

RSC/Presidential Grant Report

Due September 30th of the ending year of the grant

Examples of previous grant reports can be found here: <https://gustavus.edu/kendallcenter/grant-opportunities/grant-examples.php>

First Name *

David

Last Name *

Tobaru Obermiller

E-mail *

dobermil@gustavus.edu

Date *

MM DD YYYY

09 / 30 / 2020

Please select the grant for which you are submitting a report: *

- Research, Scholarship and Creativity
- Presidential Faculty-Student Collaboration

Presidential Faculty-Student Collaboration Grant Report Details

Please compose your answers offline and copy/paste into the appropriate text boxes. While answers inputted into this form should be available if you close the form and return in the same browser, we cannot guarantee that this function will work.

Please summarize the activities and outcomes of your grant. *

.....

Please explain how you accomplished the goals you set for yourself in your grant proposal. *

.....

Please summarize any outcomes (publications, revised syllabi, conference presentations, new research directions, etc.), and discuss your plans for continuing or expanding on your work in this project. *

.....

Please discuss your collaboration with your student grantee. What was successful? What aspects of the relationship proved challenging? *

.....

Please share any observations about anything else that was important to you and/or any problems you encountered during this grant project about which the Provost's Office should be aware. *

Research, Scholarship and Creativity Grant Report Details

Please compose your answers to the following questions offline and copy/paste into the appropriate text boxes. While answers inputted into this form should be available if you close the form and return in the same browser, we cannot guarantee that this function will work.

Please summarize the activities and outcomes of your grant. *

I conducted both archival and ethnographical research in Okinawa, Japan in the summer of 2019. I also had plans to conduct additional research the following spring in China, Taiwan, South Korea, and Okinawa (with another grant and with the RSC grant) but the pandemic prevented that research trip (it was a preliminary research for my next project on comparing how different nations convey war trauma). Upon returning from Okinawa, I spend the rest of the year reading the documents, translating, and writing chapters of the book. By the end of January I had written/revised four chapters, with the goal of finishing the final four chapters in the spring/summer. Covid, however, prevented meaningful progress after March as full-time parenting became the primary focus. Also, since the spring of 2020 was supposed to be the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa (and I am one of the leading scholars/experts on Okinawan history), I was asked to give several guest lectures (UWiscconsin-Stout, University of Iowa, and University of Michigan-Flint), but those too were cancelled due to the pandemic.

Please explain how you accomplished the goals you set for yourself in your grant proposal. *

By taking the research trip early in the summer of 2019 provided the necessary documents to write the final two chapters of the book project. Having those sources secured then allowed me to begin revising the dissertation, transforming into a monograph, and then incorporating the latest research findings into the new chapters. However, while I did make substantial progress in revising the dissertation, the goal of adding three new chapters did not materialize as the pandemic prevented me from making much progress (which required me to read/translate the sources from Japanese into English). The good news is that I have the sources available, I just need the time to translate/evaluate and incorporate those sources into the new chapters.

Please summarize any outcomes (publications, revised syllabi, conference presentations, new research directions, etc.), and discuss your plans for continuing or expanding on your work in this project. *

I purposely avoided any outcomes in the fall, though as mentioned previously, I was prepared to share my expertise about Okinawa's 75th anniversary of the battle that had devastated the island, but those presentations were cancelled. I was also scheduled to be on a panel for an academic conference on the 75th anniversary of this battle, but that too got cancelled. I am, however, giving two presentations this October from the spring cancellations: a public lecture at Metro State, and a conference paper for the Midwest Conference for Asian Affairs. The plan going forward is to keep plugging away at the manuscript, with the goal of finishing one chapter over J-term, and the other two chapters next summer. I had hoped to make progress writing while teaching, though the challenges of teaching on-line has been far more time intensive than I had imagined.

Please share any observations about anything else that was important to you and/or any problems you encountered during this grant project about which the Provost's Office should be aware. *

I stated this on my last report, but the fact the RSC grant has not kept up with inflation is a major issue, especially for those who need to do research abroad. I am deeply appreciative of the grant, though it is important to note that it only covered my airfare to Japan. The same RSC grant I received previously was able to cover airfare and about two weeks of research time. Ideally, I think the RSC grant should be pegged to inflation.

E-Signature

E-Signature *

David Tobaru Obermiller

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Google Forms



Sarah Peterson <speterson@gustavus.edu>

RSC/Presidential Grant Report Reminder

David Obermiller <dobermil@gustavus.edu>
To: Sarah Peterson <speterson@gustavus.edu>

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 4:45 PM

Hi Sarah,

One thing I forgot to mention, the RSC grant was also helpful in that while I was doing research in Okinawa, it also gave me time to develop and think about my new FTS course that I am currently teaching.

David
[Quoted text hidden]