

## Juergen & Phyllis Hunter Strauss Fellowships

---

The English Department is very fortunate to have been awarded a generous and prestigious endowment from the estate of Juergen and Phyllis Strauss. For many years, Phyllis was a well-known, very witty, much loved department secretary; having the opportunity to administer these funds is really a bit of history.

The Department offers the following options for funding from this endowment:

1. **Doctoral student fellowships for dissertation completion:** awarded preferably, but not exclusively, in summers to a student in the Department's doctoral program (Rhetoric & Composition).
  - To facilitate graduation in the summer of the award year, a stipend (the amount will be dependent on availability of funds) will be awarded to allow a student to complete writing, defending, and revising the dissertation
  - Students are expected not to seek additional outside employment. The dissertation director will be available to work with the student and confirms that the student will graduate in the summer of the award year
2. **New student fellowships:** used primarily to recruit new students or to retain continuing students for whom a larger stipend would make a difference (our doctoral stipends are below national average and annually we lose students to other programs for this reason).
  - **Retention:** A one-time fellowship for a "Most Promising New Graduate Student"
  - **Excellence in Research, Teaching, and Service:** a one-time fellowship for an "Outstanding Doctoral Student Strauss Research Fellowship"
  - **Recruitment:** a one-time boost to the doctoral stipend to recruit a truly exceptional student who otherwise will likely go elsewhere. The amount of this award is flexible, but no more than \$6,000
3. **Application support Fellowships:** A one-time award to support a talented Master's student who is headed for a PhD. This Fellowship would provide Application Support funds for up to 3 students in the Department who are applying to doctoral programs and are likely to be accepted.
4. **Travel Support for Conferences, Research, or Professional Development**
  - Conference travel (\$500 is a typical award; applicants should demonstrate that they have sought funds from the graduate school and any other relevant funding sources).
    - Be sure to seek funds from other available sources and identify those and the amount awarded
    - Submit proposals **at least six (6) weeks** prior to proposed travel
    - Travel to attend and present at conferences is **capped at \$1,200 per academic year**
  - Research to facilitate the thesis, dissertation, or professional development
    - Funds may be requested to support travel or the purchase of necessary, otherwise unavailable, technology and services that can help with a student's dissertation or thesis.
  - Professional Development Fellowships for a substantial scholarly project: Doctoral and graduate student professional development workshops (intended especially for those students with doctoral aspirations).

- In RWS, 2-3 advanced seminars are often available for focused development in specific areas of writing and publications, digital literacy development, digital humanities, just to name a few (usually in summers, but not always)
- In Literature, for example, a student might attend the School of Criticism & Theory at Cornell, the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, or the Digital Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Victoria.
- In English Education, NCTE offers a variety of workshops and seminars throughout the year.

**Application Deadline:** Applications for travel funding will be taken on a rolling basis and will continue to be accepted until all funds for the fiscal year are distributed. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis. Successful requests may be funded fully or partially.

Submit your proposal to allow ample time for review and, in the case of travel, making arrangements to use the awarded funds.

**Project Proposals:**

1. For paper presentation at conferences: Submit the conference proposal, the acceptance notification, and a statement of how this conference presentation is a part of your broader research agenda. Budgets should include airfare, lodging, conference registration fees and state-mandated per diem.
2. For research support activities and/or professional development activities: Submit a brief description (approximately 500 words) of the project, a timeline, a budget, and a statement of the potential for dissemination. Budgets should include airfare, lodging and the state-mandated per diem.

**Project Wrap-up:** When you have completed the work funded by the proposal, please do the following within 30 days:

1. Write a short report documenting the results of your funded work. Reports should include a summary of how the funds were used and how the funded activity has benefited your larger research aims and/or professional development.

**Submission:** Proposals should be submitted electronically as a Word email attachment, to the Chair of the Department, Dr. Brian Yothers ([byothers@utep.edu](mailto:byothers@utep.edu)). **Please be sure to include the words “Hunter Strauss Endowment” in the subject line.** The departmental Steering Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations for acceptance, revisions and resubmission, or denial.