



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

Richard D. Gray
*Executive Vice President
for Administration
and Chief Financial Officer*

September 25, 2013

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the 2013 report on the Aetna Chair in Writing.

BACKGROUND:

The Aetna Chair in Writing is under the direction of Professor Lynn Bloom and is funded jointly by the UConn Foundation and the Office 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 Office of Higher Education concerning the endowed chair expenditures."

The 2013 annual report consists of a financial report and a narrative report by Professor Bloom.

Attachments


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DATE: August 31, 2013

TO: Richard Gray
Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Lysa Teal 
Associate Vice President of Finance and Budget

RE: Aetna Chair of Writing

Enclosed is a financial report for the Aetna Chair of Writing program, under the direction of Professor Lynn Bloom, for fiscal year ended June 30, 2013. 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 2013 totaled \$41,342.94 as follows:

	<u>Expenditures FY 2013</u>
University	\$ 40,855.31
Foundation	<u>487.63</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 41,342.94</u>

Professor Bloom has provided a narrative of the writing program's operation for fiscal year 2013, 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 Office of Higher Education (OHE) for the Endowed Chair in Writing.

Additional notes are provided on the financial report disclosing the year-end balances of the Foundation and OHE 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
K. Edwards
D. Brockway

University of Connecticut and
University of Connecticut Foundation
Aetna Chair of Writing
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013

	University	Foundation	Combined Total
Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2012	\$75,408.47	\$62,603.72	\$138,012.19
<u>Revenue</u>			
Pooled Endowment Income Allocation	0.00	33,303.60	33,303.60
Transferred From UConn Foundation	30,489.00	(30,489.00)	0.00
TOTAL REVENUE	30,489.00	2,814.60	33,303.60
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Salary & Wages	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Printing and Binding	2,622.39	0.00	2,622.39
Conferences and Meetings	2,605.38	0.00	2,467.61
Travel	450.00	0.00	450.00
Outside Professional Services	6,016.00	0.00	6,016.00
TOTAL Contractual Services	11,693.77	0.00	11,693.77
Office Supplies	108.14	39.20	147.34
Books	0.00	448.43	448.43
TOTAL Commodities	108.14	487.63	595.77
Fringe Benefits	203.40	0.00	203.40
Student Aid Fees	27,850.00	0.00	27,850.00
TOTAL Sundry Charges	28,053.40	0.00	28,053.40
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	40,855.31	487.63	41,342.94
Ending Balance as of June 30, 2013	\$65,042.16	\$64,930.69	\$129,972.85

This endowed chair is not supported by any University funds, but the University maintains accounts which receive revenue from the Foundation and the Office of Higher Education (OHE). These University accounts disburse the funds in support of the program including all funds transferred from the Foundation and OHE. There were no transfers from OHE in fiscal year 2013. 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 included above in the second column in fiscal year 2013.

The Aetna Chair of Writing has funds held at the Foundation and OHE. The Foundation endowed fund was established with a gift of \$506,989 (amount permanently restricted) in 1988 and was valued at \$837,821 at June 30, 2013, which included accumulated gains/losses on the original gift. The spendable portion of the Foundation endowed fund was \$64,930.69 as of June 30, 2013. The OHE 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 Chair of Writing. The value of this fund was \$507,517 at June 30, 2013, including principal of \$500,000 and interest of \$7,517.



University of Connecticut
Department of English

College of Liberal Arts and
Sciences

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

Annual Report
Aetna Chair of Writing, 2012-2013

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-three years. Further information is available at <http://aetnachairofwriting.uconn.edu>

University: Freshman English. The Aetna Chair of Writing co-sponsored the eighth annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing, "Collaboration and Conversation" on April 5, 2013. This conference has grown steadily in scope and attendance, 103 conferees in contrast to 87 in 2010. It featured presentations by some sixty graduate students, Writing Center associates, writing tutors (graduate and undergraduate), and faculty from UConn (including Storrs and regional campuses), Yale, West Point, CUNY, Manhattan College, UMass-Lowell, Rhode Island College, Northeastern, Emerson College, Southern New Hampshire U, and more; and high school faculty from West Hartford and Glastonbury High Schools. Keynoter Judith Goleman, UMass-Boston, spoke on her experience teaching in China, "On Pigs, Pots, Surly Finns and English in Detropia: Global Language Relations and the Role of Composition in the 21st Century." Program available at <http://fe.uconn.edu/instructors/conference/program.php>

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—in Storrs 2012-13), Ellen Carillo (Waterbury), Serkan Gorkemli (Stamford), and Kathy Knapp (Torrington). Aetna funding has enhanced various programs such as Academic Integrity Week, and faculty development workshops (Waterbury) and a variety of workshops and speakers. In 2013-14, the Litchfield County Writers' Project (LCWP) (Torrington-based), aided by Aetna funding, will sponsor a dozen writers, including a Veterans' Day program featuring Roxana Robinson, whose novel, *Sparta*, centers on a soldier returning from Iraq with PTSD. Other events include a charity fundraiser with author Dani Shapiro and her filmmaker husband, Michael Maren, on creative collaboration, and a reading by Rebecca Miller from her novel, *Jacob's Folly*. These events bring statewide visibility to the Bloomsbury-esque LCWP.

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Creative Writing. The Aetna Endowment supports publication of the award-winning *Long River Review* (student literary magazine); the Long River art awards for art/photography (Katherine Robinson), graduate writing (Miller Oberman) and children's literature (Grace Vasington). Aetna funded short-term writer-in-residence for Margot Livesey (fiction) and G.C. Waldrep (poet); the Graduate Creative Writing work-in-progress grant (Brenna Harvey); Poetic Journeys (poetry on campus buses); and a host of speakers and guest teachers. The planned Aetna Celebration of Creative Nonfiction featuring Diane Ackerman was cancelled because of an untimely March snowstorm. Although she was unable to reschedule, student prizewinners were celebrated on April 22: graduate Lisa Judge; undergraduates Alyssa Palazzo and Christopher De Marchis.

University Writing Center. In 2011 the University Writing Center was awarded a "Writing Program Certificate of Excellence" by the Conference on College Composition and Communication, an honor of national distinction. Aetna Endowment funding helps the Writing Center to sustain its "rich, complex, and ambitious program touching multiple aspects of students' writing lives." The Aetna Endowment funds books for the Center's professional development library, visiting scholars presenting workshops, tutor staff training, and an annual Writing in the Disciplines contest, now in its fourth year. From among nearly one hundred entries across the campus the following prizes were awarded. Humanities: Rebecca D'Angelo (history, UConn Avery Point) and Nathan Fletcher (art history). Science and Engineering: Taylor Meltzer (ecology and evolutionary biology). Social Sciences: First place, Stephen Petkis (political science); honorable mention, Tatiana Mercado (communication sciences).

One-day Graduate Student Writing Retreats/dissertation bootcamps, begun in 2011-12 with an Aetna seed grant held throughout the year, are now held monthly, each drawing fifty people from over twenty different departments. Their popularity has attracted funding from the Writing Center, the Graduate Student Senate, and the Graduate School, which is funding a Graduate Assistant to organize these and to teach four five-week seminars in academic writing for graduate students each academic year. Pam Bedore held eight faculty writing retreats at Avery Point; Aetna will fund the ninth in May 2013.

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 a variety of rhetoric and composition courses in Classical and Modern Rhetoric such as "Writing Across and Beyond the Curriculum" and the team-taught "Research Methods in Composition Studies," as well as other graduate creative writing courses in nonfiction and essay writing. 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 2013, Christina Henderson received the Aetna Teaching Award. Aetna Endowment funds send students to professional conferences; this national exposure has helped numerous students who have served as Writing Program administrators to receive tenure track jobs.

Critical and Freshman Essay Prizes. Now in its twenty-third year, the annual Aetna 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 25, 2012, Martha Cutter,

Professor of English and African American Studies, spoke on “Writing for Your Life.” Six Aetna Writing prizes were awarded to graduate students Maria Seger (first prize), Emily Dolan (second prize), Mary Isbell (third prize); and freshmen Antonio Rivera, Waterbury (first prize) and honorable mentions: Marcey Lewin, Waterbury and Tanner Rathbone (Storrs). McPeck scholarships were awarded to Daniel S. Allie (first place), with honorable mentions to Laura Costello and Mariel Smith. Connecticut Writing Project Teacher-Consultant Writing Awards were as follows: Poetry: Elizabeth Auburn, first place; honorable mentions: Denise Abercrombie, David Polochanin. Prose fiction: Jane Cook, first place; Kisha Tracy, honorable mention. Prose Nonfiction: Jane Cook, first place; Daniel Blanchard, honorable mention.

Publications. Aetna Endowment funds and collaboration among student writers, teachers, editors, designers, Aetna student interns and the Writing Specialist’s manuscript preparation, have made possible the publication of *Essay CONNections*, compilations of UConn Freshman English Prize Essays. The first four volumes are available in hardcopy: 1990-94 (103 pp.); Vol. 2 1995-98 (128 pp.); Vol. 3, 1999-2002 (132 pp.); Volume 4, 2003-06 (176 pp.). In 2010 financial constraints caused us to switch to online publication, beginning with Volume 5, 2007-2010. Free copies of the hardcopy volumes 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. Online copies may be downloaded at the Aetna Chair of Writing website (www.aetnachairofwriting.uconn.edu).

State of Connecticut: Connecticut Writing Project. UConn’s Connecticut Writing Project (CWP) is the only site in the nation with an endowment, a half million dollars generously provided by the Aetna Foundation (begun in 1985), initially with matching funds from the State Office of Higher Education (though negligible for the past five years). For the past twenty six years, the Aetna Chair of Writing Endowment has provided \$24-30,000 to fund the CWP five-week Summer Institute for teachers. Thanks to the Endowment, this support--\$25,000 in the summer of 2013--will provide eight (of an anticipated fourteen) fellowships for participating teachers, elementary-college, from a wide range of schools (ranging from high need to UConn).

The variety of subsequent awards and appointments for Summer Institute participants attests to their impressive qualities as educators and administrators. These include Connecticut Teacher of the Year awards; graduate fellowships for bilingual education, masters, doctoral, and post-doctoral work; positions as department head, program director, and dean; publications of their own (including a novel), and Scholastic Writing Awards for their students.

It is particularly important for the future of the CWP that Director Jason Courtmanche was reappointed in 2013-14 for a third three year term; he is the 2013 recipient of the Institute for Teaching and Learning Teaching Scholar Award. The CWP also received a 2013 Special Recognition Award from the New England Reading Association for Outstanding Efforts in the Promotion of Literacy. Dr. Courtmanche’s work has been validated by both internal reviews and CWP external reviewer Nancy McCracken (Kent State U). McCracken noted the CWP’s selection of well qualified Summer Institute Fellows, financial stability, and successful collaborations between area schools and the UConn’s Writing Center, Freshman English and Creative Writing programs, the Neag School of Education, and Teachers for a New Era.

New England, Nation, and International Activities:

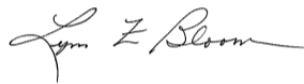
Composition Studies Conferences: Aetna funds the annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing.

National Outreach: In January 2013, Dr. Bloom was awarded a five-year Fulbright Specialist appointment, allowing her to be invited as a writing consultant for two-six weeks by any Fulbright-funded program in the world. Dr. Bloom serves on advisory boards of *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*, *JAC*, and the *Journal of Basic Writing*. In March 2012, her research career was highlighted at a featured session at the national meeting of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, St. Louis. The resulting essay, “College English as Icon and Ideal”, has been published in the profession’s leading journal, *College English*, March 2013.

Research: Aetna funding has contributed to the research of the twenty one books and one hundred fifteen 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* (10th ed 2013). Aetna funding has also supported Dr. Bloom’s ongoing research. She has been on sabbatical leave during 2012-13 to write a book, *Hot Genres, Alluring Nonfiction*, under contract with the University of Iowa Press, an ideal venue. This work addresses the nature and genres of creative nonfiction, including ethical issues, essays, memoirs, food writing, travel writing, medical writing, writing in the public interest, and the robust future of such writing, in the academy and in the world.

Conclusion. Endowment funds, supplemented by a small amount of interest from the matching state grant, have enabled us to sustain the myriad of activities identified here on the \$48,000 budget for FY 2013 (appended p 6). These have been aided by Melanie Hepburn, English Department Administrative Manager; and Lori Corsini-Nelson, Writing Programs Specialist. 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 Chair of Writing Endowment.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynn Z. Bloom
Aetna Chair of Writing
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor
April 16, 2013

Budget for FY 2014	FY14
Connecticut Writing Project	\$25,000
Creative Writing	9,950
Campus Writing Center	2,100
Freshman English	1,500
Writing Internships program	500
Irish Studies	550
Regional campus writing funding: Waterbury [Academic Integrity Awareness week; faculty Workshops; writing prize]; Torrington writers	1,500
Aetna Prizes (Teaching Awards, Grad Critical Essay, Freshman English) (\$750. for CNF is subsumed under CW)	1,500
Student travel [not to exceed \$500/student]	2,000
Aetna Chair (journals, books, research and discretionary)	2,000
Discretionary (honoraria, visitor hospitality, special programs)	<u>1,375</u>
Total	\$47,975