

20-21 Sabbatical Leave Report Abstracts

Filomena Avila, Counseling, Spring 2020

Filomena Avila researched best practices for student athlete success centers and best practices for successful athletic eligibility preparation for a student athletic scholarship at the 4 year level. Filomena visited and zoomed with three community colleges with model student success centers in addition to visiting a Division I, II and NAIA 4 year transfer school. These strategies will be incorporated into her work with students competing athletically at SRJC and transferring to a 4 year institution.

Anna Brown, Mathematics, Spring 2020

During her Spring 2020 semester sabbatical, Anna Brown conducted a study to examine how the implementation of Common Core Curriculum has changed local Sonoma County high school mathematics courses and curriculum. She analyzed the high school mathematics curriculum of several local high schools and compared their course curriculum to SRJC mathematics course outlines of record. This information has been made available as a presentation as well as a written informational resource for Santa Rosa Junior College Mathematics Faculty to use when updating or writing mathematics course curriculum, with the goal of satisfying the mandates of AB705 in a way that fosters student success and academic excellence.

Dan Famini, Agriculture/Natural Resources, Spring 2019 and Spring 2020

During his sabbatical, Dr. Dan Famini continued the viability of the SRJC Veterinary Technician program by researching and updating curriculum as needed in the changing regulatory landscape for Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) licensure under which the program operates. Additionally, he expanded the scope of students served by creating several new courses. Neophyte students can now gain initial clinical experience in AnHlt122/L Animal Nursing Practicum in partnership with local veterinary clinics. The new AnHlt101 Introduction to Veterinary Careers course provides a welcoming first experience for students exploring the veterinary field, AnHlth 128 introduces students to the care of exotic pets, and the in-progress Pre-Veterinary major provides needed structure for students planning to become veterinarians.

Sharien Hinton, Disability Resources, Spring 2020

During her Spring 2020 semester sabbatical, Sharien Hinton researched best practices and current disability law pertaining to transfer to a four-year university setting for Students with Disabilities. She consulted with eleven university campus Disability Services Offices with purposes of verifying disability documentation requirements and services offered. This information was made available in a written resource to DRD faculty for use in serving students with disabilities who are pursuing transfer to a four-year university.

Lori Kuwabara, English, Spring 2020

Lori Kuwabara conducted an individual study on the scholarship of happiness through a variety of books, videos, and articles as well as taking the online course The Science of Well-Being with a Yale professor. From this study, she compiled a list of resources for SRJC colleagues and revised her English courses to incorporate and spread her many discoveries of happiness and well-being.

Donald Laird, Computer Studies, Fall 2020

Donald Laird investigated the catalogs of the public colleges in California and compiled lists of the drone-related courses and programs they offer. He met online with drone instructors from 11 community colleges in order to discuss their courses and programs. He also gave presentations to a service club and a photography class at City College of San Francisco. During the sabbatical period, he also served on the FAA Unmanned Aerial System Collegiate Training Initiative Planning committee and attended the Adobe MAX conference.

Amy Merkel, Counseling, Spring 2020

Amy Merkel produced new and updated materials for teaching Counseling 53, College Survival, in the online format. She participated in online trainings to enhance her skill level in developing course content for online teaching. She created new course materials to make the learning environment more engaging for students. She recorded videos to incorporate into the course. A presentation will be given to the Counseling department to provide an overview of the changes made and the resources used to enhance the class.

Merilark Padgett-Johnson, Agriculture/Natural Resources, Fall 2020

Merilark Padgett-Johnson updated and improved the Viticulture and Pest Control Advisor Preparedness Certificates curriculum by creating expanded topic outlines, content and Laboratory Manual and Field Exercises to be used for Vit 51, Vit 52, Vit 54 and Vit 70 courses. The updated curriculum and Laboratory Manual and Field Exercises provide relevant and timely hands-on, real world exercises for the students in these two Programs.

Scott Rosen, Computer Studies, Spring 2020

During his sabbatical, Dr. Scott Rosen conducted an independent study of best practices in educational video production, to improve his knowledge and skills and abilities, including accessibility, video editing software (Camtasia) and hardware. He created nine multimodal interactive accessible video tutorials (guided video tutorials with embedded quizzing and other learning widgets). In order to better serve students in learning academic and industry standard software. (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, PDF, Windows) Dr. Rosen made these videos available to CS and BOT instructors and submitted a presentation for a PDA day workshop.

Nicole Slovak, Behavioral Sciences, Spring 2020 and Fall 2020

During her Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 Sabbatical Project, Nicole Slovak conducted virtual archival and museum-based research on mortuary collections from the archaeological site of Ancón, Peru. She conducted archaeological analyses of the Phoebe A. Hearst's Museum of Anthropology and the Field Museum's cultural and osteological materials. The results of her study were integrated into Nicole's on-going analysis of burial practices at Ancón, and are in the process of being summarized in a manuscript suitable for publication in an academic journal. She also completed a digital transcription of an early twentieth century archival document by the archaeologist, Max Uhle, in which she embedded associated digital images of artifacts.

Laura Sparks, Earth & Space Sciences, Fall 2019 and Spring 2020

During her Fall 2019 - Spring 2020 full year sabbatical, Laura Sparks visited seven community college and two university astronomy departments to research their astronomy lab course content and practices. She performed a literature review and interviewed six astronomy researchers to

determine ways to incorporate real-world data into introductory astronomy labs. She created an open-source lab manual consisting of written and online materials for SRJC's Astron 3L course.

Carlos Valencia, College Skills/Tutorial, Fall 2020

Carlos Valencia researched how Foothill, Santa Rosa, and Shasta Colleges have incorporated developmental mathematics content and pedagogy into their transfer-level math courses as a result of implementing AB 705 legislation. Due to statewide COVID-19 restrictions, in lieu of site visits he performed virtual interviews with key mathematics faculty at each of the three colleges and conducted additional data gathering via the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) web portal and the colleges' web portals. He has provided a written report to his department and will share his findings with interested SRJC faculty and staff at the Spring 2021 PDA day.