

Finding the Time

FACULTY WRITING RETREATS

*a partnership between Academic Affairs
and the Loyola/Notre Dame Library*

THE IDEA

The Finding the Time initiative seeks to provide faculty with the external structure, space, and encouragement that makes writing possible. Since 2014, Loyola's Office of Academic Affairs partners with the Loyola/Notre Dame Library and volunteer faculty hosts to offer daylong writing retreats during breaks within and between semesters. The structured writing sessions include breaks to gather as a community for food, goal sharing, and sometimes healthy griping. Since summer 2015, faculty at neighboring universities are also welcome to participate.

PARTICIPATION

- **Year One (2014-15): 8 retreats/15 days**
At least 78 individual writing days logged by 21 different participants
- **Year Two (2015-16): 10 retreats/17 days**
At least 86 individual writing days logged by 34 different participants, including 4 colleagues from Notre Dame and Johns Hopkins
- **Year Three Two (2016-17): 11 retreats/20 days**
At least 130 individual writing days logged by 40 different participants (as June 2017).

RESULTS AFTER YEAR THREE*

Since 2014, there have been almost 300 writing days logged by well over 50 different colleagues in the humanities, education, social sciences, business, and natural and applied sciences. In June 2017, an on-line survey was sent to 63 active writing retreat alumni yielding a 46% response rate. Participants report that the writing workshops have supported the acceptance of at least **26 articles/book chapters, 3 book proposals, 5 encyclopedia entries**, the awarding of at least **6 grants**, the presentation of at least **16 conference papers**, and the acceptance of at least **12 conference proposals** among other results. Of course, this is a partial snapshot given the survey rate and the often long time frame of scholarly projects. Along the way, faculty have developed an open community of support and shared purpose across divisions and ranks. Participants like the retreat format and the concept of rotating faculty hosts who facilitate the conversations throughout the day. They appreciate the opportunity to commit the day to writing, establish achievable goals, and discuss and receive feedback about their goals from participating faculty.

**Thanks to Dr. David Carey (History) and Dr. Sally Gallena (Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences) for assistance with the survey design and coordinating writing retreats over the years. For administrative support, thanks to Bo Noordhoff in Academic Affairs and Lorena Dion at the Loyola/Notre Dame Library.*