Peg O’Connor

Report for RSC grant 2015-2016

In my application for the RSC grant 2015-2016, I described three separate but related projects simmering in my scholarly crockpot. They are:

* An invited essay on the experiential dimensions of addiction;
* An essay on self-knowledge and self-deception; and
* A book length manuscript on William James’s insights and influence on addiction treatment.

I used the vast majority of my RSC grant to purchase the complete works of William James in electronic format from the Past Masters Program. This was a significant purchase (~$800) that will be instrumental in the completion of the book length manuscript mentioned above. I made slow progress on that project in part because I got very busy with the two other projects.

The invited essay on the experiential dimensions of addiction morphed into a rumination of the role of shame in many addicts’ lives. I have a nearly complete draft that is due July 1.

The essay on self-knowledge and self-deception is now part of a larger project of what may become a book manuscript titled, *Self: Love, Knowledge, Forgiveness*. I really didn’t plan on this project getting so big. But it has.

I continue to write essays for my blog on psychologytoday.com “Philosophy Stirred, Not Shaken.” This academic year, I wrote nine of them. I also continued to write for the ProTalk series at Rehabs.com. This series is aimed at treatment professionals. This academic year, I wrote four essays.

I also had a long op-ed piece on the misuse of ADHD drugs in MinnPost.

I spent a lot of time this past fall working on the Nobel conference on addiction. I also was busy promoting the College and my new book, *Life on the Rocks: Finding Meaning in Addiction and Recovery* in more than twenty radio, print, and web interviews.