

Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review

Program Name: Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series
Program Manager: Ali Ünal, Coordinator & Committee Chair; Committee: Katharine Whitcomb, Seanse Ducken
Fiscal Year: FY2024

1. In what way(s) does your program support CWU students? Please be specific and concise.

Our program offers all students across disciplines:

- (1) the opportunity to learn directly—via Zoom presentations—from authors writing across genres and on a variety of subjects;
- (2) the chance to introduce and read with professional, published authors.
- (3) Our student interns also run a student-centered reading each quarter, at which any student in any major can sign up to read from their original work;
- (4) student interns work to help set up events, and work in all aspects of PR and outreach, alongside a faculty mentor.

All of our events are free, in hybrid form where both in-person and online attendees can join, and open to the entire campus community.

2. What are your specific program goals or learning/operational objectives? How are you assessing the effectiveness of your program in achieving those targets?

1. Bring a diverse range of acclaimed writers to CWU campus for readings, craft talks, & other student-centered events, live & virtually, serving both campus and online students
2. Connect campus community & online cohorts via accessible platforms
3. Create a forum for student-to-community engagement
4. Provide a model for professional engagement beyond/ besides classroom learning
5. Promote & connects our literary mission with larger social, environmental, & racial justice endeavors
6. Highlight CWU on the Pacific Northwest literary map
7. Provide professional showcase for the writing of CWU faculty & alums
8. Promote interdisciplinarity & collaboration across departments & programs

To Assess:

1. We reflect on what writers we brought at the end of the year and what kind of representation they offered.
2. With all of our events becoming hybrid, we've been able to track registration and participation in a more concrete and statistical manner (the report is attached to this document), which demonstrated greater engagement and attendance.
3. Students engage with community members in chat, Q and A, and as part of the audience for the events. Books by writers in our series have been One Book, One County "picks" as well, so they're featured in local libraries.

4. Writers who appear in our series read from published work and/or discuss how to engage. in craft and publish literary work, so they are modeling professional engagement.
5. At the end of the year, we consider what social, environmental and/or racial justice issues were raised by our writers (frequently this is part of what we use to determine whether to invite them in the first place), alongside what literary aesthetics and community they engaged.
6. By inviting writers from other places, we bring their awareness to CWU on the national literary scene. By highlighting writers from our own area, we also showcase CWU in the Pacific NW.
7. When students introduce the readers, we offer a showcase for their writing. Nearly every year also, either a CWU faculty member, alum, or both, read as part of the series, and there are also student readings.
8. Since the writers' work often addresses topics important to other departments and programs, their students and faculty frequently attend as well. One of our winter events collaborated with Humanities Washington, LLAS, CWU Libraries, Douglas Honors College, and the public libraries.

3. What is the overall purpose of your program and what service(s) does your program provide?
 - a. Are there overlaps or intersections with other university programs that have similar purposes or services?

See above (esp #1) for overall purposes.

We intersect with a number of programs--e.g., the CWU Libraries, Veterans Center, WildcatShop, History Dept., LLAS, Museum of Culture and Environment, Women's, Gender & SexualityStudies, College of Art and Humanities, Art & Design, Theatre, Douglas Honors College, andMECHA.

4. How does your program align with the purpose of S&A funding? "*Supporting cocurricular and extracurricular activities and programs participated in by students in the furtherance of their education.*"

We provide opportunities for students to meet (both virtually and in-person) practicing writers whose literary works reach national acclaim (such as Ross Gay, whose 2014 book *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* won National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry and the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award; he was also a finalist for the National Book Award for Poetry). Students get to hear these authors perform their work and offer craft talks and generative workshops. Students from a variety of programs attend these events. Some students also participate by introducing the writers and/or setting up events.

5. Please provide specifics on how your program supports and aligns with CWU's strategic plan (<https://www.cwu.edu/about/mission-vision/documents/cwu-vision-mission-values-strat-plan-bot-approved.pdf>)?

Vision: By inviting writers from underrepresented groups to campus to enhance inclusivity for faculty, staff and students; ensure that CWU has inclusive & diverse curricular and extracurricular activities, and increase faculty, staff, and student diversity by active programming

Mission: By enhancing student success by offering a visiting writers series that is tied to but not dependent on learning objectives in English, and many other CAH departments, as well as across the curriculum in the sciences, and many campus groups.

Engagement: By providing learning opportunities for personal interactions between visiting writers and students, including Q and A, informal conversations, and written commentary from writers to select students in upper division English classes. By hosting writers who model a commitment to social justice, community service and/or address issues of civic engagement in their work

Belonging: By increasing the opportunities for students to see creative expression in action via performances by visiting writers who may also discuss form and theory in their genres. Through external funding for the LRVWS via grants like the NEA, Humanities WA as well as community grants like the Kittitas County One Book One County Program, creating a community of belonging and shared values.

Stewardship: By offering writers whose work has cross-disciplinary connections to attract non-majors who may, as a result, become English majors. By increasing participation between the University and external communities by offering performances from some visiting writers who will appeal to various interdisciplinary and community groups.

6. Please provide detailed information regarding who utilizes your program? (*Students, faculty, staff, community? Specific demographic information? Class standing, gender, ethnicity, transfer, campus location, etc.*)

Students from a variety of disciplines, often those enrolled in English classes, but those include a variety of majors, especially from 100 and 200-level classes. Faculty from across disciplines, staff, community members. For class standing, all levels. All genders. Since Lion Rock prides itself on representation that mirrors the student population, it draws a diverse range of students. Student groups from across programs, online populations, and our centers can join our virtual events. Also, through our new initiative called *Virtual Funds*, all English faculty can pay an academic, writer, researcher and/or any scholar to visit their classes and discuss the course materials with students in all levels of the curriculum.

7. How many unique CWU students utilize your program or services?
- How do you gather these metrics?
 - If you do not, what is preventing you from getting that data and how are you determining usage by CWU students?

Please see the attachment.

8. Are there any current vacant positions in your program?

N/A

9. Given the budget reductions taking place, and continuing for the remainder of the funding cycle, please tell us what specific impacts those reductions have had on your program compared to what was originally planned and included in your initial base funding request.

We've received significant support from the President Jim Wohlpart to organize our traditional big Spring event because we ran out of funds during our funding cycle. As we try to expand our reach to achieve our mission and vision, our budget has been stretched thin.

10. Are there any circumstances or challenges that are currently impacting your ability to use your base funding allocation this year?

We were grateful to use Thayer Fund for two years; however, it's been since put on hold for this academic year.

11. What other funding does your program receive? What percentage of your program's total funding is coming from S&A Fees?

This year, our budget came from two sources: S&A (\$1817.90 – 20%) and Lion Rock Support Fund (\$6977.84 – 80%).

12. What growth or expense increases do you anticipate seeing in the future?

We're always looking to grow Lion Rock to invite more nationally-recognized authors. We're also working with the President's office to host at least one event on climate change and environmental issues. Our Virtual Fund has been very successful, so we're looking to increase its allocation in our budget. There is also a shared vision between *Manastash* and Lion Rock to expand our reach to high school students by inviting them to our events and introducing them modern literature, which would hopefully encourage them to pursue an English and/or creative writing degree at CWU.

Author or Speaker/ Event	Date / Time	Zoom attendees	In-person attendees	Total
FALL QUARTER				
Fall Student Reading	Tuesday, November 15, 2022 6:00 pm	15	15	30
Jeff Aldrich (on-line), Ryley Boyles (on-line), Evy Cox (on-line), Zane Deyoung (on-line), Sarah Farkasosky (on-line), Jake Lane (on-line), Tiffany pate (on-line), Janelle Serio (on-line), Madison Flint (in-person), Austin Fricke (in-person), Mary Goggin (in-person), Rick Keehart (in-person), Karen Heiken (in-person), Emma Love (in-person), Michael Puni (in-person)	Shaw-Smyser Hall, Room 115 and Zoom Organized and ran by the Intern Team, introductions by Sophia Smith.			
Taylor Brorby (Virtual) NONFICTION	Thursday, December 1, 2022 3:00 pm	19	--	19
Q&A with students and faculty	Zoom			
WINTER QUARTER				
Luther Hughes & Jane Wong POETRY	Friday, February 10, 2023 1:30 pm	32	20	52
CWU Brooks Library Student Commons	Craft Talks: "Vulnerability" & "Voltas"			
Q&A sessions managed and ran by the Intern Team.	Friday, February 10, 2023 6:00 pm	23	32	55
	Public Reading Introductions and readings by PCW students <i>Michael Puni & Janelle Serio.</i>			
Winter Student Reading	Wednesday, February 22, 2022 6:00 pm	17	15	32
Amber Dukes (on-line), Kristy Durham (on-line), Maggie Gautschy (on-line), Skye Emerson (on-line), Zane Deyoung (on-line), Max Erickson (on-line), Janelle Serio (on-line), Luke Love (in-person), Michael Puni (in-person), Khoa Le (in-person), Bailey Day (in-person)	Shaw-Smyser Hall, Room 115 and Zoom Organized and ran by the Intern Team, introductions by Sophia Smith.			
Taylor Brorby NONFICTION	Monday, March 6, 2023 3:00 pm	9	20	29
Supported by President's Office	Craft Talk: The Politics of Place and the Landscape of Imagination			
Q&A sessions managed and ran by the Intern Team	CWU Brooks Library, Student Commons			
Chris Schedler acted as the liaison between Lion Rock and the President.	Monday, March 6, 2023 6:00 pm	8	15	23
	Public Reading: Featuring reading and introduction by <i>Austin Fricke</i> Museum of Culture and Environment, Dean Hall Lobby			
SPRING QUARTER				

Alyssa Songsiridej FICTION CWU Brooks Library Student Commons Q&A sessions managed and ran by the Intern Team.	Wednesday, April 5, 2023 6:00 pm Public Reading: Featuring reading and introduction by <i>Kboa Le</i>	35	30	65
	Thursday, April 6, 2023 12:00 pm Craft Talk: "Premise vs Promise."	30	28	58
Taneum Bambrick POETRY CWU Brooks Library, Student Commons Q&A sessions managed and ran by the Intern Team.	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 6:00 pm Public Reading: Featuring reading and introduction by <i>Seanse Ducken</i> CWU Brooks Library, Student Commons	52	45	97
	Thursday, April 20, 2023 12:00 pm Craft Talk: "Skunk Works and the Power of the Side Project" CWU Brooks Library, Student Commons	32	48	80
Ross Gay POETRY In partnership with CWU Libraries. NEA Big Read Grant Q&A sessions managed and ran by the Intern Team.	Wednesday, May 3, 2023 12:00 pm Craft Talk & Lecture CWU Brooks Library, Student Commons	40	52	92
	Wednesday, May 3, 2023 6:00 pm Public Reading: Featuring reading and introduction by <i>Mariah Sebastiani</i> . SURC Theatre	38	75	103
Cascadia Field Guide SUPPORT EVENT Featuring English Faculty: Xavier Cavazos, Katharine Whitcomb, Maya Jewell Zeller	Thursday, April 20, 2023 7:00 pm Gallery One, Ellensburg, WA	--	60	60
Manastash Launch JOINT EVENT Volume 33 Launch and Reading Party, organized and ran by the Manastash ENG 485 Students in coordination with the Intern Team.	Wednesday, May 17, 2023 3:00 pm SURC Pit at SOURCE 2023 Supported by two sign interpreters.	20	16	36
ATTENDEES		370	461	831
		Zoom	In-person	Total