

Diana Raab's gift to the Writing Program enables us to develop a program that supports students in year-long writing projects and research in writing. The RWF program provides support and structure for the kind of work WP faculty currently do with students informally as well as in our courses via honors contracts and independent studies. The RWF program also enables us to join in one of the signature strengths of UCSB in giving undergraduates opportunities to collaborate and work one-on-one with faculty.

The strong appeal of participating in the RWF program is the chance to mentor an excellent student on an interesting writing project for a full year. It's an opportunity for program service and professional enrichment. In addition, faculty mentors receive a \$500 research stipend for their work.

An informal RWF committee has been working on the accompanying information sheet that you can share with interested students. For 2016-17, we're thinking that a cohort of 15-20 students would be ideal, so it probably wouldn't be wise to make a broad announcement to all of your students. Rather, we encourage you to think about current students and recent former students with whom you would want to work next year on a specific writing project. Talk with the student about the possibility of being a Raab Writing Fellow and about a project that you could work on together. If you want to move forward with the project, meet with the student to help craft an application letter, as described in the accompanying form.

The timeline we have in mind is to receive applications by Monday, June 6 (the Monday of finals week). The RWF committee will review applications and select Raab Writing Fellows by the end of June, and we'll send out notifications to students and their faculty mentors then. That means we should be ready to go with the first cohort at the start of fall 2016.

Listed below are some possible RWF projects that have been suggested by WP faculty:

- working with a student who is interested in travel writing and has been working on a creative nonfiction project; he could use the student support to fund a further "expedition" to a site of interest, which he would then write about for publication
- collaborating with a student on conducting interviews and focus groups for a faculty research project, and then working together to code and represent that data
- guiding a student from Writing 109F or Writing 109HU in writing a series of regular film or book reviews with the goal of learning the form and pursuing publication in a specific journal or magazine
- working with a student who wants to create a series of podcasts on student life at UCSB and in IV

- guiding a student in composing a comprehensive educational document for K-12 students engaged in a particular academic study
- working with a student to conduct research on how feminists use social media and create a handbook to help women who want to start creating/contributing to online feminist communities
- collaborating with a student on creating a searchable database of multimedia resources on a specific topic

The idea is to find a match between the student's interest and your own areas of interest, expertise, and/or research, and to propose a project that's do-able within a year and that could be presented in some form at a year-end showcase.

I realize that this is new territory and so I hope that you'll contact me with any questions you have about the Raab Writing Fellows program.