

About the Directors

The Retreat is co-directed by Sonja K. Foss and William Waters, authors of *A Traveler's Guide to a Done Dissertation* (Rowman & Littlefield).

Sonja K. Foss is a professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Colorado at Denver. She earned a doctorate in communication from Northwestem University and gained expertise in professional development while teaching at a number of universities, including Virginia Tech, Ohio State University, and the University of Oregon.

Dr. Foss knows the academic publication process both as an author of 13 books and over 30 articles and as a former journal editor and member of numerous editorial boards.

Dr. Foss' effectiveness in facilitating the development of professionals in academia is evident in the success of the 35 doctoral advisees she has mentored. All of them completed their dissertations, and many are active, publishing scholars.

Dr. William Waters is an assistant professor of English and the Writing Program Coordinator at Northwest Missouri State University. Dr. Waters completed his doctorate at the University of New Mexico, and his creativity, intelligence, ability to conceptualize research schemas, and computer expertise make him a valuable part of Scholars' Retreat.

Application Procedures

To apply, submit a brief description of the project you wish to accomplish during the Retreat that includes: (1) Summary of the project, including (if decided) research question(s), data or texts, and method; (2) Amount completed on the project; and (3) Any obstacles you are encountering in completing the project.

Include with the description:

- name and address
- telephone numbers (home, office, and fax)
- e-mail address
- session preferred (session 1, 2, or both)
- \$250 deposit (Make check out to Sonja K. Foss. If you would like to pay by credit card, please contact Dr. Foss for details.)
- *vita*

If you plan to work on publications at the Retreat, please submit with your application two papers you have written, preferably ones you would like to convert to manuscripts to submit for publication.

Applications should be sent to: Sonja K. Foss, 1788 Glencoe Street, Denver, CO 80220-1343.

The deadline for application is April 11, 2008. Eight participants will be selected to participate in each session of the Retreat. If more individuals apply to participate in the Retreat than spaces are available, priority will be given to applications of individuals who are working on dissertations and theses and to applications submitted earliest.

If your application is accepted, you will receive an acceptance letter and additional details about the Retreat. Once your application is accepted, your deposit is not refundable. If your application is not accepted, your deposit will be returned.



A Time and Place to
Complete Your Thesis,
Dissertation, or
Writing Project

June, 2008
Denver, Colorado

Purpose

Academia is filled with talented persons who are ABD because they have not isolated the time or found the motivation necessary to finish their dissertations. Similarly, many individuals with a great deal of potential as scholars are not awarded tenure because of an insufficient number of publications.

If you are one of these individuals, you may benefit from participating in Scholars' Retreat.

Who Will Benefit

You are a good candidate for Scholars' Retreat if you have data collected for your thesis, dissertation, book, or article and need time, space, more productive writing strategies, or motivation to complete your writing project.

Individuals in all fields of the humanities and social sciences are invited to apply to participate in the Retreat. Participants in past Retreats have included scholars in communication, English, education, geography, biology, physics, sociology, and medieval history.

Individuals who participate in the Retreat usually make dramatic progress. Previous participants have completed dissertation proposals, several chapters of their dissertations, or one or two manuscripts ready to submit for publication to journals. One participant in the Retreat won a dissertation award from the National Communication Association for a dissertation he wrote largely at the Retreat.

What to Expect

Scholars' Retreat is designed to provide the opportunity for intensive, focused, non-distracting, supervised writing time so that you may make significant progress toward the completion of your dissertation, thesis, or writing project.

During the Retreat, participants write from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., with breaks for meals. During the writing periods, participants receive individual coaching to insure maximum productivity, including assistance in:

- developing individual writing plans
- unblocking writing blocks
- developing frameworks or research questions for projects
- writing literature reviews efficiently
- coding qualitative data efficiently
- analyzing data to develop conceptual schemas
- organizing ideas
- developing strategies for efficient writing
- energizing and motivating

Participants are expected to bring their own computers to the Retreat. Productivity will be enhanced if you bring your own printer. For those who cannot, a PC- and a MAC- compatible printer will be available.

"Dr. Foss and Scholars' Retreat are the reasons I actually finished my dissertation in less than a lifetime."

"Not only did I receive excellent guidance about how to proceed with the analysis and the interpretation of my data at Scholars' Retreat, but it was provided with care and genuine concern."

"When I left Scholars' Retreat, I felt more like a scholar than I'd ever felt before."

Location and Dates

Two sessions of the Retreat are scheduled for June, 2008. Session 1 begins on Tuesday, May 27, and ends on Tuesday, June 3. Session 2 begins on Thursday, June 5, and ends on Thursday, June 12. Participants should plan to arrive before 4:00 p. m. on the first day and to leave in the morning of the last day of the Retreat. The Retreat is held in apartment-style suites on a university campus in Denver, Colorado. Participants have their own rooms and share a bathroom with one other Retreat participant.

Fees

The fee is \$1675 for one session; individuals may stay for both sessions for a reduced fee of \$3150. This fee includes lodging and all meals; participants are expected to pay their own travel expenses to Denver. Payment may be made by credit card.

Many departments or universities have professional development funds available for graduate students and faculty members. Potential participants are encouraged to investigate these possible sources of funding.

For More Information

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