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SABBATICAL REQUEST FORM
Summer 2013/Fall 2013/Spring 2014/Summer 2014

Please complete the following information to enable the Sabbatical Review Committee to consider your request. Answer all questions. This form must be received in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs by *October 15*.

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone #, [REDACTED]

College Extension: [REDACTED]

Period of previous sabbatical, if applicable:

List of unpaid leave (s) of absence: From _____ To _____

Preference for sabbatical leave (rank your preferences 1st, 2nd, 3rd):

Full Year

Fall Semester 1st

Spring Semester 2nd

(Note: You must accept a full-year sabbatical if you rank it among your preferences and it is awarded.)

Statement of Purpose (See format provided for additional instructions.)

The statement of purpose for the sabbatical shall demonstrate the proposed benefit to individual professional growth or to a college program. "Individual professional growth" is defined as pursuit of knowledge related to the faculty member's discipline or duties at the College, to the teaching profession, or to an approved training program.

Please be advised that within eight weeks after the return from you sabbatical, you must submit to the President a report of your activities during your sabbatical leave. Forms for this report will be provided upon award of the sabbatical. Also note that you are obligated to return to the College for one year following the sabbatical. The failure to return or to complete the sabbatical as awarded can result in a financial liability for the return of salary paid during the sabbatical.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Date: 10/15/2012

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SABBATICAL APPLICATION: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Abstract for Publication/Board Resolution

I am applying for sabbatical leave with the hope of pursuing my current research interest in three North of Ireland poets: Louis MacNeice (1907-1963), John Hewitt (1907-1987), and Derek Mahon (born 1941). I have rough drafts of two presented papers that need significant revision for future publication; one concerns MacNeice, the other Mahon. I would also write a third article concerning Hewitt.

As well, during leave I would revise a sixty page manuscript of poems for publication.

My previous scholarly and creative activity indicates that both these projects have real promise.

Narrative on Activity and Findings

My dissertation, *The Protestant Elders: Louis MacNeice and John Hewitt*, marked my entry into the field of North of Ireland poetry. More recently, I published the article *John Hewitt's Allegorical Imagination* (Irish Studies Review, Spring 2009), and reviewed the latest edition of Hewitt's poems (Irish Studies Review, Spring 2008). Most recently, I presented two papers - *Baudelaire and Derek Mahon's 'The Hudson Letter'* (2010) and *Louis MacNeice in America* (2011), both at the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Conference. These papers need much revision and expansion in order to be ready for publication. I am also working on a proposal for another paper on John Hewitt, entitled *'Irish Poets Learn Your Trade': The Late Poems of John Hewitt*. The completion of this work will constitute the third article.

John Hewitt and Louis MacNeice are major literary figures of twentieth-century Irish poetry and inspiration to the group of poets - Seamus Heaney, Michael Longley, Paul Muldoon, and Derek Mahon included - who make up the 'Ulster Renaissance,' so famous around the world today. The work I am doing is timely and has already attracted interest in an international forum. Eventually, I plan to include these three articles in a book of essays, tracing the influences and developments in North of Ireland poetry of the last century.

The second part of my application involves major revision of my own poetry. Again, my poems are the result of the continuing work that I do throughout the year, while teaching at Suffolk. This spring, I published two poems, 'Democracy' and 'The New York Times,' in the international poetry magazine, *Poetry Salzburg Review*, a publication which has included the work of such distinguished poets as Paul Muldoon (a Pulitzer Prize winner) and Bernard O'Donoghue. I have also had two poems, 'TGIF' and 'Fragment,' short-listed for publication in another international poetry magazine, *Anon*, published out of Edinburgh, Scotland. These recent successes vouch for the seriousness and potentiality of my proposed project - to shape a

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manuscript with the hope of publication.

My application, with the exception of a new article on John Hewitt, concerns work already started, and so centers on the process of revision. This rigorous, concentrated activity requires the uninterrupted time sabbatical leave would provide. Though I am developing material previously researched and presented, the project is an ambitious one that far exceeds what I've already produced. In many ways, revision, collection, and placement are the hardest parts of the writing process and require the most focused effort. I do think the scope of this project requires activity at least equivalent to a full-time teaching load.

In short, the goal of my project is to write one new article, revise and expand two others, as well as revise a manuscript of poetry. I will be actively looking to publish all of these (as well as individual poems in magazines and journals). My track record at Suffolk shows that I have been able to pursue scholarly and creative interests with success. Sabbatical leave would greatly further my chances for continued results.

Please see appendix for a sample bibliography and timeline.

Professional Benefit to Applicant

My scholarship and creative activity has always influenced my teaching. During the 2010-2011 year I taught a special topics course, *Modern Irish Literature*. In this and other classes, such as *Contemporary Literature* and *Masterpieces I and II*, I have offered our students poems and essays that come to my attention due to my own research. In my composition courses, EG 10, 101 and 102, I find that keeping up my own writing helps me clarify the process of composition for them. The benefit works both ways: when they compose a sentence, a paragraph, a thesis, an essay under my guidance, the exercise informs my own writing positively.

I also think it is important to provide a model for the students so they may see the practical application of what we do in the classroom. Published academic work shows them how essay writing can be more than just a pedagogical exercise; indeed, it might even have an influence on the world outside the classroom.

I should note that I do not teach creative writing at Suffolk. However, my creative work outside the classroom helps me teach literature and composition courses in at least two important ways. First, my ability to close read texts for the students is intimately connected with the care I take crafting my own lines. This country has a long tradition of poet-critics as exceptional teachers. Second, the process of revision is so important to the work I do - both critically and creatively - that I think my enthusiasm for this aspect of their writing is infectious. We teachers at Suffolk always emphasize the importance of revision, and it must be taught with attention to specifics - that is, we must answer the question of how one actually does it, both at the level of the sentence and of the larger work as a whole. I think my own writing experience gives me a strong sense of

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how to communicate such an answer to students.

A sabbatical leave, then, would accelerate my development as a teacher. I envision returning to the classroom with new ideas and with a renewed commitment to communicating my knowledge. In the future, I plan to teach The Art of Poetry and another Special Topics course on poetics.

Benefit to the College

Since arriving at Suffolk I have published critical and creative work in well-established, prestigious, international forums. I have also delivered papers at national conferences. Of course, each time I make my voice publicly heard, the name of Suffolk County Community College goes under my name. I'm proud to contribute to SCCC's standing as an institution that promotes serious scholarship. At this point in my professional career, when I am more frequently being heard, a sabbatical would increase my chances of further recognition.

I am fortunate to have colleagues in the English department who also attend the same conferences I do, and who maintain a presence in the world of academia. My conversations with them, and our support of one another's endeavors, help to stimulate our ongoing activity outside the college. A sabbatical would help me continue to be a part of this exchange. Our students pick up on this atmosphere of mutual support between our faculty members, and I know they admire and appreciate it.

The work of John Hewitt, Louis MacNeice and Derek Mahon represents a very important piece of Irish literary history. The international acclaim Mahon and his contemporaries have enjoyed has raised the profile of MacNeice and Hewitt, as well as the question of their influence. The time is right for new scholarship to reappraise their legacy. In other words, my work is fresh and relevant. However, on this side of the 'pond' the field of North of Ireland poetry is not crowded, and this fact affords the chance of a brighter spotlight on my work, which of course continues to be affiliated with SCCC.

As I found out in my *Modern Irish Literature* course, the topic of North of Ireland literature intrigues many of our students here on campus. The history of Ireland and the North of Ireland is intertwined with that of the United States, and a significant number of our students here in Suffolk County have Irish ancestry. For these and the rest of the SCCC students, exposure to the literature of another culture can be eye opening, in the sense that it reveals a world beyond the borders of our community, and of our country.

Publishing my own poetry in prestigious venues would obviously enhance Suffolk's reputation as well. My sabbatical application has two distinct parts, but they are not unrelated. My reading of and writing about poetry has been indispensable to my creative output. Without a deep knowledge of literature past and present, creative writing seems to me a hopeless endeavor.

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Therefore, the two projects I have proposed are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, they feed off of one another.

In conclusion, I hope to augment Suffolk County Community College's reputation by using my sabbatical leave for both scholarship and creative work. Subsequently, I would continue to share the benefits of my professional work with my students.

Sample Bibliography:

My research would involve frequent trips to the New York Public Library.

Sample Primary Sources:

Hewitt, John. *The Collected Poems of John Hewitt*. Ed. Frank Ormsby. Belfast: Blackstaff Press, 1991.

Hewitt, John. *Ancestral Voices: The Selected Prose of John Hewitt*. Ed. Tom Clyde. Belfast: Blackstaff Press, 1987.

MacNeice, Louis. *The Collected Poetry of Louis MacNeice*. London: Faber and Faber, 1966.

MacNeice, Louis. *Modern Poetry*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1938.

MacNeice, Louis. *The Strings are False: An Unfinished Autobiography*. London: Faber and Faber, 1965.

MacNeice, Louis. *The Poetry of W. B. Yeats*. London: Faber and Faber, 1961.

MacNeice, Louis. *The Dark Tower and Other Radio Scripts*. London: Faber and Faber, 1947.

MacNeice, Louis. *Selected Prose of Louis MacNeice*. Ed. Alan Heuser. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987.

Mahon, Derek. *Collected Poems*. Loughcrew: Gallery Books, 1999.

Mahon, Derek. *Journalism: Selected Prose 1959-1995*. Ed. Terence Brown. Loughcrew: Gallery Press, 1996.

Sample Secondary Sources:

Clark, Heather. *The Ulster Renaissance: Poetry in Belfast 1962-1972*. Oxford: OUP, 2006.

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Grant, Patrick. *Breaking Enmities: Religion, Literature and Culture in Northern Ireland, 1967-1997*. London: MacMillan Press, 1999.

Heaney, Seamus. "Crediting Poetry." The Nobel Lecture, *The New Republic* 213 (25 December 1995).

Matthews, Steven. *Irish Poetry: Politics, History, Negotiation*. London: MacMillan Press, 1997.

Simmons, James. "Editorial: First Steps in Revolution." *Honest Ulsterman*, No. 1 (May 1968) 2-6.

Sloan, Barry. *Writers and Protestantism in Northern Ireland*. Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2000.

Timeline:

Spring 2013: Lay groundwork for new Hewitt article. Mostly research. Conference presentation of paper draft.

Summer 2013: Continue research for Hewitt article. Work on draft. Added research for Mahon and MacNeice articles.

Fall 2013 (**sabbatical**): Write all three articles. Revise poems and decide on their order in the manuscript. Begin efforts at placement.

Spring 2014: Continue efforts to place both articles and poems.