Projects: “Essentials of Discrete Mathematics” and “Gertrude Cox in Egypt”
Recipients: Dave and Patti Hunter (shared sabbatical)

Summary
Dave completed the manuscript for his textbook *Essentials of Discrete Mathematics*. Patti completed a draft of an article, “Gertrude Cox in Egypt: A Case Study in Science Patronage and International Statistics Education during the Cold War.”

Description
Dave:
The idea and outline for this textbook came from my experiences teaching a course in discrete mathematics and finding no suitable text. The initial notes for the book were developed during several semesters of teaching the course. The book is now complete and published.

Patti:
As part of my dissertation research, I studied the work of a woman named Gertrude Cox. She was a statistician whose career was launched in 1940 when she became the first department chair of the first university department of statistics in the US—at NC State University.

My goal for the sabbatical was to finish a paper on work she did as a consultant for the Ford Foundation advising the statistics department at the University of Cairo, Egypt in the 1960s.

I had a lot of archive material from the Cox papers about this trip, but very little from the Ford Foundation side. Thanks to an informal writers’ support group that Andrew Mullen organized a few years ago, I was inspired to investigate the materials available at the Ford Foundation archives in New York City.

In preparation for the sabbatical, I spent a week in those archives.

What I discovered during that week, in addition to the details about the particular grant that funded Cox’s visit to Egypt, was that throughout the 1950s and 60s, as part of an effort to fight the Cold War, the Ford Foundation was providing a significant amount of technical assistance to universities in developing countries. Particularly interesting to me is the fact that Ford made a number of grants to support the development of university statistics programs in places like Egypt, Indonesia, Thailand, India, and countries in Latin America.

In addition to finishing the paper on Cox’s trip to Egypt, I acquired a new set of questions to investigate about the broader contributions of the Ford Foundation and of American statisticians to the development of university statistics programs abroad during the Cold War.

Assessment
The outcomes of this sabbatical were precisely those we proposed.

Outcomes


Report to Faculty: occurred Fall 2007, faculty forum