

Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence Catalyst Grant for Research and Creativity Application

Applicant Information

First Name *

Deana

Last Name *

Weibel

Telephone *

616-331-3346

Email *

weibeld@gvsu.edu

Rank *

Professor

Department *

Anthropology Department

Tenure *

Yes

Research Discipline *

Information is used for reporting to federal agencies by the university.

Social Sciences - Other social sciences

Research Type * (How would you describe this particular project?)

Information is used for reporting to federal agencies by the university.

Basic Research

Upload CV *

[WeibelCVJanuary2018](#)

Collaborator Information

Are there any collaborators for this grant? *

No

Project Information

Project Title *

Lift Up Your Eyes and Look to the Heavens: The Relationship between Scientific Understandings and Religious Beliefs in the Exploration of Outer Space

Start Date *

8/1/18

End Date *

3/31/18

Will undergraduate or graduate students be involved in the research being funded by this grant?*

No

How many students are involved in the research?

Undergrad

0

Graduate

0

How many students are funds are being requested for?

Undergrad

0

Graduate

0

Will you be requesting a Pre-tenure Supplement in the amount of 3,000? If yes, please make sure your budget and scope of work reflects the new award amount. *

No

Will you be requesting one-course reassigned time in conjunction with this grant? (requires your Dean's approval) *

No

Please provide justification for reassign time *

Semester *

Year *

Dean's Email *

Copy of this grant will be sent to your Dean for approval [@gvsu.edu](mailto:gvsu.edu)

Does your project involve human subjects? *

Yes

Does your project involve vertebrate animal subjects? *

No

Does your project involve any biological hazards? *

No

Does your project require radiological controls? *

No

Does this proposal contain proprietary information? *

No

Is your research project subject to export control law? www.gvsu.edu/export *

No

Please explain how this project is subject to export control law. *

Have you closed, and turned in your final report, for all previous research grants through CSCE?(faculty may only have one active CSCE grant at a time) *

N/A

Project Summary *

My goal during my proposed project (which is to take place before and during a winter 2019 sabbatical) is to gather a large set of qualitative data to expand a preliminary research project on the way people whose work involves the exploration of space (whether engineers, astronauts, astronomers, or other professions) integrate religion-based and science-based understandings about the origins, workings and meaning of the universe and the bodies within it. I have conducted preliminary interviews with two astronauts, an astronomer, and even a Houston-based rabbi with a space-faring congregant. This project will allow me to conduct at least 20-25 additional interviews and to spend four weeks conducting

ethnographic fieldwork among the Jesuit astronomers at the Vatican Observatory in Castel Gandolfo, Rome. Humans throughout history and across cultures have given special religious significance to the sky (from sun gods to the idea of a heaven suspended high above the earth) and even the non-religious tend to respond to celestial phenomena with a sense of wonder. I intend to determine how responses to "the heavens" develop in people whose work involves outer space, and how scientific and religious understandings of outer space and space travel influence each other in individuals. Although a handful of anthropologists have studied the impact of the exploration of outer space on human societies, and although other social scientists have sometimes considered the role of spirituality in the human quest to understand space, very little immersive, context-rich ethnographic work has been done on the topic.

Upload Project Description

[Weibel-Catalyst-Project-Description](#)

Internal Grants

Have you received funding, not including travel grants, from GVSU within the last three years(CSCE (R&D), FTLC, S3, etc.)? *

No

External Grants

Have you submitted an external grant application within the last three years?

Yes

Agency

Michigan Space Grant Consortium

Title of Project

Lift Up Your Eyes and Look to the Heavens: The Relationship between Scientific Understandings and Religious Beliefs in the Exploration of Outer Space

Status

Submitted, not awarded

Date

12/2017

Do you have any pending external grants?

No

Itemized Budget

Travel

Description *

RT Airfare to Rome, Italy, August 2018

Cost *

\$1,350.00

Outside Funding *

\$0.00

Requested *

\$1,350.00

Award

\$0.00

Justification *

This is a reconnaissance trip to the Vatican Observatory to meet potential interview subjects among the Jesuit scientists who work there. I will be lodging at the observatory in a guest room during this short visit.

Description *

Flight, hotel, car bundle for Florida

Cost *

\$1,003.00

Outside Funding *

\$900.00

Requested *

\$0.00

Award

\$0.00

Justification *

I will spend a week in and around Titusville, Florida in January 2019 interviewing current and former employees of NASA and private space agencies. I will need a place to stay, a flight to Florida and back, and transportation while there.

Description *

Flight, hotel, car bundle for Texas

Cost *

\$1,300.00

Outside Funding *

\$0.00

Requested *

\$0.00

Award

\$0.00

Justification *

I will spend a week in and around Houston, Texas in January and February 2019 interviewing current and former employees of NASA and others whose work relates to space exploration. I will need a place to stay, a flight to Texas and back, and transportation while there.

Description *

Flight, car bundle for California

Cost *

\$600.00

Outside Funding *

\$0.00

Requested *

\$0.00

Award

\$0.00

Justification *

I will spend a week in and around Los Angeles, California in February and March 2019 interviewing current and former employees of NASA and private space companies. I will stay with family but will need a flight to California and back and transportation while there.

Description *

One way flight to Rome, Italy, March 2019

Cost *

\$675.00

Outside Funding *

\$0.00

Requested *

\$423.00

Award

\$0.00

Justification *

Since the CSCE Catalyst Grant only covers funding through March 2019, I'm only listing half of a RT fare here. This trip is for my longer 4-week stay studying the Jesuit astronomers at the Vatican Observatory.

Description *

Lodging in Italy, March 2019

Cost *

\$1,227.00

Outside Funding *

\$0.00

Requested *

\$1,227.00

Award

\$0.00

Justification *

This is the cost of renting a loft via AirBNB in close proximity to the Vatican Observatory. I would be renting it for 4 weeks, but am only including the March dates here because of the date limit on the Catalyst grant.

Total

Total Cost

\$6,155.00

Total Outside Funding

\$900.00

Total Need

\$5,255.00

Total Requested from CSCE

\$3,000.00

Total Awarded

\$0.00

Supporting Documents

Upload Unit Head Support Letter: *

[weibel-catalyst-2018](#)

Misc Upload:

[VaticanObservatoryEmails](#)

Final Report

Outcome *

Dissemination *

Future Plans *

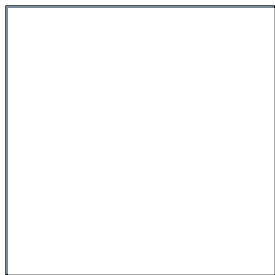
Application Status

Decision

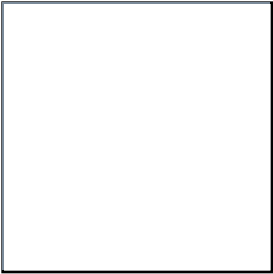
Pending

Committee Notes

Your Notes



Committee Notes



Save Notes

Section IV - Project Description:

Objective(s) – The exploration of outer space is a scientific project, but one undertaken by complex human beings. Throughout human history our understanding of outer space has frequently had supernatural elements, including ideas about “heavenly” beings and places. As an anthropologist who has studied people’s relationships with sacred sites and objects for two decades, I’ve examined how people interact with places and things that are understood to have otherworldly qualities, giving me a strong background for examining how outer space may be seen as “sacred space.” My preliminary research into the role of religion in space exploration indicates that many contemporary “explorers” of space use scientific and religious concepts in a complementary way.

Objective 1: Interview approximately 15-20 diverse individuals currently and formerly working in the field of space exploration (such as astronauts, engineers, physicists, technicians, etc.) about their religious and/or spiritual beliefs (or lack thereof) and how these beliefs influence or are influenced by their chosen careers, establishing a range of beliefs and several case studies.

Objective 2: Conduct both interviews and participant-observation research among the Jesuit astronomers working at the Vatican Observatory in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, establishing a range of beliefs among men who belong to the same religious order and work in the same location.

Background and context – Many people see science and religion as opposing or contradicting each other. Debates about whether life begins at conception or whether human activities have an impact on average global temperatures often put science and religion in opposite corners, creating the perception that scientists are less religious than other people or that the more religious a person is the less they understand scientific methodology. Despite this, research based on the analysis of surveys (such as those published by the Pew Research Center for the People

and the Press 2009, Gross and Simmons 2009, and Ecklund 2010) has demonstrated that a significant proportion of scientists are, in fact, religious people (in Ecklund’s survey, for instance, 24% of scientists identified themselves as believing in God). Although these findings give us a broad picture, they do not shed much light on the ways that individual scientists succeed in combining religious and scientific understandings, information that my research will help to uncover.

Preliminary research I have undertaken so far on the link between space exploration and religious belief has been very fruitful. I have many years of experience interviewing people about their religious beliefs from my fieldwork studying pilgrimage. I am used to talking to people about their religious beliefs (and helping them be comfortable talking to me) and this background has been crucial when undertaking this new project. Ethnographic interviewing can uncover very rich information. I have learned in early interviews in this project, for instance, that a Vatican astronomer came to his twin callings through a love of science fiction, and that Christian science fiction (such as some of C. S. Lewis’s work) influenced both his interest in planetary geology and his sense that he could better know God through astronomical research. Moreover, an astronaut I interviewed in September 2017 talked about how, while orbiting the moon, he saw that the stars of the Milky Way galaxy were more like a “star field” than individual stars, which made him comprehend the immensity of the universe in a new way. This experience changed his outlook, both religiously and scientifically, and led to his acceptance of a very different view of the universe than what his Episcopal church had taught him earlier in life. With additional interviews I will be able to see patterns in people’s experiences and be able to paint a more complete picture of how scientific and religious ideas about outer space intersect and interact.

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As much as I would love to conduct participant-observation research on the International Space Station, it just is not possible at this point (I know of no agency that can provide me with a \$20 million grant for eight days of ‘space tourism’ with the Russians, and NASA does not yet accept anthropology PhDs into their astronaut program). Some ethnographers, like Valerie Olson, have conducted fieldwork on Earth, studying the training of astronauts at the underwater Aquarius laboratory run by the NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations in Florida, while others like Debbora Battaglia have created a facsimile of participant-observation through the careful reading of autobiographical materials like cosmonaut diaries. I will have an advantage in my project, however, in my ability to participate in the daily lives of those who have experience exploring space, and the Director of the Vatican Observatory, Brother Guy Consolmagno, has given me leave to spend four weeks (in March and April 2019, although this grant request only covers research through March 2019) in Castel Gandolfo, Italy participating in the day-to-day lives of the Catholic community of Jesuit astronomers who combine serious religious study with serious astronomical study. Because I have lived in a shrine town in France where I resided with nuns and interacted with priests on a regular basis, this participant-observation at the Vatican Observatory will provide a useful bridge between my pilgrimage research and my newer research into religion and space exploration.

Methods/procedures/materials – I will use my sabbatical to conduct 20-25 separate interviews with individuals whose current or former work connects to space exploration (such as engineers, astronauts, and scientists) in NASA/JPL/private spaceflight communities near in central Florida, Southern California and the Houston, Texas area, and to spend four weeks conducting research at the Vatican Observatory in Castel Gandolfo, Italy. This research will supply many hours of recorded interviews and a large amount of field notes, providing me with a large amount of new

data to add to my existing research on the relationship between religious beliefs and scientific understandings in individuals whose work is connected to the exploration of outer space.

Although my preliminary findings on this topic have been promising, they have been based on interviews with a relatively small population, and supplemented with autobiographical writings by astronauts, astronomers and others. I need more data. This project will give me a much larger collection of first-hand accounts by scientists, engineers, astronauts, etc. to analyze and will give me experience participating in the day-to-day activities of a particular religious-scientific community, the astronomers of the Vatican Observatory. As a result, I will have more comprehensive data on the way religious and scientific understandings influence each other in different communities and among different individuals.

Anthropological research provides a rich approach for learning about the different ways people can be simultaneously religious and scientific. Cultural anthropologists use a variety of means to learn about the people's lives, but the two most significant are interviews and participant observation. Interviews allow the anthropologist to learn about the community being studied by approaching individual respondents as experts on their own cultures, and essentially learning about the norms, understandings and behaviors of a particular society from someone who has first-hand experience. Participant-observation, on the other hand, essentially embeds the researcher in the community being studied, allowing her to share the daily life experiences of the people she is learning about and learn through more direct first-hand experience. I will be doing interviews with people in California, Texas, Florida and Italy who have done work with some connection to space and who are willing to talk about their religious and/or spiritual beliefs.

Both interviews and participant-observation require human subjects clearance from the Institutional Review Board. I have already obtained this clearance. Anthropological research

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follows ethical guidelines that work to protect the privacy of the people being studied, such as obtaining consent (which can be withdrawn at any time) and (typically) the use of pseudonyms. My research was determined to be “exempt,” with minimal risk to participants. I have also completed training through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program. Because this is innovative research, it is largely exploratory in nature. The interviews I have completed have revealed a wide range of religious beliefs at work in people’s conceptions of outer space, both within and far outside of the mainstream, so I anticipate that there will be a lot of variation in what I learn. That said, I have created a list of very basic questions to guide my interviews, no matter the religious affiliation (or lack thereof) of the interviewee. These are included as supplementary material on the application.

I will ask follow up questions and allow the conversation to flow from the prepared questions. Of the interviews I have undertaken so far, the minimum duration has been an hour and 9 minutes, with the average being an hour and 36 minutes. I intend to have multiple sittings with the same individuals, if possible, since it takes some time to establish rapport with an interviewee. In addition, analysis of an earlier interview can help determine the direction of a later interview.

Timeline –

April through July 2018	Conduct 2-5 initial interviews with Midwest-based scientists and make initial contacts with subjects in CA, FL, and TX
August 2018	Conduct reconnaissance research in Castel Gandolfo, Italy and establish interview participants for March fieldwork.
January 2019	Fieldwork and interviews in Texas
February 2019	Fieldwork and interviews in Florida
March 2019	Fieldwork and interviews in California and Italy

Outcomes – The anticipated “final product” of the proposed project is an academic book and several academic articles on the way religious beliefs and space exploration (in various forms, from space travel to the creation of machines to explore other planets to astronomical observations from the ground) influence and impact each other.

Margaret Mead, whose popular anthropology books made her a significant social commentator in the mid-20th century, called for greater research into the human aspects of space exploration in a 1960 speech, saying, “Nobody is doing decent research in the social sciences in space at all. No one is really considering what the composition will ultimately have to be of groups who will work together in space . . . We are not considering the human aspects either, in our attitude toward space or what space colonization and space travel will ultimately mean.” Despite Mead’s pleas, very little research has been done so far, leaving considerable gaps in our knowledge. This project will help me expand and add to work being done in the anthropology of space, a subfield that is in its very early stages, adding my data and findings to those of researchers like Alice Gorman, Taylor Genovese and David Valentine.

Collaborations – Although I am undertaking this research as an individual scholar, I am working with the approval of the Vatican Observatory. Email correspondence from Brother Guy Consolmagno, head of the Vatican Observatory, is attached to this application as a supporting document.

Section VI- Future Plans: My immediate future plans following the end of the March 31, 2019 funding period are to continue conducting research in Italy (through April 12, 2019) then to work through the summer and beyond transcribing, coding and analyzing the ethnographic materials I will have gathered. I plan to use these materials to write several conference papers (starting with the Society for the Anthropology of Religion meetings in May 2019 then the American Anthropological Association meetings in November 2019), journal articles, and finally a full-length monograph.

This work has connections with my previous research on pilgrimage that may not be apparent at first glance. I have been conducting research in the field of the anthropology of religion since 1995, focusing primarily on religious travel, perceptions of sacred space, how different religious populations understand sacredness, and how ideas about “energy” and supernatural “power” influence how people interact with things and places they consider sacred. Although most of my research has focused on sacred places “on the ground,” I conducted my first astronaut interview in 2004 (it was an unusual opportunity gained through personal contacts), and was able to make theoretical connections with my prior research into pilgrimage, leading to a few publications that discussed both.

One of my hopes is that this research will help emphasize that everything humans have done to better understand space, from sending out probes and robots to creating bigger and better telescopes to entering space physically and living on cramped space stations for months at a time, is all directly impacted by the fact that it is human beings who are taking these steps, planning these activities, searching for a better understanding. The human element in space exploration is often ignored or sidelined, but just as seeking shelter, finding food and raising families are human endeavors, so is the exploration of space. For space exploration to be

successful (particularly any activity directly involving humans in space, such as manned missions or interplanetary colonization), we need to be able to predict human needs, desires and motivations and to understand the role religion plays in providing meaning, comfort, and identity, as well as in uniting and dividing groups of people. Religion in space has not, is not, and will not be identical to religion on earth, and understanding the particular patterns within and reasons behind these differences can only be beneficial.

Finally, as one of the founders and co-organizers of GVSU and the Grand Rapids Public Museum’s annual “Roger That!” event, which focuses on the celebration of space exploration through interdisciplinary talks, community outreach and K-12 activities, it is important to me to demonstrate that there is “enough space for everyone.” Engineering, physics, biology, chemistry, etc. are recognized as being essential forms of knowledge for space exploration, but the crucial role to be played by social sciences, humanities and the arts in understanding the *human* factors is often neglected.

Most people investigating space as engineers, astronauts, astronomers, etc. were raised going to church, attending services at a *masjid* or celebrating holidays at a temple. Some meditate and others pray. All, however, look up at the heavens with wonder of one kind or another. It is this wonder that motivates the exploration of space, and it is this wonder, in its different manifestations, that I propose to explore.

Section VI - Reference Cited:

Battaglia, Debora. "Coming in at an unusual angle: Exo-surprise and the fieldworking cosmonaut." *Anthropological Quarterly* 85, no. 4 (2012): 1089-1106.

Ecklund, Elaine Howard. *Science vs. religion: what scientists really think*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Genovese, Taylor R. "The new right stuff: Social imaginaries of outer space and the capitalist accumulation of the cosmos." PhD diss., Northern Arizona University, 2017.

Gorman, Alice. "The Cultural Landscape of Interplanetary Space". *Journal of Social Archaeology*. Vol 5 (1): 85 – 107. 2005.

Gross, N., and S. Simmons. "The Religiosity of American College and University Professors." *Sociology of Religion* 70, no. 2 (2009): 101-29.

Heimlich, Russell. "Public Praises Science; Scientists Fault Public, Media." Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. July 09, 2009. Accessed August 28, 2017.
<http://www.people-press.org/2009/07/09/public-praises-science-scientists-fault-public-media/>.

Mead, Margaret. "Does it Matter What Women Think about Space?" in R.M. Skinner and W. Leavitt's *Speaking of Space: The Best from Space Digest*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1962.

Szocik, Konrad, et al. "Political and legal challenges in a Mars colony." *Space Policy*, vol. 38, 2016, pp. 27–29. doi:10.1016/j.spacepol.2016.05.012.

Olson, Valerie A. *American extreme: An ethnography of astronautical visions and ecologies*. Rice University, 2010.

Valentine, David. "Gravity fixes: Habituating to the human on Mars and Island Three." *Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 7, no. 3 (2017): 185-209.

Weibel, Deana L. "Magnetism and microwaves: Religion as radiation." *Religion and the body: Modern science and the construction of religious meaning* (2012): 171-198.

Weibel, Deana L. "'Up In God's Great Cathedral': Evangelism, Astronauts, and the Seductiveness of Outer Space." *The Seductions of Pilgrimage: Sacred Journeys Afar and Astray in the Western Religious Tradition* 233 (2016).



Mail

Calendar

Contacts

Deleted Items (473)

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Needs response

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Reply Reply All Forward Close

RE: Thank you!

Deana Weibel

Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 11:50 AM**To:** GUY CONSOLMAGNO [brother_guy@me.com]

Early August would be fine! And if you're going to be there already for the retired minister, that would put less strain on your schedule.

There are some AirBNBs that are actually less expensive for a month than for three weeks, such as this one: <https://www.airbnb.com/wishlists/232954808> (the price drops by about \$1000 if you stay the whole month!).

I am planning to apply for some funding for the sabbatical, but I want to be able to keep costs down just in case. I will also look at Albano, although I'm kind of in love with the place linked to above.

Deana

Deana Weibel, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, Anthropology
Religious Studies Advisory Board
Co-Organizer, Roger That!
Telephone: 616-331-3346
Lake Michigan Hall 227
Department of Anthropology
Grand Valley State University

From: GUY CONSOLMAGNO [brother_guy@me.com]**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2017 11:45 AM**To:** Deana Weibel**Subject:** Re: Thank you!

Albano is the town that is easy walking to the Observatory, and it does have Air BnB, one of our adjuncts had great success doing just that this past summer. (Castel Gandolfo is prettier and more touristy, but probably more expensive and it's about a half hour walk away; the BnB in Albano was five minutes away.)

Here's my summer 2018 plans...

I am available from about May 19 but probably busy in May to get ready for our Summer School, so unless that was the only time you could make it I would recommend against coming then.

June is filled with our summer school, ends on June 29

July... I am available July 1 through 8, but then traveling the rest of the month.

August... we have a visitor coming August 1-5; I am free August 6 - 14. The away the rest of the month (IAU General Assembly)

September I return to the US.

So as you can see my summer 2018 is already filling up rapidly!

The other visitor, August 1-5, is a retired Lutheran minister doing a sabbatical and talking to various folks about science/faith matters. No reason you couldn't both be here at the same time.

— Guy

++++
Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ
Vatican Observatory Research Group
2017 E. Lee St.
Tucson, AZ 85719
(520) 795 1678
(520) 326 0756 (fax)
gjc@as.arizona.edu
++++

> On Aug 29, 2017, at 8:39 AM, Deana Weibel
<weibeld@gvsu.edu> wrote:

>

> Those dates would be fine. What I'm thinking is getting an Airbnb in Castel Gandolfo (how large is the town and would something central be within walking distance from the Observatory?) so as not to be underfoot the whole time. I don't know if that would impact the amount of time I'm there

(If I was there on my own for a week in the town just to get acclimated or just to wrap up, would that be problematic? I'm also interested in how the town responds to the Observatory and Palace and would like a sense of what tourism there looks like). I totally agree it would be good to get out before Easter (and before things get warm).

>

> We also talked about an initial week (or less?) in the summer of 2018 (I think this is where I might inquire about the apartment you mentioned on-site). School finishes up for me at the end of April and I have to be back again mid-August, but at this point I'm open in between. I don't know when between May and August 2018 would make the most sense for your schedule.

>

> No eclipses next summer, but I'm seriously thinking about how to get to Chile or Argentina in 2019. I've got the bug. :)

>

> Deana

>

> Deana Weibel, Ph.D.

> Professor and Chair, Anthropology

> Religious Studies Advisory Board

> Co-Organizer, Roger That!

> Telephone: 616-331-3346

> Lake Michigan Hall 227

> Department of Anthropology

> Grand Valley State University

>

>

From: GUY CONSOLMAGNO [brother_guy@me.com]

> Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 10:43 AM

> To: Deana Weibel

> Subject: Re: Thank you!

>

> I don't know that I could make it for a whole month, but three weeks in late March - April 2019 might work. Fortunately that's far enough ahead that I don't have things scheduled here yet. I had been thinking that being in Rome during that time might be convenient for some administration stuff I have to do than.

>

> Would, say, March 18-April 12 work for you? Staying longer gets into the Easter rush, a bad time to travel. On the other hand, I have an event in Rome in early May so I am planning to be there for all of May, if that is not too late for you.

>
> The two periods when I have to be in the US are mid January, when I have an event in Tucson, and the end of February, when we have our annual board meeting in Tucson. There is also an event usually the second weekend of March in Tucson that is good for me to be around for.

>
> - Guy
>
> +++++
> Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ
> Vatican Observatory Research Group
> 2017 E. Lee St.
> Tucson, AZ 85719
> (520) 795 1678
> (520) 326 0756 (fax)
> gjc@as.arizona.edu
> +++++

>
>
>
>
>> On Aug 28, 2017, at 1:08 PM, Deana Weibel
<weibeld@gvsu.edu> wrote:

>>
>> Hi Guy,
>>

>> I hope your summer has been going well. Scotland was absolutely wonderful and we were also able to take a family trip to Ravenna, Nebraska last week to see 2 minutes, 35 seconds of totality, which was amazing. I saw some newsy things saying you made it to Kentucky for the eclipse. How did that go?

>>
>> I have a question as I'm planning my January - April 2019 sabbatical. If you *were* able to "come to Rome for a month or so during that time" would January or March be better? I'm assuming April would be inconvenient and I'm hoping to be in Michigan in February when we do Roger That! Part 3 (I'm assuming we'll need to do one for the Apollo 11 semicentennial). I'm turning in my sabbatical plan this week and although it's subject to change, I want to come up with a timeline as part of the application, so I need something at least tentative to put down. I was thinking January 7th through February 4th for the longer visit (after the shorter visit in the summer of 2018), or possibly something like February 22nd- March 22nd, but I want to make it

convenient for you if you'll be able to be there.
Thanks again!

>>

>> Cheers,

>> Deana

>>

>> Deana Weibel, Ph.D.

>> Professor and Chair, Anthropology

>> Religious Studies Advisory Board

>> Co-Organizer, Roger That!

>> Telephone: 616-331-3346

>> Lake Michigan Hall 227

>> Department of Anthropology

>> Grand Valley State University

>>

>> From: GUY CONSOLMAGNO [brother_guy@me.com]

>> Sent: Sunday, July 09, 2017 4:28 PM

>> To: Deana Weibel

>> Subject: Re: Thank you!

>>

>> Sorry for the delay responding, it's been busy... Every visitor has to have someone on site as their "sponsor" and while it's not too soon to start thinking of reserving time for 2019 that is a long time ahead for most people to know their plans. Since I am the only one who knows you, it would unfortunately be awkward to have you around without me there.

>>

>> How long are you thinking of for your "long" stay? I can see if maybe I might come to Rome for a month or so during that time (since I have to be in the US for most of June 2019 for other events).

>>

>> - Guy

>>

>>

>> On Jun 21, 2017, at 1:04 PM, Deana Weibel

<weibeld@gvsu.edu<mailto:weibeld@gvsu.edu>>

wrote:

>>

>> Thank you!

>>

>> Tell me if this sounds possible (as I plan my sabbatical). If I were to go out for a week sometime in 2018 while you are there and get to know a few more of the astronomers, and if I were to find my own lodging in Castel Gandolfo sometime during the January-April 2019 period set aside for my sabbatical (even though you won't be there), do you think I would be able to make a

second, somewhat longer, visit? That way I could include it in my sabbatical proposal.

>>

>> I talked to my mom on the ride home last night - she visited Castel Gandolfo some time during the 1950s or 1960s and saw the pope, although she can't remember which one. And earlier, her father visited when the pope was giving an audience and he lifted a very short nun so she would be able to see him.

>>

>> Best,

>> Deana

>>

>> Deana Weibel, Ph.D.

>> Associate Professor and Chair, Anthropology

>> Religious Studies Advisory Board

>> Co-Organizer, Roger That!

>> Telephone: 616-331-3346

>> Lake Michigan Hall 227

>> Department of Anthropology

>> Grand Valley State University

>>

>> From: GUY CONSOLMAGNO
[brother_guy@me.com<mailto:brother_guy@me.com>]

>> Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 6:47 AM

>> To: Deana Weibel

>> Subject: Re: Thank you!

>>

>> It was, as always, a delight to spend time with you. Best of luck on your research, and let me know when you have travel plans to Rome in mind...

>>

>> - Br. Guy

>>

>> On Jun 20, 2017, at 9:05 PM, Deana Weibel <weibeld@gvsu.edu<mailto:weibeld@gvsu.edu><mailto:weibeld@gvsu.edu>> wrote:

>>

>> Dear Brother Guy,

>>

>> I made it home safe. Thanks so much again for the interview and the coffee/dessert and for bringing me along to mass. It was all very enjoyable. I hope you enjoy the rest of your time at Notre Dame and the rest of your travels.

>>

>> Take care,

>> Deana

>>

>> Deana Weibel, Ph.D.

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>> Associate Professor and Chair, Anthropology
>> Religious Studies Advisory Board
>> Co-Organizer, Roger That!
>> Telephone: 616-331-3346
>> Lake Michigan Hall 227
>> Department of Anthropology
>> Grand Valley State University
>>
>>
>> ++++++
>> Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ
>> Director, Specola Vaticana
>> V-00120
>> Vatican City State
>> (+39) 06 698 85266
>>
director@specola.va<mailto:director@specola.va>
<mailto:director@specola.va>
>> ++++++
>>
>>
>> ++++++
>> Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ
>> Director, Specola Vaticana
>> V-00120
>> Vatican City State
>> (+39) 06 698 85266
>>
director@specola.va<mailto:director@specola.va>
>> ++++++
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Connected to Microsoft Exchange

DEANA L. WEIBEL

227 Lake Michigan Hall, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Mi. 49548
telephone: (616) 331-3346, e-mail: weibeld@gvsu.edu

EDUCATION:

2001 Ph.D. in Anthropology, University of California, San Diego.

Dissertation: "Kidnapping the Virgin: the Reinterpretation of a Roman Catholic Shrine by Religious Creatives"

Dissertation Defense Date: March 16, 2001

Dissertation Advisor: Professor David K. Jordan

1995 M.A. in Anthropology, University of California, San Diego.

Thesis: "'By Visions of the Night': Millennialism and Dreams Among Seventeenth Century English Sectarians."

Thesis Advisor: Professor David K. Jordan

1991 B.A. in Linguistics, University of California, Irvine.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING:

July 2018 – Summer School on Wine, *Terroir* and Tourism, University of Lausanne, Sion Campus, Sion, Switzerland.

CURRENT POSITION:

Fall 2017- Present, Professor of Anthropology

July 2012-Present, Department Chair, Anthropology, Grand Valley State University

Fall 2009- Summer 2017, Associate Professor of Anthropology

Fall 2003-Summer 2009, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Department of Anthropology, GVSU. Courses taught include "Comparative Religions" (traditional and hybrid formats), "Ethnographic Methods," "Death, Burial and Culture," "Language and Culture," "Advanced Cross-Cultural Linguistics," "Culture and Disease," and "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology." Also taught a "Special Topics" course on the Anthropology of Language in Winter 2008, a "Special Topics" course called "The Anthropology of the Sacred" in Winter 2015, and organized and taught the Summer 2005 Cultural Anthropology Field School. I have also been heavily involved with mentoring Consulting Ethnography interns since 2013, and have 12-15 advisees.

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Spring, 2003 Lecturer, Anthropology Department, CSU San Bernardino. Taught "The Anthropology of Magic, Religion and Science," "Religion and Sacred Space," and "The Anthropology of Human Development."

Fall, 2002 & Spring, 2003 Lecturer, Program for the Study of Religion, University of California, San Diego. In 2002, conducted a class called "The Modern Study of Religion: Social and Cultural Theories of Religion." Course served as an introduction to basic strategies of interpretation in the study of religion, including issues of category formation, theory, and method. Also taught "Pilgrimage and Sacred Space."

Fall, 2002 & Spring, 2003 Lecturer, Anthropology Department, CSU Fullerton. Instruction in 2002 of "Traditional Cultures of the World" that examined human diversity through an analysis of such societies as the Kutchin, the Bedouin and the Amish. Also taught "Introduction to Biological Anthropology."

Spring, 2002 Lecturer, Linguistics Department, California State University, Long Beach. Instruction of cross-listed Anthropology and Linguistics class called "Language and Culture," which looked at the social and cultural roles played by language in terms of identity formation and group solidarity, as well as changes to language that result from contact between cultures.

Spring, 2002 Lecturer, Human Development Department, CSU Long Beach. Instruction of "Adult Development and Aging," which focused on the development of human beings from late adolescence until death, with attention to the influence of ethnicity, gender, social class and historical events on the individual life course.

Fall, 2001 & Spring, 2002 Lecturer, Human Development Department, California State University, Long Beach. Instruction of course entitled, "Cultural Influences on Human Development," which centered on the way aspects of human development, such as childhood, parenthood and aging, vary across cultures.

Spring, 2001 Visiting Guest Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of California, San Diego. Instruction of an upper-division anthropology course, "The New Age Movement and New Religions," which examined the emergence of new religions, both within and outside of the United States, as well as the related phenomenon of the New Age movement.

1997-1998 Head Teaching Assistant, Earl Warren College, University of California at San Diego. *Scholars' Seminar* Honors Writing Program. Involved organizing and teaching in a writing program for first-year honors students and leading a team of undergraduate teaching assistants. Directed course topics and brought a new focus on language and linguistics to the curriculum.

1995-1997 Teaching Assistant, Thurgood Marshall College, University of California at San Diego. *Dimensions Of Culture* Writing Program. Included teaching writing and argumentation skills on the topics of "Diversity, Justice, and Imagination" to first-year college students.

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING:

Jan-Feb 2017 Foundations of Online/Hybrid Course Development training in preparation for hybrid version of ANT 315, GVSU Traverse City campus.

TEACHING INTERESTS:

Introduction to anthropology, religion and culture, linguistic anthropology, medical anthropology, human development, culture and aging, intro to physical anthropology, ethnographic methods.

AWARDS:

2017 Michigan Space Grant from the Michigan Space Grant Consortium (Co-Principal Investigator with Karen Gipson, Samhita Rhodes and Glen Swanson) for funding the 2018 event “Roger That!: A Celebration of Space Exploration in Honor of Roger. B. Chaffee.”

2014 Student Summer Scholars (S3) Grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research at GVSU for research with student Meagan Roche in France, May and June 2014.

2007 Special research grant from GVSU’s Dean of Graduate Studies and Grants Administration for student-accompanied research in May and June, 2006, in Rocamadour and Lourdes, France.

2006 Grant-in-Aid from Grand Valley State University’s Research and Development Committee for research in May and June, 2006, in Rocamadour and Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, France.

1998-1999 Fulbright Award for Research in France distributed by the Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange

1995 Soroptimist Society of La Jolla Research Award for the Study of Issues in Women’s Health (Grant name changed in 1996 to the Doris A. Howell Foundation Grant for Women's Health Research).

BOOK:

Crane, Hillary and Deana Weibel (eds.) (December 2012) *Missionary Impositions: Conversion, Resistance, and Other Challenges to Objectivity in Religious Ethnography*, edited volume on the topic of the ethical complications of fieldwork among proselytizing informants. Lexington Books.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

Weibel, Deana L. 2016 "Rocamadour Pilgrimage" in *The Oxford Companion to Cheese* by Catherine Donnelly (ed.). Oxford University Press

Weibel, Deana L. 2015 'Up in God's Great Cathedral': Evangelism, Astronauts, and the Seductiveness of Outer Space" in *The Seductions of Pilgrimage: Afar and Astray in the Western Religious Tradition*, by Michael Di Giovine and David Picard (eds). Ashgate Studies in Pilgrimage, Ashgate Publishing, pp. 233-256.

Weibel, Deana L. 2014 "A Savage at the Wedding and the Skeletons in My Closet: My Great-Grandfather, "Igorotte Villages," in *Mutuality: Anthropology's Changing Terms of Engagement*, by Roger Sanjek (ed). University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 99-117.

Weibel, Deana L. 2012 "Blind in a Land of Visionaries: When a Non-Pilgrim Studies Pilgrimage" in *Missionary Impositions: Conversion, Resistance, and Other Challenges to Objectivity in Religious Ethnography*, Hillary K. Crane and Deana L. Weibel (eds). Lexington Books, pp. 92-109 .

Weibel, Deana L. 2012 "Magnetism and Microwaves: Religion as Radiation" In *The Body and Religion: Modern Science and the Construction of Meaning*, David Cave and Rebecca Sachs Norris (eds). Brill Academic Publishing. pp. 171-198.

Weibel, Deana L. and Glen E. Swanson. 2006. Malinowski in Orbit: 'Magical Thinking' in Human Spaceflight. *Quest: The History of Spaceflight Quarterly* 13 (3): 53-61.

Weibel, Deana L. 2005a. "The Virgin Mary Versus the Monkeys" In *Religious Innovation in a Global Age*, George N. Lundskow (ed.). McFarland. pp. 247-257.

Weibel, Deana L. 2005b. "Of Consciousness Changes and Fortified Faith: Creativist and Catholic Pilgrimage at French Catholic Shrines" In *Pilgrimage and Healing*, Jill Dubisch and Michael Winkelman (eds.). University of Arizona Press.. pp. 111-134.

Weibel, Deana L. 2003. Controlling Chance, Creating Chance: Magical Thinking in Religious Pilgrimage. *The Journal for the Academic Study of Magic* 1: 161-178.

Weibel, Deana L. 2002a. The New Age and the Old World: the Interpretation and Use of European Shrines by Religious Creatives. *Maria: A Journal of Marian Studies* 2.(2): 81-87.

Weibel, Deana L. 2002b. 'The Energy We Call the Goddess': the Religious Creativist Use of a Roman Catholic Shrine. *Maria: A Journal of Marian Studies* 2.(2): 88-94.

BOOK REVIEWS:

Weibel, Deana (2014) *Review of Tourism and the Power of Otherness: Seductions of Difference*, edited by Michael DiGiovine and David Picard. Invited submission to the *International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage*.

IN PROGRESS PUBLICATIONS:

Vertigo: The Unsteady Identity of a Marian Shrine. Book manuscript. Proposal submitted December 2015 to the Ashgate Studies in Pilgrimage series, Ashgate Publishing.

"Mock Rituals, Sham Battles, and Real Research: Anthropologists and the Ethnographic Study of the Bontoc Igorot in 1900s 'Igorrote Villages,'" submitted to *Histories of Anthropology Annual*. Volume 12, University of Nebraska Press.

"Medieval 'Miracle of Equilibrium' or Contemporary 'Sanctuary of Rock-Hard Faith'? How Digital Media Guides Visitors' Experiences at the Shrine of Rocamadour, France," conference paper undergoing revision to be included in an edited volume on "Religion and Mobile Apps" for Palgrave Macmillan's *Contemporary Anthropology of Religion* series, edited by Jacqueline Fewkes.

Untitled article analyzing the August 21st total solar eclipse as a pilgrimage event (in development).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

Weibel, Deana L. (2017) "Space exploration as religious experience: Evangelical astronauts and the perception of God's worldview." *The Space Review*. August 21, 2017. <http://www.thespacereview.com/article/3310/1#idc-cover>.

Weibel, Deana L. (2015 Kindle edition, 2016 Print edition) "Pennies from Heaven: Objects in the Use of Outer Space as Sacred Space" in *Touching the Face of the Cosmos: On the Intersection of Space Travel and Religion*, Paul Levinson and Michael Waltemathe (eds.), Connected Editions (Kindle version) and Fordham University Press (print edition).

Weibel, Deana (2015) "Lessons from GVSU's Ethnographic Field School," (blog post) *Engaged GVSU: Reflections from the GVSU Office of Community Engagement*, <https://gvsucommunity.wordpress.com/2015/04/01/lessons-from-gvsus-ethnographic-field-school/>.

Weibel, Deana L. and Katie L. Kujala, (2014) "Blessed Goats: On the Melding of Church and Cheese in Rocamadour, France," in the "Research Notes" section of the Spring 2014 issue of *Digest: A Journal of Foodways and Culture*.

Weibel, Deana L. and Patricia O. Afable . (2012) "'The Igorrote Village' at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, 1909: Bontoc Performers and their American Showman" In *Igorot by Heart: Keynotes and Selections of a Generation*, John Dyte et al (eds.) Igorot Global Organization, pp. 213-243.

Weibel, Deana L. (2007a). Society for the Anthropology of Religion monthly column in *Anthropology News*, "Magic, Science and Religion in Space?" Volume 48, Number 2.

Weibel, Deana L. (2007b) "A New Take on Kinship Studies" in the Grand Valley State University Anthropology Club's Winter 2007 *Anthropology Advocate*.

EDITED REPORT:

"Stories" for Bethany: A Collection of Refugee Stories Based on Interviews Conducted by the Students of ANT 400, Ethnographic Methods, Fall Semester 2016, submitted to Alyssa Hall of Bethany Refugee and Immigrant Services on December 14, 2016.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED:

Co-Organizer/Founder (February 2017, Forthcoming February 2018) *Roger That!: A Celebration of Space Exploration in Honor of Roger B. Chaffee*, a two-day interdisciplinary public event being put on by GVSU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Padnos College of Engineering and Computing and the Grand Rapids Public Museum to recognize the contributions of Grand Rapids native, astronaut Roger B. Chaffee to the exploration of space, and to emphasize that the study of space involves science, society and the arts.

PAPERS PRESENTED:

Refereed presentations:

May 2017 "'Time from Eternity to Eternity': Space Exploration and the Astronaut experience of God's Worldview" (co-authored with Joshua Ambrosius) at the Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meetings, New Orleans, Louisiana.

February 2017 "Witnesses to the Heavens: Space Exploration in a Religious Context" at the *Roger That!: A Celebration of Space Exploration in Honor of Roger B. Chaffee* conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

November 2016, "Medieval 'Miracle of Equilibrium' or Contemporary 'Sanctuary of Rock-Hard Faith'? : How Digital Media Guides Visitors' Experiences at the Shrine of Rocamadour, France" at the American Anthropological Association meetings, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

June 2016, "Academics at the Fairs: Linguistic and Cultural Research with Exhibited Igorots in the Early 20th Century" at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pacific Division's Annual Meeting, San Diego, California.

November 2015, Discussant, panel on "The Seductions of Pilgrimage: Sacred Journeys Afar and Astry in the Western Religious Tradition," at the American Anthropological Association meetings, Denver, Colorado.

November 2015, "Mock Rituals, Sham Battles, and Real Research: Anthropologists and the Ethnographic Study of the Bontoc Igorot in 1900s 'Igorrote Villages'" at the American Anthropological Association meetings, Denver, Colorado.

April 2015, "Communitas, Morality, Sorrow and Truth: Supernatural Means of Ascertaining Unorthodox Histories of Religiously Significant Sites," at the Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meetings, San Diego, California.

March 2015, "Teaching Anthropology Is Not a 'Sin': Emphasizing the Practical Aspects of the Anthropology Major" (co-authored with Tara Hefferan and Elizabeth Arnold) at the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meetings, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

December 2014, "Religious Creatives, Sacredness and the Anthropologist," at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C.

December 2014, "A Guide to Conquest: What Crusades Tourism Reveals about the Construction of French National Identity" (co-authored with Meagan Roche) at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C.

May, 2014 "Transportable Awe: Sacred Contagion as Enrichment," at the Cognitive Science of Religion, Philosophy and Theology Conference, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.

November, 2013 "To Sink or to Swim: An Ethnographer's Trial by Water" at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, Illinois.

April, 2013 "Syncretism in the Service of Colonialism: The Universalizing Approach of Religious Creativism" at the Society for the Anthropology of Religion meetings, Pasadena, California.

October, 2012. "Igorots, Anthropologists, and 'Igorrote Villages': The Impact of Ethnography as Imperialism" at the 9th International Conference on the Philippines (ICOPHIL), Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

November, 2011. "A Savage at the Wedding and the Skeletons in My Closet: My Great-Grandfather, "Igorotte Villages," and the Ethnological Expositions of the 1900s" at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

June, 2011. "Performers, Interpreters and the Showman Onstage and Offstage at the AYPE Pay Streak's 'Igorotte Village'" (co-authored with Patricia Afable) at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pacific Division's Annual Meeting, San Diego, California.

April, 2011. "'Up in God's Great Cathedral': An Analysis of an Astronaut's Personal Relationship with Divinity" at the Society for the Anthropology of Religion meetings, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

November, 2010. "The Pilgrim/Tourist Loop: When the Movement of Compostela Pilgrims off the Camino Leads to Circular Patterns of Identity" at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, New Orleans, Louisiana.

August, 2010. "Performers, Interpreters and the Showman Onstage and Offstage at the AYPE Pay Streak's 'Igorotte Village '" (co-authored with Patricia Afable) at the Eighth International Igorot Consultation, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia.

December, 2009. "Gathering Energy: Pilgrimage, Spaceflight and the Transformation of Objects" (co-authored with Valerie Olson) at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

September, 2009. "Performers, Interpreters and the Showman: Onstage and Offstage at the Pay Streak's 'Igorotte Village '" (co-authored with Patricia Afable) at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Centennial: Asian Symposium, Seattle, Washington.

March, 2009. "'I Have Filled it With Energy!': The Manufacture of Fetishistic Relics by Voyagers to Sacred Space(s)" (co-authored with Valerie Olson), at the Society for the Anthropology of Religion/Psychological Anthropological Association joint meetings, Asilomar, California.

December, 2007. "Blind in a Land of Visionaries: When a Non-Pilgrim Studies Pilgrimage," at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C.

April, 2007. "The Nuns of Rocamadour: 'Itinerant Missionaries' at the Border between Religion and Secularism," at the Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona.

November, 2006. "The Secular Saint: Francis Poulenc as an Exemplar of Tourist-to-Pilgrim Transformation," at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, San Jose, California.

December, 2004. "Malinowski in Orbit: Magical Thinking in the U.S. and Soviet Manned Space Programs" (co-authored with Glen E. Swanson), at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta, Georgia (also chaired the panel, "At the Crossroads of Magic and Science").

November, 2003 "Whose Shrine is it Anyway?" the American Anthropological Assoc Annual Meetings, Chi.

November, 2000 "'The Energy We Call the Goddess': The Religious Creativist Use of a Roman Catholic Shrine," at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, San Francisco.

April, 2000 "The New Age and the Old World: The Interpretation and Use of European Shrines by 'Religious Creatives,'" at the Western Social Science Association Convention, San Diego.

Other presentations:

"*To Make a Man Appreciate the Creation of God: Space Travel and the Sacred*" with Glen Swanson (Physics), GVSU Art Galleries, February 2014.

"Diversity in Religion," a presentation given as part of GVSU's Inclusion and Diversity Seminar, Nov. 2011.

"Medicine and Miracles: Science and Religion at Lourdes, France", A Grand Dialogue in Science and Religion Annual Conference 2011, April 2011, GVSU.

"Sacred Sites and 'Energy': Using Science to Describe the Spiritual", A Grand Dialogue in Science and Religion Annual Conference 2010, March 2010, GVSU.

"The Humanities Connection to *Soul Catchers*," a panel discussion at Frederick Meijer Gardens, February 2010.

"Religion and Space," a presentation at the Spring Lake District Library, April 2009.

"Moving Closer to God(s): Why Pilgrims Make Pilgrimages", A Grand Dialogue in Science and Religion Annual Conference 2009, March 2009, GVSU.

"Richard Schneidewind's Igorot Village: Early Anthropology and the Display of Philippine 'Savages' in the United States," with Patricia Afable. Special Presentation of the GVSU Department of Anthropology, March 2008.

"Religion and the Supernatural in the American Space Program," with Glen Swanson, A Grand Dialogue in Science and Religion Annual Conference, February 2008, GVSU.

"Secularism and Religiosity at Rocamadour" The Ways of the Earth's Symposium on Inter-Religious Struggle, February 2005, GVSU.

"Communion on the Moon: Spirituality and Human Spaceflight," with Glen E. Swanson, GVSU's Anthropology Club's "Brown Bag" presentation, November, 2004, GVSU.

"You Make Me Feel Like Dancin': Dance and Other Forms of Movement inspired by the Divine," Interfaith Dialogue Association Conference, November, 2004, Aquinas College.

"The Virgin Mary: God's Mother or Mother Goddess?" The Ways of the Earth's Sacred Feminine symposium, March, 2004, GVSU.

"Judaism and the New Age Movement," San Diego Secular Humanistic Judaism Society, June 2001, San Diego, Ca.

RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE:

Continuing research on the topic of human spaceflight, “flown” objects and religious beliefs for new publications, as well as continuing research in Rocamadour, France for book revision and additional articles and presentations.

Other research:

2017 Research interviews on space exploration and religiosity with two interlocutors (Jesuit astronomer in June, unorthodox astronaut in September)

2015 Research interview on the topic of religious objects (the “Space Judaica” collection) that were taken into outer space and their resulting religious significance.

2014 Research at Rocamadour, Versailles, Carcassonne, Montségur, and Mousaïss-la-Bataille, France with GVSU student Meagan Roche (funded by a Student Summer Scholars grant) for book revision and additional articles and presentations.

2010-2011 Transcription of and research on my taped interview with an American astronaut that was initially conducted in 2004, but was only approved as a study (“Religious Practice and Belief in Outer Space: An Astronaut’s Experience in Context”) by GVSU’s IRB Committee as of July 2010.

2007 Research at Rocamadour and Lourdes, France with GVSU student Katie Kujala for book revision and additional articles and presentations.

2006 Research at Rocamadour and Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, France for book revision and additional articles and presentations.

2005 Consultant (paid), Meijer Gardens’ *Christmas Around the World and Holiday Traditions*

2004 Research at the Cross of the Woods Catholic shrine in Indian River, Michigan.

2003 Supplementary research in Rocamadour, France for book project.

2000-2003 Anthropological Researcher, Context-Based Research Group. Projects included studies on the consumption of wine in the United States, the relationships between Realtors and their clients, and interactions between architects and the industries that employ them.

2001 Consultant and Expert Witness, Law Offices of Gerald Blank, San Diego, California. Provided information and advice to a defensive legal team on topics involving witchcraft and occult practices.

1998-1999 Dissertation research in Rocamadour, France (Fulbright Grant, October-June).

1998 Supplementary dissertation research in Chimayó, New Mexico (April-June).

1997 Dissertation feasibility study, Rocamadour, France (April-September).

1995 Initial reconnaissance work, Rocamadour, France and Lourdes, France (Soroptimist Grant, July).

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Anthropology of religion, pilgrimage and sacred space, sacred objects, religion and technology, religion and the exploration of outer space, the cognitive science of religion, religious authority, religion and feminism, medical anthropology, culture and healing, language and culture, religious categories and language use, evangelical Christianity, the New Age movement, secularization, Europe, the American Southwest.

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES:

2011-present Executive Committee of the University Academic Senate.

2006-present University Academic Senate

2006-2007 Fall Arts and Humanities Celebration Advisory Committee

2005-2006 Learning Space Task Force

2004-2010 Research and Development Committee/Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence

2004-2006 University Assessment Committee

OTHER UNIVERSITY AND UNIT SERVICE:

2016 Chair of Unit Department Coordinator Hiring Subcommittee

2011-present Advising Faculty, Religious Studies Department

2015 Affiliate Faculty Task Force

2015 Co-organizer of Community Service Reception (September)

2015 G3 Session Organizer – “From the Equator to the Poles: How People Live With Light” (June)

2015 Engaged Department Institute participant (May)

2015 Faculty Advisor (with Wroblewski, Arnold and Van Wormer) for Community Engagement interns

2015 Super Science Saturday Session Co-Organizer (with Chris Shaffer) – “From the Equator to the Poles: How People Live With Light” (February)

2014 ECS Subcommittee on Service

2013 G3 Session Organizer – “Games on the Playground - A Cultural Exchange”

2011-2012 Chair of Unit Assistant Professor Hiring Subcommittee

2011 Participation in GVSU’s Interfaith Committee under the Kaufman Interfaith Institute

2011 Participation in Unit Visiting Professor Hiring Subcommittee

2010 Participation as a panelist on one of the Personnel Policy Faculty Forums re: the Personnel Policy Referendum

2009 Self-Study Subcommittees on Faculty Vitae Review and FARs and Overall Departmental Collection in Anthropology unit
2008 North Central Accreditation Forum participation
2008 GVSU's Student Visitation Day (creation of PowerPoint describing unit for event)
2008 Banner Prerequisite Override Training
2008 Grand Valley State University's 2008 Major Fair
2007 Benchmarking Subcommittee in Anthropology unit
2007 Assessment Subcommittee in Anthropology unit
2007 General Education cluster service for Religion and Death and Dying themes
2007 General Education workshop
2006-2007 Helped organize and plan an anthropological activity for the 2007 Science Olympiad
2006 Participant in GVSU's Liberal Arts Initiative
2005-present Participant in GVSU's Advocates and Allies group
2004-2008 Faculty advisor, GVSU Anthropology Club
2004-2007 Assisting in the evaluation of writing samples for CUII
2003 Presentations with Dr. Bruce Hardy on careers in anthropology and applying to graduate school for the GVSU Anthropology Club

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

2015 Provided External Tenure Review for Anthropology Department, Queens College, CUNY.
2008 Nominated to run as a candidate for Board Member, the Society for the Anthropology of Religion.

RELEVANT COMMUNITY SERVICE

2017 Anthropology Day presentation, Grand Rapids Montessori School, Grand Rapids, Michigan

2006 Consultant, Network 180's Diversity Council.

2003-present Member of the Board of Directors and Vice President of the Interfaith Dialogue Association of West Michigan (housed under the Kaufman Interfaith Institute since 2015)

NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS

January 2017. Interviewed by Teresa Guerrero Fernández for an article in the Madrid, Spain-based newspaper *El Mundo*, "Las Mujeres Que Ayudaron A Pisar La Luna," about the experiences of female NASA astronauts and other employees, astronauts' wives, and the movie "Hidden Figures."

October 2009. Interviewed by Jim Hayden for an article in the *Holland Sentinel*, "Spooked: Local Haunts for a chilly thrill" about ghosts in cross-cultural belief systems.

October 2007. Interviewed by Angel Diaz for an article in the Madrid, Spain-based newspaper *El Mundo*, “Todo listo para el Ramadán cósmico,” about religious beliefs held by and rituals performed by astronauts and cosmonauts.

June 2007. Various interviews in *Grand Rapids Press*, *Grand Haven Tribune*, *GVNow*, and the *GVSU Lanthorn* about appearance on Jeopardy! game show.

November 2004. Interviewed by John Flesher for internationally distributed Associated Press article, “Outdoor Shrine Inspires Worshippers” about pilgrimage to the Cross in the Woods shrine, Indian River, Michigan.

RADIO INTERVIEWS

January 20, 2017. Interview about the Roger That! event (along with Samhita Rhodes and Kate Moore) by Shelly Irwin, WGVU. <http://wgvunews.org/post/roger>.

January 20, 2017. Interview about the Roger That! event (along with Kate Moore) by Jennifer Moss, WGVU, <http://wgvunews.org/post/upcoming-symposium-honor-roger-b-chaffee>.

January 20, 2017. Interview about the Roger That! event by James Gemmell, WJRW, <https://clyp.it/u4m3frag>.

May 2005. Interviewed (along with Mark Schwartz) for “The Morning Show,” hosted by Shelley Irwin, WGVU.

October 2004. Interviewed for “Common Threads,” hosted by Fred Stella, WGVU.

TELEVISION APPEARANCES

June 2007. Appeared on WMMT, Channel 3 and nationally as contestant on Jeopardy! game show (One appearance, 2nd place finish).

June 2007. Interviewed on WZZM, Channel 13 about appearance on Jeopardy! game show.

JOURNAL INTERVIEWS

Fall 2013. Interviewed about pedagogy for the article "Designing and Implementing an Integrative, Collaborate, Problem-Solving-Based General Education Capstone" by C. B. Griffin and Wendy Burns-Ardolino for the Capstones and Integrative Learning issue of *PeerReview*, Fall 2013, Vol. 15, No. 4.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

American Anthropological Association
Society for the Anthropology of Religion
Central States Anthropological Society
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion



February 27, 2018

Catalyst Review Committee
Center for Creative and Scholarly Excellence

Dear Committee Members,

I am pleased to write in support of Deana Weibel's application for a Catalyst grant. She is seeking partial support for her sabbatical work.

Deana is an accomplished scholar who has made some preliminary forays into this project, interviewing four subjects. She has concluded that it has good promise and now wants to develop it into a sustained, thorough study. Her goal is to gain insight about how people doing scientific work integrate religious or spiritual understanding of the world with their scientific approaches. She plans to interview roughly forty astronomers, engineers and astronauts. Notably, she has obtained an invitation to spend several weeks at the Vatican Observatory, interviewing the Jesuit scientists there.

Thunder, lightning, sun, and moon were surely among the first objects of religious attention. The development of naturalistic or scientific understandings of these things represents one of the fundamental encounters between religion and science. This is of course well-trodden ground. In my view Deana is bringing two new points to the discussion. First, she is recognizing that even nominally nonreligious people look at space with a kind of natural awe akin to spirituality, and considering their responses alongside those of "religious scientists" who have received more attention. Second, she is addressing people with direct connections to space *exploration*, as opposed to space study. Actual exploration has been realizable only in very recent times, and the study of its influence on the religious or spiritual thoughts of its practitioners is a new opportunity.

Deana has studied religious ideas and practices for most of her career, but the space exploration aspect of the present work is new. It certainly can be expected to have a significant impact on her scholarly trajectory, opening doors for her and others.

Sincerely,

George C. McBane
Professor of Chemistry
Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences