To the offices of the President and Faculty Affairs, SSU

August 14, 2015

Re. Professional accomplishments during sabbatical

Dear President Armiñana, Provost Rogerson, and Dean Wingard,

I first want to thank the University, the School of Social Sciences, and the President’s office for your support. The sabbatical grant for this past semester has allowed me to advance both my research and my teaching in significant ways.

In the last two months of my sabbatical I submitted three research papers for peer review. The most recent paper is in review with the Journal of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and addresses modeled changes in California’s highland streams and riparian zones as a result of climate change, and suggests some of the ways that beaver re-colonization might moderate some of those changes to landscapes, habitats, and streamflow. That paper has been accepted and will be the lead article in the Fall edition of the journal. A second paper submitted to Progress in Physical Geography addresses a current in the scientific literature which first problematically applies findings regarding stream baseflow augmentation by beaver from the eastern and central areas of North America and applies them to the west coast, even though our geologies and aquifers are very different. That article also shows that four widely cited studies on beaver and baseflow augmentation are badly flawed and are not supported by hydrographic records. That paper is still in review. I presented a version of it at the Biannual State of the Beaver Conference in February. A third paper is in review with Society and Environment and addresses the discourses competing to construct beaver as useful partners or as dangerous nuisance in Oregon.

The sabbatical also allowed me to travel to Cuba for two weeks to study agro-ecology with a group organized by Global Exchange and to get to better understand the complexities of life under Cuban socialism. I will be able to use much of what I learned in my course on international development, in my new course on environments and sustainable development, and in my regional course on Latin America and the Caribbean. I was also able to travel to southern Mexico and to Puerto Rico, both of which will allow me to enrich the latter course.

I feel this has been a very productive semester and look forward to bringing new knowledges and experiences to my classes.

Best regards,

Jeff Baldwin

Jeff Baldwin, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Geography and Global Studies
Sonoma State University
1801 E. Cotati Ave.
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
707.664.2195
baldwij@sonoma.edu