

## International Travel Award Report

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British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 40<sup>th</sup> Annual conference St Hugh's College, Oxford, UK January 5-7 2011

The British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies is the most prestigious organization in the field of eighteenth century studies. The Society was founded in 1971 to promote the study of the eighteenth century, not only as it was experienced in Britain but throughout the world, and strives to be as fully multi- and inter-disciplinary as possible. While BSECS organizes a number of conferences each year, its major conference is held in January at St Hugh's College, Oxford, U.K. The papers selected are rigorously peer-reviewed and represent the best in the international scholarship in eighteenth-century studies. Scholars from around the world attend this conference. My International Travel Award was instrumental in helping me to attend this conference.

While I have been active in the area of eighteenth-century studies for a number of years (I have given a number of papers at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, have been on the Executive Board and President of the East-Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies), I have never been free to attend the BSECS January conference because it always coincided with the opening of Drexel's winter quarter. This year, my sabbatical and the grant from the Office of International programs enabled me to attend.

My paper was part of the panel, "Varieties of Religious Experience," chaired by Jeremy Gregory, Fellow of The Royal Historical Society, Professor of the History of Christianity at the University of Manchester, Vice-President of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and author of, among other volumes, *The Routledge Companion to Britain in the Eighteenth Century, 1688-1820*, 2007. *The Longman Companion to Britain in the Eighteenth Century, 1688-1820*, 1999. In my presentation, "Anti-Popery in America: the Experience of Hector St. John de Crevecoeur," I dealt with the impact of Protestant political influence in the British colonies affected the life and work of Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, author of *Letters from an American Farmer* (1782). The paper was well-received and colleagues were enthusiastic about the new approach to this work. The opportunity to present my work to an audience less familiar with American studies was extremely helpful.