I would like to extend my appreciation to the Professional Development Committee, the Provost, and my colleagues in the Department of Sociology-Anthropology for making it possible for me to have the privilege of a full-year sabbatical. It allowed me to complete work for my Life Path Study that I would have otherwise been unable to do in the context of my regular responsibilities. While I did not accomplish all of the work that I set out to do in my sabbatical proposal, I did complete significant portions of it and was able to participate in an unexpected opportunity to return to my dissertation research. I am also grateful for the more relaxed pace that the sabbatical afforded me to read, think, and write.

Before I detail the work that I did complete, I will describe some unexpected set-backs that occurred during my sabbatical. First, my computer failed and was out of service for almost four weeks. While I did not lose any data related to the Life Path Project, I did have to interrupt the most time-consuming aspect of the research which was proofing and coding the student interviews both from Westmont and Calvin. However, I was able to work on the development of the survey to be administered to a broader sample of Westmont and Calvin students and did eventually finish proofing all of the interviews, though I was unable to complete all of the coding. Second, I had to redo all of the interview proofing and coding that I had hired student research assistants to do prior to my sabbatical. Though some of their work was useful, it was generally not done with the accuracy or precision that I needed or desired. Third, Calvin uses a software program to launch web-based surveys. In the process of developing and pre-testing the survey, my colleagues at Calvin and I discovered numerous bugs in the program which we have been working on since March 2004 to correct with the engineers from the software company. It was not until this week that the survey is now ready to launch. Fourth, I was unable to secure additional research funds to include another non-religiously affiliated college in the Life Path Study or to complete the follow-up interviews of the Westmont sample.

Even with these bumps along the way, I was able to accomplish this work on the Life Path Study which I outline below:

- I was able to proof and correct the forty-three of the sixty-five Westmont student interviews that needed to be finished or redone. That involved approximately 1,500 single-spaced pages of text.

- Using the qualitative text analysis program, HyperResearch, I was able to code all of the necessary sections, from which I am developing one paper and one article, of all sixty-five Westmont interviews.
I was invited to and have submitted an abstract, "Scripts and Cues: Gender and Undergraduates' Day-to-Day Encounters" as a part of a proposed panel presentation at the 2005 American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting to be held in Montreal in April. I have attached a copy of the abstract.

I began to update and expand a previously presented paper based on the Life Path Project entitled, "Competition, Camaraderie, and Distraction," as an article to be included in Subject to Change: Structure and Agency of Students and Teachers in the Neoliberal University, a volume edited by Joyce Canaan and Wes Shumar. I continue with that project. I have included a copy of the current draft. The manuscript is due January 15, 2005.

I was able to proof, correct and partially code all 43 interviews of Calvin Students, approximately 1,700 single-spaced pages of text.

On January 20, 2004, I presented my preliminary findings based on the Calvin interviews to the Student Life Division and the Gender Equity Committee at Calvin via video-conferencing.

I developed and pre-tested a web survey based on the Calvin and Westmont interviews that will be administered to the Calvin study body within the week. I have attached a copy of one version of the survey. (Other versions with the same questions but in different order will be delivered to the participants to control for potential bias introduced by the order of the questions)

I worked with John Rodkey to learn the software program Westmont has in order to administer the survey (with appropriate changes) via the web to Westmont students. My plan is to have that ready for Spring 2005.

I have continued to work on the project and hope to develop a book outline and chapter during this coming to wrap up my work on the Life Path Project.

During my sabbatical, as I mentioned above, I was offered grant monies provided by the Hewlett Foundation through the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Michigan State University to undertake a restudy of the community in Mexico that was the focus of my dissertation research. At the invitation of the CLACS, I traveled to Michigan State in November 2003 to begin collaboration with Scott Whiteford, Ph.D., and Alfonso Cortez. Prof. Cortez is the director of the El Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Mexicali with whom I will be working along with Dr. Whiteford. The restudy is to be a part of a larger effort by a consortium of U.S. and Mexican academic institutions to study border water issues. It will also allow me to update my dissertation so that I can publish it as a book in addition to the articles I originally published. This was an opportunity I could not refuse, so I did devote some of my sabbatical time to this project which is on-going. While most of the data gathering for the restudy will be done by Mexican research assistants, largely due to new research regulations in Mexico, I have had to rework the
original questionnaires and prepare my original data to be reanalyzed. (For my dissertation, I entered the quantitative data in files for a program that could not longer be read!) My department secretary and I re-entered all of this data by hand into SPSS to that it can be compared with the new data. At Dr. Whiteford’s request I wrote a brief history—also attached—of the community based on my dissertation research to be presented as a thank-you gift to those who will participate in the restudy. The history has been translated by a graduate student at MSU. I also updated the questionnaires I used in my dissertation research. Dr. Whiteford, Prof. Cortez, and I continue to refine them for the restudy. I have included a copy of the most recent version with my comments. We anticipate that the data gathering for the restudy will be completed by June 2005.

Again, I thank Westmont for the opportunity to continue my work related to the Life Path Study and my research in Mexico. As noted above, I have attached samples of some of the work I completed.