

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Faculty Development Fund Proposal Spring 2008

Name:

Vincent T. Breslin, Associate Professor,
Science Education and Environmental Studies

Brief Project Title:

Fifth Annual Seminar Series on the Environmental Quality of Long Island Sound

If joint proposal, please list names:

James F. Tait, Associate Professor, Science Education and Environmental Studies
Dwight G. Smith, Professor, Biology

Please include a short (approximately 40-word) summary of the project and amount requested:

The proposed seminar series is designed to provide an interdisciplinary forum for faculty from different departments to hear and discuss the latest results of research concerning the environmental quality of Long Island Sound.

I am a full-time part-time faculty member.

Check one of the boxes below and complete the blank which best describes the sponsorship for proposal submission:

- Academic School
- Department
- Officially Recognized Interdisciplinary Program

SCSU Center for Coastal and Marine Studies

- Affinity Group
- Individual/s

Faculty Development Goal(s): (Identify the basic goal(s) to be achieved by the proposed activity. Please be as specific as possible.)

The seminar series is comprised of four separate one hour seminars during the Spring 2008 semester and is designed to:

- 1) Inform faculty of the latest results of research concerning the environmental quality of Long Island Sound;
- 2) Facilitate and/or initiate research and teaching collaboration among faculty from different science departments; and
- 3) Provide faculty with current information and resources for faculty to use in teaching.

Description of Activity: (What is being proposed; what is the rationale for the activity? Please present a brief timeline for the activity. If external consultants are proposed, please identify the criteria for their selection.)

An interdisciplinary seminar series focused on environmental issues in Long Island Sound is an ideal tool for facilitating collaboration among faculty from different disciplines. The four previous Long Island Sound Seminar Series have been successful in encouraging interactions among faculty and students from different departments at SCSU. The Long Island Sound Seminar Series has provided a common theme for collaboration among the three distinct marine/oceanography programs at SCSU (Biology, Earth Science and Science Education and Environmental Studies). Previously, faculty and students interested in coastal marine research and education were isolated in various departments with little interaction. The Long Island Sound Seminar Series provides one of the few opportunities at SCSU for all science faculty and students to share their thoughts and ideas concerning important local environmental issues.

The teaching and service credit load for faculty at SCSU makes it difficult for interested faculty members to keep informed of the latest research in their fields of study. It is often difficult for faculty to read many research journal articles and travel to scientific meetings during the academic year. Inviting noted experts in different disciplines concerning the environmental quality of Long Island Sound allow the experts to travel to SCSU and discuss their research directly with the faculty.

Seminar speakers will be identified and selected based on their current expertise in specific areas of research concerning Long Island Sound. Drs. Breslin, Smith, and Tait have identified the experts listed in the text as appropriate for this seminar series. These experts are known to us and are generally recognized as experts in their respective fields. In addition, they are also excellent public speakers and will discuss topics which we believe will appeal to a large and diverse audience.

We propose a four-part seminar series focusing on current interdisciplinary areas of research concerning the environmental quality of Long Island Sound. We will invite four local recognized experts representing different disciplines of marine science (biological, geological, chemical and management) to present and discuss the results of their current research in Long Island Sound. We will request that the invited speakers provide a research seminar and to remain on campus to allow either individual or group consultations with faculty to discuss pedagogical or research collaborations. Seminars will be scheduled once per month during the Spring 2008 semester in January, February, March and April. The seminars will be scheduled on a Wednesday during community hour to maximize faculty participation.

List of Possible Speakers and Topics:

Biology

Donald J. Danila, Senior Scientist, Northeast Utilities Environmental Laboratory, Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Waterford, CT.

Changes in the Fish and Macroinvertebrate Assemblage near Millstone Point, CT over the Past 30 Years

Hans G. Dam, Professor, University of Connecticut, Department of Marine Sciences, Groton, CT

A Synthesis of Water Quality and Planktonic Resource Monitoring Data for Long Island Sound

David G. Simpson, Supervising Fisheries Biologist, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Environmental Protection, Old Lyme, CT.

Study of the Marine Recreational Fisheries in Connecticut

Roman Zajac, Professor of Biology and Environmental Science, University of New Haven, New Haven, CT

Food Webs in Long Island Sound: Review, Synthesis and Potential Applications

Geology

Martha Gilmore, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

The Applicability and Effectiveness of Remote Sensing of Coastal Marshes to Identify and Differentiate Among Species, Including Invasive Plants.

Management Issues

Tessa Getchis, Aquaculture Extension Educator, Connecticut Sea Grant and Cooperative Extension, University of Connecticut, Groton, CT.

Assessing the Physical and Ecological Footprint of Shellfish Aquaculture Gear in Long Island Sound, Connecticut

Peter Marteka, Columnist, Nature's Path, Hartford Courant

Connecticut's Coastal Parks and Trails

Elizabeth Joy Pillsbury, ABD, History, Columbia University, New York, NY.

The Historic Oyster Beds in Long Island Sound from the Colonial Era Through the 1930s.

Physics

Kamazima Lwiza, Associate Professor, Marine Sciences Research Center, SUNY at Stony Brook, NY.

Interannual Variability of Temperature and Salinity in Shallow Water: Long Island Sound, New York.

Evaluation of the proposed activity: (How, specifically, will you determine the degree to which the project achieved its stated goals?)

One measure of the impact of the proposed seminar series will occur by recording faculty attendance at the seminars and noting the participation of faculty from different academic departments.

An evaluative rubric will be developed and distributed to attending faculty to assess the quality of the seminar. The rubric will assess overall faculty responses to the quality of the speaker, the suitability of the topics discussed, identify collaborations resulting from their participation in the seminar series, and identify areas/instances where the seminar content was used in teaching.

Invited speakers will be required to provide a written or electronic version of their presentation and related publications for distribution to faculty in attendance and for review by faculty who are interested, but not able to attend.

Target Faculty Participants: (Describe the audience to which the proposed activity is directed. Describe the level of interest for this project demonstrated by the audience. The proposal should clearly reflect the potential benefit to the professional development of SCSU faculty, rather than its potential benefit to other groups.)

The proposed seminar series is designed to appeal to faculty in different departments in the School of Arts and Sciences, including but not limited to, Earth Sciences, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Science Education (Marine Studies), and Geography. Faculty from Biology, Earth Sciences, Science Education and Environmental Studies and Geography teach courses in either the Marine Studies Minor or their respective departments Oceanography or Marine Biology concentration (Earth Sciences and Biology, respectively). The interdisciplinary focus of the seminar series should appeal to a large number of faculty. Each of the seminars will be widely advertised and participating faculty from each of these departments will be recruited to attend the seminars. Information concerning the LIS Seminar Series is available at: <http://www.southernct.edu/departments/ccms/seminar.html>. Future seminars would also be posted on the CCMS website.

Drs. Breslin, Smith and Tait are currently co-directors of the SCSU Center for Coastal and Marine Studies. The stated goals of the Center are to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration, provide undergraduate research opportunities, develop shared resources, support state-of-the-art models for science education, and develop external sources for support of the Center activities. The seminar series would be an important contribution to our effort to promote collaboration among faculty in different departments at SCSU.

Tentative Budget and Rationale: (The best estimate of the funding required supporting the proposed activity and a rationale for the requested funds. Please itemize the expenses in the space below. For example budget items might include, honorarium, travel expenses, modest food costs, and other expenses.)

PURPOSE	AMOUNT	RATIONALE
Honoraria	\$1400.00	Honoraria (\$350.00 for each of four speakers) will provide funds for travel expenses and a stipend for each invited speaker.
Refreshments	\$600.00	Support is requested to provide light refreshments for faculty and students in attendance at each of the four seminars.
	TOTAL \$2,000.00	

Your department and/or the Office of Faculty Development may be able to provide support services for conferences, workshops, and seminars. Requests for inclusion in the *Weekly Calendar* and for distribution of a faculty-wide e-mail announcement should be made at least two weeks in advance to the Office of Faculty Development.

Rationale for Faculty Development Fund Support: (Describe why you consider the Faculty Development Fund an appropriate source to support the proposed program.)

The seminar series is an interdisciplinary forum designed for faculty interested in the environmental quality of Long Island Sound. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of this activity, no one department should bear the burden of covering the costs associated with bringing these speakers to SCSU.

Applicant Signature: (Signed by the faculty assuming primary responsibility for the project.)

I understand that this project will not be funded until the evaluation and expense information for a previous FDAC grant is filed with the Office of Faculty Development. Deadline to submit a report describing results/outcomes of your project to the office of Faculty Development is one month after the date of the event. Progress reports for projects that extend beyond one semester must be submitted one month after initial semester is completed.

Vincent T. Breslin

Please Print and Sign Your Name

James Tait

Co-sponsor/Co-applicant's Name

Co-sponsor/Co-applicant's Signature

Dwight Smith

Co-sponsor/Co-applicant's Name

Co-sponsor/Co-applicant's Signature
