

2017-2018 Sabbatical Leave

Last Name	First Name	Sabbatical Leave Request
Anderson	Roxanna	Fall Term
Fazelpour	Alireza	Full Year (Fall/Spring)
Hamlin	Monica	Spring Term
Miles	Jessica	Fall Term
Pacovsky	Raymond	Full Year (Fall/Spring)
Sfiropoulos	Mike	Fall Term

Dr. Roxanna Anderson:

Mental Health and Wellness are directly correlated to a student's ability to perform in class hence, directly effecting retention and completion. Anxiety is the largest disorder with at least 6.3 million people who have experienced a students between the ages of 12 to 17 who have had at least one major depressive episode in the past year (3 million individuals) (p. 50). Females are more at risk. Palm Beach State has a significant number of students who are dual enrolled that fall into the category discussed in TIME magazines research. Many of these students are battling multiple life stressors including under employment to lack of employment, financial distress, difficulty adjusting, child care issues, etc., all which serve to cause serious stress leading to a high drop-out rate. Mental health issues have been increasing in the adolescent population.

Demographics of Palm Beach State College indicate we serve a large Hispanic, Black and/or female population. Taking the aforementioned into consideration, PBSC statistics show that 51 to 60% of students enrolled in PBSC are on financial aid or need some form of financial support in addition to other student services needed. Based on the research many of these students may have underdiagnosed mental health disorders. Females constitute 56% of the population, and current research found they are more likely to have experienced child abuse (Hamzelou, 2016), which is a catalyst for later Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). According to Boyraz, Granda, Baker, Tidwell, and Waits (2015) the ACT of 2014 "revealed that the mean 1st to 2nd-year retention rates range from 54.9% (2-year public universities) to 80.9% (private universities offering bachelors, master's, and doctoral degrees)" (p. 475). Researchers have found that students who enter college with high levels of distress are least likely to graduate. In addition, the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study found early childhood abuse is associated with physical and mental health problems in adulthood (Steele, Bate, Steele, 2016). Fifty-two percent of the population at PBSC are minorities, with Palm Beach State College being a Hispanic-serving institution. Researchers have found that Latina immigrants experience lack of access to both physical and mental health care and are more likely to delay treatment and the problem is increasing. Delaying treatment can have a negative effect on retention and completion.

Students who have migrated, whether forced or not, also experience significant issues with acculturation causing trauma for some, especially in a country rife with racism. Kaltman, de Mendoza, Gonzales, and Serrano (2013) found that Latina's prefer individual psychological treatment. Our counseling center is presently equipped to respond to this need. Hispanics, as well as other people of color, are least likely to take medication for diagnosed illnesses. Therefore, individual counseling can provide a partial solution to issues of retention and graduation in a timely manner. Research has found that talk therapy is as efficacious as medicine alone, but without students' knowledge of same, they are not likely to take advantage of what could be a life changing relationship with a counselor at PBSC.

The Counseling Center's webpage needs to become more attuned to issues facing this growing population of students in distress. A more responsive and comprehensive web page will enable the staff to provide more targeted services and also provide referral information for faculty. Students also will benefit from access to a Counseling Center webpage intentionally designed to provide them with information and resources regarding the community services readily available to assist them in the areas of health care, financial aid, career opportunities, employment,

2017-2018 Sabbatical Leave

and most importantly, psychological well-being. Therefore, I am applying for a sabbatical to bring this idea of a wellness portal to fruition to address the needs of the students we serve at PBSC.

Dr. Alireza Fazelpour:

"I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand", is a famous quote attributed to Confucius (551BC-479BC), teacher and philosopher.

By rapid proliferation of mobile devices such as smart phone, smart watch, music players, e-readers, and tablet, the importance of mobile applications become vital for any computer science programming curriculum. Nowadays, Object-Oriented paradigm (OOP) is the leading methodology to application development as ever-increasing numbers of apps in the iOS and Android platforms are based on. However, the OOP contains a number of abstract concepts that makes it a challenging subject to teach for educators as well as for students to understand. In addition, there is not a single textbook on the market that covers Object-Oriented (OO) paradigm at appropriate level suitable for our students. The current textbooks are either much focused on theory of OO without much practical examples and hands-on exercises or mostly focused on outdated methodologies other than OO with a couple of chapters on the topic. Furthermore, these textbooks, even in the e-book format, are heavily text-based, lacks interactivity, have no animation, not attracting students' attention, and costly.

The challenge of teaching OOP is multiplied with other difficulties including programming language syntax, programming environment, and problem solving skills. Researchers at Carnegie Mellon University [1] and Virginia Tech. University [2] have shown that web-based textbook that includes animations with frequent interactive exercises improve students' success. In a study published by researchers at University of California – Riverside [3], STEM students who utilize interactive web content had a 16% higher improvement score than the static web content. Their results also show that the improvement score is much higher (64%) for students in the lowest quartile in pre-lesson scores.

To address these challenges, this sabbatical proposal aims to develop a series of interactive activities including animation, short videos, and animated small computer programs using Python programming language as stand-alone learning objects that can be used by faculty teaching the core course COP1000: Introduction to Programming Logic in the Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT) Department. This is a fundamental course toward acquiring three AS Degrees and a number of College Credit Certificates (CCC).

These interactive activities will be the building blocks for a series of lesson plans covering merely OOP core and advanced concepts by utilizing the pedagogy of active learning in a flipped classroom settings. Flipped classroom provides students with the opportunity to study outside the class using these interactive content (e.g., animation, short videos, question sets with popup for immediate feedback, and voice over presentation) while discusses their challenges within the class sessions. The pedagogy of active learning focuses on understanding concepts through applications of these concepts in a truly engaging manner (e.g., writing codes and animating codes) to a series of short programs. I believe the combination of active learning and flipped classroom is a positive forceful process that draws students' attention and keep them motivated to learn. This will allow students to gain a hands-on knowledge in an engaging manner in which increases student participation and success.

To create course content, I will look at open source textbook strategy as a way to assist students with much lower cost of their purchased textbook. This open source approach supports the objective of the Textbook Affordability Act to reduce textbook prices. In addition, as part of this project, I will develop a data analytic approach to identify the guided pathways to counsel students who will be taking the course to achieve their professional and career goals while achieving the college's objective to increase the completion and retention rates.

2017-2018 Sabbatical Leave

Dr. Monica Hamlin:

President Parker is leading our drive to "Go Bold for Gold." Her recent message to our College community encourages us to focus on retention and completion with emphasis on "the first-time-in-college freshmen tracked in the statewide model. We will reach out to these students throughout the year to encourage them to take advantage of academic support resources, to stay engaged in their studies, and to maintain continuous enrollment toward the end goal of completion." And this is from President Parker's recent post-election e-mail: "It is even more important that we embody one of Palm Beach State College's core beliefs: A safe, secure and supportive College environment is essential."

The Lake Worth Civility Committee is the perfect vehicle for advancing these important goals. A civil climate is one in which everyone feels comfortable, welcome, safe, and valued. It is one in which productivity thrives due to a sense of positivity, teamwork, and open-mindedness, along with a removal of negative interference with the work at hand. It is one that promotes professionalism and pride in one's work and school, leading to the improved reputation of the school and those who work and study here.

I have been the co-chair of the Lake Worth Civility Committee since it was formed as a task force in the fall of 2011. We have been one of the largest and most active committees at the College and are at a critical point. We have the opportunity to go College-wide, and we have a very long list of initiatives that we would like to implement. However, the enthusiasm of our membership and the worthiness of our goals have run up against some very real limitations, the greatest of which is how little time we have to devote to our cause as we strive to complete the tasks for which we were hired. In short, we have reached a plateau. Maintaining our momentum, increasing participation, expanding our reach, researching best practices, and developing and implementing our more in-depth ideas could easily be a full-time job. I would like to spend a semester on sabbatical to work on all these things and push us beyond the plateau, including creating a system that could easily be adopted by the other campuses when they are ready to establish their own committees and that would allow us to operate more smoothly and automatically down the road even when our members are overloaded with other obligations. We have also been kicking the assessment piece down the road, and I would like to move forward with that.

This work is critical to the entire College community and provides the foundation for all that we do. Here is an excerpt from an e-mail we sent when we first formed: "How would you like a more pleasant campus experience and a more prestigious profile for our school? How would you like to be part of turning the tide in that direction? It is time, to quote Gandhi, to 'be the change you want to see in the world.'" Increased civility results in a sense of belonging and in increased productivity and enjoyment, all of which contribute directly to success and retention.

Dr. Jessica Miles:

During the one semester of sabbatical, I propose to write a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) classroom framework for an interdisciplinary EcoArt project, allowing Environmental Science students taking the EVR 1001 Introduction to Environmental Science course to collaborate with the Art Department. There is a rich history related to the discipline of "EcoArt," as well as dynamic and active groups focused on this topic in our community. I propose to consult with this community and to solidly develop a project that can be integrated into EVR 1001 which is a general education, Tier 1, Natural Science course, reaching hundreds of students each and every semester. This project also allows for students to cross the disciplines by allowing for expressive art/science curation for the education of all students involved as well as the broader campus and local community.

Having worked with the Art Department in fall of 2016 on a pilot project related to sea level rise, I believe the foundation has been laid for the development of a fullscale classroom framework. Additionally, I have already established a relationship with the founder of EcoArt South Florida and have their support for the development of this STEAM framework.

2017-2018 Sabbatical Leave

It is my hope to use my many years of experience teaching the Environmental Science course and to focus my passion for sustainability on the development of a rich, interdisciplinary EcoArt project for our students and community during this semester sabbatical.

Dr. Raymond Pacovsky:

During my sabbatical I intend writing an Open Source General Biology Electronic Textbook that can be used by students and faculty, including my colleagues here at PBSC, for Biology 1

(BSC1010) and Biology 2 (BSC1011). The textbook, in electronic form, would also be freely available to others: to professors and students at other institutions, to students studying for their SAT, ACT, MCAT, GRE, to local high schools, and even the general public since all the book's text, illustrations, video clips and materials will be Open Source. I intend to apply learning and instructional design theories in the construction of this textbook so as to include problem-based learning, which will allow the student to try experiential learning in a virtual environment and practice their critical thinking skills. I have experience in writing for publication (37 peer-reviewed articles, 5 book chapters, see attached Bibliography), as well as editing manuscripts (Assistant Editor for Plant and Soil, an international journal for soil fertility and plant nutrition from 1987 to 1992).

I have already generated many materials that would make up the textbook, but many video clip resources have not been processed, edited and compiled in one place and properly converted to mp4 format to be shown on cellphones, tablets and laptops. Every chapter would contain: 1) a minimum text (my current lecture notes available electronically to students now; see attached sample lecture notes), 2) video animations to illustrate concepts (currently used in class but only a few videos are shared with students now) will be edited using Adobe Acrobat XI Pro and Adobe Bridge CS6, 3) edited clips (using Camtasia and Adobe InDesign CS6) from my own recorded lectures (20 of these Learning Objectives are currently in POLO; please see attached video clip) to explain ideas, 4) short video clips (edited using Premier Pro CS6 and Adobe Audition CS6) to show the beauty of majesty of nature/music to make the chapters more attractive and interesting, 5) self-assessment tests, including a section that will foster critical thinking to see how well the student has mastered the material, and 6) an activity from an Open Source Virtual Biology Laboratory to spend more time with the content and to increase the pedagogical value of the final product.

Professor Mike Sfiropoulos:

For my sabbatical, I propose to create an instructional manual to ultimately replace the textbook for EAP1684. This manual will address the ongoing problem of choosing a content-appropriate textbook that meets the unique needs of the 1.5 generation students in this critical gateway course who are mainly first time in college students (FTIC).

This proposal promotes retention because it will help strengthen the writing foundation of these FTIC students and their chances for academic success. The manual will be a compilation of already graded examples of well-written student essays and essays that focus on the consistent errors that this specific population of students has been perpetuating as well as incorporating my own materials. The manual will significantly reduce the cost of their textbook and be made into a PDF available online. It will also serve as an instructional manual for adjuncts to streamline what material needs to be taught in this course. This proposal requires research in two stages: organization of the on-hand materials and the production of the manual itself.