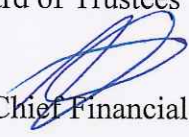




University of Connecticut
*Office of the Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer*

September 21, 2010

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 2010 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 2010 annual report consists of a financial report and a narrative report by Professor Bloom.

Attachments

An Equal Opportunity Employer

352 Mansfield Road Unit 2122
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-2122


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University of Connecticut
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

DATE: September 8, 2010

TO: Richard Gray
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Paul R. McDowell 
Chief Financial Officer

RE: English Chair in Writing

Enclosed is a Financial Report for the English Chair in Writing Program, under the direction of Professor Lynn Bloom, for fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. 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 2010 totaled \$57,976.52 as follows:

<u>Expenditures FY June 30, 2010</u>	
University	\$56,290.61
Foundation	<u>1,685.91</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$57,976.52</u>

Professor Bloom has provided a narrative of the writing program's operation for fiscal year 2010, 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, 2010

	University FRS	Foundation	Combined Total
Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2009	\$40,264.00	\$93,151.50	\$133,415.50
<u>Revenue</u>			
Dept. of Higher Education	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pooled Endowment Income Allocation	0.00	36,797.31	36,797.31
Transferred From UConn Foundation	66,481.00	(66,481.00)	0.00
Other Foundation Revenue	0.00	4,162.80	4,162.80
TOTAL REVENUE	66,481.00	(25,520.89)	40,960.11
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Salary & Wages	250.00	0.00	250.00
Printing and Binding	3,668.63	0.00	3,668.63
Sundry Operating Services	3,727.74	198.96	3,926.70
Conferences and Meetings	2,000.00	482.14	2,482.14
Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	90.00	90.00
Travel	966.73	78.20	1,044.93
Outside Professional Services	22,900.00	0.00	22,900.00
TOTAL Contractual Services	33,263.10	849.30	34,112.40
Office Supplies	808.08	234.35	1,042.43
Books	472.11	602.26	1,074.37
TOTAL Commodities	1,280.19	836.61	2,116.80
Fringe Benefits	22.32	0.00	22.32
Student Aid Fees	21,475.00	0.00	21,475.00
TOTAL Sundry Charges	21,497.32	0.00	21,497.32
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	56,290.61	1,685.91	57,976.52
Ending Balance as of June 30, 2010	\$50,454.39	\$65,944.70	\$116,399.09

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 the fiscal year 2010. The first column above summarizes the University's revenue and expenditure activity for this chair. The Foundation also disburses certain expenses directly to third parties on behalf of the University as shown above in the second column in fiscal year 2010. The Foundation also supported the Endowed Chair with \$4,162.80 of funds from other accounts. This amount is included in the second column in Other Foundation Revenue.

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 \$778,769.00 at June 30, 2010, which included accumulated gains/losses on the original gift. The spendable portion of the Foundation endowed fund was \$65,945 as of June 30, 2010. 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 \$554,824 at June 30, 2010, including principal of \$500,000 and interest of \$54,824.

Annual Report

Aetna Chair of Writing, 2009-2010

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-two years.

University: Freshman English. Aetna co-sponsored the fifth annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing, "Local Knowledge" on March 26, 2010. This conference featured presentations by some forty graduate students, Writing Center associates, writing tutors and (graduate and undergraduate), and faculty from UConn (including Storrs and regional campuses), UMass Amherst, Quinnipiac U, Princeton, Sacred Heart U, Worcester State U, Boston College, Emerson College, Rhode Island College, LaGuardia Community College, and Joel Barlow High School. Keynoter John Brereton (ret. U Mass-Boston, and Brandeis U) spoke on "Archiving is a Verb: Building and Using Composition Archives for Teaching and Research."

Undergraduate writing at UConn regional campuses. Since 2002 Writing Directors have been appointed at each of the regional campuses: Pamela Bedore (Avery Point), Scott Campbell (Hartford), Ellen Carillo (Waterbury), Serkan Gorkemli (Stamford), and Kathy Knapp (Torrington), and Aetna funding has enhanced various programs such as Academic Integrity Week and faculty development workshops (Waterbury), a speakers' series (Stamford), and the Freshman Book project (Torrington). Aided by Aetna funding, the Litchfield County Writers' Project (directed by Davyne Verstandig at Torrington) provided honoraria and hospitality to sustain its ongoing discussion series for students and the general public (live and via DVD)—*Writers of Litchfield County: Word and Spirit*. Such activities bring statewide and regional visibility to the Bloomsbury-esque LCWP.

Creative Writing. Aetna supports publication of the award-winning *Long River Review* (student literary magazine); and the Long River art awards for art (Xiaotong Duan) and graduate writing (Zara Rix). Aetna funded short-term writer-in-residence for Stuart O'Nan (fiction), and Beth Ann Fennelly (poet); Graduate Creative Writing work-in-progress grant (Matthew Salyer); Poetic Journeys (poetry on campus buses); The Lumberyard radio broadcast; and a host of speakers and guest teachers. The seventh Aetna Celebration of Creative Nonfiction was held on April 19 with readings by nonfiction writer Susan Brind Morrow and student prizewinners—graduate Zara Rix and undergraduates Timothy Stobierski and Jennifer Few. The creative writing contests remain popular, with 253 students submitting 651 entries.

University Writing Center. Tomas Deans, Director of the University Writing Center, and Kathleen Tonry, Associate Director, have had a fifth 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 reached more than 1400 students through 2300 appointments in fall 2009, an increase of 150 more visits over the same period in 2008. Aetna funds books for the Center's professional development library, visiting scholars presenting workshops, and tutor staff training. From among 127 entries submitted for the first Aetna Writing in the Disciplines contest, sponsored by the Writing Center, prizes were awarded in Humanities to John Bailey and Lisa Tess (literature) and Kaitlin Harley (classics); Social Sciences to Matthew Santacroce (political science; and Brittney Bauer, Kenyon Colli, and Cara Flynn, all in psychology; and Science and Engineering to Joseph Keller (ecology and evolutionary biology), Alexander Ocampo (molecular and cell biology), and Melissa Cilley (nutritional science).

During the past two years Aetna has provided seed funding for the Writing Center, partnered with the Connecticut Writing Project, to start peer-tutoring Writing Centers in four Connecticut high schools—EO Smith (Mansfield), East Hartford, Griswold, Bolton HS—and Windham Middle School (the latter two new in 2010-11). A related conference of high school writing centers at UConn, Storrs in October 2009 drew 145 participants: high school student tutors and prospective tutors, their high school and middle school teachers, UConn undergrad and graduate tutor/mentors, and some university faculty.

Graduate Programs. The graduate courses in Autobiography (as a literary genre, and as a mode of writing), and in Rhetorical Theory and Composition Research were inaugurated in 1988-89, and have been augmented since 2002 by courses in Classical and Modern Rhetoric, "Writing Across and Beyond the Curriculum," and the team-taught "Research Methods in Composition Studies." The UConn Composition and Rhetoric faculty has been strengthened with the recent appointments of Writing Center directors Deans and Tonry (Storrs), and the regional campus Writing Directors identified above.

In 2010 Rebecca Nisetich received the Aetna Teaching Award. Aetna funds sent graduate student Matthew Harding to the Anthologies Conference at Trinity; and will send Mandy Suhr-Sytsma to the national Writing Program Administrators summer conference and workshop in Philadelphia and Erin Haddad-Null, Keisha Tracy and Emily Wojik to the Connecticut Writing Project Summer Institute. Numerous graduate students who have served as Writing Program administrators have received tenure track jobs nationwide. Even in 2009-2010, a notoriously difficult year for job seekers, Ken Cormier, who served as Assistant Director of Creative Writing at UConn, will become an Assistant Professor at Quinnipiac University, with an emphasis on media studies and creative writing.

Critical and Freshman Essay Prizes. Now in its twentieth 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 October 29, 2009 Vice-Provost Veronica Makowsky spoke on "To Whom It May Concern: Remember Your Audience" and six Aetna student prizewinners read from their works: graduate students Lindy Brady, Patricia Taylor, Mandy Suhr-Sytsma, and Tara Harney; and freshmen Lisa Ruohoniemi and Janine

Johnson. Ms. Brady's first prize "Echoes of a Celtic Fenland Frontier in the Old English *Andreas*" will be published in *Review of English Studies*. Marianne Correa received the Ratcliffe-Hicks freshman prize and Sierra Ryan received the McPeck scholarship. Connecticut Writing Project Teacher writing awards went to Lynn Hoffman, Hannah Magnan, and Jeanette Zissell. Miguel Almodovar won the Milton R. Stern American Studies Essay Prize and Dana Canastar was awarded the Dave Sheehan '64 Scholarship.

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 CONN*ections, 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. Volume 5, 2007-2010 should be available on line in late 2010. Free copies of the hardcopy volumes (also forthcoming online) 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.

State of Connecticut: Connecticut Writing Project: In October 2009, the Connecticut Writing Project, the Irish Studies program, and the Aetna Chair of Writing co-sponsored a reading by Geraldine Mills, Irish poet and novelist. The Aetna endowment provided \$24,000 to support 17 Fellowships for the Connecticut Writing Project Summer Institute, awarded to fourteen public school teachers, one community college professor, and two UConn graduate students. Director Jason Courtmanche has been reappointed for another three year term. CWP external reviewer Nancy McCracken (Kent State U) noted the CWP's selection of well qualified Summer Institute Fellows, financial stability, and successful collaborations area schools and with UConn's Writing Center, Freshman English and Creative Writing programs, the Neag School of Education, and Teachers for a New Era. A mini-grant from the National Writing Project enabled the CWP to host the New England Writing Projects Retreat for over fifty participants from the eleven regional Writing Projects.

New England, Nation, and International Activities:

Composition Studies Conferences: Aetna funding supported the UConn Conference on the Teaching of Writing in March 2010, and conferences sponsored by the Connecticut Writing Project and the Writing Center (for all, see respective categories above).

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. In 2009 the Modern Language Association recorded her commentary on "Contemporary Essays" for its "What's the Word?" series. In February 2010 Dr. Bloom was a featured speaker in the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) Critical Issues Series, speaking on "Able, Disabled, Enabled: The Defiant Face of Disability Autobiography." In March she spoke on "The Essay Canon: An Anthologists' Construct of National Significance" at

the Anthologies Conference, Trinity College; and co-led a day-long workshop on creative writing at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (Louisville).

Research: Aetna funding has contributed to the research of the twenty books and ninety articles that Dr. Bloom has published since arriving at UConn in 1988, including *The Seven Deadly Virtues and Other Lively Essays: Coming of Age as a Writer, Teacher, Risk Taker* (U of South Carolina Press 2008); and *Writers Without Borders: Writing and Teaching Writing in Troubled Times* (Parlor Press 2008), and *The Essay Connection*, 9th ed. (2010). Aetna funding has also supported Dr. Bloom's ongoing research, including current publications "Coming to Life, Coming to Art: Autobiography from Theory to Canon to Classroom." *A/b: Auto/Biography Studies*; "Deep Sea Diving: Building an Archive as the Basis for Composition Studies Research." *Working in the Archives*, ed. Alexis Ramsey et al, Southern Illinois UP; and "Naked Truth." *My Life at the Gym: Feminist Perspectives on Community Through the Body*, ed. Jo Malin. SUNY Press.

Conclusion. Endowment funds, complemented by interest from the matching state grant, have enabled us to sustain the myriad of activities identified here on a \$70,000 budget for fy 2010. 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
Aetna Chair of Writing
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor
April 14, 2010