Sabbatical Report

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2. Date range of your sabbatical leave. January 1, 2014-July 1, 2014
I proposed researching the social, economic and political similarities between the United States and Israel. Most Americans and Europeans have misconceptions regarding Israeli society. Impressions regarding the social, political and economic realities of Israel are often distorted by coverage of its ongoing struggle to survive in an inhospitable environment. Many do not appreciate that from a sociological perspective, Israel is more similar to a small nation in Europe or American state than it is to other countries in the Middle East.

3. What were your sabbatical objectives and planned activities?
I hoped to affiliate with a research institute in Israel so that I could spend an extended period of time conducting this research there and completing the manuscript for a book on the subject. I had made four previous trips to Israel. At the time I applied for a sabbatical, I planned to spend ten days there in September, 2013. I hoped to finalize arrangements for my sabbatical with a research institute during that trip.

4. To what degree did you meet each of your sabbatical objectives and complete each of your sabbatical planned activities?
I completed the first ten day visit in September of 2013. Circumstances did not allow me to make a second trip during my actual leave and realize my desire to affiliate with a research institute in Israel. I had hoped to spend an extended period of time there conducting research and working on a manuscript for a book on the subject.*

Instead, I spent the actual leave conducting research for the book and completing another related project. Over the previous two years, I worked with scholars in the U.S. and Israel to collect and digitalize the entire run of an important scholarly journal. *The Shekel* is published six times per year by the American-Israeli Numismatic Association. It contains scholarly articles on money and monetary policies in both ancient and modern Israel as well as Jewish numismatic artifacts from the diaspora.

*The Shekel*, which had been published since 1968, was only available in print form and a complete set was not available in any library or institution. I contacted the association and proposed forming a student research team to collect and digitalize the series so that it would be available online to scholars around the world. Four students invested hundreds of hours into scanning and editing final pdf files of the journals.

In addition to research for my manuscript on the sociological comparisons between modern Israel and the United States, I completed digitalization project. The archive can be accessed through this link: https://4b2ae7a6f4da5f1872b61153ebe6e7b393a65.googledrive.com/host/0B68uBERW6rHYdVgydDBiLUxDeTA/

5. Summarize the contributions you believe the sabbatical leave has provided for your own professional development, as well as perceived benefits for your department, school, college, university, and/or profession.
The work that I did on both projects have resulted in numerous new relationships that will be of value for the rest of my career. UHH and my department have received accolades for the work we did archiving The Shekel. When the archive finally went online, numerous print and online publications around the world described the work done by my student team. Examples of this publicity can be found at the following locations:


*I am returning to Israel for two weeks in November, 2015 to complete some of the work I was not able to finish during my sabbatical.*