English Graduate Student Research Fund Application

Name: Dorian Rolston

Email: drolston@email.arizona.edu

Program: MFA, creative writing

Program Director: Ander Monson

Projected Graduation Date (MM/YY): 05/19

Research/Project Name: Writing Writing: The Art of AWP

Research Location: Tampa, FL

Travel Dates (should correspond w/ Travel Authorization Form): Mar 6-9, 2018

Research Start Date: Mar 6, 2018

Expected Completion Date: Mar 9, 2018

Proposal: In ½ page, explain how your research will contribute to your own knowledge, professional development, or career and your field/discipline, the UA and/or local community, as well as the national/global community.

Though there is a long tradition of writers writing about writing, dating back at least 500 years to the first personal essays of Montaigne and the metafiction of Don Quixote, there is relatively little that counts as criticism. That is to say, when even contemporary writers write about writing, the result is either creative work (Nicholson Baker's study of John Updike U and I, Geoff Dyer's of D.H. Lawrence Out of Sheer Rage) or a kind of scholarship (Phillip Lopate's intro to The Art of the Personal Essay, Tom Wolfe's intro to The New Journalism, the essays of Kerry Dirk and Peter Elbow and Stanley Fish). This research project, tentatively titled Writing Writing, aims to conduct an interdisciplinary study of creative and scholarly work, ultimately producing a piece of writing that is both creative and scholarly itself—a hybrid, in particular, of personal essay and essay criticism. The ideal way to achieve this hybridity would be for the personal essayist himself to attend a conference where the critics convene, and in this regard the upcoming Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) conference is the preeminent—thousands of attendees, hundreds of events, the locus of the discipline. Already I've arranged a meeting to pitch a book idea to one editor, Christopher Schaberg, whose essay book series Object Lessons trades in exactly that inter-genre exchange. Beyond that, I'll be interviewing experts, attending panels (from the craft talk of "101 Drafts" and "Defeating Writer's Block" to the higher reflections on the state of the art in "The Art of the Uncomfortable Conversation"), working the Sonora Review booth, and generally conducting the first-person reportage of my prior work as a journalist for places such as The New Yorker, The Atlantic, The Paris Review, among others.
This intends to be a full-fledged interrogation of the conference as such, however, and thus the subject at hand is not only regularly scheduled programming but also, perhaps especially, the unscheduled, such as Adrienne Mathiowetz's author photo studio, or the so-called Dickinson Quiet Space (note: having come all this way, a room reserved for you to “escape the literary commotion”), among other oddities of the literary conference genre. All of which will add to my interdisciplinary knowledge, in terms of where creation and critique and market intersect, but also to my professional development, as the people I am studying are precisely those with whom I need to become acquainted to publish future work. Finally, upon my return, my research will naturally funnel into my ongoing creative work on writing prompts for UA English department students, while also contributing to an increasingly urgent discussion, started by UA faculty and National Writers Union Co-Founder Fenton Johnson, about creative writers being paid for their work. Thank you for your time and consideration. (Please note that at the time of this application, the only published piece of writing that meets the above criteria for literary-conference hybridity I can find is Kay Ryan’s *Poetry Magazine* essay “I Go to AWP,” which is over ten years old.)

Amount Requested (up to $325): $325

Budget: Attach English Graduate Student Research Budget Spreadsheet in email to program assistant.
GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH FUND BUDGET PROPOSAL

Dorian Rolston

TRANSPORT
Flight round trip TUS to TPA
---
TOTAL FLIGHT = $250

ACCOMMODATION
AirBnB X4 nights in Tampa (looking into hotel splitting, potentially cheaper)
---
TOTAL ACCOMMODATION = $160 ($40/night)

PER DIEM
$25/day X4 days in Tampa
---
TOTAL PER DIEM = $100

---
GRAND TOTAL = $510*
*note: less the remainder, after $325 GS fund, covered by personal savings
**TRAVELER & DEPARTMENT INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT NAME</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT NO.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorian Rolston</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>0429</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMPLID</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT PO BOX ADDRESS</th>
<th>ROOM NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23372350</td>
<td>210067</td>
<td>445</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACT NAME/TITLE</th>
<th>PHONE NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vicki Henry</td>
<td>621-1836</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TRAVEL ORDER**

**BUSINESS PURPOSE OF TRIP:** conference dates

AWP Conference: Mar 6-9, 2018

☐ IN-STATE ☑ OUT-OF-STATE ☐ INTERNATIONAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDING SOURCE</th>
<th>DUTY POST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tucson, AZ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODE OF TRANSPORTATION</th>
<th>CITY, STATE DEPARTING FROM</th>
<th>DEPARTURE DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airplane</td>
<td>Tucson, AZ</td>
<td>03/06/18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY, STATE RETURNING FROM</th>
<th>RETURN DATE</th>
<th>DESIGNATED LODGING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
<td>03/09/18</td>
<td>☑ YES NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ATTACH ITINERARY IF MULTIPLE LOCATIONS**

**EXCEPTIONS**

☐ Vehicle taken out of state:
☐ State-owned
☐ Rental
☐ Private

☐ Long-term travel status (if travel will exceed 30 days, state reason)

☐ Personal time taken (state reason and how long)

☐ Use of other than coach/economy travel on commercial airlines (state reason)

☐ Miscellaneous – explain

**JUSTIFICATION / REASON:**

Michael

**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**

☐ INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REGISTRY #:

If you are traveling internationally, you must register your trip through the UA International Travel Registry prior to departure: http://ua-risk.terradotta.com

☐ TRAVEL ALERTS & WARNINGS

If your destination has a Travel Alert or Warning issued by the U.S. Department of State, please complete the supplemental travel information within the UA International Travel Registry. Travel Alerts and Warnings are available at: http://travel.state.gov

**TRAVEL ADVANCES (OPTIONAL)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>ACCOUNT #</th>
<th>DATE REQUIRED</th>
<th>CHECK</th>
<th>DIRECT DEPOSIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Important Please Read Before Signing: The University of Arizona is authorized to deduct the amount of the travel advance from any future expense reimbursements or pay due the traveler. The advance must be settled in full within ten days from the return of the trip. In the event these sources are not adequate or in the event of severance of my employment with The University of Arizona, the advance shall become due and payable immediately. It shall bear interest at the rate of 9% annum starting thirty days after the return date of the trip. In the event that it should become necessary to enforce collection of this advance, or any part thereof by suit or otherwise, I do further agree to pay any and all costs of collection including a reasonable attorney’s fee.

PAYEE SIGNATURE

DATE

**PLEASE USE COLORED INK FOR SIGNATURES SO THAT ORIGINALS CAN BE DISTINGUISHED FROM PHOTOCOPIES**

**APPROVALS**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE TRAVEL AUTHORIZED ABOVE IS FOR A VALID PUBLIC PURPOSE AND THAT THE FUNDS HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATED OR ARE OTHERWISE AVAILABLE FOR PAYMENT OF ANY CLAIMS MADE HEREUNDER, AND THAT IF THE AVAILABLE FUNDS ARE FROM A FEDERAL GRANT, CONTRACT OR SOURCE, THIS TRAVEL IS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE TERMS OF SUCH GRANT, CONTRACT OR SOURCE. THIS AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENTAL APPROVER/P.I. AND/OR COLLEGE/DIVISION AGREES TO ALL EXCEPTIONS NOTED ON THIS TRAVEL ORDER.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUTH. DEPT. APPROVER/P.I.</th>
<th>NAME/TITLE</th>
<th>SIGNATURE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Please forward completed form to: FSO-Operations, Travel Office, PO BOX 210158, USB 402