Dear Silverman Family,

This letter is to express my gratitude for having received the Joseph H. Silverman Memorial Fellowship for the Fall of 2012. With this generous support, I have been able to take time off from teaching and make significant progress on my dissertation, titled “The Literary Art of War: Rhetorical Tradition and Early Modern Spanish Soldier Writers.” Specifically, I have used this quarter to complete the research and writing of chapter one, which considers the rise of the Spanish military treatise in the late 16th century as a literary genre highly influenced by Renaissance humanism. In this chapter, I show how the early modern man-at-arms, distinct from his medieval counterpart, became a man of letters as well. Soldier writers, I argue, read and wrote books from a humanist perspective to acquire and pass on military knowledge, as well as to criticize and participate in civil administration.

With the momentum gained this quarter, I have begun research on my next chapter on another facet of military humanism: epic poetry composed by soldiers. My thanks to the Silverman family for supporting this project and giving me the opportunity to advance my research.

Sincerely,

Timothy F. Johnson