

**October 29, 2007**

**Bannan Grant Proposal**

**David J. Pace, Department of Art and Art History**

1. **Project title:** Justice, Poverty and Literacy in West Africa: Photographing Burkina Faso
2. **Statement of problem:** I would like to travel to Burkina Faso to photograph libraries in the context of village life. My photographs will bring awareness of the serious living conditions in Burkina Faso, and will promote literacy and justice. Sub Saharan West Africa is one of the poorest regions in the world, with one of the highest rates of infant mortality. It also has the one of the lowest rates of adult literacy. Studies have shown that improving literacy results in improved economic conditions and increased life expectancy. Friends of African Village Libraries (FAVL), a non-profit organization founded by SCU professors Michael Kevane and Leslie Gray, is promoting literacy in the West African countries of Burkina Faso and Ghana by founding and operating village libraries. These libraries provide access to books and other published resource material that would otherwise be unavailable.
3. **Methods:** Photography has proven to be a powerful and effective tool in education. I will travel to Burkina Faso and spend two weeks in Bereba, a small village with no electricity or running water. I will live in the small house owned by Michael and Leslie. From there I will photograph the library in Bereba and libraries in the neighboring villages of Dohoun and Karaba. My primary interest is in documenting the effect of the libraries on village life.
4. **Timetable:** I will leave for Africa on January 9, flying from San Francisco to Paris. From Paris I fly to Ouagadougua., Burkina Faso. After spending several days in Ouagadougua to gather food and supplies I will make the 8 hour drive to Bereba where I will be photographing. I return to San Francisco at the end of January. In February I will process the film in my darkroom. See below for additional milestones related to the project.

5. **Relevance to past and future research and teaching:** This photographic project is the continuation of a project that I began last winter when I visited Michael and Leslie in Burkina Faso. It is part of a larger project that I have been working on for almost 10 years examining the effects of globalization on developing countries. There will be several important outcomes:
- A small exhibition and reception will be held at the library in Bereba allowing the villagers to see images of themselves.
  - An exhibition of the photographs to be produced on this trip is scheduled for May 2008 at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in San Jose. In conjunction with the exhibition there will be an international conference and lecture series to be organized by FAVL to promote literacy in West Africa. This event will not only bring FAVL to the attention of the wider San Jose community, but it will also bring increased attention to SCU and the Bannan Institute.
  - I will present an exhibition of photographs in the lobby of Sobrato in the spring of 2008 and do a slide lecture sharing my experiences. This exhibition will help educate Santa Clara students about the serious conditions in West Africa.
  - I will share the photographs with the students in my classes. My exhibitions in the past have had positive effects at SCU. They have encouraged students to study photography and to pursue studies abroad, especially in developing nations.
6. **Relevance to Bannan Institute Criteria for Funding:** This project supports the Bannan mission of integrated education in the Catholic and Jesuit tradition through a commitment to faith that does justice in the world. The photographic work brings awareness of the importance of global literacy in the commitment to justice. My project embodies a practical spirituality: my work seeks a common humanity among all peoples of the world. The Bannan Institute has supported other projects focusing on West Africa unrelated to my photographic project: Since 2002 five SCU students have received Donovan grants to do volunteer work for FAVL in Burkina Faso and Ghana.

7. **Previous grants received:** In 2005 I received a Bannan Grant to photograph in El Salvador and complete a project of photographs and poetry with Juan Velasco.
8. **Publications and other results of most recent internal grant.** The 2005 grant resulted in more than one dozen exhibits and events.
  - Exhibition of prints in Sobrato Lobby (winter 2006)
  - Slide lecture & poetry reading in Sobrato Commons (winter 2006)
  - Exhibition at Syracuse University in Florence, Italy (fall 2007)
  - Photo essay in Santa Clara Magazine (winter 2008, see attached)
  - Explore Magazine, front and back cover (spring 2006)
  - Santa Clara Review – photos and poems (spring/summer 2006)
  - Exhibition of photos and poetry in the front lobby of the Dean’s Office of the Arts and Sciences Building (November 2007 through summer 2008)
  - Lecture for International Studies Program (spring 2007)
  - Colloquium for the Modern Languages Department (spring 2007)
  - In addition to the above, I produced the DVD “ Call Me When I’m Gone”, featuring my photographs of El Salvador accompanied by poetry read by Juan Velasco and music by Greg Schultz. The dvd is currently being shown in the deSaisset Museum as part of the exhibition “Experience Teaches.”
  - The DVD was shown as part of a lecture I gave in Florence, Italy at Syracuse University on September 19 of this year.
  - The DVD is being used in the classroom by Mark Ravizza in his course “The Theology of Suffering”, by Juan Velasco in his course “Life Writing”, and in my class “Intermediate Photography”.
  - The DVD was shown to faculty and administrators in preparation for their immersion trip to El Salvador in fall 2007.
  - Juan Velasco is currently working on a Spanish version of the poems which we hope to present next year at the University of Central America in San Salvador.
  - We hope that the DVD will be used on the Ignatian Center website.

**Itemized Budget:**

**In this grant proposal I am asking for only \$2500 to cover airfare.**

Michael Kevane is seeking independent funding for the exhibition and conference. FAVL will provide accommodations, translators and transportation while I am in Burkina Faso. I will provide all of my own photographic film and supplies and donate my time for this project.

Airfare (San Francisco – Ouagadougou)	\$2500
Two nights between flights in Paris (One night each way)	\$500
Martin Luther King, Jr. Library exhibition	\$2500
Ground Transportation in Burkina Faso	\$500
Photographic Supplies	\$1500
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$7500</b>
<b>Total requested from the Bannan Institute</b>	<b>\$2500</b>