Oxford American*;
- to revise and polish the new chapters and submit them for publication to literary magazines;
- to prepare the manuscript of my memoir for submission to a literary agent for consideration.

Project Outcome

During the 2010-2011 SAIF grant period:

- I traveled to Georgia where I conducted interviews for my book. I also ordered additional hospital records to aid in the writing of my book;
- I wrote three new chapters of the book;
- I prepared and submitted for publication previously written self-contained chapters of my memoir to such literary journals as *The Southern Review*, *The Georgia Review*, and *The Oxford American*;
- I revised and polished new chapters of my memoir;
I have written a query letter to possible publishers and am currently completing the preparation process for submission of the completed manuscript of my memoir to a literary agent for consideration.

**Conclusion**

The 2010-2011 SAIF grant I was awarded has allowed me to make fulfilling progress on my memoir. I am pleased with the work my grant has allowed me to do this past year and am deeply grateful for both the funding and the confidence shown by the selection committee who chose to support my project. I hope to have the opportunity this academic year, at a Faculty Symposium or other gathering of my colleagues, to read excerpts of my book.