**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMER GRANT REPORT**
Jesse Covington

**Period of the grant:** Summer 2008

**Title of the project(s):** Summer Research and Writing (2 projects)

**Name of the primary grant recipient:** Jesse Covington

**One or two sentences summarizing your activities:** I conducted research needed for developing my dissertation into a book, gathering data on the development of the concept of religion in more than thirty Supreme Court decisions dealing with the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

**Description of project activity:**
1) In previous work on this subject (my doctoral dissertation), I traced the development of the concept of religion in 21 Supreme Court case decisions dealing with the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment. I am developing this project into a book that will comprise a more comprehensive treatment of this subject. This entails expanding the project to cases decided under both religion clauses of the First Amendment. The bulk of my work during the summer of 2008 was spent in reading and compiling notes on 33 additional Supreme Court case decisions spanning from 1871-2005 (see attached list). This research more than doubles the case-coverage of my dissertation. I compiled extensive notes on the relevant cases—identifying and distilling into an accessible format the information I need for the book project.

2) I consulted with members of my dissertation committee regarding my plans for developing the dissertation into a book. They gave me feedback on my plans for structuring the book, the content of the book, and potential publishers I might consider for it.

3) I developed my outline for the book, mapping out a fundamental restructuring of the original approach of my dissertation.

4) I began the process of writing up the analysis of the material I assembled during my research.

**List of specific outcomes/achievements:**
In my original proposal I listed two major goals: to author a conference paper and produce a book proposal.

1) My goal of writing a conference paper for the 2008 Annual Meeting of the APSA was contingent on the paper being accepted. Upon notification in the spring of 2008 that the panel was not accepted at APSA, I set this project aside and focused my time on the book project.
2) My plan to produce a book proposal included several components.
   a. *Identify potential publishers:* In dialogue with other scholars and through my own research, I identified the two academic presses that are likely to fit this book: The University of Kansas Press and Princeton University Press.
   b. *Craft a plan for revising the dissertation:* Consulting with those familiar with my work, I developed a basic outline for the book that reflects the additions of my new research and the fundamental reorganization that the book will entail.
   c. *Complete a book proposal:* My goal of completing the book proposal proved optimistic. As I got into the project, it became clear that I needed to do a good deal of additional research to write a proposal that would accurately reflect the book I want to write. As a result, I focused my efforts on the research as a necessary precondition of a future proposal and book.

My thanks to Westmont College for its generous support of my research!
Cases

Watson v. Jones (1871)
Ewerson v. Board of Education (1947)
Illinois ex rel. McCollum v. Board of Education (1948)
Zorach v. Clausen (1952)
McGowan v. Maryland (1961)
Engel v. Vitale (1962)
Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971)
Tilton v. Richardson (1971)
Meek v. Pittenger (1975)
Marsh v. Chambers (1983)
Wallace v. Jaffree (1985)
Aguilar v. Felton (1985)
Witters v. Washinton Dep’t of Servs. For the Blind (1986)
Corporation of the Presiding Bishop v. Amos (1987)
County of Allegheny v. ACLU (1989)
Lee v. Weisman (1992)
Agostini v. Felton (1997)
Good News Club v. Milford Central School (2001)
McCready County v. ACLU of Kentucky (2005)
Van Orden v. Perry (2005)