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 up to 3 students in the Department’s doctoral program (Rhetoric & Composition).
   - To facilitate graduation in the summer of the award year, $6-8,000 will be awarded to each of a maximum of 3 students 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 or in December or early Spring of the following year at the very latest

2. **Graduate Student Fellowships for M.A. degree completion**: awarded typically in the summer to up to one student in each M.A. degree program in the Department (M.A. T. in English Education, M.A. in Literature, and M.A. in Rhetoric & Writing Studies).
   - To facilitate graduation in the summer of the award year, $2,500 will be awarded to each student to complete, write, defend, revise the M.A. final project (thesis, practicum, etc)
   - The student’s M.A. director will be available to work with the student and confirms that the student will graduate in the summer of the award year or in December at the very latest.

3. **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.

4. **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 $3,000 fellowship for a “Most Promising New Graduate Student”
   - **Excellence in Research, Teaching, and Service**: a one-time $5,000 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

5. **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.