

**PRESIDENTIAL INFLUENCES ON CIVIL RIGHTS
VISITS TO THE PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES
(FROM PRESIDENT KENNEDY TO PRESIDENT CLINTON)
SABBATICAL STUDY
WILLIE EARL FOWLER, Ph.D., J.D.
SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMAN SERVICES**



Chair:

Applicant:

Amy Meyer
W.E. Fowler

SABBATICAL PROPOSAL
Willie Earl Fowler, Ph.D., JD
Social Science and Human Services Department

I propose a one semester (Fall 2007) sabbatical study which will be conducted during the academic year of 2007. Though I know most sabbatical leaves are granted for the spring semester of the academic year, I ask for Fall consideration so that I can take advantage of the extra collections that are only made available at the libraries during the Fall Holiday Season. By granting the sabbatical in the Fall of 2007, you would also afford me the ability to experience the oral arguments of the US Supreme Court in October.

Indeed, this sabbatical study will allow me to continue my exploration of the nexus between Presidential politics and Civil Rights. More specifically, I plan to visit the Presidential Libraries of Bill Clinton (Little Rock, Arkansas), George H.W. Bush (College Station, Texas), Ronald Reagan (Simi Valley, California), Jimmy Carter (Atlanta, Georgia), Richard M. Nixon (Yorba Linda, California), John F. Kennedy (Boston, Massachusetts) and Lyndon B. Johnson (Austin, Texas). See <http://www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/contact/libraries.html> for more information about presidential libraries. In addition to the presidential libraries, I also plan to visit the Dr. Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta, Georgia and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. While visiting these institutions, I plan to take pictures of material (when allowed), document the work as it relates to Civil Rights by the aforementioned presidents on my laptop in Microsoft word and with my voice recorder.

Unquestionably, this sabbatical will be rejuvenating for me because it will allow me to do the things that I love doing: reading, writing, traveling and taking pictures. While my students would gain a great deal from the material that I document and the pictures that I take, these are the things that I love to do. So, it would be extremely educational and beneficial to me, my students in American National Government and Introduction to Political Science courses and the residents and schools in District 505.

1. Responsibilities at Parkland

I am a tenured Political Science Professor in the Social Sciences and Human Services Department. I have taught or prepared the following courses:

- POS 122: American National Government (large lecture)
- POS 120: Intro to Political Science Online
- POS 110: Federal and State Constitution/Civil Rights
- POS 122: American National Government Online
- POS 120: Intro to Political Science
- POS 110: Federal and State Constitution/Civil Rights Online

In 2007-08, I plan to work the following courses into my teaching rotation:

- POS 124: State and Local Government
- POS 124: State and Local Government Online

I am also available to teach a wide range of courses in Rhetoric and Composition (I was an instructor in this area at the U of I), Sociology (I was a graduate assistant to a number of sociology courses at Northern Illinois University), and Criminal Justice, particularly those courses related to Criminal Law and/or Criminal Procedure. In addition to teaching the aforementioned courses, I have also served the College as the president and vice-president of the Parkland College Association for two non-consecutive terms; and I have served as a representative on a number of college-wide committees, a presidential search committee and a number of different committees in the Social Sciences and Human Services Department.

2. Previous Sabbatical Awards:

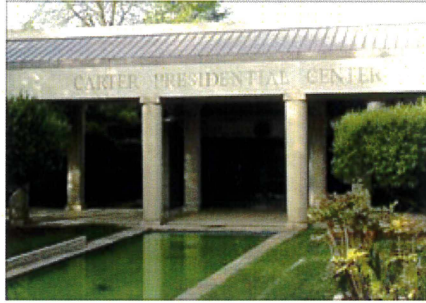
If approved, this would be my first sabbatical award.

3. Justification for the Sabbatical Request and Professional Qualifications:

A). I am extremely excited because I plan to visit the Dr. Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta Georgia (See picture below), the Jimmy Carter Library in Atlanta, Georgia (See picture below) and the Bill Clinton Library in Little Rock, Arkansas. In addition to providing me with an opportunity to learn even more about the work of these leaders, it will also provide me with an opportunity to conquer a fear that I have of traveling through the South. Though my parents were born in the South and still own property there, I have not been there since I was a child. Because of the racism and discrimination my parents endured while they lived in the South, I have always been afraid to travel there alone. So, this will allow me to finally do that and will give me a purpose for actually being there.

i). It is very important to visit the Dr. King Center because much of the work is protected and is generally off-limits to the public via the library. Thus, when I visit the Dr. King Center in person, I will be able to see the thousands of pages of documented evidence pertaining to the Civil Rights struggle in America. I became interested in civil rights and issues related to it when I was a Congressional Fellow in Washington, D.C. in 1995. While working for the United States Senate, I was given the rare opportunity to participate in a meeting between then-Senators Carol Moseley-Braun of Illinois and Bill Bradley of New York. During the meeting, we talked about ways to get the country and the President of the United States to have a discussion on Race Relations. As a follow-up to the meeting, I was asked to proofread a draft of the letter that was eventually sent to President Clinton (after many subsequent drafts). President Clinton responded by having a “national talk on race” and by appointing a National Commission on Race.





ii). By visiting the Carter and Clinton Presidential Libraries, I will be able to access more than 72 million pages of official records, 2 million photographs and be able to select from 12,500 videotapes from the Clinton administration (<http://www.clintonlibrary.gov/research.html>) and 27 million documents, ½ million videotapes and films from the Carter administration (<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/library/aboutlib.phtml>). Naturally, I am physically unable to view all of the material available; thus, I will only be concerned with these two presidents work as it relates to civil rights. More specifically, I want to focus on the impact that their policies have had on affirmative action in our country (See a picture of the President Jimmy Carter Library above).

B). During this very important phase of the sabbatical, I plan to visit the Library of Congress, the John F. Kennedy Library and the United States Supreme Court.

i). United States Supreme Court - There are two University of Illinois College of Law alumni members who have served as Supreme Court clerks recently. In fact, I know one of them personally. It is my hope that he (Andy Devough) can provide me with assistance in securing a meeting with at least one of the Supreme Court Justices or members of their staff. It is also my life-long dream to watch the Oral Arguments before the Court live. This is why it is important that I come during the fall semester because the Supreme Court will begin its term the first Monday in October and it is when they start to hear Oral Arguments. As weather conditions improve in the spring term, tourism in Washington, DC increases, which could make it extremely difficult to secure a seat in the Court.

ii). The visit to the Library of Congress will allow me to have access to a very large set of data that is not available through traditional means. It will also allow me to talk with presidential scholars at the Congressional Research Service, which is the scholarly arm of Library of Congress. When I served as a Congressional Fellow to the United States Senate, I worked with a number of mentors who are still in the area: Dr. Don Davis is at the University of Maryland-College Park and Dr. David Ellis is a leading/supervising staff member at the Library of Congress. In fact, he was the chair of my dissertation chair's committee at Northwestern University when he (my dissertation Chair) was in college. It is my hope to reconnect with Professors Davis and Ellis when I am there and other emerging scholars in the field.

iii). Also, during this phase of the sabbatical, I plan to visit the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, Massachusetts. It is important to view this library because President Kennedy signed Executive Order 10925 which is believed to be the first document or executive order related to affirmative action in employment (though President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 that outlawed discrimination in awarding defense contracts). In addition to viewing the documented evidence, I am also interested in viewing the taped footage of his executive order related to the civil rights initiative (Executive Order 10925).

C). During the fourth phase of the sabbatical, I plan to visit the George H.W. Bush Library in College Station, Texas and the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin, Texas.

i). The first stop during this phase of the trip will be to the President Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin, Texas. This trip is extremely important because it was President Lyndon B. Johnson who issued Executive Order 11246, which provided the legal tailwind needed in order for affirmative action programs to expand into what we know of them today. Therefore, I will want to see the photos and videotaped footage of a number of his speeches, especially the speech delivered at Howard University where he delivered his famous speech on civil rights that gave his justification for issuing Executive Order 11246.

ii). Given that I will already be in the state of Texas, the second stop on this phase of the sabbatical will be to the George H.W. Bush Library in College Station, Texas. A number of legal challenges emerged during the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. More specifically, the Court heightened the level of legal scrutiny (from intermediate scrutiny to strict scrutiny) for affirmative action under the Bush administration. Thus, I am particularly interested in documents related to the strategy crafted under both of their administrations that advanced this theory in the courts. Much of the strategy behind this theory was revealed during the confirmation of now Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts. A number of memorandums that were drafted while he was an attorney for the White House were published during this time period. It would really quench my thirst for knowledge if I could read more about this period of time as many of the documents were just declassified and released pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

D.) During the final phase of my sabbatical, I plan to visit the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California and the Richard M. Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California.

i). Some conservative writers have stated that Ronald Reagan could have ended affirmative action with one stroke of the pen through executive order. Though there were a number of legal attacks on affirmative action during the 1980s, it was allowed to continue. Some believe that this was a result of Ronald Reagan's close friendship to Colin Powell and others in the black community. It will be interesting to see if there is any evidence (letters, memos, notes, etc.) to support this contention.

ii). While in the state of California, I also plan to visit the Richard Nixon library in Yorba Linda, California. While visiting this library, I plan to photograph and document evidence pertaining to President Nixon orders relating to “preferences” in our country. Some scholars believe that it was President Nixon who, intentionally or unintentionally, expanded affirmative action laws in our country. It would be nice to actually see and photograph the documents pertaining to this (See photo the President (Nixon Library below).



4. Description of Activities and Time-Table:

A. Overall Plan - I propose to divide my sabbatical into five phases with each phase spanning three weeks to a month. Those five phases include the following: the 1) Organizational Phase, 2) the Southern Experience Phase, 3) the Beltway and Boston, Massachusetts Phase, 4) the Texas Phase and 5) the Western Region (California) Phase.

B. Specific Timetable

1. Phase I - Organizational Phase/Pre-Sabbatical Activities (Summer 2007) – The summer prior to the start of the sabbatical is very important because I want to make sure that the visits to the libraries, museums and centers are highly organized and well-coordinated. Thus, during the phase I will arrange meetings, establish contacts and make travel arrangements. This phase will take place in the Summer of 2007.

2. Phase II: Southern Experience (August to September) This phase of the sabbatical will include a trip to the South where I will visit the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center and the Jimmy Carter Library in Atlanta, Georgia and the Bill Clinton Library in Little Rock, Arkansas. This phase of the project will take place from the middle of August to September.

3. Phase III: The Beltway and Beyond (September to mid- October) This phase will include visits to the Library of Congress, the United States Supreme Court in Washington, DC and the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, Massachusetts. The phase of the project will take place from September to the middle of October.

4. Phase IV: Texas! (October to November) This phase of the project will include a visit to the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin, Texas and the George H.W. Bush Library in College Station, Texas. This phase of the project will take place from the middle of October to November.

5. Phase V: Western Region (November to December) This final phase of the sabbatical will include a visit to the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California and the Richard M. Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California. This phase of the project will be completed from November to December.

5. Post Sabbatical Work:

When, I return to campus, I plan to deliver a series of lectures and slideshows in the Center for Excellence about my experience(s) during the visits and I also plan to resume working on an article for publication when I return. Naturally, I will also be in a great position to update my lecture notes so that I can dispense the new knowledge that I acquire on the sabbatical to the students in my American National Government, Federal/State Law and Constitution and Introduction to Political Science Courses. I also plan to organize a slide show of the photographs that collect during the visits and visit some of the high schools in District 505.

6. Assistance with the Sabbatical Project:

I plan to seek assistance from Anna Maria Watkins and Raeann Dossett, Parkland College librarians, about my plans to visit these libraries. I also hope to consult with Dennis Happ about the best way to preserve the information that I document on the voice recorders.

7. Benefits of the Sabbatical Activities:

Though this work will produce a significant amount of material pertaining to my professional duties at Parkland College, it is also a source of personal satisfaction for me because it allows me to incorporate a number of things that I enjoy: traveling, documenting, reading, talking with scholars, updating the material from my dissertation, and interacting with librarians from all of the aforementioned institutions. It is without question that these activities will impact my teaching in a very positive way as I am armed with material this is not readily available through basic library searches. My students in my political science courses will benefit a great deal from my visits by viewing the photographs that I collect, the material that I document and articles and textbooks that emanate from my visits. Also, the students in District 505 will also benefit because I plan to share my slideshow with them by visiting the high schools and grammar schools when I return. Finally, Parkland College will also benefit because I will be able to share my work with the faculty, staff and Board of Trustees at Parkland College.

8. Budget:

I will apply for funds through Parkland College and my individual department.

9. Reading List:

(I will be sure to add the publications that I plan to purchase to this list.)

Sources that I will consult for more information (arranged by President)

A. President John F. Kennedy

Dallek, R.(2004). Kennedy: An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963: Penguin Books

Reeves, R.(1993). President Kennedy: A Profile of Power: Simon and Schuster (New York, NY).

B. President Lyndon B. Johnson

Dallek, R. (2004), LBJ: From Andrew Jackson to Ronald Reagan: Oxford University Press

Shull, S. (1999). American Civil Rights Policy from Truman to Clinton: The Role of Presidential Leadership: M.E. Sharpe (Armonk, NY).

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/Lyndon_Baines_Johnson.htm

C. Nixon:

Huff, J. (1994), Nixon Reconsidered: Basic Books (New York, NY).

Reichley, J. (1981). Conservatives in an Age of Change: The Nixon and Ford Administrations:
Brookings Institute (Washington, DC).

The Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace: <http://www.nixonfoundation.org/>

National Archives: Nixon Presidential Materials: <http://www.archives.gov/nixon/index.html>

D. Carter:

Riches, W. (1997). The Civil Rights Movement: Struggle and Resistance: Palgrave MacMillan
(New York, NY).

Campbell, W.D. (2000), Brother to a Dragonfly: Continuum International Publishing

E. Reagan

Laham, N. (1998). The Reagan Presidency and the Politics of Race: In Pursuit of Colorblind

Justice and Limited Government: Praeger Publishers (Westport, CT).

Wallison, P.J. (2003). Power of Conviction and the Success of His Presidency: Westview Publishing (Boulder, Colorado).

F. Bush:

Wicker, T. (2004). George Herbert Walker Bush: A Penguin Life: Penguin Group (New York, NY)

G. Clinton

Clinton, B. (2004). My Life: Random House (New York, NY).

Morris, D. (1997). Behind the Oval Office: Random House (New York, NY).

Other Helpful Resources:

American Experience: The Presidents

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/amex/presidents/indexjs.html>

American Presidents: Life Portraits <http://www.americanpresidents.org/>

POTUS (Presidents of the United States) <http://www.ipl.org/ref/POTUS>

Speeches of United States Presidents <http://www.ocean.ic.net/rafiles/pres/thelist.html>