

To: Steven Pontius, Faculty Affairs Committee Chair

From: Russell Stafford, Department Chair

Date: October 4, 2011

RE: Sabbatical Leave Request, Fall 2012

I am requesting sabbatical leave for the fall semester 2012. The proposed leave will provide me with time to complete several manuscripts to be submitted to top-tier referred journals in my field, work with two MS graduate students on co-authored articles to be submit for publication, and prepare a book proposal for an academic press.

Summary of Previous Sabbatical Leave Activities (Fall 2001-Spring 2002)

My last leave was a year sabbatical in which I focused on the analysis of a massive archaeological data set collected primarily between 1997-2000 from the Caesars Archaeological Project (CAP) on the Ohio River near New Albany, Indiana. Investigations at CAP yielded a largely complete Holocene archaeological and geological sequence. More than 30K stone tools were recovered from well preserved stratified occupations zones. Some 70 radiocarbon dates were obtained from the alluvial deposits as well. Although most of my time was spent on basic analysis of a wide range of data sets (lithic tools and debris, stratigraphy, site spatial analysis, feature analysis, and soil-geomorphology) I also wrote and published a regional geoarchaeological study for the central Ohio River valley in an international referred journal (Stafford, C. R., 2004, Modeling Soil-Geomorphic Associations and Archaic Stratigraphic Sequences in the Lower Ohio River Valley, *Journal of Archaeological Science* 31:1053-1067).

A second synthetic paper that also incorporated CAP data was presented at an invited conference on Archaic societies in 2004 that was later published as a chapter in an edited volume: Stafford, C. R. and M. Cantin (2009) Archaic Period Chronology in the Hill Country of Southern Indiana, *Archaic Societies: Diversity and Complexity across the Midcontinent*, edited by T. E. Emerson, D. L. McErath and A. C. Fortier, pp. 287-313, SUNY-Albany Press). In addition, data analysis during my last sabbatical resulted in major contributions as either author or editor to a series of technical volumes presenting the results of our investigations at CAP to State and Federal agencies (4 volumes, 2600 pages). These volumes were completed between 2004 and 2008. It is the data and results presented in these reports that will form the basis for the book project and articles proposed below.

Proposed Sabbatical Activities for Fall 2012.

- *Manuscript Preparation:* I have two manuscripts planned that I will complete during the fall 2012 semester. The first paper will be based on an invited symposium presentation at the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting in April, 2012. The presentation is entitled “Unifacial tool design, depletion, and recycling at the Early Archaic James Farnsley site in the central Ohio River Valley” and is based on an analysis of Early Archaic artifacts collected as part of the Caesars Archaeological Project in southern Indiana. This paper will be submitted to a regional referred journal (*Journal of Midcontinental Archaeology*).

The second manuscript is also based on CAP data that will look at variability in early to mid Holocene landuse/settlement patterns of Archaic hunter-gatherers in the central Ohio River Valley. This manuscript will be submitted to *American Antiquity*, the leading journal in the field of archaeology.

- *Graduate Student Manuscripts:* I will also be working with two MS graduate students that I advise (Kathryn De Rego and Tiffany Grossman) on manuscripts based on their thesis research, which will be completed by summer 2012. De Rego’s research focuses on paleolandscape reconstruction and fluvial dynamics of the Holocene Ohio River near New Albany, Indiana. Grossman’s research centers on Middle Woodland Community patterning analysis using geophysical and geochemical data from the Northwood site near Terre Haute collected in a series of archaeological field schools I directed between 2005-2010. Publishable papers should result from each of these thesis projects.
- *Book Proposal:* I plan to develop a book proposal to be submitted to an academic press (e.g., University of Alabama Press) that will center on the geoarchaeology of Archaic hunter-gatherers in the central Ohio River valley. The book will be based largely on data collected from the CAP. The investigations at CAP resulted in one of the most complete Archaic stratigraphic sequences in the eastern US dating from 10,000 to 2500 years ago.

Timeline:

- July, August: finalize SAA symposium paper for publication with submission by September 30. Also, contact potential book publishers to determine interest in the topic. Begin working with graduate students on articles resulting from their thesis research.
- September, October: write Archaic landuse article with submission by December 15. Complete collaborative articles with graduate students for journal submission.
- November, December: prepare book proposal for submission by January 15, 2013.

Impact:

Department and University Mission:

Publication of the proposed manuscripts in referred journals (and ultimately a book publication) will result in national recognition for the college and university. Co-authored publications with graduate students fulfills the experiential learning and graduate missions of the department and the university.

Administrative and Teaching responsibilities:

An interim chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Systems will need to be appointed to take over administrative duties of the department for the fall 2012 semester. The course I am scheduled to teach in the fall semester can be postponed until the spring 2013 without any effect on anthropology student degree progress.