

Diane Shoos

2008-2009 Sabbatical Leave Report

March 4, 2010

My 2008-9 sabbatical leave was devoted to working on the manuscript of my book project, *Domesticating Violence: Hollywood Film Representations of Male Abuse of Women*. I completed penultimate drafts of chapters one, two, three, and five and am currently drafting chapter four, a revision/expansion of my article in *National Women's Studies Association Journal*. I also compiled a list of possible publishers for the manuscript .

During January through May of 2009 I pursued my writing and research in Pau, France in order to keep my French language skills and cultural literacy current. During my stay I met with the on-site coordinators at the Université de Pau, a USAC site where more than a dozen Michigan Tech students have studied abroad. I was also fortunate to be able to have multiple conversations about the Pau program and possible faculty exchange with Professor Miriella Melara, Chair of the Modern Language Department at the University of Nevada at Reno who oversees the Pau program and was teaching and conducting a site visit there last winter.

In October 2008 I attended the Watson Conference in Louisville, Kentucky where I delivered a paper entitled "Composing the Self, Gleaning the Other: Agnes Varda's *The Gleaners and I* and *The Gleaners and I Two Years Later*."

In the fall I proposed a panel entitled "From Juno to Jerry: Pregnancy and Parenthood in Context and Across Cultures" which was accepted for the Society for Cinema and Media Studies 50th anniversary meeting in Tokyo, Japan in May 2009. I applied for but did not receive a Faculty Development Grant to attend the conference. Unfortunately the conference was cancelled due to H1N1 restrictions; fortunately the panel, which includes my paper entitled "Film Narratives of Adoption" will be on the program at the upcoming SCMS conference in Los Angeles in March 2010. The panel and the paper will be the basis for a proposal for an edited collection on adoption in the media.

In the spring I proposed a paper, "*Then She Found Me: Imag(in)ing Birthmothers in Contemporary Film*," which I delivered at the Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference held in Lansing, Michigan in October 2009.

During my sabbatical leave I continued to work with graduate students in the Rhetoric and Technical Communication program. I chaired Christine Garceau's PH.D. comprehensive exam committee and was a member of Cheryl Malgay's dissertation committee through their successful defenses in Fall 2008. I directed Jeannie Patrick's dissertation through her successful Ph.D. defense in April, 2009. I continued to serve as Shawn Apostel's dissertation director and Diane Keranen's co-director; as a committee member on Maura Taaffe's dissertation committee; and as a member of Randy Harrison's comprehensive exam committee. This past June I became the chair of Rebecca Frost's Master's thesis committee and worked with her throughout the summer.