Grant from the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center in Washington, D.C.

Title: “Promoting Understanding of Islam, Oman and the Indian Ocean Region”

Amount: $26,500

Purposes:

· Hold an academic conference and associated teacher’s workshop on the history of the Indian Ocean region, dealing with the history of seafaring, trade, religion, empire and intercultural exchange in the Indian Ocean region. The conference would be open to the public and would bring together scholars from diverse institutions to present papers on the history of the Indian Ocean. The associated teachers’ workshop is aimed at helping teachers understand and learn to integrate the history of the Indian Ocean in the teaching of world history. This workshop would utilize and build upon the website developed by the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center by having face-to-face interactions between K-12 teachers and scholars specialized in the history of the Indian Ocean.

· Organize a team-taught, interdisciplinary course for undergraduates on society, culture and economy of the Muslim world; the funding would include stipends for faculty to teach more than their normal teaching load ($500/lecture).

· Enhance the University of Illinois’s library holdings on Oman and Ibadism by procuring materials from Oman and Algeria on these topics.