

# SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT

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## SUMMARY

During my sabbatical leave in the Spring Semester of 2006 I have undertaken the following two projects: (1) independent research involving field work in Russia and Ukraine, lab work, and analysis of fossil material (well-preserved shells of Paleozoic and Mesozoic brachiopods and corals) from several parts of the world (North America, Russia, Ukraine, Australia, Timor) in order to study the water temperatures and climates of the ancient tropical oceans, particularly the Pacific; and (2) improved-teaching project involving the creation of the geological digital image database for use in my geology, paleontology, oceanography, and geography classes. The outcomes of the first project were new data in my ongoing research in the field of paleogeography, the publication of an article in a refereed scientific journal by the Geological Association of Canada (reprint attached to this report), invited lectures at the Department of Geology at San Jose State University in April of 2006 and Northern California Geological Society, and a planned lecture on changing climates at the Ohlone's MSE Division Brown Bag Seminar Series in the Spring Semester. An additional outcome of this project was an improved fossil collection for geology and paleontology laboratory classes. The outcome of the second project was the replacement of a major part of the geological 35 mm slide collections with digital images, acquiring new digital images on most geological phenomena discussed in my classes, and an improved use of the "smart classroom" in 8109. In addition to the two projects, I have been writing another research article for the upcoming "Soil and Culture" volume (to be published by the International Union of Soil Sciences' Commission in 2007). During my sabbatical leave I have also been appointed to the unpaid position of the outside member of the executive board of the IEEES (Institute for the East European and Eurasian Studies) at UC Berkeley in charge of community outreach.