SAIF Final Report- January 5, 2015

Grant recipient: Chris Schulenburg, Humanities Department (Spanish)
Category: A (Research), 2013
Proposal Title: “Faceless Forgetting: Literature as Ghost Whisperer in 2666”

Results

During the summer of 2013, I utilized the $2000 awarded in SAIF Grant funding as salary for the time spent researching the topic of disappeared women at the Mexican border aesthetically explored in Roberto Bolaño’s novel 2666. In addition, this grant paid for photocopies made from interlibrary loan materials and allowed for the purchase of books related to violence in twenty-first century Latin American literature and culture.

As a result of this grant, I delivered two public lectures, both on the University of Wisconsin-Platteville campus and at a scholarly conference. In November 2013, I gave a paper of the same title at the Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA) Convention in Milwaukee. The public comments made by colleagues at this conference allowed me to polish my LAE Faculty Forum lecture, which was subsequently delivered in February 2014 at the UW-Platteville. Finally, these two lectures informed my final writing of an article by the same name that is being considered for a future collection of essays dealing with love and violence to be edited by Beatriz Botero.

Benefits

This SAIF Grant has not only allowed me to benefit in a scholarly manner, as detailed above. That is, the research that resulted from this summer stipend also enriched my Spanish Topics class (Spanish 3840) given in the spring 2014 semester, “The Violent Aesthetic of Modern Latin American Literature and Culture.” A key reading that motivated this course was a more accessible novel by Roberto Bolaño called Estrella distante, and many of its discussions revolved around the connections between violence and culture that were originally revealed in my summer research. This general topic has also led me to one strand of my current research involving another Bolaño novel, El tercer reich, and the investigation of the role played by outsiders in Latin American literature. I will further apply this research to my preparation for a conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) to be held in Denver this summer.

Conclusion

I appreciate the Humanities Chair Terry Burns for her continued support of this project as well as other past and present scholarly pursuits. I also wish to thank Dean of LAE Elizabeth Throop, Provost Mittie Nimmocks, and the Office of Sponsored Programs for their financial backing of
this intellectual venture. Finally, Sue Vavricka’s assistance with Travel Expense Reports in the Foreign Languages Office has been invaluable in my attendance at scholarly conferences, and her work is deeply appreciated.