

UNC Teaching and Learning with Technology Collaborative Grant

Name of Applicant Paula K. Kamenish

Rank Associate Professor

Institution University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Department English

Title of Proposed Project Development and Distribution of Technology-Based Teaching Materials and Interactive Learning Projects in Connection with UNCW's New Study Abroad Program at Oulu, Finland

Courses to be Taught ENG 494 The Scandinavian Saga and HST 294 Aspects of Finnish History

Signature of applicant

Date

Development and Distribution of Technology-Based Teaching Materials and Interactive Learning Projects in Connection with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington's New Study Abroad Program at Oulu, Finland

OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

In order to support the international mission of the University of North Carolina and augment courses in European literature and history for students, I have developed a Summer Study Abroad Program in Finland from June 28 to July 27, open to all UNC campuses. To this end, I have designed a program of two courses, labeled through UNC Wilmington as ENG 494 and HST 294, "Northern Warriors: The Scandinavian Saga" and "Aspects of Finnish History," respectively. The UNCW International Programs Advisory Committee and the Office of the Provost have both approved my proposal, and so far I have recruited ten UNCW students, and one student from UNC-Greensboro for the program. I wish to enrich the study abroad experience for my students by offering them a website of pertinent information and interactive learning materials before, during, and after their trip. It will provide valuable travel information, course assignments, and interactive links. Additionally, it will help us gain access to and post research materials in English for our projects while in Finland. I also want to share the study abroad program in Finland with other interested students and faculty at campuses across our state. The website would be the most effective way of distributing information among the various campuses and among the students on the program.

GOALS OF THE PROJECT

I am requesting a UNC Teaching and Learning with Technology Collaborative Grant in order to achieve the following goals during the months of June and July, 2000.

- 1) Collect travel information (including up-dates on flights, train schedules, currency, itinerary, syllabus materials, fieldtrip information), as well as maps of Finland: Helsinki, Turku, and Oulu through the Internet.
- 2) Research selected Finnish websites, such as the University of Oulu's home page, Kuhmo's Kalevala Village, and excursion destination photos of historic sites that tie into our studies in literature and history.
- 3) Create learning materials, web links, and interactive technology-based research assignments on Scandinavian literature and history for use during the teaching of the courses.
- 4) Create and post on the UNCW server a website by June 20 for use by summer study abroad students, their parents, University of North Carolina Offices of International Studies, and literature and history departments of collaborating campuses. In order to save on duplicating costs for the program, I will post excerpts from scholarly articles and texts that students in the courses will be expected to consult and that will be available to students and faculty who consult the website from North Carolina during our program in Finland and after our return. I wish to use the website as a repository of information, to be consulted time and again by students, faculty and staff at UNC campuses.
- 5) Contribute additional materials to the website during our stay in Finland. If we are granted the funds to purchase a laptop computer, we will interact with interested web visitors and with TLT representatives through our connections at the University of Oulu or Helsinki's Cybercafés as a class interactive learning activity.
- 6) Create a listserv of the participants' names, addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses, so that the students can interact and share information with each other and with me before and after the trip to Finland.

I have constructed web pages in the past, and I plan to work with a student assistant who is presently taking a semester-long course at UNCW

on designing web projects. I also have extensive experience in conducting study abroad programs, but I have never had the benefit of technology in the past. I look forward to testing the benefits of a technologically-enhanced program.

BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

I believe that such a technological link is necessary in order for this new study abroad program to begin with a strong foundation that can be built upon. Contact through the website prior to travel will ease the anxiety of students preparing to study abroad for the first time. It will also allow the program to be more cost and time effective for students and faculty if we can arrive in Helsinki armed with the most up-to-date information and “all begin on the same page” in our studies. Our website will allow us continued access to all our learning materials, as well as to new research sources in English. This is especially important to students traveling in a **non English** environment.

It is my hope that the website will also serve as a model to other UNC faculty wishing to develop summer study abroad programs. It can continue to be used by European studies courses within European Studies Programs as a repository and resource site about Scandinavia and its history. With students' permission, research projects and final essays produced in Finland will be posted and shared via the website.

The effectiveness of this project will be assessed by

- 1) the preparedness of study abroad students upon their arrival in Helsinki (travel expectations, course preparation);
- 2) the reliance upon our web-based course materials by study abroad students during their month-long stay;
- 3) the frequency of use of the website by students, parents, administrative staff, and faculty not traveling to Finland;
- 4) the future use of the website as a resource by faculty and students interested in study abroad or medieval European literature or history;
- 5) the increased interest in study abroad opportunities stimulated by the website at UNCW and at UNC campuses across the state.

BUDGET FOR THE PROJECT

Staff Compensation Request \$4000

\$3000 Faculty salary for development of interactive technology-based course assignments, design, research, writing for web pages, correspondence with website users, training and direction of student assistant, assessment of project

\$1000 Student assistant stipend for collecting/scanning materials, lay-out, proofreading, and updating the site during and after travel

Equipment Request \$5000

\$5000 Macintosh G-3 laptop computer with software licenses and foreign adapters for use in Finland from June 28 to July 27, and in U.S. for follow up correspondence, up-dates, and assessment

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST

\$ 9000

INSTITUTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT

UNCW will pay faculty salary for teaching in July 2000.

Through their study abroad fees, students will pay faculty travel costs to Finland.