



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

September 27, 2012

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 English
Chair in Writing"

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the 2012 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 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 2012 annual report consists of a financial report and a narrative report by Professor Bloom.

Attachments

An Equal Opportunity Employer


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University of Connecticut
*Office of the Associate Vice President of
Finance and Budget*

Lysa Teal
Associate Vice President

DATE: August 29, 2012
TO: Richard Gray
Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer
FROM: Lysa Teal 
Associate Vice President of Finance and Budget
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, 2012. 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 2012 totaled \$50,508.83 as follows:

<u>Expenditures FY Ending June 30, 2012</u>	
University	\$ 49,553.27
Foundation	<u>955.56</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 50,508.83</u>

Professor Bloom has provided a narrative of the writing program's operation for fiscal year 2012, 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 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.

CE/lch

Enclosures

c: L. Bloom
C. Eaton
K. Edwards
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University of Connecticut and
University of Connecticut Foundation
Endowed Chair in Writing
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012

	University	Foundation	Combined Total
Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2011	\$99,961.74	\$56,417.78	\$156,379.52
<u>Revenue</u>			
Pooled Endowment Income Allocation	0.00	32,141.50	32,141.50
Transferred From UConn Foundation	25,000.00	(25,000.00)	0.00
TOTAL REVENUE	25,000.00	7,141.50	32,141.50
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Salary & Wages	500.00	0.00	500.00
Printing and Binding	1,495.97	0.00	1,495.97
Sundry Operating Services	12.04	0.00	12.04
Conferences and Meetings	2,203.09	238.51	2,441.60
Travel	1,493.32	0.00	1,493.32
Outside Professional Services	7,600.00	0.00	7,600.00
TOTAL Contractual Services	12,804.42	238.51	13,042.93
Office Supplies	1,639.90	286.52	1,926.42
Books	50.00	430.53	480.53
TOTAL Commodities	1,689.90	717.05	2,406.95
Fringe Benefits	44.95	0.00	44.95
Student Aid Fees	34,514.00	0.00	34,514.00
TOTAL Sundry Charges	34,558.95	0.00	34,558.95
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	49,553.27	955.56	50,508.83
Ending Balance as of June 30, 2012	\$75,408.47	\$62,603.72	\$138,012.19

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. These University accounts disburse the funds in support of the program including all funds transferred from the University of Connecticut Foundation (Foundation) and the Office of Higher Education. There were no transfers from the Office of Higher Education in fiscal year 2012. 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 2012.

The English Chair in Writing has funds held at the Foundation and the Office of Higher Education. The Foundation endowed fund was established with a gift of \$506,989 (amount permanently restricted) in 1988 and was valued at \$814,231 at June 30, 2012, which included accumulated gains/losses on the original gift. The spendable portion of the Foundation endowed fund was \$62,604 as of June 30, 2012. The Office 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 \$506,712 at June 30, 2012, including principal of \$500,000 and interest of \$6,712.

Annual Report

Aetna Chair of Writing, 2011-2012

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 seventh annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing, "Representing Teaching and Writing Subjects," on April 5, 2012. This conference has grown steadily in scope and attendance, 125 conferees in contrast to 87 in 2010. 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, U of Hartford, Rhode Island College, Northeastern, UMass Boston, Worcester State, Emerson College, SUNY New Paltz, Bloomsburg University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Lehigh, Old Dominion University, U of Central Arkansas; and high school faculty from E.O. Smith (Storrs CT) and Hall High School (Hartford). Keynoter Joseph Harris, Duke University, gave an engaging illustrated analysis of "Dead Poets and Wonder Boys: Writing Teachers in the Movies." 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), 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 the Freshman Book project (Torrington). In past years, aided by Aetna funding, the Litchfield County Writers' Project (LCWP)—currently under reorganization—has showcased local writers such as Roxana Robinson and the late Frank McCourt, bringing statewide and regional visibility to the Bloomsbury-esque LCWP.

Creative Writing. The Aetna Endowment supports publication of the award-winning *Long River Review* (student literary magazine); and the Long River art awards for art/photography (Alan Huck) and graduate writing (Joseph Darda). Aetna funded the short-term writer-in-residence for Aryn Kyle (fiction) and Shara McCallum (poet); the Graduate Creative Writing work-in-progress grant (Kristina Reardon); Poetic Journeys (poetry on campus buses); and a host of speakers and guest teachers. The ninth Aetna Celebration of Creative Nonfiction was held on March 1st with readings by nonfiction writer David Gessner and student prizewinners—graduate Abbye Meyer and undergraduate Alyssa Palazzo—and recognition of another undergraduate prize winner, Scott Allison.

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." Thus 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 third year. From among over one hundred entries in twenty departments the following prizes were awarded: Humanities: Zachary W.S. Langlois (history) and Shepherd Stearns (English/African-American Studies), honorable mention, David Schwegman (history/human rights); Sciences: Karen Ren (ecology and evolutionary biology), honorable mentions to Anna Goodheart (physiology and neurobiology), David Robitaille (chemistry and chemical/materials/and biomolecular engineering) and Stehanie Marie Tornaquindici (animal science); Social Sciences: Danielle Millar (nursing), honorable mention, Olivia Bogucki (human development and family studies).

For two years, the Aetna Endowment provided seed funding for the Writing Center, partnered with the Connecticut Writing Project, to inaugurate peer-tutoring Writing Centers in four Connecticut high schools and a

related conference of high school writing centers at UConn, Storrs. In 2011, with these programs well underway, Aetna funding of \$300 again supported the Fall Writing Conference in October. This conference drew 150 participants: high school student tutors and prospective tutors, their high school and middle school teachers, UConn undergraduate and graduate tutor/mentors, and some University faculty. Students from E.O. Smith, Windham Middle School and Windham High School gave presentations on their now up-and-coming Writing Centers.

In 2011-12, Aetna provided \$500 in seed funding for a Faculty Writing Retreat. Tom Deans, Tom Long (Nursing) and Robin Genier (Education) organized a one-day retreat in early January at the CT Museum of Natural History. It filled to capacity (30), mostly with junior faculty; participants were pleased, generating a surprising amount of writing in six hours. Building on this success, Pam Bedore used the remainder of the money to hold an additional faculty retreat at Avery Point in May 2012. Two one-day Graduate Student Writing Retreats are planned for next year.

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 2012, Abbye Meyer 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-second 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 27, 2011, Margaret Breen, Professor of English, spoke on "Writing and Responsibility." Six Aetna student prizewinners read from their works: graduate students Jeremy DeAngelo (first prize), Leah Schwebel (second prize), Pamela Swanigan (third prize), and freshman winners Kaley Kruger (first), Coree Charette (second), and Emili Mahon (third). Honorable mentions went to graduate students Joanna Huckins MacGugan, Lalia Khan, Christiana Salah, and Amber West. Leanne Ryder received the McPeck scholarship. Connecticut Writing Project Teacher writing awards went to Sheila Murphy, Jon Andersen, Jane Cook, Bernie Schreiber, Kisha Tracy, Eric Maroney, Lynn Frazier, and Tiffany Smith. Jacqueline Goldman won the Milton R. Stern American Studies Essay Prize.

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 CONN*ections, 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 is the only site in the nation with an endowment, a half million dollars generously provided by the Aetna Foundation (begun in 1985), with matching funds from the State Office of Higher Education. This support is literally a matter of life or death, for in April 2011 federal support of the National Writing Project's 209 sites, including UConn's site, was eliminated in budget reduction measures effective in Fiscal Year 2012. A smaller amount of funding from competitive grants may be available in 2013, but again this year Aetna support has been crucial.

For the past twenty five years, the Aetna Chair of Writing Endowment has provided \$24-30,000 to fund the Connecticut Writing Project five week Summer Institute for teachers. Thanks to the Endowment, this support--\$25,000 in the summer of 2012--will continue. This will provide 15 Fellowships for four graduate students (two in English, one in secondary English education, another in elementary English education), two veteran teachers pursuing degrees in Bilingual Education and in Gifted and Talented Education, several additional K-12 teachers, and one community college faculty member.

It is particularly important for the future of the Connecticut Writing Project (CWP) that Director Jason Courtmanche was reappointed in 2010 for a second three year term, his work 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 with 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.

New England, Nation, and International Activities:

Composition Studies Conferences. Aetna funding supported the UConn Conference on the Teaching of Writing in April 2012, 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 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, where she also collaboratively led a writing workshop on creative nonfiction.

Research. Aetna funding has contributed to the research of the twenty one books and one hundred ten 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. This year she served as guest editor of an issue of the *American Book Review* (Jan. 2012) devoted to "The Future of the Essay," to which she contributed "Essay Hunger—Devouring Essays in the Twenty-first Century." Other current publications include "The World According to North—and Beyond: The Changing Geography of Composition Studies" (*Contemporary Perspectives on the Making of Knowledge in Composition*); "Playing With Wendy" (*Composing Ourselves as Writer-Teacher-Writers*); and "Feeding Hunger: Three Things I take for Granted About Food—and Shouldn't" (*Symploke*).

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 \$55,000 budget for FY 2012. These have been aided 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 Chair of Writing Endowment.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Z. Bloom
Aetna Chair of Writing
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor
April 16, 2012