TO: Helga S. Madland, Chair, MLLL: hmadland@ou.edu
FROM: A. Robert Lauer (MLLL Prof.)
SUBJECT: Faculty Enrichment Grant
DATE: 20 October 2004

PURPOSE: I should like to request a Faculty Enrichment Grant in the amount of $1,000.00 to help me defray costs connected with a research trip in Mexico City during 10-14 December 2004. From 4 October through 15 December 2004, the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes (INBA) will be staging the first version (Zaragoza, 1636) of Spanish Baroque dramatist Pedro Calderón de la Barca's most famous Hispanic play, La vida es sueño. This first version (Z) was practically unknown to scholars until 1992, when it was first edited in England by Prof. José M. Ruano de la Haza. Previous editions of this work had followed a more elaborate second version (Madrid, 1636), which Prof. Ruano considers the second version (M). Although M is the version all scholars and students would know, Z, the less familiar work, is actually the more theatrical work, as Prof. Ruano maintains. Calderón prepared M for publication. Z, however, was meant to be a less elaborate and more dynamic performance text. In recent times, Z has been staged only in Murcia, Spain, with great success. The year 2004, moreover, marks the first time that the Zaragoza version is staged in the American continent. This is such a momentous event for Hispanic theater scholars that Dr. Darcy L. Strother, Theater Review Editor of Comedia Performance (<http://www.comediaperformance.com/>), the only journal devoted exclusively to the staging of Spanish Renaissance and Baroque Drama, asked me to write a review of it if I should be in Mexico to see it.

PROPOSAL: Should I receive a Faculty Enrichment Grant in the amount of $1,000.00, I would fly from OKC to Mexico City immediately after my last scheduled class this semester (10 December 2004), attend the Monday performance on 13 December, and return on Tuesday, 14 December. This is the only possible time I would be able to see this important work without missing classes or final exams. Since I am familiar with the director, Ms. Claudia Ríos, and the main actress, Ms. Mariana Giménez (who informed me about this event), I would try to see whatever dress rehearsals the company should have prior to the performance. With their permission (which I am sure would be granted), I will also take numerous pictures, since Comedia Performance expects me to provide in situ pictures with my review. In addition, I have been asked by the Association for Hispanic Classic Theater (AHCT), which will meet in El Paso, Texas, in early March of 2005, to form part of a panel to discuss the staging of Life Is a Dream, the English translation of the Madrid 1636 version which was staged at the Cityspace Theatre, Civic Center Music Hall, OKC, OK, in April of 2004. I cannot write a review of this work since someone else has already done so. However, I would be able to enrich my presentation by making comparisons between the English translation, based on the Madrid 1636 edition, and the Zaragoza 1636 edition which I plan to view in Mexico City. Additionally, I should like to write a review article on both works, which I would submit for publication to the Bulletin of the Comediantes, the only journal in the US devoted exclusively to the Spanish Comedia of the Golden Age (not necessarily its staging, which is done by Comedia Performance). OU graduate students will be in attendance in El Paso, TX, in March of 2005, so they will be the immediate beneficiaries of the oral dissemination of my research. In addition, La vida es sueño is the most important Hispanic play by Calderón (an English equivalent would be Shakespeare's Hamlet) and is regularly taught at the undergraduate (SPAN 4153, SPAN 4183) and the graduate levels (SPAN 5353) at OU.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOME: The immediate outcome of this research in situ will be a review (with pictures) of La vida es sueño for Comedia Performance. A secondary outcome will be a panel discussion where the Zaragoza and Madrid 1636 versions will be compared.
and contrasted at the AHCT annual conference in El Paso, TX, in March 2005. A third outcome will be a critical essay on these two works to be submitted to Bulletin of the Comediantes.

**BUDGET:** The least expensive travel connection costs $445.02 (from OKC to Mexico City, on 10 December 2004, and returning from Mexico City to OKC on 14 December 2005). Since I was personally invited by Ms. Mariana Giménez to attend this event, I doubt that I would have to pay the $15-20.00 entrance fee to view the play. The nearest hotel to the INBA Theater is the Royal Hotel ($99.00 USD per night). Taxis and shuttles should cost no more than $50.00 USD. The *per diem* would be $168.00 USD (4 days @ $42.00 *per diem*). In short, my budget would be as follows:

$ 445.02 (airfare)
00.00 (registration)
396.00 (hotel for 4 nights)
168.00 (per diem @ $42.00 for 4 days [OU international rate])
50.00 (airport taxis & shuttles [estimate])

$1,059.02 Total

However, I am only requesting $1,000.00.

**ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUESTED:** I am not requesting additional funding from my department since I have already used its travel budget for this academic year.