



GRANT PROPOSAL COVER PAGE

You can type information directly into the cells below.

Date Nov. 1, 2007

1. Proposal Title Bay Area American Religion Research & Teaching Symposium

2. Name of Person submitting Proposal James B. Bennett

3. Phone 551-1910 E-Mail jbbennett@scu.edu

FAX 554-2387

4. Type of Grant (Please check one): Bannan Grant Dialog and Design Grant

5. Provide you 4 – 6 letter Department ID or Program ID. (**Not a Fund number!**) This information must be provided. (e.g. ECON for Economics Department, LACLNC for Law Clinic.)

R	E	L	S			
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SCU Department ID or Program ID

** You must have an SCU Affiliation*

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Contact Person

Ext.

6. If your department does not provide administrative assistance to manage grants, we will provide help. Do you need for us to help manage your grant? Yes No

7. Total cost of proposed project **\$5400**

8. Amount of money requested from Bannan Center **\$5400**

9. Amount requested from other sources, if any (please list): American Academy of Religion Regional Grants Program	\$3900
	\$
	\$

10. Please explain briefly what will happen to this project if you do not receive funding from the Bannan Center.

Symposium will be delayed until other funding secured		
Department Chair or Supervisor Approval	Paul Crowley	
	Name (Type or Print)	Signature Date

**Proposed Budget
Bannan Grant**

Name: James B. Bennett

Proposal Title: Bay Area American Religion Research and Teaching Symposium

I estimate that I will spend the money I am requesting as follows:

<u>PRIME ACCOUNT</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
SUPPLY	office, lab, or instruction supplies	
PHONE	telephone charges	
REPROD	copying, printing	
MAIL	postage, mailing, fax charges	
BSTRVL	domestic transport, lodging or meals	2400
INTRVL	foreign transport, lodging or meals	
SPCEVT	food charges, room charges for a special event	1400
CONTRS	guest speaker honoraria, research subject fees, professional services	1600
MISC	publications, subscriptions, membership dues	
SWAGE	student wages	
STFSAL	staff salary	
FACSAL	faculty salary	
BENEXP	student, staff, and faculty benefits	
TOTAL		<u>5400</u>

**Please note:
In the event that this grant is awarded, your department is responsible for any overdrafts associated with this grant.**

See Page 3.

Grant Proposal Evaluation Form

Date May 1, 2006

Proposal Title Bay Area American Religion Research and Teaching Symposium

Name of Grantee James B. Bennett

Phone 551-1910

Part I: [To be completed for submission along with your original grant proposal.]

List the intended outcomes of this project: (Use additional pages if necessary)

- sustained community for Bay Area American Religion Scholars
- Improved teaching and scholarship in American religion in general and focusing on the Bay Area in particular and educating students for citizenship in a religious diverse and globalized society
- recognition of Santa Clara University as center for teaching-scholars and excellence in the study religion
- possible collaborative scholarly projects

PENDING APPROVAL OF YOUR GRANT - PARTS II AND III ARE TO BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF YOUR GRANT PERIOD.

PROPOSAL BUDGET ACCOUNT NUMBER

14006		RSCH	
Fund	Dept ID	Program	Project ID

Part II

Briefly describe the actual measurable outcomes of this project and the assessment tools you used. (Use additional pages if needed.)

Part III: Describe any other outcomes of your project.

Bannan Grant Proposal
Submitted by
James B. Bennett
Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies
November 1, 2007

Project Title

Bay Area American Religion Research & Teaching Symposium (2008-2009)
a twice-yearly gathering of scholars whose teaching and research focuses on religion in America.

Statement of Problem

Overview

The Bay Area American Religion Research & Teaching Symposium bridges the fragmented vocational experience of faculty whose work centers on religion in America. The symposium focuses on the strengths of the Santa Clara education, including the University's commitments to the teacher-scholar model, interdisciplinary education, and engagement in the world. These emphases have created a community of faculty working together to achieve excellence in teaching and publishing about American religion in general and its role in the Bay Area more specifically.

The first two symposium gatherings have led to an agenda that is far from completed and a community of teacher-scholars that is rapidly growing. From an initial list of less than a dozen names a year ago, we have grown to a community of 30 faculty. The symposium has drawn participants who teach as far away as UCSB and Cal State Chico, as well as from nearly every college and University in the immediate Bay Area. At the same time, this growing group of teacher-scholars has recognized that its intellectual and pedagogical explorations are far from complete. We have identified a number of topics that will help us become better scholars and will enable us to better educate students for citizenship in a globalized and diverse society. Among the topics that future symposia will explore are: religious and racial diversity in the American West (esp. the Bay Area); women and religion; and religious innovation (including technology). On the pedagogical side we are planning discussions of inclusiveness, non-textual sources for teaching, rethinking the narratives and themes of courses in American religion to meet the needs of twenty-first century students, and fostering civic and ethical engagement with religious diversity. Already, several senior faculty across the nation have expressed interest in serving as resources for these symposia.

Building Communities of Scholars

For its participants, the Bay Area American Religion Research & Teaching Symposium plays an important role in overcoming intellectual isolation. This plays out at several levels. First, nearly all the scholars who gather are the sole faculty member in American Religion at their respective institutions. Creating a sense of community among these diverse scholars is a primary goal of the symposium.

In addition, other dimensions of building community will become more explicit in future symposiums. Among the Santa Clara faculty, announcements about gatherings have resulted in the attendance of our faculty from across a wide range of departments. Consequently, faculty throughout the region are becoming acquainted with the diverse accomplishments and quality of Santa Clara faculty, who are in turn able to network

beyond their own institutional and disciplinary boundaries. The cross-fertilization that results from conversing across institutional and disciplinary identities benefits both the scholarship and the teaching of Santa Clara faculty, and thus the experiences of Santa Clara students as well.

Strengthening Santa Clara's Identity

At the same time, each gathering brings scholars from across the nation to Santa Clara University to serve as symposium resource faculty. During these visits, scholars become familiar with the quality of our Religious Studies Department and the University more generally. To broaden this interaction, I hope to arrange for these senior scholars to offer a presentation to the wider University community in addition to their symposium contributions. This public event would increase the interactions between these scholars and the Santa Clara community, not only contributing to the campus intellectual climate but also continuing to raise the department and university's profile among senior scholars in the field. Together, these interactions will further signal Santa Clara's standing as a leader in the field of Religious Studies in California and beyond.

As Santa Clara University looks toward affiliation with the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, and the broader connections with the Graduate Theological Union that the affiliation will entail, this symposium also provides a venue and a model for facilitating the academic conversations and collaborations that will be an exciting and important dimension of the new affiliation. Already, several of the symposium participants and key supporters hail from the GTU, including Thomas Buckley of JSTB.

Interdisciplinarity

Another important dimension of the Bay Area American Religion Research & Teaching Symposium is its methodological diversity. Many of the region's American religion scholars do not work in Religious Studies departments—their teaching and research spans the arts, humanities, and social sciences. The symposium thus provides an interdisciplinary home for those who share a common passion to understand and teach about the role of religion in American society. Members also hail from an equally diverse range of institutions, from large state schools to private, religiously-affiliated institutions. This model of professional ecumenism is particularly appropriate for those engaged in the teaching and study of religion.

Engaging Local Religious Diversity

Finally, the possibilities for studying and teaching about the region's religious diversity remain a central intellectual and pedagogical concern whose possibilities are far from exhausted. Future symposium will continue to take this concern as a central possibility and challenge. Understanding this religious realities, and preparing our students to live and function within it as responsible citizens, remains at the center of the vocational identity of the group's members.

Methods

Each symposium is a twice yearly, half-day gathering of American Religion scholars (faculty and advanced graduate students) within driving distance of Santa Clara University.

The first presentation and discussion focuses on scholarship, engaging a scholar on a recent publication or a noteworthy work in progress in the field of American religion.

Ideally, this conversation moves from a critical discussion of the work, including questions of method, to considerations of its implications for teaching. Among the topics the group plans to address are religious diversity (esp. in the Bay Area); questions of religion and race in the American West; the role of Women in American Religion, and religious innovations (including technological).

Following an extended lunch that allows time for meaningful informal conversation, the symposium reconvenes with a moderated discussion on a critical issue in teaching American religion (e.g. teaching one's scholarship, incorporating religious site visits, how to teach the survey, the use of non-textual sources in the classroom, etc.) led by a master teacher in the field.

Timetable (2008-2009)

We plan to hold two meetings a year (though several members have asked for more!), one in early November and one in early March.

Relevance to Applicant

This proposal grows out of my own belief that both scholarship and teaching improve through regular engagement with a community that shares similar challenges, concerns, and expertise. While interaction with colleagues in different fields is crucial (and outside perspectives necessary to avoid myopia), the insights of specialists working on the same subject offers unparalleled possibilities for improving both teaching and research. While this is an ongoing desire I have for my teaching, it is equally important for my research, as I continue my book project on religion and race in the American West.

The next gathering (contingent on funding) will look at a religion and race in the American West, with a particular eye on the Bay Area. This focus, in which area faculty will present scholarship in progress and receive feedback from senior scholars in the field (hopefully including our own Jerry McKeivitt) will very directly benefit my own scholarly project, *Sacred Footprints: Spiritual Legacies of the American West*.

Relevance to Bannan Institute

The symposium takes as its organizing principle a commitment to the teaching-scholar ideal. Hence the importance of sessions on both research and pedagogy at each meeting, as well as the conviction that the discussion of one will inevitably lead to its implications for the other. As an institution premised on the teaching scholar-ideal, Santa Clara University is uniquely positioned among the region's universities to host ongoing conversations organized around enabling teaching-scholars of American religion.

The logical and even inevitable consequence of proceeding on this teaching scholar model is the recognition not only of our students, but of ourselves as whole persons, which is at the very center of Jesuit ideals. The teacher-scholar model strives for balance, and the symposium is intended to help teacher-scholars of American religion strike that balance. The symposium also recognizes the importance of community and collegiality—hence the reason for including informal discussion and meal time—to counter the sometimes isolating character of our work that may undermine our sense of being whole persons. By this formal and informal interaction we develop networks and relationships that will create ongoing opportunities for supporting one another not only as teachers and scholars, but also as whole persons living and acting in the world and this region.

By gathering at Santa Clara University with Bannan Institute funding, the symposium will demonstrate the Bannan Center and the University's commitment to fostering excellence in both teaching and scholarship. As we gather professionals on this campus, the symposium will draw further attention to the excellence at the core of Santa Clara University and the role of the Bannan Center, thereby raising the profile and recognition of the University among American Religion scholars. It will also draw attention to the outstanding Religious Studies department as both regional faculty and resource faculty from across the nation come to Santa Clara University.

The symposium also presents a obvious opportunity to showcase and benefit from the ongoing work of the Local Religion Project, which has received Bannan Institute funding. Under its new director, David Gray, the Local Religion Project offers exciting new possibilities for the integration of research and teaching for area faculty. This would showcase the important work of the Local Religion Project, which is already an under-publicized model of integrating teaching and research and of engaging the local community as a participant in the educational process.

By focusing on the experiences and possibilities of the Bay Area for both teaching and research, a goal of the symposium is to foster scholarship on the region, which is vastly underrepresented (as is much of the American West) in the scholarly literature on American religion. In this way, the larger implications of the symposium will be consonant with Santa Clara University's insistence on being an institution that engages rather than merely transcends our geographic particularity. The symposium will enable scholars to make better sense of the religiously complex and fragmented region in which we teach, learn, and live, while providing a way to begin to bridge some of that fragmentation both intellectually and personally. In the end, the result cannot help but contribute to a stronger sense of justice in the world.

Finally, the organization and rationale of the symposium echo the Jesuit ideal of contemplatives in action. That is, the gatherings are not intended for idle chatter, nor as an end in themselves. Rather, the purpose for gathering in community and engaging in reflection on teaching and research is to become better at both. At one level, the conversations about both research and teaching very explicitly look toward enabling our students and our scholarly audiences to become better citizens in a religiously complex society. But the symposium participants also experience more immediate benefits. They not only leave with concrete ways to improve teaching and research, but also with membership in an ongoing community that can encourage and hold one another accountable in our vocation. Participants have a forum that is at once sympathetic and critical, where we can evaluate successes and frustrations in our efforts to change and improve our teaching and research. The gatherings on which this symposium is modeled suggest that in addition to improvements in one's individual teaching and scholarship, the creation of an ongoing community almost always results in lasting personal and professional relationships that lead to new collaborative scholarly projects.

Previous Grants or Fellowships

Bannan Grant (2005-2006) to begin The Bay Area American Religion Research & Teaching Symposium that has given rise to the larger project proposed above.

Paul Locatelli S.J. Junior Faculty Grant, which is funding research for my current book project on religion and race in the American West: *Sacred Footprints: Spiritual Legacies of the American West*.

In 2002-2003 I received a Thomas Terry Research Grant which assisted with research for my book *Religion and the Rise of Jim Crow in New Orleans* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005).

Budget*

Travel and Honoraria for Resource Faculty	
4 @ \$1000 ea.	\$4000
Food	
<u>continental breakfasts and lunches</u>	<u>\$1400</u>
TOTAL:	\$5400

* I have applied for a grant from the American Academy of Religion Regional Grants Program to help offset the program (that grant proposal was for \$3900). Success in that proposal would reduce my Bannan request proportionally.