




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

September 23, 2008

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 2007-2008 report on the English Chair in Writing. The report, if approved, will be submitted to the Board of Governors, Department of Higher Education, as required by Section 10a-2a (f) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

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 Center for Excellence Fund. It was established during the 1988-89 fiscal year as authorized by C.G.S. Section 10a-2a. 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 2007-2008 report consists of a financial report and a narrative report by Professor Bloom.

Attachments

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University of Connecticut
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Office of the Controller

DATE: August 20, 2008
TO: Richard Gray
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
FROM: Paul R. McDowell 
Controller
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, 2008. 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 2008 totaled \$71,938.86, as follows:

<u>Expenditures FY June 30, 2008</u>	
University	\$70,463.86
Foundation	<u>1,475.00</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$71,938.86</u>

Professor Bloom has provided a narrative of the writing program's operation for fiscal year 2008, 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.

PRM/klw

Enclosures

c: L. Bloom
C. Eaton
D. Vance

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The University of Connecticut and
The University of Connecticut Foundation
Endowed Chair in Writing
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2008

	University FRS	Foundation	Combined Total
Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2007	<u>\$46,647.20</u>	<u>\$108,002.39</u>	<u>\$154,649.59</u>
<u>Revenue</u>			
Dept. of Higher Education	32,500.00	0.00	32,500.00
Pooled Endowment Income Allocation	0.00	45,746.00	45,746.00
Transferred From UConn Foundation	<u>34,950.00</u>	<u>(34,950.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	67,450.00	10,796.00	78,246.00
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Salary & Wages	<u>300.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>
TOTAL Personal Services	300.00	0.00	300.00
Printing and Binding	9,854.71	0.00	9,854.71
General Repairs	452.89	0.00	452.89
Sundry Operating Services	3,860.06	154.00	4,014.06
Conferences and Meetings	2,450.00	297.00	2,747.00
Dues and Subscriptions	85.00	313.00	398.00
Travel	3,232.94	0.00	3,232.94
Outside Professional Services	<u>8,500.00</u>	<u>180.00</u>	<u>8,680.00</u>
TOTAL Contractual Services	28,435.60	944.00	29,379.60
Office Supplies	1,054.45	298.00	1,352.45
Books	<u>1,738.23</u>	<u>233.00</u>	<u>1,971.23</u>
TOTAL Commodities	2,792.68	531.00	3,323.68
Long Term Disability	2.58	0.00	2.58
Student Aid Fees	<u>38,933.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>38,933.00</u>
TOTAL Sundry Charges	38,935.58	0.00	38,935.58
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>70,463.86</u>	<u>1,475.00</u>	<u>71,938.86</u>
Ending Balance as of June 30, 2008	<u>\$43,633.34</u>	<u>\$117,323.39</u>	<u>\$160,956.73</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. 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 middle column.

The Aetna 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 \$1,018,032 at June 30, 2008, which included accumulated gains/losses on the original gift. The spendable portion of the Foundation endowed fund was \$117,323 as of June 30, 2008. 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 \$541,722 at June 30, 2008, including principal of \$500,000 and interest of \$41,722.



University of Connecticut
Department of English

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Aetna Chair of Writing, 2007-2008

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 years.

College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences

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

University: Freshman English and undergraduate writing. Aetna funds support a series of seminars on teaching composition held throughout the year, including Joseph Harris (Duke U), on "Rewriting: How to do Things with Text"; and a panel discussion for Writing Internship students, "Careers for English Majors." Aetna co-sponsored the third annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing, "Genre Knowledge," in March, featuring panels and discussions by 31 graduate students and faculty from UConn, UNH, and from Connecticut high schools. Keynoter John Trimbur, Emerson College, spoke on "Genre Knowledge, Delivery Systems, Multimodal Texts: Teaching Writing in a Post-Process Era." The Celebration of Teaching Writing, previously a separate event, is to be integrated into this conference. Aetna Teaching Award finalists will be honored at a Teaching Development lunch seminar, as were Becky Caouette, Sarah Rasher, and Patti Taylor this year.

Creative Writing. Aetna supports publication of the award-winning *Long River Review* (student literary magazine); and the Long River awards for art (Paulina Perlwitz) and Graduate Writing (Christopher Venter). Aetna funded short-term writer-in-residences, Andrew Hudgins (poet), and Naeem Murr (novelist); a graduate student Creative Writing work-in-progress grant to Sean Forbes for "Providencia"; Poetic Journeys (poetry on campus buses); and a host of speakers and guest teachers, including Matt Gross, the *New York Times* Frugal Traveler. Aetna funds *The Lumberyard*, Ken Cormier's weekly radio show and podcasts featuring UConn student and faculty creative writing. The fifth Aetna Celebration of Creative Nonfiction was held on March 25 with a potluck dinner and readings by distinguished memoirist Patricia Hampl and student prizewinners—graduate Nilanjan Bhowmick; undergraduate Jephrie Cabral. Over 900 students submitted entries to the creative writing contests.

University Writing Center. Tomas Deans, Director of the University Writing Center, and Kathleen Tonry, Associate Director, have had a third vigorous year of activities across the Storrs campus and throughout the UConn system. Through workshops, a newsletter, and a comprehensive website, they direct faculty and TA efforts to enhance writing throughout the university's main and regional campuses, in undergraduate W (Writing Intensive) courses (minimum, 15 revised pages per course), as well as in graduate papers, theses, and dissertations. Aetna funds books for the Center's

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professional development library and has allocated funding to develop both a graduate recruitment brochure in composition studies and a website, Writing@UConn.edu as a clearing house for information about all writing programs at the University.

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") and Tom Deans's "Writing Across and Beyond the Curriculum" (2007). 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), and the forthcoming appointment of Ellen Carillo (Waterbury). Over the years Aetna funds have helped send graduate students as presenters to national and regional writing conferences, among them the AWP (Associated Writing Programs), Computers and Composition, Conference on College Composition and Communication, Literature and Science, Modern Language Association, National Council of Teachers of English, Northeast Writing Centers Association, Penn State Rhetoric Conference, Writing Program Administrators summer workshop and conference, and conferences at UNH and URI on composition and teaching. Numerous graduate students who have served as Writing Program administrators have received tenure track jobs nationwide.

Critical and Freshman Essay Prizes. Now in its eighteenth 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 8, 2007 Jason Courtmanche (see below, CWP) spoke on "Composing Identities: Teaching Writing in an Age of Norms and Number Crunching." Seven Aetna student prizewinners read from their works: graduate students Jeremy Deangelo, Jonathan Kotchian, and Stephen Lucasi; freshmen Lauren Silber, Kerry Smith, Caitlin Cuskley, and Brian Kelly. Retcliffe-Hicks freshman winners were Angela Yuan and Elizabeth Zhu. McPeck essay awards went to Michael Pontacoloni and Monoswitha Saha. Connecticut Writing Project Teacher writing awards went to Denise Abercrombie and Joanne Peluso. Matthew Harding received the Dave Sheehan scholarship; Chelsea Ambrozaitis won the Milton R. Stern scholarship; and Jeffrey Naidorf received the Robert Wooster Stallman Prize in American Literature.

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) will be 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.

State of Connecticut: Connecticut Writing Project: Dr. Jason Courtmanche, formerly of Rham High School, assumed Directorship of the Connecticut Writing Project in August 2007. Dr. Courtmanche, Kelly Andrews-Babcock, and Laura Tofinetti co-directed the reinvigorated 2007 Connecticut Writing Project Summer Institute on the UCONN campus; \$25,000 plus an extra Aetna allocation of \$10,000 sustained the transition and helped fund 19 teacher participants—a 35% increase over previous years. The reorganized CWP has received commendation from national reviewers Nancy McCracken and Tom Fox for “new stability of the position of [the] university director,” “thoughtful planning and work by the members of the leadership team,” and “new and innovative ideas for professional development and continuity.” Aetna funding also continues to support the *Connecticut Student Writer* magazine, CWP audio recordings made by Ken Cormier, and a writing contest among CWP teachers.

New England, Nation, and International Activities: In October 2007 UConn faculty and recent PhDs (Aydelott, Bedore, Bloom, Campbell, Courtmanche, Freeman, Recchio) presented a well-attended session on “Ugly Papers” at the Literacy Across the Disciplines Conference, University of New Hampshire—particularly timely in light of the Virginia Tech massacre of April, 2007. Aetna funds allocated to the Irish Studies Speaker series for 2007-08 were used to sponsor the participation of Irish novelist Martin Roper and *Irish Times* literary editor Caroline Walsh in the ‘Reel Ireland’ Film and Literature Festival, in early April on the Storrs campus.

Composition Studies Conferences: Aetna funding has enabled UCONN to co-sponsor 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 *alb: Auto/Biography Studies*, *JAC*, the *Journal of Basic Writing*, and on the Board of Directors of the National Archives of Composition and Rhetoric. In 2007-08 she has given talks at NonfictionNow (U of Iowa), U of New Hampshire Feminist Rhetoric, U of Michigan Writing Center, College Conference on Composition and Communication, and will deliver “Telling Secrets: True Stories of Trust and Betrayal” at the Narrative Matters conference, U of Toronto, in May.

Research: Aetna funding has supported Dr. Bloom's 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. 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, 2nd ed. 2008), the second edition of *Inquiry* (2004), and the eighth edition of *The Essay Connection* (2007). 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. Aetna funding has also supported the research of the eighteen books and eighty-six articles that Dr. Bloom has published since arriving at UConn in 1988. *The Seven Deadly Virtues and Other Lively Essays: Coming of Age as a Writer, Teacher, Risk Taker* was published by the U of South Carolina Press in April 2008; *Writers Without Borders: Writing and Teaching Writing in Troubled Times* (Parlor Press) is forthcoming in May.

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 2007-08 augmented by \$10,000 for general expenditures and another \$10,000 to aid the CWP transition. 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 25, 2008