

Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review

Program Name: Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series
Program Manager: Ali Unal
Fiscal Year: FY2024

1. In what ways does your program support CWU students? Please be specific, yet 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 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. We have partnered with President's Office, Ellensburg Public Library and Kittitas County Regional Libraries Board on several of our events.

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

See above (esp #1) for overall purposes.

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

We are also in talks with Latino & Latin American Studies as well as Student Engagement and Success for one of our events as our aims intersect with one another.

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. How does your program support CWU's mission and goals? (<https://www.cwu.edu/mission/>)

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 nonmajors 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?

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 including in your initial base funding request.

As the lowest-funded student activity program in the entire S&A budget by a significant margin at \$3,000 out of \$7.5 million, we have tried to operate within our means. However, speaker fees, promotional materials, accommodation, and other expenses have increased faster than our budget allocation, causing us to fall into the red for the 2024-25 academic year. We have had to apply for a supplemental budget of \$4,000 to continue operating and serving our students.

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

Since projected revenues did not materialize and one-time donations did not repeat, we wouldn't have been able to put on events between 2023 and 2025 (the last two years of a 4-year base funding cycle) if we hadn't partnered with the President's Office (twice), Latino & Latin American Studies, Student Engagement & Success, Humanities Washington, Ellensburg Public Library, and Kittitas County Regional Library Board.

11. What growth or increases would you like to see in your program in the future?

We're always looking to grow Lion Rock to invite more nationally-recognized authors in an in-person setting rather than strictly online. We're hoping that the new Base Funding will give us the opportunity to invite authors to campus so that our students and community can interact with them face to face.

Attachment

Author or Speaker/ Event	Date / Time	Zoom attendees	In-person attendees	Total
FALL QUARTER				
Xavier Cavazos - POETRY CWU Brooks Library Student Commons ZOOM & In-person Organized and ran by the Intern Team, introductions by Saige Johnson, and Zoom Q&A coordination by Jeff Aldrich.	Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:00 pm	20	20	40
	Craft Talk: Radical Revision featuring an introduction by Alumn and PhD student Karla Yaritza Maravilla Zaragoz (she/her/ella) Tuesday, October 17, 2023 6:00 pm Reading: <i>The Devil's Workshop</i> , featuring student reading by Alexis Mendoza	80	28	108
Publishing Panels - PROFESSIONALIZATION Samuelson Hall SAMU 131 ZOOM & In-person Organized and ran by the Intern Team, introductions by Saige Johnson, and Zoom Q&A coordination by Jeff Aldrich.	1ST PANEL: EDITING & PUBLISHING Wednesday, November 1, 2023 12:00 pm Featuring two speakers: Literary agent Zoe-Aline Howard and editor Elaina Ellis. Moderation by Katharine Whitcomb	15	20	35
	2ND PANEL: GENRE WRITING & ALTERNATIVE PUBLISHING Thursday, November 2, 2023 6:00 pm Featuring three speakers: Genre author T.J. Tranchell, genre author Elise Forier Edie, and publisher Knox Gardner. Moderation by Katharine Whitcomb.	20	25	45
Fall Student Reading CWU Brooks Library Student Commons ZOOM & In-person	Thursday, November 16, 2023 6:00 pm Organized and ran by the Intern Team, introductions by Saige Johnson, and Zoom Q&A coordination by Jeff Aldrich.	35	15	50
WINTER QUARTER				
Katharine Whitcomb - POETRY CWU Brooks Library Student Commons ZOOM & In-person Organized and ran by the Intern Team, introductions by Saige Johnson, and Zoom Q&A coordination by Jeff Aldrich.	Wednesday, January 31, 2024 12:00 pm Craft Talk: "Let Your Writing Find Its Form"	35	40	75
	Wednesday, January 31, 2024 6:00 pm Reading: <i>Habitats</i> - Featuring a reading by CWU student Monica Monk	35	35	70
Juliet Patterson - NONFICTION CWU Brooks Library Student Commons ZOOM & In-person	Thursday, February 15, 2024 12:00 pm Craft Talk: "A Writer's Exploration of Form, Genre and Grief?"	25	35	60
	Thursday, February 15, 2024 6:00 pm	20	20	40

Organized and ran by the Intern Team, introductions by Saige Johnson, and Zoom Q&A coordination by Jeff Aldrich.	Reading: <i>Sinkhole: A Legacy of Suicide</i> - Featuring an introduction by Katharine Whitcomb			
Winter Student Reading: “Humanity vs Machine” & Other Poetry & Prose Sam Woods IN PERSON Jeremiah Michaud (ONLINE) Noa Deonarine (ONLINE) Dani Redican (ONLINE) Tonya McMillan (ONLINE) Ashley Ayling IN PERSON Jane Humen (ONLINE) Luke Chavez (ONLINE) Justin Kumar (ONLINE) Sheila Richardson IN PERSON Sarah Larson (ONLINE) Kristy Durham (ONLINE) Jared Goerke IN PERSON Torrie Hoover (ONLINE) Tyler Dahl IN PERSON Shadae Ingram IN PERSON	Thursday, February 29, 2024 6:00 pm CWU Brooks Library Student Commons ZOOM & In-person Organized and ran by the Intern Team, introductions by Saige Johnson, and Zoom Q&A coordination by Jeff Aldrich.	30	25	55
SPRING QUARTER				
Callum Angus - FICTION CWU Brooks Library Student Commons ZOOM & In-person	Thursday, April 11, 2024 12:00 pm Craft Talk: “Chimeric Writing, Limbic Architectures: Writing about that which resists language” With introductions by Dr. Ali Ünal	22	15	37
Organized and ran by the Intern Team, introductions by Saige Johnson, and Zoom Q&A coordination by Jeff Aldrich.	Thursday, April 11, 2024 6:00 pm Reading: <i>A Natural History of Transition</i> - Featuring a reading by CWU student Sheila Richardson	22	13	35
Roy Scranton – ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHOR Living With Climate Change Series	Thursday, April 25, 2024 12:00 pm Craft Talk: “Witnessing Climate Change” CWU Brooks Library 2nd Floor Commons & via Zoom	15	20	35
In partnership with the President’s Office and in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Sciences, KEEN, Ellensburg Public Library, Kittitas County Regional Library Board and Ellensburg High School.	Thursday, April 25, 2024 6:00 pm Reading: “Beginning with the End: Climate Change, Ethical Pessimism, and the Limits of Narrative” Health Sciences 102 & via Zoom	20	40	60
Organized and ran by the Intern Team, introductions by Saige Johnson, and Zoom Q&A coordination by Jeff Aldrich.	Friday, April 26, 2024 12:00 pm Climate Panel: “Optimism and Pessimism about the Anthropocene: Is It the End of the World As We Know It?” Ellensburg Public Library	N/A	26	26
Manastash Launch JOINT EVENT	Wednesday, May 15, 2024 2:00 pm	22	35	57

Volume 34 Launch and Reading Party, organized and ran by the <i>Manastash</i> ENG 485 Students in coordination with the Intern Team.	SURC Pit at SOURCE 2024 Readers: Tyler Morell, Jampa Dorje, Addison Green, Jeff Aldrich, Monica Leers, Afroditi Zervou, Charlotte Zombro, Megan Stanley, Sadie Melhorn, Tonya McMillian, Jason Sedor, Lee Beck			
Maya Jewell Zeller - POETRY Living With Climate Change Series CWU Brooks Library Student Commons ZOOM & In-person Organized and ran by the Intern Team, introductions by Saige Johnson, and Zoom Q&A coordination by Jeff Aldrich.	Tuesday, May 21, 2024 6:00 pm Reading: <i>out takes/ glove box: a story in fragments</i> - Featuring an introduction by Taneum Bambrick and a reading by Hollis Zepp	31	35	66
	Wednesday, May 22, 2024 12:00 pm Craft Talk: "Eco-justice & the poetics of spells."	24	20	44
ATTENDEES		471	467	938
		Zoom	In-person	Total