

Grant Recipient



Michael A. Baird, MFA  
Lecturer  
Arts, Languages, and  
Philosophy Department

Activities

- ❖ I attended lectures regarding legends, reports, and historical considerations of strange creatures.
- ❖ I had the pleasure of meeting several leading individuals in the pseudoscience field of cryptozoology and authors of fiction and nonfiction books relating to the subject.

Proposal

- ❖ Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2019
- ❖ 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Cryptozoological Conference 2019, Portland, Maine
- ❖ As an artist who creates sculptures inspired by folklore, I study legends both old and new. This conference is the only one of its kind in the world to address a particularly difficult field to study, folk tales and legends about monsters.

Outcomes

- ❖ I visited the only museum in the world dedicated to Cryptozoology, learned of many more volumes discussing folklore and legendary creatures, and began to make connections with several researchers and authors.
- ❖ An unexpected outcome, however, was to learn that most of the individuals engaged in this pseudoscience are not the eccentric weirdos blinded by personal beliefs the public are led to believe.