October 23, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Scott A. Jordan
      Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer

RE: Annual Report of the Endowed Chair Program Entitled “Aetna Chair of Writing”

RECOMMENDATION:

In accordance with statute, the Board of Trustees directs the submittal of the annual report prepared by the University Administration to the Office of Higher Education concerning the endowed chair expenditures for the Endowed Chair Program entitled “Aetna Chair of Writing”.

RESOLUTION:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees acknowledges receipt of the annual report concerning the endowed chair expenditures for the Endowed Chair Program entitled “Aetna Chair of Writing”; and directs the submittal of these annual reports to the Office of Higher Education.”

BACKGROUND:

The Aetna Chair of Writing is under the direction of Professor Brenda Jo Brueggemann 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-20a. 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 2019 annual report consists of a financial report and a narrative report by Professor Brueggemann.

Attachments
DATE: September 12, 2019

TO: Scott A. Jordan
Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Charles H. Eaton
Controller

RE: Aetna Chair of Writing

Enclosed is a financial report for the Aetna Chair of Writing program, under the direction of Professor Brueggemann, for fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. The report provides the separate financial operations of the program managed by the University and the UConn Foundation, along with the combined total. The expenditures for fiscal year 2019 totaled $47,620.74.

Professor Brueggemann has provided a narrative of the writing program’s operation for fiscal year 2019, 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 of 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: B. Brueggemann
   R. Hasenfratz
   G. Ganz
University of Connecticut and  
University of Connecticut Foundation  
Aetna Chair of Writing  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Foundation</th>
<th>Combined Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2018</td>
<td>$32,828.61</td>
<td>$33,018.64</td>
<td>$65,847.25</td>
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<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transferred from Office of Higher Ed</td>
<td>20,834.34</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>20,834.34</td>
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<td>Pooled Endowment Income Allocation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transferred From UConn Foundation</td>
<td>27,904.24</td>
<td>(27,904.24)</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES (EXPENDITURES)</strong></td>
<td>48,738.58</td>
<td>6,487.95</td>
<td>55,226.53</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary and Wages</td>
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<td>1,295.50</td>
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<td>Printing and Binding</td>
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<td>Conferences and Meetings</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>Lecturers and Speakers</td>
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<td>6,535.40</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL Contractual Services</strong></td>
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<td>Office Supplies</td>
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<td>236.84</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Commodities</strong></td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>236.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
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<td>128.74</td>
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<td>Awards and Fellowships</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL Sundry Charges</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
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<td>47,620.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Balance as of June 30, 2019</td>
<td>$33,946.45</td>
<td>$39,506.59</td>
<td>$73,453.04</td>
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</table>

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 funds in support of the program including all funds transferred from the Foundation and the OHE. There were transfers from the OHE totaling $20,834.34 in fiscal year 2019. The first column above summarizes the University’s revenue and expenditure activity for this chair. The Foundation also disburse certain expenses directly to third parties on behalf of the University as included above in the second column in fiscal year 2019, although there were no expenses in fiscal year 2019.

The Aetna Chair of Writing has funds held at the Foundation and the OHE. The Foundation endowed fund was established with a gift of $506,989 (amount permanently restricted) in 1986 and was valued at $844,973.40 at June 30, 2019, which included accumulated gains/losses on the original gift. The spendable portion of the Foundation endowed fund was $39,506.59 as of June 30, 2019. 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 $508,605.36 at June 30, 2019, including principal of $500,000 and interest of $8,605.36.
Annual Report, 2018-2019
Aetna Chair of Writing
writing.uconn.edu

PREFACE

Background: In 1986 the Aetna Foundation gave UConn a half million dollars to support the Connecticut Writing Project and related writing activities. This money was deposited in a well-managed UConn Foundation account. The State of Connecticut matched Aetna's half million dollar donation and those funds are invested in the Short-Term Investment Fund at the State of Connecticut.

Current Aetna Chair: In August 2016, Professor Brenda Jo Brueggemann arrived at the University of Connecticut to begin a new term as the Aetna Chair of Writing. Professor Brueggemann is a scholar of international reputation who works at the intersections of writing, rhetoric, disability studies, and creative nonfiction. She has edited major journals, led international scholarly associations, coordinated innovative interdisciplinary projects, received major grants, and written or edited nine books. At her previous academic institutions—most recently the University of Louisville (3 years) and before that The Ohio State University (21 years)—she won teaching awards, mentored many graduate students into successful academic careers, and founded nationally lauded programs in writing, diversity, disability, and public engagement. Professor Brueggemann is also currently serving an administrative appointment as the Director of UConn's First-Year Writing Program in the Department of English and she is the current co-editor of Disability Studies Quarterly.

2018-2019 Aetna Advisory Board Members (19):
  - Pam Bedore, Writing Program Coordinator, Avery Point campus
  - Lisa Blansett, Associate Director, First-Year Writing Program, Storrs campus
  - Scott Campbell, Writing Program Coordinator, Hartford campus
  - Ellen Carillo, Writing Program Coordinator, Waterbury campus
  - Jason Courtmanche, Director, Connecticut Writing Project
  - Tom Deans, Director, University Writing Center
  - Hannah Dostal, Neag School of Education, Deaf literacy
  - Anke Finger, Director, Digital Humanities and Media Studies (DHMS)
  - Sean Forbes, Director, Creative Writing Program
  - Serkan Gorkemli, Writing Program Coordinator, Stamford campus
  - Sara Harrington, Assistant Director, UConn Libraries
  - Blair T. Johnson, Psychology
  - Douglas Kaufman, Neag School of Education
  - Kathy Knapp, English Department
  - Bob Hasenfratz, English Department (Head)
  - Melanie Hepburn, Business Manager, English Department
  - Victoria Ford Smith, English Department, Director of Graduate Studies
  - Kerry Carnahan, English PhD student
  - Kyle Barron, English PhD student

Events and activities focused on writing that are sponsored by the Aetna endowment touch a wide range of departments across UConn, and some extend well beyond campus to enrich the teaching of writing across the State of Connecticut. The annual report that follows is divided into two major sections:

1. New Initiatives and Events supported in the 2018-2019 annual academic year
I. NEW INITIATIVES AND EVENTS IN 2018-2019

Eight (8) new initiatives, events, or programming took place in 2018-2019.

1. Four (4) special events, speakers, writers, programming

In addition to the usual Aetna funds for the Creative Writing Program and First-Year Writing Program that go toward support of visiting speakers/writers, the Aetna Chair also funded these additionally requested events:

- Partial support for Women's History Month writing workshop with **Ginny Lowe Connors: "Forgotten Women."** March 4, 2019.
- Partial support for Marjorie Perloff (Stanford U), speaker for **Wallace Stevens in Hartford** event, October 10, 2019.
- Partial support for Digital Humanities and Media Studies (DHMS) Roundtable, **“Multimodal Publishing and Public Scholarship”** with Cheryl Ball (Wayne State U) and Kathleen Fitzpatrick (Michigan State U), Nov. 6, 2018.
- Partial support for **Dr. Andrea Lunsford** (Stanford U), Dec. 3-4, 2018. Two-day visit to engage conversations and interest across UConn for a potential Interdisciplinary Writing Institute. During her two-day visit, Dr. Lunsford (Louise Hewlett Nixon Professor of English Emerita at Stanford U) met with: the Aetna Chair Advisory Board; The First-Year Writing Program instructors; The First-Year Writing Program central administration; The English Department Committee on Undergraduate Writing Instruction; CLAS Department Heads (with interest in such an institute); CLAS Dean Glasberg and Associate Dean Schlund-Vials; Vice Provosts Volin (Academic Affairs) and Diplock (CETL).

2. Additional funds for UConn’s graduate students conducting writing-focused research and teaching

For the 2018-2019 year, the amount of funding for UConn graduate students carrying out research (or needing to travel to present research) on writing was increased to $5,000 (previously $3000).

Eleven (11) awards of $450 each were distributed this year:

1. Christopher Iverson (English, Rhetoric & Composition), dissertation-related presentation at the 2019 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in Pittsburgh, PA.
2. Gabriel Morrison (English, Rhetoric & Composition), 2 presentations related to the First-Year Writing Program’s new Writing Across Technology (WAT) initiative: (a) 2019 Modern Language Association convention in Chicago, IL; and (b) 2019 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in Pittsburgh, PA, “Set Pieces: Designing for Access, Ethos, and Action in the Multimodal Writing Classroom.”
4. Kyle Barron (English, Rhetoric & Composition), participation in the 2019 Connecticut Writing Project’s Summer Institute (6 credit hours)
7. Sophie Buckner (English, Rhetoric & Composition), presentation at the 2019 Georgetown University graduate student conference, "The Mother Teacher."
8. Amanda Greenwell (English, Children's Literature), presentation at 2019 Children's Literature Association Conference, Indianapolis, IN., “Activating the Oppositional Child Gaze in Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely’s All American Boys and Angie Thomas’s The Hate U Give.”

3. An undergraduate writing intern
During Spring 2019, the Aetna Chair of Writing worked with an undergraduate (Senior) writing intern, Zachary Maloof. This student carried out internship duties for 3 academic credit hours. The student’s primary work was to create a 10-minute video, "UConn Writes." The opening 3 minutes of this video were previewed at the Aetna Celebration of Student Writing on April 30, 2019.

4. Support of New England Rhetoric & Composition Network (NERCN)
The Aetna Chair provided some leadership and discretionary fund support for the inaugural meeting of the New England Rhetoric & Composition Network, an intellectual exchange and gathering of scholars (graduate students and faculty) in the field of Rhetoric and Composition across New England/Northeast institutions. The first meeting was held on June 14, 2019 in Providence, RI.

5. Expanded and connected: Celebration of Student Writing and Poster Fair with the Long River Review Release Party. April 30, 2019

The second annual Celebration of Student Writing and Poster Fair (sponsored by the Aetna Chair of Writing) was held in the Wilbur Cross North Reading Room on Tuesday, April 30, 2019.

For the poster fair, 39 submissions were received. Those submissions, and participants came from a diverse range of writing-based classes at UConn: 2 groups of ECE-English high school students were present; some students from ENGL 1003-1004 (the second-language writing based courses in First-Year Writing) participated; students from ENGL 1010, UConn’s foundational first-year writing course, also developed and presented posters; finally, some posters came from upper-classmen in several UConn "W" (writing-intensive) courses.

Twelve (12) judges (UConn faculty, staff, grad students comprised the judging panel) circled the room for 75 minutes to engage students over their posters. Judges included:
1. Tom Deans: Dept. of English; Director, University Writing Center; Aetna Advisory Board
2. Hannah Dostal: Neag School of Education, Deaf Literacy; Aetna Advisory Board
3. Bob Hasenfratz: Dept of English, Head; Aetna Advisory Board
4. Sean Forbes, Dept of English, Director of Creative Writing; Aetna Advisory Board
5. Kerry Carnahan, Dept of English, Aetna Advisory Board
6. Darcie Dennigan, Dept of English (Creative Writing Program)
7. Ellen Litman, Dept of English (Creative Writing Program
8. Alex Gatten, Dept of English, Assistant Director, First-Year Writing Program
9. Réme Bohlin, Dept of English, Assistant Director, First-Year Writing Program
10. Ruth Book, Dept. of English, First-Year Writing Program Instructor
11. Meghan Brown, Dept. of English, First-Year Writing Program Instructor
12. Cathy Schlund-Vials, Dept. of English and CLAS Associate Dean

Twelve (12) poster prizes ($50 each) were given in the following categories:

- Best Education Innovation Project: Ethan Ege (ENGL 1010)
- Best Creative Interpretation: Sherry Fujisawa (ENGL 1010)
- Best Print + Visual Project: Jessie Ma (ENGL 1010)
- Best Print + Visual Project: Mary Neagle (ENGL 1010)
- Best Diversity/Identity Project: Amal Ahmed (ENGL 1010)
- Best Hands-on/Interactive Project: Kathryn Warrender-Hill & Jennifer Koo (Writing Center)
- Best Community-Based Project: Darby Lacey (ENGL 6290)
- Best Creative/Original Project: Suzannah DeAlmeida (ENGL 1010)
- Best National Issues Project: Luke Anderson (ANTHRO "W" course)
- Best Social Justice Project: Luke Anderson (ANTHRO "W" course)
- Best Graduate Student Project: Kyle Barron (ENGL 6290)
- Best Collaborative Class Exhibit: Lisa Blansett (ENGL 1010)

In addition to the poster prizes, many of the other Aetna writing prizes were also recognized at the award ceremony. (see program book for the event.) Just over 150 people attended this event and for a first-time effort, it was quite successful.

The day's celebration of student writing then continued with the Long River Review Release party (also supported by the Aetna Chair of Writing), from 6-8:30pm in the Wilbur Cross North Reading Room

II. 2018-2019 REPORTS to the Aetna Chair

Programs receiving Aetna Chair support/funds in 2017-2018 include the following:

1. The Connecticut Writing Project
2. The Creative Writing Program
3. The First-Year Writing Program
4. UConn Regional Campus Writing Programs
   a. Avery Point campus
   b. Hartford campus
   c. Stamford campus
   d. Waterbury campus
5. University Writing Center
6. Writing Internship Program
7. Graduate Student Awards
8. Writing Prizes

The following is a brief summary of major reports from those who received Aetna Chair funding in 2018-2019.

1. The Connecticut Writing Project (CWP)

The $30,000 allocated to the CWP by the Aetna Advisory Board for the 2018-19 academic year was combined with $10,125 in grant funding from the Connecticut State Department of Education to provide 12 Fellowships to teachers and graduate students to attend the 2019 Invitational Summer Institute, and to provide honoraria to three Teacher-Consultants of the CWP to assist the Director in running the Summer Institute.
One of the 12 is a high school social studies teacher. Seven are high school English teachers. Two are graduate students in Secondary English Education in the Neag School of Education. Two are PhD candidates in English at UConn. Other than the graduate students and pre-service teachers, the experience of the participants ranges from two years to nineteen years. One is a private school teacher. All the others are working in public schools or at UConn. Of the eight secondary teachers, six teach in priority school districts, which are the thirty lowest performing of the 169 school districts in CT. The two pre-service teachers are both placed in priority school districts for their graduate internships next year. Two are ECE English teachers, and one of the grad students is currently one of the ECE English GAs.

Their intended inquiry projects focus on reading, creative writing, bilingualism, digital media, college-level writing, interdisciplinary writing, writing centers, and social justice.

The three Teacher-Consultants whose work with the CWP this summer will be funded by the Aetna and CT SDE funds are Kelly Andrews-Babcock, Jane Cook, and Amanda Navarra.

2. The Creative Writing Program (Department of English)

The Creative Writing Program hosted one Aetna Writer-in-Residence in Fall 2018. Poet Shane McCrae gave a reading at the UConn Bookstore in Storrs Center on the evening of Wednesday, October 24th. On Thursday and Friday, October 25th and 26th, he held ten 45 minute one-on-one tutorials with undergraduate and graduate students. Shane McCrae is the author of six books of poetry—most recently, In the Language of My Captor (2017), which won the 2018 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Poetry, and was a finalist for the National Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, and the William Carlos Williams Award, and The Gilded Auction Block (2018). He is the recipient of a Lannan Literary Award, a Whiting Writer’s Award, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. He teaches at Columbia University and lives in New York City.

The Aetna Celebration of Creative Nonfiction featured Emily Rapp Black, the author of Poster Child: A Memoir and The Still Point of the Turning World, which was a New York Times Bestseller, an Editor’s Pick, and a finalist for the PEN Center Literary Award in Nonfiction. Rapp Black is a former Fulbright scholar, and she was educated at Harvard University, Trinity College-Dublin, Saint Olaf College, and the University of Texas-Austin, where she was a James A. Michener Fellow in Fiction and Poetry. Aetna Chair funds also supported: the printing and reception for Poetic Journeys, the UConn Poetry Transportation Project on April 18, 2019; and the Long River Review production party on April 30, 2019. This marked the 22nd edition of the Long River Review, UConn’s award-winning art and literary journal. 21 undergraduate students worked tirelessly to produce the journal in collaboration with the Design Center Studio.

3. The First-Year Writing Program

The Aetna Chair of Writing works closely with the First-Year Writing (FYW) Program at UConn since she also currently serves as the Director of that program as well. While she meets weekly then in pre-established FYW staff meetings and other events the program carries out, she does not advise on the FYW budget request to the Aetna Chair. That request is discussed among the other FYW staff members and then formally submitted by Lisa Blansett, Associate Director, First-Year Writing Program. The annual FYW Program report to the Aetna Chair is also submitted by Professor Lisa Blansett, Associate Director, FYW.
The 14th annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing used Aetna funds to develop this year’s conference, held on April 5, 2019. This year, the conference focused on active and accessible pedagogy in the 21st century, particularly how access can be imagined as active. Dr. Shannon Walters of Temple University gave an engaging and insightful keynote address entitled “Access Paradigms of Shared Experience: Toward a Pedagogy of Doing.” Additionally, we partnered with Trinity College’s Center for Hartford Engagement and Research, who ran an exciting workshop on Writing with Community Partners. Once again, we hosted the conference at UConn’s Hartford campus and the Hartford Public Library; this has proved to be a much more central location accessible to many more participants. Presenters from around the USA and Canada in addition to more local teachers and researchers shared writing research and ideas in workshops, presentations, and posters. We had a very successful year and were able to contribute meaningfully to the work of our profession thanks to the Aetna Foundation.

Aetna funds were also used to support new First-Year Writing Program workshops: 4 Sandbox Sessions; 6 Table Talk conversations; and one longer workshop on remixing multimodal assignments for writing.

4. Regional Campus Writing Programs

Because the current Aetna Chair of Writing is also the Director of UConn’s First-Year Writing Program overall, she has the opportunity to meet frequently with all of the regional campus writing program coordinators. The Aetna funds support various initiatives on several of the UConn regional campuses. For example, at Avery Point (under leadership by Dr. Pam Bedore) a monthly Friday Writing Retreat is hosted; approximately 100 participants joined the seven (7) different retreats in 2018-2019. At the Waterbury campus (with initiatives organized by Dr. Ellen Carillo), Aetna funds supported 3 key writing initiatives: (1) Academic Integrity Awareness Week (178 participants); (2) The Thank You Card Project (approximately 50 participants); and (3) the Grand Reopening Celebration for the Waterbury Campus Writing Center. The Stamford and Hartford campus writing programs did not make use of Aetna funds in the 2018-2019 year, but both have made innovative requests for new initiatives in 2019-2020.

5. The Writing Center

Supported $600 for Aetna Writing in the Disciplines Awards: 3 awards @ $200 each. $300 on a stipend to bring Elizabeth Buck from UMass Dartmouth to lead a workshop for 30 Writing Center tutors on the topic of multiliteracy centers. English grad students were also invited and a few rhet-comp PhD candidates attended. This was part of an effort to nudge the Writing Center forward on multimodal composing innovations. $100 to help subsidize December and May Undergraduate Writing Retreats.

6. Writing Internship

To address undergraduate concerns about career prospects for English majors, on November 7, 2017, the English Department Writing Internship program presented its 13th annual career panel discussion: Careers for English Majors: Strategies, Options, Ideas. Four University of Connecticut English alumni were invited to share professional experiences and to respond to questions from the audience. The panelists were the following four alumni: Emily Chiarelli (’17), Production Editor, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Guilford CT; Laura Costello (’17), Assistant Production Editor, Penny Publications, LLC, Norwalk, CT; Karelyn Kuczenski (’16), Senior Research Analyst, Ipsos, Norwalk, CT; Eric Vo (’13), Marketing Specialist, The Hartford, Hartford, CT.

7. Graduate Student Awards
As outlined in Section I. above, eleven UConn graduate students received a $450 Aetna Travel and Research award in either Fall 2018 or Spring 2019. Winner of the 2019 Aetna Graduate Critical Writing Prize: Meghan Brown (English) for her essay: "Enacting the Archive." Winners of the 2018 Aetna Graduate Teaching Award in Writing was Carole Ann Jackson (Sociology).

8. Writing Prizes

First-Year Writing Awards

First Place: Emma Waltan, “Defining Home in Terms of No-Man’s Land”; Second Place: Mariah Morneau, “History Repeats Itself”; Third Place: Leah Sobotka, “Boon Island”

Writing in the Disciplines Awards

Humanities

Social Sciences

Sciences and Engineering

Creative Writing Awards

The Aetna Children’s Literature Award
Winner: Madeline Eller, "Origami Girl"

The Aetna Translation Award
Winner: Xin Xu, “Night Opera in Jinshan”

The Aetna Creative Nonfiction Awards
Undergraduate Co-Winners: Andrew Kucharski, "Breathe/Oddychać”; and Natiel Cooper, “Transcript of an N-Bomb Survivor.”
Graduate Winner: Sophia Buckner, "The Mother Teacher." Honorable Mentions: Jeanne Bonner, "Long Day's Journey into My Life"; and Maurice Rodriguez, "Son of Hope"

Long River Review Graduate Writing Award
Winner: Sophia Buckner, "A Third Place" (Collection of Poems)

Connecticut Writing Project Teacher-Consultant Writing Awards
Poetry
Winner: Joan Muller, "Farmer's Almanac." Honorable Mentions: Kaylee Thurlow, "Passage, Foliage in the Dusk"; Kim Kraner, "A Fall Conversation"; Sophia Buckner, "Everdene Incubating"; Amy Nocton, "Flight"

Prose Fiction
Winner: Sophia Buckner, "Ouroboros." Honorable Mention: Stephanie White, "Keeper"

Prose Nonfiction
Winner: Ann Policelli Cronin, "Beyond Words" Honorable Mentions: Jane Cook, "Fresh Cut Grass"; Mindi Englart, "The Salesman and the Number Six"

Connecticut Writing Project 2018 Summer Institute Fellows
Makenzie Aitchison, E.O. Smith High School
Dawn Brooks, Woodrow Wilson Middle School
Sophia Buckner, MA Student, University of Connecticut
David Derosiers, Killingly Intermediate School
John Martin, Wethersfield High School
Jordyn Meyenberg, MA Student, University of Connecticut
Chelsea Morrison, St. Christopher School
Megan Murphy, Enfield Public Schools
Kaylee Thurlow, MA Student, University of Connecticut
Carly Tutolo, MA Student, University of St. Joseph
Stephanie White, Windham High School

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Jo Brueggemann
Professor, Department of English
Aetna Endowed Chair of Writing
Director, First-Year Writing Program

June 27, 2019