Dan Leslie Bowden Fellowship in the Humanities (Senior Class of 2023)

Purpose and Description

Dan Leslie Bowden began his sixty-three year career at Ransom Everglades in 1955. His legacy influences the school to this day. The Dan Leslie Bowden Fellowships in the Humanities were created in his honor to provide select students with academic and financial support to pursue advanced summer studies in the humanities. Juniors in good standing may apply for a fellowship to be used in the summer prior to their final year at Ransom Everglades. In the fall of their senior year, Fellows will present a summary of their research or project experience to the Ransom Everglades community and submit a synopsis of their work for the school’s archives.

Mr. Bowden’s contributions include that of an inspirational teacher of English, gifted educational administrator, valued advisor to the Head of School, and most importantly, mentor to thousands of students and faculty. His unabashed love of language and literature, combined with a passionate and inspiring advocacy for the humanities, provided the intellectual foundation for generations of Ransom Everglades students. Throughout his career, Mr. Bowden truly exemplified a life lived by Paul Ransom’s exhortation that people should aspire to be “in the world not so much for what they can get out of it as for what they can put into it.”

The Bowden Fellowships help support the expenses of advanced study in the humanities. Fellowship support may include, but is not restricted to, travel costs, fellowship related program fees, and study materials. Where it can, the school will help Fellows mitigate or defray expenses by lending school equipment or connecting Fellows with professional contacts.

Eligibility and Application

Rising seniors in good academic standing and not under any disciplinary sanction are eligible to apply. Each applicant must supply the following to complete an application:

1) Contact Information and Brief Biographical Information
2) Project Facts: project or program title, location, length and/or dates (or anticipated time commitment), project supervisor (if there is one), and type of experience (research, travel experience, creative project, etc.).
3) Project Overview, explaining the details of the project or program. This should be a narrative that addresses the following elements:
   a. Idea/Research Question: A discussion of the specific research question(s), problem(s), or idea(s) you plan to explore. The question/area of exploration should be answerable or possible within the scope of work described in the application, and lead logically to the methodology.
   b. Methodology:
      i. Describe some of the reading or work you have already done on the topic. Explain your understanding of the current scholarly research or work on this topic (think about your annotated bibliography), and/or, your understanding of your own intellectual/creative development in this area. Is there a gap in the literature that you plan to address, or, how will your work contribute something new, original, or unique? You must submit an annotated bibliography with your application.
      ii. What are the steps you will take? In other words, how will you get all of this done! You must submit an anticipated timeline of your work. Be as specific as possible, but don’t worry, change is inevitable once the project gets underway.
      iii. What are the boundaries of your project? Consider how you might have narrowed the scope of the project as you defined it in more detail. What is not
included in the scope of your project, and why not? One of the most crucial elements to successful scholarly work is being able to clearly define (and limit) your project, so that you have a strong sense of what you are doing (and what you are not) and can be focused and purposeful given the limited time that you have.

c. Results: How will you demonstrate the outcomes of your work? A specific deliverable, or final product, must be described clearly. Past Fellows have written research papers, made documentary films, created websites, produced podcasts, created original artwork, staged performances, and more.

4) A budget of all anticipated expenses, and what resources beyond the fellowship funds may be brought to bear on the project to help cover these expenses. Fellowship support may include, but is not restricted to, travel costs, fellowship related program fees, and study materials.
   a. Resources owned by the school that can facilitate a fellowship project may be offered or loaned to Fellows in lieu of or in addition to funding. In some cases, the school may purchase equipment that will be lent to the Fellow for the duration of the project, but will be owned by the school and returned to the school once the Fellowship work is concluded.
   b. Fellowship funds may defray tuition for summer courses. But these projects are only compelling when they extend the work of the student beyond the course, and propose a tangible original product that will result from the student experience in the course.
   c. Fellowship funds may not be used to make donations to individuals or organizations.

5) An essay that explains how the Fellowship project will
   a. enrich the applicant’s personal intellectual growth and contribute to the humanities as a field of inquiry (in other words, what contribution is the project or program experience likely to make, and what is its significance for the humanities).
   b. complement ongoing interests or experiences of the applicant.
   c. might be incorporated into life at Ransom Everglades or shared with the Ransom Everglades community at large, and/or how the participation of the applicant will benefit Ransom Everglades or the larger Coconut Grove community.

6) A letter of support from a Ransom Everglades faculty member who is familiar with the student’s interest in, and commitment to, the humanities, and who can speak to the student’s ability to conceive of and manage a major project of this sort, and meet deadlines.

Timeline

October 12: Class of 2021 Bowden Fellows Assembly
October 18: Application Information Available
Dec 2: Application Workshop for aspiring Fellows w/Class of 2022 Fellows (optional)
Dec 6: Application Workshop for aspiring Fellows w/Dr. Helmers and Dr. King (optional)
December 21: Application Deadline
Early-February: Class of 2023 Fellows Notified
**Evaluation Criteria**

The Bowden Fellowship Committee most favors proposals that demonstrate clarity of thought and purpose, elements of originality, a mature vision, problem-solving, risk-taking, and especially “courage in the passionate pursuit of what makes us human.”

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project, and the clarity of expression.
2. Potential to advance the appreciation of the humanities, and the degree to which the project lies within the bounds of the humanities.
3. Significance of the unique contribution to knowledge in, or interpretation of, the humanities.
4. Quality and detail of the proposed methodology: theoretical framework/assumptions, plan of action, scope of work, timeline, results.
5. Feasibility and the likelihood that the Fellow will execute the work and achieve the expected outcomes within the proposed time frame (before graduation from Ransom Everglades School).
6. The potential of the proposal to contribute to learning in the humanities at Ransom Everglades.

The Bowden Humanities Fellowship Committee will review all completed applications received and recommend to the Head of School a list of potential Fellows for the following summer and academic year. The amount of each grant, not to exceed $5000, will be based on the particular requirements of each Fellow’s program and the availability of funds each year. Often, the committee grants provisional approval, pending the applicant’s response to the committee’s feedback and recommendations.

Submit application materials to fellowships@ransomeverglades.org.

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1 Evaluation Criteria adapted from American Council for Learned Societies ACLS Fellowship Application Evaluation Criteria, [https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/ACLS-Fellowships#appreq](https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/ACLS-Fellowships#appreq), and Oregon State Center for the Humanities Research Fellowship Review Process and Criteria, [https://humanities.oregonstate.edu/fellowship-program](https://humanities.oregonstate.edu/fellowship-program).