

To: LAUC Research and Professional Development Committee
From: Anne M. Platoff, UCSB Library, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9010
Date: May 9, 2011

RE: Application for LAUC Presentation Grant for 2011-2012

Project Title(s):

- a) NAVA Digital Library: Poster Session, Demonstration, & Recommendations for Similar Projects
- b) Six Flags Over Luna: The Role of Flags in Moon Landing Conspiracy Theories (research paper)

Amount Requested:

\$500

Release Time Required:

1 week (this is the conference I will be attending using my 2011-2012 professional development funding)

A: Current Status of Project and Rationale for Requesting a Mini-Grant:

One of my areas of scholarly interest is the field of vexillology, the study of flags. I have presented a number of conference papers in this field, and have published several scholarly articles including two that were monograph-length. I am submitting this presentation grant application to request funding to attend the Washington Flag Congress (ICV 24/NAVA 45), which will be held on 1-5 August 2011 in Washington, D.C. This conference is a combined meeting of the biennial International Congress of Vexillology (ICV), the meeting of Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques (FIAV), and the annual meeting of the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA). At the meeting I will be reporting on the NAVA Digital Library project, and also presenting a research paper.

URLs for more information:

- Washington Flag Congress website - <http://www.washingtonflagcongress.org/>
- NAVA website - <http://www.nava.org/>
- FIAV website - <http://www.fiav.org/FIAV.html>

NAVA Digital Library Project

Abstract: The NAVA Digital Library is an online resource designed to provide access to all of the organization's publications through our website. All publications which are more than two years old will be open-access, freely available to anyone who wants to use them. The most current two years of each publication will be made available to our members through the "member's only" section of NAVA's website. For the Washington Flag Conference I will be preparing a poster session which introduces the project to the attendees, explains how we have implemented the project, and discusses possible "next steps" – not only for NAVA, but also for other vexillological organizations – to make our publications available online. I will be

demonstrating the NAVA Digital Library, and offering recommendations to representatives of the vexillological associations from other countries on how they can implement similar projects.

Background: I am currently a member of NAVA's Executive Board, serving my third term as NAVA's 2nd Vice President. In this capacity I oversee NAVA's publications including a peer-reviewed scholarly journal (*Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*) and our organization's newsletter (*NAVA News*). The biggest project that I have undertaken in this position is the planning and implementation of the NAVA Digital Library. NAVA is a small bi-national organization about 400 members. To my knowledge, I am one of only two practicing librarians who are members of the organization, so I am trying to lend my professional expertise to help complete this project.

To initiate the NAVA Digital Library project, I consulted with our metadata librarian here at UCSB to learn more about best practices such as scanning resolution, file naming practices, and metadata templates. My involvement in this project has included: writing a digitization plan; inventorying the materials which will be included to determine which would need to be scanned and which would be converted from digital formats; establishing parameters for scanning; naming all the PDF files according to an established file-naming convention; converting various "born digital" files to PDF format; adding metadata to all the files; and preparing a web interface to allow users to locate and access the files.

After several years of work, I have now prepared and posted 206 files for the *NAVA News* (1967-2009) and 45 files for *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology* (6 volumes from the period 2000-2008). I am still working out some details with more complicated born-digital files, but hope to be finished with that work by the time of the conference. In addition, I need to post the "members-only" files so that they will be available to our membership. While I am completing the conversion, preparation, and posting of files for the digital library, I am also working on a project to convert our old static HTML index to a database. The new database will be fully-searchable and will have links to the full text of the articles in the NAVA Digital Library. I expect to have at least a working prototype available for demonstration during the conference.

URLs for more information:

- NAVA Digital Library: <http://www.nava.org/documents/library/index.php>
- Digitization Plan: <http://www.nava.org/documents/library/plan.pdf>
- NAVA News & Raven Combined Index (1971-2009): current static HTML version - <http://www.nava.org/NAVA%20Publications/nnraven/index.html>

Research Paper Description

Abstract: According to historians, twelve American astronauts explored the surface of the Moon between 1969 and 1972. During their time on the lunar surface each Apollo crew deployed a special flag pole, leaving a total of six American flags on the surface of the Moon. Or did they? Since the 1970s conspiracy theories have emerged which claim that NASA faked the Moon landings. Much of the evidence used by the conspiracy theorists consists of photographs and films released by NASA during the Apollo Program. Not surprisingly, the flags have played a major role in the argument that the Moon landings were an elaborate hoax. This paper will examine the claims of the conspiracy theorists related to flags and will provide explanations in support of the historical reality of the Apollo missions.

Background: I chose this topic because it combines several of my skill sets. First, as a former NASA contract employee I have experience researching and writing about the history of the U.S. manned space program. I have published three works on NASA history: a history of the lunar flag assembly, a history of NASA symbols and the use of flags in the U.S. manned space program, and also a history of NASA's early manned Mars mission planning efforts. Second, as a librarian I teach students how to critically evaluate information. For this reason, I find the moon landing hoax conspiracy theories to be very troubling. How can so many people believe the arguments presented by the hoax theory proponents? Because the audience at this conference will be an international audience, I wanted to present a paper that would have a broad appeal. I also wanted one that would draw upon my knowledge of vexillology, NASA history, and critical evaluation of information.

B: Summary of Budget:

My estimated expenses for attending the Washington Flag Congress are:

- Early Conference Registration: \$250 (paid before 1 Feb. 2010)
- Hotel (Sun. July 31 - Sat. August 6):
 - Conference rate: \$175/night
 - Total for 7 nights: \$1,225
- Flight (estimated): \$600
- Meals: \$448
- Estimated total: \$2523

I hope that you will decide to fund \$500 of the cost of me attending this conference. I will be using my 2011-2012 professional development funding and my personal funds to cover the remainder.

C: Timetable for Activities:

The Washington Flag Congress is scheduled for Monday, August 1 - Friday, August 5. I will be in Washington, D.C. the weekend prior to the event, and the weekend after the event, to assist with conference preparations and clean-up activities.

D: Representation by UC-AFT

I am a member of the bargaining unit represented by UC-AFT.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (805) 893-2074 or by e-mail at platoff@library.ucsb.edu. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Platoff
Attachment

Anne M. Platoff: Vexillological Presentations and Publications (selected)

“The ‘Forward Russia’ Flag: Examining the Changing Use of the Bear as a Symbol of Russia.”

- Presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 44 (Los Angeles, CA, October 2010). Publication pending.

“Soviet Children’s Flags.”

- Presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 43 (Charleston, SC, October 2009). Published in *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*, 17 (2010): 63-84.

“Lions and Babrs and Bears: Analyzing the Flags of Russia’s Federal Subjects.”

- Full paper presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 42 (Austin, TX, October 2008). Awarded the Captain William Driver Award for best paper.
- Published in book form as *Russian Regional Flags: The Flags of the Subjects of the Russian Federation* (ISBN 978-0-9747728-2-0, volume 16 of *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*, 2009).

“Flags in Space: Symbols of NASA and Use of Flags in the Manned Space Program.”

- Presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 36 (Denver, CO, October 2002). Published as volume 46, # 5-6 of *The Flag Bulletin* (Sept.-Dec. 2007), actually published in December 2010, 80 pages.

“Panel Discussion on Multi-Disciplinary Research in Vexillology.”

- Panel member, North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 31 (Chicago, IL, October 1997).

“The Pike-Pawnee Flag Incident: Reexamining a Vexillological Legend.”

- Presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 31 (Chicago, IL, October 1997). Published in *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*, 6 (1999): 1-8.

“Where No Flag Has Gone Before: Political and Technical Aspects of Placing a Flag on the Moon.”

- Presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 26 (San Antonio, TX, October 1992). Awarded the Captain William Driver Award for best paper.
- Published in:
 - *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*, 1 (1994): 3-10.
 - *Final Frontier*, 7 (July/August 1994): 74-75. (short version for a general audience).
 - *JSC Space News Roundup*, 33 (July 22, 1994): 3. (reprint of *Final Frontier* version)
 - NASA Contractor Report, NASA CR-188251 (Houston: NASA Johnson Space Center, 1992).
- Cited in/Consultant for (selected examples):
 - Mary Roach, *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2010).
 - Virgiliu Pop, *Who Owns the Moon?: Extraterrestrial Aspects of Land and Mineral Resources Ownership* (Dordrecht, the Netherlands: Springer, 2009).
 - Gina Sunseri, “Stars and Stripes: Putting the Flag on the Moon. The Astronauts Left Six Lunar Flags, None Flapping in the Breeze,” *ABC News*, July 18, 2009. <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/Apollo11MoonLanding/story?id=8113235>
 - MythBusters, “NASA Moon Landing,” episode originally aired August 27, 2008.
 - Alice Gorman, “The Cultural Landscape of Interplanetary Space,” *Journal of Social Archaeology* v. 5 #1 (2005): 85-106.
 - Larry Albert, “Off to the Moon,” *Houston Wet: a Sprawl Economy* (web documentary/Master’s thesis), 2000. <http://www.rice.edu/~lda/wet/index.htm>.

Librarian Request for Leave and Estimated Travel Expenses

See www.library.ucsb.edu/lauc/rpd.html for instructions

Employee name: Anne M. Platoff

Department: Outreach and Academic Services

Today's date: 12 May 2011

Event description and purpose: Washington Flag Congress / International Congress of Vexillology 24 / North American Vexillological Association - NAVA 45

Sponsoring organization (spell out acronyms): North American Vexillological Association

Event location: Washington, D.C. / Alexandria, Virginia

Travel dates: 1-5 August 2011

Number of days: 5

Please check funding categories:

- Professional Development funds
- Administrative funds (required professional activity or training)
Requires Department Head or AUL approval
- Other funds (paid for by statewide LAUC, grant, sponsoring organization)
- No funds requested

Notes: see attached

(attach separate sheet if needed)

Estimated Travel Expenses	
(Please keep receipts for all items)	
\$ 600	Air, Train, or Bus
\$	Personal Vehicle
	Roundtrip mileage: _____
	Vehicle license number: _____
	Liability insurance? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
	University vehicle
	Pick up date: _____ Return date: _____
	Liability insurance? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
\$ 80	Ground transportation
\$	Parking
\$ 1225	Lodging (\$ 175 x 7 nights)
\$ 250	Registration fees
\$ 448	Meals and incidental expenses (\$ 64 x 7 days)
\$ 2603	Total estimated cost

If traveling out of state, have you completed the UC Travel Insurance Form (www.uctravel.org)

yes no

Employee signature: Anne M. Platoff

Approval of Leave and Estimated Travel Expenses

Department Head Brim Date 5-12-2011

Professional Development Funding Administrative Funding _____ Other _____

Release time with pay: Number of days 5

Comments: _____

AUL BIL Date 5-12-2011

Professional Development Funding Administrative Funding _____ Other _____

Comments: _____

LAUC-RPD Chair [Signature] Date 5/12/11

Professional Development Funding Administrative Funding _____ Other _____

Comments: NOT to exceed \$1000. - remaining in allocation

University Librarian [Signature] Date 5/12/11

Professional Development Funding Administrative Funding _____ Other _____

Comments: not to exceed professional development limit -



NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

PMB 225 • 1977 N. Olden Ave. Ext. • Trenton, NJ 08618 • nava.org

5 May 2011

Ms. Anne M. Platoff
103 Kalley Dr.
Goleta, CA 93117

Dear Annie:

Thank you very much for submitting abstracts of your proposed presentations at the 24th International Congress of Vexillology in Washington, DC, 1-5 August 2011. We appreciate your preparation and look forward to the full products.

Your presentation will be “**Six Flags Over Luna: The Role of Flags in Moon Landing Conspiracy Theories**”. In addition, you will deliver a poster session on “**NAVA’s Digital Library**”, with a demonstration and recommendations for similar projects.

In order to secure your place in the Congress program, please submit to the program chair by **30 June 2011**:

- a) a complete copy in publishable form (**text file**),
- b) a complete copy in delivery form (**presentation file**), AND
- c) the completed, signed, and dated **Publication Agreement**.

A) The **text file** should be in Microsoft Word (.doc or its convertible equivalent). The endnote function is acceptable and preferred to footnotes, and images (preferably in color) may be embedded in the document. If possible, the images should also be provided as separate files in .jpg, .tif, or .gif format (at least 150 dpi; 300 dpi is preferred). Please assume publication using 8.5 x 11 inch letter portrait paper size. An additional file in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format may be included to guide layout.

The **text file** should contain (*optional):

- a. Title
- b. Name(s) of the author(s)
- c. Abstract (200 words maximum)
- d. Full text, illustrations, and endnotes
- e. Acknowledgments*
- f. Bibliography*
- g. Biography of the author(s) (with photo)

B) The **presentation file** should be in Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt or its convertible equivalent). An optional template, for consistency, is attached.

C) The **Publication Agreement** needs the title of your paper, your personal information, the date, and your signature.

The submission of these files may be either:

- 1) by regular mail on a CD/DVD, a 3.5-inch floppy disk, or a USB memory stick,
- 2) by e-mail with electronic files attached, OR
- 3) by FTP (see below for instructions).

All files must be in Windows-compatible format.

Submit to: Gustavo Tracchia, Congress program chairman

82-67 Austin St., #205

Kew Gardens, NY 11415 USA

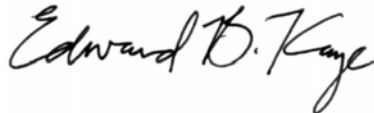
(718) 847-2616 vp1st@nava.org

[In all e-mail communication, please include "ICV 24" in the subject line]

IF YOU HAVE NOT PROVIDED THESE FILES AND AGREEMENT COMPLETELY BY 30 JUNE 2011, YOUR PRESENTATION WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONGRESS PROGRAM, AND OTHER ACCEPTED PAPERS WILL BE ADMITTED FROM THE WAITING LIST IN ITS PLACE.

Please contact Mr. Tracchia if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,



Edward B. Kaye
Congress Coordinator

Optional FTP instructions

- a) Create a folder on your computer, named with your last name (e.g. "Tracchia")
- b) Place in the folder all of your documents, including text file, presentation file, image files, publication agreement, and optional English translation.
- c) Visit the NAVA FTP site <ftp://nava.org>; preferably using an FTP site such as FileZilla.
- d) Sign in with username "navameetings" and password "icv24ftp"
- e) Copy or upload the folder from your computer to the NAVA FTP site.
- f) Notify vp1st@nava.org or gustracc@aol.com of the transfer.

Join Us In Washington!

The North American Vexillological Association and the Chesapeake Bay Flag Association invite you to join us in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area from 1-5 August 2011 for **The Washington Flag Congress**, the joint meeting of the 24th International Congress of Vexillology and the 45th annual meeting of the North American Vexillological Association. During the Congress, the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques (FIAV) will hold the 22nd Session of its General Assembly.

The main Congress venue is the magnificent **George Washington Masonic Memorial** in Alexandria, Virginia. Begun in 1922 and inspired by the Lighthouse of Alexandria in Egypt, the Masonic Memorial is located directly across from the King Street Metro Station and adjacent to historic Old Town Alexandria. Old Town is the oldest section of the city (originally laid out in 1749) and is renowned for its historic town houses, art galleries, antique shops, and restaurants. The Congress venue is only a short Metro train ride from the National Mall and other attractions in Washington. The Congress committees are hard at work finalizing the remaining arrangements, including tours of the Washington area's flag holdings, such as the Smithsonian Institution (Wednesday) and U.S. Naval Academy (likely an optional tour on Saturday).

We are pleased that the National Association of Independent Flag Dealers, our colleagues in the flag business, will hold its 2011 annual convention in parallel with the Washington Flag Congress. Meeting at the Embassy Suites, NIFDA will hold its own events Tuesday 2 August through Friday 5 August. Some activities will be shared by both groups (including the All-Congress Tour on Wednesday, 3 August). We look forward to positive interactions. (NIFDA members should contact president James Giraud for more information.)

The National Museum of American History at the **Smithsonian Institution** displays some of the most cherished flags of the country's early days. "Old Glory," Captain William Driver's famous banner which provided the U.S. flag's nickname, and the newly-restored Star-Spangled Banner, the inspiration for the National Anthem, are among the hundreds of flags in the collection.

The **U.S. Naval Academy** in nearby Annapolis, Maryland, houses the United States Navy Trophy Flag Collection. Founded by an Act of Congress in 1814 and given to the care of the Naval Academy in 1849, this collection now totals more than 600 historic American and captured foreign flags. Included are the famous "Don't Give Up the Ship" battle flag flown at the Battle of Lake Erie, the first American ensign flown in Japan (1853), and flags and banners which have been to the Moon.

There's plenty more to do in the **Washington Metro area**. Discover it for yourself in classic sights like the Library of Congress and the Lincoln Memorial and connect to the energy of interactive attractions like the International Spy Museum

and Newseum. You can even visit the landmarks and locations featured in *The DaVinci Code* author Dan Brown's latest adventure *The Lost Symbol* as you explore the secret side of the Nation's capital.

This website is the official home of the **Washington Flag Congress** and will be updated regularly as Congress plans and programs are finalized—so keep checking back! We hope you'll join us in Washington for a vexillologically-interesting week!

HUGH L. BRADY
President, NAVA

JOHN A. LOWE
President, CBFA

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