

22-23 Sabbatical Leave Report Abstracts

Alice Hampton, Child Development, Spring 2023

Alice Hampton researched influential figures in the history of early childhood education, with a focus on women and people of color. She created 5 modules for Canvas that can be used by instructors to teach about early childhood theory and historical practices. She also wrote a new course for the Child Development Department on play in early childhood using Glendale College's Guide for Creating Equitable Curriculum.

Ivana Gorgievska, Mathematics, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023

Ivana Gorgievska obtained proficiency in the programming language Python and Python based visualizations. She developed interactive Python based notebooks that allow students a hands-on experience with subject matter chosen from Calculus topics. She made these freely and publicly available on the repository hosting service GitHub, in order to allow other educators to use them and improve upon them.

Joseph D. Anderson, Administration of Justice, Spring 2023

Joseph Anderson investigated attitudes of both Scandinavian Criminal Justice professionals and members of the Scandinavian general-public regarding their views toward policing. He researched survey designs, constructed a survey, administered that survey abroad, and consolidated his finding into a report, which was then presented to, and discussed with, faculty of the Administration of Justice program at SRJC. This project supports the AJ Department's goal that students should be able to analyze relationships between citizens and the criminal justice system within a social and cultural context.

Katy Jamshidi, Biological Sciences, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023

Katy Jamshidi first researched and learned about CRISPR-Cas9, a cutting-edge molecular biology technique that is changing what is possible in biology and medicine. She used what she learned to design an affordable laboratory experiment for SRJC Biology students to gain hands-on experience with this important modern technique. She carried out the experiment many times in a research laboratory to optimize it and test its feasibility, then wrote a lab manual section for instructors to use when teaching this technique at SRJC.

Marco Giordano, English, Spring 2021 and Fall 2023

Marco Giordano has produced and delivered an Arts & Lectures presentation on propaganda and Inner Fascism and completed an annotated bibliography for pedagogical use as well as having produced a chapbook amounting to at least three poems of not less than fifteen pages in response to the Kairos mentioned above and partially described in his speech.

Tim Melvin, Mathematics, Spring 2023 and Fall 2023

Tim Melvin studied the history, the technical proofs, the limitations, and many of the consequences of Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems by reading multiple books on the subject written for a general audience and by studying textbooks on the Incompleteness Theorems written for upper division/graduate courses in mathematical logic. He wrote two 1-hour presentations on his research to give at local conferences and colloquia series. One presentation is for a general audience that focuses on the history and consequences of Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems, and one presentation is for his colleagues who teach college mathematics, computer science, or philosophy that focuses on the technical details of Gödel's proofs.

Debbie Ezersky, Disability Resources Department, Fall 2023

Debbie Ezersky developed Disability Resources Department (DRD) services for Latinx students. She accomplished this by participating in six weeks of Spanish language classes in Spain, Costa Rica, and online with instructors from Ecuador and Mexico. She researched best practices for integrating Latinx cultural values and beliefs related to disability into the services provided and presented her findings at an All Staff Meeting in DRD. The presentation included tips for specialists and programmatic developments to create a more welcoming and inclusive program.

Jessica Russell, English, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023

To better serve the student population at Santa Rosa Junior College, a Hispanic-serving institution, English Department Faculty member Jessica Russell became proficient in conversational Spanish and further informed in Latinx culture for her sabbatical project. She accomplished this goal through coursework and participating in a Spanish immersion program. Using this information, she created and located appropriate assignments and readings to offer more representative and culturally responsive curriculum for her students, specifically the students and community members she engages with as the Puente Instructor for the Petaluma Campus and within the Service-Learning program she facilitates between SRJC and English Language Learner students at Kenilworth Junior High.

Karen Walker, English, Spring 2023

During her sabbatical leave, English instructor Karen Walker created Dr. K's Helpful Handbook, a condensed, clear, free, and engaging pdf version of a style-handbook that she can easily send her students via Canvas or email. It contains only the most essential information on how to write effective sentences, paragraphs, citation information, and more. Not only can the handbook be easily sent to students but also to any instructor on campus who wants it, who in turn can send it to their own students. It also helps to close learning gaps in Engl 1A that have arisen since the implementation of AB705. In the end, this project contributes to the English Department's and the District's goals of retention, equity, transfer-prep, career-prep, and overall academic success. But mostly, this project embodies a value stated SRJC's Mission Statement: "Beauty that includes...Joy in learning and work."

Kirsten Swinstrom, Biological Sciences, Spring 2023

Kirsten Swinstrom conducted a review of the scientific literature relating to the evolution, anatomy, physiology, and behavior of the animals discussed in the zoology course (Bio 2.2). She created an annotated bibliography of 52 scientific journal articles and updated six chapters of the Bio 2.2 lab manual based on these findings.

Sara Jones, Mathematics, Fall 2021 and Spring 2023

Sara Jones researched and created course materials that address issues of climate change and sustainability. Sara created lecture examples with corresponding student activities that can be used in Statistics, Finite Mathematics, Calculus, and Linear Algebra. She shared these materials with the mathematics department and wider mathematics community.

Anne Marie Insull, English, Fall 2023

Anne Marie Insull independently studied a diverse range of writers writing about writing and used her studies to develop new curriculum for English 4ABC (Creative Writing). She also created a Professional Development Activities Day workshop proposal based on one of the activities from her new English 4ABC course.

Elizabeth Wade (Simas), Communication Studies, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023

Elizabeth Wade (Simas) conducted interviews with other community college faculty about the running of their communication labs, as well as toured the labs, in order to gather the required information to propose creating and staffing a communication lab at SRJC. She worked on creating curriculum for a course to train the tutors who would run the lab, as well as a handbook to use in the course and lab. She discovered what on-campus entities she would need to work with to find funding for student tutors. She gave her department an update on what would need to happen to get the lab up and running for them to refer their students to.

Gina Lord, Business, Fall 2019 and Spring 2023

Gina Lord conducted an extensive research project on Millennial learners (students born between 1982 through 2000) to assess what types of educational environments, instructional methodologies and classroom techniques best suit their preferred learning styles. She evaluated best practices to identify how other instructors in higher education are using innovative and creative approaches to engage these students in the classroom experience and enhance their opportunity to learn and succeed. She reviewed and revised curriculum in the Financial Accounting class and created new activities and instructional techniques that enhance the learning experience of Millennial learners. Finally, Gina produced a comprehensive report on these findings, shared them with her

department and made this report available to other instructors across the campus community. This leave resulted in the creation of a more engaging educational learning environment in the Financial Accounting classroom, utilizing activities that cater to different techniques to match the varied learning styles in the student population.

Leslie Mancillas, College Skills, Spring 2023

Leslie Mancillas wrote ten vignettes which focused on the theme of creating hope and surviving childhood abuse. This book is now shared with our college community through our SRJC Library. Leslie Mancillas prepared two college wide presentations in connection with this project. The memoir book titled, “Creating Hope” as well as key elements learned at the San Francisco Writer’s workshop were shared at our August 2023 PDA day. She also shared her memoir vignettes to inspire staff and student writers at the college wide book talk September 11th of 2023.

Michelle Conley, Social Sciences, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023

During her sabbatical leave, Michelle Conley worked on creating a workbook to help teach the mathematical and graphing skills necessary to effectively complete our economics classes at Santa Rosa Junior College. After the passing of Assembly Bill 705, which went into effect in January 2018, students are no longer required to take pre-transfer level college math courses; thus, some students enroll in Econ 1 and Econ 2 unprepared mathematically to be successful in the course. Once published, the workbook will include both challenging problems for students to solve, as examples with step-by-step solutions to illustrate the methodology used to set up and solve mathematical and graphing problems.

Steven Fichera, Business, Fall 2023

After taking an online course in intellectual property law to refresh his knowledge, Steven Fichera created a course in Intellectual Property Law (PLS 61). The course itself will be presented to the department. Business and Paralegal students will be better prepared for the workforce or in their continued studies at a four-year university. Employers will benefit from students with relevant career skills. These course materials will be available to the entire business department.