

### Faculty Member Contact Information

**Name:** Ronald Schaefer

**Department:** English Language and Literature

**E-mail Address:** rschaefer@siue.edu

**Phone Number:** 618-650-3728

**Campus Box:** 1431




### Description of the URCA Assistant Position

This posting includes one funded position. In addition, the faculty member may be willing to mentor additional, unfunded students.

**How many unfunded students is this professor taking in addition to his/her one funded student?**   0  

(Students, if the faculty member will have both funded and unfunded students, he or she is free to select which student receives the funding. Funding cannot be split up between multiple students; only one student will receive it.)

### **Which of the following apply to this position?**

- This position is **only** open to students who have declared a major in this discipline. **M**
- This project deals with social justice issues. 
- This project deals with sustainability (green) issues. 
- This project deals with human health and wellness issues. 

**How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?**   8  

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9.)

**Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?**  Yes       No

**If yes, in which course?** ENG 499

**If yes, for how many credit hours?** 3

**Location of research/creative activities:** variable locations: library, home, office

### **Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity:**

This position involves two components.

The first is to develop an outline of cultural categories evident in ethnolinguistic interviews (in English) conducted with elders from Edo North ethnic groups in south-central Nigeria. The interviews are available on cassette tape; 20 of 80 tapes will be selected for this project.

The second is to relate these categories to narrative elements in written oral tradition samples from Edo North ethnic groups. Previous URCA work has identified some key elements in Edo North oral tradition samples.

### **Brief description of student responsibilities:**

Student will be responsible for listening to ethnolinguistic interviews on cassette tapes and identifying cultural categories that can be related to narrative elements in English translations of Edo North oral tradition samples. Possible category-element pairings could apply to flora, fauna, food, traditional religion, agriculture practices, rituals, marriage and greeting expressions.

### **URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?**

Student will have acquired an ability to compare cultural texts in written and oral formats; learn how to identify exemplars of cultural categories across text formats for a given population; create a database for those categories; analyze the categories across text formats; and succinctly summarize the results.

### Requirements of Students

**If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours), please indicate all required days and times:**

N/A

**If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?**

N/A

**Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:**

NA but would prefer course work in linguistics, anthropology or foreign languages.

### **Other requirements or notes to applicants:**

Interest in sub-Saharan Africa and willingness to engage both verbal and oral cultural texts.