




University of Connecticut  
*Office of the Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer*

November 5, 2009

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Richard D. Gray   
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

RE: Annual Report of the Endowed Chair Program Entitled "Aetna English  
Chair in Writing"

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the 2009 report on the Aetna English Chair in Writing.

BACKGROUND:

The English Chair in Writing is under the direction of Professor Lynn Bloom and is funded jointly by the Aetna Foundation and the Department of Higher Education Investment Fund. It was established during the 1988-89 fiscal year as authorized by C.G.S. Section 10a-20. Subsection (f) of the statute states that "the Board of Trustees shall submit annual reports to the Board of Governors concerning the endowed chair expenditures."

The 2009 annual report consists of a financial report and a narrative report by Professor Bloom.

Attachments



University of Connecticut  
*Office of the Chief Financial Officer*

DATE: August 28, 2009

TO: Richard D. Gray  
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Paul R. McDowell  
Chief Financial Officer *PRM*

RE: English Chair in Writing

Enclosed is the Financial Report for the English Chair in Writing Program, under the direction of Professor Lynn Bloom, for fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. The report provides the separate financial operations of the program managed by the University and the UConn Foundation, along with the combined total. The combined expenditures for fiscal year 2009 totaled \$74,344.77.

<u>Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2009</u>	
University	\$71,116.46
Foundation	<u>3,228.31</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$74,344.77</u>

Professor Bloom has provided a narrative of the writing program's operation for fiscal year 2009, which is also enclosed. Section 10a-20a (f) of the Connecticut General Statutes requires an annual report approved by the University's Board of Trustees to be submitted to the Department of Higher Education Board of Governors for the Endowed Chair in Writing.

Additional notes are provided on the financial report disclosing the year-end balances of the Foundation and DHE endowment funds.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you should have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Enclosures

c: L. Bloom  
C. Eaton  
D. Vance

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University of Connecticut and  
University of Connecticut Foundation  
Endowed Chair in Writing  
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2009

	University FRS	Foundation	Combined Total
Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2008	<u>\$43,633.34</u>	<u>\$122,274.93</u>	<u>\$165,908.27</u>
<u>Revenue</u>			
Dept. of Higher Education	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pooled Endowment Income Allocation	0.00	41,852.00	41,852.00
Transferred From UConn Foundation	<u>67,747.12</u>	<u>(67,747.12)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	67,747.12	(25,895.12)	41,852.00
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Printing and Binding	11,116.20	102.16	11,218.36
Sundry Operating Services	1,705.03	0.00	1,705.03
Conferences and Meetings	13,668.84	320.51	13,989.35
Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	123.00	123.00
Travel	4,011.16	74.06	4,085.22
Outside Professional Services	<u>11,400.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>	<u>11,425.00</u>
TOTAL Contractual Services	41,901.23	644.73	42,545.96
Office Supplies	218.27	163.48	381.75
Books	<u>1,383.93</u>	<u>2,420.10</u>	<u>3,804.03</u>
TOTAL Commodities	1,602.20	2,583.58	4,185.78
Fellowships	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00
Student Aid Fees	<u>18,975.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>18,975.00</u>
TOTAL Sundry Charges	25,975.00	0.00	25,975.00
EDP Hardware	1,638.03	0.00	1,638.03
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>71,116.46</u>	<u>3,228.31</u>	<u>74,344.77</u>
Ending Balance as of June 30, 2009	<u>\$40,264.00</u>	<u>\$93,151.50</u>	<u>\$133,415.50</u>

This endowed chair is not supported by any University funds, but the University maintains accounts which receive revenue from the Foundation and the Department of Higher Education. These University accounts disburse the funds in support of the program including all funds transferred from the Foundation and the Department of Higher Education. There were no transfers from the Department of Higher Education in fiscal year 2009. The first column above summarizes the University's revenue and expenditure activity for this chair. The Foundation disburses payment for certain expenses directly to third parties on behalf of the University as shown above in the second column in fiscal year 2009. The Foundation also supported the Endowed Chair with \$4,951.54 of funds from an account called the Long River Review Fund. This amount is included in the second column and the beginning balance as of July 1, 2008 has been adjusted to reflect this additional fund.

The English Chair in Writing has funds held at the UConn Foundation and the Department of Higher Education. The Foundation endowed fund was established with a gift of \$506,989 (amount permanently restricted) in 1988 and was valued at \$755,770 at June 30, 2009, which included accumulated gains/losses on the original gift. The spendable portion of the Foundation endowed fund was \$93,152 as of June 30, 2009. The Department of Higher Education endowed fund was established with \$500,000 of state funds and is invested in the Endowed Chair Investment Fund (managed by the State Treasurer). The interest earned on this fund supports the Aetna English Chair in Writing. The value of this fund was \$552,064 at June 30, 2009, including principal of \$500,000 and interest of \$52,064.



University of Connecticut  
*Department of English*

1

College of Liberal Arts  
and Sciences

**Aetna Chair of Writing, 2008-2009**

Lynn Z. Bloom  
Board of Trustees  
Distinguished Professor  
Aetna Chair of Writing

The Aetna Endowment enhances the University's efforts to encourage excellent student writing and excellent teaching of writing, throughout the UConn system, the State of Connecticut, the nation, and internationally. This funding has contributed substantially to the growth, visibility, and contributions of UConn's writing programs to the state and nation over the past twenty-one years.

**University: Freshman English and undergraduate writing.** Aetna co-sponsored the fourth annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing, "Composition, For What?" on March 27, 2009, with program participation increasing 40 % over the preceding year. This conference featured panels and discussions presented by 52+ graduate students, Writing Center associates, and writing tutors and (graduate and undergraduate), and faculty from UConn (including Storrs and regional campuses), Emerson College, UMass Amherst, and Southern Connecticut SU, and Connecticut and Massachusetts high schools. Keynoter Patricia Bizzell, College of the Holy Cross, spoke on "Composition Studies Saves the World!" The Celebration of Teaching Writing, previously a separate event, is now integrated into this conference. Mary-Elizabeth Lough received the Aetna Teaching Award.

**Creative Writing.** Aetna supports publication of the award-winning *Long River Review* (student literary magazine); and the Long River awards for art (Sarah McKay) and graduate writing (Gordon Fraser). Aetna funded short-term writer-in-residence for Steve Almond (fiction), and C.D. Wright (poet); Graduate Creative Writing work-in-progress grant (Gordon Fraser; Poetic Journeys (poetry on campus buses); and a host of speakers and guest teachers. The sixth Aetna Celebration of Creative Nonfiction was held on March 17 with readings by nonfiction writer Lauren Slater and student prizewinners—graduate Zara Rix and undergraduate Michael Schrage. The creative writing contests remain popular, with 238 students submitting 655 entries.

**University Writing Center.** Tomas Deans, Director of the University Writing Center, and Kathleen Tonry, Associate Director, have had a fourth year of vigorous activities across the Storrs campus and throughout the UConn system. Through faculty workshops, graduate student orientations, a website, and outreach to academic departments, they enhance the teaching of writing throughout the university's main and regional campuses. They also oversee peer tutoring that reaches more than 2,000 UConn students annually. Aetna funds books for the Center's professional development library,

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for visiting scholars to present workshops, and for tutor staff training.

**Graduate Programs.** The graduate courses in Autobiography (as a literary genre, and as a mode of writing), and in Rhetorical Theory and Composition Research, inaugurated in 1988-89, continue to flourish, augmented since 2002 by courses in Classical and Modern Rhetoric taught by Sarah Winter (in Spring 2008 “Rhetoric, Semiotics, and the Philosophy of Language”), Tom Deans’s “Writing Across and Beyond the Curriculum” (2007), and Lynn Bloom’s team-taught “Research Methods in Composition Studies” (2009). The UConn Composition and Rhetoric faculty has been strengthened with the recent appointments of Deans and Tonry (Storrs), Scott Campbell (Hartford), Pamela Bedore (Avery Point), Serkan Gorkemli (Stamford), Ellen Carillo (Waterbury); and by the statewide visibility of the Litchfield County Writers’ Project (directed by Davyne Verstandig). In 2008-09 Aetna funds sent graduate students as presenters to national writing conferences: Becky Caouette to Writing Program Administrators (Denver); Shan-Estelle Brown and Mandy Suhr-Sytsma, to the International Writing Centers Association (Las Vegas); and Mary Isbell and Katrina Bafumi to the National Writing Project/National Council of Teachers of English (San Antonio). Numerous graduate students who have served as Writing Program administrators have received tenure track jobs nationwide, including Frank Napolitano and Becky Caouette in 2009.

**Critical and Freshman Essay Prizes.** Now in its nineteenth year, the annual Critical Essay Writing Prize Award evening has evolved into a particularly happy and festive gathering of faculty, students, parents, administrators, and Aetna Fellows. On November 6, 2008 Professor Kate Capshaw Smith spoke on “Why Writing for Children Matters” and six Aetna student prizewinners read from their works: graduate students Kisha Tracy, Emily Wojcik, and Emily Dolan; freshmen Zack Dorn, Stephen Corbo, and Thomas Dimauro. Leigh Sager received the Ratcliffe-Hicks freshman prize and Sheryl Kennedy received the McPeck scholarship. Connecticut Writing Project Teacher writing awards went to Denise Abercrombie and Jennifer Shaff. Chelsea Ambrozaitis won the Milton R. Stern prize went to Christopher Weingart.

**Publications.** Aetna funds and collaboration among student writers, teachers, editors, designers, and the Writing Specialist’s manuscript preparation, have made possible the publication of *Essay CONNections*, a booklet of UCONN Freshman English Prize Essays, 1990-94 (103 pp.); Vol. 2 1995-98 (128 pp.); Vol. 3, 1999-2002 (132 pp.). Volume 4, 2003-06 (176 pp.) was published in the summer of 2008. Free copies are distributed at UConn-sponsored writing conferences, and to all teachers of UConn freshman English at all UConn campuses to provide exemplary models for successive freshman classes.

Copies may be obtained from [Lori.Corsini-Nelson@UConn.edu](mailto:Lori.Corsini-Nelson@UConn.edu).

**State of Connecticut: Connecticut Writing Project:** In the summer of 2008, the Aetna Chair of Writing provided \$25,000 to help fund Fellowships for 12 public school teachers to attend the Connecticut Writing Project Summer Institute. National Writing Project Field Director Richard VanDeWeghe noted in his annual review of the CWP that “Your [2008] summer institute appears very strong in light of the 100% approval rating from last year’s cohort: clearly they found the experience professionally valuable and personally meaningful.” Since the successful reorganization of the CWP in the summer of 2006 and the hiring of new director Jason Courtmanche, the CWP has forged successful collaborations with several university programs, notably the University Writing Center and Teachers for a New Era. Contracted professional development services have expanded from a low of one contract in 2006 to seven contracts for the 2008-09 academic year, which generated nearly \$20,000 in revenue.

**New England, Nation, and International Activities:** Aetna funds supported the April reading of Irish novelist Claire Kilroy as part of the Irish Studies program.

**Composition Studies Conferences:** Aetna funding sponsored UConn Conference on the Teaching of Writing (see above). UCONN also co-sponsored two national composition studies research conferences (1993, 2001) whose papers Southern Illinois University Press has published in two standard reference volumes edited by Lynn Bloom, Donald Daiker, and Edward White: *Composition in the 21st Century: Crisis and Change* (1996, 2001); *Composition Studies in the New Millennium: Rereading the Past, Rewriting the Future* (2004).

**National Outreach:** Dr. Bloom serves on advisory boards of *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*, *JAC*, the *Journal of Basic Writing*, and on the Board of Directors of the National Archives of Composition and Rhetoric. Her plenary talk, “Living to Tell the Tale: The Complicated Ethics of Creative Nonfiction,” opened the Narrative Matters Conference at the U of Toronto (May 08). As keynote speaker at the New Jersey College English Association conference in March 09, she spoke on “Writers Without Borders: Teaching Writing in Troubled Times.”

**Research:** Aetna funding has contributed to the research of the nineteen books and ninety articles that Dr. Bloom has published since arriving at UConn in 1988, including two books in 2008: *The Seven Deadly Virtues and Other Lively Essays: Coming of Age as a Writer, Teacher, Risk Taker* (U of South Carolina Press); and *Writers Without Borders: Writing and Teaching Writing in Troubled Times* (Parlor Press). Aetna funding has also supported Dr. Bloom’s ongoing research on “The Essay Canon” (*College English*, March 1999), “Once More to the Essay: The Essay Canon and Textbook Anthologies” (*symplokē*

,2001); and "Good Enough Writing" (in *What Is 'College-Level' Writing?* NCTE 2006)—precursors to a book-in-progress. Lori Nelson has compiled and revised an extensive data base of 22,500 items, derived from a painstakingly acquired collection of some 325 freshman textbooks (to become an archive)—all the freshman Readers published in four or more editions 1946-96, and updated to 2001. A direct pedagogical application of this research led to the publication of the *St. Martin's Custom Reader* (2001, co-ed. Louise Z. Smith), a print-on-demand textbook derived directly from the data base of 250 essays by canonical essayists. This research has also undergirded *The Arlington Reader* (2003), *The Brief Arlington Reader* (2004, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2008), the second edition of *Inquiry* (2004), and the ninth edition of *The Essay Connection* (2010).

**Conclusion.** Endowment funds, complemented by interest from the matching state grant, have enabled us to sustain the myriad of activities identified here on a \$65,000 annual budget, in 2008-09 augmented by \$19,00 for general expenditures—primarily to enhance the Writing Center's system-wide activities and community outreach. These have been aided immeasurably by Lori Corsini-Nelson, Administrative Services Specialist for the writing programs, her position funded by the CLAS Dean's office. The University of Connecticut can be justifiably proud of the activities of its undergraduate and graduate students and faculty in rhetoric and composition on state, regional, national, and international levels, made possible in part by the Aetna Endowment.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynn Z. Bloom  
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor  
Aetna Chair of Writing  
April 16, 2009