



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

Richard D. Gray  
*VP & CFO*

September 28, 2011

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 2011 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 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 2011 annual 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*

DATE: August 31, 2011  
TO: Richard Gray  
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
FROM: Paul 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, 2011. 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 2011 totaled \$44,148.91 as follows:

<u>Expenditures FY June 30, 2011</u>	
University	\$ 42,716.05
Foundation	<u>1,432.86</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 44,148.91</u>

Professor Bloom has provided a narrative of the writing program's operation for fiscal year 2011, 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.

CE/lch

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, 2011

	University FRS	Foundation	Combined Total
Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2010	\$50,454.39	\$65,944.70	\$116,399.09
<u>Revenue</u>			
Dept. of Higher Education	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00
Pooled Endowment Income Allocation	0.00	33,641.96	33,641.96
Transferred From UConn Foundation	42,223.40	(42,223.40)	0.00
Other Foundation Revenue	0.00	487.38	487.38
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>92,223.40</b>	<b>(8,094.06)</b>	<b>84,129.34</b>
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Salary & Wages	500.00	0.00	500.00
Printing and Binding	3,653.82	0.00	3,653.82
Sundry Operating Services	329.95	25.00	354.95
Conferences and Meetings	5,084.48	292.11	5,376.59
Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	516.00	516.00
Travel	3,939.85	0.00	3,939.85
Outside Professional Services	5,400.00	0.00	5,400.00
TOTAL Contractual Services	18,408.10	833.11	19,241.21
Office Supplies	445.04	106.00	551.04
Books	0.00	493.75	493.75
TOTAL Commodities	445.04	599.75	1,044.79
Fringe Benefits	12.91	0.00	12.91
Student Aid Fees	23,350.00	0.00	23,350.00
TOTAL Sundry Charges	23,362.91	0.00	23,362.91
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>42,716.05</b>	<b>1,432.86</b>	<b>44,148.91</b>
Ending Balance as of June 30, 2011	\$99,961.74	\$56,417.78	\$156,379.52

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 transfers from the Department of Higher Education totaling \$50,000 in fiscal year 2011. 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 2011. The Foundation also supported the Endowed Chair with \$487.38 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 \$852,092 at June 30, 2011, which included accumulated gains/losses on the original gift. The spendable portion of the Foundation endowed fund was \$56,418 as of June 30, 2011. 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 \$505,789 at June 30, 2011, including principal of \$500,000 and interest of \$5,789.

**Annual Report**  
**Aetna Chair of Writing, 2010-2011**

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.** The Aetna Chair of Writing co-sponsored the sixth annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing, "Knowledge and Networks" on March 25, 2010. This conference, attended by 87 people, featured presentations by some sixty graduate students, Writing Center associates, writing tutors (graduate and undergraduate), faculty from UConn (including Storrs and regional campuses), Yale, US Military Academy at West Point, UMass Boston, Sacred Heart U, Holy Cross, Emerson College, Rhode Island College, Johnson and Wales University, LaGuardia Community College, and high school faculty from E.O. Smith (Storrs CT), Scituate (MA) and Blackstone Academy Charter School. Keynoter Kurt Spellmeyer spoke on "The Transformation of Knowledge: From Institutions to Networks." Program available at <http://freshmanenglish.uconn.edu/instructors/conference/>.

**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) and the Freshman Book project (Torrington). This year, aided by Aetna funding, the Litchfield County Writers' Project (directed by Davyne Verstandig at Torrington) provided honoraria and hospitality to sustain the course, *Studies in Literature and Culture: Writers of Litchfield County*, devoted to the works of Roxana Robinson, who gave lectures for students and the general public (live and via DVD). Such activities bring 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 (Sandy Honig) and graduate writing (Michael Pontacoloni). Aetna funded short-term writer-in-residence for Deb Olin Unferth (fiction), and Connie Voisine (poet); Graduate Creative Writing work-in-progress grant (Jennifer Holley). Poetic Journeys (poetry on campus buses); The Lumberyard radio broadcast; and a host of speakers and guest teachers. The eighth Aetna Celebration of Creative Nonfiction was held on March 31 with readings by nonfiction writer Meredith Hall and student prizewinners—graduates Matt Salyer and Jeanette Zissel, and undergraduates Ryan O'Connell, Kerri Brown, and Dante Gonzales.

**University Writing Center.** On April 8, 2011 the University Writing Center was awarded the “2010-11 Writing Program Certificate of Excellence” by the Conference on College Composition and Communication, an honor of national distinction. The citation commends the Writing Center, directed by Thomas Deans and Associate Director Kathleen Tonry, “as an exemplar for a large public university . . . running a rich, complex, and ambitious program touching multiple aspects of students’ writing lives. This program is embedded in multidisciplinary writing tutoring, Writing Across the Curriculum, First Year Experiences and . . . Composition courses, and local high schools. Writing center tutors are well trained and given multiple opportunities for professional development. The center has forged many partnerships—on campus and off—with sustained evaluation and reflective practice . . . The Center is very busy, very diverse, very pro-active.”

The Aetna Endowment funds books for the Center's professional development library, visiting scholars presenting workshops, and tutor staff training. From among 88 entries submitted for the second Aetna Writing in the Disciplines contest, sponsored by the Writing Center, prizes were awarded in Humanities to Arman Azimi and Shepherd Stearns (humanities); the Sciences to Elisa Anglin (Animal Science) and John Peters (ecology and evolutionary biology); and the Social Sciences to Kevin McQuade, Blayne Sapelli, and John Dearborn (all in political science); and Christian Hofer (Economics).

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 to support a related conference of high school writing centers at UConn, Storrs. In 2010, with these programs well underway, Aetna funding of \$300 contributed to the support of the Fall Writing Conference in October. This drew 150 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. Students from E.O. Smith and Bolton High Schools gave presentations on their now up-and-coming Writing Centers.

**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,” the team-taught “Research Methods in Composition Studies,” and 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 2011 Amanda Smith received the Aetna Teaching Award. Aetna Endowment funds sent graduate student Mandy Suhr-Sytsma to the national Conference on Composition and Communication in Atlanta and will enroll Mary Isbell in the Connecticut Writing Project Summer Institute. Numerous graduate students who have served as Writing Program administrators have received tenure track jobs nationwide.

**Critical and Freshman Essay Prizes.** Now in its twentieth-first 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 28, 2010 Sarah Winter, Associate Professor of English, spoke on "'On the Side of Humanity': Narrative and Human Rights in the Nineteenth Century." Seven Aetna student prizewinners read from their works: graduate students Pamela Longo, Brandon Hawk, Tara Harney, Jeremy DeAngelo, Amanda Smith, and Christina Henderson; and freshman Christian Gibney. Elizabeth Gottier received the Ratcliffe-Hicks freshman prize and Greta Hirt Rosenberger received the McPeck scholarship. Connecticut Writing Project Teacher writing awards went to Steve Straight, Denise Abercrombie, Dara Bowling, Sheila A. Murphy, Kisha Tracy, Jon Anderson, Stephanie K. McKenna, Erin Haddad-Null, and Karen Romano Young. Emerson Frisbie won the Milton R. Stern American Studies Essay Prize and Anthony Yacavone was awarded the Dave Sheehan '64 Scholarship.

**Publications.** Aetna Endowment funds and collaboration among student writers, teachers, editors, designers, 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](mailto:Lori.Corsini-Nelson@UConn.edu). Online copies may be downloaded at the Aetna Chair of Writing website ([www.aetnachairofwriting.uconn.edu/](http://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 Department 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.

For the past twenty four years, the Aetna Chair of Writing Endowment has provided \$24-30,000 to fund the Connecticut Writing Project five week Summer Institute for teachers, and thanks to the Endowment this support will continue. For the summer of 2011, the Aetna Advisory Board increased the summer support to \$28,000 as a partial compensation for the anticipated loss of federal funding. This will provide 16 Fellowships for four graduate students, three community college faculty members, ten public school teachers [two also counted as graduate students] and one Montessori teacher.

It is particularly important for the future of the Connecticut Writing Project 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 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. This collaboration is evident in the selection of the 2011 Summer Institute Aetna Fellows, two of whom are public school teachers concurrently enrolled in the Neag School's bilingual education program. Another Aetna Fellow is a Teach For America placement—of significance because one of the National Writing Project's aims is to improve the retention rate of these teachers.

***New England, Nation, and International Activities:***

**Composition Studies Conferences:** Aetna funding supported the UConn Conference on the Teaching of Writing in March 2011, 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 2010-11 she gave talks at national conferences, including: "What's the Difference between "Once More to the Lake" and What I Did on My Summer Vacation"?: Recognizing and Encouraging Originality in Student Writing" at the NonfictionNow conference at the University of Iowa; an invited roundtable presentation on "The Currency of the Category 'Creative Nonfiction'" at the Modern Language Association in Los Angeles; "Body Language: The Rhetoric and Ethics of Teaching Contemporary Disability Autobiography," at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, Atlanta; and "Eat, Pray, Travel: Why Autobiographical Travel Writing is a Hot Hybrid," at the American Literature Association in Boston. Keynote addresses included "Hot Genres: Nonfiction That People Love to Read, Write, and Teach," at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Conference on the Teaching of Writing, Old Dominion University, Norfolk VA; and "Is Freshman Composition Still a Middle-Class Enterprise: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Update" at the SUNY Council on Writing Conference at SUNY Binghamton.

**Research:** Aetna funding has contributed to the research of the twenty books and one hundred eight 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 Arlington Reader*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (2010). Aetna funding has also supported Dr. Bloom's ongoing research, including current publications "Critical Emoticons" *Symploke*; "Able, Disabled, Enabled: Mainstreaming the Disability Course," *Open Words*"; "Place Settings," *Center: A Journal of the Literary Arts*; and "Surfacing: Secrets of the Women's Locker Room," *Secrets Your English Professor Never Told You* (Heinemann).

**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 2011. 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 Chair of Writing Endowment.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Z. Bloom  
Aetna Chair of Writing  
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor  
April 22, 2011