PROJECT TITLE: The Postcolonial Meets Magical Realism: New Literature Emerging From Post-Apartheid South Africa
DATES: 7th July-20th August, 2004
LOCATION: University of Cape Town, South Africa

Introduction:
During the summer of 2004, I travelled to and attended classes at the prestigious University of Cape Town in South Africa in order to conduct research on emerging literature. As a new faculty member at SUNY-Oswego and scholar of international and postcolonial literature, I am interested in continuing my research on emerging writers from post-apartheid South Africa, informing and furthering research that will be the basis for publishable material. In addition, I am committed to enhancing my teaching at SUNY-Oswego through this research.

I brought back an enormous body of work: novels, critical publications, anthologies of new work, notes from classes and lectures, notes on museum exhibits, theatre productions, and an international film festival I attended. All this has to be sorted through, dissected, and organised into categories that will fit into certain conferences and publications: that is the work I am attempting to conduct right now, while continuing the normal teaching and service responsibilities I have as a new faculty member.

How project will further professional development:
The time I spent at the University of Cape Town was invaluable; I have material that I am currently preparing for conference presentations and publications. Also, I am using my enhanced understanding of the genre of Southern African literature to apply for grants and fellowships in the year to follow. The following is a brief list of conferences/papers I am in the process of writing:

a) Trans/National Film and Literature: Cultural Production and the Claims of History. 30th Annual Conference on Literature and Film Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL (Jan 27-29, 2005)
Paper Title: “Presentation of Truth, Presentations of Reconciliation in Film and Fiction: John Boorman’s “In My Country” and Antjie Krog’s The Country of My Skull
TITLE: “The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Journalism’s role in South Africa’s Transition from Apartheid: Recording Atrocity, Truth-telling, and Non-Resolution in Antjie Krog’s The Country of My Skull

c) Culture and Conflict: Crossing and Negotiating Borders in Postcolonial Societies/14th Annual British Commonwealth & Postcolonial Studies Conference and 3rd Annual USACLALS Conference in Savannah, Georgia

TITLE: Reflections of Truth and Reconciliation: Women’s Roles, Women’s Writing, and the Effects of the Truth Commission on Narrative in South Africa

Effect of research on teaching: The research I conducted, and the time I spent at the University of Cape Town had a different, and more immediate effect: I brought back a new set of novels that I can use in the classes I teach; in fact, much of the research I conducted, copies of journal articles I made, and books I brought back with me will provide the basis for two classes:

a) Senior Seminar on post-apartheid literature in the spring of 2005 (will include viewings/discussion of films and art from the “10 Years of Democracy” exhibit at Iziko (the National Museum in Cape Town).

b) I will develop a course on new Southern African Writers for Fall 2005/Spring 2006 – Writers from SA, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana and the Lusophone countries of Mozambique and Angola.

c) Am currently writing a proposal for a new course on Black Women’s writing with a colleague in the English Department – it will cover women writers from the US, Caribbean, and Africa.