

# UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

9Feb. 2018

**Re.: B. Seymour Rabinovitch Endowed Chair**

Dear zzz,

I enjoy the good fortune and honor of holding the B. Seymour Rabinovitch Endowed Chair in Chemistry, supported through very generous donors including yourself. I write today primarily to say "Thank you!" However, I also write to give you an update on how your endowment has enabled the scientific and educational contributions of my group over this past year.

Our research continues to strive for the fundamental understanding that enables researchers to design new materials to catalyze large-scale chemical processes (especially clean fuels production and combustion, and commodity chemicals production) with higher energy efficiency and minimal undesired by-products. We focus on processes that help improve the environment or prevent environmental damage. While in the past we have focused on reactions that happen when gas molecules contact solid catalyst surfaces, this year we started publishing papers about reactions that happen in liquid water on solid surfaces, sometimes with applied electrochemical potential. We expanded scope in that direction for two reasons. (1) With the huge increase in solar and wind energy that will surely happen in the next decade, which will lead to much more 'clean' electricity than we have today, we expect electrochemical reactions will become much more prevalent in chemical and fuels industries. (2) Sustainable chemicals production using biomass feedstocks require many new catalyst materials for reactions that must happen on catalyst surfaces in water. We have made some exciting discoveries already that will be published this coming year. Since we do not yet have government funding for research in these new areas, our shift toward these important new directions was only possible due to this endowment.

Our work is continuing to have high impact in the catalysis field, as evidenced by the fact that our papers received over 1400 citations in the scientific literature in 2018 alone. We published 9 papers in 2018, with another 4 already in the first five weeks of 2019 either published or accepted for publication, all in excellent journals. In addition, I gave 10 invited talks at major conferences, universities and research institutes in 2018, and accepted invitations for 10 more in 2019.

This endowment enabled the research-based education of all the members of my group, which included seven graduate students, four undergraduate students and a postdoc during 2018. The postdoc, Dr. \_\_\_, moved on to an excellent faculty position at Shenzhen University in China. \_\_\_ graduated with his PhD, got married and moved to the Fritz Haber Institute in Berlin for postdoctoral studies. I am very lucky to be able to interact with these brilliant and hard-working young people as they grow through this formative stage of their lives. I never cease to be amazed at their fantastic dedication and high intelligence!

Thank you so much for the opportunity to hold this endowed chair, and for your extremely generous financial support! In spite of the huge impact it has on my group's research, the best part is that this Chair is named after Seymour. To me, this title is the most important recognition I have ever received, and it truly has made all my life's hard work worth doing. Thank you!

I hope to see you again soon.

Sincerely,

Professor Name

Professor and The B. Seymour Rabinovitch Endowed Chair of Chemistry

12 January 2019

Dear Salutation,

Last autumn I received the honor of being selected as the recipient of the Ruth Sutton Waters Endowed Professorship in Music. I would like to express how deeply honored and thankful I am to have received this Professorship—not only has it been a long-time goal of mine to hold such a position, but this opportunity has come at an ideal time.

Since this is my first letter to you, please allow me to introduce myself. I am Director of Choral Activities in the School of Music, and have been on the music faculty here since 1997. Our choral program consists of six choirs, conducted by three faculty and numerous graduate students, and involves nearly four hundred singers from across campus. Our choirs are known nationally and internationally for excellence in performance, expertise in music of the Baltic countries, and developing teachers and conductors that are at the forefront of music-making and teaching in the twenty-first century. Outside of the University, my research has focused on improving choral music education through mentorship for teachers, as well as developing resources and pedagogy for the choral classroom. As you will see by this letter, your generous gift is now supporting all aspects of our program as well as my personal work.

For the past three years I have been devoting my research to developing a rubric which describes in detail the development of literacy in choral music from novice to professional. Rubrics such as these have been required to be present in every classroom, by every teacher, for nearly thirty years. These rubrics allow teachers to know specifically what they are to teach, how they are to assess, and how they demonstrate student growth. Choral music is the only area of music education that has never had such a standard of reference. This past year I beta-tested the rubric in schools across four states, and spent last summer fine-tuning the rubric for more widespread use. The State of Washington is currently considering it for adoption for state-wide use in choral classrooms and this year I am introducing the rubric and regional and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and National Association for Music Education. The Ruth Sutton Waters Professorship has allowed me to have the Literacy Rubric and its related tools be professionally produced and distributed *for free* to teachers. In addition, the Professorship is allowing me to travel to these conventions to teach teachers how to use these important tools. These important and timely steps in Choral Literacy and Standards project would not have been possible without your support. For more information please refer to: [www.site.com/choral-literacy-standards](http://www.site.com/choral-literacy-standards).

As I mentioned, our choral program has a long-standing relationship with the Baltic countries. The countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are among the most “singing peoples” in the world. They are perhaps best known for driving out the Soviet Union peacefully in 1991 during the so-called Singing Revolution. Interestingly, the University of Washington is the only University in the nation that teaches language and cultural studies

of all three countries. We entertain a constant stream of politicians, dignitaries, and musicians from these three countries. We have developed a Baltic Choral Collection here in our library, the only such collection in our country. Numerous of our students have travelled to the region and written dissertations on Baltic subjects. Our choirs have travelled to the region four times, and will again this coming summer as one of only a handful of choirs from around the world invited to participate in the Estonian Song Festival. The Ruth Sutton Waters Professorship is supporting my travel to the Festival, as well as providing scholarship for two of our most deserving graduate choral conductors. We have needed to expand and update the Baltic Choral Collection for a number of years, and our travel this summer will allow us to collect new scores and resources. Finally, we will be able to bring Latvia's most prized composer to our campus in February of this year. Peteris Vasks will be in Seattle for a week of concerts and residency at Benaroya Hall, and will present master classes for our choral students and be present at a concert of his music presented by our choirs.

Our choral program is respected as one of the most vibrant and forward-thinking programs in the country. However, one part of our program we have not been able to develop is that of commissioning new compositions. One of the pillars of the mission of the School of Music is to produce "music of our time, and of our place." Since Seattle is an active center in the jazz scene, and interestingly was the birthplace of vocal jazz sung by choirs, I have wanted to commission a work which employs improvisation for the choir, but in a non-jazz musical language. I have developed a partnership with Roger Treese, who is Bobby McFerrin's primary arranger and orchestrator. I have commissioned Roger to create a piece of modern choral music which relies on jazz idioms of modes and improvisation. I am awaiting the first drafts of this new music as I write to you today.

In the next year there will be numerous projects of a new CD, developing short films to further develop the Choral Literacy and Standards Project, more commissions, and an invitation for me to address the World Choral Directors convention in New Zealand in 2020. I will look forward to sharing with you as these exciting possibilities unfold.

These many projects would not be possible without the generous gift of the Ruth Sutton Waters Endowed Professorship of Music. To you I offer my most heartfelt and humble thanks.

Warmly,

Signature  
Ruth Sutton Waters Endowed Professor

January 21, 2019

Endowment Donor  
Address  
Address

Dear Salutation,

It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity to convey some of the activities I have undertaken during the past academic year as the Jere L. Bacharach Endowed Professor in International Studies.

This big event of this past year was the publication of my book *Unsettled: Refugee Camps and the Making of Multicultural Britain* with Oxford University Press. The book was released in July in Britain, and in September in the United States. I was delighted to share a copy of the book with you, and hope that you have found something in it to interest you; many thanks for attending the book launch, which I very much enjoyed.

Because of the topic of refugee encampment has been all too timely, I have sought to share the book with the widest possible audience. In addition to participating in a BBC History Extra podcast, I also published short pieces on a number of blogs and online sites, including The Conversation, the Oxford University Press blog, Refugee History, and Prospect Magazine.

I am truly gratified by the interactions that these pieces have generated. I have had numerous former refugees contact me to share their experiences or to try to trace people whose names they recognized in the book. Recently, I was contacted by the producers of the BBC History program, *The Search*, to discuss the possibility of consulting on their pilot episode about stories of people seeking refuge in Britain. The idea would be to reunite a refugee and someone who was significant to them when they first entered Britain (for example, an aid worker or volunteer). I have already suggested a few stories from my book that might be appropriate to pursue, and am excited about my initial conversations with the producers.

I have also continued to present my research in university settings. Presentations during this academic year include the Katz Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities, which I was very honored to deliver at the University of Washington, and invited talks at Duke University and the University of Wisconsin at Madison. In the coming months, I will also deliver keynote addresses at the Australian Historical Association and the Midwest Conference on British Studies, and have just been named the Wilson Lecturer at the University of Utah for September 2019.

This May, I will travel to London to advance the research for my next project. Or, more accurately, projects – I am planning to continue to investigate the project on the history of private security firms in Britain and its empire that I described to you in my last letter, but have also recently begun to research another book project on emotions and the welfare state, tentatively titled *Friends and Neighbors: Loneliness and Sociability in Modern Britain*. I am looking forward to branching out in terms of my archival work for this project; in addition to my familiar haunts at the National Archives and British Library, there is much promising material available at the Mass Observation archives in Sussex that seems like it will yield rich insights into how ordinary Britons experienced their social relationships during the political, economic, and social transformations of welfare.

During this past academic year, I undertook several new service assignments and joined the Simpson Center Board and the editorial board of the *American Historical Review*. So far, I have found these experiences fascinating in terms of understanding the processes by which our colleagues' work in the humanities is funded and makes its way into print.

I am very glad to have another chance to express my gratitude for the support I have received from both of you, and I am excited about the trajectory I will be able to pursue with my research, teaching, and service as a result of your generous gift. Please know that you have my best wishes for a very happy and healthy 2019.

Sincerely,

Professor, Department of History  
Jere L. Bacharach Endowed Professor in International Studies

January 31, 2019

Endowment Donor/Steward Name

Address

Address

Dear Salutation,

For more than three years, I have had the honor of holding the S. Wilson and Grace M. Pollock Professorship in Creative Writing at the University of Washington. During that time I have worked on completing my tenth book of poetry and I am happy to say that it will be published in September of this year. Were it not for your support, I would not have been able to do the research necessary to write the poems the book contains.

As I mentioned in earlier letters to you, I've found science to be a special source of inspiration and my new book focuses, in part, on British mathematician Alan Turing, who helped to decipher codes during WWII. It features, as well, writers and artists active between the two World Wars, including Virginia Woolf, Thomas Hardy and the painter Stanley Spencer, one of whose paintings will appear on the book's cover.

All of these figures were British citizens and the Pollock Professorship has allowed me to travel to England during each of the last three summers to work in the archives containing their papers and to visit locations where they lived. I cannot emphasize enough how invaluable those journeys have been for my work, both as a writer and a teacher. I have been able to bring the texture of Thomas Hardy's life in Dorset, or Virginia Woolf's in the village of Warboys, into my poetry and my classrooms. My students have learned that research and poetry do not stand in opposition to other another and that artistic inspiration can be found by looking outward toward the lives of others.

When my book is published the Pollock Professorship will allow me to travel to multiple venues to read its poems, which in turn will help attract students to the University of Washington.

To hold this honor has benefited virtually every aspect of my professional life: Writing, research, teaching, and promotion of the excellence that is to be found at this university. Thank you so very much for helping me to do this work.

Sincerely,

Professor Name

S. Wilson and Grace M. Pollock Professor of Creative Writing  
University of Washington