Harsha Abeyaratne, Associate Professor of Music
Dr. Abeyaratne will study with Peter Takacs of the piano faculty at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Fall 2010. The goal of this study with Mr. Takacs is to develop a recital program which includes pieces by Liszt, Beethoven, and Ravel. Once developed, this program will be performed at Muskingum and at other college venues in Ohio.

Donna Edsall, Professor of English
Dr. Edsall proposes several writing projects for a sabbatical in Spring 2011. These include revision of her play Making Sausage in order to enter it into a competition, work on a second play script, work on a graphic novel about the Underground Railroad, and continued work on a memoir. She will also use the sabbatical to prepare two new courses she will teach after returning from her sabbatical.

Last sabbatical: Spring 2005

William Kerrigan, Arthur G. Cole and Eloise Barnes Cole Distinguished Professor of American History
Dr. Kerrigan requests a sabbatical for Fall 2010 in order to work on a book-length study of John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed) and the concept of the orchard as an emblem of cultural and environmental changes that occurred in America during the early to mid-nineteenth century. The book will also trace the development of the Johnny Appleseed legend into a national myth from its nineteenth century origins into the twentieth century.

Last sabbatical: Fall 2004

Thomas McGrath, Associate Professor of History
Dr. McGrath proposes to work on two research projects in Fall 2010. The research projects include expansion and revision of a previously published article for submission to a journal of Asian studies and a study of the Chinese army in India during World War II. He also proposes to develop a new course on the history of World War II.

Yan Sun, Professor of Art
Mr. Sun requests a sabbatical for Fall 2010 in order to conduct first-hand research on masterpieces of western and non-western art conserved in the galleries and museums of Paris, France. The material gained from this research will be integrated into Introduction to Art and graduate art history courses. In addition, the first-hand study conducted in Paris art museums such as the Louvre and the Rodin will provide subjects for future research projects and original art works.
Paul Szalay, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Dr. Szalay proposes a sabbatical in Fall 2010 in order to work with Dr. Allen Hunter, Professor of Chemistry at Youngstown State University. This collaborative work will focus on single crystal X-ray diffraction and cyberinstrumentation. This instrumental technique uses X-rays to determine the structures of crystalline solids in order to change their properties to better suit a new intended use. This study will continue a seven-year collaboration between Dr. Szalay and Dr. Hunter.

David Tabachnick, Associate Professor of Sociology
Dr. Tabachnick is applying for a full-year sabbatical in 2010-11 in order to study the history of coal mining in Lincoln County, West Virginia. This study will explore the cultural and historical origins of Lincoln County’s resistance to coal mining and the social and environmental changes that are occurring in Lincoln now that mining has begun in the county. The study will build on prior work done by Dr. Tabachnick on land conflicts and environmental issues. Interviews with people in Lincoln County will form the basis for articles and a documentary film.

Dr. Lois Zook-Gerdau, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Dr. Zook-Gerdau proposes a sabbatical in Spring 2011 in order to work with Dr. Johna Leddy of the University of Iowa on the magnetic effects on the kinetics of electron transfer reactions in confined geometries. Much of the equipment necessary to conduct this research is available at Muskingum (electrodes, ion exchange membranes, potentiostat, electrochemical modeling software). The findings of the research will be shared with Dr. Leddy’s research group which is currently working in this field. It is expected that this research will result in one or more publications and possibly in patents. The research has practical applications in the areas of battery and fuel-cell technologies.