LISA D. ALVAREZ
SABBATICAL PROPOSAL

1. Proposed Title:

Development of one manuscript for publication: Orange County: A Literary Journey and partial development of a second: Poetry Workshop in a Book: the Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Poetry

2. Goals and Purpose:

In this proposal, I seek a half-year sabbatical to research, assemble, edit and produce a publishable manuscript of a scholarly endeavor, Orange County: A Literary Journey. This book will document Orange County's history through nonfiction accounts, fiction and poetry, from its earliest residents to its most recent arrivals. This book will be a landmark collection, similar in scope to Inlandia: A Literary Journey through California's Inland Empire, edited by Gayle Wattawa and published by Heyday Books. In addition, I will further begin to develop the manuscript of Poetry Workshop in a Book: the Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Poetry. This will contribute to the ongoing discussion of craft and creative process and follows publication, under my co-editorship of Writers Workshop in a Book: the Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Fiction (Chronicle Books 2007), a significant contribution to the genre of craft books on writing.

3. Describe the specific objectives you wish to achieve that will support the goals and purpose of your sabbatical.

Orange County: A Literary Journey will do what no other anthology has done before: document the history and evolving culture of California's smallest but increasingly influential county. The final project will include the early voices of the Gabrielino and the Spanish explorers as well as diary excerpts and travel letters of those who visited during the 1800s. In addition to those, Orange County's 20th century will be seen through the works of such national literary figures such M.F.K. Fisher, E. L. Doctorow, Susan Sontag, Michael Chabon, and Steve Martin. In addition to acclaimed writers, the book will also include the works of unpublished emerging writers from recent immigrant communities as well as local writers of renown (T. Jefferson Parker, Dean Koontz, JoAnn Mapson, etc).

Orange County: A Literary Journey will attract scholars as well as a more general audience. In addition, I believe it has the potential to become a textbook, suitable for high school, college and university level classes. The initial project has been encouraged by Heyday Books as perhaps suitable for its California Legacy imprint. Heyday Books is a 35 year old non-profit publishing house dedicated to celebrating California's culture and history.
While other books of the craft of poetry are in print, the *Poetry Workshop in a Book: the Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Poetry* will be distinctive in its contributors and by its blend of the personal testimony and the practical wisdom of some of America's most accomplished poets, including Pulitzer Prize-winner Robert Hass (my co-editor), Lucille Clifton, Cornelius Eady, Galway Kinnell, Li-Young Lee, Sharon Olds, Dean Young, C.D. Wright and others.

This project will attract readers and scholars interested in the study of poetry as well as others interested in the creation of poetry. Already I have begun collaboration with my co-editor, Robert Hass and Chronicle Books, which published the previous volume, has indicated strong support for this one. The previous volume, *Writers Workshop in a Book: the Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Fiction*, featured 20 contributors including nationally-recognized writers Richard Ford, Michael Chabon, Amy Tan, Anne Lamott and many others. It went into as second printing and has been adopted as a textbook in many writing programs across the country. About that project, *El Paso Times* wrote: "Regardless of whether reading this book will inspire a beginning writer to commence or finish a full-length manuscript, it is a fine and truly entertaining addition to the ever-growing bookshelf of 'how to' tomes."

4. **Describe in detail the types of activities you propose to include and/or undertake during your project.**

I believe that this project is feasible and that by the end of the semester, I will have successfully completed the manuscript of *Orange County: a Literary Journey* and partial completion of *Poetry Workshop in a Book: the Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Poetry.*

The majority of the work for *Orange County: A Literary Journey* will involve research and selection of the contributions. This will require time spent at various local libraries, reviewing their special collections related to Orange County history as well as reading contemporary literature set in and around the county. In addition, I will do outreach to community colleges and universities, reviewing their own publications and talking with professors in the field as I track down compelling work to include. The goal is to create a book of approximately 70 contributions, with careful attention paid to community representation and historical event. At the end of this process, I will submit the book proposal (sample chapters, biographical info, Table of Contents, etc.) to Heyday Books for their consideration.

The first stage of developing *Poetry Workshop in a Book: the Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Poetry* will require extensive contact with contributor regarding topic choice, length of contribution as well as initial editing for style, form and content. This stage generally requires much back and forth communication with each contributor. I anticipate upwards of 12 contributors, some with multiple contributions. As the contributions come forward, I will begin to organize of the revised text – a careful reading of all the contributions and then an ordering in terms of theme or focus. At the same time, I will begin drafting the anthology's introduction and contributors' notes.
5. Describe how your activities relate to your goals and objectives.

As a writer and instructor of composition, literature and creative writing, the activities involved in this project will strengthen my own skills and expertise. In addition, the products will be a valuable resource for teachers of writing, literature and creative writing — and our students. The activities involved in the process of creation and the product itself — the book — support the goals and objectives cited above.

6. Describe the measurable outcomes of your project, such as curriculum, materials, scientific specimens, manuscripts, audio-visuals, etc.

This project will yield results including manuscripts, publishable projects in book form which will be sponsored by distinguished publishing companies and made available nationally in bookstores and as a textbook. Additionally, I expect articles and book reviews in popular and professional journals, invitations to conferences and scholarly events, opportunities to speak about and teach about and from.

7. Describe the projected impact that your project will have on teaching and learning.

The Orange County anthology will fill an important need for a quality anthology for use in the classroom and beyond, offering teachers at high school, community college and university levels a viable teaching resource.

The poetry craft book contributes to the literature on creative writing generally, poetry specifically, and compiles important essays, some printed for the first time. It completes the project of documenting the 40-year legacy of an important California institution, the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley by assembling a compilation of some of the best of craft writing from the poetry track.

Production and publication of these books benefits the college and district by advancing the reputation of each as institutions which promote literacy, the literary arts, and creative writing and scholarship.

8. Describe how you intend to apply the results of your sabbatical to your professional assignment and development plan.

I have taught at IVC for 16 years. This project enhances my teaching as well as course and curriculum development because it falls within my field of expertise. For nearly 20 years, I have taught composition with a focus on the California experience. To work so closely with materials related to the Orange County experience will strengthen that background. Part of my professional assignment is to teach creative writing and address the writing process in my composition classes. In addition to this, I teach poetry in the course of literature classes as well as my writing courses. I have long wanted to expand
my knowledge in the area of poetry. My graduate studies focused on fiction and this project is an opportunity for me to strengthen my work in this area. In addition, this will strengthen my skills in the area of curriculum development.

9. **Describe your plan for dissemination of the results of your sabbatical proposal to your students, colleagues, college, District and/or community.**

   Upon publication, I will provide copies of the published book(s) to the libraries at Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College. In addition, I plan to use these materials to present a workshop at an upcoming AWP (Associated Writing Programs) conference, (2010 or 2011). I will also provide a FLEX week workshop for colleagues about this project: the subject itself as well as my strategies as an anthologist and editor and my work with a publisher.

10. **Complete a one-half page abstract**

    See next page.
SHORT ABSTRACT

Alvarez, Lisa D.                                          Fall Semester 2009
English, Humanities and Languages
Irvine Valley College

Title: Development of two manuscripts: and Orange County: A Literary Journey and Poetry Workshop in a Book: the Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Poetry.

Activities: Professor Alvarez will research, assemble, edit and produce a manuscript of scholarly endeavor, Orange County: A Literary Journey and partially develop a second: Poetry Workshop in a Book: the Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Poetry.

Rationale: This sabbatical leave will enhance Professor Alvarez' ability to teach poetry in the classroom and develop curriculum and course materials to that end. Furthermore, it will strengthen her own ability to teach the craft of writing and editing. In addition, the published manuscripts will fill an important need for a quality anthology for use in the classroom and beyond, offering teachers at high school, community college and university levels a viable teaching resource. The Orange County anthology will be landmark in its field, the first ever comprehensive compilation of the county's literary legacy, from its native people to today's newly arrived immigrant groups. The result will create a text that can be used at the high school, college and university level. The poetry project contributes to the literature on creative writing generally, poetry specifically, and compiles important essays, some printed for the first time. It completes the project of documenting the 40-year legacy of an important California institution, the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley, by assembling a compilation of some of the best of craft writing from the poetry track.

Production and publication of these books benefit the college and district by advancing the reputation of each as institutions which promote literacy, the literary arts, and creative writing and scholarship.